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한국 고령자의 영역별 삶의 만족도, 유데모닉 웰빙, 전반적 삶의 만족도 간 관계: 행복에 대한 시간지향성의 조절된 매개효과*

Domain Life Satisfaction, Eudaimonic Well-Being, and General Life Satisfaction among Korean Older Adults: A Moderated Mediation Model of Temporal Orientation toward Happiness

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(초록)

본 연구는 한국 고령자(65세 이상)를 대상으로 영역별 삶의 만족도(domain life satisfaction)가 유데모닉 웰빙(eudaimonic well-being)을 통해 전반적 삶의 만족도(general life satisfaction)와 어떠한 관련성을 갖는지 검증하고, 이 과정에서 행복에 대한 시간지향성(temporal orientation toward happiness)이 조절변수로 작용하는지를 분석하였다. 이를 위해 국회미래연구원이 실시한 「2024년 미래인식 및 가치관 조사」 자료를 활용하였으며, 65세 이상 응답자 3,997명을 최종 분석 대상으로 하였다. 영역별 삶의 만족도는 생활수준, 건강, 성취, 대인관계, 안전감, 공동체 소속감, 미래 안정성, 좋아하는 일에 사용할 수 있는 시간, 동네 환경에 대한 만족도의 9개 영역으로 구성하였다. 유데모닉 웰빙은 삶의 의미, 성취감, 자율성의 3개 문항으로 측정하였으며, 전반적 삶의 만족도와 행복에 대한 시간지향성은 각각 단일문항으로 측정하였다. 영역별 삶의 만족도가 형성지표로 구성되고, 유데모닉 웰빙이 반영지표로 구성된 혼합 측정모형의 특성을 고려하여 PLS-SEM을 분석방법으로 사용하였다. 또한 2단계 접근법을 통해 영역별 삶의 만족도와 행복에 대한 시간지향성의 상호작용항을 생성하고, 부트스트래핑을 통해 직접

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경로, 간접효과, 조절효과 및 조절된 매개효과를 검증하였다. 분석 결과, 영역별 삶의 만족도는 유데모닉 웰빙 및 전반적 삶의 만족도와 유의한 정적 관련성을 보였으며, 유데모닉 웰빙 역시 전반적 삶의 만족도와 유의한 정적 관련성을 보였다. 또한 유데모닉 웰빙은 영역별 삶의 만족도와 전반적 삶의 만족도 간 관계를 부분 매개하는 것으로 나타났다. 행복에 대한 시간지향성은 영역별 삶의 만족도와 유데모닉 웰빙 간 관계를 유의하게 조절하였다. 구체적으로, 미래 행복을 위해 현재를 희생하기보다 현재 행복을 더 중시하는 성향이 강할수록 영역별 삶의 만족도와 유데모닉 웰빙 간 관련성은 약화되었다. 또한 조절된 매개효과도 유의한 것으로 확인되었다. 추가 강건성 분석에서도 주요 인구사회학적 특성을 통제한 후 핵심 결과의 실질적 패턴은 유지되었다. 이러한 결과는 고령자의 영역별 삶의 만족이 전반적 삶의 만족으로 이어지는 과정에서 유데모닉 웰빙이 중요한 심리적 전환기제로 작용함을 보여준다. 또한 행복에 대한 시간지향성이 이러한 전환 과정의 강도를 조절한다는 점에서, 고령자의 삶의 질을 이해할 때 영역별 만족 수준뿐 아니라 개인이 현재와 미래의 행복을 어떻게 조율하는지에 주목할 필요가 있음을 시사한다. 본 연구는 고령자 웰빙 연구에서 영역별 삶의 평가가 의미, 성취, 자율성과 같은 유데모닉 웰빙을 통해 전반적 삶의 만족으로 통합되는 과정을 밝히고, 이 과정이 행복에 대한 시간지향성에 따라 달라질 수 있음을 실증적으로 제시한다.

주제어 : 영역별 삶의 만족도, 유데모닉 웰빙, 전반적 삶의 만족도, 행복에 대한 시간지향성, 고령자, PLS-SEM, 조절된 매개효과

(Abstract)

This study examines how domain life satisfaction is associated with general life satisfaction through eudaimonic well-being among older adults and whether this association depends on temporal orientation toward happiness. Drawing on the bottom-up perspective of life satisfaction, eudaimonic well-being theory, and life-span perspectives on time orientation, this study proposes that satisfaction with specific life domains is positively associated with general life satisfaction both directly and indirectly through eudaimonic well-being, which reflects meaning, accomplishment, and autonomy. It further argues that temporal orientation toward happiness conditions the extent to which domain life satisfaction is linked to eudaimonic well-being. Data were drawn from the 2024 Korean National Future Perception and Values Survey conducted by the National Assembly Futures Institute. The final sample consisted of 3,997 respondents aged 65 years and older. Partial least squares structural equation modeling (PLS-SEM) was employed because the research model included a formative composite for domain life satisfaction, a reflective construct for eudaimonic well-being, and single-item constructs for general life satisfaction and temporal orientation toward happiness. The interaction term between domain life satisfaction and temporal orientation toward happiness was estimated using the two-stage approach, and significance was assessed through bootstrapping. The results showed that domain life satisfaction was positively associated with both eudaimonic well-being and general life satisfaction. Eudaimonic well-being was also positively associated with general life satisfaction and partially mediated the relationship between domain life satisfaction and general life satisfaction. In addition, temporal orientation toward happiness significantly moderated the relationship between domain life satisfaction and eudaimonic well-being. Specifically, as respondents placed greater importance on present happiness rather than sacrificing the present for future

happiness, the positive association between domain life satisfaction and eudaimonic well-being became weaker. The moderated mediation effect was also significant. Additional robustness analyses showed that the main findings remained substantively unchanged after controlling for major sociodemographic characteristics. These findings suggest that, in later life, satisfaction with specific life domains is more strongly linked to general life satisfaction through eudaimonic well-being among older adults who are more willing to regulate the present in view of future happiness. This study contributes to gerontological well-being research by identifying a psychological transformation process through which domain-level life evaluations become integrated into global life satisfaction and by showing that this process varies according to temporal orientation toward happiness.

