POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING: INDIVIDUALS' E-PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES ON TWITTER IN TERMS OF LIFE SATISFACTION*

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ABSTRACT

Political studies on well-being often question the effect of political concepts on well-being. But a growing literature in recent years claims that, contrary to popular belief, well-being can also affect political participation. This new literature focuses more on traditional behaviors (e.g. voting, protest) of political participation. The effect of well-being on e-participation has not yet been studied. For this reason, the presented research explores the effect of well-being on e-participation behaviors performed on Twitter to contribute to the developing literature. The main purpose of this research is to test the effect of well-being on e-participation activities. For this purpose, I designed causal research that adopts the relational scanning model. I collected research data from 573 Turkish participants via a survey. Data were analyzed using the Structural Equation Model (SEM). The results show that well-being has a negative effect on political expression behaviors and positively affect policy following behavior. Well-being has no significant effect on the dimension of participation in local government. The results show that well-being also affects e-participation behaviors, so it offers a new perspective on the developing literature.

Keywords: Well-being, Political Participation, e-participation, Twitter

SİYASAL KATILIM VE REFAH: BİREYLERİN YAŞAM MEMNUNİYETİ DOĞRULTUSUNDA TWİTTER'DA E-KATILIM FAALİYETLERİ

ÖZ

Refahla ilgili siyasal araştırmalarda genellikle politik kavramların refah üzerindeki etkisi sorgulanmıştır. Fakat son yıllarda gelişmekte olan bir tartışma ortamında genel kanaatin aksine refahın da siyasal katılım üzerinde etkisi olabileceği üzerinde durulmaktadır. Bu yeni literatür daha çok geleneksel siyasal katılım davranışlarına (ör. oy kullanma, protesto) odaklanmaktadır. Refahın dijital platformlarda gerçekleştirilen e-katılım faaliyetleri üzerindeki etkisi henüz incelenmemiştir. Bu nedenle sunulan araştırma, gelişmekte olan literatüre katkı sağlayabilmek için refahın, Twitter'da gerçekleştirilen e-katılım davranışları üzerindeki etkisini inceler. Araştırmanın temel amacı refahın e-katılım faaliyetleri üzerindeki etkisini test etmektedir. Bu amaç için ilişkisel tarama modelini benimseyen, nedensel bir araştırma tasarladım. Araştırma verilerini 573 Türk katılımcı üzerinden anket aracılığıyla topladım. Veriler Yapısal Eşitlik Modeli (YEM) kullanılarak analiz edildi. Sonuçlar refahın, *siyasal ifade* davranışlarını negatif yönde, politikayı takip etme davranışlarını ise pozitif yönde etkilediğini gösterdi. Yerel yönetime katılma boyutu üzerinde refahın anlamlı bir etkisi yoktu. Sonuçlar, refahın e-katılım davranışları üzerinde de etkili olduğunu göstermektedir, bu nedenle gelişmekte olan literatüre yeni bir bakış sunmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Refah, Siyasal Katılım, e-katılım, Twitter

Introduction
People have developed various strategies to improve their living conditions from past to present. The awareness of living together and acting together is also a result of this process. They divide social work so that they desire to have a more efficient and comfortable life. They aim at having a more efficient and comfortable life by making a social division of labor. Especially in democratic systems; theoretically, there is a common interest of the people in elections and all decisions concerning the social order. Therefore, life satisfaction may also be affecting political participation activities (Lorenzini, 2015; Flavin and Keane, 2012).

However, in political literature, researchers have mostly examined the effect of political concepts on well-being (Radcliff, 2001; Di Tella and MacCulloch, 2006; Pacek and Radcliff, 2008). Studies examining the effect of life satisfaction of individuals on political participation behavior are quite limited (Lorenzini, 2015; Sulemana and Agyapong, 2019; Flavin and Keane, 2012; Weitz- Shapiro and Winters, 2008). Therefore, the current study explores the effect of subjective well-being on political participation. Since there is a dearth of research regarding e-participation behaviors on Twitter, this study contributes to the knowledge of understanding the relationship between well-being and e-participation.

The research data collected from 573 people were analyzed using the Structural Equation Model (SEM). The results showed that well-being affects e-participation activities on Twitter. As individuals' life satisfaction increases, they make the less political expression on Twitter. Also, the results show if the life satisfaction of the participants' increases, they will follow more policy related posts on Twitter.
The study consists of five sections. In the first and second sections, I describe the traditional and e-participation forms of political participation. In the third section, I mention the concept of well-being and life satisfaction. In the fourth section, I examine the relationship between these two concepts in light of past research. In the fifth section, I conduct empirical field research on Turkish Twitter users based on the theoretical background related to political participation and well-being.

