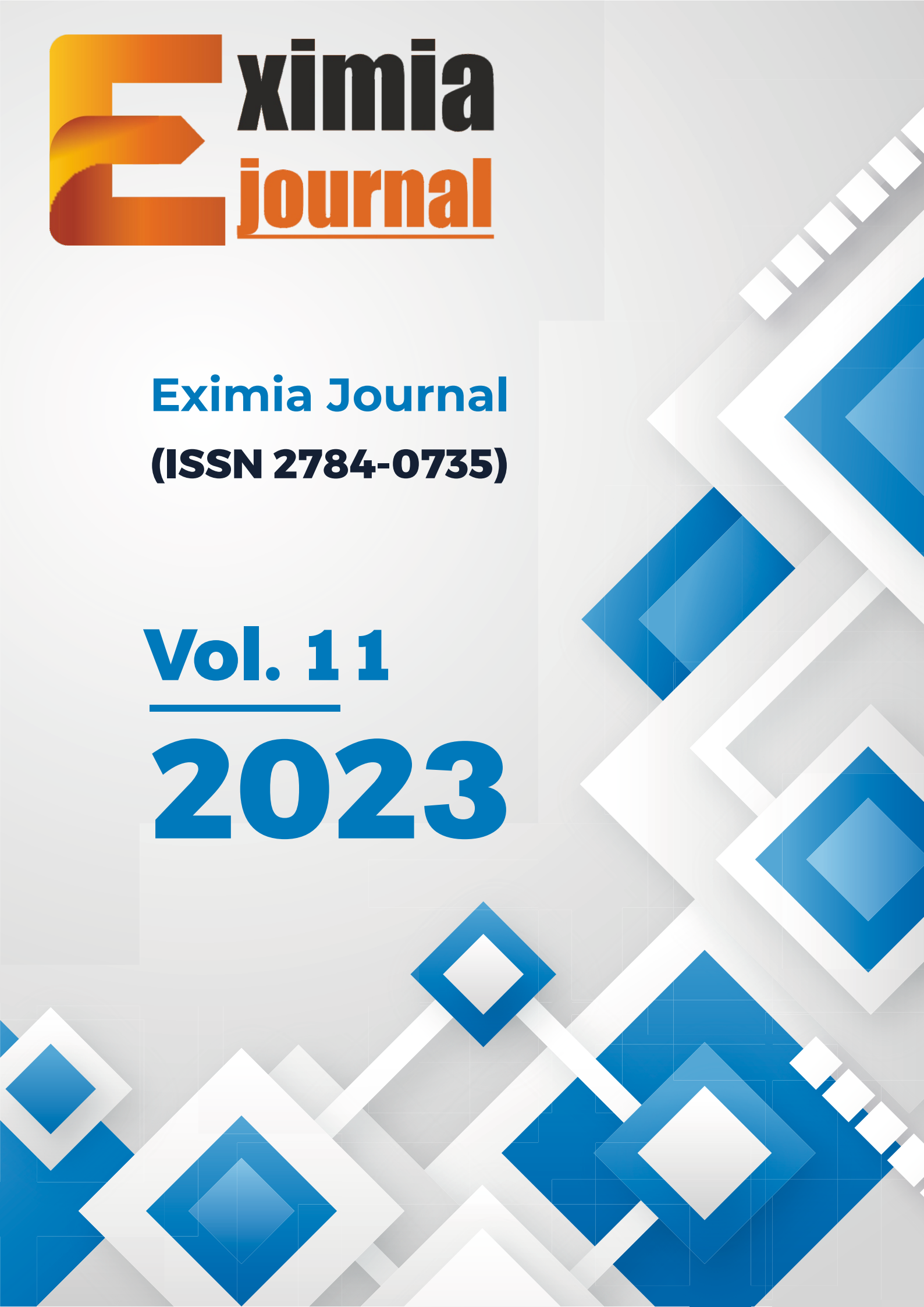




Eximia Journal
(ISSN 2784-0735)

Vol. 11

2023



How respondents' age influence perceptions of socio-economic issues in the context of sustainable local development

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Abstract. In the realm of contemporary socio-economic studies, the interplay between age and perceptions of socio-economic issues within the framework of sustainable local development has emerged as an intriguing area of exploration. This research paper explores the impact of respondents' age on their perceptions of socio-economic issues within the context of Sustainable Local Development (SLD). The study involved 216 participants of diverse ages distributions who completed a structured questionnaire. The analysis demonstrates that all ages significantly influence participants' perspectives on various aspects of their lives, including quality of life, future expectations, and attitudes towards societal and economic structures. However, the influence of these demographic variables varies across different areas, highlighting the intricate and nuanced nature of their interplay. Thus, the paper emphasizes the importance of understanding these perceptual differences to develop strategies for SLD that are socially inclusive and responsive. It further suggests the need for further exploration of these relationships to deepen our understanding.