Key words : domain life satisfaction; eudaimonic well-being; general life satisfaction; temporal orientation toward happiness; older adults; PLS-SEM; moderated mediation

Ⅰ. Introduction

Population aging has become a central social and policy issue across many societies, directing increasing scholarly attention to the determinants of well-being in later life. This issue is especially salient in South Korea, one of the world's most rapidly aging societies, where the proportion of adults aged 65 years and older is projected to exceed 20% of the total population in 2025 (Statistics Korea, 2024). As later life is shaped by changes in health, income, social relationships, autonomy, and perceived future stability, understanding how older adults evaluate their lives requires attention not only to their overall life satisfaction but also to the specific domains in which daily life is experienced (Steptoe et al., 2015).

In the Korean context, later-life well-being is closely related to multiple sources of vulnerability, including health-related limitations, economic insecurity, changes in family and social relationships, social isolation, and the growing importance of community-based support. Prior Korean gerontological research has shown that older adults' life satisfaction is associated with multidimensional life conditions, including health, economic status, family relationships, social participation, neighborhood ties, and community environment (Kim et al., 2016; Lee & Choi, 2022; Liu & Heo, 2022; Park & Son, 2016). These findings suggest that older adults' general life satisfaction may depend not only on global evaluations of life but also on satisfaction with concrete life domains such as health, living standards, interpersonal relationships, safety, community belonging, and future stability. Accordingly, a domain-specific approach is particularly useful for understanding later-life adaptation in Korea.

Subjective well-being research has long emphasized general life satisfaction as a global cognitive evaluation of one's life (Diener, 1984; Diener et al., 1999). From a bottom-up

perspective, general life satisfaction is shaped partly by satisfaction with specific life domains, such as health, economic conditions, interpersonal relationships, safety, community belonging, and living environment (Diener, 1984; Diener et al., 1999; Headey et al., 1991; Sirgy, 2002). This perspective is particularly relevant for older adults because their quality of life is closely tied to concrete life conditions and resources, including health, economic resources, social participation, family and neighborhood relationships, and local amenities (Kim et al., 2016; Lee, 2026; Lee & Choi, 2022; Liu & Heo, 2022; Park & Son, 2016; Steptoe et al., 2015). Therefore, older adults who are more satisfied with multiple life domains are likely to report higher general life satisfaction.

However, later-life well-being may not be fully explained by a simple accumulation of domain-specific satisfactions. Older adults may also interpret their life conditions in relation to meaning, accomplishment, autonomy, and the capacity to maintain a coherent and self-directed life (Ryff, 2013; Steptoe et al., 2015). Thus, the important question is not only whether older adults are satisfied with particular domains of life, but also how these domain-level evaluations become linked to positive psychological functioning.

This distinction is consistent with the broader literature distinguishing hedonic and eudaimonic dimensions of well-being. The hedonic perspective, reflected in constructs such as general life satisfaction and affective balance, focuses on happiness, pleasure, and satisfaction. In contrast, the eudaimonic perspective emphasizes positive psychological functioning, including meaning, accomplishment, autonomy, purpose, and the realization of human potential (Deci & Ryan, 2008; Huta & Waterman, 2014; Ryan & Deci, 2001; Ryff, 1989). Although hedonic and eudaimonic well-being are related, they capture distinct aspects of well-being. In later life, eudaimonic well-being may be especially important because it reflects whether individuals can continue to experience their lives as meaningful, agentic, and worthwhile despite age-related changes in resources and roles.

Building on these perspectives, this study proposes that eudaimonic well-being serves as a key psychological mechanism linking domain life satisfaction to general life satisfaction among older adults. Domain life satisfaction represents evaluations of concrete areas of life, whereas eudaimonic well-being reflects a more interpretive and functional evaluation of life, including meaning, accomplishment, and autonomy (Ryan & Deci, 2001; Ryff, 1989; Steptoe et al., 2015). When satisfaction with specific life domains is internalized as evidence that one’s life remains meaningful, self-directed, and valuable, it is more likely to be integrated into general life satisfaction. In this sense, eudaimonic well-being may function as a theoretically grounded mediating mechanism through which domain-level satisfaction becomes

part of a global evaluation of life.

Despite these theoretical and empirical foundations, several gaps remain in the literature on later-life well-being. First, although prior studies have established that domain satisfaction is closely associated with overall life satisfaction among older adults (Kim et al., 2016; Lee, 2026; Lee & Choi, 2022; Liu & Heo, 2022; Park & Son, 2016), much of this research has focused on the direct association between life domains and global life satisfaction, with relatively less attention to the psychological pathway through which domain-level evaluations become linked to general life satisfaction. Second, although eudaimonic well-being has been recognized as an important component of later-life well-being (Ryan & Deci, 2001; Ryff, 2013; Steptoe et al., 2015), its mediating role between domain life satisfaction and general life satisfaction has not been sufficiently examined in the Korean older-adult context. Third, little is known about whether this pathway differs depending on older adults' temporal orientation toward happiness, despite life-span research showing that time-related perceptions and purpose are important for later-life motivation and well-being (Carstensen et al., 1999; Freund & Baltes, 2002; Pfund et al., 2022). By addressing these gaps, the present study clarifies not only whether domain satisfaction is associated with global life satisfaction, but also how and under what temporal condition this association emerges.

