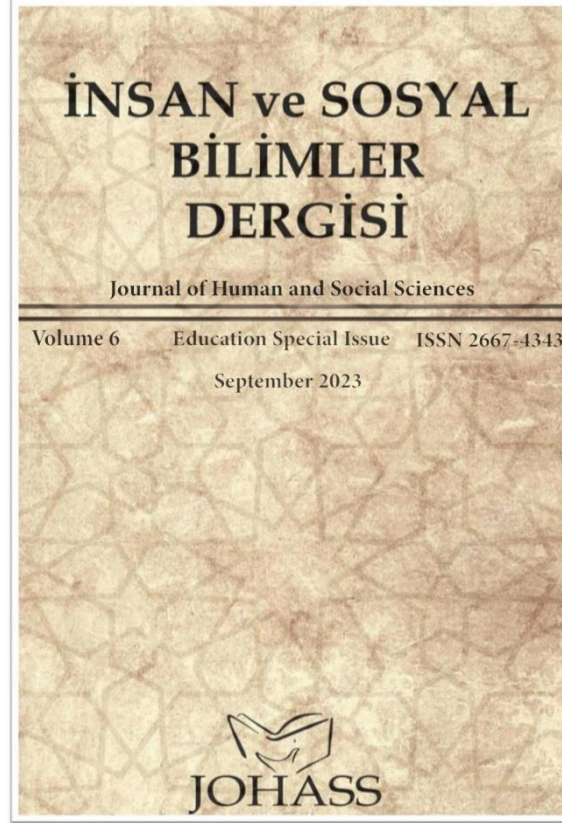


JOURNAL OF HUMAN AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (JOHASS)



<https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/pub/johass>

**Evaluation of Life Satisfaction Levels of Elderly Immigrants Who Migrated
From Afghanistan, Syria, And Iraq to Sivas (Türkiye)**

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Article Type: Research Article

Received: 8.09.2023.

Revision received: 21.09.2023

Accepted: 26.09.2023

Published online: 28.09.2023

Citation: Bahadır et al., (2023). Evaluation of Life Satisfaction Levels of elderly immigrants who migrated from Afghanistan, Syria, and Iraq to Sivas (Türkiye). *Journal of Human and Social Sciences*, 6(Education Special Issue), 238-260.

Evaluation of Life Satisfaction Levels of Elderly Immigrants Who Migrated From Afghanistan, Syria, And Iraq to Sivas (Türkiye)

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Abstract

Little is known about the elderly who are subject to forced migration, and studies on older migrants are very limited. The aim of this study was to determine the socio-demographic characteristics and evaluation of life satisfaction levels of elderly immigrants who migrated from Afghanistan, Syria, and Iraq to Türkiye. A cross-sectional research design was carried out by collecting data from 87 elderly immigrants in Sivas between 01.12.2021 and 28.02.2022 2021. In the study, descriptive statistics, independent sample t-test and ANOVA test were used to evaluate the data. A significant difference was found in the level of life satisfaction according to the socio-demographic characteristics of the participants according to the country they migrated to. It was determined that the participants' self, social satisfaction and general satisfaction levels were higher, and their relationship satisfaction levels were relatively low, respectively. Local and international efforts should be increased to improve the adaptation of the elderly immigrants to the cultural differences of the country they migrated to, and to improve their life and relationship satisfaction.

Keywords: Migration, elderly immigrant, forced migration, life satisfaction, cultural integration

Research Article

Received: 8.09.2023.

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Introduction

Being one of the important stages in human life, old age is a period that brings with it many features and problems. There are many physical, psychological, economic, social and cultural changes in old age. Compared to traditional societies, the life of the elderly changes much more in modern societies.

In general, it can be stated that “aging is relative and the aging process is universal” (Müftüler, 2021, pp. 6). In the aging process, primary (normal) aging is the gradual, universal, inevitable, normal and age-related changes —such as graying of hair—that occur in all members of a species. Secondary aging, like diseases, occurs in most people, but is not universal and inevitable. Tertiary aging is the rapid deterioration that heralds the end of life; Significant changes in health and social life are examples of this (Müftüler, 2021, pp. 13).

Apart from these changes experienced in the aging process, considering the phenomenon of migration in terms of both individual and social effects, "elderly immigrants" are important in terms of the conditions they live in and the problems they experience. Therefore, elderly immigrants have been chosen as a research subject because they are a more sensitive group due to both the problems arising from old age and the problems experienced with migration. While every type of migration is a difficult situation for those who are exposed to migration experience, migrations that take place in parallel with the reasons for forced migration can leave much deeper traces in terms of socio-psychological effects as well as economic problems. Elderly people are at the forefront of those who experience these scars traumatically. Because it is extremely difficult for them to break away from the geography where they were born and raised, to migrate to a new place, to accept it and to adapt. Another situation that increases the aforementioned difficulty is poverty. The elderly, who had to migrate unprepared and without experience, have problems in accessing services such as nutrition, health and care (Tümtaş, 2021, pp.227).

