Correlation between quality of life, social creativity and tolerance among students

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Abstract

The topicality of the research is also connected with the growing uncertainty in the economic conditions and labour market in Latvia, with the result that people constantly face different situations and restrictions, encounter different behaviour models of individualities which determine the complicated character of social interaction situations; therefore it is necessary to find and in an efficient way to use non-standard, original problem solutions in seemingly unsolvable situations as well as in order to promote collaboration, to choose behaviour models grounded on social tolerance. Tolerance is one of the most essential personality traits in our contemporary world – in the conditions of globalisation, integration, migration, cross-cultural processes. The goal of this research is to investigate correlation between social creativity and tolerance among Latvian and Russian students. Methodology: one hundred students participated in the research. Theoretical analysis of scientific sources, empiric research using K. Abulhanova methodology for diagnosing levels of social thinking, and G.U.Soldatova, O.A.Kravcova and O.J.Huhlayev methodology of calculating the tolerance index. Results: the research analysis confirmed the correlation between social creativity and tolerance (ethnic tolerance, social tolerance and tolerance as a personality trait). Conclusion.: after summarising the results a conclusion can be made that students' social creativity level, taken as a whole, does not reach even the mean; relationships between the social creativity and tolerance indices are positive, it means that in case social creativity increases also tolerance level increases; but the reverse cannot be excluded – with the increase of tolerance level also social creativity increases. Evaluating the tolerance indices obtained, the mean tolerance level dominates both in ethnic and social tolerance among the selection, only indices of personality traits differ slightly. Further work: comparatively low social creativity indices require a more detailed study of separate factors.

Keywords: Social Creativity, Ethnic Tolerance, Social Tolerance, Tolerance As A Personality Trait

The topicality of the research is connected with the growing uncertainty in the present economic conditions and labour market in Latvia, which has stimulated our research interest into the field of quality of life and tolerance. Tolerance is one of the most essential personality traits in our contemporary world - in the conditions of globalization, integration, migration, cross-cultural processes. The research presents analysis of the quality of life issue as well as its correlation with tolerance. The goal of this research is to investigate correlation between quality of life and tolerance among students. Methodology used included theoretical analysis of scientific sources, empiric research

using methodology of diagnosing levels of quality of life, and methodology of calculating the tolerance index by G.U.Soldatova, O.A.Kravtsova and O.J.Huhlayev. For data processing SPSS 13.0 programme was used.

One hundred students participated from Liepaja University (n=56) and a branch of Riga Stradins University in Liepaja (n=44) in the age range of 18-35. For data processing 100 questionnaires were used, given to 75 women and 25 men. Data was gathered in frontal activity during the break before or after classes.

Empirical research was made with the methodology of calculating the tolerance index by G.U.Soldatova, O.A.Kravcova and O.J.Huhlayev and the survey of life quality.

Method of determination of tolerance index by Soldatova, Kravtsova Huhlayev and Schaigerova (2002)
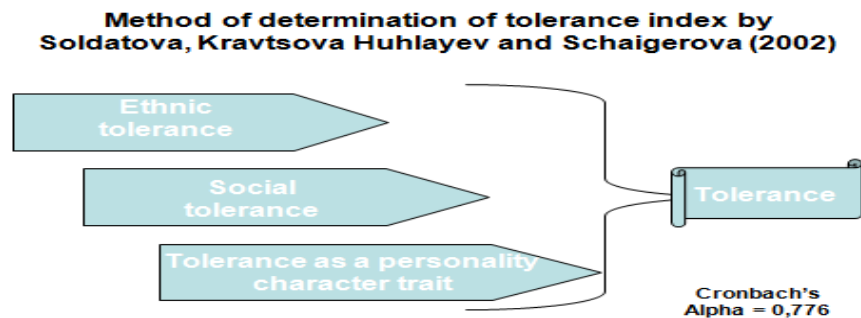
Recently according to Latvian improvement of well-being, several subjective life quality criteria consolidated. The idea of improvement of life quality was continuously cultivated in society, and there were no reasons to doubt the stability of the economic situation in the country, but the cost of this included large numbers of unemployed people, huge debts because of credit and loans and salary cuts. many people are not ready for such radical change that come with such an economic environment and it is difficult for them to change their behaviour – to evaluate the real situation, take responsibility, to give up different things and be in harmony with other people.

