

GROUP 19

Adeen Qasim, 25020253

Kisa Zahra, 24020502

Usama Akram, 25020220

IMPACT OF CHILDREN ON PARENTAL LIFE SATISFACTION IN PUNJAB

DATA

OBJECTIVE

To explore how family size and structure, along with factors such as the number of children, child mortality, and children living at home, influence parental life satisfaction.

OVERVIEW

The dynamics of parenthood and its impact on the well-being and life satisfaction of individuals hold significant relevance in today's society. Most of the research on parenthood and life satisfaction suggests that the emotional benefits of having children outweigh the related costs. However, few have used quantitative analysis to understand these dynamics. This includes recognizing both the joys and unique challenges that come with raising children as they leave a lasting impact on parents' quality of life.

This study aims to explore the relationship between different dynamics and situations that come with parenthood including child mortality, disability, socioeconomic status, parents' age at childbirth, etc., and the resulting impact on parental life satisfaction.

MODEL

The primary model used to assess the life satisfaction of parents is a **Multiple Linear Regression** at the Household level that can be summarized as:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \dots + \beta_pX_p + \varepsilon$$

where:

Y : The response variable

X_j : The j th predictor variable

β_j : The average effect on Y of a

a one-unit increase in X_j , holding all other predictors fixed

ε : The error term

$$avgsatisfaction = \mathbf{B_0} + \mathbf{B_1}no_of_children + \mathbf{B_2}children_with_you + \mathbf{B_3}children_dead + \mathbf{B_4}hhdisabilityscore + \mathbf{B_5}avgage + \mathbf{B_6}wealth_score + \mathbf{B_6}no_of_children*wealth_score + u$$

The secondary model used to assess the effect of children on a household level is an **ordered probit model** that estimates the regression based on maximum likelihood. This model was also used to compare life satisfaction across mothers and fathers.

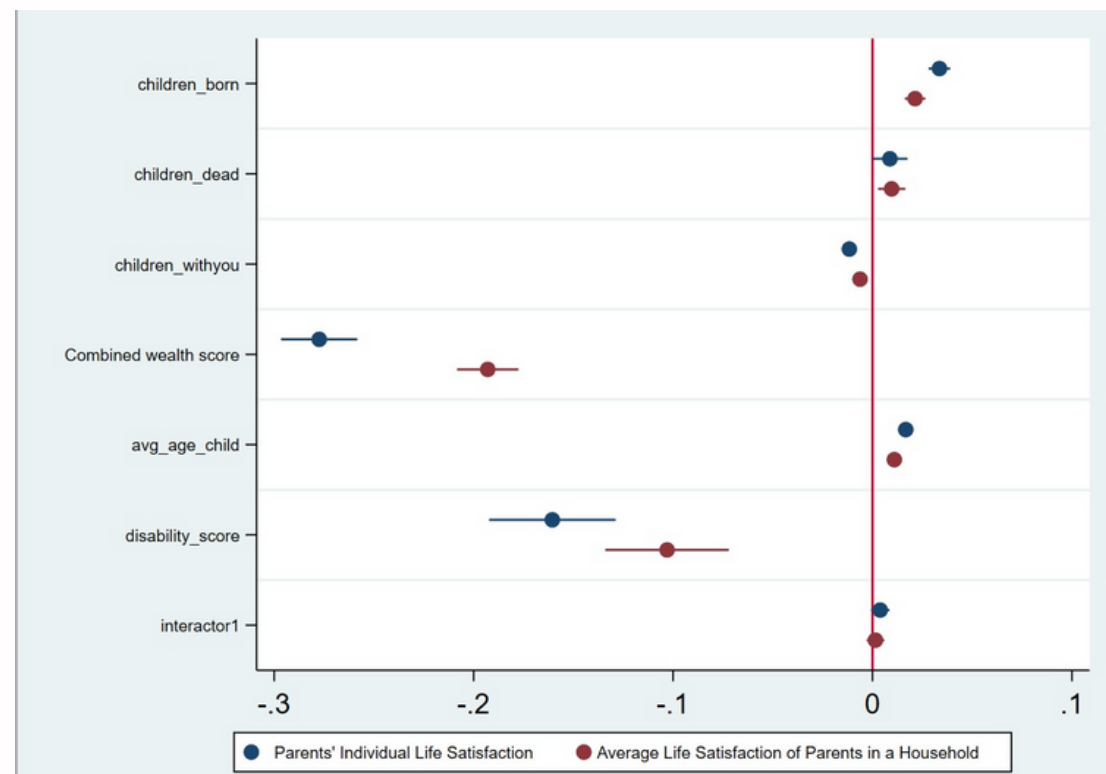
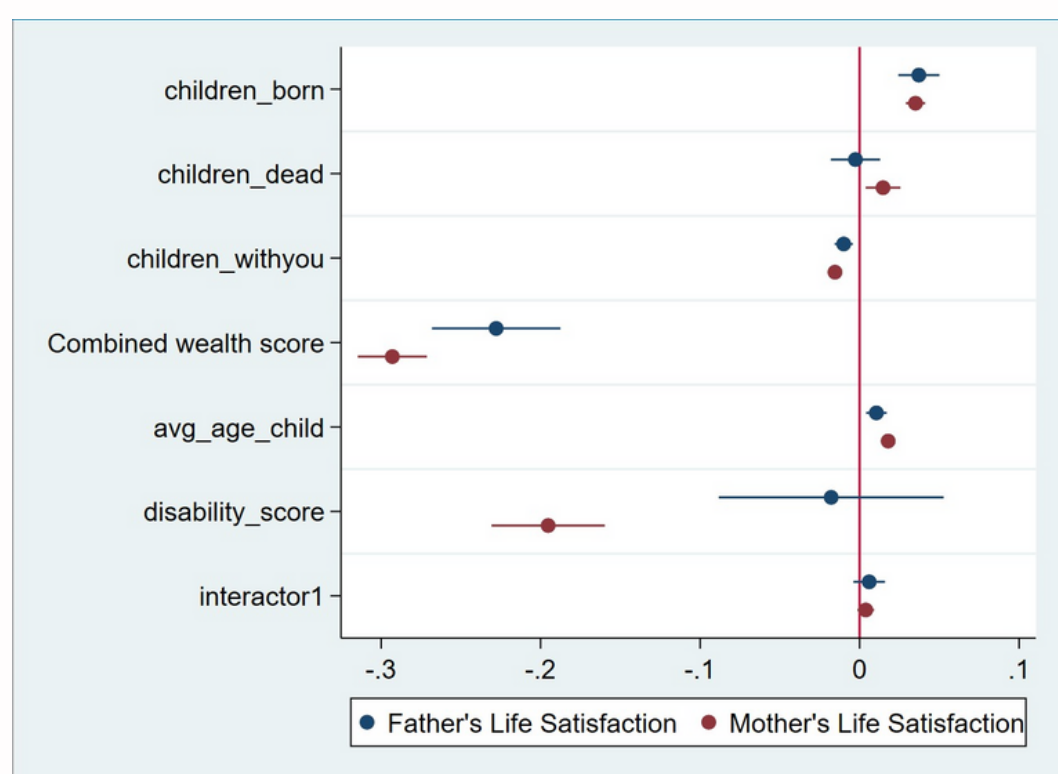
$$y^* = \mathbf{x}^T \beta + \epsilon,$$

