



PLANNING MALAYSIA:
Journal of the Malaysian Institute of Planners
VOLUME 19 ISSUE 4 (2021), Page 197 – 206

SATISFACTION WITH LIFE AND HUMAN NEEDS FULFILLMENT

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Abstract

The two notions discussed in the paper are Life Satisfaction, under Subjective Well-Being (SWB) field; and Maslow hierarchy of human needs. *Issue:* Human needs satisfaction is not an all-or-nothing phenomenon. Individuals are not required to completely satisfy one need in order for the next need to appear in the hierarchy. *Purpose:* This paper aims to investigate the level of life satisfaction in relation to the difficulty and convenience of achieving human needs. *Approach:* Mann Whitney U-Tests were conducted to determine the mean of SWL across difficulty and convenient of fulfilling 24 human needs. These human needs are the necessities and life conditions commonly and widely struggled for. *Findings:* The ease with which the majority of human needs can be met increases life satisfaction significantly. The findings also revealed that for five human needs for which life satisfaction did not differ significantly, meeting these human needs was unlikely to influence life satisfaction. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs classified these needs as biological and physiological needs, safety and security needs, and esteem needs.

Keywords: human needs, subjective wellbeing

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INTRODUCTION

Urban planning engages human activities not only through its physical functions, but also via psychological meanings to create opportunities for meaningful development. Among factors affecting social sustainability in urban context is satisfying human needs. This paper aims to assess the statistical interaction between human needs fulfilment and satisfaction with life.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The two notions discussed in the paper are (i) Life Satisfaction, under Subjective Well-Being (SWB) field; and Maslow hierarchy of human needs.

Two philosophical traditions of SWB are hedonic and eudaimonic approaches. The hedonic approach, understood as maximization of pleasure and minimization of pain, consists of two key components: the cognitive or the judgemental component and the affective or the emotional component. Life satisfaction refers to a judgmental process in which people judge their life on the basis of their own particular set of parameters or unique set of criteria (Diener, 1984). Life satisfaction is not only more stable and longer-lived than the concept of happiness, but is much wider in scope. It is the overall feeling about life, and how pleased people are about how it is going.

A comparison of one's perceived life circumstances is presumably made with a self-imposed standard or set of expectations, and to the extent that conditions meet these standards, high life satisfaction is recorded by the person. Life satisfaction is, therefore, a deliberate cognitive assessment of one's life in which the judgment requirements are up to the person. Therefore, life satisfaction is more conceptualized under cognitive components. Diener et al (1985) sought to address the cognitive component of subjective wellbeing by creating the Satisfaction with Life Scale [SWLs].

The SWLs is the instrument developed to quantify the cognitive components of life satisfaction. The SWLS is not intended to help understand satisfaction with any particular area of life, such as health, finances or relationships, but the scale help to get a sense of satisfaction with life as a whole. The five SWLs statements are

1. In most ways, my life is close to my ideal.
2. The conditions of my life are excellent.
3. I am satisfied with my life.
4. So far, I have gotten the important things I want in life.
5. If I could live my life over, I would change almost nothing.

In this paper, only the last two statements of SWLs were utilized for analyses. The psychometric properties on the data gathered shows that the last two statements highly explained the variance of the top three statements.

The Hierarchy of Needs [HON], introduced and later revised by Maslow (Abraham Harold Maslow, 1954, 1970, 1987) defined the phases of human motivation. The stages of human motivation are seen in a linear pyramid of eight tiers of motivational needs. In order for a person to progress to the higher level on the HON, the needs at the lower level of must be fulfilled. The longer the needs at the lower level denied, the more urgent it is to fulfil them. When a person is happy with the fulfilment of the basic needs, he or she could move on to the next level and eventually to the growth needs, that is to say, self-actualization and self-transcendence.