A high life quality depends on financial provision, good health, education, family, feeling of security and self-expression. So life quality and well-being are not the same. Concerning primary needs subjective life quality is to some extent connected with the income levels. It depends on an objective situation, a person's expectations, cognitive processes and the individual's role in society. People feel good when their needs, expectations and requirements are fulfilled in relation to their health, material wealth and social standing (Zikmund, 2003). Conversely, their attitude to decline can be described as 'a wait-and-see policy', more often they express their disappointment and this can have negative impact on their relationships with other people. They may face intolerance everywhere in society and so show intolerance to others. To a great extent life quality relates to an individual's psychological attitude which at abstract level determines satisfaction with life. An optimist sees positive aspects in critical situations, but

pessimist tend to see only negative things and no benefits, so they perceive the same situation differently (Lucas, 2009).

In the result of social and economic circumstances a lot of Latvians have faced inextricable difficulties: they cannot accept the present situation yet cannot find a way out of their situation; they express either a wait-and-see policy or dissatisfaction, keeping to passivity or choosing inappropriate models of behaviour.

A significant aspect of life quality is a feeling of security. It is connected with identification to a particular community. Besides a feeling of security is one of basic feelings for a normal person (Janoff-Bulman, 1992). It is important to believe that there are more positive things in the world than negations. Tolerance/intolerance depends on this belief.

Tolerance means composure and readiness for compromise; it is oriented to partnership or recovery of friendly relationship. The term "tolerance" symbolises indulgence, non-confronting principle of relationship. Indulgence in interrelation is identical to harmonious life, so that it means cooperation.

The sign of tolerance in everyday life is the coherence between individuals and social groups. However more often in interrelation intolerance is expressed – impatience, inability to count on others, for example, disrespect of other opinions and lifestyle. Tolerance is not just one of personal traits, but it is a condition of attitude to values. Tolerance is studied as moral principle as well as role model of behaviour, individual or social reaction to social manifestations etc. The first historical form of tolerance was indulgence of religion, which was approved in Westphalia peace treaty in 1648 (Gulyev, Korotec, Tsernobrovkin, 2007).

Allport (1979) explains tolerance relating to humanism. There is no better mark to name friendship and mutual confidence with respect to every social community. The term "to celebrate diversity" is widely used (Allport, 1979). Thus a tolerant person is a person who is equally well-minded to everyone without exception – this person does not pay negative attention to race, skin colour or belief. Tolerance is a significant component for the life position of each adult with their own values and interests. (Tiemann, DiRienzo, Das, 2009) Ethnic tolerance includes individual's attitude to other ethnic groups and position in intercultural relationships. Social tolerance reveals tolerant and intolerant expressions regarding separate social processes.

Social tolerance demands politeness to other members of society in public, accepting diversity of different groups of people. Social tolerance is necessary for all people "to live among others" without fear of physical and emotional violence or offense (Schatz, 2004). Tolerance as a personality trait reveals characteristics, positions and beliefs which to a great extent determine an individual's attitude to their environment. Social creativity is the human ability to find quickly and effectively use non-standard, original creative solutions to interpersonal interaction situations (Fischer, Giaccardi, 2007). Social creativity is characterized by the search problem, flexibility, agility, innovation, efficiency (Reilly, 2007), including collectivism, compliance with the objectives of the group, integrity, consensus, harmony and cooperation, inclusion, fairness, tolerance as

one of the major indicators of social creativity, free exchange of information, trust and acceptance, understanding and listening, friendliness, support, respect, openness, acceptance behaviour. In countries with higher level of immigration and higher levels of prosperity tolerance is more common; but in countries with lower levels of immigration and prosperity, intolerance is higher. (Tiemann, DiRienzo, Das 2009)

Research from Bolivia in 2004-2006 revealed that people with higher education have higher sense of tolerance than people with poor education; and that academic education and self-education has positive effect on the level of tolerance (Seligson, Cordova, Donoso, Morales, Orces, Schwarz Blum, 2006). Researches of Social Tolerance (Seligson, Cordova, Donoso, Morales, Orces, Schwarz Blum, 2006) shows That elderly people are less tolerant that the young; that the experience of any discrimination affects the level of social tolerance; that wealthy people who consider the significance of material values are more tolerant

In methodology by G.U.Soldatova used in this research three different scales of tolerance are marked: ethnic tolerance, which includes individual's attitude to other ethnic groups and position in intercultural relationship; social tolerance reveals tolerant and intolerant expressions regarding to separate social processes; tolerance as personality trait reveals characteristics, positions and beliefs which in a great extent determines individual's attitude to surrounding. The research is oriented to studying the life quality and correlation of tolerance. It reveals the connection between social, ethnical and tolerance as a personality trait and life quality.

