

Chapter 7

Determinants of Overall Quality of Life

In this section, we attempt to identify any factors that affect feelings of overall quality of life. We estimate the effects of specific life domain satisfactions, lifestyles, value priorities, and demographics on overall life quality measured by happiness, enjoyment, and achievement. First, we regress the three measures of overall quality of life on the independent variables for each individual country and society. Second, we fit multilevel regressions that use the entire sample of Asia.

Which life domains are most and least related to feelings of happiness, enjoyment, and achievement? What makes people live a higher life quality? Of the independent variables, which factor contributes, positively or negatively, to the experience of a higher level of quality of life? We address these questions both for each individual country and society and for Asia as a whole.

The AsiaBarometer used the question about happiness from 2006 to 2008, and questions about enjoyment and achievement were used from 2006 onward. For the countries and societies where the questions about all three measures of overall life quality were asked, two tables are reported separately; one table presents the results of analysis for a subsample of the married respondents, and the other table presents the results for an entire sample of the country. For the countries and societies where the question about happiness was analyzed, one table reports both the subsample of the married respondents and the sample of all the respondents in that country and society. As the dependent variables are ordered, ranging from 1 to 5 on the variable of happiness and from 1 to 4 on the variables of enjoyment and achievement, we fit ordered logit regressions.

For the multilevel regressions, one table reports the results of the sample from 2006 to 2008 in which all three measures of overall life quality, happiness, enjoyment, and achievement, are compared. The other table reports only the results of regressions of happiness using the sample from 2003 to 2008.

Because the sample of Turkmenistan contains many “don’t know” responses and has only a small number of valid responses, we exclude the Turkmenistan sample

from analysis. Descriptive statistics of the dependent and independent variables in the regression analyses for the entire sample are given in Appendix B.

In the next section, we deal with the descriptions of dependent variables and independent variables.

7.1 Dependent Variables

7.1.1 Happiness

The first of our three dependent variables is the level of happiness, of which distributions are compared among 29 societies in Table 3.1. The exact wording of this question is “All things considered, would you say that you are happy these days?” The four verbal response categories to this question are “very happy,” “quite happy,” “neither happy nor unhappy,” “not too happy,” and “very unhappy,” along with a “don’t know” category. This question appeared on all the questionnaires from the 2003 to 2008 surveys. The sample size is 47,229, without “don’t know” responses and missing values. We rescaled the original five-category verbal scale into a five-point numeric scale, ranging from a low of 1 (very unhappy) to a high of 5 (very happy). The mean of this variable is 3.7 with a standard deviation of 0.93. The only time this question was not asked was in the 2004 China survey.

7.1.2 Enjoyment

The second dependent variable is the level of enjoyment in life, of which distributions are compared among 15 societies in Table 3.2. This question appeared on the questionnaires from 2006 onward and was thus asked in 15 societies. The exact wording of this question is “How often do you feel you are really enjoying life these days?” The four verbal response categories to this question are “often,” “sometimes,” “rarely,” and “never,” along with a “don’t know” category. The sample size is 18,106 without the “don’t know” responses and missing values. We rescaled the original four-category verbal scale into a four-point numeric scale, ranging from a low of 1 (never) to a high of 4 (often). The mean of this variable is 3.1 with a standard deviation of 0.72.

7.1.3 Achievement

The last of our dependent variables is the level of achievement, of which distributions are compared among 15 societies in Table 3.3. This question and the

question about enjoyment appeared on the questionnaires from 2006 onward and were thus asked in 15 societies. The exact wording of this question is “How often do you feel you are accomplishing what you want out of your life?” The four verbal response categories to this question are “a great deal,” “some,” “very little,” and “none,” along with a “don’t know” category. The sample size is 18,053 without “don’t know” responses and missing values. We rescaled the original four-category verbal scale into a four-point numeric scale, ranging from a low of 1 (none) to a high of 4 (a great deal). The mean of this variable is 2.8 with a standard deviation of 0.72.

7.2 Independent Variables

The first set of our independent variables in the regression analyses is satisfaction levels with 16 specific life domains: housing, friendships, marriage, standard of living, household income, health, education, job, neighbors, public safety, condition of the environment, social welfare system, democratic system, family life, leisure, and spiritual life. The exact wording of the question is “Please tell me how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the following aspects of your life.” The five verbal response categories to this question are “very satisfied,” “somewhat satisfied,” “neither satisfied nor dissatisfied,” “somewhat dissatisfied,” and “very dissatisfied,” along with a “don’t know” category. We rescaled the original five-category verbal scale into a five-point numeric scale, ranging from a low of 1 (very dissatisfied) to a high of 5 (very satisfied). See Appendix B for the descriptive statistics.

Spiritual life was asked only after 2005. Note also that the domain of neighbors was not asked in Myanmar in 2003 and 2004 and that the domain of the social welfare system was not asked in Myanmar in 2003, 2004, and 2007. The domain of the democratic system was not asked in Vietnam in 2003, 2004, and 2007; Myanmar in 2003, 2004, and 2007; Brunei in 2004; Laos in 2004 and 2007; and China in 2004.

7.2.1 *The Public Water Supply*

This variable is used in the regression of happiness instead of access to the number of public utilities. This is a dummy variable equal to 1, if the respondent has this public utility. The exact wording is “Which of the following public utilities does your household have the use of?” The sample size is 48,358, and 80% of all the respondents state they have access to the public water supply.

7.2.2 Electricity

This variable is used in the regression of happiness instead of access to the number of utilities. This is a dummy variable equal to 1, if the respondent has this public utility. The exact wording is “Which of the following public utilities does your household have the use of?” The sample size is 48,358, and 95% of all the respondents state they access to electricity.

7.2.3 Piped Gas

This variable is used in the regression of happiness instead of access to the number of utilities. This is a dummy variable equal to 1, if the respondent has this public utility. The exact wording is “Which of the following public utilities does your household have the use of?” The expression has changed from “piped gas” in the 2003 and 2004 questionnaires to “liquefied petroleum gas or LPG” in the 2005 survey and to “liquefied petroleum gas or LPG, piped gas” in the surveys from 2006 to 2008. The sample size is 48,358, and 53% of all the respondents state they have access to this utility.

7.2.4 Number of Utilities

This variable measures the degree to which people live a modern life in the lifestyle section. We compared the mean values for each society among the 29 societies in Table 4.20. The sample size is 29,587 with a grand mean of 4.1 and a standard deviation of 1.8.

This variable is included only in the regressions of enjoyment and achievement because the 2003 and 2004 surveys asked about only the three public utilities: “public water supply,” “electricity,” and “piped gas.” From 2005 onward, the following four public utilities were added to the questionnaires: “fixed-line phone,” “mobile phone,” “facsimile,” and “cable TV.” The exact wording of the question is “Which of the following public utilities does your household have the use of?”

7.2.5 Internet

This variable measures the extent to which people live a digital life in the lifestyle section. The exact wording is “How often do you view Internet web pages by computer?” The five verbal response categories are “almost every day,” “several times a week,” “several times a month,” “seldom,” and “never,” with a “don’t

know” category. This question was asked in the surveys from 2005 to 2008. When we rescaled the original five-category verbal scale into a five-point numeric scale, ranging from a low of 1 (never) to a high of 5 (almost every day), the mean of the scales for the entire sample is 2.0 with a standard deviation of 1.5. The sample size is 28,290 without the “don’t know” responses and missing values (see Appendix B).

7.2.6 E-mail

This is also one of the variables used to measure the extent to which people live a digital life in the lifestyle section. The exact wording is “How often do you read or write e-mails by computer?” The five-point verbal response categories are “almost every day,” “several times a week,” “several times a month,” “seldom,” and “never,” with a “don’t know” category. This question was asked in the surveys from 2006 to 2008. When we rescaled the original five-category verbal scale into a five-point numeric scale, ranging from a low of 1 (never) to a high of 5 (almost every day), the mean of the scales for the entire sample is 1.9 with a standard deviation of 1.4. The sample size is 17,656 without the “don’t know” responses and missing values.

7.2.7 Mobile Phone

This is the last variable that measures the extent to which people live a digital life in the lifestyle section. The exact wording is “How often do you read or write messages by mobile phones?” The five verbal response categories are “almost every day,” “several times a week,” “several times a month,” “seldom,” and “never,” with a “don’t know” category. This question was asked in the surveys from 2006 to 2008. When we rescaled the original five-category verbal scale into a five-point numeric scale, ranging from a low of 1 (never) to a high of 5 (almost every day), the mean of the scales for the entire sample is 2.8 with a standard deviation of 1.7. The sample size is 17,875 without the “don’t know” responses and missing values (see Appendix A).

7.2.8 Prayer

This is one of the two variables employed to measure the extent to which people live a religious life. The exact wording is “How often do you pray or meditate?” The five verbal response categories are “daily,” “weekly,” “monthly,” “on special occasions,” and “never,” with a “don’t know” category. This question was asked in the questionnaires from 2004 to 2008. In 2004, this question was not asked in Vietnam and China. The sample size is 38,275 without the “don’t know” responses and missing values. The mean of this variable is 3.3 and a standard deviation of 1.6.

7.2.9 Religion

This is the second variable that measures the extent to which people live a religious life. The exact wording is “Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion? If yes, which?” The response list of religions includes “Catholic,” “other Christian,” “Muslim (Sunni),” “Muslim (Shia),” “Hindu,” “Buddhist (Mahayana),” “Buddhist (Theravada),” “Confucianist,” “Jewish,” “Sikh,” “Taoist,” “Shintoist,” “others,” and “none,” with a “don’t know” category.

This variable takes on the value of 1, if the respondent belongs to any religion and 0 if otherwise. This question, although the list of religions differs from survey to survey (see notes below), was asked from 2004 to 2008. The sample size is 47,170 without “don’t know” responses and missing values. Of the respondents, 80% have a religious affiliation.

Many notes were attached to this question. In 2006, in order to avoid confusion among respondents, “Buddhist (Theravada)” was omitted in China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, and Taiwan. “Muslim (Shia)” was omitted in Singapore. In 2008, in Japan and China, “Buddhist (Mahayana)” was shown as “Buddhist” without “(Mahayana),” and “Buddhist (Theravada)” was omitted to avoid confusion among respondents. From 2003 to 2007, “other Christian” was “Christian religion other than Catholic.” From 2007 to 2008, “Shintoist” was added. In 2003, in Thailand, “Muslim (Sunni)” was shown as “Muslim (Sunni/Shia),” and “Muslim (Shia)” was omitted to avoid confusion among respondents. Similarly, “Buddhist (Mahayana)” was shown as “Buddhist (Mahayana/Theravada),” and “Buddhist (Theravada)” was omitted. In 2003, 2004, and 2007 in Malaysia, “Muslim (Sunni)” was shown as “Muslim” without “(Sunni),” and “Muslim (Shia)” was omitted to avoid confusion among respondents. In the same way, “Buddhist (Mahayana)” was shown as “Buddhist” without “(Mahayana),” and “Buddhist (Theravada)” was omitted.

7.2.10 Living Internationally

This is one of the two variables measuring the extent to which people live a global life. The AsiaBarometer asked respondents the question “Which, if any, of the following statements apply to you?” The six statements include “a member of my family or a relative lives in another country,” “I have traveled abroad at least three times in the past three years,” “I have friends from another country who are in [SURVEYED COUNTRY],” “I have friends from other countries who are in SURVEYED COUNTRY,” “I often watch foreign-produced programs on TV,” “I often communicate with people in other countries via the internet or email,” and “My job involves contact with organizations or people in other countries.”

This variable is constructed by counting the number of statements for which each respondent reported “yes.” The maximum value is 6 and the minimum is 0. This question was asked in all the surveys from 2003 to 2008, and its sample size is 48,358 with a mean of 1.1 and a standard deviation of 1.2.

7.2.11 *English Ability*

The second question that measures the extent to which people experience the level of global life is how well the respondents rate their ability to speak English. The exact wording of the question is “How well do you speak English?” The AsiaBarometer asked respondents this question in all the surveys from 2003 to 2008. The four verbal response categories include “not at all,” “very little,” “I can speak it well enough to get by in daily life,” and “I can speak English fluently,” along with a “don’t know” category.

When we assigned the original four-category verbal scale into a four-point numeric scale, ranging from a low of 1 (“not at all”) to a high of 4 (“I can speak English fluently”), the mean of the scales for the entire sample is 1.9 with a standard deviation of 0.9. The sample size is 47,557 without the “don’t know” responses and missing values.

7.2.12 *Homeownership*

This variable takes on the value of 1, if the respondent lives in their own house and 0 if otherwise. The exact wording of the question is “Which category does your current residence fall into?” The respondents select one of the following five choices: “owner-occupied detached or semidetached house (duplex),” “owner-occupied terraced house or unit in an apartment or condominium complex,” “rented detached or semidetached house (duplex),” “rented terraced house or unit in an apartment or condominium complex,” and “others (a room in a relative’s home, etc.),” with the “don’t know” category. We assigned a value of 1 to the first two choices and 0 to the other choices. Of the respondents, 77% have their own home.

7.2.13 *Number of Family Members*

The AsiaBarometer asked a question about family size in the surveys from 2003 to 2008. The sample size is 48,351. The mean of this variable is 4.7, and the standard deviation is 2.4. The minimum number of family member is 1 and the maximum is 33.

7.2.14 *Relative Standard of Living*

The exact wording of the question is “How would you describe your standard of living?” This item asked respondents to assess their own standard of living in relative terms with five verbal response categories: “high,” “relatively high,”

“average,” “relatively low,” and “low,” along with a “don’t know” category. The original five-category verbal scale is assigned a five-point numeric scale, ranging from a low of 1 (“low”) to a high of 5 (“high”). The AsiaBarometer asked this question from 2003 to 2008. The sample size is 48,225 with a mean of 3.0 and a standard deviation of 0.7.

7.2.15 Female

This variable is set as 1, if the respondent is female and 0 if male. The sample size is 48,358, and 51% of all the respondents are female.

7.2.16 Married

This variable takes on the value of 1, if the respondents are married. The AsiaBarometer asked the respondents for their marital status in all the surveys. Of the sample size, which totaled 48,358, 22% replied single, 72% reported married, 3% replied divorced or separated, 3% reported widowed, and 0.1% reported “other.” This variable is not included in a regression when the specific life domain of “marriage” is used.

7.2.17 Female and Married

This is an interaction term of the two variables between female and married. This variable takes on the value of 1, if the respondent is a wife.

7.2.18 Age

This variable takes on the value of 1, if the respondents are in their twenties, 2 if the respondents are in their thirties, 3 if the respondents are in their forties, 4 if the respondents are in their fifties, and 5 if the respondents are in their sixties. In a sample size of 48,358, 29% are between the ages of 20 and 29 years, 28% are between the ages of 30 and 39 years, 23% are between the ages of 40 and 49 years, 15% are between the ages of 50 and 59 years, and 5% are between the ages of 60 and 69 years.

7.2.19 Household Income

Appendix B reports the summary statistics for the grouped income variable that takes on the values of “low,” “mid,” and “high.” This grouped variable is used in the multilevel regression with the pooled data. The sample size is 45,833. The criterion by which we divide the samples into the three categories is based on the frequencies. We divide the samples into subsamples with frequencies of close to 33% each.

For each individual country and society regression, the variable of household income takes on different values. For example, the Japanese income variable takes on the values from 1 to 20 representing from “2 million yen or less” to “more than 20 million yen.” For details on income variables of each country and society, refer to the codebook available on the website of the AsiaBarometer Survey (<https://www.asiabarometer.org/>).

7.2.20 Educational Attainment

The educational attainment of the respondents is divided into three levels. The variable takes on the value of 1 if the level of educational attainment of the respondents is “low,” 2 if the level is “mid,” and 3 if the level is “high.” Of the respondents, 34% of all the respondents have a low level of educational attainment, 37% have a middle level of attainment, and 29% have a high level of educational background.

7.2.21 Region

This variable is used only in a country and society regression. Not all countries and societies have this variable. We converted into a dummy variable that represents each region where the survey was conducted. For example, in Afghanistan in 2005, the survey was conducted in “Kabul (central),” “eastern,” “south central,” “south-western,” “western,” “northern,” and “Hazarajat (central).” We have six dummy variables in this case. For more details, refer to the codebook available at the website of the AsiaBarometer Survey (<https://www.asiabarometer.org/>).

7.2.22 City Size

This dummy variable is set as 1 for each category of size of city in which the survey was conducted. For example, in Afghanistan in 2005, the size of cities is divided into four groups: “villages,” “towns,” “cities,” and “Kabul.” As the capital of Kabul is the largest city in Afghanistan, it is classified as the fourth group. For more details, refer to the codebook available at the website of the AsiaBarometer Survey (<https://www.asiabarometer.org/>).

7.2.23 *Year-Dummy Variables*

This dummy variable is set as 1 for each year. In the regression of happiness, 5 year-dummy variables are used, whereas in the regressions of enjoyment and achievement, 2 year dummies are used.

7.3 Country-by-Country Assessment Within the Subregional Contexts

We divide the region of Asia into East Asia (China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan), Southeast Asia (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam), South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka), and Central Asia (Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan). Note again Turkmenistan is not used in regression analyses. Table 7.1 shows the subregional summary statistics for the PDI of happiness reported in Table 3.1 and the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita and the human development index (HDI) values reported in Appendix A.

7.3.1 *Self-Assessment of Happiness: Subregional Summary*

Self-assessment of happiness by country in terms of the PDI values gives fairly consistent subregional pictures. The respondents of South Asia and Southeast Asia tend to assess themselves as happy, whereas those in East Asia tend to assess themselves as somewhat happy, and those in Central Asia tend to assess themselves as not too happy. Subregionally averaged, South Asia's PDI is a positive 64.2 points, Southeast Asia's PDI is a positive 64.2 points, East Asia's PDI is a positive 47.8 points, and Central Asia's PDI is a positive 23.8 points. We compare the PDI values to HDI values and GDP per capita (PPP US\$). Again, subregionally averaged, South Asia's HDI value is 0.528, Southeast Asia's HDI value is 0.630, East Asia's HDI value is 0.822, and Central Asia's HDI value is 0.593.

Table 7.1 Sub-regional comparison

	Happiness PDI	GDP	HDI
East Asia	47.8	30,640	0.822
Southeast Asia	64.2	14,730	0.630
South Asia	64.2	3,314.3	0.528
Central Asia	23.8	4,542.9	0.593

Note: Refer to Table 3.1 for Happiness PDI and Appendix A for GDP per capita and the HDI value

Again, subregionally averaged, South Asia's GDP per capita is US\$3,314, Southeast Asia's GDP per capita is US\$14,730, East Asia's GDP per capita is US\$30,640, and Central Asia's GDP per capita is US\$4,543. In terms of GDP per capita, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and South Asia are ranked from high to low, respectively. In terms of HDI values, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and South Asia are ranked from high to low, respectively.

But in terms of the self-assessment of happiness, subregional rankings are very different. In terms of the PDI values, South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and Central Asia are ranked from high to low, respectively. What are the key differences? First, East Asians and Central Asians are not as happy as other indices, such as HDI and GDP per capita, would suggest. In other words, Southeast Asians and South Asians are happier than other indices, such as HDI and GDP per capita, would suggest. With these questions in mind, we answer how happiness (and enjoyment and achievement) is self-assessed in each country through a country-by-country examination of ordered logit regression equation results. Before doing so, there are some outliers to the above observations. Cambodia is an outlier in Southeast Asia, and Myanmar may also be an outlier. As demonstrated later in the regression analyses, statistically and significantly negative for Cambodia is the estimated coefficients on the variable "pray" and the residence variables outside the coastal region. Statistically and significantly positive for Myanmar is "neighbors," and statistically negative is the regional variable Mandalay. Our interpretation is that both countries are happier than other indices suggest because many respondents have a strong spiritual world that comes through prayer. Also important to note is that both countries suffer from security concerns, especially the non-coastal regions in Cambodia and the non-Yangon regions in Myanmar. These residents tend to assess their level of happiness as less.

Kazakhstan is an outlier in Central Asia. In terms of GDP per capita, Kazakhstanis should be happier than they say. South Korea and Taiwan are also outliers in East Asia. These two countries have high security concerns for their neighborhoods, although this does not appear explicitly in the regression results. The two countries of Pakistan and Nepal are outliers in South Asia. In Pakistan, the variable for "the democratic system" is statistically and significantly positive. In Nepal "public safety" is statistically and significantly positive. These results appear to indicate that security concerns are high in Pakistan and Nepal.

7.3.2 Country-by-Country Analysis Through Regression Equations: East Asia

7.3.2.1 Summary of East Asia

East Asians register high-income levels on average. Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan register high-income levels on par with Western Europeans and

North Americans. Chinese respondents register mid-income levels globally, yet as a whole, the country registers number two in terms of GDP by 2010. No less important in China is the very high level of income inequality. Common to all the East Asian countries are the following four. (1) Physical conditions for survival and good life are deemed very important; hence, housing, health (except Hong Kong), and standard of living are all statistically significant and positively related. (2) Social relations are no less important; hence, friendships (except South Korea and Taiwan), marriage, and family life (except Taiwan) are deemed very important; the kind of social relations essential to happiness tends to be primary groups often with direct lineages; secondary group social relations are no less important, but they are often compromised due to conditions of workplace, neighborhood, etc. (3) Public sphere conditions tend to be of tertiary importance; hence, conditions of the environment, public safety, neighbors, and democratic system are sometimes marked as statistically and significantly negative. (4) Globalization has been adapted slowly but steadily; hence, Internet, e-mail, mobile telephone, English ability, and living internationally register as weakly positive or weakly negative.

7.3.2.2 China

Tables 7.2 and 7.3 show the results from fitting ordered logit regressions based on married observations and all the Chinese observations, respectively. Among the three life spheres, the satisfaction levels with the domains in the post-materialist sphere appear to be the most powerful in determining the levels of overall life quality. In an examination of the results for married respondents, the estimated coefficients on the domains in the post-materialist life sphere tend to be positive and statistically significant. More specifically, the estimated coefficients on “friendships,” “marriage,” “health,” and “family life” in the regression of “happiness,” all the six domains in the regression of “enjoyment,” and “marriage” in the regression of “achievement” are positive and statistically significant, using the sample of married respondents. It follows that the higher the satisfaction levels with these domains, the higher the probability that the respondents feel happier, are more able to enjoy life, and have more of a sense of achievement.

Conversely, the public sphere of life appears to provide the least important determinants for a higher quality of life according to the results based on the married observations. The number of estimated coefficients that are positive and statistically significant is smaller than the other two life spheres. In fact, the estimated coefficient on “condition of the environment” is *negative* and statistically significant in the regressions of “happiness” and “enjoyment.” It follows that the more satisfied the respondents are with the condition of the environment, the lower the probability that they have higher levels of happiness and enjoyment.

Regionally, self-assessment of happiness tends to be higher in central regions (such as Anhui, Henan, Hebei, and Hubei) than in either high-income eastern regions (such as Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Guangdong, Fujian, and Shandong) or lower-income western regions (such as Shanxi, Gansu, Xinjiang, Qinhai, and Sichuan).