According to Korkmaz Yaylagül (2019, pp. 220), who draws attention to the fact that making generalizations can lead to wrong results because the researches on migration and old age are not comprehensive but conducted with different ethnic groups, the advantages / vulnerabilities brought by old age and conditions brought by immigration, in some areas is partnering. The reasons for migration at a old age vary. Forced migration due to reasons such as return migration of immigrants to their home countries, labor migration, lifestyle migration to countries with generally warmer climates, war, authoritarian governments, as well as to

receive care or health care, or in a limited manner to the elderly, migrations made by individuals to settle with immigrant children are evaluated in the category of "old age and migration".

Individuals who migrate at a old age have difficulties in adapting to new living conditions. The difficulties they face differ from those faced by children or young immigrants (Treas and Mazumdar, 2002, pp. 244). It is seen that young immigrants achieve social participation faster, adapt to new cultures more easily and learn a new language faster. As a result, the adaptation and acculturation of older immigrants is slower and more stressful. They have less sense of belonging to the new society they migrate to (Becker, 2002, pp. 79).

Studies on caregiving practices for the elderly in immigrant communities have shown that cultural principles are heterogeneous even within a single group (Giuntoli & Cattan, 2012, pp. 133). Differences arise not only from culture but also from individual characteristics and life experiences of people. In this sense, the expectation of elderly immigrants is the expectation of protecting human dignity, which can be expressed as a sense of security and respect in the physical and psychic sense (Giuntoli & Cattan, 2012, pp. 139-140).

Examining the findings of studies on the happiness of international immigrants, Hendriks (2015, pp. 361) states that immigrants generally do not reach the happiness they expect. Because in the host country, they face various psycho-social difficulties such as the absence of important/close people in their lives, cultural inequalities, language restrictions and social degradation. In addition to the characteristics of the receiving and sending country, personal abilities and characteristics play an important role in the differences in happiness outcomes among migration flows. Happiness is not attained because of the difficulties specific to migration such as worse objective conditions, feelings of deprivation, cultural characteristics, discrimination and language limitations.

Therefore, apart from this situation created by the difficulties related to migration in general, the situation is much more thought-provoking, especially for the elderly who came to another country with forced migration. Because the above-mentioned bad objective conditions, feelings of deprivation, language limitations, etc. problems are more intense in older immigrants.

Apart from the universal problems in old age, the society in which the elderly individuals live in general and the conditions of the elderly individual in particular are important. It can be stated that the theoretical approaches showing that the individual aspect of old age should be taken into consideration as well as the social aspect can be explanatory

on the subject. In this context, as Müftüler (2021, pp. 57-58) states, people are in biological, psychological and social change until they die, and some social and historical changes such as economic crises and wars also affect this change. As a matter of fact, it is emphasized that the general historical, social, economic and cultural structure in the life route theory affects the living conditions of the elderly; For example, a country's economic crisis or war and prejudices against the elderly in the cultural structure.

Migration and Migrant

Migration, which is as old as human history, is a phenomenon that brings significant changes in human life and social structure, happens for different reasons. Economic, political, cultural and psychological factors affect both the reasons for migration and the experiences during and after the migration process.

In modern times, industrialization and job opportunities bring migration to the cities, as well as the labor needs of employers and migration due to the effect of the labor market. The migration of some sociological masses due to their security has shown that migration is mostly based on coercion rather than a free choice (Giddens & Sutton, 2018, pp. 109). Migration is not always voluntary or freedom; It is seen in the past and today that forced migrations can occur. In fact, despite the anti-immigration policies, new waves of migration are experienced, and in our age, which is characterized as the "age of migration", forced migrations are witnessed due to security reasons such as war, conflicts.

Migration, which takes place for very different purposes in our age, is basically classified with five elements: "1) Migration for a new life, 2) Work migration, 3) Forced migration, 4) Touristic migration, 5) Reverse migration" (Balcıoğlu, 2007, pp. 82) Among them, "forced migration" and "reverse migration" types have been observed more recently.

As a result of the change in agriculture and the dissolution of the rural structure, the people who migrated to the cities achieved to establish a new life for themselves and to have a job by being included in the internal migration. In line with the labor demand of developed industrial countries, there was also a migration of workers abroad from Türkiye. Forced migration for security reasons came to the fore, especially because of terrorism. Especially due to the Covid-19 pandemic and in order to make a living more easily economically, the type of "reverse migration" from the city to the country side was also observed. Also, for Türkiye, it is no longer just a receiving or giving immigration country; it should also be noted that it is a transit country for those who want to go to other countries.

Birth, death and migration shape the demographic transformation, which is one of the basic dynamics affecting Türkiye's social structure. Demographic change, on the other hand, is influenced by economic, political and social factors. In 2000, both death and birth rates stabilized at low levels; under normal circumstances, large fluctuations in birth and death rates are not expected. It is also thought that the decrease in fertility and the aging of the population will have negative consequences on the country's economy and social welfare. Challenges such as the increasing health and social security needs of the aging society and the increasing prejudices against the elderly can be solved with social policies (Aysan, 2015, pp. 83).