The Concept of Political Participation in Traditional Context
Participation activity is the process of participating in a specific social event by communicating and acting together (Tdk, 2020). Therefore, the concept of participation essentially requires crossing a threshold and being involved. When participation is considered for the political field, citizens participate in management decisions and management levels. According to the comprehensive definition made by Verba and Nie (1987), the concept of political participation refers to the efforts of individuals to choose politicians and/or to influence the decisions taken by the management (p. 2). Therefore, citizens can use many methods for political participation. Citizens can vote in elections, write letters to public representatives, become a member of a political party, and submit a petition to convey their demands to the administrators (Teorell, Torcal and Montero, 2007). Also, the current developments in the digital platforms such as Twitter and Instagram provide opportunities for citizens to involve the political activities. Social media platforms that emerged with the development of digital technologies gained a new dimension to political participation. People can now make political expressions on social

media. These forms of participation on a digital platform are called as **e-participation** activities (Güler and Sezgin, 2020).

Until the 1980s, the concept of participation means voting in elections (Milbrath 1965; Milbrath and Goel 1977). Therefore, Verba and Nie's (1987) comprehensive definition has been adopted by many scholars in the literature and practice. Nevertheless, some researchers argue that this definition does not cover activities such as civil disobedience and political violence, so the definition is incomplete (Conge, 1988, p. 242). On the other hand, Kapani (2009) considers actions carried out within the democratic system as an activity of participation. Illegal activities such as the use of force to change the existing order, actions centered on violence, armed uprising, coup, and terrorism are not included in the scope of legal participation behaviors (p. 145-146). Therefore, political participation is an indispensable part of the democratic system (Çukurçayır, 2006).

Although the concept of political participation and democracy are intertwined, in non-democratic systems, sovereigns want to get the people's support to legitimize their power. Therefore, even in totalitarian systems, rulers mobilize the people and spread the dominant ideology to the grassroots (Kapani, 2009, p. 155). Elections, one of the main means of participation in pluralist democracies, are held perfunctorily in totalitarian systems. Another difference between political participation activities implemented in democratic and totalitarian systems is that; In the democratic system, while the decisions to be taken by the administration can be affected by the participation activity, the totalitarians mostly participate in the implementation of the decisions taken in the system (Çukurçayır, 2006). Eroğul (1990) explains these opposite forms of practice regarding the concept of participation by drawing attention to freedom. For democratic systems, not only the right to political participation but also the right to freedom is indispensable. Free will should also include participatory activities. Because participatory activities carried out outside of free will occur in repressive regimes (p. 17). Here it should be noted that; As a result of the industrial and political revolutions in Western societies, the concept of political participation, which constitutes the core of democratic systems, has been formed. However, most of the societies governed by democracy today have not experienced these social development processes as a requirement of democracy. Therefore, participation activities may differ in practice even in countries governed by a democratic system. Herein, it is useful to state that social processes are also an effective variable on participation activities (Çukurçayır, 2006, p. 40). For this reason, in the next section, I mention e-participation activities that have matured incidental to social and technological processes.

E-Participation Activities incidental to Social and Digital Developments
The routine of life and the responsibilities people have (work, family, etc.) cause the public to show less interest in traditional political participation activities. In the busy pace of the day, people rarely devote time to management decisions that concern them. Therefore, fewer people attend traditional public participation settings (eg. meetings, plenary sessions, etc.) today. The fact that the public does not participate in decisions that affect their future puts policymakers and local public planners in a difficult situation (Conroy, Evans-Cowley, 2006, p. 371). Indeed, one of the legal responsibilities of

governments is to encourage public participation in the decisions taken (United Nations, 2020). Already, the primary duty of political participation requires the participation of the people in management decisions. The participation of the people in management decisions is substantial for the functioning of the current system.

At this point, information communication technologies provide convenience for citizens to participate in management activities by removing time and space limitations (Zolotov, Oliveira and Casteleyn, 2018, p. 351). Political participation activities carried out through information communication technologies are conceptualized under the title of e-participation. Therefore, the concept of e-participation refers to the participation of citizens in public decisions, administration, and service processes through information communication Technologies (Macintosh, 2004). Citizens' active e-participation activities play an active role in the execution of a transparent administration, ensuring accountability, and making public services more sensitive to the needs of citizens. Furthermore, the active e-participation of citizens contributes to improving the quality of existing policies and legislation (Bindu, Sankar and Kumar, 2019, p. 394; United Nations, 2020, p. 115).

Besides, as Meriç (2014) pointed out, citizens who want to participate in politics more effectively in representative democracies can now realize their wishes through e-participation activities. The limited possibilities offered in representative democracies had severely restricted the range of action for citizens who wanted to participate in government through traditional means. But today, citizens who want to participate more actively can interact more easily and freely with government and local government representatives through digital technologies. In this respect, e-participation activities carry the interaction with the management to a more participatory and decentralized dimension (p.176).