To address the third gap, this study focuses on temporal orientation toward happiness as a source of within-group heterogeneity among older adults. Aging research increasingly recognizes that older adults are not a homogeneous group. Even among individuals of similar chronological age, there may be considerable variation in how they interpret time, regulate goals, and prioritize present versus future happiness (Carstensen et al., 1999; Freund & Baltes, 2002; Pfund et al., 2022). In this study, temporal orientation toward happiness refers to the extent to which individuals prioritize present happiness over future-oriented sacrifice, or conversely, are willing to regulate the present in view of future happiness. Drawing on socioemotional selectivity theory and selective optimization with compensation theory, this study argues that temporal orientation toward happiness conditions the process through which domain life satisfaction becomes linked to eudaimonic well-being (Baltes & Baltes, 1990; Carstensen et al., 1999; Freund & Baltes, 2002). Older adults who place greater importance on present happiness may experience domain satisfaction more immediately and hedonically, whereas those who are more willing to regulate the present in view of future happiness may be more likely to interpret domain satisfaction as a resource for maintaining meaning, accomplishment, and autonomy. Therefore, the positive association between domain life satisfaction and eudaimonic

well-being is expected to be weaker among older adults who place greater emphasis on present happiness.

Empirically, this study examines these relationships using data from the 2024 Korean National Future Perception and Values Survey conducted by the National Assembly Futures Institute (National Assembly Futures Institute, 2024). The analysis focuses on respondents aged 65 years and older. Partial least squares structural equation modeling (PLS-SEM) is employed because the research model includes a formative composite for domain life satisfaction, a reflective construct for eudaimonic well-being, and single-item constructs for general life satisfaction and temporal orientation toward happiness (Hair et al., 2022; Sarstedt et al., 2020). This approach enables the study to examine direct paths, indirect effects, moderating effects, and moderated mediation effects while accounting for the mixed measurement structure of the model.

This study contributes to gerontological well-being research in three ways. First, it refines the bottom-up perspective of life satisfaction by showing that domain life satisfaction (DLS) is linked to general life satisfaction (GLS) not only directly but also through eudaimonic well-being (EWB). Second, it highlights within-group heterogeneity among older adults by identifying temporal orientation toward happiness as a boundary condition of the DLS–EWB relationship. Third, by modeling domain life satisfaction as a formative composite and testing a first-stage moderated mediation model, the study provides an empirical account of how domain-level evaluations become psychologically integrated into general life satisfaction in later life.

Ⅱ. Theoretical Background and Hypotheses

1. Domain Life Satisfaction and General Life Satisfaction

Subjective well-being research commonly distinguishes between global evaluations of life and satisfaction with specific life domains. General life satisfaction refers to a broad cognitive evaluation of one's life as a whole, whereas domain life satisfaction refers to evaluations of particular areas of life, such as health, relationships, living standards, safety, community belonging, future stability, time use, and neighborhood environment (Diener, 1984; Diener et al., 1999; Sirgy, 2002). Both constructs capture cognitive aspects of subjective well-being, but they differ in their level of abstraction: general life satisfaction reflects an overall judgment of life, whereas domain life satisfaction reflects satisfaction with the concrete conditions and contexts in which everyday life is experienced.

The bottom-up perspective of subjective

well-being provides a theoretical basis for linking domain life satisfaction to general life satisfaction. According to this perspective, global life satisfaction is shaped partly by satisfaction experienced in specific domains of life (Diener, 1984; Headey et al., 1991; Sirgy, 2002). Rather than being formed independently of life circumstances, overall life satisfaction emerges from individuals' evaluations of the domains that structure their daily experiences. Thus, satisfaction with health, social relationships, economic conditions, safety, and community life can spill over into a broader evaluation of life as a whole.

This bottom-up process may be particularly important in later life. Older adults' quality of life is closely tied to domains that reflect both resources and constraints in aging. Health satisfaction indicates perceived physical capacity and functional independence; relationship satisfaction reflects social connectedness and emotional support; satisfaction with safety and community belonging reflects perceived security and social embeddedness; and satisfaction with future stability signals a sense of continuity and predictability. Korean studies also show that older adults' life satisfaction is associated with health, economic conditions, social participation, family and neighborhood relationships, and community environments (Kim et al., 2016; Lee, 2026; Lee & Choi, 2022; Liu & Heo, 2022; Park & Son, 2016). These findings suggest that domain-level evaluations provide an experiential basis from which older adults assess whether their lives are satisfactory overall.

Accordingly, satisfaction with specific life domains is expected to be positively associated with overall life satisfaction among older adults. When older adults report higher satisfaction across multiple life domains, they are likely to evaluate their lives more positively as a whole because these domains represent the concrete conditions through which later life is experienced. Therefore, the following hypothesis is proposed.

H1. Domain life satisfaction (DLS) is positively associated with general life satisfaction (GLS) among older adults.

2. Eudaimonic Well-Being as a Mediating Mechanism

Although the bottom-up perspective explains why satisfaction with specific life domains is positively associated with general life satisfaction, this association may not occur only through a direct spillover process (Diener, 1984; Headey et al., 1991; Sirgy, 2002). In later life, satisfaction with particular domains may also be associated with a broader sense of meaning, accomplishment, and autonomy (Ryff, 2013; Steptoe et al., 2015). This study therefore proposes eudaimonic well-being as a mediating mechanism linking domain life satisfaction to general life satisfaction.