Table 1 Understanding of HON Phases

#	Phases	Understanding
1	Biological and Physiological Needs	The bodily need for homeostasis; that is, maintaining consistent levels in different bodily system. The motivation derives from instincts to survive, i.e., the need for shelter, water, food, warmth, rest, and health. All needs are secondary until this need is fulfilled.
2	Safety and Security Needs	The need to feel safe and secure in life and surroundings. These are the efforts to seek protection from violent or harmful conditions, health threats, sickness and economic pressures in order to live and thrive in modern societies.
3	Belonging and Love Needs	The need to give and receive love and sense of belongingness through supportive and communicative friendship and family and intimate relationships. When deprived of these needs, one may experience guilt, loneliness, depression or low extraversion values.
4	Esteem Needs	The need for self-confidence and to be recognized. These needs are fulfilled through positive feelings of self-worth via achievement, accomplishment, appreciation and recognition. Without fulfilment of this need, feelings of inferiority are experienced.
5	Cognitive Needs	The need to know and understand, fulfilled via yearning for knowledge and increased intelligence. One needs to learn, explore, discover and create towards better understanding of the world around. Without it may lead to confusion and identity crisis.
6	Aesthetic Needs	The need to refresh oneself in the presence and beauty of nature while carefully absorbing and observing their surroundings to extract the beauty that the world has to offer. They are fulfilled through appreciation and search for beauty and balance.
7	Self-Actualization	The instinctual needs to make the most of their abilities and to strive to be the best. This need when fulfilled leads to the feeling of generativity – to vote, form, volunteer, nurture and guide others for the good of the next generation or to outlast oneself.
8	Transcendence Needs	The need to connect beyond ego and personal self or to help others to find self-fulfilment and realize their potential. Also refers to as spiritual needs, accessible from many levels and when fulfilled, leads to feelings of integrity to take things to another level of being.

While Maslow articulated the needs in a hierarchy, he recognized that satisfying any need is not an all-or-nothing phenomenon. There is no requirement for individuals to entirely fulfil one need in order for the next need to appear in the hierarchy. Maslow indicates that, at any given time, most people seem to have partially fulfilled each of their needs—and those needs that are lower in the hierarchy are usually those that people have made the most strides against. Important development in the SWB literature on the human needs’ fulfilment for the enhancement of SWB are emphasized in the basic concepts of human needs.

There are two opposing views that can be formed from the literatures. Firstly, it is commonly implied that to attain satisfaction, human needs must be fulfilled. That is, satisfaction is unreachable without meeting the human needs. Secondly, meeting of some of the human needs can be shallow. For example,

wealth can sometimes bring unhappiness. Thus, fulfilling or over-fulfilling some needs could lead to ill-being and disappointment. In certain situations, partially fulfilled or unfulfilled needs would bring meaningfulness in life, thus uplift SWB.

In this paper, the human needs are categorized under (i) Basic Necessities, (ii) Complementary Needs, and (iii) Desired Opportunities. These stages are helpful in recognising the condition of the living system if the needs are yet to be fulfilled. If the Basic Necessities were not fulfilled, the living system would be disrupted. If the Complementary Needs were not fulfilled, the living system would not be disrupted, but lives would be difficult. If the needs of Desired Opportunities were not fulfilled, the living system would not be disrupted, nor lives would be difficult (Abu Bakar et al., 2016, 2018, 2019b, 2019a; Abu Bakar, Mohamed Osman, Bachok, & Abdullah, 2017; Abu Bakar, Mohamed Osman, Bachok, Zen, & Faris Abdullah, 2017; Abu Bakar, Mohamed Osman, Bachok, Zen, Abdullah, et al., 2017; Bakar et al., 2019; Ibrahim et al., 2019; Mohamed Osman et al., 2017). Based on the HON, 24 human needs are derived for empirical assessment (refer to Table 1 and Table 2).

Table 2 Human Needs Categories

Human Needs Stages	Hierarchy of Needs	No.	Human Needs
<i>Without it, living system is disrupted</i>	Biological & Physiological Needs	1	Nutritious Food
		2	Medical Treatment
		3	Clean Water (for Wash & Drink)
		4	Clean Air
		5	Well-Function Toilet
	Safety & Security Needs	6	Adequate Electricity
		7	Affordable Houses and Amenities
		8	Financial Stability
		9	Personal Security
		10	Health Assurance
<i>Without it, living system is not disrupted, and lives would be difficult</i>	Belonging and Love Needs	11	Balance in Work and Personal Time
		12	Social Tolerance
		13	Communication Line
	Esteem Needs	14	Internet Connection
		15	Primary School Accomplishment
		16	Secondary School Accomplishment
<i>Without it, living system is not disrupted, and lives would not be difficult</i>	Cognitive Needs	17	Tertiary School Accomplishment
		18	Job Opportunity
	Aesthetic Needs	19	Well-Maintained Recreational Park
		20	Diversity of Flora and Fauna
		21	Rights to Choose Leaders
		22	Freedom of Speech
Self-Actualization	23	Corruption Free Opportunities	
	24	Freedom to Express Arts & Diversity	

Based on the human needs best represent the phases of HON, the respondents were inquired whether they found each of the human need difficult or convenient to meet.