Table 7.2 Ordered logit regression – China – only married

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<u>Happiness</u>		<u>Enjoyment</u>		<u>Achievement</u>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.13	0.06*	0.19	0.06**	0.90	0.07**
Standard of living	0.26	0.10*	0.14	0.10	0.21	0.11*
Household income	0.06	0.09	-0.01	0.09	0.19	0.09
Education	0.04	0.07	-0.10	0.07	-0.09	0.08
Job	0.02	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.12	0.07
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Public safety	0.14	0.07*	0.14	0.07*	0.02	0.07
Condition of environment	-0.10	0.07	-0.22	0.08**	-0.13	0.08
Social welfare system	0.05	0.07	0.12	0.07	0.10	0.07
Democratic system	-0.004	0.07	0.13	0.07	-0.01	0.07
Leisure	-0.03	0.08	0.10	0.08	0.12	0.08
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Friendships	0.34	0.08**	0.26	0.08**	0.02	0.08
Marriage	0.52	0.07**	0.35	0.07**	0.25	0.08**
Health	0.23	0.07**	0.16	0.07*	-0.02	0.07
Neighbors	-0.14	0.07	0.16	0.07*	-0.01	0.08
Family life	0.55	0.08**	0.23	0.08**	0.06	0.08
Spiritual life	0.15	0.08	0.30	0.08**	0.10	0.08
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	-0.002	0.05	0.07	0.05	0.03	0.05
Internet	0.08	0.07	0.03	0.07	0.08	0.08
Email	-0.06	0.09	-0.11	0.09	-0.10	0.10
Mobile phone	-0.04	0.05	0.003	0.05	-0.002	0.05
Pray	0.02	0.06	-0.10	0.06	0.19	0.07**
Religion	0.18	0.16	0.40	0.16*	0.12	0.17
Living internationally	0.08	0.09	0.06	0.09	-0.02	0.10
English ability	-0.11	0.12	0.17	0.13	0.05	0.13
Homeownership	-0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	-0.12	0.15
Number of family members	0.005	0.04	-0.05	0.04	0.01	0.04
Relative standard of living	0.24	0.10*	0.13	0.10	0.29	0.10**
No right to vote	0.03	0.12	-0.03	0.13	-0.08	0.13
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	0.27	0.11*	0.08	0.11	-0.11	0.12
Married		na		na		na
Female × married		na		na		na
Age	-0.03	0.05	0.11	0.06*	0.11	0.06
Income	0.02	0.02	0.06	0.03*	0.03	0.03
Educational attainment	0.04	0.10	0.03	0.10	0.08	0.11
<i>Region (base: western)</i>						
Eastern	0.05	0.15	-0.05	0.16	-0.03	0.16
Central	0.34	0.15*	0.02	0.15	0.16	0.16
<i>City size (base: population over 3 million)</i>						
Population 1–3 million	0.41	0.21	0.43	0.22	0.15	0.23
Population 0.5–1 million	0.46	0.21*	0.49	0.22*	0.21	0.23
Population less than 0.5 million	0.47	0.29	0.30	0.29	-0.11	0.31
County	0.33	0.21	0.53	0.21*	0.13	0.23
cut1	3.75	0.61	4.90	0.60	4.86	0.61
cut2	5.39	0.58	7.45	0.60	7.34	0.63
cut3	8.61	0.60	10.5	0.64	11.5	0.68
cut4	11.1	0.63				
<i>N</i>		1,420		1,421		1,421
Pseudo R2		0.1671		0.1488		0.1852

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.3 Ordered logit regression – China – all

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.17	0.05**	0.19	0.06**	0.89	0.06**
Standard of living	0.38	0.08**	0.23	0.08*	0.25	0.09*
Household income	0.10	0.08	-0.003	0.08	0.13	0.08
Education	-0.01	0.06	-0.05	0.06	-0.09	0.07
Job	-0.02	0.06	0.09	0.06	0.14	0.06*
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Public safety	0.12	0.06*	0.17	0.06**	0.07	0.06
Condition of environment	-0.14	0.06*	-0.17	0.07*	-0.11	0.07
Social welfare system	0.04	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.10	0.06
Democratic system	0.02	0.06	0.13	0.06*	-0.02	0.06
Leisure	-0.01	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Friendships	0.33	0.07**	0.22	0.07**	0.09	0.07
Marriage	na		na		na	
Health	0.25	0.06**	0.18	0.06*	-0.004	0.06
Neighbors	-0.03	0.06	0.20	0.06**	0.02	0.07
Family life	0.59	0.07**	0.24	0.07**	0.12	0.07
Spiritual life	0.23	0.07**	0.35	0.07**	0.12	0.07
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	-0.004	0.04	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.05
Internet	0.02	0.06	-0.01	0.06	0.05	0.06
Email	-0.07	0.07	-0.09	0.07	-0.10	0.08
Mobile phone	-0.001	0.04	0.03	0.04	-0.03	0.04
Pray	-0.01	0.05	-0.10	0.05	0.20	0.06**
Religion	0.15	0.13	0.29	0.14*	0.05	0.14
Living internationally	0.05	0.07	0.08	0.07	-0.04	0.08
English ability	-0.01	0.10	0.08	0.10	0.11	0.11
Homeownership	-0.08	0.12	0.08	0.12	-0.21	0.13
Number of family members	0.03	0.03	-0.01	0.03	0.03	0.03
Relative standard of living	0.28	0.09**	0.13	0.09	0.24	0.09*
No right to vote	-0.07	0.11	-0.01	0.11	-0.09	0.11
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	0.40	0.21	0.09	0.21	0.03	0.21
Married	0.59	0.18**	0.04	0.18	0.49	0.18*
Female × married	-0.20	0.23	-0.04	0.24	-0.16	0.24
Age	-0.04	0.05	0.09	0.05	0.11	0.05*
Income	-0.005	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.05	0.02*
Educational attainment	0.04	0.09	0.07	0.09	0.12	0.10
<i>Region (base: western)</i>						
Eastern	0.08	0.13	-0.04	0.14	0.02	0.14
Central	0.24	0.13	-0.003	0.13	0.23	0.14
<i>City size (base: population over 3 million)</i>						
Population 1–3 million	0.27	0.18	0.36	0.19	-0.04	0.20
Population 0.5–1 million	0.22	0.18	0.28	0.18	0.12	0.20
Population less than 0.5 million	0.18	0.25	-0.01	0.25	-0.23	0.27
County	0.13	0.18	0.18	0.18	-0.07	0.20
cut1	3.63	0.52	3.85	0.52	4.81	0.53
cut2	5.23	0.50	6.31	0.52	7.30	0.54
cut3	8.19	0.52	9.19	0.55	11.4	0.59
cut4	10.5	0.54				
<i>N</i>	1,797		1,798		1,798	
Pseudo R2	0.1519		0.1322		0.1822	

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

In terms of demography, all the married respondents are happier, but the happiness differential between married females and their single counterparts is especially significant, that is, in the regression using only married respondents, the estimated coefficient on “female” is positive and statistically significant. The relative standard of living is also an important determinant in Chinese respondents assessing their level of happiness.

7.3.2.3 Hong Kong

Being a small geographical spot, Hong Kong does not exhibit all the East Asian features. Marriage and family life are valued most, indicating that primary social relations are what count most. Table 7.4, which is based on married respondents, shows that the estimated coefficient on “marriage” is positive and statistically significant in all the three regressions of “happiness” “enjoyment,” and “achievement.” The estimated coefficient on “family life” is positive and statistically significant and has a large standardized normal variable Z , which is the coefficient divided by the standard error ($0.757/0.217 = 3.49$) in the regression of “happiness.”

Among the three life spheres, the domains in the post-materialist sphere are the most critical determinants and positively related to the overall quality of life measured by levels of happiness, enjoyment, and accomplishment. The materialist life sphere comes next in importance, followed by the public life sphere.

The tide of globalization has been adapted as a destiny. Table 7.5, which is based on all the respondents, reports that “living internationally” is positive and statistically significant in all the three regressions of “happiness,” “enjoyment,” and “achievement.” According to Table 7.4, in terms of demography, seniors feel more enjoyment and more achievement.

7.3.2.4 Japan

All the East Asian features are clear and statistically significant in Japan. Among the three life spheres, the domains in the post-materialist life sphere are the chief determinants and positively related to the overall quality of life. The materialist life sphere is second in importance, followed by the public life sphere. The public sphere institutions do not seem to add to levels of happiness, enjoyment, or accomplishment. Tables 7.6 and 7.7 show that only the estimated coefficient on the “social welfare system” in the public life sphere is positive and statistically significant in the regressions. The “democratic system” is negatively related to the dependent variable. Yet the number of estimated coefficients that relate positively to happiness and enjoyment is larger in the sphere of social relations than the other two spheres. Only in the regression of achievement is the number of the estimated coefficients that are positive and statistically significant is larger in the materialist life sphere than in the other two spheres.

Table 7.4 Ordered logit regression – Hong Kong – only married

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness</i>		<i>Enjoyment</i>		<i>Achievement</i>	
	<i>Coefficient</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>Coefficient</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>Coefficient</i>	<i>SE</i>
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Friendships	0.33	0.18	0.33	0.16*	-0.05	0.17
Marriage	0.62	0.19**	0.57	0.16**	0.34	0.17*
Health	0.004	0.16	-0.19	0.14	-0.34	0.15*
Education	-0.18	0.16	-0.34	0.14*	-0.14	0.15
Family life	0.76	0.22**	-0.10	0.18	0.36	0.19
Leisure	0.37	0.21	0.41	0.18*	0.23	0.19
Spiritual life	0.03	0.22	0.07	0.20	0.37	0.21
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.16	0.16	0.20	0.14	0.25	0.14
Standard of living	0.06	0.21	0.38	0.18*	-0.09	0.19
Household income	0.08	0.18	0.20	0.17	0.09	0.17
Job	0.13	0.17	0.35	0.15*	0.27	0.15
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Neighbors	0.11	0.17	-0.10	0.15	0.25	0.16
Public safety	-0.17	0.17	-0.27	0.15	0.07	0.16
Condition of environment	0.36	0.18	0.28	0.16	0.04	0.17
Social welfare system	0.003	0.16	-0.22	0.14	-0.18	0.15
Democratic system	0.05	0.15	-0.06	0.14	-0.02	0.14
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	-0.06	0.13	0.10	0.12	-0.05	0.13
Internet	0.08	0.08	0.20	0.07*	0.11	0.08
Email		na		na		na
Mobile phone	-0.03	0.09	0.02	0.08	0.06	0.09
Pray	0.06	0.09	0.04	0.08	-0.12	0.09
Religion	0.01	0.23	-0.18	0.20	0.07	0.22
Living internationally	0.17	0.09	0.17	0.08*	0.12	0.09
English ability	0.35	0.18	-0.21	0.16	0.29	0.16
Homeownership	0.56	0.20*	0.02	0.17	0.40	0.18*
Number of family members	0.01	0.08	0.01	0.08	0.09	0.08
Relative standard of living	0.68	0.22**	0.45	0.20*	0.87	0.21**
No right to vote	-0.14	0.22	-0.09	0.20	-0.27	0.21
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	0.35	0.20	0.31	0.17	0.27	0.18
Married		na		na		na
Female × married		na		na		na
Age	-0.09	0.10	0.20	0.09*	0.08	0.10
Income	-0.03	0.03	-0.03	0.03	-0.02	0.03
Educational attainment	-0.09	0.21	-0.13	0.19	0.02	0.20
cut1	6.45	1.41	4.61	1.19	5.32	1.23
cut2	7.58	1.37	7.43	1.22	8.56	1.26
cut3	12.6	1.46	10.1	1.25	12.1	1.32
cut4	16.4	1.54				
<i>N</i>		561		562		562
Pseudo R2		0.2356		0.1503		0.1651

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.5 Ordered logit regression – Hong Kong – all

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Friendships	0.42	0.13**	0.39	0.12**	0.10	0.13
Marriage	na		na		na	
Health	0.11	0.12	-0.13	0.11	-0.34	0.11**
Education	-0.07	0.12	-0.14	0.11	-0.01	0.11
Family life	0.50	0.15**	-0.05	0.14	0.29	0.14*
Leisure	0.21	0.15	0.38	0.14*	0.21	0.14
Spiritual life	0.15	0.16	0.09	0.15	0.20	0.16
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.27	0.11*	0.20	0.10	0.24	0.11*
Standard of living	0.32	0.15*	0.42	0.14**	0.14	0.15
Household income	-0.03	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.18	0.14
Job	0.21	0.12	0.29	0.12*	0.35	0.12**
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Neighbors	0.06	0.13	-0.10	0.12	0.16	0.12
Public safety	-0.04	0.12	-0.20	0.11	-0.13	0.12
Condition of environment	0.09	0.14	0.27	0.12*	-0.03	0.13
Social welfare system	-0.01	0.12	-0.06	0.11	0.00	0.12
Democratic system	0.06	0.11	-0.01	0.11	-0.13	0.11
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	-0.08	0.10	-0.01	0.10	-0.11	0.10
Internet	0.06	0.06	0.22	0.06**	0.10	0.06
Email	na		na		na	
Mobile phone	-0.002	0.07	0.01	0.06	0.03	0.07
Pray	0.03	0.07	0.02	0.07	-0.13	0.07
Religion	-0.10	0.19	-0.04	0.17	0.04	0.18
Living internationally	0.19	0.06**	0.24	0.06**	0.14	0.06*
English ability	0.15	0.14	-0.26	0.12*	0.16	0.13
Homeownership	0.38	0.15*	0.05	0.14	0.35	0.14*
Number of family members	0.01	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.01	0.05
Relative standard of living	0.73	0.17**	0.51	0.15**	0.79	0.16**
No right to vote	-0.29	0.17	-0.03	0.15	-0.40	0.16*
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	0.06	0.24	0.02	0.22	0.46	0.23*
Married	-0.03	0.24	0.01	0.22	0.62	0.23*
Female × married	0.26	0.30	0.31	0.27	-0.21	0.28
Age	-0.10	0.08	0.19	0.07*	0.17	0.08*
Income	-0.01	0.02	-0.04	0.02	-0.04	0.02
Educational attainment	-0.05	0.16	-0.03	0.15	0.11	0.15
cut1	4.55	0.98	4.22	0.88	4.09	0.90
cut2	5.90	0.95	6.96	0.89	7.35	0.92
cut3	10.3	1.00	9.60	0.92	10.7	0.96
cut4	13.9	1.06				
<i>N</i>	903		903		904	
Pseudo R2	0.1919		0.1322		0.1478	

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.6 Ordered logit regression – Japan – only married

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<u>Happiness</u>		<u>Enjoyment</u>		<u>Achievement</u>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.13	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.28	0.09**
Standard of living	0.33	0.12**	−0.01	0.13	0.30	0.13*
Household income	−0.07	0.11	0.15	0.11	−0.15	0.11
Education	0.18	0.10	0.01	0.11	0.23	0.11*
Job	0.18	0.09	0.24	0.10*	0.33	0.10**
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Friendships	−0.06	0.10	0.52	0.11**	0.18	0.11
Marriage	0.66	0.12**	0.36	0.12**	0.30	0.12**
Health	0.26	0.09**	0.24	0.09**	−0.07	0.09
Family life	0.43	0.13**	0.07	0.14	−0.27	0.15
Leisure	0.01	0.10	0.07	0.10	−0.005	0.10
Spiritual life	0.41	0.12**	0.64	0.13**	0.19	0.13
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Neighbors	−0.01	0.10	−0.17	0.11	0.08	0.11
Public safety	0.01	0.09	−0.13	0.10	−0.07	0.10
Condition of environment	−0.08	0.10	0.09	0.11	0.02	0.11
Social welfare system	0.20	0.10*	0.13	0.10	0.14	0.11
Democratic system	−0.33	0.11**	−0.19	0.11	−0.08	0.12
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	0.03	0.08	−0.02	0.08	0.05	0.08
Internet	−0.02	0.05	0.01	0.05	−0.01	0.05
Email		na		na		na
Mobile phone	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.05	0.06	0.05
Pray	0.07	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.05
Religion	−0.09	0.15	0.17	0.15	−0.12	0.16
Living internationally	0.15	0.06*	0.23	0.07**	−0.06	0.07
English ability	0.09	0.11	0.32	0.12**	0.20	0.12
Homeownership	0.02	0.18	−0.34	0.20	0.03	0.20
Number of family members	−0.03	0.05	0.12	0.05*	−0.04	0.05
Relative standard of living	0.37	0.13**	0.33	0.14*	0.70	0.14**
No right to vote		na		na		na
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	0.17	0.14	0.41	0.15**	0.22	0.15
Married		na		na		na
Female × married		na		na		na
Age	−0.19	0.07**	0.12	0.07	0.26	0.08**
Income	−0.04	0.02	−0.07	0.02**	−0.005	0.02
Educational attainment	−0.11	0.12	0.11	0.12	0.22	0.13
<i>Region (Base-Kyushu)</i>						
Hokkaido/Tohoku	−0.47	0.28	0.02	0.29	0.31	0.30
Kanto	−0.43	0.26	−0.05	0.27	−0.08	0.28
Chubu	−0.18	0.26	−0.09	0.27	−0.01	0.28
Kinki	−0.22	0.27	0.20	0.27	−0.01	0.29
Chugoku/Shikoku	−0.05	0.29	−0.13	0.30	0.03	0.31

(continued)

Table 7.6 (continued)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>City size (base: towns and rurals)</i>						
Government designated cities	0.06	0.21	-0.05	0.22	-0.41	0.23
Population 100,000 or more	0.29	0.18	-0.01	0.19	0.27	0.20
Population less than 100,000	-0.10	0.21	-0.12	0.22	0.21	0.23
cut1	2.05	0.93	3.56	1.01	4.72	0.91
cut2	4.54	0.81	8.53	0.88	8.43	0.92
cut3	8.05	0.84	12.4	0.94	12.8	0.98
cut4	11.2	0.87				
<i>N</i>		1,047		1,046		1,034
Pseudo R2		0.1973		0.2047		0.1655

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.7 Ordered logit regression – Japan – all

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.15	0.07*	0.11	0.08	0.25	0.08**
Standard of living	0.38	0.10**	0.09	0.11	0.17	0.11
Household income	-0.06	0.09	0.08	0.09	-0.03	0.10
Education	0.16	0.09	-0.08	0.09	0.18	0.09
Job	0.23	0.08**	0.22	0.09*	0.33	0.09**
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Friendships	0.13	0.09	0.46	0.09**	0.23	0.09*
Marriage		na		na		na
Health	0.19	0.07*	0.25	0.08**	-0.02	0.08
Family life	0.50	0.10**	0.28	0.10**	-0.05	0.11
Leisure	0.01	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.06	0.09
Spiritual life	0.57	0.10**	0.66	0.11**	0.15	0.10
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Neighbors	-0.01	0.09	-0.17	0.09	0.11	0.09
Public safety	-0.05	0.08	-0.14	0.08	-0.10	0.08
Condition of environment	-0.01	0.09	0.14	0.09	0.07	0.09
Social welfare system	0.11	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.09
Democratic system	-0.23	0.09*	-0.15	0.10	-0.10	0.10
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	0.04	0.07	-0.05	0.07	0.06	0.07
Internet	-0.004	0.04	0.01	0.04	-0.01	0.04
Email		na		na		na
Mobile phone	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.07	0.05
Pray	0.09	0.04*	0.08	0.04	0.08	0.04
Religion	0.005	0.13	0.04	0.14	-0.08	0.14
Living internationally	0.14	0.05**	0.20	0.06**	-0.09	0.06

(continued)

Table 7.7 (continued)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
English ability	0.13	0.10	0.35	0.10**	0.27	0.11*
Homeownership	-0.24	0.15	-0.40	0.16*	-0.02	0.16
Number of family members	-0.01	0.04	0.10	0.05*	-0.01	0.05
Relative standard of living	0.32	0.10**	0.46	0.11**	0.61	0.11**
No right to vote	na		na		na	
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	0.32	0.25	-0.04	0.26	0.45	0.26
Married	1.06	0.22**	0.39	0.22	0.73	0.23**
Female × married	-0.22	0.28	0.39	0.29	-0.28	0.30
Age	-0.12	0.06*	0.08	0.06	0.30	0.07**
Income	-0.05	0.02**	-0.08	0.02**	-0.02	0.02
Educational attainment	-0.10	0.10	0.12	0.11	0.24	0.11*
<i>Region (Base-Kyushu)</i>						
Hokkaido/Tohoku	-0.59	0.24*	0.08	0.25	0.15	0.25
Kanto	-0.51	0.22*	0.17	0.23	-0.16	0.23
Chubu	-0.20	0.22	0.04	0.23	-0.24	0.24
Kinki	-0.36	0.22	0.19	0.23	-0.22	0.24
Chugoku/Shikoku	-0.13	0.25	-0.06	0.26	-0.06	0.27
<i>City size (base: towns and rurals)</i>						
Government Designated Cities	-0.01	0.18	-0.06	0.19	-0.26	0.20
Population 100,000 or more	0.36	0.16*	-0.02	0.17	0.30	0.17
Population less than 100,000	-0.13	0.18	-0.19	0.19	0.26	0.19
cut1	2.31	0.73	4.41	0.70	5.59	0.69
cut2	5.12	0.64	8.21	0.70	8.98	0.72
cut3	8.51	0.67	12.0	0.75	13.3	0.78
cut4	11.4	0.70				
<i>N</i>		1,342		1,342		1,326
Pseudo R2		0.2020		0.2130		0.1718

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

In terms of demography, females feel more enjoyment according to Table 7.6; seniors are less happy according to both tables, although with age comes an increased sense of achievement; high income does not necessarily lead to happiness *ceteris paribus*; southwestern parts of Japan as contrasted with northeastern and metropolitan regions are happier; residents in midsized cities with population sizes of 100,000 are happier.

7.3.2.5 South Korea

Based on the results reported in Tables 7.8 and 7.9, we argue that the domains in the materialist life sphere appear to be the key determinants and positively relate to the overall quality of life among the three life spheres. In terms of impact, the post-materialist life sphere is next in importance, followed by the public life sphere. Education in the materialist life sphere is statistically and negatively related to

Table 7.8 Ordered logit regression – South Korea – only married

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.32	0.12*	0.13	0.12	0.40	0.13**
Standard of living	0.27	0.17	0.51	0.18**	0.48	0.19*
Household income	0.08	0.15	0.07	0.15	-0.01	0.16
Health	0.04	0.10	0.12	0.11	-0.30	0.11*
Education	-0.30	0.12*	-0.13	0.13	-0.08	0.14
Job	0.13	0.11	0.10	0.12	0.27	0.12*
Leisure	0.07	0.11	0.20	0.12	-0.06	0.12
Spiritual life	0.29	0.13*	0.22	0.13	0.02	0.14
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Public safety	0.31	0.12*	0.28	0.13*	0.11	0.13
Condition of environment	-0.37	0.13**	-0.41	0.13**	-0.22	0.14
Social welfare system	0.11	0.12	0.26	0.13*	0.20	0.13
Democratic system	-0.01	0.12	0.09	0.12	-0.06	0.13
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Friendships	0.03	0.13	-0.19	0.14	-0.16	0.14
Marriage	0.50	0.13**	0.62	0.14**	0.64	0.15**
Neighbors	-0.02	0.13	0.01	0.14	0.01	0.14
Family life	0.38	0.15*	0.26	0.15	0.23	0.17
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	0.06	0.14	0.09	0.15	0.28	0.16
Internet	0.08	0.08	0.01	0.08	0.03	0.09
Email	-0.02	0.08	0.07	0.08	-0.08	0.08
Mobile phone	0.03	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.02	0.07
Pray	0.14	0.06*	0.04	0.07	0.05	0.07
Religion	0.12	0.18	0.21	0.19	0.29	0.20
Living internationally	-0.05	0.09	0.00	0.09	0.14	0.10
English ability	0.19	0.16	0.13	0.17	0.11	0.18
Homeownership	-0.20	0.22	-0.15	0.22	-0.23	0.24
Number of family members	-0.12	0.07	-0.03	0.08	-0.06	0.08
Relative standard of living	0.45	0.14**	0.26	0.16	0.87	0.17**
No right to vote	na		na		na	
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	0.41	0.18*	0.68	0.19**	0.07	0.20
Married	na		na		na	
Female × married	na		na		na	
Age	-0.39	0.11**	-0.222	0.11*	-0.19	0.12
Income	-0.064	0.05	-0.049	0.05	0.02	0.06
Educational attainment	0.01	0.17	0.07	0.19	0.03	0.20
<i>Region (base: Seoul metropolitan)</i>						
Middle	-0.03	0.27	0.41	0.28	0.73	0.30*
South-west	0.03	0.29	0.31	0.30	-0.03	0.31
South-east	0.04	0.19	0.09	0.20	0.29	0.22
<i>City size (base: large city)</i>						
Small and medium	-0.04	0.17	-0.18	0.18	0.09	0.19
Eup/Myeon	0.32	0.31	-0.35	0.32	-0.54	0.33
cut1	1.30	1.27	4.02	1.30	4.50	1.35
cut2	4.52	1.22	7.52	1.31	8.79	1.39
cut3	6.76	1.24	10.94	1.36	13.37	1.46
cut4	9.84	1.27				
N	662		662		662	
Pseudo R2	0.1974		0.2280		0.2377	

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.9 Ordered logit regression – South Korea – all

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.36	0.10**	0.19	0.10	0.42	0.11**
Standard of living	0.24	0.15	0.57	0.15**	0.46	0.16**
Household income	0.10	0.13	-0.05	0.14	0.08	0.14
Health	0.14	0.08	0.20	0.09*	-0.08	0.09
Education	-0.11	0.10	0.06	0.11	0.03	0.12
Job	0.19	0.09*	0.17	0.10	0.26	0.10*
Leisure	0.09	0.10	0.19	0.10	0.02	0.11
Spiritual life	0.43	0.11**	0.41	0.11**	0.23	0.12
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Public safety	0.24	0.10*	0.25	0.10*	0.13	0.11
Condition of environment	-0.32	0.11**	-0.38	0.11**	-0.22	0.12
Social welfare system	-0.01	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.11
Democratic system	0.01	0.10	0.07	0.10	-0.14	0.11
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Friendships	0.19	0.11	0.09	0.11	0.04	0.12
Marriage	na		na		na	
Neighbors	0.12	0.11	0.06	0.11	0.07	0.12
Family life	0.21	0.12	0.18	0.12	0.20	0.13
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	-0.01	0.12	-0.08	0.13	0.18	0.14
Internet	0.05	0.07	-0.03	0.08	0.03	0.08
Email	0.01	0.07	0.13	0.07	-0.03	0.07
Mobile phone	0.02	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.01	0.07
Pray	0.08	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.01	0.06
Religion	0.15	0.16	0.21	0.17	0.22	0.17
Living internationally	-0.08	0.08	0.01	0.08	0.16	0.09
English ability	0.23	0.13	0.18	0.14	0.20	0.15
Homeownership	-0.14	0.18	-0.19	0.19	-0.34	0.20
Number of family members	-0.11	0.06	-0.08	0.06	-0.07	0.07
Relative standard of living	0.37	0.13**	0.19	0.14	0.64	0.14**
No right to vote	1.01	0.79	-0.50	0.76	-1.38	0.85
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	0.58	0.28*	-0.23	0.29	-0.09	0.31
Married	1.01	0.26**	0.28	0.27	0.45	0.28
Female × married	-0.25	0.32	0.71	0.34*	0.09	0.36
Age	-0.34	0.09**	-0.224	0.10*	-0.14	0.10
Income	-0.01	0.04	-0.051	0.04	0.01	0.04
Educational attainment	-0.07	0.15	-0.002	0.16	-0.13	0.16
<i>Region (Base-Seoul metropolitan)</i>						
Middle	-0.19	0.23	0.04	0.24	0.46	0.25
South-west	0.21	0.25	0.25	0.26	-0.01	0.27
South-east	-0.08	0.16	0.03	0.17	0.19	0.18
<i>City size (base: large city)</i>						
Small and medium	-0.05	0.15	-0.14	0.15	-0.08	0.16
Eup/Myeon	0.39	0.27	-0.15	0.28	-0.34	0.30
cut1	1.77	1.01	2.43	1.02	3.90	1.08
cut2	5.06	0.99	6.01	1.04	7.91	1.11
cut3	7.26	1.00	9.28	1.07	12.2	1.17
cut4	10.3	1.03				
<i>N</i>		872		871		870
Pseudo R2		0.1853		0.2031		0.2038

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

happiness in the sample of only married respondents. But housing or standard of living in the materialist life sphere is statistically significant and positively related to the dependent variables. The condition of the environment in the public life sphere is statistically and negatively related to levels of happiness and enjoyment in both the sample of only married respondents and the general sample of all South Korean respondents, whereas public safety is statistically and positively related. Marriage in the post-materialist life sphere is strongly and positively associated with the dependent variables.

In terms of demography, females are happier than males, seniors are less happy, and high income does not guarantee happiness. The estimated coefficient on females is positive and statistically significant in the regression of happiness as reported in Tables 7.8 and 7.9 and in the regression of enjoyment as reported in Table 7.8. Age is negatively related to happiness and enjoyment and statistically significant using both samples. The relative standard of living is also an important determinant of the levels of overall life quality.