where: y^* is a latent variable that corresponds to 5 levels of Life Satisfaction(LS2) as reported by the individuals in the data.

RESULTS/ANALYSIS

In both our models, we found the following:

- A higher number of children born tends to generally decrease parents' life satisfaction regardless of the level of wealth.
- The higher the number of children that live with their parents, the higher the life satisfaction of parents tends to be.
- Parents with a greater number of children dead generally report that they are less satisfied with their lives.
- Interestingly, disability of children does not negatively impact the life satisfaction of parents; rather, the greater the number of disabled children, the more satisfied with their lives parents tend to be.
- On a gender basis, the relationship echoed the same result as our household level data, while the main difference between genders occurred in the children_with_you variable, where the mother's life satisfaction compared to the father's increased more by increasing the number of children living with their parents.



Average Life Satisfaction Estimate in Household	
VARIABLES	(1)
Total Number of Children born in household	0.0214*** (0.00264)
Total Number of children in household that died	0.00960*** (0.00349)
Children that live with Parents	-0.00624*** (0.00112)
Combined wealth score	-0.193*** (0.00785)
Total Children * Combined Wealth Score	0.00148 (0.00226)
Average Age of Child	0.0109*** (0.00144)
Disability Score	-0.103*** (0.0158)
Constant	1.920*** (0.0325)
Observations	17,534
R-squared	0.105

Standard errors in parentheses
*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

VARIABLES	(1) LS1
Total Number of Children born in household	0.0336*** (0.00277)
Total Number of children in household that died	0.00872* (0.00450)
Children that live with Parents	-0.0116*** (0.00143)
Wealth Score	-0.277*** (0.00974)
Average Age of Child	0.0167*** (0.00139)
Disability Score	-0.161*** (0.0162)
Wealth Score*Number of Children Born	0.00384 (0.00236)
/cut1	-0.354*** (0.0336)
/cut2	0.703*** (0.0337)
/cut3	1.615*** (0.0344)
/cut4	2.135*** (0.0361)
Observations	50,102

Standard errors in parentheses
*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Invest in family planning education programs that make couples aware of the implications of having more children so they can make informed decisions regarding their family size and the timing of childbirth.

- Contraceptives, educational workshops, and family planning services should be made easily accessible and affordable.

- Introduce family support programs and policies, to provide parents with larger families with childcare services, parental leaves, telecommuting options, flexible working hours, and financial assistance.

- Develop counseling programs aimed at catering to the evolving needs of parents as their children grow up. Parenting strategies can help them deal with the complexities that come with parenthood at different stages of their lives.

- Develop maternal and child healthcare programs that focus on early diagnosis and treatment of childhood diseases, providing vaccinations timely, preventative care against factors leading to child mortality.

DATA

The data comes from the Multiple Indicator Clusters Survey (MICS 2017-2018) conducted in Punjab. MICS is an international household survey program developed by UNICEF for monitoring social indicators, especially those related to women and children.

The data was thoroughly cleaned and filtered, and relevant observations and variables were chosen for this analysis. New variables were also created using survey data. Averages were taken to assess data at the Household level. LS1 was used as the indicator for life satisfaction at the individual level. An average of LS1 values of parents in a household was taken and used as a score to assess the Life Satisfaction of Parents. The higher the score in both cases, the lower the satisfaction of the parents.