METHOD

A sample of 4,315 was analysed after the data screening process. The Malaysian respondents were given an 11-point Likert scale to respond to items pertaining to Satisfaction with Life [SWL]. Kolmogorov-Smirnova Test-results indicate the data was not normally distributed. Mann Whitney U-Tests were conducted to determine the mean of SWL across difficulty and convenient of fulfilling 24 human needs.

RESULTS

The following tabulations demonstrate (i) mean distribution of SWL items, (ii) normality test results for SWL items across difficulties and conveniences of human needs, (iii) Mann Whitney U-Test results and (iv) Mann Whitney U-Test interpretation.

Table 3 Mean Distribution of SWL Items

Indicators	Code	\bar{x}	\bar{x} SWL
So far, I have gotten the important things I want in life	SWL1	8.08	7.96
If I could live my life over, I would change almost nothing	SWL2	7.85	

Note. Mean Distribution of PE Items (\bar{x}) and Overall Mean of SWL (\bar{x} SWL)

Table 4 Normality Test-Results

HUMAN NEEDS (SWL)	Difficult					
	Difficult			Convenient		
	Statistic	df	p	Statistic	df	p
Nutritious Food	.087	336	.000	.079	3979	.000
Medical Treatment	.085	423	.000	.078	3892	.000
Clean Water (for Wash & Drink)	.112	392	.000	.076	3923	.000
Clean Air	.073	805	.000	.080	3510	.000
Well-Function Toilet	.086	428	.000	.076	3887	.000
Adequate Electricity	.100	1114	.000	.069	3201	.000
Affordable Houses and Amenities	.075	1861	.000	.079	2454	.000
Financial Stability	.086	1578	.000	.084	2737	.000
Personal Security	.076	1330	.000	.082	2985	.000
Health Assurance	.070	1325	.000	.087	2990	.000
Balance in Work and Personal Time	.075	1582	.000	.079	2733	.000
Social Tolerance	.073	1310	.000	.083	3005	.000
Communication Line	.091	328	.000	.078	3987	.000
Internet Connection	.070	923	.000	.081	3392	.000
Primary School Accomplishment	.091	313	.000	.077	4002	.000
Secondary School Accomplishment	.074	390	.000	.078	3925	.000
Tertiary School Accomplishment	.071	836	.000	.079	3479	.000
Job Opportunity	.070	1678	.000	.082	2637	.000
Well-Maintained Recreational Park	.073	1430	.000	.089	2885	.000
Diversity of Flora and Fauna	.070	1453	.000	.088	2862	.000
Rights to Choose Leaders	.073	1823	.000	.089	2492	.000
Freedom of Speech	.072	1957	.000	.084	2358	.000
Corruption Free Opportunities	.077	2247	.000	.077	2068	.000
Freedom to Express Arts & Diversity	.074	1531	.000	.087	2784	.000

Note. Kolmogorov-Smirnova Test-Results of $\bar{x}\Sigma$ PE across Difficult and Convenient.