Keywords: Sustainable Local Development, Social Responsibility, Daily Life Perception, Age

1. Introduction

The manifold dynamics of our contemporary socio-economic structures, often complex and multidimensional, weave a web of intricacies that requires careful and sustained analysis. One strand of this web that increasingly warrants closer investigation is the nexus between age

and its influence on the perception of socio-economic issues, especially in the context of sustainable local development. This investigation is further warranted in light of the recent emphasis on social responsibility, a factor that significantly impacts daily life perception and is central to our exploration. This paper aims to elucidate this relationship and delve into the intricacies of how respondents' age impacts their perception of socio-economic issues within the framework of sustainable local development.

Sustainable local development (SLD) is an inclusive, equitable process that promotes sustainable, locally driven economic development within a defined geographical area, typically a local authority, to enhance the local quality of life over the long term (Jasiński and Żabiński, 2022). A growing body of literature recognizes Social Responsibility as an integral part of SLD. Social Responsibility is based on the ethical obligation of individuals and organizations to act for the benefit of society (Hübel (Anghel), Stan and Tasește, 2023). Its relevance extends to all stakeholders, including the public and private sectors, underscoring the importance of considering its role in understanding socio-economic perceptions within the SLD context (Rus, 2013; Rus, 2020).

Central to this discourse is the variable of age, which plays an integral role in shaping individuals' perceptions and interpretations of socio-economic issues. Age is a crucial demographic factor that can influence people's attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours, particularly their perceptions of socio-economic issues and their roles in sustainable development (Sedhai, 2020). As individuals age, their experiences, and perspectives on various aspects of life evolve. This aging process often comes with a change in social roles, responsibilities, and relationships, which could potentially alter their perception and engagement with socio-economic issues. In relation to social responsibility, which is intertwined with SLD, age have been found to contribute to differences in perceptions and attitudes (Calabrese, Costa and Rosati, 2016). Therefore, exploring the influence of this demographic variable provides valuable insights into the mechanisms of perception formation and decision-making within the realm of SLD.

Furthermore, this study places significant emphasis on "Daily Life Perception". Understanding how individuals interpret socio-economic issues in their daily lives provides meaningful insights into the broader phenomena at play in SLD. Daily Life Perception, influenced by individual demographics such as age, helps us comprehend how these socio-economic issues are experienced and navigated on a micro-level, thereby informing macro-level strategies and initiatives for SLD.

This study aims to delve into this complex interaction to illuminate how perceptual differences attributed to age can shape the trajectory of SLD. By understanding these nuances, we can provide valuable insights for policies and strategies aimed at promoting socially inclusive and responsive sustainable local development that considers a diverse range of perspectives and needs.

2. Literature review

The extensive literature on the influence of age on perceptions of socio-economic issues in sustainable local development presents a complex narrative. It encompasses various areas such as social responsibility, local sustainable development, everyday life perception, and the role of age in shaping these perceptions.

Sustainable local development incorporates economic, environmental, and social dimensions, being deeply intertwined with the daily life perceptions of community members, who directly experience and contribute to these sustainability efforts. The concept of social responsibility plays a pivotal role in sustainable local development, as it fosters a sense of

communal commitment towards maintaining ecological balance, ensuring economic vitality, and promoting social equity within the local community.

The role of age in sustainable development has been extensively examined. Petrișor (2014, 2017) and Filip, Stan and Vintilă (2016) provided detailed analyses of the impact of demographic diversity on the perception of sustainable development issues. Wijaya et al. (2021) and Aivaz, Munteanu and Chiriac (2022) reinforced the importance of understanding socio-economic structures and processes in examining perceptions related to labor force and economic growth.

Regarding social responsibility, Badulescu et al. (2018) found that age significantly impact corporate social responsibility actions, particularly in developing countries like Romania. Appiah (2019) also found a strong correlation between community-oriented corporate social responsibility activities and employee satisfaction, suggesting that different age groups may respond differently to these activities.