Although the increase in the elderly population with its internal dynamics and the effects it will create are important; especially the new wave of international migration affects Türkiye. The number of people who came to Türkiye with the forced migration process is very high, the duration has exceeded ten years and those born in Türkiye during this period are not few.

Although the status of the incoming people is not "refugee" according to international law, it can be said that they are sociologically refugees in Türkiye's agenda. The sociological and legal definition of immigrants, who came to Türkiye with the opening of the first temporary shelters in 2011-May for Syrians who left their country due to the civil war in Syria, brought up a conceptual distinction. This situation forced Türkiye to legally define the sociological migration of Syrians (Ayan, 2022, pp. 107).

With the "intense population influx" that took place due to the civil war in Syria, Türkiye has moved from being a "transit country" to a "target country". Individuals under temporary protection (IUTP) in Türkiye, if they were gathered in a single province, they would constitute Türkiye's 4th largest province. According to 4 different scenarios developed in the projections of the population of Syrians UTP in Türkiye, the population of Syrians UTP in Türkiye in 2025 will be expressed as a number between 2.4 million and 3.7 million (Taştan and Çolpan Kavuncu, 2017, pp. 1).

The counting of refugees who migrate from their country to another country for various reasons is determined by legal regulations. Since the legal status of Syrians in Türkiye is different, they are mentioned in legal texts as asylum seekers and/or population under temporary protection (International Organization for Migration, 2019). In this study, the elderly immigrants whose life satisfaction is tried to be determined are among the refugees

and/or the population under temporary protection who came to Türkiye through forced migration.

Migration and Old Age

First of all, migration is mostly carried out or dare during youth or adulthood, whereas older people, including where they live, are generally not very pro-change. On the other hand, elderly immigrants, who are the subject of the study, experience many changes, even if they do not want to. In this regard, “two different situations should be taken into consideration when talking about immigration and old age. The first is the case of immigrating to a foreign country at a young age and aging there. The second is to migrate to another country at a old age. For old immigrants, the migration experience is perhaps even more of a harbinger of life change than for younger ones. ...difficulty adjusting to a new situation... Loss and the accompanying grief particularly affect the mental health of older migrants.” (Seedsman, 2014, p. 238). On the other hand, the phenomenon of aging itself has changed field "with the effect of transnational organizations (such as the World Bank and IMF) and cross-border migration in the international context, creating new conditions and environments for older people". Aging is no longer a “national” issue, it is a problem affecting transnational institutions and communities...” (Powell, 2014, pp. 138). According to Horn and Schweppe (2017, pp. 335), there is work to be done in the field of transnational aging and its importance is increasing day by day because in many industrial countries the migrant population is aging and immigration during retirement is also increasing.

In our age, which is called the age of migration, “...globalization leads to changes that complicate the lives of elderly people by encouraging social mobility and migration” (Powell, 2014, pp. 152) in the relationship between aging and migration. It can be stated that migration is not a very positive process for the elderly who came through forced migration. That is, “migration is a process involving multiple losses because immigrants need to develop effective strategies to adapt to the new country and thus reinvent themselves. The failure of resolving the loss and grief related to the migration process can affect the mental health of immigrants, especially very old immigrants” (Seedsman, 2014, pp. 238). Research findings on elderly refugees in Europe revealed that the main problems faced by elderly refugees and asylum seekers are low income, language barrier, loneliness, lack of social networks and status loss (Korkmaz Yaylagül, 2019, pp. 222).

Life Satisfaction in Old Age

In advanced ages, people want to lead a comfortable and peaceful life. The concept of life satisfaction is defined as the state or result obtained by comparing a person's expectations (what he wants) with what he has (what he has); It includes the whole life of the individual in general and the various dimensions of this life. Life satisfaction, it is an important element of quality aging (Kalinkara, 2014, pp. 245). Appropriate living conditions, living without being excluded from society, participating in meaningful activities, health services, friend and neighbor relations are effective in life satisfaction (Müftüler, 2021, pp. 267). For example, the level of material well-being is effective in whether or not there is life satisfaction. However, the living standard of the elderly population in Türkiye is low. Namely: Pensions paid to retired elderly citizens in Türkiye are the lowest rate according to OECD country standards and remain below the poverty line (Yemeniciler, 2021, pp. 85). However, with an interesting encounter:

It is clear that elderly poverty also reduces life satisfaction, but it is also observed that elderly people with low economic status and low quality of life have high life satisfaction and are grateful for their well-being. This situation brings to mind the relationship between religious belief, gratitude and life satisfaction (Müftüler, 2021, pp. 269). This situation, which is observed in many elderly people in our society, is also seen in elderly immigrants, especially because they are freed from "security" concerns. Türkiye, where policies towards the elderly can be considered relatively new, has also encountered Syrian elderly immigrants added to its population since 2011 as a new social policy group. Although there are some similarities with the local elders in the aging experiences of the Syrians who came to Türkiye, it is understood that they face poverty because they come for the safety of life as part of a community that has been damaged both physically and mentally due to the war. Within the scope of the ESSN (Social Cohesion Assistance) program financed by the EU, aid support for elderly immigrants is also very insufficient (Nizam and Turkmen, 2021, pp. 256-257).