7.3.2.6 Taiwan

Tables 7.10 and 7.11 report the results from fitting ordered logit regressions using only married observations and all the Taiwanese observations. Curiously, marriage is statistically significant only in the regression of achievement, and family life is not statistically significant in all the three regressions. In other words, one of the East Asian features, primary group importance, is not featured.

Among the three life spheres, we argue that the domains in the post-materialist life sphere are the most important to overall quality of life in Taiwan based on the number of statistically significant and positively estimated coefficients. The materialist life sphere is next, followed by the public life sphere.

In the regressions of happiness based on both married respondents and all the Taiwanese respondents, the estimated coefficients on “health” and “job” are positive and statistically significant. “Spiritual life” also affects the feelings of happiness positively based on both samples.

In terms of demography, females are happier than males in the regression based on only married observations. Seniors are more likely to feel a sense of accomplishment. Curiously enough, being married does not generate feelings of happiness and enjoyment, but being satisfied with one’s marriage is positively related to feelings of achievement in Taiwan.

7.3.3 *Country-by-Country Analysis Through Regression Equations: Southeast Asia*

7.3.3.1 Summary of Southeast Asia

Southeast Asian features focus on housing, household income, and standard of living, that is, materialist life sphere except in Brunei. The solidarity of primary

Table 7.10 Ordered logit regression – Taiwan – only married

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness</i>		<i>Enjoyment</i>		<i>Achievement</i>	
	<i>Coefficient</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>Coefficient</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>Coefficient</i>	<i>SE</i>
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Standard of living	-0.05	0.18	0.17	0.18	-0.20	0.18
Household income	0.10	0.16	0.08	0.16	0.22	0.16
Health	0.24	0.11*	0.15	0.12	0.08	0.12
Education	-0.15	0.13	-0.11	0.14	0.11	0.14
Job	0.34	0.14*	0.02	0.14	-0.01	0.14
Leisure	0.10	0.15	0.53	0.16**	0.31	0.16*
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.38	0.12**	0.43	0.12**	0.33	0.12*
Friendships	0.05	0.13	-0.07	0.14	0.08	0.14
Marriage	0.15	0.14	0.27	0.14	0.40	0.15**
Neighbors	-0.14	0.13	0.16	0.13	-0.05	0.14
Family life	0.20	0.16	0.01	0.17	-0.04	0.17
Spiritual life	0.41	0.16*	0.11	0.16	0.16	0.16
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Public safety	-0.04	0.10	0.08	0.11	-0.01	0.11
Condition of environment	0.07	0.13	0.25	0.14	0.16	0.14
Social welfare system	0.23	0.12	-0.17	0.13	0.03	0.13
Democratic system	-0.18	0.11	-0.23	0.11	-0.15	0.12
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	-0.20	0.13	-0.02	0.14	0.01	0.14
Internet	-0.14	0.07*	-0.14	0.07*	-0.08	0.07
Email	na		na		na	
Mobile phone	0.12	0.07	0.02	0.07	0.06	0.07
Pray	0.07	0.07	0.20	0.07*	0.01	0.08
Religion	-0.27	0.21	-0.13	0.22	-0.15	0.22
Living internationally	-0.04	0.09	0.13	0.09	0.12	0.09
English ability	0.16	0.16	0.12	0.16	-0.21	0.16
Homeownership	-0.06	0.26	-0.27	0.28	0.25	0.27
Number of family members	0.08	0.05	0.13	0.05*	0.11	0.05
Relative standard of living	0.12	0.20	0.59	0.20**	0.25	0.20
No right to vote	na		na		na	
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	0.50	0.16**	0.01	0.16	-0.03	0.17
Married	na		na		na	
Female × married	na		na		na	
Age	0.06	0.09	-0.001	0.09	0.25	0.09*
Income	0.001	0.02	-0.042	0.02	-0.02	0.02
Educational attainment	0.08	0.15	0.32	0.15*	0.20	0.16
<i>Region (base: southern)</i>						
Northern	0.13	0.24	-0.02	0.25	0.06	0.26
Western	0.96	0.23**	0.20	0.24	0.28	0.24
<i>City size (Base- <9,000,000)</i>						
Population 9,000,000 more	0.02	0.19	0.16	0.20	0.55	0.21*
<i>Urban/rural (base: rural)</i>						
Urban	0.28	0.20	0.33	0.21	0.54	0.21*
cut1	2.64	1.24	5.35	1.30	4.88	1.34
cut2	4.03	1.24	8.50	1.32	7.61	1.35
cut3	6.81	1.25	11.42	1.36	11.28	1.40
cut4	8.73	1.27				
<i>N</i>		651		646		649
Pseudo R2		0.1087		0.1312		0.1109

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.11 Ordered logit regression – Taiwan – all

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<u>Happiness</u>		<u>Enjoyment</u>		<u>Achievement</u>		
	<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>							
<i>Materialist sphere</i>							
Standard of living	-0.09	0.15	0.10	0.16	-0.13	0.16	
Household income	0.27	0.14	0.17	0.14	0.32	0.14*	
Health	0.24	0.09*	0.15	0.10	0.04	0.10	
Education	-0.04	0.11	-0.10	0.11	0.06	0.12	
Job	0.28	0.10*	0.07	0.11	0.15	0.11	
Leisure	0.16	0.12	0.51	0.13**	0.18	0.13	
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>							
Housing	0.09	0.10	0.26	0.10*	0.28	0.10*	
Friendships	0.20	0.11	0.13	0.11	0.09	0.12	
Marriage		na		na		na	
Neighbors	-0.09	0.11	0.05	0.11	0.02	0.12	
Family life	0.19	0.11	0.07	0.12	0.04	0.12	
Spiritual life	0.55	0.13**	0.31	0.13*	0.24	0.13	
<i>Public sphere</i>							
Public safety	-0.04	0.08	0.12	0.09	0.09	0.09	
Condition of environment	0.05	0.11	0.13	0.11	0.23	0.11*	
Social welfare system	0.01	0.10	-0.20	0.11	-0.07	0.11	
Democratic system	-0.12	0.09	-0.28	0.10*	-0.17	0.10	
<i>Lifestyles</i>							
Number of utilities	-0.34	0.11**	-0.11	0.12	0.02	0.12	
Internet	-0.13	0.06*	-0.11	0.06	-0.06	0.06	
Email		na		na		na	
Mobile phone	0.09	0.06	-0.01	0.06	0.04	0.06	
Pray	0.01	0.06	0.15	0.06*	0.05	0.07	
Religion	-0.02	0.17	-0.07	0.17	-0.01	0.18	
Living internationally	-0.03	0.07	0.13	0.08	0.14	0.08	
English ability	0.24	0.13	0.11	0.13	-0.13	0.13	
Homeownership	-0.17	0.21	-0.36	0.22	0.10	0.22	
Number of family members	0.04	0.04	0.09	0.05	0.08	0.05	
Relative standard of living	0.12	0.17	0.39	0.17*	0.12	0.17	
No right to vote		na		na		na	
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>							
Female	0.05	0.25	-0.33	0.26	-0.37	0.26	
Married	-0.49	0.22*	-0.55	0.23*	0.22	0.23	
Female × married	0.46	0.29	0.32	0.31	0.29	0.31	
Age	0.02	0.08	0.03	0.08	0.32	0.08**	
Income	-0.003	0.02	-0.05	0.02*	-0.03	0.02	
Educational attainment	0.01	0.13	0.26	0.13	0.15	0.13	
<i>Region (base: southern)</i>							
Northern	-0.02	0.20	-0.11	0.21	0.07	0.22	
Western	0.67	0.20**	-0.01	0.20	0.30	0.21	
<i>City size (base: <9,000,000)</i>							
Population 9,000,000 more	0.10	0.16	0.01	0.17	0.49	0.18*	
<i>Urban/rural (base: rural)</i>							
Urban	0.06	0.17	0.34	0.17	0.39	0.18*	
cut1	0.37	1.01	2.53	1.04	4.17	1.07	
cut2	1.92	1.00	5.62	1.05	7.08	1.09	
cut3	4.58	1.01	8.39	1.07	10.7	1.13	
cut4	6.55	1.02					
<i>N</i>		892		886		889	
Pseudo R2		0.099		0.109		0.1166	

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

group relationship is not exclusively highlighted. Those countries that are heavily culturally influenced by East Asia, that is, Singapore and Vietnam, exhibit deviations from the mainstream Southeast Asian features. Most directly, Singapore and Vietnam emphasize marriage and family life along with mainstream Southeast Asian features. Those countries that are culturally influenced by South Asia, that is, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Thailand, exhibit features such as spiritual life and leisure.

7.3.3.2 Brunei

Geographically a small spot, the features of Brunei are not easily grasped through statistics. Its population size is 300,000. Because Brunei is incredibly rich and is a tightly knit community, it is no wonder that the most statistically significant variable is friendships. In terms of demographics, females are happier than males. Already rich, increased income does not add to levels of happiness.

Among the three life spheres, we argue that the post-materialist life sphere is the most important determinant for overall quality of life, which is followed by the public life sphere and the materialist life sphere in that order. Friendships in the post-materialist sphere are statistically significant and positively related to happiness, whereas education in the materialist life sphere is statistically significant but estimated as a negative. Finally, none of the life domains in the public sphere are statistically significant (Table 7.12).

7.3.3.3 Cambodia

Tables 7.13 and 7.14 report the results from fitting ordered logit regressions using only married observations and all the observations of Cambodia, respectively. Housing, friendships, standard of living, household income, public safety, and spiritual life matter for both married respondents and the general sample of all the Cambodian respondents. Housing and standard of living are statistically and positively related to happiness in both samples. Among the three life spheres, life domains in the materialist sphere are the most important determinants and positively related to overall life quality, which is followed by the post-materialist life sphere and then the public life sphere.

Salient variables are prayer and relative standard of living. The estimated coefficient on prayer is negative and statistically significant in the regressions of happiness using both samples.

In terms of demographics, income is positively related to the feelings of enjoyment and achievement. Regionally, respondents in the coastal region are happiest with access to trade. Respondents in the plain region are less happy than those in the coastal region as land property is not well protected. Respondents in the Tonle Sap region are the least happy as both land use and fishing face challenges.

Table 7.12 Ordered logit regression – Brunei

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness – only married</i>		<i>Happiness – all</i>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>				
<i>Public sphere</i>				
Job	0.20	0.22	0.19	0.15
Neighbors	0.04	0.29	0.09	0.23
Public safety	0.17	0.28	-0.07	0.22
Condition of environment	-0.20	0.30	0.23	0.25
Social welfare system	0.05	0.33	0.05	0.28
Democratic system		na		na
Family life	0.54	0.34	0.24	0.29
Leisure	-0.26	0.25	-0.17	0.20
Spiritual life		na		na
<i>Materialist sphere</i>				
Standard of living	-0.15	0.26	-0.19	0.21
Household income	0.33	0.22	0.30	0.19
Health	0.06	0.28	0.25	0.21
Education	-0.61	0.28*	-0.57	0.22*
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>				
Housing	0.01	0.19	-0.08	0.16
Friendships	1.35	0.30**	1.19	0.24**
Marriage	-0.21	0.31		na
<i>Lifestyles</i>				
The public water supply		na		na
Electricity	0.57	1.15	-0.08	1.03
Piped gas	-0.62	0.33	-0.68	0.27*
Pray	-0.05	0.10	-0.10	0.08
Religion		na		na
Living internationally	0.03	0.09	0.04	0.07
English ability	0.34	0.16*	0.26	0.13
Home ownership	0.29	0.21	0.21	0.18
Number of family members	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.02
Relative standard of living	0.02	0.23	0.11	0.19
No right to vote		na		na
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>				
Female	0.47	0.21*	0.05	0.32
Married		na	-0.16	0.28
Female × married		na	0.40	0.38
Age	0.14	0.12	0.07	0.11
Income	-0.23	0.08**	-0.15	0.07*
Educational attainment	-0.07	0.20	-0.11	0.17
<i>City size (base – village)</i>				
Urban	0.34	0.26	0.24	0.21
cut1	2.67	1.95	2.80	1.57
cut2	4.69	1.90	4.27	1.55
cut3	7.8	1.93	7.45	1.57
<i>N</i>		439		620
Pseudo R2		0.1051		0.0965

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.13 Ordered logit regression – Cambodia – only married

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<u>Happiness</u>		<u>Enjoyment</u>		<u>Achievement</u>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.23	0.10*	0.0002	0.10	-0.09	0.09
Friendships	0.23	0.12*	0.20	0.13	0.30	0.11*
Marriage	-0.06	0.13	0.09	0.14	-0.15	0.12
Standard of living	0.27	0.11*	0.22	0.12	0.16	0.10
Household income	0.16	0.10	-0.07	0.12	0.17	0.10
Health	-0.04	0.09	-0.02	0.10	0.19	0.09*
Education	0.09	0.10	0.06	0.11	-0.08	0.09
Job	0.10	0.09	0.22	0.10*	0.00	0.09
Neighbors	0.09	0.11	-0.27	0.12*	-0.01	0.10
Family life	-0.02	0.11	0.08	0.12	-0.02	0.10
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Public safety	0.17	0.10	0.13	0.11	0.03	0.09
Condition of environment	-0.05	0.11	-0.05	0.12	-0.12	0.10
Social welfare system	-0.14	0.09	0.00	0.10	0.0002	0.08
Democratic system	0.14	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.08
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Leisure	0.01	0.10	0.34	0.12**	0.18	0.10
Spiritual life	0.30	0.11**	0.48	0.12**	0.15	0.10
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	0.05	0.09	0.14	0.10	0.11	0.08
Internet	-0.38	0.22	0.25	0.24	-0.43	0.21*
Email	na		na		na	
Mobile phone	0.11	0.10	-0.09	0.11	0.21	0.10*
Pray	-0.35	0.09**	-0.12	0.10	-0.01	0.08
Religion	-0.98	2.52	-2.10	2.82	-3.08	2.21
Living internationally	0.17	0.13	-0.004	0.15	-0.0003	0.12
English ability	0.14	0.18	-0.21	0.21	-0.13	0.17
Homeownership	0.19	0.27	-0.01	0.31	0.09	0.25
Number of family members	-0.05	0.04	-0.06	0.04	-0.07	0.03
Relative standard of living	0.49	0.18**	0.33	0.19	0.63	0.16**
No right to vote	-0.78	0.70	0.02	0.83	0.47	0.67
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	-0.01	0.19	-0.01	0.21	-0.15	0.17
Married	na		na		na	
Female × married	na		na		na	
Age	0.05	0.09	-0.10	0.10	0.02	0.08
Income	-0.03	0.04	0.114	0.05*	0.14	0.04**
Educational attainment	-0.31	0.19	0.02	0.21	0.01	0.17
<i>Region (base – coastal region)</i>						
Plain region	-1.01	0.27**	-0.31	0.32	-0.56	0.26*
Tonle Sap region	-1.46	0.27**	-0.66	0.33*	-0.67	0.26*
cut1	-2.27	2.69	-1.89	2.99	-2.70	2.35
cut2	-0.36	2.66	0.77	2.98	0.72	2.35
cut3	4.18	2.67	5.86	2.99	4.56	2.36
cut4	7.05	2.68				
<i>N</i>	657		657		657	
Pseudo R2	0.1267		0.1415		0.1165	

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.14 Ordered logit regression – Cambodia – all

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.23	0.08**	0.06	0.08	-0.02	0.07
Friendships	0.15	0.09	0.13	0.10	0.07	0.08
Marriage		na		na		na
Standard of living	0.33	0.09**	0.25	0.10*	0.02	0.08
Household income	0.19	0.08*	0.02	0.09	0.22	0.08*
Health	0.04	0.07	0.13	0.08	0.16	0.07*
Education	-0.04	0.08	-0.04	0.08	-0.06	0.07
Job	-0.01	0.07	0.23	0.08*	0.03	0.07
Neighbors	0.09	0.09	-0.09	0.10	0.06	0.08
Family life	0.003	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.02	0.08
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Public safety	0.16	0.08*	0.08	0.08	0.01	0.07
Condition of environment	0.02	0.09	-0.04	0.10	-0.02	0.08
Social welfare system	-0.13	0.07	-0.06	0.08	-0.12	0.07
Democratic system	0.03	0.07	0.09	0.08	0.07	0.07
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Leisure	0.04	0.08	0.25	0.09*	0.09	0.08
Spiritual life	0.30	0.09**	0.41	0.10**	0.13	0.08
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	-0.01	0.07	0.18	0.08*	0.08	0.06
Internet	0.10	0.12	0.07	0.14	-0.17	0.12
Email		na		na		na
Mobile phone	0.06	0.07	-0.11	0.08	0.15	0.07*
Pray	-0.20	0.07*	-0.06	0.07	0.03	0.06
Religion	-1.01	2.36	-1.82	2.70	-3.33	2.08
Living internationally	0.09	0.09	0.16	0.11	0.10	0.09
English ability	0.10	0.14	-0.01	0.16	0.08	0.13
Homeownership	0.27	0.21	0.07	0.25	0.28	0.20
Number of family members	-0.06	0.03*	-0.03	0.03	-0.06	0.03*
Relative standard of living	0.45	0.15**	0.13	0.15	0.69	0.14**
No right to vote	0.03	0.28	-0.26	0.31	-0.32	0.26
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	-0.08	0.25	0.40	0.28	-0.23	0.24
Married	0.08	0.24	0.16	0.26	-0.05	0.23
Female × married	0.13	0.31	-0.34	0.34	0.16	0.29
Age	0.14	0.07	-0.11	0.08	0.001	0.07
Income	-0.02	0.03	0.07	0.04	0.08	0.03*
Educational attainment	-0.05	0.15	0.003	0.17	0.04	0.14
<i>Region (base – coastal region)</i>						
Plain region	-0.79	0.21**	-0.22	0.25	-0.33	0.21
Tonle Sap region	-1.22	0.22**	-0.57	0.26*	-0.45	0.21*
cut1	-0.84	2.45	-1.07	2.79	-2.20	2.16
cut2	1.01	2.44	1.49	2.78	1.20	2.16
cut3	5.27	2.44	6.42	2.79	4.79	2.17
cut4	8.10	2.45				
N	983		983		983	
Pseudo R2	0.1179		0.1374		0.0997	

Notes: ** 1% significance level; * 5% significance level

7.3.3.4 Indonesia

Housing, household income, and public safety are the key features of mainstream Southeast Asian features. According to Tables 7.15 and 7.16, the estimated coefficients on housing are positive and statistically significant in all the regressions of “happiness,” “enjoyment,” and “achievement.” The importance of spiritual life and prayer is underlined also. The estimated coefficient on spiritual life is positive and statistically significant in the regressions of happiness that use both married respondents and all the respondents of Indonesia. Public safety and neighbors in the post-materialist life sphere are statistically significant but negatively estimated. Among the three life spheres, the domains in the materialist life sphere are the most critical and positively related to the dependent variables, followed by the public life sphere and the post-materialist life sphere in that order. Negative coefficients on the domains in the post-materialist sphere rank the sphere as the lowest.

Prayer is negatively associated with “happiness” using only married respondents. “English ability” is negatively associated with “happiness” and “achievement” using both the married and the general samples of respondents. In terms of demographics, seniors are less like to feel levels of enjoyment and achievement. Regionally, Sumatra is the happiest as it is demographically moderate in density, land space is sufficient, and resources are abundant. Java is less happy as it is demographically dense and the pace of life is more hectic. Other regions are the least happy as the areas are either undeveloped or underdeveloped and isolated by sea.

7.3.3.5 Laos

Household income, standard of living, and public safety are key features of mainstream Southeast Asian features. In using the general sample of all the respondents of Laos, “standard of living” and “household income” are positively associated with “happiness,” but “public safety” is negatively associated. In using only the sample of married respondents in Laos, “household income” is positively related to “happiness.” Because of the negative relationship between public safety and happiness when using the sample of all the respondents, we argue that the materialist life sphere is the most important and positively related to overall quality of life. The post-materialist life sphere comes next, followed by the public life sphere.

In terms of demographics, seniors, high-income groups, and highly educated respondents are rewarded with a sense of achievement. Regionally, respondents in Luang Prabang do not express as much enjoyment as those in Vientiane (Tables 7.17 and 7.18).

7.3.3.6 Malaysia

Housing, household income, standard of living, and public safety are key features of mainstream Southeast Asian features. The estimated coefficients on “housing” are

Table 7.15 Ordered logit regression – Indonesia – only married

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<u>Happiness</u>		<u>Enjoyment</u>		<u>Achievement</u>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.28	0.11**	0.24	0.11*	0.30	0.12*
Standard of living	0.07	0.14	0.19	0.14	0.13	0.15
Household income	0.31	0.13*	0.13	0.14	0.16	0.14
Education	0.20	0.10	0.22	0.11*	0.29	0.11*
Job	0.09	0.11	-0.07	0.11	-0.12	0.12
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Friendships	0.24	0.13	0.54	0.14**	0.20	0.14
Marriage	0.01	0.15	0.01	0.15	-0.14	0.15
Health	0.11	0.12	0.07	0.12	0.04	0.13
Neighbors	-0.29	0.15	-0.09	0.16	-0.52	0.17**
Public safety	-0.45	0.15**	-0.36	0.15*	-0.12	0.15
Family life	0.16	0.15	0.11	0.15	0.48	0.16**
Spiritual life	0.56	0.18**	0.29	0.19	-0.13	0.19
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Condition of environment	0.25	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.14
Social welfare system	-0.05	0.12	-0.07	0.12	0.30	0.13*
Democratic system	-0.01	0.11	0.17	0.12	-0.05	0.12
Leisure	0.20	0.12	0.32	0.13*	0.07	0.13
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	-0.22	0.11*	0.19	0.11	-0.001	0.11
Internet	0.15	0.23	0.08	0.26	-0.0004	0.25
Email	na		na		na	
Mobile phone	0.16	0.07*	0.04	0.07	0.28	0.08**
Pray	-0.23	0.11*	-0.17	0.11	-0.08	0.11
Religion	na		na		na	
Living internationally	0.28	0.16	0.03	0.16	0.08	0.16
English ability	-0.43	0.21*	-0.31	0.21	-0.48	0.22*
Homeownership	-0.01	0.28	-0.08	0.29	0.32	0.30
Number of family members	0.01	0.05	-0.04	0.05	0.004	0.05
Relative standard of living	0.60	0.14**	0.33	0.14*	0.55	0.15**
No right to vote	na		na		na	
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	-0.20	0.18	0.08	0.18	-0.34	0.19
Married	na		na		na	
Female × married	na		na		na	
Age	-0.10	0.08	-0.28	0.09**	-0.22	0.09*
Income	-0.08	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.05
Educational attainment	0.20	0.18	0.13	0.18	0.13	0.19
<i>Region (base – Sumatra)</i>						
Java	-0.40	0.24	-0.39	0.24	-1.31	0.26**
Others	-0.65	0.31*	-1.13	0.33**	-1.90	0.34**
<i>Urban/rural (base – rural)</i>						
Urban	-0.08	0.18	-0.19	0.19	-0.59	0.20**
cut1	-1.09	1.48	1.88	1.17	-1.85	1.21
cut2	3.05	1.10	4.73	1.15	1.22	1.17
cut3	5.47	1.12	7.97	1.19	4.95	1.19
cut4	8.68	1.15				
N	638		637		636	
Pseudo R2	0.1479		0.1518		0.1723	

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.16 Ordered logit regression – Indonesia – all

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<u>Happiness</u>		<u>Enjoyment</u>		<u>Achievement</u>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.32	0.09**	0.34	0.09**	0.31	0.10**
Standard of living	0.15	0.12	0.13	0.12	-0.01	0.13
Household income	0.24	0.11*	0.18	0.12	0.18	0.12
Education	0.24	0.09**	0.18	0.09*	0.18	0.10
Job	0.19	0.09*	0.04	0.09	0.09	0.09
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Friendships	0.24	0.11*	0.47	0.12**	0.19	0.12
Marriage	na		na		na	
Health	0.10	0.10	0.04	0.10	-0.02	0.11
Neighbors	-0.17	0.13	-0.07	0.14	-0.48	0.14**
Public safety	-0.38	0.13**	-0.26	0.13	-0.13	0.13
Family life	0.11	0.12	0.10	0.13	0.31	0.13*
Spiritual life	0.51	0.15**	0.31	0.15	0.01	0.16
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Condition of environment	0.25	0.11*	0.20	0.11	0.11	0.12
Social welfare system	-0.12	0.10	-0.04	0.10	0.26	0.11*
Democratic system	-0.10	0.10	0.004	0.11	-0.01	0.11
Leisure	0.27	0.11*	0.38	0.11**	0.07	0.12
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	-0.19	0.09*	0.18	0.10	0.10	0.10
Internet	0.31	0.17	0.26	0.19	0.08	0.18
Email	na		na		na	
Mobile phone	0.13	0.06*	0.07	0.06	0.27	0.07**
Pray	-0.17	0.09	-0.16	0.09	-0.06	0.09
Religion	na		na		na	
Living internationally	0.21	0.13	-0.003	0.14	0.09	0.14
English ability	-0.47	0.18**	-0.32	0.18	-0.45	0.19*
Homeownership	-0.03	0.24	-0.06	0.25	0.02	0.26
Number of family members	-0.003	0.04	-0.04	0.04	0.06	0.04
Relative standard of living	0.47	0.12**	0.25	0.12*	0.57	0.13**
No right to vote	na		na		na	
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	0.09	0.29	0.25	0.30	0.31	0.31
Married	0.42	0.25	0.06	0.25	0.60	0.27*
Female × married	-0.30	0.34	-0.13	0.35	-0.63	0.36
Age	-0.10	0.07	-0.23	0.07**	-0.16	0.08*
Income	-0.07	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05
Educational attainment	0.21	0.15	0.12	0.16	0.03	0.17
<i>Region (base – Sumatra)</i>						
Java	-0.53	0.20*	-0.34	0.21	-1.32	0.22**
Others	-0.77	0.27**	-1.20	0.28**	-1.88	0.30**
<i>Urban/rural (base – rural)</i>						
Urban	0.05	0.16	-0.11	0.16	-0.43	0.17*
cut1	0.85	1.04	2.61	1.00	-0.32	1.02
cut2	4.10	0.94	5.63	0.98	2.47	1.00
cut3	6.40	0.95	8.89	1.02	6.19	1.03
cut4	9.65	0.98				
<i>N</i>	839		838		837	
Pseudo R2	0.1551		0.1697		0.1827	