At the same time, the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) by management mechanisms to interact with the public also paved the way for the development of e-government activities. In the early years of web technologies, ICT adopted a one-sided communication strategy due to the lack of budget and technological infrastructure, in other words, it undertook the task of informing the public. For instance, Conroy and Ewans-Cowley (2006) state that the planning departments in municipalities inform the public about the regulations, legislation, and plans that concern the public through their web pages. Thus, the public can later have the chance to vote on developments that concern them (p. 382). Although people could not give instant feedback in the early periods, the fact that the public was aware of the decisions that affected them and their participation in these decisions even through traditional voting contributed to the development of more coherent and inclusive policies. With the widespread use of Web 2.0 technologies, citizens have begun to provide instant feedback. The public has had the opportunity to express more detailed opinions on issues that concern them (Mossberger, Wu and Crawford, 2013; Naranjo-Zolotov, Oliveira, Casteleyn and Irani, 2019).

O'Reilly (2009) defines Web 2.0 as information communication technologies that enable users to produce content and provide instant feedback. Developments in social media tools since 2009 have accelerated citizen and government interaction in terms of

dialogue and transparency (Bindu, Sankar and Kumar, 2019; Berlot, Jaeger and Grimes, 2012).

According to the research conducted by Mossberger, Wu, and Crawford (2013) in 75 major cities of the United States of America (USA), even in just two years between 2009 and 2011, government bodies' habits of using social platforms increased six times. Researchers state that local governments share their policies through social networks and consider the public's feedback about these policies (p. 356). The mentioned developments have also been reflected in various research reports. The E-Government Research Report published by the United Nations since 2001 is one of these reports. Digital activities of countries are evaluated each year in these research reports in various categories (United Nations, 2020). In the 2020 E-Government Research Report, Estonia, the Republic of Korea, and the USA ranked first among the countries that enable e-participation and e-democracy by fully meeting the evaluation criteria. Member countries are in one of 4 categories according to their score in terms of meeting e-participation criteria. These categories are named as low, medium, high, and very high level. Turkey also e-participation criteria are among the countries that provide a very high level (United Nations, 2020, p.117-120).

The use of information communication technologies by governments for the purpose of interacting with the public and the use of citizens for participation and knowledge has strengthened the concept of e-democracy (Bindu, Sankar and Kumar, 2019). On the other hand, not only the government and local governments but also individuals have started to use digital technologies in a more planned and organized way. In particular, platforms such as Twitter allow the public to create digital agendas on specific issues (Sagolla, 2009; Güler and Çelik, 2017). People who want to use this opportunity more professionally for political participation create groups in applications such as Telegram and organize around certain purposes[2](Urman and Katz, 2020; Kazanin, 2017).

Organized people in Telegram groups tweet with the hashtags they have previously determined to enter the popular topics (TT) on Twitter to make their voices heard (Can, 2020; Duymaz, 2020; Çam, 2020). In this way, organized groups convey their demands to the managers and try to make their voices heard. For example, health workers, who suffered from busy working hours and low salary during the Covid-19 period, organized in various Telegram groups to make their voices heard by the Ministry of Health. Through the hashtags[3] they determined, they managed to be among the popular

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[2] Whatsapp groups are limited to 256 people (Whatsapp, 2020). In Telegram, users can create groups of 200,000 quotas. Also, Telegram allows broadcasting to unlimited audiences through channels (Telegram, 2020). For this reason, users prefer the Telegram platform more often to get organized. Telegram is one of the more preferred alternative platforms in countries such as Iran where social platforms are prohibited (Kazanin, 2017). Platforms such as Facebook and Twitter may interfere with the shared content for hate speech and other reasons. In other words, the posts on these social platforms are subject to more frequent control. Contrary, Telegram adopts a more liberal policy than these platforms. For this reason, groups that want to express their ideas more freely prefer Telegram (Urman and Katz, 2020). This feature of Telegram provides an opportunity for the community if legitimate groups use the application…

[3] Detaylı bilgi için bakınız:
#SağlıkcınaSahipÇıkTürkiye
#SağlıkcınınCanıYokmu,

agendas on Twitter at least 52 times in 2020 (Trendogate, 2020). Thereupon, the Ministry of Health didn't remain indifferent to these agendas and made statements to the health care workers (Koca, 2020). The ministry stated that they will make additional payments to healthcare workers and improve working conditions (Sağlık Bakanlığı, 2020).

Based on the aforementioned reasons, I think e-participation activities offer important opportunities for citizens to make their voices heard. Individuals use e-participation opportunities to improve their living conditions and to influence management decisions on issues that concern them. Therefore, in the next section, I mention life satisfaction, which is a substantial component of the concept of well-being. Because life satisfaction can have an effect on political participation (Lorenzini, 2015; Sulemana and Agyapong, 2019).