The role of public administration in sustainable urban development, and how age can influence perceptions of socio-economic issues, has been extensively analyzed (Stan, 2014, 2022a, 2022b, 2022c). Similarly, Jung and Ha-Brookshire (2017) have highlighted the influence of individual attributes like age on sustainability perceptions. In terms of public services, Draçi and Laska (2023) observed that older respondents, with their wealth of life experiences, had a depth of understanding that allowed them to actively participate in decision-making processes for local development. In contrast, younger respondents' involvement varied, affected by various factors such as education and career involvement. Elderly individuals, for instance, might have distinct perceptions of socio-economic realities that could stem from their lived experiences, accumulated wisdom, or their social and economic status (Sedhai, 2020). Their perception could significantly impact how they engage with local sustainable development initiatives, how they perceive the role of social responsibility, and how they interpret daily life's socio-economic realities.

In terms of perception, Bercu, Tofan and Cigu (2015) emphasized the significant role played by demographic variables in sustainable local development in Romania. This study has important implications for our research as it provides a foundational understanding of how age can shape perceptions of socio-economic issues within a community. Boscolo et al. (2020) also demonstrated how demographic factors can influence the perception of socio-economic challenges and the adoption of innovative strategies in the healthcare sector.

Digitalization, as described by Aivaz (2020; 2021a; 2021b), has played a crucial role in shaping perceptions of socio-economic challenges. Age can significantly influence how individuals perceive and adapt to digitalization and its impact on their daily lives. The implications of the Covid-19 pandemic, as analyzed by Aivaz and Micu (2021), have further highlighted the role of demographic variables in shaping perceptions, particularly in relation to the digital divide along age lines. In the digital realm, Gamez et al. (2019) found that younger respondents, due to their higher digital literacy, were more engaged with digital tools like geoportals, thereby enhancing their involvement in sustainable development initiatives. However, older respondents, who might be less digitally literate, faced challenges in using such tools, potentially limiting their participation in sustainable development efforts.

The importance of considering the diverse age composition of residents and stakeholders in sustainable urban development processes has been underscored in the literature (Donner and Fort, 2018; He et al., 2019). Stan, Tasește and Rus (2023) found diverse perceptions among different demographic groups in relation to urban mobility in the face of global socio-economic challenges.

Hübel (Anghel), Stan and Tasește (2023) provided valuable insights into the role of age in social responsibility, demonstrating the potential variations in public perception of sustainable development strategies in both the public and private sectors. Stan (2022d; 2021a; 2021b) investigated the influence of socio-economic structures on local development and stakeholder perception in sustainable development.

Contributions to the discourse on transportation and sustainable development have focused on the potential for sustainable development within passenger transport activities (Stan, 2022e; Chiriac, Munteanu and Aivaz, 2022). The socio-ecological effects of collaborative efforts within a Natural Protected Area has also been discussed (Olmos-Martínez et al., 2020) for understanding of cooperative efforts' influence on local development and sustainability perception.

Lastly, strategic perspectives on sustainable development, CSR, and social enterprises contribute to the discourse on the influence of respondents' age on perceptions of socio-economic issues in sustainable local development (Seidu, 2014; Salvioni, Gennari and Bosetti, 2016; Raimi, Dodo, and Sule, 2022). So, in the context of finance for local sustainable development, Staic Uliu and Vladu (2022) found that perceptions of the role and significance of financing differed between age groups. Younger respondents tended to view financing as critical, while older respondents emphasized traditional funding methods and efficient resource management.

In summary, age plays a significant role in influencing perceptions and engagements across various dimensions of sustainable local development.

This literature review demonstrates the importance of continually reassessing the role of demographic factors in shaping perceptions of socio-economic challenges as our understanding of sustainable local development evolves. The studies examined highlight the significant influence of age on these perceptions and emphasize the need to consider these factors in striving for sustainable outcomes in local development.

3. Methodology and data

We conducted this research to delve into participants' perceptions of different aspects of their daily lives, experiences during the pandemic, and future expectations. The aim was to gain a deeper understanding of the overall quality of life and attitudes towards societal and economic structures.

The study had several primary objectives, including:

- Assessing participants' perceptions of their daily lives.
- Understanding how participants' perceptions of life changed before and after the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Exploring participants' expectations for their lives in a year's time.
- Evaluating participant satisfaction with various aspects of life, such as housing, education, work, income, health, relationships with neighbors, leisure opportunities and local public services.
- Gauging participants' views on the necessity and usefulness of specific investments, services and economic activities for the well-being and economic development of their communities.
- Identifying the primary sources from which participants acquire their daily food needs.