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.17 Ordered logit regression – Laos – only married

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.18	0.11	0.15	0.13	0.13	0.13
Standard of living	0.19	0.14	0.18	0.15	0.44	0.16**
Household income	0.42	0.11**	-0.03	0.13	0.09	0.13
Health	0.15	0.10	0.22	0.11	-0.18	0.11
Education	0.04	0.10	0.06	0.11	0.12	0.11
Job	0.01	0.12	0.17	0.13	0.23	0.13
Family life	0.33	0.15*	0.03	0.17	0.10	0.17
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Neighbors	0.18	0.16	0.20	0.18	-0.12	0.18
Public safety	-0.19	0.12	-0.25	0.13	-0.17	0.13
Condition of environment	0.13	0.13	0.17	0.15	-0.19	0.15
Social welfare system	0.17	0.12	-0.14	0.13	0.14	0.13
Democratic system		na		na		na
Spiritual life	-0.04	0.15	-0.18	0.17	-0.08	0.17
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Friendships	-0.16	0.15	0.04	0.16	-0.01	0.16
Marriage	-0.05	0.17	0.26	0.19	0.07	0.19
Leisure	0.14	0.12	0.16	0.14	0.23	0.14
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	0.05	0.10	0.07	0.11	-0.08	0.11
Internet	-0.12	0.15	0.23	0.18	-0.05	0.17
Email		na		na		na
Mobile phone	0.14	0.11	-0.06	0.12	0.07	0.12
Pray	0.05	0.09	0.14	0.10	-0.01	0.10
Religion		na		na		na
Living internationally	-0.01	0.13	0.27	0.14	0.30	0.14*
English ability	0.25	0.20	0.52	0.23*	-0.14	0.23
Homeownership	-0.15	0.34	-0.32	0.39	0.01	0.39
Number of family members	-0.004	0.05	0.02	0.06	0.02	0.06
Relative standard of living	0.16	0.17	0.19	0.19	0.45	0.19**
No right to vote		na		na		na
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	0.41	0.21	0.01	0.24	0.02	0.24
Married		na		na		na
Female × married		na		na		na
Age	0.01	0.10	-0.22	0.11*	0.24	0.11*
Income	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.06	0.02**
Educational attainment	0.19	0.13	0.18	0.15	0.46	0.15**
<i>Region (base – Vientiane)</i>						
Savannakhet	0.10	0.27	0.48	0.30	0.37	0.30
Luang Prabang	-0.09	0.25	-0.71	0.28*	-0.35	0.28
cut1	2.32	1.27	1.43	1.48	0.42	1.56
cut2	4.76	1.23	4.00	1.41	3.68	1.42
cut3	6.04	1.24	8.43	1.47	8.34	1.49
cut4	9.39	1.29				
<i>N</i>		490		490		490
Pseudo R2		0.1203		0.1521		0.1611

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.18 Ordered logit regression – Laos – all

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<u>Happiness</u>		<u>Enjoyment</u>		<u>Achievement</u>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.14	0.09	0.06	0.10	0.11	0.11
Standard of living	0.26	0.11*	0.18	0.12	0.52	0.13**
Household income	0.27	0.09**	-0.02	0.10	0.03	0.11
Health	0.21	0.08*	0.09	0.09	-0.13	0.10
Education	0.03	0.08	0.04	0.10	0.15	0.10
Job	0.12	0.10	0.12	0.10	0.21	0.11
Family life	0.20	0.12	0.04	0.13	-0.01	0.14
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Neighbors	0.20	0.13	0.16	0.14	-0.01	0.14
Public safety	-0.30	0.10**	-0.19	0.11	-0.13	0.11
Condition of environment	0.06	0.11	0.02	0.12	-0.24	0.12
Social welfare system	0.16	0.10	0.00	0.11	0.12	0.11
Democratic system		na		na		na
Spiritual life	0.04	0.13	-0.04	0.14	-0.01	0.15
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Friendships	-0.12	0.12	0.14	0.13	-0.08	0.14
Marriage		na		na		na
Leisure	0.08	0.10	0.20	0.11	0.19	0.12
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	0.03	0.08	-0.03	0.09	-0.10	0.09
Internet	-0.16	0.12	0.23	0.13	-0.09	0.14
Email		na		na		na
Mobile phone	0.15	0.08	0.01	0.09	0.04	0.09
Pray	0.09	0.07	0.15	0.08	0.02	0.08
Religion		na		na		na
Living internationally	0.02	0.10	0.46	0.12**	0.36	0.12**
English ability	0.14	0.17	0.31	0.18	-0.03	0.19
Homeownership	-0.03	0.27	-0.27	0.30	0.27	0.32
Number of family members	-0.03	0.04	-0.04	0.04	-0.06	0.05
Relative standard of living	0.17	0.14	0.12	0.15	0.35	0.16*
No right to vote		na		na		na
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	0.44	0.33	0.45	0.36	0.08	0.38
Married	0.38	0.31	0.11	0.35	0.31	0.36
Female × married	-0.11	0.38	-0.37	0.42	-0.10	0.44
Age	-0.06	0.08	-0.13	0.09	0.21	0.09*
Income	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.02*	0.06	0.02**
Educational attainment	0.16	0.11	0.14	0.13	0.30	0.13*
<i>Region (base – Vientiane)</i>						
Savannakhet	0.09	0.21	0.11	0.24	0.11	0.25
Luang Prabang	-0.15	0.21	-0.74	0.24**	-0.49	0.25
cut1	1.57	0.95	0.23	1.05	-0.04	1.13
cut2	4.48	0.88	2.66	0.99	2.78	1.04
cut3	5.58	0.89	6.79	1.03	7.47	1.09
cut4	8.77	0.93				
<i>N</i>		671		671		670
Pseudo R2		0.1071		0.1422		0.1443

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

positive and statistically significant in all the regressions of “happiness,” “enjoyment,” and “achievement” using both married observations and the general sample of all the Malay observations. “Household income” is positively associated with “happiness” and “achievement” when using the married observations. Satisfaction with public safety tends to be positively related to the overall quality of life. It is essential to note that family life adds immensely to happiness. The estimated coefficient on “family life” is positive and statistically significant in the regressions of “happiness” when using the married observations and the general sample of all the Malay observations.

The materialist life sphere is the most vital and positively related to overall quality of life in the three spheres, followed by the post-materialist life sphere and the public life sphere in that order.

In terms of demographics, females are happy based on the general sample of all the Malay respondents. Seniors are more likely to have a sense of accomplishment.

Regionally, respondents in the northern border area with southern Thailand express less happiness, whereas respondents in the southern and central regions are the happiest as this includes Kuala Lumpur. The respondents in eastern Malaysia, an area that borders Indonesia’s Kalimantan, fare slightly worse in terms of enjoyment levels (Tables 7.19 and 7.20).

7.3.3.7 Myanmar

Housing, household income, and standard of living are key features of mainstream Southeast Asian features. The estimated coefficients on “housing” are positive and statistically significant in all the regressions of “happiness,” “enjoyment,” and “achievement” when using both married observations and the general sample of all the observations of Myanmar. “Standard of living” is positively associated with “happiness” and “enjoyment.” The “relative standard of living” also tends to affect positively the overall quality of life. The estimated coefficient on “household income” is positive and statistically significant in the regression of “happiness.” Satisfaction with leisure is positively related to feelings of happiness and enjoyment. That neighbors are deemed negative is no less important in that it also means having “unneighborly” residents as neighbors.

We argue that the domains in the materialist life sphere are the most important determinants and are positively related to the overall quality of life, followed by the post-materialist life sphere and then the public life sphere.

In terms of demographics, seniors do not experience heightened feelings of enjoyment. Regionally, respondents in Lashio, a medium-sized city, express higher levels of enjoyment and achievement. Yangon, a major urban center, has big-city problems. Patheingyi, another source of respondents for the survey, is a medium-sized city. The city of Mandalay adds least quality of life. The estimated coefficients on the dummy variable “Mandalay” are all negative and statistically significant in the regressions of “happiness,” “enjoyment,” and “achievement” when using the general sample of all the Myanmar observations, and the estimated coefficients

Table 7.19 Ordered logit regression – Malaysia – only married

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Friendships	0.15	0.22	0.24	0.23	-0.08	0.22
Marriage	0.19	0.21	-0.05	0.23	-0.13	0.21
Neighbors	0.18	0.20	0.21	0.20	-0.18	0.20
Family life	0.63	0.23**	0.51	0.24*	0.42	0.23
Leisure	0.73	0.21**	0.12	0.21	0.33	0.20
Spiritual life	-0.50	0.24*	0.45	0.24	0.16	0.23
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.29	0.14*	0.35	0.14*	0.42	0.13**
Standard of living	0.28	0.19	0.28	0.20	0.0003	0.19
Household income	0.55	0.18**	0.31	0.18	0.40	0.17*
Health	-0.08	0.17	0.14	0.17	0.13	0.17
Education	-0.01	0.16	-0.12	0.16	-0.09	0.15
Job	-0.07	0.16	-0.06	0.16	0.11	0.16
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Public safety	0.40	0.14**	0.43	0.14**	0.28	0.13*
Condition of environment	-0.37	0.16*	-0.26	0.17	-0.33	0.16*
Social welfare system	0.13	0.17	-0.04	0.17	0.08	0.16
Democratic system	0.01	0.16	-0.07	0.17	-0.08	0.17
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	0.33	0.13*	0.23	0.13	0.17	0.13
Internet	0.002	0.12	-0.01	0.12	0.14	0.11
Email		na		na		na
Mobile phone	0.001	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.25	0.07**
Pray	-0.01	0.12	0.08	0.12	0.04	0.12
Religion	1.10	1.87	0.72	2.17	-1.71	1.55
Living internationally	0.18	0.12	-0.01	0.13	0.02	0.13
English ability	-0.29	0.15	-0.11	0.16	-0.28	0.15
Homeownership	-0.16	0.26	0.22	0.27	-0.42	0.26
Number of family members	-0.01	0.05	0.03	0.05	0.04	0.05
Relative standard of living	0.29	0.20	0.29	0.21	-0.07	0.19
No right to vote	0.25	0.78	-0.03	0.76	1.29	0.76
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	0.40	0.20*	0.26	0.21	0.21	0.20
Married		na		na		na
Female × married		na		na		na
Age	-0.07	0.11	-0.10	0.12	0.28	0.11*
Income	0.04	0.07	0.04	0.07	0.13	0.07
Educational attainment	0.20	0.21	0.13	0.22	0.06	0.21
<i>Region (base – Northern)</i>						
Southern	1.46	0.37**	0.89	0.38*	0.37	0.37
Eastern	1.00	0.36**	0.02	0.35	0.29	0.34
Central	1.39	0.32**	1.14	0.33**	0.93	0.31**
East Malaysia (KK Kuching)	0.35	0.33	-0.81	0.35*	-0.33	0.33
<i>Urban/rural (base – rural)</i>						
Urban	-0.04	0.24	-0.26	0.25	-0.67	0.24**
cut1	10.2	2.27	6.42	2.72	0.97	1.98
cut2	11.5	2.28	10.3	2.56	4.21	1.93
cut3	15.3	2.34	14.0	2.60	7.90	1.96
<i>N</i>		489		488		486
Pseudo R2		0.2099		0.2091		0.1579

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.20 Ordered logit regression – Malaysia – all

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Friendships	0.25	0.18	0.25	0.18	-0.19	0.18
Marriage	na		na		na	
Neighbors	0.28	0.15	0.07	0.15	0.01	0.15
Family life	0.51	0.18**	0.32	0.18	0.30	0.18
Leisure	0.58	0.17**	0.22	0.17	0.33	0.17*
Spiritual life	-0.34	0.17	0.26	0.18	0.13	0.17
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.24	0.11*	0.36	0.11**	0.24	0.11*
Standard of living	0.56	0.16**	0.53	0.16**	0.28	0.15
Household income	0.20	0.13	0.10	0.14	0.25	0.13
Health	0.02	0.13	0.10	0.13	0.02	0.13
Education	-0.04	0.12	-0.03	0.13	0.01	0.12
Job	0.06	0.12	0.05	0.13	0.02	0.12
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Public safety	0.23	0.11*	0.30	0.11**	0.20	0.11
Condition of environment	-0.18	0.12	-0.11	0.13	-0.07	0.12
Social welfare system	0.05	0.13	-0.09	0.13	0.01	0.12
Democratic system	-0.09	0.13	-0.08	0.14	-0.16	0.13
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	0.21	0.10*	0.13	0.10	0.18	0.10
Internet	-0.07	0.08	-0.05	0.09	0.07	0.08
Email	na		na		na	
Mobile phone	0.02	0.06	0.11	0.06	0.23	0.06**
Pray	0.01	0.08	0.29	0.08**	0.14	0.08
Religion	0.62	1.05	-1.02	1.47	-2.85	1.14*
Living internationally	0.13	0.10	0.04	0.10	0.09	0.10
English ability	-0.16	0.12	-0.12	0.12	-0.27	0.12*
Homeownership	0.08	0.21	0.34	0.21	-0.18	0.21
Number of family members	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.01	0.04
Relative standard of living	0.21	0.15	0.29	0.16	0.08	0.15
No right to vote	0.30	0.31	-0.02	0.31	0.41	0.30
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	0.40	0.30	-0.27	0.31	-0.08	0.29
Married	0.24	0.26	-0.18	0.27	0.24	0.25
Female × married	-0.08	0.35	0.50	0.37	0.22	0.35
Age	-0.17	0.09	-0.07	0.09	0.25	0.09**
Income	0.03	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.09	0.05
Educational attainment	-0.03	0.17	0.30	0.18	0.23	0.17
<i>Region (base – Northern)</i>						
Southern	1.00	0.30**	0.70	0.30*	0.28	0.29
Eastern	0.55	0.29	-0.08	0.29	0.05	0.28
Central	1.05	0.26**	0.99	0.26**	0.99	0.26**
East Malaysia (KK Kuching)	0.19	0.26	-0.55	0.27*	-0.05	0.26
<i>Urban/rural</i>						
Urban	-0.07	0.20	-0.19	0.20	-0.63	0.19**
cut1	8.15	1.44	5.58	1.89	0.93	1.51
cut2	9.61	1.44	8.73	1.84	4.02	1.48
cut3	13.1	1.49	12.2	1.88	7.59	1.51
<i>N</i>	710		708		707	
Pseudo R2	0.1817		0.2057		0.1466	

Notes: ** 1% significance level; * 5% significance level

on “Mandalay” are statistically and significantly negative in the regressions of “enjoyment” and “achievement” when using married respondents’ observations (Tables 7.21 and 7.22).

7.3.3.8 The Philippines

Housing and household income are key features of mainstream Southeast Asian features. The estimated coefficients on “housing” are positive and statistically significant in all the regressions of “happiness,” “enjoyment,” and “achievement” when using both married observations and all the observations of the Philippines. The estimated coefficients on “household income” are positive and statistically significant in the regressions of “happiness” and “enjoyment.”

Perhaps due to the influence of American and Spanish colonialism, marriage, health, and friendships also matter immensely. The estimated coefficients on “marriage” are positive and statistically significant in all the three regressions of “happiness,” “enjoyment,” and “achievement.” The estimated coefficients on “friendships” are positive and statistically significant in all the regressions except for the regression of enjoyment when using married observations. “Health” is positively associated with feelings of enjoyment.

Among the three life spheres, the domains in the materialist life sphere are the most important and positively related to overall quality of life in the Philippines, followed by the post-materialist life sphere and the public life sphere in that order.

In terms of demographics, the qualities of being female and highly educated add to feelings of happiness. Regionally, respondents in Mindanao have more of a sense of achievement, perhaps because of the large Muslim population. Respondents in Visayas express higher levels of achievement but not enjoyment (Tables 7.23 and 7.24).

7.3.3.9 Singapore

Standard of living, health, family life, and spiritual life are key features of Singapore, which has an ethnic population base of Chinese, Indian, and Malay. In an island republic, surrounded by massive Muslim populations and inhabited by huge temporary and permanent new immigrants from countries, such as China and Indonesia, Singapore has much to worry about when they assess their quality of life.

Satisfaction with the standard of living is positively related to feelings of happiness, enjoyment, and achievement when using the sample of married respondents. When using the sample of only married respondents, the satisfaction level with the standard of living is positively related to feelings of happiness and enjoyment. The estimated coefficients on “spiritual life” are positive and statistically significant in the regressions of “happiness,” “enjoyment,” and “achievement” based on the married sample. “Health” and “family life” are positively associated with “happiness.”

Table 7.21 Ordered logit regression – Myanmar – only married

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<u>Happiness</u>		<u>Enjoyment</u>		<u>Achievement</u>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.28	0.12*	0.28	0.13*	0.32	0.13*
Friendships	0.13	0.17	-0.13	0.17	0.05	0.19
Standard of living	0.27	0.15	0.27	0.16	0.34	0.17*
Household income	0.17	0.13	-0.12	0.14	0.14	0.15
Health	0.08	0.12	0.10	0.12	-0.09	0.13
Education	-0.05	0.11	0.04	0.12	-0.05	0.13
Job	0.18	0.13	0.21	0.13	0.35	0.14*
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Neighbors	-0.37	0.19*	-0.23	0.18	-0.42	0.20*
Public safety	0.20	0.19	0.08	0.19	-0.08	0.21
Condition of environment	-0.24	0.19	-0.03	0.18	0.29	0.20
Social welfare system		na		na		na
Democratic system		na		na		na
Family life	-0.16	0.17	-0.02	0.17	0.03	0.19
Leisure	0.54	0.13**	0.48	0.13**	0.01	0.15
Spiritual life	0.16	0.11	0.001	0.12	0.22	0.12
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Marriage	0.27	0.15	0.48	0.16**	0.16	0.17
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	0.09	0.17	0.04	0.17	0.11	0.19
Internet	-0.17	0.28	0.17	0.29	-0.72	0.30*
Email		na		na		na
Mobile phone	0.22	0.34	0.85	0.40*	0.45	0.41
Pray	-0.01	0.17	-0.23	0.17	-0.11	0.18
Religion		na		na		na
Living internationally	0.14	0.16	0.02	0.17	0.63	0.18**
English ability	-0.10	0.19	0.32	0.19	-0.06	0.21
Homeownership	0.04	0.28	0.56	0.30	0.04	0.31
Number of family members	-0.01	0.05	0.004	0.05	-0.10	0.05
Relative standard of living	0.65	0.20**	0.36	0.20	0.45	0.23*
No right to vote		na		na		na
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.21	0.27	0.23
Married		na		na		na
Female × married		na		na		na
Age	-0.06	0.09	-0.32	0.09**	0.24	0.10*
Income	-0.01	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.08	0.06
Educational attainment	0.27	0.19	0.04	0.20	0.46	0.21*
<i>Region (base – Yangon)</i>						
Mandalay	-0.19	0.34	-0.97	0.35**	-0.81	0.38*
Lashio	0.19	0.32	0.39	0.32	0.31	0.35
Patheingyi	0.02	0.31	0.01	0.32	0.20	0.35
cut1	2.72	1.25	2.92	1.31	3.15	1.40
cut2	5.01	1.23	5.49	1.32	7.03	1.44
cut3	7.01	1.25	8.83	1.36	12.13	1.55
cut4	10.3	1.30				
<i>N</i>		442		442		442
Pseudo R ²		0.1350		0.1597		0.2022

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.22 Ordered logit regression – Myanmar – all

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness</i>		<i>Enjoyment</i>		<i>Achievement</i>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.20	0.10*	0.21	0.10*	0.27	0.10**
Friendships	0.26	0.13*	-0.04	0.13	0.13	0.14
Standard of living	0.31	0.12**	0.33	0.12**	0.17	0.12
Household income	0.27	0.11*	-0.07	0.11	0.07	0.11
Health	0.11	0.10	0.08	0.09	0.04	0.10
Education	0.01	0.09	0.05	0.09	0.00	0.10
Job	0.13	0.10	0.06	0.10	0.27	0.11*
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Neighbors	-0.31	0.15*	-0.20	0.14	-0.37	0.16*
Public safety	-0.19	0.16	-0.02	0.15	-0.35	0.16*
Condition of environment	-0.07	0.14	-0.08	0.13	0.35	0.14*
Social welfare system		na		na		na
Democratic system		na		na		na
Family life	0.03	0.11	0.25	0.12*	0.15	0.12
Leisure	0.33	0.11**	0.42	0.11**	0.10	0.11
Spiritual life	0.09	0.09	0.06	0.09	0.10	0.10
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Marriage		na		na		na
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	0.30	0.14*	0.11	0.14	0.13	0.15
Internet	0.14	0.18	0.35	0.17*	-0.27	0.18
Email		na		na		na
Mobile phone	0.01	0.24	0.29	0.25	0.45	0.27
Pray	-0.05	0.12	-0.13	0.12	0.05	0.12
Religion		na		na		na
Living internationally	0.08	0.13	0.03	0.13	0.29	0.14*
English ability	-0.08	0.14	0.27	0.14*	0.17	0.15
Homeownership	0.02	0.24	0.51	0.25*	-0.03	0.25
Number of family members	-0.02	0.04	0.02	0.04	-0.03	0.04
Relative standard of living	0.66	0.15**	0.47	0.15**	0.77	0.16**
No right to vote		na		na		na
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	-0.44	0.28	-0.22	0.28	0.02	0.30
Married	0.03	0.27	0.11	0.28	0.17	0.29
Female×Married	0.61	0.34	0.33	0.35	0.25	0.36
Age	-0.06	0.07	-0.23	0.07**	0.12	0.07
Income	-0.02	0.04	0.01	0.04	0.08	0.05
Educational attainment	0.23	0.14	0.06	0.14	0.26	0.15
<i>Region (base: Yangon)</i>						
Mandalay	-0.67	0.27*	-1.19	0.27**	-0.81	0.28**
Lashio	0.19	0.26	0.53	0.26	0.57	0.28*
Patheingyi	-0.05	0.24	0.24	0.25	0.36	0.26
cut1	1.39	0.92	1.92	0.95	4.27	1.00
cut2	3.91	0.90	4.57	0.94	7.90	1.03
cut3	5.81	0.91	7.79	0.97	12.5	1.12
cut4	9.20	0.95				
<i>N</i>		693		693		693
Pseudo R2		0.1382		0.1362		0.1677

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.23 Ordered logit regression – only married

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Public safety	-0.01	0.14	0.09	0.14	-0.06	0.13
Condition of environment	-0.11	0.15	-0.17	0.15	0.10	0.14
Social welfare system	0.13	0.14	0.10	0.15	-0.06	0.14
Democratic system	-0.20	0.11	-0.05	0.12	0.08	0.11
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.27	0.10**	0.31	0.10**	0.32	0.10**
Standard of living	0.08	0.11	0.08	0.12	0.23	0.11*
Household income	0.28	0.10**	0.26	0.11*	0.10	0.10
Health	0.36	0.13**	0.15	0.13	0.11	0.12
Education	0.20	0.11	0.19	0.12	0.13	0.11
Job	-0.07	0.10	0.04	0.10	-0.04	0.10
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Friendships	0.29	0.14*	0.17	0.14	0.30	0.14*
Marriage	0.31	0.14*	0.47	0.15**	0.41	0.14**
Neighbors	0.18	0.12	0.17	0.13	0.25	0.12*
Family life	-0.08	0.14	-0.17	0.15	-0.07	0.14
Leisure	-0.13	0.14	-0.12	0.14	-0.04	0.14
Spiritual life	0.19	0.15	0.18	0.16	0.16	0.15
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	0.00	0.09	-0.08	0.09	0.13	0.09
Internet	-0.07	0.10	0.001	0.11	0.06	0.10
Email		na		na		na
Mobile phone	-0.11	0.07	-0.07	0.07	-0.15	0.07*
Pray	-0.05	0.15	0.08	0.15	0.004	0.14
Religion		na		na		na
Living internationally	0.17	0.11	0.17	0.11	0.20	0.11
English ability	0.21	0.16	0.40	0.16*	0.07	0.16
Homeownership	-0.18	0.25	-0.15	0.26	0.31	0.24
Number of family members	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.04	-0.09	0.04*
Relative standard of living	0.00	0.15	0.42	0.16*	0.28	0.15
No right to vote	-0.74	1.04	-1.05	1.15	-1.17	1.16
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	-0.44	0.17*	-0.05	0.18	0.12	0.17
Married		na		na		na
Female × married		na		na		na
Age	0.10	0.08	-0.05	0.08	-0.12	0.08
Income	0.01	0.02	0.003	0.02	0.03	0.02
Educational attainment	0.34	0.15*	0.18	0.15	0.08	0.15
<i>Region (base: metro Manila)</i>						
Balance Luzon	0.15	0.29	-0.41	0.30	-0.05	0.29
Visayas	-0.56	0.31	-1.19	0.33**	0.43	0.31
Mindanao	0.32	0.30	-0.23	0.30	0.58	0.29

(continued)

Table 7.23 (continued)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Urban/rural (base: rural)</i>						
Urban	-0.31	0.20	-0.14	0.21	-0.36	0.20
cut1	1.80	1.33	2.28	1.36	5.50	1.13
cut2	4.32	1.16	6.66	1.21	8.06	1.15
cut3	6.04	1.16	9.86	1.25	11.0	1.19
cut4	8.84	1.19				
<i>N</i>	626		626		626	
Pseudo R2	0.1145		0.1538		0.1409	

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.24 Ordered logit regression – Philippines – all

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
Specific life domains						
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Public safety	-0.08	0.12	0.10	0.12	-0.10	0.12
Condition of environment	0.07	0.12	-0.06	0.13	0.09	0.12
Social welfare system	0.05	0.12	0.06	0.12	-0.08	0.12
Democratic system	-0.09	0.10	-0.02	0.10	0.11	0.10
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.25	0.09**	0.24	0.09**	0.29	0.09**
Standard of living	0.04	0.10	0.05	0.10	0.20	0.10
Household income	0.31	0.09**	0.19	0.09*	0.13	0.09
Health	0.21	0.11	0.05	0.11	0.10	0.11
Education	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.10	0.07	0.10
Job	0.02	0.08	0.12	0.09	0.08	0.08
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Friendships	0.33	0.12*	0.32	0.13*	0.30	0.12*
Marriage	na		na		na	
Neighbors	0.18	0.10	0.04	0.11	0.19	0.11
Family life	-0.05	0.12	-0.003	0.12	-0.01	0.12
Leisure	-0.16	0.12	-0.13	0.13	0.02	0.12
Spiritual life	0.19	0.13	0.16	0.13	0.13	0.13
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	0.06	0.07	0.001	0.08	0.12	0.08
Internet	0.02	0.08	0.003	0.08	0.07	0.08
Email	na		na		na	
Mobile phone	-0.09	0.06	-0.02	0.06	-0.11	0.06
Pray	-0.08	0.12	0.16	0.13	0.18	0.12
Religion	na		na		na	
Living internationally	0.14	0.09	0.11	0.09	0.17	0.09
English ability	0.16	0.13	0.30	0.13*	0.16	0.13
Homeownership	0.09	0.22	-0.03	0.22	0.26	0.21
Number of family members	-0.01	0.03	0.004	0.03	-0.08	0.03*
Relative standard of living	0.09	0.13	0.38	0.14**	0.24	0.13
No right to vote	-0.27	0.81	0.02	0.90	-0.62	0.88

(continued)

Table 7.24 (continued)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<u>Happiness</u>		<u>Enjoyment</u>		<u>Achievement</u>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	-0.07	0.33	-0.09	0.33	-0.03	0.32
Married	-0.17	0.25	0.13	0.25	0.38	0.24
Female×Married	0.45	0.36	0.03	0.37	0.11	0.36
Age	0.11	0.07	0.01	0.07	-0.04	0.07
Income	-0.005	0.02	-0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02
Educational attainment	0.24	0.13	0.22	0.13	0.10	0.13
<i>Region (base: metro Manila)</i>						
Balance Luzon	0.05	0.25	-0.39	0.26	0.09	0.25
Visayas	-0.41	0.27	-0.95	0.28**	0.66	0.27*
Mindanao	0.29	0.25	-0.36	0.26	0.68	0.25**
<i>Urban/rural (base: rural)</i>						
Urban	-0.30	0.18	-0.16	0.18	-0.35	0.18*
cut1	0.52	1.11	1.04	1.15	5.16	0.97
cut2	3.02	0.97	4.95	1.02	7.52	0.98
cut3	4.50	0.97	8.07	1.05	10.5	1.02
cut4	7.16	0.99				
<i>N</i>		797		797		797
Pseudo R2		0.0906		0.1214		0.1218

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Based on the regression analyses, we argue that the domains in the post-materialist life sphere are the most important and are positively related to overall quality of life in Singapore, followed by the materialist life sphere and the public life sphere in that order.