Life Satisfaction as a Reflection of Individuals' Subjective Well-being
The concept of well-being is discussed with more than one approach in the literature. The most known of them are hedonic and eudemonic approaches. According to hedonism, well-being refers to individuals' life satisfaction, pleasure, and the benefit they feel (Griffin, 1988). Therefore, the concept of well-being covered by hedonism is more related to subjective well-being (Diener, Lucas and Oishi, 2002). Eudemonic well-being includes more than short-term pleasure and benefit. It is about individuals' self-realization and striving for a life purpose. Latter is about individuals' self-realization and striving for a life purpose (Ryff, 2014). Therefore, the eudemonic approach is more concerned with the concept of psychological well-being (Hidalgo et al., 2010). Although these approaches deal with the concept from different aspects, well-being is a whole. This research focuses on subjective well-being, so a more detailed look at subjective well-being is needed. According to Diener (2018), subjective well-being includes more than one component. Components such as life satisfaction and positive and negative emotions form subjective well-being. An individual must feel more satisfaction with life and feel more positive emotions to improve her/his subjective well-being (p. 253).[4]

Life satisfaction is the opinion that a person experiences through comparing her/his current life based on her/ his ideal standards (Pavot, Diener, Colvin and Sandvik, 2010, p. 150). Therefore, all areas of work, family, and social life are considered within this scope (Doğan, 2013, p. 57; Diener, 2006, p. 401). Theoretical explanations show that subjective well-being has a wide range. For this reason, it can be stated that many factors affect well-being and well-being affects many factors.

Studies demonstrate that working conditions (Stansfeld et al., 2013), family life (Eryılmaz, 2010; Diener, 2006; Diener, 2018), perceived social support (Gülaçtı, 2010), genetic factors (Lykken and Tellegen, 1996), personality traits (Pollock, Noser, Holden

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#3200TLHemşreMaaşnaÜçbinZam,
#SağlıkçıYorulduAtamaŞart,
#SağlıkçıyaAlkışYetmez,
#AlkışKorumazYasaKorur.
[4] Studies have frequently used the concept of subjective well-being and life satisfaction interchangeably (Sulemana & Agyapong, 2019; Okulicz-Kozaryn, Holmes & Avery, 2014). In this research, I used the concepts of life satisfaction and subjective well-being interchangeably.

and Zeiger-Hill, 2015), demographic factors (Khan, Taghdısı and Nourıjelyani, 2015; Doğan, 2013), and many other factors affect a person's subjective well-being.

Political studies examining life satisfaction have also shown that the concept of well-being is related to political notions (Radcliff, 2001; Di Tella and MacCulloch, 2006; Pacek & Radcliff, 2008; Okulicz-Kozaryn et al., 2014; Diener, Oishi & Lucas, 2015; Sulemana & Agyapong, 2019). However, political research focuses more on the effect of political factors on subjective well-being (Radcliff, 2001; Di Tella and MacCulloch, 2006; Pacek and Radcliff, 2008). For example, Radcliff (2001) argues that the life satisfaction of citizens will increase as the administrators adopt a social democratic approach (p. 941). Studies reveal that government ideologies and attributes of welfare state understanding have a significant effect on life satisfaction (Radcliff, 2001). Pacek and Radcliff (2008) also state that the industrial welfare state understanding has a significant effect on individuals' life satisfaction and happiness. Researchers particularly point out that the decommodification[5] variable affects well-being to an appreciable. Decommodification affects well-being two times more than unemployment affects well-being (p. 185-187).

Based on their research in Europe, Diaz-Serrano and Rodriguez-Pose (2012) state that decentralized policies positively affect life satisfaction. The researchers emphasize that decentralization plays a substantial role in issues such as economic growth, eliminating regional inequalities and poverty reduction, as well as increasing the subjective well-being of citizens, and improving satisfaction with management (Diaz-Serrano, Rodriguez-Pose, 2012). Another study conducted in the European region shows that trust in institutions also has a significant effect on well-being. These institutions are the national government, the European Central Bank, the legal system, the United Nations, and the European Union. Three of these institutions are political institutions and have significant effects on macroeconomic policies set for European countries (Hudson, 2006, p. 58-59).

As can be seen in the aforementioned studies, subjective well-being is mostly considered as a dependent variable in political literature. There are even more studies where well-being is considered as the dependent variable. On the other hand, few studies examine the effect of subjective well-being on political participation and this literature is quite limited (Lorenzini, 2015; Sulemana and Agyapong, 2019; Flavin and Keane, 2012; Weitz - Shapiro and Winters, 2008). This limited literature assumes that the life satisfaction of individuals has an effect on political participation behaviors. The current study conducted in this context also contributes to this developing literature.

The Covid-19 pandemic has adversely affected countries in terms of both economically and health. For this reason, in 2020, individuals continue their lives under very difficult conditions. Under this adverse situation, the life satisfaction of individuals may affect their political participation behavior. Hence, in this research, I explore the effect of life satisfaction on political participation behaviors. Before the research section, the limited

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[5] The concept of decommodification refers to the ability of individuals to live in a socially acceptable living standard without being dependent on the market (Aydın & Çakmak, 2017, p. 3). The concept emphasizes the independence of individual well-being from commodities (Pacek & Radcliff, 2008).

literature examining the role of life satisfaction on political participation will be discussed. Thus, I show the conceptual underpinnings of current research.