To collect data, we used a structured questionnaire as the primary instrument. The questionnaire included questions that covered the key areas of interest, offering a range of

responses to accurately capture the nuances of participants' perceptions. Likert scales were utilized for many questions to allow for more nuanced responses and the examination of variations in the intensity of perceptions.

The study population comprised 216 participants. Their ages were categorized into six groups: 16-24 years (7.1%), 25-34 years (20.8%), 35-44 years (29.6%), 45-54 years (31.0%), 55-65 years (8.4%), and above 65 years (3.1%). The age groups with the highest representation were 35-44 and 45-54, while the group above 65 years had the lowest representation.

We analyzed the questionnaire data using various statistical techniques. Frequency distributions were generated for each question, and the Pearson Chi-Square test was employed to assess associations between variables. Additionally, we calculated the Likelihood Ratio and established a Linear-by-Linear Association to determine correlations between variables.

The results are presented as percentages of responses within each question category, further subdivided by age group. The significant findings were discussed in relation to the research objectives, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the participants' perceptions and experiences in the given context.

4. Results and discussion

In this section, we provide an analysis of the results obtained from our investigation into how age influence the perceptions of socio-economic issues within sustainable local development. The findings stem from an empirical study that encompassed a wide range of demographic groups, with a particular focus on variations related to age.

The collected data presents a valuable array of insights into how these demographic factors influence the way individuals perceive local sustainability efforts and associated socio-economic challenges. Our objective is to shed light on the intricate ways in which age shape the understanding and prioritization of these issues.

Thus, first question on the questionnaire was: *How do you value your daily life?*

Table 1. How do you value your daily life?

Age	Not know	Very poor	Poor	Neither good or bad	Good	Very good	Total
16 - 24	13.3%		6.7%	6.7%	60.0%	13.3%	100.0%
25 - 34		4.3%	8.5%	34.0%	44.7%	8.5%	100.0%
35 - 44			7.7%	29.2%	52.3%	10.8%	100.0%
45 - 54			3.2%	31.7%	57.1%	7.9%	100.0%
55 - 65		5.3%	5.3%	31.6%	47.4%	10.5%	100.0%
over 65				100.0%			100.0%
Total	0.9%	1.4%	6.0%	31.9%	50.5%	9.3%	100.0%

(Source: Authors' work)

The dataset provides a representation of how respondents, divided by age groups, perceive the quality of their daily life (Table 1). Most of the respondents across all age groups tend to have a positive perception, with a combined 91.7% of all respondents indicating their daily life as being "neither good nor bad," "good," or "very good". Only a small percentage of respondents (2.3%) considered their daily life to be "poor" or "very poor". Interestingly, none of the respondents over 65 years of age had negative perceptions of their daily life.

Among the youngest age group (16-24), a majority (60.0%) found their daily life to be "good," while a sizable percentage (13.3%) indicated they "don't know". This is noteworthy as it is the only age group where any respondent indicated uncertainty.

However, the Pearson Chi-Square value (55.175), with an asymptotic significance of 0.000, suggests a significant association between age and the perceived quality of daily life (Table 2). The Likelihood Ratio (41.661), also with a significant p-value (0.020), supports this finding. This indicates that the perception of the quality of daily life does differ significantly across age groups. The Linear-by-Linear Association value (0.119) has a relatively high p-value (0.730), suggesting a non-linear trend between age and perception of daily life.

Table 2. Pearson Chi-Square test

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	55,175 ^a	25	0.000
Likelihood Ratio	41.661	25	0.020
Linear-by-Linear Association	0.119	1	0.730
N of Valid Cases	216		

(Source: Authors' work)

As such, while most respondents have a positive perception of their daily life, these perceptions vary significantly across different age groups. It should be noted that this analysis does not take into account other potentially influential factors, such as socio-economic status, health, and regional factors, which could also play a role in shaping these perceptions.

The second question on the questionnaire was: *How do you rate your life compared to before the pandemic?*

The data illustrates respondents' perception of their life quality in comparison to the period before the pandemic, stratified by age groups (Table 3). Many respondents across all age groups (67.4%) reported their life quality as being "about the same". A fifth of respondents (20.0%) believed their life quality was "worse", while 11.2% considered their life quality to have become "better". Only 1.4% of respondents indicated uncertainty ("I don't know").

Interestingly, the age group 16-24 stands out, with 86.7% reporting their life quality as "about the same", which is significantly higher than other age groups. Only 6.7% of this age group felt their life quality had become "worse" or "better".