Table 5 Mann Whitney U-Test Results

HUMAN NEEDS (SWL)	Difficult			Convenient			U	z	p
	N	$\bar{x}R$	\bar{x}	N	$\bar{x}R$	\bar{x}			
Nutritious Food	336	1983.82	8.0	3979	2172.71	8.0	609947.0	-2.680	.007
Medical Treatment	423	1962.77	7.5	3892	2179.22	8.0	740576.0	-3.408	.001
Clean Water (for Wash & Drink)	392	2211.78	8.3	3923	2152.63	8.0	747826.0	-0.900	.368
Clean Air	805	2065.29	8.0	3510	2179.26	8.0	1338147.0	-2.351	.019
Well-Function Toilet	428	2108.24	8.0	3887	2163.48	8.0	810519.0	-0.874	.382
Adequate Electricity	1114	2132.59	8.0	3201	2166.84	8.0	1754645.0	-0.794	.427
Affordable Houses and Amenities	1861	2008.48	7.5	2454	2271.39	8.0	2005184.5	-6.895	.000
Financial Stability	1578	1954.96	7.5	2737	2275.06	8.0	1839095.0	-8.164	.000
Personal Security	1330	2061.99	8.0	2985	2200.78	8.0	1857336.5	-3.394	.001
Health Assurance	1325	1969.48	7.5	2990	2241.54	8.0	1731081.0	-6.646	.000
Balance in Work and Personal Time	1582	1986.14	7.5	2733	2257.48	8.0	1889928.0	-6.924	.000
Social Tolerance	1310	1975.74	7.5	3005	2237.45	8.0	1729515.0	-6.373	.000
Communication Line	328	1999.82	8.0	3987	2171.01	8.0	601986.5	-2.403	.016
Internet Connection	923	2006.50	8.0	3392	2199.22	8.0	1425577.0	-4.185	.000
Primary School Accomplishment	313	2139.34	8.0	4002	2159.46	8.0	620472.5	-0.276	.782
Secondary School Accomplishment	390	2110.29	8.0	3925	2162.74	8.0	746769.5	-0.796	.426
Tertiary School Accomplishment	836	2033.38	7.8	3479	2187.95	8.0	1350039.5	-3.235	.001
Job Opportunity	1678	2008.52	7.5	2637	2253.12	8.0	1961607.5	-6.315	.000
Well-Maintained Recreational Park	1430	1967.95	7.5	2885	2252.20	8.0	1791000.5	-7.086	.000
Diversity of Flora and Fauna	1453	1985.54	7.5	2862	2245.55	8.0	1828664.5	-6.507	.000
Rights to Choose Leaders	1823	2016.47	7.5	2492	2261.54	8.0	2013445.0	-6.410	.000
Freedom of Speech	1957	2026.03	7.5	2358	2267.52	8.0	2049046.5	-6.366	.000
Corruption Free Opportunities	2247	2074.58	8.0	2068	2248.64	8.0	2135949.5	-4.605	.000
Freedom to Express Arts & Diversity	1531	1899.87	7.5	2784	2299.96	8.0	1735949.0	-10.137	.000

Note. Mean Rank of $\bar{x}\Sigma$ SWL across Difficult and Convenient; **Bold** shows higher mean rank.

Table 6 Mann Whitney U-Test Results Interpretation

HUMAN NEEDS (SWL)	INTERPRETATION
Biological and Physiological Needs	Nutritious Food Those who claimed convenient had greater mean rank (N = 3979, $\bar{x}R$ = 2172.71) than those who claimed difficult (N = 336, $\bar{x}R$ = 1983.82). A statistically significant difference was found (U = 609947.0, p = .007).
	Medical Treatment Those who claimed convenient had greater mean rank (N = 3892, $\bar{x}R$ = 2179.22) than those who claimed difficult (N = 423, $\bar{x}R$ = 1962.77). A statistically significant difference was found (U = 740576.0, p = .001).
	Clean Water (for Wash & Drink) Those who claimed difficult had greater mean rank (N = 392, $\bar{x}R$ = 2211.78) than those who claimed convenient (N = 3923, $\bar{x}R$ = 2152.63, but the difference was not statistically significant 747826.0, p = .368).
	Clean Air Those who claimed convenient had greater mean rank (N = 3510, $\bar{x}R$ = 2179.26) than those who claimed difficult (N = 805, $\bar{x}R$ = 2065.29). A statistically significant difference was found (U = 1338147.0, p = .019).
	Well-Function Toilet Those who claimed convenient had greater mean rank (N = 3887, $\bar{x}R$ = 2163.48) than those who claimed difficult (N = 428, $\bar{x}R$ = 2108.24, but the difference was not statistically significant 810519.0, p = .382).
Safety and Security Needs	Adequate Electricity Those who claimed convenient had greater mean rank (N = 3201, $\bar{x}R$ = 2166.84) than those who claimed difficult (N = 1114, $\bar{x}R$ = 2132.59, but the difference was not statistically significant 1754645.0, p = .427).
	Affordable Houses and Amenities Those who claimed convenient had greater mean rank (N = 2454, $\bar{x}R$ = 2271.39) than those who claimed difficult (N = 1861, $\bar{x}R$ = 2008.48). A statistically significant difference was found (U = 2005184.5, p = .000).
	Financial Stability Those who claimed convenient had greater mean rank (N = 2737, $\bar{x}R$ = 2275.06) than those who claimed difficult (N = 1578, $\bar{x}R$ = 1954.96). A statistically significant difference was found (U = 1839095.0, p = .000).