“Relative standard of living” is also associated with the dependent variables except in the regression of “enjoyment” for married respondents. In terms of demographics, females and seniors are more likely to have a sense of achievement (Tables 7.25 and 7.26).

7.3.3.10 Thailand

Standard of living, marriage, and spiritual life are the key features of Thailand in terms of happiness. Emphasis on marriage appears to come from East Asia, whereas emphasis on spiritual life appears to come from South Asia. This may be called Thai syncretism.

The estimated coefficient on “standard of living” is positive and statistically significant in all the regressions of “happiness,” “enjoyment,” and “achievement” when using both married observations and the general sample of all the observations of Thailand. The estimated coefficients on “marriage” are positive and statistically significant in all the regressions of “happiness,” “enjoyment,” and “achievement” when using married observations. The estimated coefficients on

Table 7.25 Ordered logit regression – Singapore – only married

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Public safety	-0.21	0.18	-0.25	0.18	-0.19	0.19
Condition of environment	0.05	0.19	0.07	0.19	0.09	0.19
Social welfare system	0.16	0.15	-0.10	0.15	-0.01	0.16
Democratic system	0.27	0.16	0.25	0.16	0.28	0.16
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	-0.05	0.15	0.07	0.15	0.18	0.16
Friendships	0.23	0.18	0.29	0.18	-0.23	0.18
Marriage	0.16	0.20	0.34	0.20	0.39	0.20*
Neighbors	-0.01	0.14	-0.08	0.14	-0.34	0.14*
Family life	0.48	0.22*	0.13	0.22	0.16	0.21
Leisure	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.26	0.18
Spiritual life	0.23	0.17	0.22	0.17	0.14	0.18
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Standard of living	0.73	0.15**	0.63	0.15**	0.24	0.15
Household income	-0.04	0.14	-0.07	0.14	0.05	0.15
Health	0.13	0.15	0.02	0.15	-0.20	0.16
Education	0.07	0.14	0.07	0.14	0.28	0.14
Job	0.21	0.13	-0.06	0.14	0.08	0.14
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	-0.25	0.11*	0.22	0.12	0.01	0.12
Internet	-0.11	0.08	0.01	0.08	-0.07	0.08
Email		na		na		na
Mobile phone	0.13	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.15	0.08
Pray	0.06	0.06	0.02	0.06	-0.05	0.07
Religion	0.14	0.32	0.26	0.32	0.14	0.33
Living internationally	0.03	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.02	0.07
English ability	-0.04	0.14	0.09	0.15	0.31	0.15*
Homeownership	-0.01	0.52	-0.61	0.56	-0.44	0.52
Number of family members	-0.01	0.06	0.03	0.07	-0.05	0.07
Relative standard of living	0.31	0.14*	0.26	0.14	0.42	0.14**
No right to vote	0.65	0.37	1.01	0.38**	0.51	0.35
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	0.28	0.19	0.05	0.19	0.47	0.19*
Married		na		na		na
Female×Married		na		na		na
Age	0.07	0.11	0.18	0.11	0.37	0.11**
Income	-0.02	0.05	-0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
Educational attainment	-0.04	0.17	-0.04	0.17	0.03	0.17
cut1	3.94	1.48	4.51	1.41	4.59	1.35
cut2	7.05	1.34	7.49	1.36	7.02	1.36
cut3	8.75	1.35	10.8	1.41	10.5	1.41
cut4	12.0	1.40				
<i>N</i>		551		549		546
Pseudo R2		0.1797		0.1247		0.1069

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.26 Ordered logit regression – Singapore – all

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Public safety	-0.11	0.15	0.001	0.15	0.05	0.15
Condition of environment	-0.03	0.15	-0.12	0.16	-0.19	0.16
Social welfare system	0.14	0.12	-0.06	0.12	0.05	0.13
Democratic system	0.24	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.18	0.13
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.01	0.11	0.15	0.12	0.18	0.12
Friendships	0.20	0.13	0.32	0.14*	-0.03	0.14
Marriage	na		na		na	
Neighbors	0.01	0.11	-0.05	0.11	-0.01	0.11
Family life	0.43	0.15**	0.22	0.15	0.25	0.15
Leisure	0.20	0.14	0.32	0.14*	0.09	0.14
Spiritual life	0.50	0.13**	0.33	0.14*	0.27	0.14*
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Standard of living	0.60	0.12**	0.59	0.12**	0.29	0.12*
Household income	-0.11	0.11	0.05	0.12	0.08	0.12
Health	0.37	0.12**	0.16	0.13	-0.07	0.13
Education	-0.06	0.11	-0.11	0.12	0.06	0.12
Job	0.09	0.10	-0.03	0.11	0.09	0.11
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	-0.15	0.09	0.21	0.10*	0.02	0.10
Internet	-0.05	0.06	0.06	0.06	-0.02	0.06
Email	na		na		Na	
Mobile phone	0.11	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.14	0.07*
Pray	0.01	0.05	-0.06	0.05	-0.09	0.05
Religion	0.10	0.25	0.20	0.25	0.20	0.25
Living internationally	0.003	0.05	0.01	0.05	0.03	0.05
English ability	-0.03	0.12	0.16	0.13	0.22	0.13
Homeownership	-0.54	0.43	-0.83	0.46	-0.44	0.44
Number of family members	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.05	-0.01	0.05
Relative standard of living	0.37	0.12**	0.29	0.12*	0.47	0.12**
No right to vote	0.38	0.28	0.62	0.29*	0.21	0.28
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	0.36	0.26	0.19	0.27	-0.08	0.27
Married	0.28	0.24	0.26	0.25	-0.57	0.25*
Female × married	-0.11	0.32	-0.18	0.33	0.48	0.33
Age	0.04	0.09	0.08	0.09	0.27	0.09**
Income	-0.01	0.04	-0.06	0.04	0.03	0.04
Educational attainment	0.04	0.13	0.08	0.14	0.11	0.14
cut1	4.30	1.12	5.25	1.08	4.38	1.06
cut2	7.13	1.03	7.88	1.07	6.80	1.07
cut3	8.93	1.05	11.3	1.11	10.2	1.11
cut4	12.0	1.09				
<i>N</i>	792		789		786	
Pseudo R2	0.1722		0.1465		0.1012	

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

“spiritual life” are positive and statistically significant in the regressions of “happiness” and “enjoyment” when using the married and general samples of respondents.

Among the three life spheres, the domains in the materialist life sphere are the most important and are positively related to overall quality of life in Thailand, followed by the post-materialist life sphere and the public life sphere in that order.

The “relative standard of living” is positively and statistically significant in all the regressions of “happiness,” “enjoyment,” and “achievement” when using both married observations and the general sample of all the observations of Thailand. In terms of demographics, seniors are not more likely to feel happier but are more likely to feel achievement instead. Income adds to feelings of achievement. Regionally, respondents in the central area that surrounds Bangkok have more happiness but do not have a greater sense of achievement; Bangkok itself does not positively impact feelings of achievement (Tables 7.27 and 7.28).

7.3.3.11 Vietnam

Standard of living, marriage, family life, friendships, and the number of utilities are key features of Vietnamese happiness. It may be called Vietnamese syncretism. “Standard of living” is significantly positively and related to “happiness” for married respondents in Vietnam. For the general sample of Vietnamese respondents, “standard of living” is positively associated with “happiness” and “enjoyment.” The “relative standard of living” is positively related to “achievement” for both samples of married and general respondents. “Marriage” is statistically and positively associated with “happiness” and “enjoyment.” The estimated coefficients on “family life” are positive and statistically significant in the regressions of “happiness” and “enjoyment” for only married respondents. For the Vietnamese sample, “family life” is positively associated with “happiness.” “Friendships” is an important determinant for “happiness” and “enjoyment” when using the general sample of all the observations of Vietnam. “Number of utilities” also affects positively the feelings of happiness based on both married observations and all the Vietnamese observations.

Among the three life spheres we factor analyzed from the 16 domains of satisfaction levels, the post-materialist life sphere is the most important and is positively related to overall quality of life in Vietnam, followed by the materialist life sphere and the public life sphere in that order.

In terms of demographics, married respondents are more likely to have feelings of happiness. Seniors and those who have higher family income tend to have a sense of achievement. Regionally, Da Nang in central Vietnam contributes to the happiness of respondents. The Vietnamese living in Hue in central Vietnam and Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi in northern Vietnam are less likely to have feelings of enjoyment and add little to the public’s happiness. People from Thai Nguyen in northern Vietnam, Da Nang in central Vietnam, and Can Tho in southern Vietnam are more likely to have feelings of achievement (Tables 7.29 and 7.30).

Table 7.27 Ordered logit regression – Thailand – only married

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness</i>		<i>Enjoyment</i>		<i>Achievement</i>	
	<i>Coefficient</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>Coefficient</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>Coefficient</i>	<i>SE</i>
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.15	0.11	0.09	0.11	-0.02	0.12
Friendships	0.12	0.14	0.22	0.14	0.26	0.14
Marriage	0.36	0.14*	0.26	0.13*	0.32	0.14*
Neighbors	-0.01	0.14	0.15	0.14	-0.16	0.15
Family life	0.09	0.16	0.11	0.16	0.05	0.16
Leisure	-0.17	0.13	-0.14	0.13	0.08	0.14
Spiritual life	0.57	0.15**	0.54	0.15**	0.28	0.15
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Standard of living	0.46	0.13**	0.25	0.12*	0.31	0.13*
Household income	0.15	0.10	0.24	0.10*	0.21	0.10*
Health	0.002	0.09	-0.03	0.09	-0.08	0.09
Education	0.05	0.10	0.01	0.10	0.11	0.10
Job	-0.01	0.11	0.22	0.10*	-0.08	0.11
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Public safety	-0.04	0.10	-0.02	0.10	-0.13	0.11
Condition of environment	0.03	0.11	-0.09	0.11	0.12	0.12
Social welfare system	0.12	0.09	-0.03	0.09	-0.01	0.10
Democratic system	0.12	0.09	-0.02	0.09	-0.10	0.09
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	-0.11	0.09	-0.01	0.09	0.15	0.10
Internet	-0.001	0.10	0.03	0.10	0.08	0.11
Email		na		na		na
Mobile phone	-0.12	0.09	0.03	0.09	0.14	0.10
Pray	-0.02	0.06	-0.05	0.06	-0.07	0.06
Religion		na		na		na
Living internationally	0.22	0.12	0.04	0.13	0.29	0.13*
English ability	-0.02	0.13	0.25	0.13	0.29	0.15*
Homeownership	0.27	0.21	0.36	0.21	0.32	0.22
Number of family members	-0.01	0.05	-0.04	0.05	0.07	0.05
Relative standard of living	0.49	0.18**	0.68	0.20**	0.85	0.19**
No right to vote	0.31	2.07	0.90	1.94	3.13	2.48
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	0.190	0.17	0.21	0.17	0.15	0.18
Married						
Female×Married						
Age	-0.19	0.08*	-0.09	0.08	0.37	0.09**
Income	0.00	0.03	0.008	0.03	0.08	0.03**
Educational attainment	0.25	0.14	-0.14	0.14	0.02	0.15
<i>Region (Base-South)</i>						
Bangkok	0.18	0.36	0.41	0.36	-1.41	0.39**
Central	0.63	0.30*	0.10	0.30	-0.84	0.33*
North	0.22	0.32	0.29	0.32	-0.11	0.35
North-east	0.08	0.30	-0.12	0.30	-0.60	0.32

(continued)

Table 7.27 (continued)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>City size</i>						
Urban	0.06	0.25	0.39	0.25	-0.37	0.27
cut1	2.51	1.21	7.27	1.05	6.90	1.09
cut2	5.10	1.01	10.38	1.09	8.54	1.11
cut3	7.38	1.02			13.05	1.19
cut4	10.92	1.07				
<i>N</i>	701		701		701	
Pseudo R2	0.1646		0.1664		0.1812	

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.28 Ordered logit regression – Thailand – all

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.21	0.09*	0.06	0.09	0.16	0.10
Friendships	0.07	0.11	0.24	0.11*	0.07	0.12
Marriage		na		na		na
Neighbors	-0.004	0.11	0.12	0.11	-0.04	0.12
Family life	0.06	0.11	0.16	0.11	0.03	0.11
Leisure	-0.10	0.11	0.00	0.11	0.16	0.12
Spiritual life	0.63	0.12**	0.43	0.12*	0.12	0.12
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Standard of living	0.49	0.11**	0.29	0.11**	0.41	0.11**
Household income	0.16	0.08	0.21	0.08*	0.08	0.09
Health	0.03	0.07	0.03	0.07	-0.04	0.08
Education	0.09	0.08	-0.05	0.08	0.01	0.09
Job	-0.01	0.09	0.24	0.08**	0.07	0.09
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Public safety	0.01	0.09	0.02	0.09	-0.07	0.09
Condition of environment	0.02	0.09	-0.06	0.09	0.14	0.10
Social welfare system	0.10	0.08	-0.02	0.08	0.09	0.08
Democratic system	0.15	0.07*	0.06	0.07	-0.12	0.08
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	-0.11	0.07	-0.02	0.07	0.05	0.08
Internet	-0.003	0.07	0.14	0.08	0.05	0.08
Email		na		na		na
Mobile phone	-0.07	0.07	-0.005	0.07	0.06	0.07
Pray	0.02	0.05	-0.03	0.05	0.02	0.05
Religion		na		na		na
Living internationally	0.04	0.09	0.02	0.10	0.16	0.10
English ability	0.01	0.11	0.17	0.11	0.33	0.12**
Homeownership	0.14	0.17	0.14	0.17	0.20	0.18
Number of family members	-0.02	0.04	-0.05	0.04	0.05	0.04

(continued)

Table 7.28 (continued)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
Relative standard of living	0.45	0.15**	0.59	0.16**	0.97	0.16**
No right to vote	0.72	2.04	0.94	1.90	3.01	2.39
Female	0.05	0.26	0.42	0.26	0.40	0.27
Married	0.31	0.23	0.30	0.23	0.63	0.24**
Female × married	0.09	0.31	−0.23	0.31	−0.38	0.32
Age	−0.16	0.07*	−0.12	0.07	0.32	0.07**
Income	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.02*
Educational attainment	0.15	0.12	−0.08	0.11	0.10	0.13
<i>Region (base: south)</i>						
Bangkok	−0.22	0.30	0.43	0.30	−1.08	0.33**
Central	0.37	0.25	0.09	0.25	−0.86	0.27**
North	0.09	0.27	0.41	0.28	−0.10	0.30
North-east	−0.10	0.25	0.04	0.24	−0.50	0.26
<i>City size</i>						
Urban	0.01	0.21	0.45	0.21*	−0.02	0.22
cut1	1.95	0.96	3.13	0.94	6.98	0.86
cut2	4.64	0.79	6.88	0.82	8.67	0.87
cut3	6.83	0.80	9.94	0.86	13.04	0.94
cut4	10.35	0.85				
<i>N</i>	971		971		971	
Pseudo R2	0.1633		0.1568		0.1687	

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.29 Ordered logit regression – Vietnam – only married

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Friendships	−0.06	0.12	0.03	0.12	0.14	0.11
Marriage	0.83	0.12**	0.38	0.12**	0.05	0.12
Education	0.07	0.12	0.29	0.13*	0.05	0.12
Family life	0.24	0.13	0.36	0.14*	−0.01	0.13
Leisure	0.17	0.14	0.26	0.15	−0.02	0.13
Spiritual life	0.04	0.13	0.07	0.15	0.05	0.12
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	−0.005	0.08	0.02	0.09	0.04	0.08
Standard of living	0.36	0.15*	0.37	0.16*	0.09	0.14
Household income	0.10	0.15	−0.18	0.16	0.13	0.14
Health	0.19	0.10	−0.02	0.11	−0.12	0.10
Job	0.02	0.11	0.01	0.12	0.26	0.10

(continued)

Table 7.29 (continued)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Neighbors	-0.01	0.12	-0.11	0.13	-0.09	0.12
Public safety	-0.08	0.11	0.13	0.12	0.10	0.10
Condition of environment	-0.09	0.11	-0.21	0.12	-0.09	0.10
Social welfare system	0.05	0.13	0.16	0.14	-0.08	0.13
Democratic system		na		na		na
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	0.26	0.10**	0.18	0.10	-0.01	0.09
Internet	-0.18	0.16	-0.23	0.17	0.10	0.15
Email	0.19	0.20	0.15	0.21	-0.17	0.18
Mobile phone	0.02	0.07	0.10	0.07	0.18	0.06**
Pray	-0.03	0.10	-0.18	0.11	-0.05	0.10
Religion	0.07	0.22	-0.31	0.24	0.43	0.22
Living internationally	-0.11	0.12	0.28	0.13*	-0.01	0.11
English ability	0.02	0.15	0.10	0.16	-0.09	0.15
Homeownership	-0.31	0.40	-0.92	0.44*	-0.23	0.40
Number of family members	-0.07	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.11	0.05
Relative standard of living	-0.06	0.17	0.00	0.18	0.58	0.17**
No right to vote		na		na		na
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	-0.09	0.19	0.13	0.21	0.04	0.19
Married		na		na		na
Female × married		na		na		na
Age	-0.10	0.08	-0.08	0.09	0.06	0.08
Income	-0.01	0.04	-0.005	0.04	0.02	0.04
Educational attainment	-0.09	0.14	0.07	0.15	0.0002	0.14
<i>City (Base-My Tho)</i>						
Ha Noi	0.03	0.34	-1.14	0.39**	0.76	0.35
Thai Nguyen	-0.66	0.35	-0.68	0.38	1.18	0.35**
Da Nang	0.83	0.36*	-0.32	0.39	1.21	0.35**
Hue	0.45	0.37	-0.91	0.41*	0.49	0.37
HCMC	0.52	0.38	-1.12	0.42**	0.45	0.39
Vung Tau	0.81	0.36*	-0.36	0.40	-0.03	0.35
Can Tho	0.55	0.36	-0.27	0.41	0.87	0.36*
cut1	1.50	1.07	-0.52	1.16	0.24	1.00
cut2	6.12	1.00	1.69	1.05	3.80	0.96
cut3	7.67	1.02	5.33	1.06	6.74	0.99
<i>N</i>		571		570		570
Pseudo R2		0.1531		0.1535		0.0938

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.30 Ordered logit regression – Vietnam – all

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Friendships	0.17	0.08*	0.24	0.09*	0.13	0.09
Marriage		na		na		na
Education	0.14	0.09	0.25	0.10*	-0.03	0.09
Family life	0.46	0.10*	0.36	0.11**	-0.09	0.10
Leisure	0.03	0.10	0.13	0.12	0.15	0.11
Spiritual life	0.04	0.10	0.15	0.11	0.11	0.10
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.09	0.07	0.12	0.07	0.06	0.07
Standard of living	0.33	0.11**	0.25	0.12	0.15	0.12
Household income	0.09	0.11	0.01	0.13	0.17	0.12
Health	0.15	0.08	-0.02	0.09	-0.09	0.08
Job	0.01	0.08	0.05	0.09	0.22	0.09*
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Neighbors	0.02	0.09	-0.10	0.10	-0.05	0.10
Public safety	-0.08	0.09	0.11	0.09	0.02	0.09
Condition of environment	-0.03	0.09	-0.18	0.09	-0.08	0.09
Social welfare system	-0.10	0.10	0.07	0.11	0.01	0.10
Democratic system		na		na		na
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	0.22	0.08**	0.09	0.09	-0.06	0.08
Internet	-0.18	0.11	-0.09	0.11	-0.11	0.11
Email	0.16	0.12	0.004	0.13	0.07	0.12
Mobile phone	0.01	0.05	0.09	0.05	0.19	0.05**
Pray	0.03	0.08	-0.25	0.09**	0.01	0.08
Religion	0.13	0.17	-0.07	0.18	0.18	0.17
Living internationally	0.00	0.09	0.24	0.10*	-0.03	0.09
English ability	0.04	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.04	0.12
Homeownership	-0.17	0.33	-1.00	0.37*	-0.13	0.34
Number of family members	-0.03	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.12	0.04**
Relative standard of living	0.08	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.47	0.13**
No right to vote		na		na		na
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	-0.19	0.23	0.20	0.25	0.08	0.24
Married	0.73	0.22**	0.25	0.24	0.52	0.22
Female × married	0.13	0.29	-0.003	0.32	-0.05	0.30
Age	-0.06	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.09	0.07*
Income	0.04	0.03	0.005	0.03	0.03	0.03*
Educational attainment	-0.06	0.11	-0.11	0.12	-0.06	0.12
<i>City (Base-My Tho)</i>						
Ha Noi	-0.16	0.27	-0.97	0.30**	0.56	0.28*
Thai Nguyen	-0.57	0.28*	-0.46	0.30	0.79	0.29**
Da Nang	0.62	0.28*	0.11	0.30	0.87	0.28**
Hue	0.19	0.28	-1.10	0.30**	0.05	0.28

(continued)

Table 7.30 (continued)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
HCMC	0.11	0.29	-0.66	0.31	0.34	0.30
Vung Tau	0.50	0.29	-0.19	0.32	-0.28	0.29
Can Tho	0.01	0.28	-0.13	0.31	0.86	0.29**
cut1	1.65	0.79	-0.81	0.92	0.33	0.83
cut2	5.59	0.77	1.42	0.83	4.34	0.78
cut3	7.04	0.79	4.95	0.84	7.37	0.81
<i>N</i>	875		875		875	
Pseudo R2	0.1176		0.1376		0.0969	

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

7.3.4 *Country-by-Country Analysis Through Regression Equations: South Asia*

7.3.4.1 Summary of South Asia

Housing and standard of living are key features of South Asians. Friendships and family life are important in some countries. Physical conditions are closely connected to social relationships at home, in the neighborhood, and in the workplace. Social relationships used to be determined strictly by caste and language, but starting in big urban centers, caste and language have ceased to be the sole dominant determinants.

7.3.4.2 Bangladesh

Standard of living, marriage, family life, and friendships stand out as contributing to happiness. The estimated coefficients on “standard of living,” “marriage,” and “friendships” are positive and statistically significant when using the sample of married observations. The estimated coefficients on “family life” are positive and statistically significant when using both married observations and the general sample of all the observations of Bangladesh. The estimated coefficient on “housing” is positive and statistically significant when using all the observations of Bangladesh. It follows that the more satisfied people are with these life domains, the higher the probability that they feel more happiness. The salience of primary and secondary group relationships and the relative non-salience of physical conditions appear to point to the combination of a stagnant economy and the crucial importance of family, neighborhood, and workplace support and grassroots level organizations like people-based banks. Among the three life spheres, the domains grouped into the post-materialist life sphere are the most important and positively related to overall quality of life in Bangladesh, followed by the materialist life sphere and the public life sphere.

In terms of demographics, married females are more likely to have feelings of happiness, compared to single females who do not. The estimated coefficient on “female \times married” is positive and statistically significant based on the sample of all the respondents of Bangladesh, whereas the estimated coefficient on “female” is negative and statistically significant in regression. Seniors are not rewarded. The estimated coefficients on “age” in the two regressions are both negative and statistically significant.

Regionally, Dhaka contributes more to the happiness of its residents. Medium-sized cities, like Barisal, also add to levels of happiness. Some local remote cities, like Rajshahi and Khulna, negatively impact happiness. The size of the cities also matters. Metropolitan areas enhance levels of happiness compared to other municipal centers and rural areas (Table 7.31).