Old age is a period in which many different problems are seen together, with serious difficulties both physically and socially. Old age, both as physical and social problems as experienced individually, as well as socially, it can be considered through its effects on society (Akşit, 2021, pp. 10-11). It is expressed as the process of accepting cultural diversity, both the indigenous population and the immigrants or refugees, to maintain a degree of cultural integrity and to determine a strategy to participate in society. The issue of cultural integration strategy evaluates the opportunities provided to refugees in general. Refugees have

areas of integration such as economic, social and legal opportunities. However, limited access to opportunities, cultural integrity and host country limitations may cause limitations in social ties of immigrants (Feinstein et al., 2022, pp. 2180-2181). Migration of elderly individuals is very important for the economies of host countries due to their increasing population, and at the same time, it is accepted that it is inevitable to secure access to health services for a significant number of people with a very high individual rate (Holecki et al., 2020, pp. 3). Although individuals experience disruptions in their family life due to migration, migration also brings uncertainties that increase stress and anxiety as it involves a radical break in culture and values (Solis et al., 2021, pp. 319). Ethnicity and culture have a significant impact on older immigrants. Older immigrants are problematized because of cultural assumptions and generalizations, and this also affects social and health services (Göttler, 2021, pp. 2291). In terms of life satisfaction in old age, elderly immigrants, who do not have the chance to "age in place" other than the problems seen with age and their socio-economic conditions, can be expected to be more disadvantaged.

Method

The aim of this study was to determine the socio-demographic characteristics and evaluation of life satisfaction levels of elderly immigrants who migrated from Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq to Türkiye. For this purpose, research it is restricted to immigrants aged 65 and over under temporary protection who were settled in Sivas in Türkiye.

The population of the study consists of elderly immigrants living in Sivas between 01.12.2021 and 28.02.2022. There were a total of 112 immigrants in the specified date range. The questionnaire was applied through an interpreter by going to the addresses obtained from Sivas Migration Management Directorate. All immigrants were tried to be reached between these dates. A face-to-face survey was conducted through an interpreter by going to the home addresses of the elderly immigrants. However, for some reasons, the questionnaire could not be applied to 25 people, some of the elderly immigrants who make up the universe. (such as 2 deaths, others going to another city in Türkiye, visiting their own country, not being at home, changing their address, not wanting to answer the survey). For these reasons, a total of 87 people could be surveyed. This number constitutes approximately 78% of the population. In addition, it was calculated that 87 people forming the sample were sufficient for the 95% confidence interval (Sümbüloğlu & Sümbüloğlu, 2005, pp. 104-105).

In order to evaluate the data in the study, frequency, percentage, averages and comparisons were made as descriptive statistics, and independent sample t-test and Anova test were used. Value of $p < 0.05$ was accepted for the significance level of statistical tests.

In this study, a total of 29 questions were asked in order to determine the socio-demographic characteristics of the participants. In addition, the "Adult Life Satisfaction Scale" (ALSS) developed by Kaba et al. (2018, pp. 1) was used to determine the life satisfaction levels of immigrant individuals over the age of 65. The Adult Life Satisfaction Scale (ASLS) consists of 21 items and includes a five-factor structure. It is scored on a 5-point Likert-type scale: 1 = Not at all suitable, 2 = Not suitable, 3 = Partially suitable, 4 = Appropriate, 5 = Completely appropriate. High scores obtained from the scale mean that the individual has positive perceptions about his/her own life (Kaba et al., 2018, pp. 7). 4 items in the scale that were thought to be unsuitable for the purpose of the study were not included in the study. In our study, the reliability value of the scale was determined as 0.655.

Compliance with Ethical Standard

Before starting the research, written permission was obtained from Sivas Cumhuriyet University Ethics Committee (dated 29.10.2021 and decision number 91621).

Findings

This section includes research findings and analysis. Comparative data on the socio-demographic characteristics and life satisfaction scores of the participants are presented.

Table

Distribution of the Participants According to Their Socio-Demographic Characteristics

($n=87$)

Place of birth	N	%	Duration of residence in Türkiye	N	%
Afghanistan	75	86,2	Less than 1 year	1	1,1
Iraq	2	2,3	1-2 years	2	2,3
Pakistan	1	1,1	2-5years	49	56,3
Syria	9	10,3	5+	35	40,2
Gender			Where did you migrate from?		
Female	41	47,1	Afghanistan	76	87,4
Male	46	52,9	Syria	9	10,3
Who Made the Migration			Iraq	2	2,3

