



## **Digital-Related Factors Affecting Life Satisfaction among Married Immigrants**

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### **Dear Editor-in-Chief**

In Korea, the number of married immigrants are increasing including approximately 160,000 in 2021, an increase of 13% from 2012 (1). Cultural and social adaption is important for married immigrants; it refers to a foreigner living in Korea after marriage to perform appropriate roles as a member of society with good health. This, in turn, is related to life satisfaction (2).

Life satisfaction refers to how much a person likes their life. Digital use, digital self-efficacy, digital competence, and accessibility to digital information are positively associated with life satisfaction (3). Digital communication including conversing via instant messenger, liking, commenting, posting, browsing a social media feed, or writing a mail (4), was positively or negatively affect life satisfaction depending on the participants. Owing to these conflicting results from existing studies, further research is required on the impact of digital factors on life satisfaction among married migrants. Notably, previous studies on digital and life satisfaction among married immigrants have often targeted only women (5). Furthermore, they have not considered the impacts of other various essential digital factors

such as digital self-efficacy, which is one of the most important determinants of competent digital media use. Lastly, many digital-related studies have employed the theory of planned behavior (TPB) (6, 7).

Therefore, we aimed to investigate digital-related factors affecting life satisfaction among married immigrants in South Korea using TPB.

This study conducted a secondary data analysis using survey data derived from a report on the Digital Divide 2022, a nationally approved survey conducted annually by the Korean National Information Society Agency (8). The inclusion criteria in the current study were individuals who 1) had a mobile phone or tablet PC, and 2) used the Internet via a smart phone, tablet PC, and so on, within the last month. We included 621 participants.

Life satisfaction was measured using the Satisfaction with Life Scale developed by Diener et al. (9). Based on the TPB, a total of six digital-related factors were determined, including attitude toward using digital media, self-efficacy in using digital media, competence in using digital media, digital helper, and online activities—



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online social networking and online social participation (10).

The data were analyzed using SPSS/WIN (version 25.0; IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA). A series of hierarchical linear regression analyses was performed. This study was approved by the institutional review board of Dongguk University (DGU IRB 20230015).

As shown in Table 1, living with a spouse ( $\beta=0.10$ ;  $P=.014$ ), education level ( $\beta=0.16$ ;  $P<.001$ ), and job ( $\beta=0.14$ ;  $P<.001$ ) were found to affect life satisfaction in Model 1. Demographic characteristics explained 4.2% of the variance in

life satisfaction ( $R^2=0.042$ ,  $P<.001$ ). In Model 2, the added variables of self-efficacy in using digital media ( $\beta=0.26$ ;  $P<.001$ ) and competence in using digital media ( $\beta=0.17$ ;  $P=.010$ ) also affected life satisfaction among married immigrants. Model 2 explained 16.0% of the variance in life satisfaction ( $R^2=0.160$ ;  $P<.001$ ), which is approximately 11.8% higher than that explained by Model 1. Model 3, which included all the variables, explained 16.4% of the variance in life satisfaction ( $R^2=0.164$ ;  $P<.001$ ), which is slightly higher than that explained by Model 2.

**Table 1:** Hierarchical linear regression results

Variables	Mode 1					Mode 2					Mode 3				
	B	SE	$\beta$	t	P	B	SE	$\beta$	t	P	B	SE	$\beta$	t	P
Constant	2.20	0.12		18.11	.000	1.32	0.17		7.59	.000	1.29	0.17		7.41	.000
Living with spouse	0.30	0.12	0.10	2.47*	.014	0.28	0.11	0.09	2.48*	.013	0.31	0.12	0.10	2.68*	.008
Education	0.16	0.04	0.16	4.06**	.000	0.06	0.04	0.06	1.44	.150	0.05	0.04	0.05	1.21	.227
Job	0.13	0.04	0.14	3.51**	.000	0.16	0.04	0.17	4.52*	.000	0.15	0.04	0.16	4.38**	.000
Attitude toward using digital media						-0.02	0.05	-0.02	-0.33	.741	-0.01	0.05	-0.01	-0.11	.911
Self-efficacy on using digital media						0.19	0.04	0.26	5.15*	.000	0.19	0.04	0.26	4.99**	.000
Competence on using digital media						0.13	0.03	0.17	3.75*	.000	0.12	0.03	0.16	3.61**	.000
Digital helper						0.03	0.04	0.03	0.73	.468	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.24	.813
Online social networking											-0.02	0.04	-0.03	-0.57	.570
Online social participation											0.06	0.03	0.09	2.21*	.028
F value	9.97 (<.001)					17.902 (<.001)					14.532 (<.001)				
R <sup>2</sup>	0.046					0.170					0.176				
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.042					0.160					0.164				

\* $P<.05$ , \*\* $P<.001$

These findings indicate that self-efficacy and competence in using digital media and online social participation are important factors in explaining life satisfaction among married immigrants.

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## Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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