Table 3. How do you rate your life compared to before the pandemic?

Age	Not know	Worse	About the same	Better	Total
16 - 24		6.7%	86.7%	6.7%	100.0%
25 - 34	2.2%	30.4%	58.7%	8.7%	100.0%
35 - 44	1.6%	21.9%	62.5%	14.1%	100.0%
45 - 54	1.6%	15.6%	70.3%	12.5%	100.0%
55 - 65		15.8%	78.9%	5.3%	100.0%
over 65		14.3%	71.4%	14.3%	100.0%
Total	1.4%	20.0%	67.4%	11.2%	100.0%

(Source: Authors' work)

The Pearson Chi-Square value (9.447) with an asymptotic significance of 0.853, suggests no significant association between age and perceived life quality relative to the pre-pandemic period. The Likelihood Ratio (10.290) with a similar p-value (0.801) corroborates

this finding, indicating that age does not significantly affect one's perception of their life quality in comparison to the period before the pandemic. The Linear-by-Linear Association value (0.843), with a p-value of 0.358, suggests that there is no significant linear trend between age and perception of life quality compared to the pre-pandemic period (Table 4).

Table 4. Pearson Chi-Square test

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	9.447 ^a	15	0.853
Likelihood Ratio	10.290	15	0.801
Linear-by-Linear Association	0.843	1	0.358
N of Valid Cases	215		

(Source: Authors' work)

In conclusion, most respondents perceive their life quality to be largely unchanged since before the pandemic, regardless of age. However, it is important to note that this analysis does not account for other potentially influential factors such as changes in socio-economic status, health conditions, or specific regional pandemic impacts, which could also contribute to the perceived quality of life (Condrea, Stanciu and Aivaz, 2012).

Answers to question 3: *How do you think you will live in a year's time?* are shown in Table 5.

Table 5. How do you think you will live in a year's time?

Age	Not know	Worse	About the same	Better	Total
16 - 24		6.7%	46.7%	46.7%	100.0%
25 - 34	8.7%	26.1%	43.5%	21.7%	100.0%
35 - 44	14.1%	15.6%	45.3%	25.0%	100.0%
45 - 54	19.0%	15.9%	41.3%	23.8%	100.0%
55 - 65	15.8%	26.3%	57.9%		100.0%
over 65	42.9%	14.3%	42.9%		100.0%
Total	14.5%	18.2%	44.9%	22.4%	100.0%

(Source: Authors' work)

The table illustrates the distribution of expectations about life quality one year from the current moment across various age groups. It is evident that 44.9% of all respondents anticipate their lives to remain "about the same". A smaller percentage, 22.4%, envisage an improvement in their life quality ("better"), while 18.2% anticipate a decline ("worse"). Meanwhile, 14.5% of the respondents are uncertain about their future life quality ("I don't know"). It is noteworthy to highlight that respondents in the "over 65 years" category present a more pronounced uncertainty (42.9%) about their life quality one year from now, which is significantly higher than other age groups.

The Pearson Chi-Square value of 22.845 with an asymptotic significance of 0.087 suggests a trend of association between age and perceived life quality in the future. Although the p-value is slightly above the conventional 0.05 cut-off for statistical significance, the relatively low value indicates a possible relationship. The Likelihood Ratio of 28.700 with a significance of 0.018 indicates a statistically significant association between age and anticipated life quality in the future, further corroborating the potential relationship suggested by the Pearson Chi-Square test. Moreover, the Linear-by-Linear Association value of 9.993, with a

highly significant p-value of 0.002, further confirms that there is a significant linear trend between age and the perception of future life quality (Table 6).

Table 6. Pearson Chi-Square test

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	22,845 ^a	15	0.087
Likelihood Ratio	28.700	15	0.018
Linear-by-Linear Association	9.993	1	0.002
N of Valid Cases	214		

(Source: Authors' work)

In conclusion, there appears to be a potential association between age and the anticipation of life quality a year from the present moment. Further investigation may be needed to better understand the exact nature and underlying factors of this association. It is also crucial to consider socio-economic, health, and other relevant factors, which were not included in this analysis, but may impact future life quality perceptions.

The 4th question of the questionnaire was: *How do you rate your family's income in relation to needs?* (Table 7).

Table 7. How do you rate your family's income in relation to needs?