The social tolerance demands politeness to other society members in public, accepting diversity of different groups of people. Social tolerance is unnecessary for all people "to live among others" without fear of physical and emotional violence or offense (Schatz, 2004).

Results

Comparing the results of both samples by t-Student's calculator, no statistically significant differences between the indices of life quality and tolerance were found. In table no.1 it is shown that the average index of tolerance in both samples differs minimal – all indexes of tolerance except the ethnic tolerance in the first sample are only a bit higher than in the second sample. Considering that the first sample include medicine students, but the other – management students, we can say that medicine students have higher tolerance. Overall only 11 participants have high tolerance, for 88 participants it is medium, but for 1 it is low. In both samples indexes of tolerance as personality trait are the lowest.

For 25 participants life quality is in high level, for 51 it is medium, but for 28 it is in low level. Physical health has the lowest indexes – for 46 participants the level of physical health is low, for 32 it is medium, and only for 22 it is high. Low indexes are for psychological and social relationship too, but environment aspect has the highest index.

The total social creativity level of the research participants was determined, revealing a

fact that no participants from the selection exceeded the mean of social creativity index; besides only one participant reached the mean social creativity index (SCI), In table no.2and 3 it is shown that for 27 participants SCI is a little bit lower than the mean, for most of the participants – 45 participants in the research - it is lower than the mean, for seven participants SCI is low, but for one it is extremely low.

Tolerance indices show that most of the participants (n=74) maintain the mean tolerance level, it is low only in one case, but high in five participants of the research. Analysis of separate tolerance indices shows different tendencies in the obtained results In table no.4 it is shown that - 30 participants maintain high ethnic tolerance level, 49 – mean, two – low. However, social tolerance reaches high level only in 7 participants of the research, for 72 it is mean but for two low. Unlike ethnic and social tolerance, tolerance as a personality trait reaches high level in 42 research participants, the mean level in 38 participants, but low level only in one case.

To reveal the connection between life quality and tolerance indexes Pearson`s linear correlation coefficients were calculated. The analysis of findings shows that in the first sample general life quality correlates negatively with tolerance (r= -0,358, p=0,014). The analysis of separate factors of tolerance connection with life quality reveals that life quality correlates negatively with social tolerance (r= -0,379, p=0,011), but there are no statistically significant correlations with ethnical tolerance and tolerance as a personality trait. There are no significant connections between physical health and tolerance and its data. In frames of the sample the connection between physical health and ethnic tolerance data is evident (r=-0,292, p=0,055). In the first sample psychological factor of life quality correlates negatively with tolerance (r=-0,362, p=0,016) and with social tolerance (r=-0,352, p= 0,019). And in frames of sample tendency in connection with tolerance as personality trait is evident (r=-0,270, p=0,077). There are no statistically significant connections between social relationship and tolerance indexes. In the first sample factors of environment correlates negatively with general tolerance (r=-0,323, p=0,033) and social tolerance (r=-0,358, p=0,017). In the second sample statistically significant connections between life quality indexes and tolerance indexes were not found.

Figure 1 Visual averages comparison of social creativity and tolerance of student's
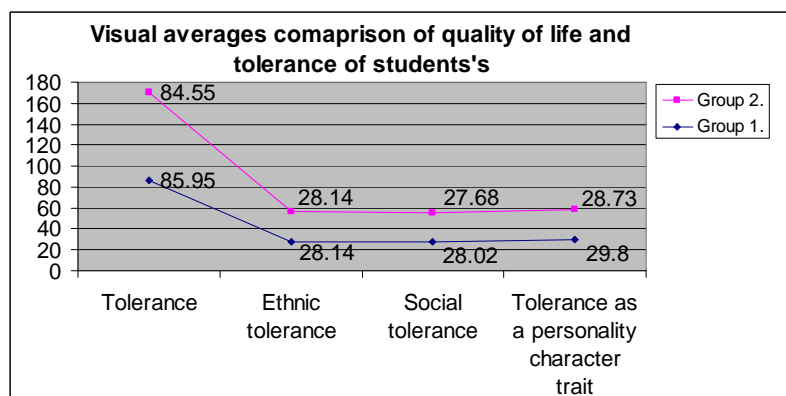
Figure 2 Men and women social creativity and tolerance correlation

The analysis of correlation in men group showed positive correlation between tolerance index, tolerance as a personality character trait, ethnic tolerance, social tolerance and social creativity