Decision					
Myself	21	24,1	Educational Status		
My wife and children	63	72,4	Illiterate	66	75,9
Relatives and acquaintances	2	2,3	Literate	15	17,2
Other	1	1,1	Primary school	1	1,1
Marital status			Middle School	1	1,1
Married	75	86,2	University	4	4,6
Lost his/her wife	12	13,8	Nationality		
Single/Never married	0	0,0	Syria	8	9,2
<i>Number of children</i>			Iraq	2	2,3
1-2	10	11,5	Afghanistan	70	80,5
3-4	23	26,4	Uzbekistan	5	5,7
5-6	23	26,4	Other (Turkmenistan and Pakistan)	2	2,3
7+	31	35,6	Person living together		
Occupation			My wife	7	8,0
Farmer	12	13,8	Me and my single kids	19	21,8
Housewife	39	44,8	My wife and single children	60	69,0
Worker	13	14,9	Other	1	1,1
Artisan	9	10,3	Your working status		
Other	14	16,1	I am not engaged in an income generating business	86	98,9
Monthly income amount			I am engaged in an income generating business	1	1,1
0-1000	2	2,3	Where do you earn your living?		
1001-2000	44	50,6	I have no income	1	1,1
2001-3000	31	35,6	Wage	8	9,2
3001-4000	7	8,0	Social help	55	63,2
4000 ve üzeri	3	3,4	With the financial support of children	23	26,4
Type of residence you live in			How is your economic situation according to you?		
Detached house with natural gas	4	4,6	Moderate and good	21	24,1
Flat with natural gas	20	23,0	Bad	58	66,7
Detached house with stove	63	72,4	Too bad	8	9,2
The positive side of migration according to you			Reasons to migrate		
Finding a job	3	3,4	Security reason	82	94,3
Positive physical environment	7	8,0	Education of children	2	2,3
Education of children	4	4,6	Living in better conditions	2	2,3
Security	73	83,9	Other	1	1,1
Are you considering returning to your country?			The Negative Side of Migration According to You		
Yes	5	5,7	Economic difficulties	22	25,3
No	82	94,3	Negative physical environment	3	3,4
Do you receive social assistance?			Security	1	1,1
Yes	73	83,9	Distance from relatives	3	3,4
No	14	16,1	No downsides	58	66,7
TR- Do you have the right to citizenship?			If you answered yes to the question (Do you intend to return to your country), why?		
Yes	2	2,3	Those who say no	82	94,3
No	85	97,7	If the economy improves	1	1,1
Have you made any attempt to immigrate from Türkiye to another country?			Because it's hometown	1	1,1
I talked to UNHCR	12	13,8	If the war ends	3	3,4

By my own means	2	2,3	Do you intend to immigrate to another country from Türkiye?		
I did not attempt	39	44,8	Yes	53	60,9
Those who do not want to migrate	34	39,1	No	34	39,1
If you receive social assistance from which institution?			If yes, which country do you want to go to? (the country they want to migrate to)		
Municipality	2	2,3	Germany	11	12,6
Social security institution	4	4,6	America	14	16,1
Non-governmental organizations	67	77,0	Austria	1	1,1
Are you registered with the immigration office?			Belgium	1	1,1
Yes	84	96,6	It doesn't matter	8	9,1
No	3	3,4	Britain	2	2,3
			Iranian	1	1,1
			Switzerland	3	3,4
			Canada	12	13,8

The mean age of the participants was found to be 68.5 ± 4.68 years. The lowest age is 65 and the highest age is 89. 86% of the 87 participants over the age of 65 who migrated in Sivas were born in Afghanistan. While there are 67,283 elderly people migrating from Syria throughout Türkiye, the majority of the elderly immigrants that make up the sample of the research are Afghan people since the number of Syrians residing in Sivas is less (<https://multeciler.org.tr>). 56.3% of the participants have been residing in Türkiye for 2-5 years and 40.2% for more than 5 years. 52.9% of the participants are male and 47.1% are female. It was determined that 87.4% of the participants immigrated from Afghanistan, 10.3% from Syria and 2.3% from Iraq. 86.2% of the participants are married and 80.5 of them are from Afghanistan. 35.6% of the participants have 7 children, 69% live with their spouses and single children, 44.8% are housewives. 63.2% of the participants earn their living from social assistance and 98.9% of them are not engaged in a job that generates income. 50.6% of them state that they have a monthly income between 1001-2000 TL and 66.7% of them state that their economic situation is bad.

It was reported that 72.4% of the participants lived in a detached house with a stove and 94.3% migrated for security reasons. 83.9% said that the positive side of migration was “security”, 66.7% said that there was no negative side of migration and 25.3 of them stated that there are “economic difficulties” as the negative side of migration.

It was determined that 94.3% of the participants did not want to return to their country, and those who wanted to return to their country thought to return if the war ended in their country.

It was determined that 83.9% of the participants received social assistance, and 77% of those who received social assistance received this social assistance from non-governmental organizations.

97.7% of the participants are from T.C. stated that they do not have the right to citizenship, and 96.6% of them are registered with the immigration administration.

39.1% of the participants stated that they did not want to immigrate from Türkiye to another country, 44.8% stated that they did not take any action in this regard, and only 13.8% of them talked to the UNHCR.

16.1% of the participants who wanted to immigrate stated that they preferred to immigrate to America and 12.6% to Germany.