Age	We don't even have enough for the bare necessities	We only have enough for the bare necessities	It's enough for a decent living but we can no longer afford to buy more expensive goods	We manage to buy some more expensive goods, but with restrictions in other areas	We manage to have everything we need, no strings attached	Total
16 - 24		20.0%	20.0%	33.3%	26.7%	100.0%
25 - 34	15.2%	23.9%	26.1%	26.1%	8.7%	100.0%
35 - 44	9.5%	33.3%	17.5%	31.7%	7.9%	100.0%
45 - 54	4.8%	28.6%	31.7%	27.0%	7.9%	100.0%
55 - 65	21.1%	15.8%	31.6%	31.6%		100.0%
over 65	57.1%	42.9%				100.0%
Total	11.3%	27.7%	24.4%	28.2%	8.5%	100.0%

(Source: Authors' work)

The given data displays an insightful perspective on how respondents from various age groups perceive their family income relative to their needs. The general distribution suggests that most respondents can cover their basic needs and even purchase some more expensive goods, but with limitations in other areas (28.2%). The second most common response (27.7%) indicates that the family income is only enough for their basic needs. About 24.4% of respondents believe their income is sufficient for a decent lifestyle, but not enough to allow for purchasing more expensive goods. Some 11.3% report that their income doesn't even cover the strict necessities. Lastly, only a small proportion (8.5%) of the respondents feel that their income enables them to meet all their needs without restrictions. A significant observation here is that among the respondents who are over 65 years old, none report that their income suffices for more than their basic needs. In fact, most in this age group (57.1%) report that their income doesn't cover even their basic needs.

The Pearson Chi-Square value of 38.031 with an asymptotic significance of 0.009 suggests that there is a significant association between age and perceived sufficiency of family income in meeting needs. This is further confirmed by the Likelihood Ratio of 37.276 with an asymptotic significance of 0.011. Furthermore, the Linear-by-Linear Association value of 6.877, with an asymptotic significance of 0.009, indicates a significant linear relationship between age and the perception of family income relative to needs (Table 8).

Table 8. Pearson Chi-Square test

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	38,031 ^a	20	0.009
Likelihood Ratio	37.276	20	0.011
Linear-by-Linear Association	6.877	1	0.009
N of Valid Cases	213		

(Source: Authors' work)

In summary, this analysis indicates a strong relationship between age and the perceived adequacy of family income in meeting needs. It highlights a potentially concerning issue for older age groups, particularly those over 65, where income is often inadequate even for basic needs. Additional research is recommended to explore the socio-economic factors contributing to these observations.

Each life aspect presented in the data shows varying degrees of satisfaction among different age groups (Table 9). The numerical rating was set between 1 (indicating "very dissatisfied") and 5 (indicating "very satisfied").

Table 9. Respondents' levels of satisfaction with different aspects of life by age

Age	16 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 65	over 65	Total
[Your living conditions]	4.23	3.56	3.67	3.94	3.68	2.71	3.73
[Your level of education]	4.15	3.67	3.71	4.16	3.84	2.43	3.83
[Your place of work]	3.62	3.27	3.56	3.87	3.63	2.29	3.56
[Income you earn]	3.85	2.96	3.13	3.38	3.21	1.43	3.16
[Your own health]	4.38	3.69	3.68	3.83	3.53	2.57	3.72
[Relations with neighbours]	4.38	3.87	3.90	4.32	4.26	4.00	4.09
[Leisure options in your locality]	3.38	2.58	2.73	3.08	2.68	1.86	2.81
[Personal development opportunities near your home]	3.15	2.34	2.52	3.08	2.95	2.43	2.73
[Employment opportunities in our area]	3.15	2.24	2.51	2.94	2.47	1.57	2.59
[Public services in your locality (transport, health, cleaning)]	3.46	2.44	2.78	3.13	3.05	2.71	2.88
[Economic development in your locality]	3.23	2.44	2.81	3.27	2.79	2.14	2.87
[Access to school and education for local young people]	3.77	2.78	3.16	3.41	3.42	3.14	3.21
[How customs, crafts and traditions have been preserved in your locality]	3.69	2.64	2.92	3.29	2.89	2.57	3.00

(Source: Authors' work)

Each life aspect presented in the data shows varying degrees of satisfaction among different age groups. The highest average satisfaction across all age groups is found in 'relations with neighbors' (4.09), suggesting a generally favorable view towards local community interactions. This is followed closely by the respondents' level of education (3.83), indicating a sense of accomplishment in personal educational attainment.