The Role of Well-Being on Political Participation: A Theoretical Framework
As Flavin and Keane (2012) pointed out, two basic approaches dominate the field in studies dealing with the role of welfare on political participation. The first of these claims that after reaching the life satisfaction desired by the citizens, they will participate less in politics. According to this first argument, individuals are already satisfied with their current lives, thus reducing their political participation. The latter approach expresses the contrary view. The latter approach states that individuals' life satisfaction should reach a sufficient level for political participation. According to this approach, people start to be interested in social events and struggle in political matters only after satisfying their personal needs (p. 66).

However, as stated in the previous section, research examining the role of well-being on political participation is limited. Besides, since empirical results showing that well-being affects political participation have not yet reached sufficient satisfaction, researchers suggest new research on this issue (Pirralha, 2017, p. 796; Weitz-Shapiro and Winters, 2011; Sulemana and Agyapong, 2019). The results of cross-sectional studies do not adequately shed light on the extent to which welfare affects political participation, or whether one can speak of an effect in the full sense. On the other hand, although stable verification cannot be carried out on different populations, past studies provide cross-sectional data that well-being affects political participation in various dimensions. Flavin and Keane (2012) demonstrate that the life satisfaction of US citizens affects their voting behavior. They also state that well-being does not have a significant effect on conflictual participation activities such as political protest. Weitz-Shapiro and Winters (2011) indicate that there is a significant relationship between well-being and voting behavior. According to research conducted in Latin America, researchers argue that happiness affects voting behavior, although they cannot provide strong evidence (p. 118-119). Another study conducted on 179 participants in China reveals that individuals with low life satisfaction show less political participation. The perception of corruption towards the Chinese government reduces the participation activities of individuals with low life satisfaction. Corruption perception of the participants with high life satisfaction does not significantly affect their participation behavior. Thus, it can be said that individuals who are dissatisfied with their lives are more severely affected by difficult conditions and injustices, so they avoid political participation and feel resentment against the system (Zheng et al., 2017, p. 918-919).

Contrary to Zheng (2017), Weitz-Shapiro and Winters (2008) found a positive significant relationship between people's unhappiness and forced participation behaviors in Costa Rica. Although it is difficult to indicate a direction in the relationship, the researchers suggest that people's unhappiness forces them to participate (p. 43-44). Although it varies according to culture, it can be said that individuals' unhappy and difficult lives lead them to political participation activities. Perhaps unhappiness forces individuals to act to change current conditions. Lorenzini's (2015) research results also support this interpretation. According to the results of the comparative study conducted on working (n317) and unemployed (n301) young people, the level of life satisfaction

increases the likelihood of unemployed youth to participate in protest activities. Contrary, the life satisfaction of working youth reduces their likelihood of participating in protest activities (p. 393). Therefore, this result suggests that the work factor differentiates the youth's life satisfaction levels and their behavior in participating in protests.

Lorenzini (2015) states that the probability of participating in protest activities increases significantly in case of losing their jobs for individuals with high life satisfaction. According to another result of the same research, unemployed youth with low life satisfaction are more likely to participate in communication activities than working youth with high life satisfaction (p. 391-392). Therefore, life satisfaction significantly affects the behavior of participating in protest activities. This situation shows that subjective well-being also affects political participation activities. However, the source of this evaluation also has a cross-sectional data.

Studies in the literature consider that new research is needed to demonstrate the effect of well-being on political participation. Because although researchers (Lorenzini, 2015; Flavin and Keane 2012) have revealed the effect of well-being on political participation, some studies (Sulemana and Agyapong, 2019) have shown that there is no causal effect between concepts. For example, in Pirralha's (2018) study using long-term German Socio-Economic Household data, life satisfaction affects political participation at a very low level, but this effect does not have a long-term nature. Therefore, there are studies also showing that there is no significant effect between well-being and political participation (p. 802).

Based on this conceptual background, I conduct a study on the Turkish population in the next section, to contribute to the literature that examines the effect of well-being on political participation. Past studies focus mostly on voting, protest, and other traditional political participation activities. On the other hand, individuals make their life dissatisfaction visible through e-participation by frequently expressing the developments in their lives today on digital platforms. In this context, the effect of individuals' life satisfaction on e-participation activities can offer a new perspective on the relevant discussion. Especially Twitter is a productive resource for examining this issue because it has a political identity. Therefore, in the next section, I explore the effect of the Turkish public's life satisfaction on e-participation activities on the Twitter platform.