Eudaimonic well-being refers to positive psychological functioning and the realization of human potential, rather than mere pleasure or affective comfort (Ryan & Deci, 2001). Ryff's (1989) psychological well-being framework emphasizes dimensions such as purpose in life, autonomy, environmental mastery, personal growth, self-acceptance, and positive relations with others. Similarly, self-determination theory suggests that well-being is enhanced when individuals experience autonomy, competence, and meaningful engagement in their lives (Deci & Ryan, 2008; Ryan & Deci, 2001). In the present study, eudaimonic well-being is reflected in perceived meaning in everyday activities, a sense of accomplishment, and autonomy in deciding how to live.

Domain life satisfaction may provide the experiential basis for eudaimonic well-being among older adults. Satisfaction with health may indicate that one can continue meaningful activities and maintain functional independence. Satisfaction with interpersonal relationships may support a sense of belonging, purpose, and emotional connectedness. Satisfaction with living standards, safety, community belonging, and future stability may contribute to a sense of security and control over one's life. Korean research on later-life meaning and successful aging has similarly emphasized the importance of family relationships, health, psychological well-being, and self-transcendent values as resources for successful aging (Chong et al., 2012). In this way, satisfaction with specific life domains can be interpreted as evidence that one's life remains meaningful, manageable, and self-directed. Therefore, older adults who report higher domain life satisfaction are likely to experience higher eudaimonic well-being (Huppert & So, 2013; Ryan & Deci, 2001; Ryff, 1989; Waterman et al., 2010). Hence, the following hypothesis is proposed.

H2. Domain life satisfaction (DLS) is positively associated with eudaimonic well-being (EWB) among older adults.

Eudaimonic well-being, in turn, is expected to be positively associated with general life satisfaction. General life satisfaction reflects a broad cognitive evaluation of one's life as a whole. Such an evaluation is likely to be more positive when individuals perceive their daily activities as meaningful, feel a sense of accomplishment, and believe that they can decide how to live. This may be particularly important in later life, when individuals often face changes in health, social roles, and perceived future opportunities (Baltes & Baltes, 1990; Freund & Baltes, 2002). Under these conditions, meaning, accomplishment, and autonomy may help older adults maintain a positive overall evaluation of life despite age-related constraints (Diener et al., 1999; Joshanloo & Blasco-Belled, 2023; Keyes et al., 2002; Ryff, 2013).

Prior research also suggests that eudaimonic and hedonic aspects of well-being are distinct but closely related components of optimal functioning (Keyes et al., 2002; Ryff, 2013). Eudaimonic well-being has been shown to contribute to subsequent life satisfaction, indicating that positive psychological functioning can serve as an important basis for global life evaluation (Joshanloo & Blasco-Belled, 2023). Accordingly, older adults who experience higher levels of eudaimonic well-being are expected to report higher general life satisfaction. Therefore, the following hypothesis is proposed.

H3. Eudaimonic well-being (EWB) is positively associated with general life satisfaction (GLS) among older adults.

Taken together, these arguments suggest that eudaimonic well-being may partially mediate the relationship between domain life satisfaction and general life satisfaction. Domain life satisfaction captures older adults' evaluations of concrete life conditions, whereas general life satisfaction reflects their overall assessment of life (Diener et al., 1999; Sirgy, 2002). Eudaimonic well-being may connect these two levels of evaluation by linking satisfaction with specific domains to a broader sense that life is meaningful, accomplished, and autonomous (Ryff, 2013; Steptoe et al., 2015). Thus, domain life satisfaction may be associated with general life satisfaction not only directly, as suggested by the bottom-up perspective, but also indirectly through eudaimonic well-being.

This mediating process is particularly relevant in later life. For older adults, satisfaction with life domains such as health, relationships, safety, and community may become more consequential when these satisfactions are internalized as psychological resources that support meaning, self-direction, and a sense of accomplishment (Chong et al., 2012; Ryff, 2013; Steptoe et al., 2015). Therefore, eudaimonic well-being is expected to function as a psychological transformation mechanism through which domain-level satisfaction becomes integrated into general life satisfaction. Hence, the following hypothesis is proposed.

H4. Eudaimonic well-being (EWB) mediates the relationship between domain life satisfaction (DLS) and general life satisfaction (GLS).

3. Temporal Orientation toward Happiness as a Moderator

Temporal orientation is central to understanding well-being in later life. Life-span theories emphasize that perceived time horizons influence motivation, goal selection, emotional regulation, and the meaning attached to present experiences. Socioemotional selectivity theory suggests that as people perceive their remaining time as limited, they increasingly prioritize emotionally meaningful goals and present-oriented

satisfaction over long-term preparatory goals (Carstensen, 2006; Carstensen et al., 1999). However, this general age-related tendency does not imply that all older adults interpret time and happiness in the same way. Considerable individual differences remain in how older adults relate present happiness to future happiness and how they regulate current experiences in view of future well-being.

The present study focuses on temporal orientation toward happiness, defined as the extent to which individuals prioritize present happiness over future-oriented sacrifice, or conversely, are willing to regulate the present in view of future happiness. This orientation is particularly relevant for older adults because later life involves both the salience of present emotional experience and the continued need to maintain meaning, agency, and continuity. Prior research on future time perspective and purpose in life also suggests meaningful heterogeneity among older adults in how time-related perceptions are associated with eudaimonic outcomes (Carstensen, 2006; Carstensen et al., 1999; Freund & Baltes, 2002; Pfund et al., 2022).