On the other hand, 'employment opportunities in our area' (2.59), 'personal development opportunities close to home' (2.73), and 'leisure options in your locality' (2.81) receive the lowest average scores across all age groups. These findings suggest dissatisfaction with the availability and accessibility of employment and personal growth opportunities, as well as leisure activities within the local community.

It is notable that individuals over 65 consistently reported lower levels of satisfaction in almost all areas. This group reported considerably lower satisfaction with their income (1.43) compared to other age groups. This implies a potential area of concern regarding the economic conditions of the elderly population.

The Pearson's Chi-Square test could further ascertain if there is a statistically significant difference in the levels of satisfaction among different age groups. However, this test's results aren't provided in the data.

Overall, while certain aspects of life such as neighborhood relationships and personal education level see higher satisfaction, the data suggests there are areas for improvement, particularly in terms of local opportunities for employment, personal development, and leisure activities. Further investigation could provide more context and potential solutions to these issues. Additionally, the low satisfaction rates reported by those over 65 across many aspects should be addressed as a priority, considering the potential implications on this vulnerable demographic.

Another question on the questionnaire was: *When you think about the area in which you live (both your hometown and nearby communities), to what extent do you consider the following investments/services and economic activities to be necessary and useful for its economic development and community well-being?* (Table 10).

The data presented represents perceptions across different age groups regarding the necessity and utility of various investments, services, and economic activities for their community's economic development and wellbeing. Each category was rated on a scale, with higher scores indicating a higher perceived need.

Overall, the most valued investment across all age groups was having a "large, networked store (like Lidl, Mega Image, Carrefour, Penny, etc.)", with the age group of 16-24 ranking it highest at 4.75. This might be due to the convenience, variety, and price competitiveness offered by these large-scale retail stores. This trend, however, seems to be less pronounced in the age group of 55-65 and over 65, which might indicate a higher preference for local, smaller-scale shopping options in these older demographics.

Investments and services related to agriculture, such as an "agricultural cooperative", "agricultural products depot", and "agricultural products processing factory," were also ranked highly, especially in the 16-24 and over 65 age categories. This underlines the perceived importance of agricultural activities and infrastructure for economic development and community wellbeing.

Leisure services like "parks" and "sports fields (football, tennis, basketball, etc.)" were highly valued by younger and middle-aged respondents (16-44), perhaps reflecting a desire for recreational amenities and public spaces. The decreasing importance attributed by older age groups could be due to differing lifestyle needs or recreational preferences.

Table 10. Average importance given by respondents, segregated by age, to a range of potential local investments, services and economic activities

Age	16 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 65	over 65	Total
[agricultural cooperative]	4.25	3.93	3.51	4.11	3.94	4.43	3.89
[agricultural products warehouse]	4.42	4.28	3.81	4.36	4.00	5.00	4.17
[agricultural processing plant]	4.33	4.18	3.96	4.29	4.11	4.86	4.17
[industry]	4.42	4.08	3.77	4.07	3.39	3.57	3.92
[tourist boarding houses]	3.58	3.55	3.60	3.79	3.39	2.29	3.57
[hotels]	3.42	2.83	3.16	3.54	2.89	1.71	3.14
[local food restaurants]	4.00	3.73	3.75	4.02	3.72	2.86	3.81
[agreement services]	4.42	4.05	3.95	4.18	4.28	2.86	4.06
[sports ground (football, tennis, basketball, etc)]	4.67	4.20	4.11	4.16	4.33	3.14	4.16
[park]	4.42	4.35	4.30	4.20	4.56	3.29	4.27
[cramas]	3.33	3.50	3.19	3.63	2.78	3.00	3.35
[village museum]	3.75	3.48	3.54	3.75	3.33	2.86	3.56
[at least one large chain store (such as Lidl, Mega Image, Carrefour, Peny, etc)]	4.75	3.78	3.89	4.00	3.50	4.29	3.93

(Source: Authors' work)

Interestingly, "tourist pensions" and "hotels" received relatively lower scores across all age groups, suggesting that they may not be seen as essential for community development. Local "restaurants with local food" seemed to be more appreciated, perhaps reflecting a preference for authentic, local culinary experiences over transient accommodations.

This analysis suggests that perceived community needs and preferences can significantly vary across age groups. Understanding these variances is crucial in designing targeted policies and initiatives for community development.

Respondents' assessment, segregated by age, of the question: *Where do you get most of your daily food needs?* is illustrated in Table 11.

Table 11. Where do you get most of your daily food needs?