Table 2

Comparison of life Satisfaction Scores of Immigrants According to Their Socio-Demographic Characteristics (n=87)

Variables	N	Mean	Std.D.	Result	
Those who want to immigrate from Türkiye	Yes	53	3,24	0,33	$t = 0,215$
	No	34	3,23	0,37	$p = 0,830$
Do you receive social assistance?	Yes	73	3,23	0,35	$t = -0,407$
	No	14	3,27	0,35	$p = 0,685$
Marital status	Married	75	3,25	0,35	$t = 1,163$
	Lost his wife	12	3,13	0,30	$p = 0,248$
Gender	Female	41	3,20	0,33	$t = -0,921$
	Male	46	3,27	0,37	$p = 0,360$
Do you want to return to your country?	Yes	5	3,05	0,25	$t = -1,200$
	No	82	3,25	0,35	$p = 0,233$
Number of children	1-2	10	3,44	0,24	$F = 1,742$ $P = 0,165$
	3-4	23	3,24	0,33	
	5-6	23	3,26	0,38	
	7+	31	3,16	0,35	
Monthly Income	0-1000	2	2,91	0,20	$F = 0,978$ $P = 0,424$
	1001-2000	44	3,20	0,34	
	2001-3000	31	3,31	0,36	
	3001+4000	7	3,21	0,35	
	4001>	3	3,37	0,20	
Lived housing type	Detached house with natural gas	4	3,44	0,15	$F = 0,672$ $P = 0,513$
	Flat with natural gas	20	3,22	0,41	
	Detached house with stove	63	3,23	0,34	
Economical situation	Moderate and good	21	3,3249	,34179	$F = ,976$ $P = 0,381$
	Bad	58	3,2262	,35342	
	Too bad	8	3,1397	,37592	
Where did you migrate from?	Afghanistan	76	3,2454	,34812	$F = 3,096$ $P = 0,050^*$
	Syria	9	3,0980	,32752	
	Iraq	2	3,7647	,08319	

In Table 2, the results of the analysis regarding whether there is a significant difference in life satisfaction levels according to the socio-demographic characteristics of the participants are given. The life satisfaction levels of the participants were found to be significantly important according to the country they migrated to. The level of life satisfaction (general) of elderly individuals who migrated from Iraq to Türkiye was found to be statistically significantly higher than those who migrated from Syria and Afghanistan. In addition, those who immigrated from Afghanistan were found to have higher life satisfaction than those who immigrated from Syria. Accordingly, the life satisfaction levels of the elderly Syrian immigrants were found to be lower. Respectively, Iraqi and Afghan immigrants, have higher life satisfaction levels.

Do you want to immigrate from Türkiye, do you receive social assistance, marital status, gender, number of children, monthly income, economic situation, do you want to return to your country, there was no significant difference between the variables of lived housing type ($p>0.05$).

Table 3

Comparison of the Participants' Scores on the Country They Migrated to and the Life Satisfaction Scale Dimensions

Life satisfaction scale dimensions	Country	Mean	Std. Deviation	F	p
Overall satisfaction dimension	Afghanistan	3,26	0,55	0,588	0,558
	Syria	3,05	0,62		
	Iraq	3,16	0,23		
Relationship satisfaction	Afghanistan	2,77	0,79	4,794	0,011*
	Syria	2,36	0,70		
	Iraq	4,25	0,00		
Self satisfaction	Afghanistan	3,58	0,42	1,613	0,205
	Syria	3,77	0,44		
	Iraq	4,00	0,00		
Social satisfaction	Afghanistan	3,37	0,54	1,660	0,196
	Syria	3,25	0,32		
	Iraq	4,00	0,00		

When the elderly individuals who migrated to Türkiye were examined according to their life satisfaction dimensions, no significant difference was found between general, self and social satisfaction dimensions. A statistically significant difference was determined between the levels of relationship satisfaction ($p<0.05$). In the dimension of relationship

satisfaction, it was determined that the life satisfaction levels of Iraqi immigrants were higher than immigrants from Syria and Afghanistan. In addition, those who migrated from Afghanistan were found to have higher relationship satisfaction than those who migrated from Syria (Table 3). Respectively, Iraqi and Afghan immigrants have higher relationship satisfaction levels.

Accordingly, it can be said that Iraqi and Afghan elderly immigrants have higher life satisfaction in their relationships with their families and friends.

Table 4

Distribution of the Scores Given to the Life Satisfaction Scale by Immigrants (n=87)