Temporal orientation toward happiness should be distinguished from future time perspective in socioemotional selectivity theory. Future time perspective refers to how much time individuals perceive as remaining in life, whereas temporal orientation toward happiness captures how individuals prioritize present happiness relative to future happiness. Thus, temporal orientation toward happiness does not measure perceived time horizons per se; rather, it reflects a happiness-related temporal priority that may shape how older adults interpret satisfaction with specific life domains. This distinction is important because older adults with similar perceived time horizons may still differ in whether they treat present satisfaction primarily as immediate emotional comfort or as a resource for maintaining future-oriented meaning, accomplishment, and autonomy.

Selective optimization with compensation theory provides an additional basis for this argument. According to this theory, successful aging involves selecting meaningful goals, optimizing available resources, and compensating for age-related losses (Baltes & Baltes, 1990; Freund & Baltes, 2002). From this perspective, older adults who are more willing to regulate present experiences in view of future happiness may be more likely to use satisfaction with specific life domains as a psychological resource for maintaining meaning, accomplishment, and autonomy. For example, satisfaction with health, relationships, safety, or community life may be interpreted not only as current comfort but also as evidence that one can continue to pursue meaningful goals, sustain valued roles, and preserve self-direction.

In contrast, older adults who place stronger emphasis on present happiness may be more likely to experience domain satisfaction as

immediate comfort, enjoyment, or emotional relief, a pattern broadly consistent with life-span accounts suggesting that emotionally meaningful present experiences become more salient in later life (Carstensen, 2006; Carstensen et al., 1999). In this case, satisfaction with specific life domains may still contribute to general life satisfaction, but its association with eudaimonic well-being may be weaker. That is, when present happiness is prioritized over future-oriented regulation, the link between domain satisfaction and meaning, accomplishment, or autonomy may become weaker. Given that higher values of temporal orientation toward happiness indicate stronger prioritization of present happiness, this study expects a negative moderating effect of temporal orientation toward happiness on the relationship between domain life satisfaction and eudaimonic well-being. Therefore, the following hypothesis is proposed.

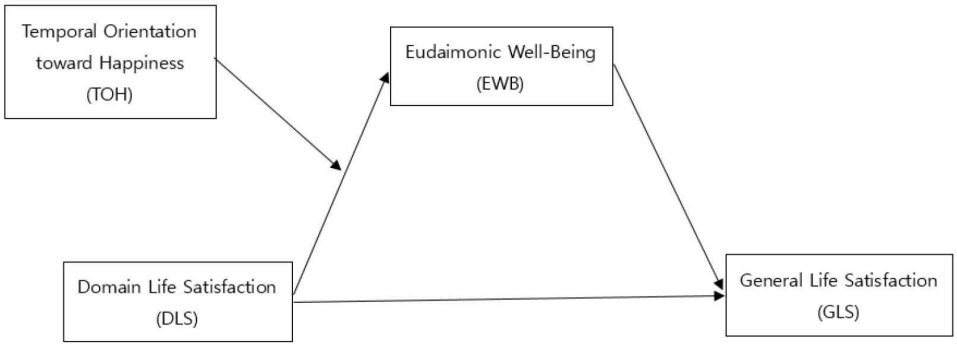
H5. Temporal orientation toward happiness (TOH) moderates the relationship between domain life satisfaction (DLS) and eudaimonic well-being (EWB), such that this relationship is weaker among older adults who place greater importance on present happiness.

This moderating effect is also expected to extend to the indirect relationship between domain life satisfaction and general life satisfaction through eudaimonic well-being. As argued earlier, eudaimonic well-being helps explain the association between domain life satisfaction and general life satisfaction (Joshanloo & Blasco-Belled, 2023; Ryff, 2013; Steptoe et al., 2015). If temporal orientation toward happiness weakens the association between domain life satisfaction and eudaimonic well-being, then it should also weaken the indirect association between domain life satisfaction and general life satisfaction through eudaimonic well-being. Accordingly, the mediating role of eudaimonic well-being is expected to be conditional on temporal orientation toward happiness.

Specifically, among older adults who place greater importance on present happiness, the indirect association between domain life satisfaction and general life satisfaction through eudaimonic well-being is expected to be weaker. Conversely, among older adults who are more willing to regulate the present in view of future happiness, domain life satisfaction is expected to be more strongly translated into eudaimonic well-being and, in turn, into general life satisfaction. Therefore, the following hypothesis is proposed.

H6. Temporal orientation toward happiness (TOH) moderates the indirect association between domain life satisfaction (DLS) and general life satisfaction (GLS) through eudaimonic well-being (EWB), such that the indirect association becomes weaker as present-oriented happiness becomes stronger.

<Figure 1> Research Model



Note. DLS = Domain Life Satisfaction (formative composite); EWB = Eudaimonic Well-Being (reflective construct); GLS = General Life Satisfaction (single-item); TOH = Temporal Orientation toward Happiness (single-item moderator). Solid arrows represent hypothesized direct paths (H1 – H3); the dashed arrow represents the moderating effect of TOH on the DLS – EWB relationship (H5); H4 and H6 represent the mediation and moderated mediation effects, respectively, and are not depicted as separate paths.

Based on the preceding theoretical arguments, this study proposes a first-stage moderated mediation model. As shown in <Figure 1>, domain life satisfaction is expected to be positively associated with general life satisfaction both directly and indirectly through eudaimonic well-being. In addition, temporal orientation toward happiness is expected to moderate the relationship between domain life satisfaction and eudaimonic well-being, thereby conditioning the indirect association between domain life satisfaction and general life satisfaction through eudaimonic well-being.