Age	from a department store in the nearest town	from a local store	most of them are produced by us or our neighbors	other	Total
16 - 24	58.3%	16.7%	25.0%		100.0%
25 - 34	50.0%	42.5%	7.5%		100.0%
35 - 44	43.9%	36.8%	14.0%	5.3%	100.0%
45 - 54	40.0%	41.8%	18.2%		100.0%
55 - 65	33.3%	50.0%	16.7%		100.0%
over 65		85.7%	14.3%		100.0%
Total	42.3%	41.3%	14.8%	1.6%	100.0%

(Source: Authors' work)

This dataset represents a survey of food procurement methods, where participants were asked where they obtain most of their daily food necessities. The responses were divided into

four categories: "from a large store in the nearest city", "from a local store", "most are produced by us or neighbors", and "other."

Overall, the largest proportion of participants, 42.3%, get their daily food necessities from large stores in the nearest city, followed by 41.3% who rely on local stores. Notably, 14.8% of the participants produce most of their daily food needs themselves or obtain them from neighbors, suggesting a substantial reliance on locally sourced or home-produced food.

Interestingly, food procurement methods vary significantly across different age groups. Younger age groups (16-24 and 25-34) are more likely to rely on large stores in the nearest city for their daily food necessities. However, this reliance decreases with age, with only 33.3% of the 55-65 age group and none of the over 65 age group sourcing their food from large stores in the nearest city.

Conversely, reliance on local stores and self-production increases with age. Specifically, 85.7% of those over 65 years procure their daily food necessities from local stores. Furthermore, the proportion of people who rely on self-production or unneighborly production increases from 7.5% in the 25-34 age group to 18.2% in the 45-54 age group, indicating a more self-sustaining lifestyle in older demographics.

The Pearson Chi-Square and Likelihood Ratio tests, with p-values of 0.166 and 0.082 respectively, suggest that there is no significant association between age group and food procurement method at the conventional 0.05 level of statistical significance. The Linear-by-Linear Association value of 0.139 also supports this conclusion (Table 12).

Table 12. Pearson Chi-Square test

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	20,143 ^a	15	0.166
Likelihood Ratio	23.124	15	0.082
Linear-by-Linear Association	0.139	1	0.709
N of Valid Cases	189		

(Source: Authors' work)

In summary, the data indicates a noticeable pattern of diverse food procurement methods among different age groups. However, the statistical tests conducted do not provide sufficient evidence to establish a statistically significant correlation between age and food procurement method. The observed trends may be influenced by cultural, logistical, or lifestyle disparities among age groups, but additional research is required to validate these findings.

5. Conclusions

The sustainable local development (SLD), rooted in the concept of sustainability, encompasses economic development and growth that respects the local environment and social fabric, promoting a sense of shared prosperity (Bercu, Tofan and Cigu, 2015). It serves as a response to the economic, environmental, and social challenges faced by local communities. Local actors' perceptions and attitudes play a significant role in shaping this response. Hence, the relevance of age becomes crucial.

Based on the presented analyses, age have significant roles in shaping respondents' perceptions of socio-economic issues within the context of Sustainable Local Development (SLD).

The impact of age has a more substantial impact on perceptions. Significant differences were found in perceived quality of daily life across different age groups, with younger

individuals displaying more uncertainty. Furthermore, age is associated with predictions of future quality of life, particularly among respondents over 65 who expressed higher levels of uncertainty. Age also correlates significantly with perceived income sufficiency, with the elderly reporting a lack of surplus income. Additionally, distinct age-related preferences for different community development investments were observed. However, no significant relationship was found between age and food procurement method, indicating the complexity of age-related influences on perceptions.

The examination of "Daily Life Perception" underscores the influence of demographic variables on individuals' perceptions, with implications for SLD. The findings indicate that individuals' age may shape their views on social responsibility, life quality, prospects, and satisfaction in various aspects of life (Stanciu and Condrea, 2018). Consequently, these demographic variables and the perceptual lenses they create contribute to the understanding of how socio-economic issues are understood and navigated at a micro-level.

In conclusion, age emerges as a significant determinant in shaping perceptions of socio-economic issues within the context of sustainable local development. It significantly influences individuals' engagement with daily life matters, perceptions of social responsibility, and responses to socio-economic challenges. Recognizing these age-related nuances can lead to the development of more effective, inclusive, and responsive strategies for sustainable local development. Future research should continue to explore this dynamic relationship, incorporating additional demographic variables to provide a more nuanced understanding of sustainable development's socio-economic aspects.

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