		Social creativity	
Sex	Criterion	Pearson correlation	Sig (2-tailed)
Women	Tolerances index	- .057	.670
	Ethnic tolerance	-.090	.501
	Social tolerance	-.153	.253
	Tolerance as a personality character trait	.089	.508
Men	Tolerances index	.652(**)	.001
	Ethnic tolerance	.486(*)	.019
	Social tolerance	.633(**)	.001
	Tolerance as a personality character trait	.515(*)	.012

Figure 3 **Visual averages comparison of social creativity and tolerance of student's**

Visual averages comparison of social creativity and tolerance of students
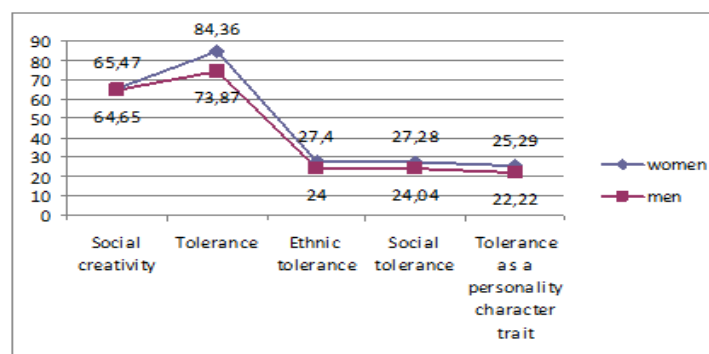
Figure 4 Averages comparison of social creativity and tolerance of student's, employ independent Samples T-test (p<0,05)

Averages comparison of social creativity and tolerance of student's, employ independent Samples T-test (p<0,05)

Criterion	t	Sig 2-tailed
Social creativity	.356	.724
Tolerance index	3.496	.001
Ethnic tolerance	2.985	.005
Social tolerance	2.500	.017
Tolerance as a personality character trait	2.579	.015

Conclusion

Generalizing indexes we can deduce that the level of life quality for the most of students is medium or low. Almost half of the participants of the research have physical health problems which are connected with everyday activities, addiction to medicine, energy and tiredness, mobility, pain and discomfort, sleep and rest and the capacity of work.

Evaluating all the data of tolerance indexes we can observe that in the sample dominates medium level of ethnical and social tolerance indexes and only a bit lower are tolerance as a personality trait indexes. Connections between life quality and tolerance indexes are negative so that if one factor increases the other decreases. Consequently, if life quality increases, the level of tolerance will decrease. Validity of the results is limited by comparatively small number of students – the number in male group. The research results would be different if the selection were bigger; the number of males and females more equal, the results might be different also in different age groups. Evaluating the tolerance indices obtained, the mean tolerance level dominates both in ethnic and social tolerance among the selection, only indices of personality traits differ slightly. Analysis of the obtained research results leads to a conclusion that the tolerance indices are higher in women than in men, the results have a statistically significant difference, similar in both groups are indices of social creativity.

Most people are highly motivated by a need of belongingness, love and respect that they are afraid to be rejected, therefore do not show tolerance and social creativity. They tend to behave in a way that is accepted by the people around them and to do everything that enhances their prestige, not expressing their personal point of view, their ideas, or attitudes.

The study results confirm the correlation between social creativity and tolerance. After summarising the results a conclusion can be made that students' social creativity level, taken as a whole, does not reach even the mean; relationships between the social creativity and tolerance indices are positive, it means that in case social creativity increases also tolerance level increases; but the reverse cannot be excluded – with the increase of tolerance level also social creativity increases. Comparatively low social creativity indices require a more detailed study of separate factors. Validity of the results is limited by comparatively small number of students – the number in male group. The research results would be different if the selection were bigger; the number of males and females more equal, the results might be different also in different age groups. Evaluating the tolerance indices obtained, the mean tolerance level dominates both in ethnic and social tolerance among the selection, only indices of personality traits differ slightly. Analysis of the obtained research results leads to a conclusion that the tolerance indices are higher in women than in men, the results have a statistically significant difference, similar in both groups are indices of social creativity. Most people are highly motivated by a need of belongingness, love and respect that they are afraid to be rejected, therefore do not show tolerance and social creativity. They tend to behave in a way that is accepted by the people around them and to do everything that enhances their prestige, not expressing their personal point of view, their ideas, or attitudes.

People try to arrange their life in compliance with their ideas, experiences and wish to be successful and happy; however being unsuccessful in these issues they express intolerance to others. If life quality increases, but the expectations for further development collapse, the level of tolerance will significantly decrease until the cognition of person accepts the present situation.

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