Table 7 Mann Whitney U-Test Results Interpretation (Continued)

HUMAN NEEDS (SWL)		INTERPRETATION
Safety and Security Needs	Personal Security	Those who claimed convenient had greater mean rank (N = 2985, $\bar{x}R = 2200.78$) than those who claimed difficult (N = 1330, $\bar{x}R = 2061.99$). A statistically significant difference was found (U = 1857336.5, p = .001).
	Health Assurance	Those who claimed convenient had greater mean rank (N = 2990, $\bar{x}R = 2241.54$) than those who claimed difficult (N = 1325, $\bar{x}R = 1969.48$). A statistically significant difference was found (U = 1731081.0, p = .000).
Belonging and Love Needs	Balance in Work and Personal Time	Those who claimed convenient had greater mean rank (N = 2733, $\bar{x}R = 2257.48$) than those who claimed difficult (N = 1582, $\bar{x}R = 1986.14$). A statistically significant difference was found (U = 1889928.0, p = .000).
	Social Tolerance	Those who claimed convenient had greater mean rank (N = 3005, $\bar{x}R = 2237.45$) than those who claimed difficult (N = 1310, $\bar{x}R = 1975.74$). A statistically significant difference was found (U = 1729515.0, p = .000).
	Communication Line	Those who claimed convenient had greater mean rank (N = 3987, $\bar{x}R = 2171.01$) than those who claimed difficult (N = 328, $\bar{x}R = 1999.82$). A statistically significant difference was found (U = 601986.5, p = .016).
	Internet Connection	Those who claimed convenient had greater mean rank (N = 3392, $\bar{x}R = 2199.22$) than those who claimed difficult (N = 923, $\bar{x}R = 2006.50$). A statistically significant difference was found (U = 1425577.0, p = .000).
Esteem Needs	Primary School Accomplishment	Those who claimed convenient had greater mean rank (N = 4002, $\bar{x}R = 2159.46$) than those who claimed difficult (N = 313, $\bar{x}R = 2139.34$, but the difference was not statistically significant 620472.5, p = .782).
	Secondary School Accomplishment	Those who claimed convenient had greater mean rank (N = 3925, $\bar{x}R = 2162.74$) than those who claimed difficult (N = 390, $\bar{x}R = 2110.29$, but the difference was not statistically significant 746769.5, p = .426).
Cognitive Needs	Tertiary School Accomplishment	Those who claimed convenient had greater mean rank (N = 3479, $\bar{x}R = 2187.95$) than those who claimed difficult (N = 836, $\bar{x}R = 2033.38$). A statistically significant difference was found (U = 1350039.5, p = .001).
	Job Opportunity	Those who claimed convenient had greater mean rank (N = 2637, $\bar{x}R = 2253.12$) than those who claimed difficult (N = 1678, $\bar{x}R = 2008.52$). A statistically significant difference was found (U = 1961607.5, p = .000).
Aesthetic Needs	Well-Maintained Recreational Park	Those who claimed convenient had greater mean rank (N = 2885, $\bar{x}R = 2252.20$) than those who claimed difficult (N = 1430, $\bar{x}R = 1967.95$). A statistically significant difference was found (U = 1791000.5, p = .000).
	Diversity of Flora and Fauna	Those who claimed convenient had greater mean rank (N = 2862, $\bar{x}R = 2245.55$) than those who claimed difficult (N = 1453, $\bar{x}R = 1985.54$). A statistically significant difference was found (U = 1828664.5, p = .000).
Self-Actualization Needs	Rights to Choose Leaders	Those who claimed convenient had greater mean rank (N = 2492, $\bar{x}R = 2261.54$) than those who claimed difficult (N = 1823, $\bar{x}R = 2016.47$). A statistically significant difference was found (U = 2013445.0, p = .000).
	Freedom of Speech	Those who claimed convenient had greater mean rank (N = 2358, $\bar{x}R = 2267.52$) than those who claimed difficult (N = 1957, $\bar{x}R = 2026.03$). A statistically significant difference was found (U = 2049046.5, p = .000).
	Corruption Free Opportunities	Those who claimed convenient had greater mean rank (N = 2068, $\bar{x}R = 2248.64$) than those who claimed difficult (N = 2247, $\bar{x}R = 2074.58$). A statistically significant difference was found (U = 2135949.5, p = .000).
	Freedom to Express Arts & Diversity	Those who claimed convenient had greater mean rank (N = 2784, $\bar{x}R = 2299.96$) than those who claimed difficult (N = 1531, $\bar{x}R = 1899.87$). A statistically significant difference was found (U = 1735949.0, p = .000).

Note. Result Interpretation of Mann Whitney U Test; Bold & Highlighted shows statistically significant output.

19 out of 24 test-results were statistically significant, therefore suggesting with convenience of fulfilling all of the highlighted human needs (refer to Table), SWL was statistically greater.