7.3.4.3 Bhutan

Housing, education, spiritual life, and prayer stand out in featuring Bhutan’s happiness. Table 7.32 shows that the estimated coefficients on these variables are positive and statistically significant in both regressions of happiness when using only married respondents and all the Bhutanese respondents. The more satisfied people are with the life domains of housing, education, and spiritual life, the more often people pray, the higher the probability that people feel happiness. Befitting a country whose king has invented the notion of gross national happiness, Bhutanese add happiness in praying, educating oneself, and immersing oneself in spiritual life. In terms of demographics, education may not add happiness, though.

Among the three life spheres, the materialist life sphere is the most important determinant for overall quality of life in Bhutan, followed by the post-materialist life sphere and the public life sphere in that order.

7.3.4.4 India

Housing, friendships, household income, family life, and public safety are hallmarks of South Asian features of happiness. India is South Asia’s representative par excellence. The estimated coefficients on “housing” are positive and statistically significant for both married observations and all the observations of India. “Friendships” is positively related to “happiness” and “achievement” when people are married. The estimated coefficients on “household income” are positive and statistically significant in all the regressions of “happiness,” “enjoyment,” and “achievement” when using both married observations and the general sample of all the observations of India.

Among the three life spheres, the materialist life sphere is the most important and positively related to overall quality of life, followed by the post-materialist life sphere and then the public life sphere. The estimated coefficients on “family life” are positive and statistically significant in all the regressions of “happiness,” “enjoyment,” and

Table 7.31 Ordered logit regression – Bangladesh

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness – only married</i>		<i>Happiness – all</i>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>				
<i>Materialist sphere</i>				
Housing	0.24	0.15	0.34	0.15*
Friendships	0.34	0.17*	0.29	0.16
Standard of living	0.45	0.19*	0.31	0.17
Household income	0.06	0.18	0.21	0.17
Health	0.07	0.16	0.07	0.15
Education	0.04	0.17	–0.02	0.15
Job	0.11	0.14	0.11	0.12
<i>Public sphere</i>				
Neighbors	–0.04	0.20	–0.21	0.17
Public safety	–0.10	0.16	0.01	0.14
Condition of environment	0.19	0.18	0.14	0.16
Social welfare system	–0.04	0.19	0.00	0.17
Democratic system	–0.07	0.15	0.00	0.14
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>				
Marriage	0.59	0.26*		na
Family life	0.69	0.23**	0.76	0.20**
Leisure	–0.12	0.19	–0.04	0.16
Spiritual life	–0.18	0.16	–0.25	0.15
<i>Lifestyles</i>				
Number of utilities	0.20	0.12	0.14	0.11
Internet	–0.08	0.31	0.04	0.25
Email		na		na
Mobile phone		na		na
Pray	0.44	0.19*	0.52	0.17**
Religion		na		na
Living internationally	–0.26	0.19	–0.17	0.17
English ability	0.20	0.22	0.20	0.19
Homeownership	0.17	0.31	0.02	0.27
Number of family members	–0.01	0.07	–0.05	0.06
Relative standard of living	0.35	0.23	0.44	0.20*
No right to vote	0.61	0.85	0.37	0.60
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>				
Female	0.68	0.34*	–1.75	0.65*
Married		na	0.19	0.44
Female × married		na	2.37	0.72**
Age	–0.34	0.16*	–0.33	0.15*
Income	–0.02	0.04	0.02	0.04
Educational attainment	0.12	0.23	0.13	0.21
<i>Region (Base-Dhaka)</i>				
Chittagong	0.12	0.45	–0.09	0.39
Rajshahi	–0.74	0.48	–0.99	0.44*
Barisal	1.04	0.50*	0.84	0.46
Khulna	–0.88	0.48	–0.91	0.42*
Sylhet	0.38	0.70	0.35	0.60

(continued)

Table 7.31 (continued)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness – only married</i>		<i>Happiness – all</i>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>City size (Base-Metro)</i>				
Other Municipal Centers	−0.80	0.38*	−0.82	0.34*
Non-Municipal Centers	−0.47	0.40	−0.41	0.37
Rural	−1.26	0.59*	−1.09	0.51*
cut1	6.79	1.72	5.02	1.41
cut2	8.66	1.72	6.82	1.39
cut3	10.1	1.75	8.41	1.41
cut4	14.4	1.86	12.8	1.51
<i>N</i>		312		374
Pseudo R2		0.2024		0.2112

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.32 Ordered logit regression – Bhutan

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness – only married</i>		<i>Happiness – all</i>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>				
<i>Public sphere</i>				
Neighbors	−0.27	0.19	−0.17	0.17
Public safety	0.004	0.19	0.08	0.16
Condition of environment	−0.12	0.19	0.02	0.16
Social welfare system	0.46	0.24	0.24	0.21
Democratic system	−0.01	0.17	0.07	0.15
Spiritual life	0.43	0.20*	0.54	0.16**
<i>Materialist sphere</i>				
Housing	0.49	0.16**	0.38	0.14*
Standard of living	−0.23	0.26	0.07	0.21
Household income	0.22	0.22	0.16	0.19
Health	0.15	0.20	0.21	0.16
Education	0.48	0.17**	0.36	0.14*
Job	0.21	0.19	0.24	0.16
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>				
Friendships	0.30	0.23	0.29	0.20
Marriage	0.41	0.24	na	
Family life	0.14	0.23	0.17	0.19
Leisure	−0.29	0.19	−0.32	0.17
<i>Lifestyles</i>				
Number of utilities	0.04	0.15	0.11	0.13
Internet	0.14	0.10	0.13	0.09
Email		na		na
Mobile phone		na		na
Pray	0.20	0.09*	0.16	0.08*
Religion		na		na
Living internationally	−0.04	0.10	−0.01	0.09

(continued)

Table 7.32 (continued)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness – only married</i>		<i>Happiness – all</i>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
English ability	-0.28	0.19	-0.20	0.17
Homeownership	-0.41	0.31	-0.34	0.28
Number of family members	-0.02	0.06	-0.03	0.05
Relative standard of living	0.26	0.21	0.15	0.19
No right to vote		na		na
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>				
Female	0.01	0.26	-0.51	0.49
Married		na	-0.27	0.39
Female × married		na	0.50	0.55
Age	0.01	0.13	-0.003	0.11
Income	0.04	0.06	0.03	0.05
Educational attainment	-0.50	0.21*	-0.56	0.19**
cut1	6.32	1.88	2.98	1.79
cut2	7.95	1.89	5.93	1.55
cut3	11.1	1.96	7.53	1.56
cut4			10.5	1.61
<i>N</i>		315		397
Pseudo R2		0.1617		0.1424

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

“achievement” for all the observations of India. “Public safety” is positively related to “happiness” for all the respondents, and the “condition of the environment” is positively related to “enjoyment” and “achievement.” But the “democratic system” is statistically significant and negatively related to “achievement.”

In terms of demographics, female are happy once married. Seniors are not rewarded. Household income and educational attainment matter in terms of enjoyment levels. Regionally, Delhi and Kolkata when compared to Mumbai add the least to the quality of life measured by feelings of happiness, enjoyment, and accomplishment. Local and yet large cities, like Bangalore, add less to feelings of enjoyment and achievement (Tables 7.33 and 7.34).

7.3.4.5 The Maldives

A small island nation of Indian, Sri Lankan, and Arab migrants, the Maldives has to sustain itself through education, thus attaining a good standard of living. The satisfaction with the life domain of education is statistically significant and relates positively to feelings of happiness among married respondents, whereas standard of living is positively related among all the Maldivian respondents. In terms of demographics, females are happy once married. Seniors are rewarded. Educational attainment leads to happiness.

Among the three life spheres, the public life sphere appears the most important and positively related to overall quality of life, followed by the materialist life sphere and the post-materialist life sphere in that order (Table 7.35).

Table 7.33 Ordered logit regression – India – only married

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.53	0.15**	0.03	0.15	0.17	0.16
Friendships	0.30	0.15*	-0.04	0.14	0.38	0.15*
Marriage	-0.10	0.18	-0.19	0.18	-0.34	0.19
Standard of living	0.09	0.17	0.11	0.17	0.06	0.17
Household income	0.31	0.14*	0.40	0.13**	0.34	0.14**
Health	-0.19	0.15	-0.10	0.15	-0.16	0.15
Education	0.11	0.14	0.01	0.14	-0.05	0.14
Job	0.22	0.13	0.21	0.13	0.19	0.13
Neighbors	-0.31	0.15*	-0.15	0.15	-0.01	0.15
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Public safety	0.22	0.13	0.16	0.12	-0.01	0.12
Condition of environment	-0.05	0.11	0.21	0.11	0.10	0.11
Social welfare system	-0.08	0.13	-0.27	0.13	0.06	0.13
Democratic system	0.15	0.12	0.05	0.12	-0.18	0.12
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Family life	0.18	0.15	0.25	0.15	0.21	0.15
Leisure	0.21	0.15	0.20	0.15	0.15	0.15
Spiritual life	0.10	0.14	0.004	0.14	0.005	0.14
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	-0.05	0.13	-0.04	0.13	0.30	0.13*
Internet	0.01	0.11	-0.04	0.10	0.02	0.10
Email	na		na		na	
Mobile phone	0.08	0.07	-0.001	0.07	0.004	0.07
Pray	0.08	0.12	0.11	0.13	0.10	0.13
Religion	na		na		na	
Living internationally	0.11	0.13	0.09	0.12	0.11	0.12
English ability	0.03	0.14	-0.38	0.14*	-0.33	0.14**
Homeownership	0.08	0.22	0.32	0.22	0.27	0.22
Number of family members	0.06	0.06	-0.04	0.06	-0.05	0.06
Relative standard of living	0.40	0.14**	0.35	0.13*	0.30	0.13*
No right to vote	na		na		na	
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	0.54	0.21*	0.002	0.21	0.25	0.21
Married	na		na		na	
Female×Married	na		na		na	
Age	-0.19	0.09*	-0.21	0.09*	-0.14	0.09
Income	0.02	0.08	0.15	0.08	0.07	0.07
Educational attainment	0.09	0.20	0.57	0.19**	0.37	0.19
<i>City (Base-Mumbai)</i>						
Delhi	-1.46	0.35**	-0.86	0.33*	-0.84	0.34**
Chennai	-0.17	0.61	0.89	0.60	-0.11	0.53
Kolkata	-1.26	0.42**	-1.61	0.42**	-1.46	0.44**
Bangalore	-0.38	0.37	-2.67	0.39**	-1.19	0.36**

(continued)

Table 7.33 (continued)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
Hyderabad	-0.49	0.38	-0.43	0.38	-0.41	0.39
Ahmedabad	0.20	0.40	-0.40	0.38	-0.42	0.40
cut1	1.80	1.49	-0.35	1.35	2.24	1.35
cut2	4.04	1.36	2.47	1.32	4.18	1.34
cut3	6.67	1.37	5.41	1.34	7.49	1.37
cut4	8.96	1.39				
N	497		497		495	
Pseudo R2	0.2076		0.1883		0.1461	

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.34 Ordered logit regression – India – all

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>						
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.39	0.12**	0.05	0.12	0.20	0.13
Friendships	0.21	0.12	-0.16	0.13	0.23	0.12
Marriage		na		na		na
Standard of living	0.17	0.14	0.05	0.14	-0.04	0.14
Household income	0.32	0.12**	0.32	0.12*	0.37	0.12**
Health	-0.14	0.13	-0.11	0.13	-0.17	0.13
Education	0.01	0.12	0.01	0.12	-0.13	0.12
Job	0.14	0.11	0.13	0.11	0.21	0.11
Neighbors	-0.11	0.12	-0.01	0.12	0.04	0.12
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Public safety	0.24	0.10*	0.04	0.10	-0.10	0.10
Condition of environment	-0.04	0.10	0.22	0.09*	0.23	0.09*
Social welfare system	-0.16	0.11	-0.20	0.11	0.10	0.11
Democratic system	0.03	0.10	0.03	0.10	-0.27	0.11*
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Family life	0.31	0.12*	0.28	0.13*	0.29	0.13*
Leisure	0.13	0.13	0.23	0.13	0.19	0.13
Spiritual life	0.14	0.12	0.03	0.12	0.02	0.13
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	0.04	0.11	0.15	0.11	0.41	0.11**
Internet	-0.01	0.08	0.02	0.08	-0.03	0.08
Email		na		na		na
Mobile phone	0.12	0.07	0.03	0.06	0.01	0.06
Pray	0.08	0.10	0.14	0.11	0.11	0.11
Religion		na		na		na
Living internationally	0.15	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.12	0.10
English ability	0.02	0.12	-0.34	0.12**	-0.28	0.12*
Homeownership	0.25	0.19	0.27	0.18	0.37	0.18*

(continued)

Table 7.34 (continued)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
Number of family members	-0.01	0.05	-0.06	0.05	-0.10	0.05*
Relative standard of living	0.30	0.11**	0.49	0.11**	0.43	0.11**
No right to vote	na		na		na	
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	0.11	0.39	-0.47	0.38	-0.05	0.38
Married	0.14	0.28	-0.20	0.28	0.01	0.28
Female × married	0.36	0.43	0.51	0.42	0.28	0.43
Age	-0.17	0.08*	-0.21	0.08*	-0.13	0.08
Income	0.04	0.06	0.15	0.06*	0.07	0.06
Educational attainment	0.08	0.17	0.39	0.17*	0.26	0.17
<i>City (Base-Mumbai)</i>						
Delhi	-1.46	0.30**	-0.70	0.29*	-0.95	0.29**
Chennai	-0.22	0.49	0.29	0.48	-0.36	0.44
Kolkata	-1.32	0.36**	-1.32	0.36**	-1.63	0.39**
Bangalore	-0.38	0.31	-2.48	0.32**	-1.40	0.31**
Hyderabad	-0.43	0.33	-0.60	0.33	-0.40	0.33
Ahmedabad	0.08	0.35	-0.22	0.34	-0.74	0.36*
cut1	2.06	1.20	1.20	1.10	3.91	1.08
cut2	4.19	1.09	4.09	1.08	6.01	1.09
cut3	6.90	1.09	6.93	1.10	9.31	1.13
cut4	9.07	1.12				
<i>N</i>	652		651		650	
Pseudo R2	0.1976		0.1814		0.1680	

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.35 Ordered logit regression – Maldives

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness – only married		Happiness – all	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
Specific life domains				
<i>Public sphere</i>				
Standard of living	0.41	0.24	0.43	0.19*
Household income	-0.09	0.25	-0.17	0.21
Health	0.12	0.22	0.28	0.18
Education	0.53	0.22*	0.32	0.18
Job	-0.02	0.22	-0.10	0.18
Neighbors	-0.001	0.22	-0.09	0.18
Public safety	0.07	0.15	0.06	0.13
Condition of environment	0.12	0.14	0.14	0.12
Social welfare system	0.08	0.15	0.14	0.11
Democratic system	0.27	0.16	0.11	0.13
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>				
Family life	-0.11	0.27	-0.14	0.22
Leisure	0.26	0.22	0.24	0.19
Spiritual life	-0.40	0.22	-0.32	0.19

(continued)

Table 7.35 (continued)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness – only married</i>		<i>Happiness – all</i>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Materialist sphere</i>				
Housing	−0.22	0.16	−0.15	0.13
Friendships	−0.02	0.27	0.52	0.18**
Marriage	0.38	0.24		na
<i>Lifestyles</i>				
Number of utilities	0.17	0.15	0.03	0.11
Internet	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.07
Email		na		na
Mobile phone		na		na
Pray	0.09	0.25	0.08	0.20
Religion		na		na
Living internationally	−0.09	0.08	0.01	0.07
English ability	−0.07	0.17	−0.11	0.14
Homeownership	0.14	0.25	0.03	0.21
Number of family members	0.03	0.03	0.004	0.02
Relative standard of living	0.96	0.20*	0.84	0.16**
No right to vote		na		na
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>				
Female	0.60	0.27*	−0.18	0.40
Married		na	−0.23	0.30
Female×Married		na	0.67	0.45
Age	0.31	0.11**	0.17	0.09
Income	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.05
Educational attainment	0.28	0.17	0.30	0.14*
cut1	8.11	2.13	5.56	1.61
cut2	9.11	2.11	6.62	1.60
cut3	9.99	2.12	7.60	1.61
cut4	12.9	2.18	10.4	1.65
<i>N</i>		322		460
Pseudo R2		0.1443		0.1225

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

7.3.4.6 Nepal

A landlocked nation of sizable migrants from the south, Nepalese achieve happiness when minimum conditions are satisfied: housing and public safety. The estimated coefficient on “housing” is positive and statistically significant among married respondents, and the estimated coefficients on “public safety” are positive and statistically significant among both married respondents and all the respondents of Nepal.

The satisfaction with family life and the number of family members affects negatively the feelings of happiness. The estimated coefficients on “family life” and “number of family members” are negative and statistically significant among married respondents. The estimated coefficient on the “number of family members” is negative and statistically significant among all the Nepalese respondents.

In terms of demographics, the estimated coefficients on “female” are positive and statistically significant in the both regressions. It would follow that, when the respondents are female, they are more likely to feel happier. Moreover, educational attainment adds immense happiness.

Finally, we note that, among the three life spheres, the public life sphere is the most important and is positively related to overall quality of life in Nepal, followed by the materialist life sphere and the post-materialist life sphere in that order (Table 7.36).

7.3.4.7 Pakistan

Housing, standard of living, and leisure are features that enhance happiness along with health and prayer. The estimated coefficients on “housing,” “standard of living,” and “leisure” are positive and statistically significant in all the regressions for both married and general samples of respondents. “Health,” “pray,” and “relative standard of living” are also positively related to feelings of happiness. Where nutrition and hygiene are not well provided nationwide, prayer is an important way of adding happiness along with efforts to stay healthy. Negatively related to feelings of happiness are “education” and “homeownership.”

Among the three life spheres, we argue that the materialist life sphere is the most important and positively related to overall quality of life, followed by the public life sphere and the post-materialist life sphere in that order. The “democratic system” in the public life sphere is more strongly related to the dependent variable than “leisure” in the post-materialist life sphere (Table 7.37).

7.3.4.8 Sri Lanka

An island country with sizable immigrants from nearby areas, Sri Lanka adds happiness when the satisfaction with housing, household income, job, and family life improves. The estimated coefficients on these life domains are positive and statistically significant in either or both of the regressions on happiness. In terms of demographics, seniors are not rewarded. Regionally, respondents in southern and north central areas express higher levels of happiness compared to the western area, where Colombo is located and which has problems of big urban centers and yet was secure from the civil war against the Tamils in the north (civil war ended May 2009).

Among the three life spheres, the materialist life sphere is the most important determinant for overall quality of life in Sri Lanka, followed by the post-materialist life sphere and the public life sphere in that order (Table 7.38).

Table 7.36 Ordered logit regression – Nepal

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness – only married</i>		<i>Happiness – all</i>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>				
<i>Materialist sphere</i>				
Housing	0.44	0.19*	0.28	0.15
Standard of living	0.03	0.22	0.06	0.18
Household income	0.24	0.19	0.25	0.15
Health	0.17	0.17	0.23	0.14
Education	0.04	0.15	0.02	0.12
Job	0.14	0.18	0.12	0.13
Leisure	0.10	0.14	0.13	0.11
Spiritual life	-0.36	0.25	-0.29	0.20
<i>Public sphere</i>				
Public safety	0.37	0.15*	0.38	0.12**
Condition of environment	0.27	0.15	0.28	0.11*
Social welfare system	-0.05	0.17	-0.13	0.13
Democratic system	0.08	0.15	0.10	0.11
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>				
Friendships	0.02	0.25	0.04	0.19
Marriage	-0.24	0.25	na	
Neighbors	0.24	0.24	0.00	0.18
Family life	-0.48	0.23*	-0.09	0.18
<i>Lifestyles</i>				
Number of utilities	0.25	0.13	0.25	0.11*
Internet	0.0004	0.17	0.16	0.13
Email		na		na
Mobile phone		na		na
Pray	-0.19	0.10	-0.04	0.09
Religion	na		2.66	2.02
Living internationally	-0.16	0.14	-0.17	0.11
English ability	-0.41	0.19*	-0.27	0.16
Homeownership	0.47	0.29	0.46	0.23*
Number of family members	-0.17	0.05**	-0.12	0.04**
Relative standard of living	0.38	0.19*	0.24	0.17
No right to vote		na		na
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>				
Female	0.86	0.28**	1.45	0.46**
Married		na	0.17	0.36
Female×Married		na	-0.71	0.52
Age	-0.08	0.13	-0.17	0.11
Income	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.04
Educational attainment	0.55	0.19**	0.43	0.17*
cut1	0.61	1.58	5.65	2.38
cut2	1.99	1.57	7.06	2.39
cut3	3.04	1.58	8.16	2.40
cut4	7.14	1.62	11.96	2.44
<i>N</i>		330		433
Pseudo R2		0.1878		0.1662

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.37 Ordered logit regression – Pakistan

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness – only married</i>		<i>Happiness – all</i>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>				
<i>Public sphere</i>				
Public safety	0.21	0.13	0.15	0.10
Condition of environment	0.08	0.14	–0.07	0.11
Social welfare system	–0.27	0.14	–0.19	0.12
Democratic system	0.30	0.12*	0.37	0.10**
<i>Materialist sphere</i>				
Housing	0.25	0.13*	0.30	0.11**
Friendships	0.16	0.16	0.23	0.13
Standard of living	0.44	0.14**	0.27	0.12*
Household income	–0.11	0.13	–0.02	0.11
Health	0.37	0.13**	0.25	0.11*
Education	–0.27	0.12*	–0.21	0.10*
Job	–0.10	0.12	–0.08	0.10
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>				
Marriage	0.16	0.16		na
Neighbors	–0.18	0.12	–0.03	0.10
Family life	0.07	0.13	0.07	0.11
Leisure	0.28	0.13*	0.29	0.11**
Spiritual life	–0.15	0.13	–0.12	0.12
<i>Lifestyles</i>				
Number of utilities	0.16	0.09	0.12	0.08
Internet	0.003	0.10	–0.02	0.09
Email		na		na
Mobile phone		na		na
Pray	0.34	0.11**	0.32	0.09**
Religion		na		na
Living internationally	–0.11	0.10	–0.11	0.09
English ability	–0.11	0.16	–0.02	0.13
Homeownership	–0.75	0.28**	–0.87	0.25**
Number of family members	0.04	0.03	0.05	0.02*
Relative standard of living	0.46	0.12**	0.62	0.10**
No right to vote	1.20	0.54*	0.69	0.38
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>				
Female	–0.13	0.22	0.37	0.38
Married		na	–0.10	0.25
Female × married		na	–0.34	0.41
Age	–0.05	0.09	–0.05	0.08
Income	–0.06	0.07	–0.06	0.06
Educational attainment	0.24	0.22	0.19	0.19
<i>Region (Base-Punjab)</i>				
Sindh	0.08	0.29	0.27	0.25
NWFP	–0.49	0.28	–0.21	0.24
Balochistan	–0.06	0.32	–0.09	0.27

(continued)

Table 7.37 (continued)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<u>Happiness – only married</u>		<u>Happiness – all</u>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Urban/Rural (Base-Result)</i>				
Urban	0.26	0.25	0.19	0.22
cut1	3.79	0.99	3.97	0.83
Cut2	5.60	1.00	5.73	0.83
Cut3	7.55	1.02	7.58	0.86
Cut4	10.2	1.07	10.2	0.89
N	481		630	
Pseudo R2	0.1394		0.1404	

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.38 Ordered logit regression – Sri Lanka

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<u>Happiness – only married</u>		<u>Happiness – all</u>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
Specific life domains				
<i>Public sphere</i>				
Public safety	-0.06	0.18	-0.01	0.16
Condition of environment	-0.05	0.19	0.10	0.18
Social welfare system	0.08	0.20	-0.07	0.17
Democratic system	0.19	0.15	0.27	0.14
Leisure	0.19	0.16	0.17	0.14
<i>Materialist sphere</i>				
Housing	0.56	0.19**	0.62	0.17**
Friendships	0.21	0.20	0.30	0.18
Standard of living	-0.15	0.20	-0.06	0.19
Household income	0.60	0.22*	0.28	0.19
Health	0.22	0.20	0.29	0.18
Education	-0.17	0.22	-0.14	0.19
Job	0.39	0.18*	0.38	0.16*
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>				
Marriage	0.34	0.30		na
Neighbors	-0.20	0.20	-0.28	0.18
Family life	0.50	0.23	0.37	0.18*
Spiritual life	-0.12	0.21	-0.01	0.18
<i>Lifestyles</i>				
Number of utilities	0.31	0.14*	0.30	0.12*
Internet	0.43	0.19*	0.46	0.15**
Email		na		na
Mobile phone		na		na
Pray	0.06	0.09	0.11	0.08
Religion		na		na
Living internationally	0.22	0.16	0.14	0.14
English ability	-0.05	0.18	-0.10	0.16
Homeownership	-0.55	0.38	-0.67	0.33*
Number of family members	-0.21	0.07**	-0.18	0.06**

(continued)

Table 7.38 (continued)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness – only married</i>		<i>Happiness – all</i>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
Relative standard of living	0.61	0.18**	0.58	0.16**
No right to vote		na	–0.95	1.54
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>				
Female	0.18	0.25	0.76	0.49
Married		na	0.40	0.38
Female × Married		na	–0.70	0.55
Age	–0.16	0.10	–0.21	0.10*
Income	–0.06	0.06	0.01	0.05
Educational attainment	–0.31	0.27	–0.21	0.24
<i>Region (Base-Western)</i>				
Central	0.18	0.47	–0.05	0.42
Southern	1.02	0.47*	0.68	0.39
Northern	0.12	0.53	0.37	0.47
Eastern	0.65	0.59	0.67	0.52
North Western	0.76	0.64	0.91	0.59
North Central	2.80	1.19*	1.79	0.96
Uva	0.03	0.99	–0.48	0.81
Sabaragamuwa	–1.69	0.91	–1.08	0.76
cut1	6.06	1.70	4.89	1.36
Cut2	8.09	1.64	7.18	1.27
Cut3	9.66	1.64	8.73	1.27
Cut4	13.78	1.75	12.78	1.37
<i>N</i>	380		480	
Pseudo R2	0.2127		0.208	

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

7.3.5 Country-by-Country Analysis Through Regression Equations: Central Asia

7.3.5.1 Summary of Central Asia

Central Asia is not one region. It consists of different countries. Kazakhstan and Mongolia are close to Russia, not only geographically but also in terms of social system. Afghanistan is an outlier. Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan are narrowly Central Asian. Key feature in Central Asia is (relative) standard of living. Housing matters in some countries. Physical conditions and social relationships are closely tied to each other and that the public sphere conditions come next. In Tajikistan, happiness is determined more by public sphere conditions, such as condition of the environment and the democratic system. Mongolia follows suit with Tajikistan, although the importance of public sphere conditions is second only to primordial primary group conditions, such as standard of living, housing, and health.