Research Method
This research tests whether the well-being of individuals affects their political participation behavior or not. For this purpose, the relational scanning model in Figure 1 was designed. The research model is based on the limited literature that assumes that well-being affects political participation (Flavin and Keane, 2012; Lorenzini, 2015; Sulemana and Agyapong, 2019). SWL represents the well-being of participants and sub-dimensions of TSKÖ represent their political participation behaviors. This research has a cross-sectional design. The target population of the research is Turkish citizens. Citizens (n573) residing in 7 different geographical regions were recruited using the convenience sampling method. Data were collected by questionnaire technique. The presented study is a survey study.
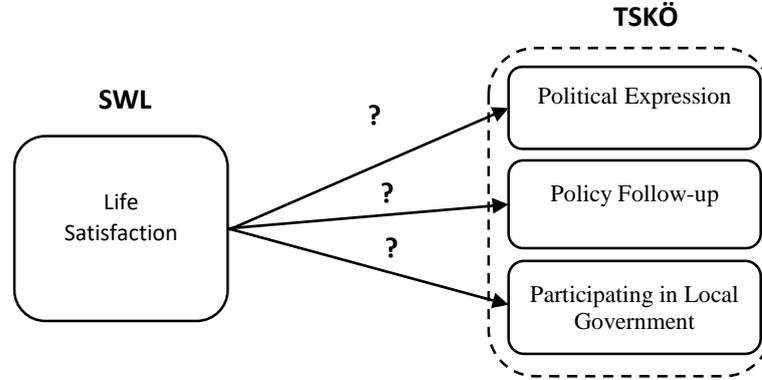
TSKÖ

Figure 1. Research Model

Participants and Procedure

The research focuses on political participation behaviors carried out on Twitter. For this reason, using Twitter was a prerequisite to participate in the research. I sent the link of the research questionnaire digitally to the participants. Participants gave consent that they had voluntarily participated in the study, then fill out the research questionnaire. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions they did not understand to the researcher. The approval of the ethics committee of the study was obtained from Suleyman Demirel University on 09.06.2020 with the decision number 91/15. Descriptive information for the participants is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Descriptive Information About Participants

Descriptive Information	Category	Percent	N	Descriptive Information	Category	Percent	N
Gender	Female	53.4	306	Geographical Area of Residence	Mediterranean R.	16.2	93
	Male	46.6	267		Black Sea Region	17.3	99
Age	24 and -	30.9	177		Central Anatolia	22.0	126
	25-34	50.8	291		Aegean Region	15.2	87
	35-44	15.7	90		Marmara Region	14.7	84
	45-54	2.1	12		Eastern Anatolia	5.2	30
	55+	.5	3		Southeastern A.	9.4	54
Marital status	Married	30.9	177	Working Sector	Public sector	28.8	165
	Single	56	321		Private sector	37.7	216
	Widow	13.1	75		not working	33.5	192
	No income	26.2	150		Can read & write	1.6	9
	2324 TL	23.6	135		Primary school	.5	3

Monthly Income	2325-5000TL	27.2	156	Education Status	Middle School	1.6	9
	5001-7000 TL	13.6	78		High school	25.7	147
	7001-10.000 TL	5.8	33		Bachelor	57.1	327
	10.001-15.000 TL	1	2		Master	9.4	18
	15.001-30.000 TL	2.1	4		PhD	4.2	8
	30.001 +	.5	1	Civil Society O.Membership	member	26.7	51
					not a member	73.3	140

Data Collection Tools

The research questionnaire consists of 3 separate sections. The questions in the first section are about political participation behaviors performed on the Twitter platform, and the questions in the second section are about life satisfaction of individuals. The third section includes demographic information for the participants.

Political Participation Scale in Twitter (TSKÖ)

TSKO was developed by Güler and Sezgin (2019) to measure the political participation behavior of individuals on Twitter. TSKÖ consists of sub-dimensions such as political expression, political debate, policy follow-up, participation in local government, and political action (propaganda-strike). It has been developed in 5-likert style (*1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree*). The scale is reliable and valid on the Turkish population[6]. In this study, sub-dimensions of TSKÖ's political expression, policy follow-up and participation in local government were used. Political debate and political action sub-dimensions were not included in the model during CFA analysis because they did not match the general structure of the scale. PF1 and PE2 items in the dimension of political expression and policy follow-up were also removed from the scale because they did not match the general structure during CFA. Then, it was seen that TSKÖ's CFA values were in the ideal range for this research (X^2=50.552; df=39; X^2/df=1,296; p=.102; RMSEA=.038; CFI=.99; GFI=.96; NFI=.95). Reliability value was also very high (α= .94).

The Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWL)

Diener et al. (1985) developed SWL to evaluate the life satisfaction of individuals. SWL has 7 likert style (*1=strongly disagree, 7=strongly agree*). It contains one factor and 5 items. It is a valid and reliable tool for the Turkish population. Dağlı and Baysal (2016) tested the scale's compatibility with Turkish culture. Based on the results obtained, the reliability value of SWL is a = .88, the test-retest result is .92. SWL's CFA values for this research are; X2=6.608/; df=4; X2/df=1,652; P=.158; RMSEA=,056; GFI=.98; NFI=.99; CFI=.99; IFI=.99; TLI=.99; RFI=.97. The reliability of the SWL is α = .89 within the scope of this study.

