

Moderating Effect of Disability Acceptance in the Influence of Discrimination Experience by Individuals Disabled Regarding the Sense of Happiness

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to identify the moderating effects of disability acceptance in the effects of discrimination experience of the disabled on the quality of life. In this case, the analysis method included using SPSS 21.0, frequency analysis, crossover analysis, and reliability analysis were performed. Additionally, the T-test, and ONEWAY ANOVA were applied. The adjustment effect of the noted disability acceptance was identified using the SPSS MACRO PROCESS 1. First, the level of adjustment of disability acceptance in the influence of discrimination experience of disabled on the sense of happiness, in the case of medium and high values, it was shown that 94% was significant. Second, it was found that discrimination experience, disability acceptance, and discrimination experience x disability acceptance all had a significant effect on the sense of happiness. In the effect of the discrimination experience of the disabled on the sense of happiness, the moderating effect of disability acceptance has been verified. In other words, even if there is a problem of happiness due to the discrimination experience of the disabled, when the degree of disability acceptance was high, it was found that sense of happiness was improved even more. As a suggestion for future research, first, although in this study, the moderating effects of disability acceptance in the relationship between discrimination experience and happiness was examined, the difference according to the age or gender of disabled people were not verified. Therefore, by using the age and gender of the disabled as control variables or parameters in future studies, the effect of acceptance of disability can be seen more clearly. Second, as limitations of the data, this study has analysed focusing only on the sense of happiness, but there is a need to expand the positive effect of disability acceptance by using variables such as stress, life satisfaction, suicidal thoughts, and self-esteem as dependent variables.

Keywords: *discrimination, happiness, disability acceptance, aged disabled, adult disabled*

Introduction

Broadly speaking, discrimination against the disabled population of individuals in any region is applying the standard such as limiting, excluding, separating, denying, etc. without taking the person's disability into account and without a justifiable reason, giving unfavorable results to disabled people and not

providing equal opportunities to the disabled without due cause for accommodating for the person's condition in life¹. It is therefore noted that 79.7% of disabled respondents have answered that there is a certain degree of discrimination against the disabled in Korea, where 9 out of 10 disabled people in Korea have reported that they feel discrimination in their daily life². Because of this, the disabled person becomes more alienated socially, and especially the elderly people with disabilities who experience elderly discrimination, and it is also the case where the naming of disability discrimination to individuals assume that these people are stigmatized as weak and dependent groups, and who will also experience inconvenience, incompetence, and prejudice due to the appearance of the deformed or defective

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physical parts of their bodies and reduced functional and physical impairments³. Disability acceptance refers to the extent to which people characterized by a disability adapts and it is deemed as the first step toward social adaptation and social integration while accepting their disabilities⁴, without degrading the value of the person's contribution to the community or to society in a general sense⁵. In other words, it means recognizing the disability as one of their characteristics and overcoming it without degrading the value of the person to be able to contribute something of value or positive to the society or community in those instances^{6,7}, which has claimed that disability acceptance can help the disabled to overcome the suffering of disabled, sadness, devaluation due to the condition of a disability and the situations that could cause negative reactions to others. And it has claimed that disability acceptance is the most powerful predictor of adaptation to a known disability, and the first start of disability identity is the acceptance of a disability⁶. These positive effects apply the same to the elderly with the experience of having disabilities. There are prior studies⁸⁻¹⁰ that the higher the disability acceptance, the higher the quality of subjective life of the elderly with a disability. In the study¹¹ of on the life satisfaction of the case of elderly women with disabilities, it reported that the higher the disability acceptance rate, the higher the life satisfaction of the elderly women with disabilities¹². In this case, as a result of analyzing the disability acceptance and life satisfaction of the visually impaired people aged 55 and over, the disability acceptance was shown to have a significant effect on life satisfaction. In addition, disability acceptance not only has a positive impact on the quality of life of people with disabilities, but also plays a role in moderating the quality of life of disabled people due to their experience of disability discrimination. According to related studies, the moderating effects of disability acceptance can be predicted in the relationship between discrimination and the person's quality of life¹³. This situation has been analyzed to reveal that the relationship between the disability acceptance and the life satisfaction of the disabled, and as a result, through acceptance of disability as a mediator, where it was found to have an influence on the life satisfaction of the disabled person⁵. It has been reported that the acceptance of disability affects the incidence of depression, and that the depression a person experiences has an influencing relationship that affects suicidal ideation. Even in the study¹⁴ of the acceptance of a disability had a negative influence (-) on the