Life satisfaction dimensions (mean and standard deviation)	Scale Items	Min.	Max.	Mean	Std. Deviation
1. General satisfaction (3,24±0,55)	1. I am satisfied with my life	1,00	5,00	3,74	0,82
	2. My life conditions are perfect	1,00	5,00	3,55	0,91
	3. My life is better than the lives of most of my friends.	1,00	5,00	3,11	1,03
	4. I have achieved important things from life so far.	1,00	4,00	2,83	0,96
	5. I have a good life.	1,00	4,00	3,31	0,94
	6. I have many "I wish"s in my life.	1,00	5,00	2,88	1,06
2. Relationship satisfaction (2,76±0,81)	7. I like to spend time with my family.	2,00	5,00	4,28	0,52
	8. I have enough friends.	1,00	4,00	2,41	1,24
	9. My friends help me when I need it.	1,00	4,00	2,09	1,05
	10. I am satisfied with my friends.	1,00	4,00	2,27	1,16
3. Self satisfaction (3,61±0,42)	11. I am a fun person.	1,00	4,00	3,13	0,99
	12. I love myself.	2,00	4,00	3,87	0,47
	13. I am a good person.	1,00	5,00	3,96	0,44
	14. I find myself successful.	1,00	5,00	3,49	0,87
4. Social satisfaction (3,37±0,52)	15. I am satisfied with my neighborhood.	1,00	5,00	3,94	0,46
	16. I am satisfied with my neighbors.	1,00	5,00	3,87	0,66
	17. There are many activities that can be done where I live.	1,00	4,00	2,31	1,05
Life satisfaction scale		2,41	3,94	3,25	0,36

In Table 4, the life satisfaction levels of the participants are given. In general, the average score of the participants from the life satisfaction scale is 3.25, which is at the "moderate" level. The highest average scores of the participants' life satisfaction scale items, respectively; "I am satisfied with my life (3.74)", "I am a good person (3.96)", "I am satisfied with my neighborhood (3.94)", "I love myself (3.87)", "I am satisfied with my neighbors (3.87)" are items.

The lowest average scores of the participants in the life satisfaction scale are respectively; "My friends help me when I need it (2,09)", "I am satisfied with my friends

(2.27)", "There are many activities that can be done in the place where I live (2,31)", "I have enough friends (2,41)" and "I have achieved important things from life so far (2,83)", are items.

In addition, it was determined that the level of self-satisfaction of the immigrants was higher (3.61 ± 0.42) and the level of relationship satisfaction (2.76 ± 0.81) was the lowest according to the dimensions of the life satisfaction scale. Accordingly, while the participants' self, social satisfaction and general satisfaction levels are higher, respectively, their relationship satisfaction levels are relatively low.

Discussion and Results

Although "migration and old age" are included among the research topics around the world, there are few studies in the literature on elderly immigrants. This study aimed to evaluate the socio-demographic characteristics of immigrants and to determine their level of life satisfaction for elderly individuals who migrated to Türkiye.

Immigrants aged 65 and over under temporary protection settled in Sivas province in Türkiye, which constitute the sample of the study, migrated to ensure the safety of their families and themselves due to the war in their country. It was determined that they were generally satisfied with the migration decision and did not want to return to their countries. However, according to Comblain et al.'s (2005, pp. 185-186) study, elderly people tend to evaluate negative events more easily and have a higher intensity of positive emotions than younger adults, depending on the past. Older people reevaluate their past by focusing on the positive aspects of negative events (Comblain et. al., 2005, pp. 185-186). Since the main goal of older immigrants in later years is to regulate emotions and create an emotionally meaningful life story; Even if they have had negative migration experiences, they may have evaluated this situation positively and reported more satisfaction with their migration status. In general, it was observed that the satisfaction levels of the elderly immigrants participating in the study in their social relationships were low. Consistent with existing studies (Su et al., 2022, pp. 2), these findings suggest that policy makers and social welfare organizations are effective to reduce the loneliness feelings of older immigrants, increase social support, and thus support older immigrants' life satisfaction. Moreover culturally appropriate social support programs provide an empirical basis to best support minority groups.

In the findings, the relationship satisfaction of Iraqi and Afghan immigrants was found to be higher. Accordingly, it can be said that Iraqi and Afghan immigrants have higher life satisfaction in their relationships with their families and friends. In addition, it was determined that immigrants had higher levels of "self-satisfaction", which is one of the dimensions of life satisfaction scale.

The old age period is a difficult process in itself and the negative experiences of immigration in the elderly who migrate make the situation even more difficult. Reasons such as heavy working and working conditions, inadequate nutrition and shelter, and difficulty in accessing health services cause elderly immigrants to stay away from their social and cultural participation. Older immigrants may have to live alone and in isolation. This situation does not fit the concept of good and quality aging for the immigrant elderly (Lotfi & Erkoç, 2020, pp. 143). When we look at the relationship between satisfaction with the decision to migrate and life satisfaction of elderly immigrants, it is seen that migration is a tool for people to get satisfaction from their lives. With migration, individuals have achieved their life goals such as ensuring the safety of themselves and their families, for some, the education of their children and living in better conditions. In addition, this study showed that the safety needs of older immigrants take precedence over other needs. However, although the economic level of the elderly immigrants participating in the research is low, their self-satisfaction levels are high and they do not want to return to their countries, which is not compatible with the existing literature. In this case, it can be assumed that the participants migrated for certain purposes to improve their lives and that they achieved these goals through migration. Or it may be because they think that the difficult living conditions in their country have not improved yet. Because it has been determined that the rate of those who want to go to other countries is higher.