DISCUSSION

The findings indicate that SWL increases when almost all of the human needs are convenient to meet. Thus, suggesting that the convenience to meet these human needs will heighten overall life satisfaction. However, for certain human needs, in particular (i) clean water, (ii) well-function toilet, (iii) adequate electricity, (iv) primary school accomplishment and (v) secondary school accomplishment; the SWL did not significantly rise across difficulty nor convenience of fulfilment.

Summary of Findings

Condition 1: Difficulty	Condition 2: Convenient	Condition 3: Neither
The difficulty to meet the human need increases SWL	The convenience to meet the human need increases SWL	Neither convenience or difficulty to meet the human need increases SWL
SWL is greater with difficulty to meet the human need.	SWL is greater with convenience to meet the human need.	SWL does not change with convenience nor difficulty to meet the human need.

Hierarchy of Needs	No.	Human Needs	Findings/Condition
Basic Necessities	1	Nutritious Food	SWL increases with Convenience
	2	Medical Treatment	SWL increases with Convenience
	3	Clean Water (for Wash & Drink)	SWL does not change
	4	Clean Air	SWL increases with Convenience
	5	Well-Function Toilet	SWL does not change
	6	Adequate Electricity	SWL does not change
	7	Affordable Houses and Amenities	SWL increases with Convenience
	8	Financial Stability	SWL increases with Convenience
	9	Personal Security	SWL increases with Convenience
	10	Health Assurance	SWL increases with Convenience
Complementary Needs	11	Balance in Work and Personal Time	SWL increases with Convenience
	12	Social Tolerance	SWL increases with Convenience
	13	Communication Line	SWL increases with Convenience
	14	Internet Connection	SWL increases with Convenience
Esteem Needs	15	Primary School Accomplishment	SWL does not change
	16	Secondary School Accomplishment	SWL does not change
Desired Opportunity	17	Tertiary School Accomplishment	SWL increases with Convenience
	18	Job Opportunity	SWL increases with Convenience
	19	Well-Maintained Recreational Park	SWL increases with Convenience
	20	Diversity of Flora and Fauna	SWL increases with Convenience
	21	Rights to Choose Leaders	SWL increases with Convenience
	22	Freedom of Speech	SWL increases with Convenience
	23	Corruption Free Opportunities	SWL increases with Convenience
	24	Freedom to Express Arts & Diversity	SWL increases with Convenience

The two theories of life satisfaction are the bottom-up theories and top-down theories. The bottom-up theories suggest that life satisfaction is an outcome of satisfaction from many life domains. While the top-down theories asserted that overall life satisfaction determine the domain-specific satisfaction. Therefore, while there are several aspects that contribute to life satisfaction in a variety of ways, the overall satisfaction is not necessarily based on the parameters that researchers consider significant, but rather on domains the respondents believe to be most valuable, based on respondents' cognitive judgments.

In this case, the findings suggest that for the five human needs which life satisfaction did not significantly vary, life satisfaction was unlikely influenced by meeting these human needs. These needs were (i) clean water and (ii) well-function toilet, under biological and physiological need; (iii) adequate electricity, under safety and security need; and (iv) primary school accomplishment and (v) secondary school accomplishment, under esteem needs.

There are two inferences which can be derived from the perspective of bottom-up theories and top-down theories of life satisfaction. From the bottom-up understanding, the life satisfaction of the Malaysian respondents was determined by the highlighted 19 human needs, yet life satisfaction was not determined by the mentioned five human needs. That is, to attain life satisfaction, the highlighted 19 human needs must be partially or fully met. From the top-down understanding, it can be asserted that the chances that the highlighted 19 human needs were the best representations of the Hierarchy of Needs [HON] for the Malaysian respondents are high while for the remaining five human needs, the chances are low. The research needs to revise other representations of needs that best represent the three phases of HON from the prospect of life satisfaction.

CONCLUSION

This paper explores the level of life satisfaction across difficulty and convenience across difficulty and convenience of human needs. The findings suggest that life satisfaction significantly increases with convenience of fulfilling the majority of the human needs. However, for (i) clean water and (ii) well-function toilet, under biological and physiological need; (iii) adequate electricity, under safety and security need; and (iv) primary and (v) secondary school accomplishment, under esteem needs; the life satisfaction did not significantly vary. Further investigation should focus on the fitting representation of human needs across the phases of HON. The representation of human needs should also respond to the culture and social development in Malaysia.

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Received: 16th August 2021. Accepted: 13th October 2021