7.3.5.2 Afghanistan

Happiness does not easily come in Afghanistan. The salient condition to increasing happiness is household income. Satisfaction with household income is positively related to feelings of happiness in both regressions of married respondents and the general group of respondents. The estimated coefficients on “relative standard of living” are also positive and statistically significant for both samples. Satisfaction with the social welfare system is negatively related to happiness as is satisfaction with neighbors, when using the general sample of all the respondents of Afghanistan. Because two domains in the materialist life sphere are positively related and one life domain is negatively related to the dependent variable, none of the life domains in the post-materialist sphere are statistically significant. Moreover, one life domain in the public sphere is negatively related to the dependent variable, and hence, we argue that the materialist life sphere is the most important and positively related to overall quality of life, followed by the post-materialist life sphere and the public life sphere in that order.

Regionally, south central, southwestern, and northern areas are far from central government. In those regions, residents feel a modicum of happiness. Central/Hazarajat and Central/Kabul are so close to central government and war executing efforts that happiness is not something to feel tangibly (Table 7.39).

7.3.5.3 Kazakhstan

Public sphere conditions matter in Kazakhstan. The most salient are conditions of the environment and number of utilities along with standard of living. The estimated coefficients on “conditions of the environment,” “number of utilities,” and “relative standard of living” are positive and statistically significant in both regressions of happiness. “Standard of living” is positively related to feelings of happiness among married respondents. Former Soviet legacies abound and economic interdependence with Russia is closely intertwined. It is striking to find that the public life sphere is the most important determinant of happiness, followed by the materialist life sphere and the post-materialist life sphere in that order. Regionally, areas in the south and east (geographically far from Russia but close to China), including Almaty and Druzhba, contribute to respondents’ happiness. Areas in the center and north have Russian residents, especially in Astana, the new capital city (Table 7.40).

7.3.5.4 Kyrgyzstan

Housing and standard of living along with spiritual life do matter in determining happiness in Kyrgyzstan. The estimated coefficients on “housing” and “standard of living” are positive and statistically significant in the two regressions on happiness. It follows that the more satisfied the people of Kyrgyzstan are with these life

Table 7.39 Ordered logit regression – Afghanistan

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness – only married</i>		<i>Happiness – all</i>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>				
<i>Materialist sphere</i>				
Marriage	-0.14	0.18	na	
Standard of living	-0.07	0.12	0.14	0.10
Household income	0.27	0.11*	0.23	0.10*
Health	0.21	0.12	0.24	0.11*
Education	-0.01	0.10	-0.001	0.09
Job	-0.06	0.10	-0.06	0.08
Neighbors	-0.16	0.12	-0.23	0.11*
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>				
Housing	0.17	0.14	-0.01	0.12
Friendships	0.13	0.16	0.11	0.13
Spiritual life	0.10	0.12	0.09	0.10
<i>Public sphere</i>				
Public safety	0.15	0.13	0.16	0.11
Condition of environment	-0.09	0.12	-0.08	0.11
Social welfare system	-0.13	0.11	-0.20	0.09*
Democratic system	0.17	0.10	0.13	0.08
Leisure	0.10	0.12	0.08	0.10
<i>Lifestyles</i>				
Number of utilities	0.12	0.10	0.10	0.09
Internet	-0.07	0.17	0.01	0.15
Email		na		na
Mobile phone		na		na
Pray	0.23	0.33	-0.04	0.28
Religion		na		na
Living internationally	-0.04	0.13	-0.12	0.12
English ability	-0.01	0.19	-0.03	0.16
Homeownership	0.19	0.24	0.40	0.21
Number of family members	-0.02	0.03	-0.01	0.03
Relative standard of living	0.24	0.11*	0.25	0.10*
No right to vote		na		na
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>				
Female	-0.55	0.20**	-0.16	0.36
Married		na	0.04	0.28
Female × Married		na	-0.28	0.40
Age	-0.01	0.08	0.02	0.07
Income	-0.05	0.13	0.02	0.11
Educational attainment	0.08	0.19	0.03	0.17
<i>Region (Base-Central/Kabul)</i>				
Eastern	0.09	0.51	0.30	0.42
South Central	0.87	0.41*	1.06	0.37**
South Western	2.03	0.53**	1.99	0.46**
Western	-0.35	0.44	-0.32	0.38
Northern	1.60	0.40**	1.66	0.35**
Central/Hazarjat	-1.66	0.68*	-1.39	0.57*

(continued)

Table 7.39 (continued)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness – only married</i>		<i>Happiness – all</i>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>City size (Base-Kabul)</i>				
Villages	-0.46	0.39	-0.46	0.34
Towns	-1.98	0.74**	-1.74	0.64*
City	-0.48	0.62	-0.38	0.55
cut1	-1.06	2.07	-1.68	1.71
Cut2	1.81	2.03	1.02	1.67
Cut3	4.61	2.04	3.84	1.68
Cut4	6.12	2.05	5.39	1.69
N	474		607	
Pseudo R2	0.1112		0.105	

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.40 Ordered logit regression – Kazakhstan

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness – only married</i>		<i>Happiness – all</i>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>				
<i>Public sphere</i>				
Public safety	0.05	0.14	-0.01	0.10
Condition of environment	0.73	0.13**	0.73	0.11**
Social welfare system	-0.08	0.14	0.01	0.11
Democratic system	0.00	0.15	-0.04	0.12
<i>Materialist sphere</i>				
Housing	0.11	0.12	0.17	0.10
Standard of living	0.34	0.15*	0.22	0.12
Household income	-0.11	0.16	-0.05	0.13
Health	-0.17	0.12	-0.09	0.10
Job	-0.23	0.12	-0.15	0.09
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>				
Friendships	0.21	0.18	0.20	0.14
Marriage	0.07	0.20	na	
Education	0.01	0.14	-0.04	0.11
Neighbors	-0.02	0.17	-0.09	0.13
Family life	-0.17	0.18	-0.09	0.11
Leisure	0.21	0.15	0.19	0.12
Spiritual life	-0.06	0.15	-0.11	0.12
<i>Lifestyles</i>				
Number of utilities	0.38	0.12**	0.27	0.10**
Internet	-0.09	0.15	0.04	0.12
Email		na		na
Mobile phone		na		na
Pray	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.08
Religion	-0.12	0.31	-0.21	0.25

(continued)

Table 7.40 (continued)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness – only married</i>		<i>Happiness – all</i>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
Living internationally	−0.15	0.13	−0.16	0.11
English ability	0.00	0.23	0.30	0.18
Homeownership	−0.04	0.48	0.02	0.38
Number of family members	−0.06	0.07	−0.02	0.06
Relative standard of living	0.53	0.20**	0.43	0.17**
No right to vote		na		na
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>				
Female	−0.05	0.21	0.37	0.35
Married		na	0.34	0.31
Female × married		na	−0.38	0.40
Age	0.00	0.10	0.02	0.08
Income	0.00	0.03	−0.01	0.02
Educational attainment	0.08	0.18	0.02	0.15
<i>Region (Base-West)</i>				
Almaty	0.96	0.60	1.01	0.49*
North	0.88	0.50	0.77	0.41
Centre	0.48	0.52	0.43	0.43
East	1.29	0.49**	1.36	0.41**
South	1.43	0.48**	1.29	0.40**
<i>Urban/rural (base: urban)</i>				
Urban village/small town	1.05	0.31**	1.13	0.26**
Rural	1.11	0.34**	1.14	0.29**
cut1	4.14	1.34	4.04	1.10
Cut2	6.30	1.36	6.35	1.11
Cut3	7.37	1.37	7.50	1.12
Cut4	11.0	1.45	11.1	1.19
<i>N</i>		481		630
Pseudo R2		0.1394		0.1404

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

domains, the higher the probability that they feel happiness. “Spiritual life” in the post-materialist life sphere is statistically significant but negatively related to the dependent variable when using only the group of married respondents. “Job” is statistically significant and positively related to the dependent variable when using the general sample of all Kyrgyzstani respondents. Hence, we argue that the materialist life sphere is the most important determinant of overall quality of life among the three life spheres, followed by the public life sphere and the post-materialist life sphere in that order.

Regionally, Naryn, Osh, and Jalalabad *oblasts* (provinces) add happiness compared to Bishkek, the capital city. However, ethnic competition between the Kyrgyz people and Uzbeks along with democratizing forces makes Kyrgyzstani happiness more complicated (Table 7.41).

Table 7.41 Ordered logit regression – Kyrgyzstan

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness – only married</i>		<i>Happiness – all</i>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>				
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>				
Friendships	0.13	0.15	0.16	0.13
Marriage	0.25	0.19	na	
Education	0.02	0.13	-0.06	0.10
Neighbors	-0.07	0.16	-0.12	0.13
Family life	-0.31	0.19	-0.21	0.12
Leisure	-0.12	0.12	-0.06	0.10
Spiritual life	-0.28	0.14*	-0.16	0.11
<i>Materialist sphere</i>				
Housing	0.44	0.11**	0.48	0.09**
Standard of living	0.75	0.13**	0.68	0.11**
Household income	-0.02	0.12	0.06	0.11
Health	0.07	0.11	0.10	0.09
Job	0.14	0.09	0.17	0.08*
<i>Post sphere</i>				
Public safety	-0.18	0.12	-0.09	0.10
Condition of environment	0.18	0.11	0.12	0.09
Social welfare system	-0.08	0.11	-0.05	0.09
Democratic system	0.18	0.11	0.09	0.09
<i>Lifestyles</i>				
Number of utilities	0.07	0.11	-0.01	0.10
Internet	-0.25	0.17	-0.12	0.13
Email		na		na
Mobile phone		na		na
Pray	-0.03	0.07	-0.02	0.06
Religion	0.65	0.53	0.89	0.39*
Living internationally	-0.08	0.13	-0.12	0.11
English ability	-0.01	0.23	-0.18	0.18
Homeownership	-0.01	0.58	-0.02	0.45
Number of family members	-0.04	0.06	0.01	0.05
Relative standard of living	0.54	0.19**	0.61	0.16**
No right to vote	1.98	1.08	1.57	0.85
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>				
Female	0.28	0.23	-0.55	0.38
Married		na	-0.66	0.36
Female × married		na	-0.79	0.45
Age	-0.14	0.11	-0.15	0.09
Income	-0.01	0.03	-0.04	0.02
Educational attainment	-0.06	0.20	-0.05	0.16
<i>Region (Base-Bishkek)</i>				
Isyk-Kul oblast	-0.28	0.54	-0.56	0.45
Naryn oblast	1.91	0.56**	1.71	0.49**
Chui oblast	-0.11	0.47	-0.13	0.39
Talass oblast	0.85	0.76	0.93	0.58

(continued)

Table 7.41 (continued)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness – only married</i>		<i>Happiness – all</i>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
Batken oblast	0.35	0.62	0.06	0.51
Jalalabad Oblast	1.39	0.48**	0.64	0.39
Osh Oblast	1.57	0.45**	0.99	0.37**
<i>Urban/Rural (Urban)</i>				
Urban village/small town	–0.07	0.33	–0.26	0.28
Rural		na		na
cut1	2.57	1.50	1.09	1.13
Cut2	4.89	1.51	3.52	1.14
Cut3	5.64	1.52	4.25	1.15
Cut4	8.89	1.56	7.43	1.18
<i>N</i>	356		496	
Pseudo R2	0.2169		0.2296	

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

7.3.5.5 Mongolia

Housing, health, and family life along with Internet access and prayer strongly determine happiness in Mongolia. The estimated coefficients on housing, Internet, and prayer are positive and statistically significant in the regressions of “happiness” for both married respondents and the general sample of all Mongolian respondents. The satisfaction with health and family life is positively associated with feelings of happiness among all the respondents of Mongolia. Huge geographic space and a sparse population mean that physical conditions are predeterminants and that people can network with others through mostly Internet and prayer.

Among the three life spheres, we argue that the post-materialist life sphere is the most important determinant and is positively related to overall life quality, followed by the materialist life sphere and the public life sphere in that order. Housing in the post-materialist life sphere is more strongly related to the dependent variable in both regressions. Z-score is 3.19 and 3.69, respectively, while z-score of health and family life in the regression using only married respondents is 2.94 and 2.69, respectively.

In terms of demographics, females are more likely to have higher feelings of happiness when married (Table 7.42).

7.3.5.6 Tajikistan

Housing, standard of living, health, and condition of the environment are central to happiness in Tajikistan. The estimated coefficients on housing, health, and condition of the environment are positive and statistically significant in the two regressions of “happiness.” Standard of living and the relative standard of living are positively related to “happiness” in both regressions. Physical conditions and public sphere conditions determine so much that what remains to be done to add to happiness is to keep the body and mind healthy and ready.

Table 7.42 Ordered logit regression – Mongolia

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness – only married</i>		<i>Happiness – all</i>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>				
<i>Materialist sphere</i>				
Standard of living	0.33	0.17	0.65	0.15**
Household income	0.31	0.19	–0.02	0.16
Health	0.24	0.13	0.32	0.11**
Education	–0.06	0.14	–0.02	0.11
Job	0.13	0.10	0.13	0.09
Family life	0.21	0.16	0.35	0.13**
Leisure	–0.06	0.13	–0.07	0.12
Spiritual life	0.08	0.16	0.04	0.14
<i>Public sphere</i>				
Public safety	0.01	0.13	–0.05	0.11
Condition of environment	0.08	0.14	0.04	0.12
Social welfare system	–0.07	0.13	–0.02	0.12
Democratic system	–0.04	0.12	–0.06	0.11
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>				
Neighbors	0.18	0.13	0.18	0.11
Housing	0.38	0.12**	0.36	0.10**
Friendships	0.10	0.16	–0.02	0.13
Marriage	0.16	0.18	na	
<i>Lifestyles</i>				
Number of utilities	0.15	0.13	0.16	0.11
Internet	0.51	0.21*	0.47	0.17**
Email		na		na
Mobile phone		na		na
Pray	0.31	0.12**	0.23	0.10*
Religion	0.11	0.33	–0.03	0.27
Living internationally	0.08	0.17	0.11	0.14
English ability	–0.15	0.21	–0.20	0.18
Homeownership	–0.13	0.26	–0.10	0.22
Number of family members	0.04	0.08	0.13	0.06*
Relative standard of living	–0.05	0.20	0.08	0.17
No right to vote		na	–0.63	1.28
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>				
Female	0.46	0.23*	0.05	0.40
Married		na	–0.06	0.34
Female × married		na	0.29	0.45
Age	0.15	0.11	0.12	0.09
Income	–0.02	0.11	0.06	0.09
Educational attainment	–0.01	0.20	0.14	0.17
<i>Region (Base-Ulaanbaatar)</i>				
Sukhbaatar	–0.28	0.50	–0.09	0.43
Khuvsgul	–0.45	0.37	0.12	0.32
Khovd	–0.32	0.41	–0.19	0.34
Dundgobi	–0.40	0.42	0.28	0.36

(continued)

Table 7.42 (continued)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness – only married</i>		<i>Happiness – all</i>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Urban/rural (base: rural)</i>				
Urban	-0.45	0.31	-0.23	0.2
cut1	5.64	1.22	2.37	1.15
cut2	8.30	1.26	6.20	1.00
cut3	12.8	1.37	8.69	1.04
cut4			13.3	1.15
<i>N</i>	407		536	
Pseudo R2	0.1920		0.1932	

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Among the three life spheres, the domains in the materialist life sphere is the most important determinants of overall quality of life in Tajikistan, followed by the public life sphere and the post-materialist life sphere in that order.

In terms of demographics, females and married respondents are less likely to be happy than their counterparts. Regionally, living in urban areas adds to the happiness of respondents (Table 7.43).

7.3.5.7 Uzbekistan

Friendships, marriage, and standard of living are key determinants of happiness in Uzbekistan. The estimated coefficients on friendships and standard of living are positive and statistically significant in both regressions. Marriage is estimated positive and strongly related to the feelings of happiness in the regression using only married respondents. Closely woven communities (mahala) make physical conditions and conditions of social relationships function reasonably well given the constraints given by public space conditions.

Among the three life spheres, the post-materialist life sphere is the most important determinant of overall quality of life in Uzbekistan, followed by the materialist life sphere and the public life sphere in that order.

In terms of demographics, income adds to happiness (Table 7.44).

7.3.6 Statistically Significant Coefficients in Each Country and Society in Asia

Table 7.45 reports regression results from fitting ordered logit regressions of happiness on a set of independent variables for each individual country and society based on the feedback of married respondents. The table also shows the number of statistically significant cases for each variable in the two far-right columns. Table 7.45 indicates with a plus sign if the estimated coefficient on the independent

Table 7.43 Ordered logit regression – Tajikistan

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness – only married</i>		<i>Happiness – all</i>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>				
<i>Materialist sphere</i>				
Housing	0.49	0.14**	0.44	0.11**
Standard of living	0.65	0.18**	0.67	0.14
Household income	-0.10	0.18	-0.10	0.14
Health	0.42	0.13**	0.47	0.11**
Education	-0.32	0.12*	-0.20	0.10
Job	0.24	0.14	0.05	0.12
Democratic system	0.23	0.13	0.23	0.11*
Leisure	-0.27	0.16	-0.29	0.14*
Spiritual life	0.28	0.17	0.26	0.14
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>				
Friendships	0.23	0.18	0.28	0.14
Marriage	-0.08	0.22	na	
Neighbors	-0.10	0.16	-0.04	0.13
Public safety	0.13	0.13	0.11	0.11
Family life	-0.15	0.21	-0.18	0.14
<i>Public sphere</i>				
Condition of environment	0.51	0.14**	0.51	0.12**
Social welfare system	-0.18	0.14	-0.20	0.12
<i>Lifestyles</i>				
Number of utilities	-0.004	0.15	0.04	0.13
Internet	0.13	0.16	-0.06	0.14
Email		na		na
Mobile phone		na		na
Pray	0.10	0.08	0.09	0.07
Religion	1.39	0.99	1.32	0.72
Living internationally	-0.14	0.14	-0.01	0.12
English ability	0.09	0.25	-0.08	0.12
Homeownership	1.08	0.70	0.17	0.51
Number of family members	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.04
Relative standard of living	0.34	0.17	0.48	0.15*
No right to vote		na		na
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>				
Female	0.08	0.26	-0.92	0.41*
Married		na	-0.89	0.38*
Female × married		na	1.11	0.47*
Age	-0.12	0.11	-0.11	0.09
Income	0.03	0.05	0.02	0.04
Educational attainment	0.00	0.19	0.03	0.16
<i>Region (base: rublican subordination)</i>				
Dushanbe	-0.70	0.59	-0.31	0.47
Mountain-Badakhshan Autonomic	0.01	0.78	-0.09	0.59
Sogd Region	0.50	0.40	0.59	0.36
Khatlon Region	-0.02	0.35	0.15	0.30

(continued)

Table 7.43 (continued)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness – only married</i>		<i>Happiness – all</i>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Urban/rural (base: rural)</i>				
Urban	1.32	0.45**	0.96	0.35*
cut1	7.66	1.73	6.68	1.33
cut2	10.77	1.77	9.56	1.36
cut3	12.52	1.80	11.22	1.38
cut4	16.00	1.88	14.91	1.46
<i>N</i>	351		466	
Pseudo R2	0.2393		0.231	

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.44 Ordered logit regression – Uzbekistan

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness – only married</i>		<i>Happiness – all</i>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Specific life domains</i>				
<i>Materialist sphere</i>				
Housing	–0.07	0.13	0.01	0.10
Standard of living	0.57	0.16**	0.58	0.13**
Household income	–0.14	0.17	–0.04	0.13
Health	0.18	0.13	0.28	0.10
Education	0.15	0.13	0.10	0.11
Job	0.01	0.13	–0.01	0.10
Neighbors	–0.01	0.13	–0.16	0.10
Leisure	0.28	0.13*	0.13	0.10
Spiritual life	0.07	0.13	0.10	0.11
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>				
Friendships	0.32	0.16*	0.36	0.12**
Marriage	0.86	0.18**	na	
Family life	–0.01	0.19	0.53	0.11**
<i>Public sphere</i>				
Public safety	–0.10	0.14	–0.09	0.10
Condition of environment	–0.23	0.13	–0.07	0.11
Social welfare system	–0.17	0.14	–0.16	0.11
Democratic system	0.14	0.13	0.11	0.10
<i>Lifestyles</i>				
Number of utilities	0.06	0.16	0.03	0.12
Internet	0.06	0.13	–0.07	0.10
Email		na		na
Mobile phone		na		na
Pray	–0.03	0.08	0.00	0.07
Religion	–0.08	0.44	0.03	0.34
Living internationally	–0.09	0.13	0.03	0.10
English ability	0.20	0.20	0.09	0.15
Homeownership	–1.13	0.69	–0.21	0.46
Number of family members	0.00	0.07	–0.03	0.05

(continued)

Table 7.44 (continued)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Happiness – only married</i>		<i>Happiness – all</i>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
Relative standard of living	0.39	0.20	0.15	0.16
No right to vote	-1.49	2.29	-0.68	2.11
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>				
Female	0.41	0.26	0.15	0.35
Married		na	0.34	0.32
Female × married		na	0.03	0.42
Age	-0.10	0.11	-0.05	0.09
Income	0.08	0.06	0.10	0.04*
Educational attainment	0.06	0.26	0.07	0.18
<i>City (Base-Namangan)</i>				
Tashkent	-0.35	0.42	-0.45	0.34
Samarkand	-0.14	0.52	-0.45	0.42
Bukhara	0.01	0.50	-0.36	0.41
Urgench	0.57	0.51	0.45	0.43
Fergana	0.12	0.45	-0.35	0.36
Andijan	-0.21	0.47	-0.20	0.39
cut1	2.57	1.60	1.61	1.23
cut2	6.17	1.54	5.68	1.13
cut3	7.79	1.57	7.17	1.15
cut4	11.7	1.64	10.7	1.21
<i>N</i>		350		502
Pseudo R2		0.2117		0.1761

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

variable is positive and statistically significant and with a minus sign if the estimated coefficient on the independent variable is negative and statistically significant. The two far-right columns of Table 7.45 count the number of plus and minus signs. The variable “relative standard of living” in lifestyles appears significantly positively related to happiness in 17 countries/societies, which is the largest number. Since “standard of living” in the specific life domains is statistically significantly positive in 13 countries/societies, standard of living matters in Asia. The higher the (relative) standard of living that the citizens perceive, the higher the probability that they feel happy. Relative standard of living is followed by specific life domain “housing” on which the slope coefficient is estimated to be positive in 16 regressions. Marriage matters in 13 countries/societies. Family life and spiritual life are important in eight countries/societies. Friendships and household income in life domains are important in seven countries/societies. On the other hand, the number of estimated coefficients that are negative and statistically significant is the largest at 4 on the variable “education” in life domains and “age” in demographic characteristics.

In terms of demographics, the number of estimated coefficients on “female” that are positive and statistically significant is 13, and the number of estimated coefficients on “female” that are negative and statistically significant is 1. The

Table 7.45 Ordered logit regression (dependent variables = happiness; only married)

<i>Independent variables</i>	Hong														
	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	Bhutan	Brunei	Cambodia	China	Hong Kong	India	Indonesia	Japan	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Laos	Malaysia	Maldives
<i>Specific life domains</i>															
Housing			+		+	+	+	+	+		+			+	
Friendships		+		+		+	+								
Marriage		+				+			+						
Standard of living		+		+		+			+					+	
Household income	+					+			+				+		
Health						+									
Education			+						+						+
Job					-										
Neighbors								-							
Public safety						+								+	
Condition of environment										+					-
Social welfare system										+					
Democratic system										-					
Family life						+			+				na	+	
Leisure														+	
Spiritual life						+			+						-
<i>Lifestyles</i>															
Number of utilities														+	
Internet															
Email	Na	na	na	na	na	na	na	Na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Mobile phone	Na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Pray		+													
Religion	Na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	Na

(continued)

Table 7.45 (continued)

<i>Independent variables</i>	Hong														
	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	Bhutan	Brunei	Cambodia	China	Kong	India	Indonesia	Japan	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Laos	Malaysia	Maldives
Living internationally									+						
English ability				+				-							
Homeownership							+								
Number of family members															
Relative standard of living	+				+					+		+			+
No right to vote	na		na	na			na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>															
Female	-	+		+			+							+	+
Married	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	Na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Female × Married	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	Na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Age		-					-			+					+
Income															
Educational attainment			+												
<i>Region (city)</i>	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
<i>City size</i>	Yes	Yes		No	Yes	Yes		No	No						
<i>Urban/rural</i>								No	No	Yes			No		
<i>Independent variables</i>															
<i>Specific life domains</i>															
Housing	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	16
Friendships					+								+		7
Marriage					+		+				+	+	+	+	10
Standard of living				+		+				+	+	+	+	+	13
Household income				+	+			+							7

Table 7.45 (continued)

<i>Independent variables</i>	Mongolia	Myanmar	Nepal	Pakistan	Philippines	Singapore	Korea	Sri Lanka	Taiwan	Tajikistan	Thailand	Uzbekistan	Vietnam	+	-	
Female × Married	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2	4	
Age						—										1
Income																3
Educational attainment			+		+		No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	13		
<i>Region (city)</i>	No	No		No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	3		
<i>City size</i>																3
<i>Urban/rural</i>	No			No	No				No	Yes				2		

number of the coefficients on “age” that is estimated positive is smaller than the number of the negative coefficients. “Region” matters in 13 countries/societies out of 22 countries/societies.