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[6] X^2/df=1,980; RMSEA=,070; GFI=.87; NFI=.91; CFI=.97; IFI=.93; TLI=.93; RFI=.90 - Cronbach Alfa= .94

Personal Information Form (PIF)

PIF asks questions about the participants' gender, age, marital status, monthly income level, the sector they work in, the geographical region of residence, their educational status, and whether they are a member of any non-governmental organization.

Analysis and Results

Research data were analyzed with IBM AMOS and IBM SPSS 24.0 programs. First, the data were examined in terms of normality with the help of SPSS. I removed the outliers data from the data set. Kurtosis and skewness values were between ± 2. According to George and Mallery (2010), values between +2 and -2 provide the normality pre-condition. The mean, standard deviation, kurtosis, and skewness values for the research variables are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Descriptive Information for Research Variables

	Mean	SD	Skewness		Kurtosis	
			Statistic	SE	Statistic	SE
Political Expression	1,9882	,87789	,876	,167	,151	,333
Policy Follow-Up	3,3092	,98775	-,639	,167	-,430	,333
Local Participation	2,0648	,86649	1,011	,167	,879	,333
Life Satisfaction	2,8142	,92828	-,120	,167	-,861	,333

Also, the normality of the data was re-evaluated through the AMOS program. The Assessment of normality results confirmed the distribution of the data (Multivariate= t < 10.0).

I used the Structural Equation Model (SEM) to test whether the life satisfaction of individuals affects their political participation behavior. In the first stage, the fit index values of the model were not among the acceptable values (Model 1).

Table 3. Fit Values of the Model

Values Achieved			Fit Index Values	
Model Fit Indexes	Model 1	Model 2	Acceptable	Very good / Excellent
X^2/df	2.76	1.676	$0 < X^2 / df < 5$	$0 < X^2 / df < 3$
RMSEA	.09	.057	$0,00 \leq RMSEA \leq 0,10$	$0,00 \leq RMSEA \leq 0,05$
SRMR	.07	.056	$0,00 \leq SRMR \leq 0,08$	$0,00 \leq SRMR \leq 0,05$
GFI	.79	.91	$0,90 \leq GFI \leq 1,0$	$0,95 \leq GFI \leq 1,0$
CFI	.86	.96	$0,90 \leq CFI \leq 1,0$	$0,95 \leq CFI \leq 1,0$
NFI	.80	.91	$0,90 \leq NFI \leq 1,0$	$0,95 \leq NFI \leq 1,0$
IFI	.84	.96	$0,90 \leq IFI \leq 1,0$	$0,95 \leq IFI \leq 1,0$
TLI	.81	.95	$0,90 \leq TLI \leq 1,0$	$0,95 \leq TLI \leq 1,0$
RFI	.79	.88	$0,90 \leq RFI \leq 1,0$	$0,95 \leq RFI \leq 1,0$
			References: (Bayram, 2010; Iacobucci, 2010; Erkorkmaz, 2013)	

Thereupon, t (c.r) values were examined. PE4 and PE6 items were removed from the model in line with the modification suggestions. After the modification process, the

model values had an ideal fit (Model2 - CMIN=159,252; DF=95; CMIN/DF=1,676; p=.000; RMSEA=,057; CFI=,96; GFI=,91). The results show that life satisfaction affects political participation behaviors in various dimensions. The effect was statistically low. Beta coefficients, t values and standard error values of the path analysis are presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Testing the Theoretical Model - The Effect of Well-Being on Political Participation

			β	Std. β	S.E.	C.R.	P
Political Expression	<---	SWL	-,186	-,249	,059	-3,148	,002
Policy Follow-Up	<---	SWL	,15	,166	,074	2,043	,034
Local Participation	<---	SWL	,014	,014	,086	,165	,869
LS5	<---	SWL	,781	1			
LS4	<---	SWL	,69	,854	0,085	10,059	***
LS3	<---	SWL	,713	,918	0,088	10,437	***
LS2	<---	SWL	,848	1,024	0,081	12,66	***
LS1	<---	SWL	,829	,986	0,08	12,392	***
PE7	<---	Political Expression	,64	1			
PE5	<---	Political Expression	,797	1,206	0,129	9,323	***
PE3	<---	Political Expression	,875	1,403	0,136	10,312	***
PE1	<---	Political Expression	,832	1,362	0,141	9,641	***
PF5	<---	Policy Follow-Up	,636	1			
PF4	<---	Policy Follow-Up	,668	,954	0,122	7,843	***
PF3	<---	Policy Follow-Up	,749	1,145	0,135	8,509	***
PF2	<---	Policy Follow-Up	,843	1,307	0,146	8,942	***
LP3	<---	Local Participation	,759	1			
LP2	<---	Local Participation	,649	,717	0,096	7,477	***
LP1	<---	Local Participation	,617	,723	0,101	7,141	***

Based on the results in Table 4, the life satisfaction of individuals negatively affects their political expression on Twitter (β =-.249; p<.05). Based on this result, it can be expected that as the well-being level of Turkish citizens increases, they will make less political expression on Twitter. It should also be taken into account that the effect in question is very low.