Ⅲ. Methods

1. Data and Sample

This study used data from the 2024 Korean National Future Perception and Values Survey, conducted by the National Assembly Futures Institute. According to the survey report, the survey was designed to assess citizens' overall life satisfaction, examine changes in values and perceptions of social issues, and provide evidence for policy alternatives aimed at improving quality of life and responding to social change (National Assembly Futures Institute, 2024). The survey was developed by restructuring the earlier Korean Happiness Survey and expanding it to include items on future perceptions, values, and happiness-related constructs (National Assembly Futures Institute, 2024). Because the survey includes global and

<Table 1> Sample Characteristics (N = 3,997)

Variables		Number of Respondents (%)
Gender		
	Male	1,909 (47.8%)
	Female	2,088 (52.2%)
Age (years)		
	65 - 69	1,540 (38.5%)
	70 - 79	1,695 (42.4%)
	80 - 89	707 (17.7%)
	≥90	55 (1.4%)
Education Level		
	Middle school or less	1,945 (48.7%)
	High school	1,558 (39.0%)
	College/university or higher	320 (8.0%)
	Unknown/no response	174 (4.4%)
Marital Status		
	Married/remarried	2,872 (71.9%)
	Widowed	1,005 (25.1%)
	Divorced	94 (2.4%)
	Never married	14 (0.4%)
	Separated	12 (0.3%)
Household Monthly Income (KRW)		
	No income	27 (0.7%)
	<1.0 million	487 (12.2%)
	1.0 - <2.0 million	907 (22.7%)
	2.0 - <3.0 million	811 (20.3%)
	3.0 - <4.0 million	665 (16.6%)
	4.0 - <5.0 million	362 (9.1%)
	5.0 - <6.0 million	321 (8.0%)
	6.0 - <7.0 million	177 (4.4%)
	7.0 - <8.0 million	123 (3.1%)
	8.0 - <9.0 million	64 (1.6%)
	9.0 - <10.0 million	22 (0.6%)
	≥10.0 million	31 (0.8%)

domain-specific subjective well-being items consistent with major guidelines for measuring subjective well-being, it provides a suitable basis for examining relationships among DLS, EWB, GLS, and TOH (OECD, 2013). The target population of the survey was the general population aged 15 years or older in South Korea. The sampling frame was based on Statistics Korea's enumeration districts as of June 2022, excluding residents of areas or facilities that were difficult to survey, such as some islands, dormitories, special social facilities, and tourist hotels. The fieldwork was conducted from June 21 to August 18, 2024. The survey primarily used household-visit interviews with a structured questionnaire administered using tablet PCs. Depending on respondents' preferences, self-administered drop-off surveys and web-based surveys were also used. In total, 16,897 individuals from 7,766 households participated in the survey. The household cooperation rate was 35.8%. The original sample allocation was based on 750 enumeration districts and 7,500 households.

For the present study, the analysis was restricted to respondents aged 65 years and older. The final sample for the main PLS-SEM analysis consisted of 3,997 respondents (M_{age} = 73.21 years, SD = 6.62; range: 65–97 years) (see <Table 1>). For the robustness checks with sociodemographic control variables, respondents with unknown or no-response education status were excluded because this category did not represent a substantive level of educational attainment. Accordingly, the controlled robustness analyses were conducted using 3,823 respondents. The public report describes survey weights constructed by combining design weights, nonresponse adjustment factors, and benchmarking adjustment factors based on region, sex, age group, and household structure. However, the primary PLS-SEM analyses in this study were conducted without survey weights because the analysis focused on testing structural relationships among latent and composite constructs rather than producing population estimates, and because the PLS-SEM procedure used here does not directly incorporate complex survey design weights in the same manner as design-based survey estimation. Therefore, the findings should be interpreted as model-based associations within the analytic sample rather than design-weighted population estimates.

2. Measures

1) Domain Life Satisfaction (DLS)

Domain life satisfaction (DLS) was operationalized as a formative composite construct consisting of nine single-item indicators of satisfaction with specific life domains. Respondents rated their satisfaction with each domain on a 0–10 scale. The nine domains were: (1) living standards, (2) health, (3) achievements, (4) interpersonal relationships,

(5) safety, (6) community belonging, (7) future security, (8) time use for preferred activities, and (9) neighborhood environment. Consistent with formative measurement theory, these indicators were conceptualized as distinct components that jointly form the overall DLS construct, rather than as interchangeable reflections of a single underlying factor (Hair et al., 2022). Accordingly, high inter-indicator correlations were not assumed to be necessary. In the PLS-SEM analysis, the nine items were modeled as formative indicators of DLS. Because achievement satisfaction in DLS may be conceptually close to the accomplishment item in EWB, an additional robustness check excluding this indicator was conducted and is reported in the Results section. For descriptive statistics and bivariate correlations, a composite score was also calculated by averaging the nine items.

2) Eudaimonic Well-Being (EWB)

Eudaimonic well-being (EWB) was measured as a reflective construct using three items rated on a 0–10 scale. The items assessed whether respondents perceived their everyday activities as meaningful, experienced a sense of accomplishment from what they do, and felt free to decide how to live. The three items were: “Overall, the things I do in life are worthwhile and meaningful”; “I generally feel a sense of accomplishment from what I do”; and “I am free to choose how I live my life.” These items capture key eudaimonic dimensions of meaning, accomplishment, and autonomy, which are central to positive psychological functioning (Ryan & Deci, 2001; Ryff, 1989). EWB was modeled reflectively because the three items were expected to reflect a common underlying construct of eudaimonic well-being.

