QMBU 450 – Spring 2021
Abdulhakim Özcan
Homework 2 Report

Online Social Support and Psychological Well-Being

For this homework, self-reported survey data from a psychology experiment titled "Online Social Support and Psychological Well-Being" was analyzed. I was one of the researchers who prepared and conducted the whole survey experiment. The experiment aimed to explore the relationship between psychological wellbeing (DV) and online social support (IV) partially mediated by stress level as the control variable. Online and offline social support was separately analyzed under the concept of social support. Maslow's (1987) Hierarchy of Needs was used to theoretically account for the connection between online social support and psychological wellbeing. The below conceptual framework visualizes the hypotheses and show the expected direction of relationship between the variables. Path A and B cumulatively propose that online and offline social support improves psychological wellbeing whereas Path E unsurprisingly claims that stress reduces the same mental state. Path C and D respectively hypothesize that online and offline social support help redeem the perceived stress level.

Data seem to support all hypotheses though it partially defeats the first hypothesis because there is no significant association between online social support and stress level. On the other hand, online social support accounts for 15.3 % of the variance in psychological wellbeing. Offline social support is also positively associated with the dependent variable and it predicts 14.9% of the variance in the stress level. The strongest association is observed between stress level and psychological wellbeing, accounting for 79.3% of the variance in the dependent variable which is considerably larger than the impact of both online and offline support. Figure 2 display the above-mentioned statistics.

Figure 1: Hypothesized Conceptual Framework

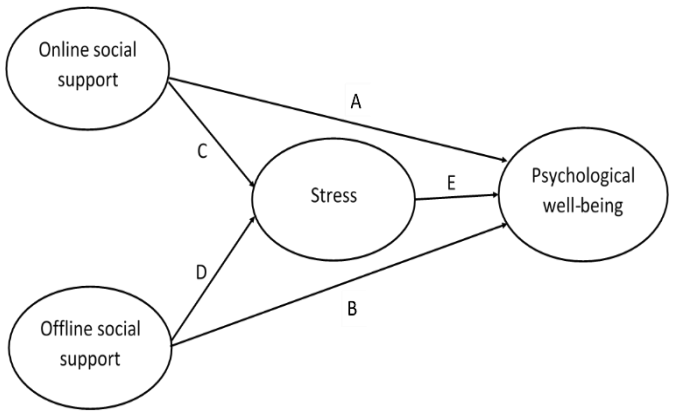

Figure 2: B, SE, 95%CI

β, SE, CI when Wellbeing is DV:

	B0	SocialSupport	OnlineSocialSupport	Stress
B	4.403260	0.217023	0.153600	-0.793042
B_SE	0.039645	0.006005	0.005740	0.008349
B_U_CI	4.481688	0.228902	0.164956	-0.776526
B_L_CI	4.324833	0.205144	0.142245	-0.809557

β, SE, CI when Stress is DV:

	B0	SocialSupport	OnlineSocialSupport
3.519062		-0.149623	0.007731
0.023886		0.005270	0.005150
3.566311		-0.139198	0.017919
3.471814		-0.160048	-0.002457

However, this work has limitations. It should be noted that none of the associations are referred to as significant either negatively or positively. One reason for this is my limited knowledge of analyzing data in python. Although the IVs of the resulting regression model predict some variance in the dependent variable, the source code for the model did not check for significance levels of the coefficients. However, it is worth mentioning that the same raw data had been earlier analyzed using SPSS and the above-mentioned numeric values of R^2 intuitively seems to be significant. Another limitation is related to the complexity of the hypothesized relationships between variables. The obtained regression model could be improved with a more sophisticated approach. Finally, 178 subjects, mainly students from Koç University, filled the survey but 44 of them were

eliminated from the data for improved analysis. The number and demographic of the samples pose threat to generalizability.