Table 7.46 reports the results from fitting ordered logit regressions of happiness on a set of independent variables for each country and society using all the observations of that country and society. Similar to Table 7.45, Table 7.46 counts the number of estimated coefficients that are positive and statistically significant and those that are negative and statistically significant. A plus sign indicates the coefficient on that variable is estimated to be positive and statistically significant, and a minus sign indicates the coefficient is negative and statistically significant. The number of estimated coefficients that are positive and statistically significant is largest for the variables “housing” and “relative standard of living” at 18. They are followed by “standard of living” at 14. The estimated coefficients on “family life” are positive and statistically significant in 11 regressions of happiness. Friendships, health, and spiritual life are important in nine countries/societies.

“Age” has the most estimated coefficients that are negative and statistically significant. The estimated coefficients on “age” are negative and statistically significant in six countries/societies and positively related to happiness in none of the countries/societies. “Region” matters in 12 countries/societies out of 22 countries/societies.

Table 7.47 shows the regression results from fitting an ordered logit regression of “enjoyment” on a set of independent variables, life domain satisfactions, lifestyles, and demographic variables using only married observations. Table 7.47 counts the number of estimated coefficients that are positive and statistically significant and those that are negative and statistically significant. The number of coefficients that are estimated positive is the largest for “marriage” at 8. It is followed by “relative standard of living” at 7. Housing is important in six countries/societies. Standard of living and leisure matter in five countries/societies. On the other hand, the number of estimated coefficients that are negative and statistically significant is the largest for “age” at 5 when age is positively related to enjoyment in two countries/societies. “Region” matters in eight countries/societies out of 13 countries/societies.

Table 7.48 shows the results from fitting ordered logit regressions of “enjoyment” on a set of independent variables using all the observations of each country and society. Table 7.48 counts the numbers of estimated coefficients that are positive and statistically significant and those that are negative and statistically significant. The variable “relative standard of living” has the largest number of estimated coefficients that are positive and statistically significant at 9. It is followed by “friendships” and “standard of living” at 8. Standard of living as either a life domain or an objective condition is important here again. The number of estimated coefficients on “spiritual life” that are positive and statistically significant is 7. Leisure and housing are important in six countries/societies. Family life matters in five countries/societies.

On the other hand, the number of estimated coefficients on “age” is 4, the largest in the set of independent variables that are statistically significant and negatively

Table 7.46 Ordered logit regression (dependent variables = happiness; all)

<i>Independent variables</i>	Hong														
	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	Bhutan	Brunei	Cambodia	China	Hong Kong	India	Indonesia	Japan	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Laos	Malaysia	Maldives
<i>Specific life domains</i>															
Housing		+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+		+		+	
Friendships				+		+	+	+	+			+			+
Marriage	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Standard of living		+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Household income	+	+													
Health	+		+		+	+	+	+	+	+					
Education			+												
Job				-				+	+	+	+				
Neighbors															
Public safety	-				+	+	+	-	-				-		
Condition of environment					+	-		+	+	+					
Social welfare system	-														
Democratic system				na					-			na			
Family life		+				+	+	+	+					+	+
Leisure															
Spiritual life			+	na	+	+		+	+						
<i>Lifestyles</i>															
Number of utilities				(-)				-		+				+	
Internet				na											
Email	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Mobile phone	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	+	+	na	na	na	na	na	na
Pray		+	+		-										
Religion	na	na	na	na			+	na	na		+		na	na	na
Living internationally															
English ability							+		-						

Table 7.46 (continued)

<i>Independent variables</i>	South Sri													
	Mongolia	Myanmar	Nepal	Pakistan	Philippines	Singapore	Korea	Lanka	Taiwan	Tajikistan	Thailand	Uzbekistan	Vietnam	+ -
Education				-										2 2
Job							+	+	+					6
Neighbors	-						+							2
Public safety			+				+							6 2
Condition of environment			+				-		+					6 2
Social welfare system		na												1
Democratic system		na		+			+		+		+	na	na	3 1
Family life						+						+	+	11
Leisure		+		+					-					4 1
Spiritual life						+	+			+				9
<i>Lifestyles</i>														
Number of utilities		+		+									+	6 3
Internet								+					+	2 1
Email			na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	
Mobile phone	na		na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	Na	Na	1
Pray						+								5 1
Religion														1
Living internationally											na			2
English ability														1
Homeownership			+											2 2
Number of family members	+		-	+										2 3
Relative standard of living		+		+			+		+	+	+			18
No right to vote		na	na	na									na	
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>														
Female			+				+							2 2
Married							+					+		4 2

Table 7.48 Ordered logit regression (dependent variable = enjoyment; all)

<i>Independent variables</i>	South														
	Cambodia	China	Hong Kong	India	Indonesia	Japan	Laos	Malaysia	Myanmar	Philippines	Singapore	Korea	Taiwan	Thailand	Vietnam
<i>Specific life domains</i>															
Housing	+			+				+					+		6
Friendships	+		+	+				+					+		8
Marriage	na		na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	8
Standard of living	+		+			+		+					+		3
Household income												+			3
Health	+					+						+			2
Education														+	4
Job			+			+							+		1
Neighbors	+														3
Public safety	+							+				+			2
Condition of environment	-		+			+						-			2
Social welfare system									na						2
Democratic system	+						na		na					na	1
Family life	+					+		+	na					+	5
Leisure			+					+					+		6
Spiritual life	+					+							+		7
<i>Life styles</i>															
Number of utilities	+														2
Internet			+					+							2
Email	na		na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	
Mobile phone															
Pray								+					+	-	1

related to the dependent variable. Income as an objective condition is positively and statistically significantly related to enjoyment in two countries/societies, while it is negatively related in two countries/societies.

The region where the respondent lives matters in seven countries/societies out of 13 countries/societies where the variable is available.

Table 7.49 reports the results from fitting ordered logit regressions of “achievement” on the set of independent variables, life domain satisfactions, lifestyles, and demographic variables using only married observations and counts the number of estimated coefficients that are either positive or negative and statistically significant. “Relative standard of living” appears as the most important variable since the estimated coefficients are positive and statistically significant in 12 countries/societies. It is followed by “housing” and “marriage,” which are statistically significant in eight countries/societies. Standard of living and age matter in seven countries/societies. The variable “region” affects “achievement” in eight countries/societies out of 13 countries/societies.

Income is related negatively in three countries/societies and related positively in one country.

Table 7.50 reports the results from fitting ordered logit regressions of “achievement” that use all the observations of each country and society and counts the number of estimated coefficients that are positive and negative and statistically significant. The number of estimated coefficients that are positive and statistically significant is largest for “relative standard of living” at 12, followed by “housing” and “age” at 9. Job matters in six countries/societies. “Standard of living” as a life domain, “mobile phone,” and “married” and “income” from demographic characteristics are important in five countries/societies. “Region” matters in eight countries/societies out of 13 countries/societies. “English ability” and “number of family members” are negatively and statistically significantly associated with “achievement” in three countries/societies.

7.4 Multilevel Regression Analysis

Tables 7.51 and 7.52 report the results from fitting multilevel ordered logit regressions of “happiness,” “enjoyment,” and “achievement” on a set of independent variables of individual level, life domain satisfactions, lifestyles, and demographic variables and society-level variables, such as GDP and literacy rates. Because the questions about enjoyment and achievement were asked from 2006 onward only, we examined survey results about enjoyment and achievement from 2006 to 2008 in Tables 7.51 and 7.52. The results in Table 7.51 are based on only married respondents, whereas the results in Table 7.52 are based on all the respondents. The 16 life domains are grouped into three life spheres according to the factor analysis reported in Table 4.2.

Here we can notice several fascinating characteristics about citizens’ perceptions of quality of life in Asia. First, Tables 7.51 and 7.52 clearly show that life domains in the public sphere are less important determinants for overall life quality,

Table 7.49 Ordered logit regression (dependent variable = achievement; only married)

<i>Independent variables</i>	South																
	Cambodia	China	Hong Kong	India	Indonesia	Japan	Laos	Malaysia	Myanmar	Philippines	Singapore	Korea	Taiwan	Thailand	Vietnam	+	-
<i>Specific life domains</i>																	
Housing	+			+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				8
Friendships	+		+						+								3
Marriage	+	+		+	+	+			+	+			+				8
Standard of living	+			+	+	+			+	+			+				7
Household income				+			+						+				3
Health	+		-									-					1 2
Education					+	+											2
Job				+	+			+				+			+		4
Neighbors					-			-		+							1 3
Public safety							+										1
Condition of environment								-									1
Social welfare system					+				na								1
Democratic system									na								
Family life					+				na					na			1
Leisure													+				1
Spiritual life																	
<i>Life styles</i>																	
Number of utilities																	1
Internet	-								-								2
Email	na		na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na			
Mobile phone	+			+	+									+			4 1
Pray		+															1

(continued)

Table 7.49 (continued)

<i>Independent variables</i>	Hong Kong				South Korea				+	-		
	Cambodia	China	Indonesia	Japan	Laos	Malaysia	Myanmar	Philippines			Singapore	Taiwan
Religion			na	na	na	na	na	na		na		
Living internationally				+	+	+				+		3
English ability			-				+			+		2
Home ownership		+										1
Number of family members							-					1
Relative standard of living		+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	12
No right to vote			na	na	na	na			na	na	na	
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>												
Female			na	na	na	na		+				1
Married	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Female × married	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Age			-	+	+	+		+		+	+	7
Income		+		+	+	+						1
Educational attainment				+	+	+						3
<i>Region(City)</i>	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	8
<i>City size</i>		No	Yes	No			No	Yes	No	No	Yes	1
<i>Urban/Rural</i>			Yes		Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	3

Table 7.50 Ordered logit regression (dependent variable = achievement; all)

<i>Independent variables</i>	Cambodia		China		Hong Kong		India	Indonesia	Japan	Laos	Malaysia	Myanmar	Philippines	Singapore	South Korea	Taiwan	Thailand	Vietnam	+	-
	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	-
<i>Specific life domains</i>																				
Housing	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	9
Friendships	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2
Marriage	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	5
Standard of living	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	3
Household income	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	1
Health	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	1
Education	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	6
Job	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	2
Neighbors	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	1
Public safety	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	3
Condition of environment	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	1
Social welfare system	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	1
Democratic system	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	3
Family life	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	1
Leisure	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	1
Spiritual life	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	1
<i>Life styles</i>	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	1
Number of utilities	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	1
Internet	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	5
Email	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	1
Mobile phone	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	5
Pray	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	na	+	1

(continued)

Table 7.50 (continued)

<i>Independent variables</i>	Hong Kong										South Korea				
	Cambodia	China	India	Indonesia	Japan	Laos	Malaysia	Myanmar	Philippines	Singapore	Taiwan	Thailand	Vietnam	+	-
Religion			na	na	na	na	na	na	na		na			1	
Living internationally	+				+	+	+							3	
English ability			-	-	+						+			2	3
Home ownership	+		+											2	
Number of family members	-		-					-					+	1	3
Relative standard of living	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+		12	
No right to vote	-		na	na	na	na	na				na	na	na	1	
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>															
Female	+			+	+							+		1	
Married	+	+			+							+		5	1
Female × married															
Age	+	+		-	+	+	+		+		+	+	+	9	1
Income	+	+			+	+					+	+	+	5	
Educational attainment					+	+								2	
<i>Region(City)</i>	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		No	Yes	Yes	8	
<i>City size</i>		No			No					Yes	No	No	Yes	1	
<i>Urban/Rural</i>			Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	4	

Table 7.51 Multi-level ordered logit regression – only married (2006–2008)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Individual level</i>						
Specific life domains						
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.16	0.03**	0.12	0.03**	0.30	0.03**
Standard of Living	0.22	0.04**	0.18	0.04**	0.1	0.04**
Household income	0.16	0.03**	0.15	0.03**	0.16	0.03**
Health	0.14	0.03**	0.06	0.03*	−0.002	0.03
Education	0.05	0.03	−0.01	0.03	0.06	0.03*
Job	0.09	0.03**	0.10	0.03**	0.08	0.03**
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Friendships	0.23	0.03**	0.20	0.03**	0.11	0.04**
Marriage	0.37	0.03**	0.31	0.03**	0.18	0.04**
Neighbors	−0.06	0.03	−0.01	0.03	−0.03	0.03
Family life	0.24	0.04**	0.08	0.04	0.02	0.04
Leisure	0.03	0.03	0.1	0.03**	0.12	0.03**
Spiritual life	0.26	0.04**	0.27	0.03**	0.15	0.04**
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Public safety	0.05	0.03	0.01	0.03	−0.03	0.03
Condition of environment	−0.05	0.03	−0.02	0.03	0.003	0.03
Social welfare system	0.03	0.03	0.00001	0.03	0.05	0.03
Democratic system	−0.005	0.03	−0.004	0.03	−0.04	0.03
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	−0.02	0.02	0.07	0.02**	0.04	0.02
Internet	−0.03	0.02*	0.01	0.02	−0.03	0.02
Mobile phone	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.02**
Pray	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.02
Religion	0.01	0.07	0.12	0.07	−0.01	0.07
Living internationally	0.07	0.02**	0.11	0.02**	0.07	0.03**
English ability	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.04
Homeownership	0.006	0.06	0.003	0.05	0.19	0.06**
Number of family members	0.002	0.01	−0.01	0.01	−0.02	0.01
Relative standard of living	0.31	0.04**	0.32	0.04**	0.38	0.04**
No right to vote	−0.02	0.08	−0.01	0.08	−0.04	0.08
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	0.21	0.04**	0.17	0.04**	0.08	0.05
Married		na		na		na
Female × married		na		na		na
Age	−0.05	0.02*	0.01	0.02	0.09	0.02**
Income	−0.06	0.03	−0.01	0.03	0.16	0.03**
Educational attainment	0.04	0.04	0.09	0.04*	0.05	0.04
<i>Society level</i>						
GDP	−0.00002	0.00002	−0.00001	0.000006*	−0.00001	0.00001
Unemployment rate	0.01	0.09	−0.02	0.05	0.15	0.04**
Literacy rate	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.009**
Political right (Freedom House)	0.03	0.10	−0.08	0.03*	−0.04	0.04

(continued)

Table 7.51 (continued)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
cut1	4.39	1.65**	4.01	1.27**	6.37	0.84**
cut2	6.36	1.64**	6.89	1.27**	8.88	0.84**
cut3	9.30	1.64**	9.98	1.27**	12.42	0.85**
cut4	12.00	1.64**				
<i>N</i>		8,563		9,215		8,536
<i>Rho</i>		0.083		0.045		0.037

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

Table 7.52 Multi-level ordered logit regression – all (2006–2008)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
<i>Individual level</i>						
Specific life domains						
<i>Materialist sphere</i>						
Housing	0.17	0.02**	0.13	0.02**	0.30	0.02**
Standard of Living	0.29	0.03**	0.21	0.03**	0.17	0.03**
Household income	0.14	0.03**	0.14	0.03**	0.16	0.03**
Health	0.16	0.02**	0.08	0.02**	-0.01	0.02
Education	0.04	0.02	-0.01	0.03	0.04	0.03
Job	0.08	0.02**	0.12	0.02**	0.14	0.02**
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>						
Friendships	0.25	0.03**	0.25	0.03**	0.10	0.03**
Marriage		na		na		na
Neighbors	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.03
Family life	0.27	0.03**	0.13	0.03**	0.06	0.03*
Leisure	0.06	0.03*	0.17	0.03**	0.10	0.03**
Spiritual life	0.32	0.03**	0.29	0.03**	0.14	0.03**
<i>Public sphere</i>						
Public safety	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.03	-0.02	0.03
Condition of environment	-0.03	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.03
Social welfare system	-0.007	0.02	-0.02	0.03	0.05	0.03*
Democratic system	0.007	0.02	-0.001	0.02	-0.05	0.02*
<i>Lifestyles</i>						
Number of utilities	-0.03	0.02	0.06	0.02**	0.04	0.02*
Internet	-0.02	0.02	0.003	0.02	-0.05	0.02**
Mobile phone	0.04	0.02*	0.03	0.02*	0.05	0.02**
Pray	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.06	0.02**
Religion	0.03	0.06	0.04	0.06	-0.02	0.06
Living internationally	0.07	0.02**	0.12	0.02**	0.07	0.02**
English ability	0.07	0.03*	0.06	0.03*	0.09	0.03**
Homeownership	0.02	0.05	-0.008	0.05	0.15	0.05**

(continued)

Table 7.52 (continued)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	Happiness		Enjoyment		Achievement	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
Number of family members	-0.0004	0.01	-0.01	0.01	-0.02	0.01
Relative standard of living	0.32	0.03**	0.33	0.03**	0.41	0.03**
No right to vote	-0.04	0.06	0.01	0.06	-0.04	0.06
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>						
Female	0.14	0.07*	0.04	0.07	0.05	0.07
Married	0.23	0.06**	0.10	0.06	0.30	0.06**
Female × married	0.03	0.08	0.07	0.09	0.01	0.09
Age	-0.04	0.02*	0.02	0.02	0.11	0.02**
Income	-0.06	0.03*	-0.02	0.03	0.12	0.03**
Educational attainment	0.03	0.03	0.09	0.03**	0.07	0.03*
<i>Society level</i>						
GDP	-0.00003	0.000008**	-0.00001	0.000005*	-0.00001	0.00001
Unemployment rate	-0.01	0.05	-0.02	0.04	0.15	0.04**
Literacy rate	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.007*
Political right (Freedom House)	0.003	0.07	-0.08	0.03*	-0.07	0.03*
cut1	3.74	1.21**	2.96	1.12**	6.05	0.72**
cut2	5.71	1.20**	5.73	1.12**	8.62	0.72**
cut3	8.52	1.21**	8.77	1.12**	12.09	0.73**
cut4	11.16	1.21**				
N		11,578		11,564		11,545
Rho		0.076		0.050		0.039

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

happiness, enjoyment, or achievement. According to Table 7.51, none of the estimated coefficients on domains in the public life sphere are statistically significant, and Table 7.52 shows that only two coefficients are estimated significant in the regression of achievement. This finding is consistent with the numbers of statistically significant coefficients that we have analyzed in the previous section.

Second, although “housing,” “standard of living,” “household income,” “job,” “friendships,” and “spiritual life” are statistically significant and positively related with the dependent variables both in Tables 7.51 and 7.52, “health,” “family life,” and “leisure” reveal a different picture. “Health” is statistically significant and positively related to happiness and enjoyment but is not statistically significantly related to achievement in both Tables 7.51 and 7.52. Health is important to the feelings of happiness and enjoyment but does not quite matter to the feeling of achievement. According to Table 7.51, the estimated coefficient on “family life” is positive and statistically significant in the regression of happiness but is not in the regressions of enjoyment and achievement. “Leisure” is statistically significant and related positively to enjoyment and achievement instead. Family life is important to the feeling of happiness for married people, while leisure is important to the feelings of enjoyment and achievement for them.

Third, the estimated coefficients on “living internationally” and “relative standard of living” among lifestyles are positive and statistically significant in the three regressions according to Tables 7.51 and 7.52. According to Table 7.52, the estimated coefficients on “mobile phone” and “English ability” are also positive and statistically significant in all the three regressions. However, according to Table 7.51, “number of utilities” is statistically significant and positively related only to enjoyment, and “mobile phone” is statistically significant and positively related only to achievement. The number of utilities is important to the feeling of enjoyment for Asian people. And most interestingly, “homeownership” is statistically significant and positively related only to achievement in both Tables 7.51 and 7.52. Owning home especially enhances the feeling of achievement for the Asian people.

Among the demographic variables, “female” is statistically significant and positively related to happiness according to Table 7.52. According to Table 7.51, “female” is statistically significant and positively related to happiness and enjoyment. Females are more likely to feel happy than their male counterparts. In addition, once married, the feeling of enjoyment is added and the quality of life of females improves. According to Table 7.52, “married” is statistically significant and positively related to happiness and achievement. Since we have already found that marriage as a life domain is also an important determinant for the life quality in Asia, marriage and being married is very important for the quality of life in Asia. Another interesting characteristic is seen about the variable “age.” According to both Tables 7.51 and 7.52, “age” is statistically significant and negatively related to happiness and positively related to achievement. Seniors are less likely to feel happy but more likely to have a sense of accomplishment instead. Similar trend is seen about income as an objective condition. Although “income” is not statistically significantly related to happiness according to Table 7.51, “income” is statistically significant and negatively related to happiness according to Table 7.52 and statistically significant and positively related to achievement in both Tables 7.51 and 7.52. Income is likely to enhance the feeling of achievement instead of the feeling of happiness for Asian people.

Among the society-level variables, GDP per capita and the Freedom House political right score are statistically significant and negatively related to feeling of enjoyment according to Tables 7.51 and 7.52. Unemployment rate and literacy rate are statistically significant and positively related to feeling of achievement according to the both tables.

Table 7.53 shows the results from fitting multilevel ordered logit regressions of “happiness” on a set of individual-level and society-level variables. As the Asia-Barometer asked about happiness from 2003 to 2008, we use all the observations in this regression analysis.

Table 7.53 shows a similar picture about the quality of life that we have found from previous tables. What is different is that “condition of environment” and “democratic system” are statistically significant and positively related to happiness, but the values of the estimated coefficients on “condition of environment” and “democratic system” are smaller than those of the estimated coefficients on other

Table 7.53 Multi-level ordered logit regression – Happiness (2003–2008)

<i>Dependent variables</i>	<i>Only married</i>		<i>All</i>	
<i>Independent variables</i>	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
Individual level				
Specific life domains				
<i>Materialist sphere</i>				
Housing	0.21	0.02**	0.23	0.01**
Standard of Living	0.26	0.02**	0.30	0.02**
Household income	0.13	0.02**	0.12	0.02**
Health	0.14	0.02**	0.16	0.01*
Education	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Job	0.09	0.02**	0.9	0.01*
<i>Post-materialist sphere</i>				
Friendships	0.12	0.02**	0.18	0.02**
Marriage	0.35	0.02**	na	
Neighbors	-0.04	0.02	-0.01	0.02
Family life	0.16	0.02**	0.24	0.02**
Leisure	0.09	0.02**	0.10	0.01**
<i>Public sphere</i>				
Public safety	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
Condition of environment	0.06	0.02**	0.05	0.01*
Social welfare system	0.03	0.02	0.0002	0.01
Democratic system	0.03	0.02*	0.05	0.01**
<i>Lifestyles</i>				
Public water supply	0.03	0.04	-0.01	0.04
Electricity	0.09	0.11	0.04	0.09
Piped gas	0.09	0.04*	0.09	0.03**
Religion	0.06	0.05	0.08	0.04*
Living internationally	0.03	0.01*	0.03	0.01*
English ability	0.004	0.02	0.02	0.02
Homeownership	-0.06	0.03	-0.05	0.03
Number of family members	0.002	0.01	0.01	0.01
Relative standard of living	0.40	0.02**	0.40	0.02**
No right to vote	0.001	0.07	0.01	0.05
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>				
Female	0.16	0.03**	0.09	0.05
Married		na		0.04**
Female × married		na	0.04	0.05
Age	-0.07	0.01**	-0.07	0.01**
Income	-0.04	0.02*	-0.04	0.02*
Educational attainment	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.02*
<i>Society level</i>				
GDP	-0.00001	0.00001	-0.000003	0.00001
Unemployment rate	-0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Literacy rate	0.01	0.003	0.005	0.003
Political right (Freedom House)	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.03
cut1	3.21	0.36**	2.64	0.32**
cut2	5.29	0.36**	4.76	0.32**
cut3	7.37	0.36**	6.79	0.32**
cut4	10.17	0.36**	9.54	0.32**
N		21,756		29,215
Rho		0.151		0.125

Notes: **1% significance level; *5% significance level

variables in the materialist and post-materialist spheres of life. In addition, two variables out of four are statistically significant and positively related to happiness in public life sphere, while five out of six in the materialist life sphere and four out of five in the post-materialist life sphere are statistically significant and positively related. So, the results reported in Table 7.53 do not contradict the results we have discussed so far in the earlier sections.

Among lifestyles variables, “piped gas,” “living internationally,” and “relative standard of living” are estimated as positive and statistically significant in the two regressions for only married observations and the general sample of all the observations.

Among demographic characteristics, female or married respondents are more likely to feel happy, whereas seniors and those who have a higher income are not. None of the society-level variables are statistically significant.

In sum, life domains in the public sphere are less important determinants for overall life quality measured by happiness, enjoyment, or achievement. Counting the number of countries/societies in which the estimated coefficient is either positive or negative and statistically significant, “relative standard of living” as an objective condition appears as the most important variable. Since “standard of living” as a life domain is also a strong determinant for the life quality, (relative) standard of living is important for levels of overall quality of life in Asia. Among specific life domains, health is important to the feelings of happiness and enjoyment but does not quite matter to the feeling of achievement. Family life is important to the feeling of happiness for married people, while leisure is important to the feelings of enjoyment and achievement for them. Owning home especially enhances the feeling of achievement for the Asian people. “Living internationally” and “relative standard of living” are positive and statistically significant in the three regressions of happiness, enjoyment, and achievement. Among demographic characteristics, seniors are less likely to feel happy but more likely to have a sense of accomplishment instead. Similar trend is seen about income as an objective condition. Income is likely to enhance the feeling of achievement instead of the feeling of happiness for Asian people. “Region” matters more than half of the countries and societies where the variable region is used. Finally, marriage and being married is very important for the quality of life in Asia.

When we examine by subregion, namely, East, Southeast, South, and Central Asia, East Asian countries have the following common characteristics: physical conditions for survival and good life are deemed very important, social relations are no less important, public sphere conditions tend to be of tertiary importance, and globalization has been adapted slowly but steadily. In Southeast Asia, housing, household income, and standard of living, that is, materialist life sphere, are important except in Brunei. Housing and standard of living are key features of South Asia, and friendships and family life are important in some countries in South Asia. Key feature in Central Asia is (relative) standard of living and housing matters in some countries in Central Asia.