

Factors effecting life expectancy in developed and developing countries of the world (An approach to available literature)

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Abstract

In developed countries the life expectancy of people is high as compared to the people of developing countries of the world. What kinds of factors are involved in this world wide life phenomenon? A very huge number of articles are available on the life expectancy of the people at world level. But there is no such type of work which identifies clearly the factors responsible for this global inequality regarding life expectancy. So this review study seeks to gather the worthwhile contribution of world researcher about all the basics factors responsible for the low and high life expectancy of developed and developing countries of the world. After study the different perspectives discovered by the different experts, the researcher arrived at conclusion that low life standard, poor health facilities, poor governmental policies of health, high level of population, terrorism and low level of education are the factors responsible for the low life expectancy of developing countries. Similarly it is also concluded by the researcher that high life standard, availability of health facilities, standard governmental policies of health, and provision of standard education are main factors responsible for the high life expectancy of the developed countries of the world

Keywords: Factors, Life Expectancy, Developed Countries, Developing Countries

1. Introduction

1.1 Study Background

What is Life Expectancy?

Life is a broad term in nature. It is quite difficult to understand the meaning of life. In science, life may be defined as “*the possession of self-sustaining biological processes*” In other words, life is the name of self- sustaining biological process which include homeostasis (ability of cells to maintain its physiological functions), organization (linkage between the functions of all parts of the body), metabolism, growth, development, adaptation, response to stimuli, and reproduction. It means that life is the name of such quality, which makes a person able to survive in the society (Christina, 2010) [3].

Life expectancy which refers to the number of years, a person is expected to live base on the statistical average. It depends upon geographical background of the area (Mandal, 2016) [4]. In pre modernization of world, life expectancy was round about 30 years in all regions of the world. Life expectancy increased in early 19th century but till there is same countries while it stay low in the rest of the world. It shows that health standard is not same across the globe. In 20 century this global inequality is decreased and similarly today the life expectancy is approaching up to 70 to 75 years and similarly no country of the world today having low life expectancy than the countries of high life expectancy in 1800 (Roser,2016).

1.2 Mathematical Calculation of life expectancy

According to Mandal, (2016) [4] mathematically life expectancy may be calculated as

Life expectances = ex

(e) Stand expected number of years remaining

(x) Stand for a person’s present age

For example life expectancy = (ex). Expected number of years remaining (e) = (25) While present age of a person (x) = 35. So the total number of present +expected remaining years (25+35=60) so life expectancy (ex) 60.

1.3 Developed & Developing Countries of the World

At world level, there are two types of countries. i.e. developed countries and developing countries. Developed countries based on the economic status like gross domestic products (GDP) and Gross National Product (total value of a nation’s goods and services (GNP), per capita income, industrialization, standard and style of living, etc. similarly developed countries provide free health facilities and security to its citizen while all those countries which lacking these facilities are known as developing countries(Surbhi,2015)The author further listed the few differences which shows that why life expectancy is high among the developed and low in developing countries of the world. These differences are

1. Developed countries having high income as compared to developing countries
2. Developed countries having high literacy rate while in developing countries is it is low
3. Developed countries have good health facilities while developing countries it is lacking
4. Developed countries support the industrial aspects of the countries while developing countries getting supports from industrial aspects of the country
5. In developed countries standard of life is high as compared to developing countries

6. In developed countries utilization of income generating resources are properly planned while in developing countries it is lacking
7. In developed countries the birth and death rate is low while the birth and death rate is high in developing countries.

1.4 List of life expectancy in few developed and developing countries of the world for identifying the global inequality regarding life expectancy

Statistical Ranking of countries according to Human Development Index (HDI) on the basis of life expectancy, education, standard of living, child welfare, health care, economic welfare, and population happiness (Human Development Index (HDI), 2012).

1.4.1 Developed Countries of the World

Table 1

Countries	Life Expectancy
Norway	80.2 Years
Australia	82.2 Years
Netherlands	79.8 Years
United States of America	79 Years
New Zealand	82.2 Years
Canada	80.7 Years
Ireland	78.9 Years
Germany	79.4 Years
Sweden	80.9 Years

1.4.2 Developing Countries of the World

Table 2

Countries	Life Expectancy
Afghanistan	60.5 Years
Bangladesh	70.6 Years
Pakistan	66.44 Years
India	66.22 Years
China does not include Hong Kong or Taiwan)	75.78 Years
Iran, Islamic Republic of Iraq	71.98 Years
Turkey	76.3 Years
Malaysia	75.0 Years
Brazil	73.81 Years

1.5 Factors Effecting Life Expectancy

1.5.1 Financial income as factors effecting life expectancy

According to Becker *et al.*, (2015) ^[1] Low income affects the health status of the people at globe level. Quality of life is better in those countries who has good or sufficient financial resources. The author further stated that In United States the level of mortality is less than other developing countries of the world. It shows that life expectancy and financial income both are interlinked with one another.