3) General Life Satisfaction (GLS)

General life satisfaction (GLS) was measured with a single item asking respondents to evaluate their overall satisfaction with their present life on a 0–10 scale: “How satisfied are you with your life overall?” The mean score was 6.62 (SD = 1.47). Single-item measures of overall life satisfaction are widely used in large-scale survey research and have demonstrated acceptable validity relative to multi-item scales when the construct is global, concrete, and clearly understood by respondents (Cheung & Lucas, 2014; Diener et al., 2013).

4) Temporal Orientation toward Happiness (TOH)

Temporal orientation toward happiness (TOH) was assessed with a single bipolar item. Respondents indicated their position on a 1–5 scale, where 1 represented “I can sacrifice the present for future happiness” and 5 represented “Present happiness is more important than a vague future.” The mean score was 3.60 (SD = 0.93). Higher scores indicate a stronger orientation toward present happiness, whereas

lower scores indicate a greater willingness to regulate or sacrifice the present in view of future happiness. Because this item captures a specific and concrete judgment about the relative priority of present versus future happiness, it was treated as a single-item moderator. This operationalization is theoretically relevant to life-span perspectives on time orientation, including socioemotional selectivity theory and selective optimization with compensation theory, but it should not be interpreted as a comprehensive measure of these broader theoretical constructs. Because it does not capture the full complexity of time perspective, findings involving TOH are interpreted conservatively.

3. Analysis

The hypotheses were tested using partial least squares structural equation modeling (PLS-SEM) implemented in SmartPLS 4 (Ringle et al., 2024). PLS-SEM was selected because it is well suited for research models that include formative composite constructs, reflective constructs, and single-item constructs within the same model, and because it allows researchers to estimate mediation, moderation, and moderated mediation relationships under relatively flexible distributional assumptions (Hair et al., 2022; Sarstedt et al., 2020). In the present study, domain life satisfaction (DLS) was modeled as a formative composite, eudaimonic well-being (EWB) was modeled as a reflective construct, and general life satisfaction (GLS) and temporal orientation toward happiness (TOH) were modeled as single-item constructs due to the structure of the secondary public dataset. PLS-SEM also allows the simultaneous estimation of direct paths, indirect effects, interaction effects, and moderated mediation effects while accounting for the mixed measurement structure of the model.

The measurement model was evaluated before assessing the structural model. For the formative DLS construct, multicollinearity among indicators was assessed using variance inflation factors (VIFs), with values below 5.0 indicating acceptable levels of collinearity. The relevance of each formative indicator was assessed based on the significance and direction of its outer weight. For the reflective EWB construct, indicator reliability, internal consistency reliability, and convergent validity were assessed using standardized factor loadings, Cronbach's alpha, composite reliability (ρc), and average variance extracted (AVE). The single-item constructs, GLS and TOH, were modeled with their outer loadings fixed to 1.000. Model fit was examined using SRMR and NFI as supplementary global fit indices.

The analysis proceeded in two stages. First, a baseline mediation model without the interaction term was estimated to assess the direct associations among DLS, EWB, and GLS and the indirect association between DLS and GLS

through EWB. This model was used to test H1 through H4. Specifically, H1 was evaluated using the direct path from DLS to GLS, H2 using the direct path from DLS to EWB, H3 using the direct path from EWB to GLS, and H4 using the indirect effect of DLS on GLS through EWB. Second, a moderated mediation model was estimated by adding TOH and the interaction term between DLS and TOH. Because the interaction involved a formative composite construct, the two-stage approach was used to create the interaction term (Becker et al., 2018). In the first stage, latent variable scores were obtained from the model without the interaction term. In the second stage, these latent variable scores were used to construct the DLS × TOH interaction term, and the moderated mediation model was estimated to test H5 and H6. In this model, TOH was also linked to GLS as a control path, allowing the moderating effect on the DLS–EWB relationship to be examined while accounting for the direct association between TOH and GLS. Bootstrapping with 5,000 resamples was used to assess the statistical significance of direct paths, indirect effects, the interaction effect, and the moderated mediation effect. Indirect and moderated mediation effects were evaluated using 95% percentile bootstrap confidence intervals. Effects were considered statistically significant when the confidence interval did not include zero.

As an additional robustness check, the baseline mediation model and the moderated mediation model were re-estimated after including major sociodemographic control variables. Age was entered as a continuous variable using respondents' actual age in years. Gender was dummy-coded, education was represented by two dummy variables with middle school or less as the reference category, household income was treated as an ordinal variable, and marital status was dummy-coded as currently not married versus married/remarried. Respondents with unknown or no-response education status were treated as missing in the controlled robustness analyses because this category did not represent a substantive level of educational attainment. The control variables were linked to both EWB and GLS.

4. Common Method Bias

Because all variables were collected from the same respondents in a single survey, the potential for common method bias was considered. Procedurally, the survey was administered as a public social survey in which respondents were encouraged to provide honest responses and their responses were treated confidentially. Statistically, common method bias was assessed using Harman's single-factor test and full collinearity VIFs. Harman's single-factor test showed that the first unrotated factor explained 55.56% of the total variance,

exceeding the commonly used 50% threshold and suggesting the possible presence of common method variance. However, because the study variables represent theoretically related aspects of subjective and psychological well-being, some shared variance was expected and may reflect substantive conceptual overlap rather than method bias alone. As an additional diagnostic check, full collinearity VIFs were examined using the latent variable scores. All full collinearity VIF values ranged from 1.001 to 2.700, below the conservative threshold of 3.3. Thus, although common method variance cannot be completely ruled out, the full collinearity VIF results suggest that it was unlikely to have substantially distorted the structural relationships examined in this study.