Existing research has long addressed the types of exclusion (political, economic, social) that cause anxiety, stress, and depression among immigrants. Anthropologists emphasize that complex forces such as social exclusion of these types of exclusion lead to physical and emotional vulnerabilities of immigrants (Sangaramoorthy & Carney, 2021, pp. 591). Immigrants often have to rebuild their social networks when moving to a new country, and they may have difficulty overcoming this situation (Lessard et. al., 2020:3). Findings from Comblain et al.'s (2005) study show that both men and women experience relationship satisfaction and general migration stress. At the same time, considering the stress associated with novelty, discrimination, not feeling at home, language and professional difficulties, and

losing the family, it was found that immigration stress negatively affects relationship satisfaction (Comblain et al, 2005). At the same time, the results of the study conducted by Su et al. (2022, pp. 7) showed that both general emotional well-being and cognitively perceived relationship and life satisfaction were negatively affected by perceived loneliness (Su et al., 2022). In this study, it was determined that the level of relationship satisfaction of immigrants was low in accordance with the literature.

This study is limited to elderly immigrants in Sivas province. This article presents some elements regarding the sources of life satisfaction of elderly immigrants settled in Sivas province in Türkiye and the role of satisfaction with the decision to migrate in overall life satisfaction in a given population. Going forward, it would be appropriate to analyze the broader range of older migrant categories and explore how levels of satisfaction with their decision to migrate in the context of forced migration or older migrants play a role in overall life satisfaction.

If aging occurs in the social environment that he is used to with the material and moral accumulations and memories he has acquired throughout his life, for older individuals, it may not be a big problem, as it is only seen as a stage of life. However, for an elderly person whose place of residence and even the country has necessarily changed, who has lost his social networks, who cannot participate in social life in the country where he lives, who has inadequate physical and economic conditions and who has problems such as loss of social status, not only aging but also the problems he experiences as a migrant are important.

First of all, elderly immigrants who are involved in the forced migration process due to the war, security as the reason for migration; they gave a safety/security response as the positive side of migration. They were happy to be in Türkiye regarding the need for security, which is always a priority in human life. However, the fact that elderly immigrants are in economic distress is the situation they complain most about.

According to the research findings, the average age of the elderly immigrants is 68.5 ± 4.68 and their life satisfaction level is moderate. According to the socio-demographic characteristics of the participants, a significant difference was found in the level of life satisfaction only according to the country they migrated to.

The level of life satisfaction of elderly individuals who migrated from Iraq to Türkiye was found to be statistically significantly higher than those who migrated from Syria and Afghanistan. In addition, those who immigrated from Afghanistan were found to have higher life satisfaction than those who immigrated from Syria. Accordingly, the life satisfaction

levels of the elderly Syrian immigrants were found to be lower. This finding may indicate that Iraqi and Afghan immigrants achieved greater cultural integration. Iraqi and Afghan immigrants had higher life satisfaction.

There was no statistically significant difference between general, self and social satisfaction dimensions according to life satisfaction scale dimensions. Among the relationship satisfaction levels, it was determined that Iraqi immigrants had higher life satisfaction levels than Syrian and Afghan immigrants. In addition, those who migrated from Afghanistan were found to have higher relationship satisfaction than those who migrated from Syria. Accordingly, it can be said that Iraqi and Afghan immigrants have higher life satisfaction in their relationships with their families and friends.

Do you want to immigrate from Türkiye, do you receive social assistance, marital status, gender, number of children, monthly income, economic situation, do you want to return to your country, there was no significant difference between the variables of lived housing type ($p > 0.05$). Accordingly, it can be said that the participants' life satisfaction is at a similar level in terms of these variables.

It was determined that the participants' self, social satisfaction and general satisfaction levels were higher, and their relationship satisfaction levels were relatively low, respectively. The reason for this can be stated that the elderly cannot communicate with the environment, especially due to language problems, and their social relations are limited to family members.

Considering whether they are satisfied with being here and their thoughts about the future, they generally have thoughts of going to another country. Especially their children's desire to go to another country because of their job-future anxiety is expressed, but they are not very hopeful in this regard. It is understood that they want to go to developed countries if they can find the opportunity to go. Almost all of them (94.3%) do not intend to return to their countries. Those who want to stay here (39.1%) also feel satisfied with the neighborhood and neighbors and live without feeling excluded, they state that they are especially comfortable in cultural-religious terms, only that their economic conditions are insufficient.

Regarding the problems of elderly immigrants, they should first learn the daily spoken language and access services, especially health, to participate in religious and social activities, not to be excluded. On the contrary, it is important to be facilitator and supportive in solving their problems, in short, it is important to show the effort to provide humanitarian conditions to elderly immigrants.

Although it is thought that the care needs of elderly immigrants will be met by their families, their children may not have the living conditions to take care of elderly individuals. For this reason, effective cooperation should be exhibited through local, national and international organizations and humanitarian aid NGOs in order to be sensitive to the problems of elderly immigrants and to provide at least their basic needs, to feel more life satisfaction at the end of their lives.

Compliance with Ethical Standard

Before starting the research, written permission was obtained from Sivas Cumhuriyet University Ethics Committee (dated 29.10.2021 and decision number 91621).

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