1.5.2 High literacy rate as factors effecting life expectancy

Education is a key to promote health as well the life expectancy of the people. Four countries of the world i.e Japan, Switzerland and Hong Kong today are in the top list of life expectancy.it is all because of education (Amir, 2016) ^[13].

The people having high income and high level of education having high level of life expectancy as compared to people having low income and education. People with high education having high level of life expectancy and low level of chronic health diseases (CDC’s National Center for Health Statistics, 2012) ^[2].

The people who have high education are live longer than those who having low level of education. The average life expectancy of the people of developed countries are high as compared to developing countries. So main factors are responsible for the low and high life expectancy of the developed and developing countries but education is a key factor for the high life expectancy of the developed countries (Mercedes, 2013) ^[8].

A research study conducted by the researchers of Steinhart School of Culture Education, and Human Development (2015), at the University of Colorado Denver, New York University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill concluded that number of deaths link to differences in education. They also concluded that lack of education is among leading cause of death.

1.5.3 Standard Health Facilities

Life standard refers such type of life where a person enjoys all kind of health facilities, satisfactory financial resources, and employment opportunities. These all facilities not make high standard of life but it make a person to live for longer period of time. It means that life expectancy having significant relationship with life standard.

In last 200 years, health standard of people get impressive progress. The life expectancy of the people of United Kingdom (UK) is 80 years. Japan where health aspect is promoted later but the life expectancy of people is increased. In South Korea health is promoted after UK while life expectancy of people is increased than UK and Japan (Roser, 2016).

In Pakistan gain in life expectancy and health life expectancy are almost equal, but not same of other countries of the world. The people of those countries having good health standard having high life expectancy than those countries which having poor health standard (Maqbool, 2015) ^[10].

The structure of our society change periodically. People who live for 65 years or live for 77 years and similarly it is estimated that in 2050 it will reach about 91 years in developed countries of the world.in present days, as life standard is promoting and life expectancy is going to be high. Similarly in this ongoing world, if the proper policy is adopted than it will not make the pension able people to give their services but it will help in adding years in their life (DWP, 2013).

Good health and life expectancy both have significant relationship. Sexually transmitted diseases remain as great healthy problem throughout the world. In England, sexual health is one of the key areas of health strategy of the nation (Wilkinson, 1996) ^[16].

1.5.4 Daily Circumstances as factors effecting life expectancy

At global level, it is considered the universal truth that all blessed countries of peace having high level of expectancy. Those countries where there is lack of peace always lead to low level of life span (Vahid *et al.*, 2015) ^[14].

Health of a person is affected by the different factors like cultural, societal, economical, and political status. Such like these factors peace is also a factor effecting greatly health status of a person. Example of this fact can be given as that country where there is peace is higher in life expectancy as compared to low life expectancy (WHO, 1988).

Terrorism is considered as the use or threat of violence to further a political cause. The problem of terrorism is not a new one; it is rooted with recent few decades. A lot of people become the victim of this serious issue because the aim of terrorism is threaten humanity for achieving the goal or target (Nagdy *et al.*, 2016) ^[9].

Terrorism which is the serious problem of present day life and a lot of people every year leads to death because of this serious problem. Uncountable numbers of people today are the victim of terrorism and similarly the other people of the society having no expectation to live in the society. As result of the present un-peace full society expectation of life is low in Pakistan as compared to all other countries of the world (Amir, 2016) ^[13].

2. Result and Discussion

After study the views of different researchers, the researcher reached at the following results Education is a key factors which greatly influence the life expectancy of the people among the developed and developing countries of the world, such emerging concept was supported by Mercedes, 2013 that education is key factors effecting the life expectancy of the people. The author further argued that because of education, the people of developed countries having high life expectance as compared to developing countries of the world.

Life standard and facilities of health both are interrelated with life expectancy of the people of developed and developed countries of the world. Study conducted by Roser (2016), concluded that promotion of health standard is directly related with life expectancy of the people of developed and developing countries of the world. Similarly the result of this study is also in line of the present study.

Daily circumstances such peace and terrorism of the country also effects the life expectance of the people. Such concept was supported by Amir (2016) ^[13], he concluded that today uncountable number of people are dying because of terrorism. As result of this situation the life expectancy of the people is effected greatly. According to WHO (1988), peace is key to promote life expectancy among the people. So this result also supported the finding of the present study.

3. Conclusion

On the basis of findings the researcher arrived at conclusion that financial resources, health standard and facilities, and every day circumstances are all those factors which may cause the low or high expectancy of the developed and developing countries of the world.

4. Recommendation

On the basis of findings and conclusion, the researcher recommended that

1. Education may be provided to the people for the purpose to promote life expectancy of the people
2. Health facilities may be made available for the people
3. Government may take steps for eliminating terrorism and promoting peace among the people

4. Population may be made control by creating awareness among the people.

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