incidence of experiencing depression. However, studies on disability discrimination, disability acceptance, and quality of life of persons with disabilities only focuses on fragmentary causal relationships, such as noting that the quality of life is high if the acceptance of disability is high, and if the quality of life is negative mainly due to disability discrimination and so on, then it does not clearly reveal what role the disability acceptance plays in the relationship between disability discrimination and quality of life, and what overall function that it serves. Just that only the study¹³ reveals the mediating effect of disability acceptance. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to identify the moderating effects of disability acceptance in the influence of discrimination experience of disabled people, on the sense of happiness by using the 2017 Disability Employment Panel data, which is a reliable nationwide data. First to note is to ask the question, does acceptance of a disability have a moderating effect in the influence of a discrimination experience of the disabled on the sense of happiness?

Method

Model of Research

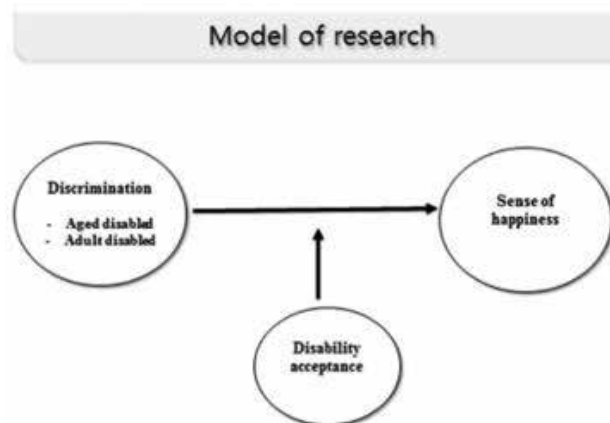


Figure 1: Model of Research

Study Subjects and Data Collection Procedures:

For the subjects of this study, it is noted that the 2017 Disability Employment Panel Data established by the Korea Employment Agency was used in this case. As of May 15, 2016, a disabled employment panel survey has targeted 4,577 people nationwide who are registered as a disabled person (aged 20 to 65 years) as prescribed every May to August in Article 2 of the Welfare for the Disabled Act, where the investigation was conducted using personal interviews (TAPI) using a tablet PC¹⁵, and this study also has used the data of these same 4,577 people.

According to the demographic characteristics of disabled people, there were more men (65.8%) than women, and the average age was 43.40 years, and it included 20.8% of elderly disabled with 55 years or older. For residence, the highest number (42.6%) of people lived in the metropolitan areas, and for the variable of education the highest number (43.3%) of participants were high school graduates, whereas singles accounted for 50.7% which was slightly more than married participants as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics among the Disabled (N = 4,577)

Frequency %			
Gender	Men	3,010	65.8
	Women	1,567	34.2
Age	20 to 54 years	3,263	71.4
	55 to 65 years	954	20.8
Education	Primary school graduate	488	10.7
	High school graduate	1,984	43.3
	University	1,294	28.3
	Other	448	9.8
Marital Status	Has a spouse	1,892	41.3
	Singles	2,322	50.7

Measuring

Discrimination Experience: As an independent variable of this study, in the 2017 employment panel survey of the Korea Employment Agency for the Disabled, discrimination experience has one question in the survey. The degree of discrimination experience in everyday life has used 4-point Likert Scale (1=never experienced, 2=rarely experienced, 3=often experienced, 4=always experienced) for the analysis. **Sense of Happiness:** As a single question, there was a 10-point Likert Scale (1=very unhappy, 10=very happy) which was used. **Disability Acceptance:** As a control variable of this study, the disability acceptance in the employment panel survey structured in 2017 by the Korea Employment Service for the Disabled had 12 questions, with a 5-point Likert Scale (1=not at all, 2=somewhat not at all, 3=just so so, 4=yes, 5=certainly yes). The reliability of the scale was reviewed with a Cronbach’s showing an alpha value of .947.