Life satisfaction affects policy follow-up positively (β=.15; p<.05). Based on this result, the increase in the well-being of individuals increases their following of the policy on Twitter. However, the effect level of this result is also very low. Well-being has no significant effect on the variable of participating in local government (p>.05).

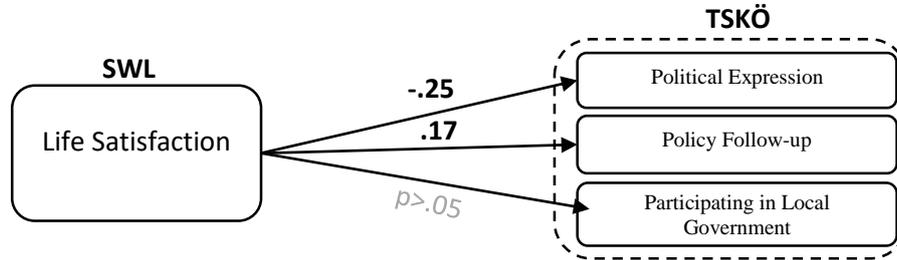**Figure 2.** Testing the Research Model

Discussion and Conclusion

In this research, I tested the effect of subjective well-being on political participation in the Turkish population. The research focuses on political participation behavior on the Twitter platform. From this point of view, the effect of life satisfaction on e-participation behavior was questioned for the first time. Therefore, the presented research is a pioneering study in terms of exploring the effect of well-being on e-participation behaviors. The results provide new insight into the *limited literature* examining the effect of life satisfaction on political participation behaviors (Lorenzini, 2015; Sulemana and Agyapong, 2019; Flavin and Keane, 2012; Weitz-Shapiro and Winters, 2008).

The results of the research show that life satisfaction of individuals negatively affects their political expressions (β = -.25; p < .05). The political expression dimension is about individuals' sharing/liking/retweeting on Twitter when they want to make their voices heard on issues related to public order, politics, and administration. Therefore, when the life satisfaction (x = 2.8) of the participants increases, there is a decrease in their political expressions (x = 1.9). This result supports the approach that indicates citizens' less political participation once they reach the desired level of well-being (Flavin and Keane, 2012).

Also, the life satisfaction of individuals affects their follow-up of policy positively (β = .17; p < .05). With the increase in life satisfaction of the participants, their habits to follow the policy on Twitter also increase. However, it should be kept in mind that the prediction coefficient of the model is quite low. Because recent studies show that Turkish individuals who are Twitter users have a high level of policy following in general (Güler and Sezgin, 2020). Hence, there are other factors that have a higher effect on participants' following the policy.

It was observed that life satisfaction did not have a significant effect on participation in local government (p > .05). This result supports the studies of Sulemana & Agyapong (2019), Weitz - Shapiro & Winters (2011), and Pirralha (2017), which show that well-being has no significant effect on political participation. However, the current research differs from the aforementioned studies as it focuses on local government participation behavior on Twitter because the mentioned studies examine more traditional engagement activities, such as voting behavior (Sulemana and Agyapong, 2019; Weitz-Shapiro and Winters, 2011; Pirralha, 2017).

367

As stated in past studies, new studies should be conducted on different samples in order to understand the effect of life satisfaction on political participation behavior. Because these research results showed that just like the previous research results, welfare affects political participation behavior at a low level (Pirralha, 2017, p. 796; Weitz-Shapiro and Winters, 2011; Sulemana & Agyapong, 2019). Stronger evidence is needed to speak of the presence of a current effect. But as a researcher, I think that well-being has a significant effect on political participation, unlike Pirralha (2018), albeit a low effect. Because within the scope of this study, unlike traditional participation activities, a research was conducted on e-participation activities. The results confirm that well-being has a significant effect on dimensions of e-participation albeit at a low level. In this respect, the study's results reveal that well-being also has a significant effect on political participation activities in different environments. Therefore, more accurate results can be obtained on specific populations where probabilistic sampling is used. For example, according to the research conducted by Güler and Sezgin (2020), young and imaginative individuals show a more active political participation behavior on Twitter. Researchers can reveal the effect of well-being on participation more clearly by conducting research on samples that show active political participation.

The research presented has some limitations. First, participants were selected using the non-probabilistic sampling method. Therefore, the results are not sufficient to make a consistent inference about the universe. Also, Twitter platform was preferred to examine e-participation behaviors. For this reason, e-participation forms in other platforms are not included in the scope of the research.

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