Analysis Method: Using SPSS 21.0, frequency analysis, crossover analysis, and reliability analysis

were performed. T-test, and ONEWAY ANOVA were applied. The adjustment effect of disability acceptance was identified using SPSS PROCESS macro 1.

Result and Discussion

Correlation between Variables: Utilizing the analysis of the correlation between variables used in this study, the multicollinearity between the relevant variables was identified. As shown in Table 2, the problem of multicollinearity was not found as correlation coefficient r values ranged from .280 to .580, and the correlation between all variables was considered to be significant.

In addition, according to the descriptive statistics of each variable, first, the level of happiness, which is a dependent variable of this study, was 7.65 points out of 10, which was higher than the median, and the disability acceptance was 3.109 out of 5 points, which was also higher than the median. Finally, the discrimination experience was noted at 1.81 points out of 4 points, which was lower than the median. Therefore, it can be seen that the disabled people of this study had a low discrimination experience, but a high disability acceptance and the sense of happiness (Table 2).

Moderating Effect of Disability Acceptance in the Influence of Discrimination Experience of Disabled on the Sense of Happiness: It can be concluded that the moderating effect of disability acceptance in the influence of discrimination experience of disabled people has an effect on the sense of happiness. As a result of an analysis using SPSS PROCESS macro1 in order to identify the moderating effect of disability acceptance in the influence of discrimination experience on the sense of happiness, the results were significant as shown in Table 3~4 and Figure 1. It was found in this case that discrimination experience, disability acceptance, and discrimination experience x disability acceptance all had a significant effect on the sense of happiness (Table 3, Figure 1). The model that examined the significance of the model having an interaction item was significant, and the discrimination experience x disability acceptance has increased the explanatory power of the entire model by 3.3% (Table 4).

In addition, as a result of analyzing the significance area for moderating effect of disability acceptance, the moderating effects was seen to be significant when the disability acceptance value was less than -1.9165, and

in areas larger than -1.9165 or smaller than -.9685, the moderating effect was not significant. And it is noted that when it was greater than -.9685, the moderating effect of disability acceptance was significant as shown in Figure 2.

Table 2: Correlation among Variables and Descriptive Statistics

	Happiness	Disability acceptance	Discrimination
Happiness			
Disability acceptance	.580***		
Discrimination	.369***	.280***	
M(S.D)	7.65(11.977)	3.109(*.534)	1.81(.786)

*p<.05, ***p<.001

Table 3: Moderating Effect of Disability Acceptance in the Influence of Discrimination Experience of Disabled on the Sense of Happiness

	coeff	se	t	p	LLCI	ULCI
constant	7.3736	.1423	51.8252	.0000	7.0947	7.6525
discrimination(a)	.9901	.1274	7.7735	.0000	.7404	1.2399
disability acceptance(b)	4.3054	.1721	25.0117	.0000	3.9679	4.6429
a*b	.7090	.0458	15.4818	.0000	.6192	.7988

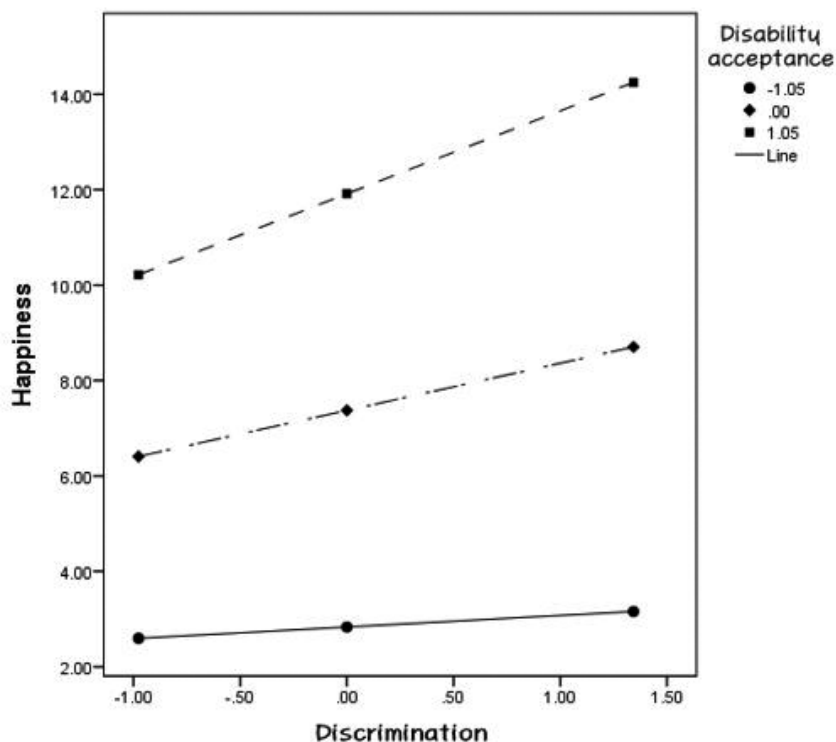


Figure 2: Moderating Effect of Disability Acceptance

Table 4: The effect of the Discrimination Experience of the Disabled on the Euphoria(a)

	R ² -change	F	df1	df2	p
discrimination x disability acceptance	.0333	239.6852	1.0000	4210.0000	.0000

Conclusion

The purpose of this study is to identify the moderating effects of disability acceptance in the effects of discrimination experience of the disabled on the quality of life. To achieve this, the data of 4,577 people from the 2nd Survey of Disabled Employment Panel was used and reviewed in this case.

As a result of the analysis, first, the level of adjustment of disability acceptance in the influence of discrimination experience of disabled on the sense of happiness, in the case of medium and high values, it was shown that 94% was significant. Second, in the effect of the discrimination experience of the disabled on the sense of happiness, the moderating effect of disability acceptance has been verified in the study. In other words, even if there is a problem of happiness due to the discrimination experience of the disabled, when the degree of disability acceptance was high, it was found that sense of happiness was improved even more. These results support the study¹³ on the moderating effect of disability acceptance and the results of previous studies^{5,13,14} on the noted positive effects of disability acceptance. Therefore, in education for the disabled, adaptation to disability and acceptance of disability can improve the quality of their lives, and by emphasizing that this can be positive for social adaptation and integration, even if disabled people are not discriminated in our society, but have had the experience of discrimination, it is necessary to develop the power to overcome the situation based on self-acceptance. In other words, even if discrimination increases, if the disability is accepted then the happiness will increase, and through proper understanding and acceptance of one's disability, the role and participation that one can do in society can be discovered, and these individuals should try to live as a member of society who can experience and can feel happiness.

Finally, as a suggestion for future research, first, although in this study, the moderating effects of disability acceptance in the relationship between discrimination experience and happiness was examined, the difference according to the age or gender of disabled people were not verified. Therefore, by using the age and gender of the disabled as control variables or parameters in future studies, the effect of acceptance of disability can be seen more clearly and should be reviewed in future research. Second, as limitations of the data, this study has analyzed focusing only on the sense of happiness, but

there is a need to expand the positive effect of disability acceptance by using variables such as the effects of stress, life satisfaction, suicidal thoughts, and self-esteem as dependent variables. Through various studies on the disability acceptance for the disabled, various problems that are experiencing exclusion and separation as a result of being disabled in the society, and should be predicted and prevented through the understanding of the difference and not as the therapeutic point of view. In addition, by creating an opportunity for self-determination for disabled persons who are not protected by human rights against discrimination experiences, a practical social system that can live together without discrimination should be created, and through substantial research in the community, it should be used as an important resource for policy recommendations activities and for new research going forward.

Ethical Clearance: Not required

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Conflict of Interest: Nil

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