Ⅳ. Results

1. Preliminary Analyses

For descriptive purposes, DLS was computed as a composite score by averaging the nine domain-specific satisfaction items. The mean score for DLS was 6.45 (SD = 1.27), the mean score for EWB was 6.50 (SD = 1.41), the mean score for GLS was 6.62 (SD = 1.47), and the mean score for TOH was 3.60 (SD = 0.93). DLS was positively correlated with GLS ($r = .645$, $p < .01$) and EWB ($r = .752$, $p < .01$). EWB was also positively correlated with GLS ($r = .665$, $p < .01$). These results indicate that the main well-being constructs were strongly associated in the expected direction. In contrast, TOH showed no significant correlation with DLS ($r = .023$, n.s.) and only very weak correlations with GLS ($r = .035$, $p < .05$) and EWB ($r = .057$, $p < .01$), suggesting that TOH was empirically distinct from the well-being constructs.

2. Measurement Model

The measurement model was assessed before testing the structural relationships. For the formative measurement model of DLS, all outer weights were positive and statistically significant, supporting the relevance of the nine indicators as formative components of DLS (see <Table 2>). The largest outer weights were observed for living standard satisfaction (.281), achievement satisfaction (.214), future security satisfaction (.154), and health satisfaction (.152). The remaining indicators also contributed significantly. Outer VIF values ranged from 1.800 to 3.005, all below the recommended threshold of 5.0, indicating that multicollinearity among the formative indicators was not problematic. Because the secondary dataset did not include a separate global criterion item for DLS, redundancy analysis for assessing the convergent validity of the formative DLS construct could not be conducted. Therefore, the formative measurement model was

<Table 2> Formative Measurement Model: Domain Life Satisfaction (DLS)

Domain Indicator	Outer Weight	t	p-value	VIF
Living standards	.281	11.600	< .001	2.215
Health	.152	7.446	< .001	1.800
Achievements	.214	8.902	< .001	2.559
Interpersonal relationships	.097	3.999	< .001	2.495
Safety	.075	2.952	.003	2.942
Community belonging	.083	3.226	.001	2.671
Future security	.154	5.875	< .001	3.005
Time use for preferred activities	.133	6.288	< .001	1.879
Neighborhood environment	.057	2.732	.006	1.981

evaluated based on indicator relevance and multicollinearity, and this limitation is acknowledged in the discussion.

The reflective measurement model for EWB showed satisfactory reliability and convergent validity. Cronbach's alpha was .858, composite reliability (ρc) was .913, and the average variance extracted (AVE) was .779, all meeting commonly accepted thresholds for reflective constructs. The standardized loadings of the three indicators ranged from .835 to .912: meaning in everyday activities = .912, sense of accomplishment = .898, and autonomy in deciding how to live = .835. All loadings were statistically significant at $p < .001$.

3. Baseline Structural Model: Main Effects and Mediation (H1–H4)

<Table 3> presents the results of the baseline structural model. Consistent with H1, the direct path from DLS to GLS was positive and

<Table 3> Baseline Structural Model Results

Path	β	t	p-value	95% CI
DLS → GLS	.348	17.398	< .001	[.310, .388]
DLS → EWB	.759	87.081	< .001	[.742, .776]
EWB → GLS	.409	20.261	< .001	[.369, .447]
DLS → EWB → GLS	.311	19.187	< .001	[.278, .341]

Note. β = standardized path coefficient; CI = 95% percentile bootstrap confidence interval based on 5,000 bootstrap resamples.

significant (β = .348, t = 17.398, p < .001, 95% percentile bootstrap CI [.310, .388]). DLS was also strongly and positively associated with EWB (β = .759, t = 87.081, p < .001, 95% percentile bootstrap CI [.742, .776]), supporting H2. EWB was positively associated with GLS (β = .409, t = 20.261, p < .001, 95% percentile bootstrap CI [.369, .447]), supporting H3. The indirect effect of DLS on GLS through EWB was significant (β = .311, t = 19.187, p < .001, 95% percentile bootstrap CI [.278, .341]), supporting H4. Because the direct path from DLS to GLS remained significant after accounting for EWB, the results indicate partial mediation. The baseline model explained 57.7% of the variance in EWB and 50.4% of the variance in GLS. As supplementary global fit indices, SRMR was .029 and NFI was .965. Effect sizes were large for the path from DLS to EWB (f^2 = 1.362) and moderate for the path from EWB to GLS (f^2 = .143).

4. Moderated Mediation Model (H5–H6)

The moderated mediation model added TOH and the interaction term between DLS and TOH to the baseline mediation model. <Table 4> presents the results. TOH was positively but weakly associated with EWB (β = .040, t = 3.810, p < .001, 95% percentile bootstrap CI [.019, .061]). However, its direct association with GLS was not significant in the model that included this path (β = .007, t = 0.617, p = .537, 95% percentile bootstrap CI [−.015, .030]).

The interaction between DLS and TOH significantly predicted EWB (β = −.025, t = 2.212, p = .027, 95% percentile bootstrap CI [−.048, −.003]). Because higher values of TOH indicate stronger prioritization of present

<Table 4> Moderation and Moderated Mediation Model Results

Path	β	t	p-value	95% CI
TOH → EWB	.040	3.810	< .001	[.019, .061]
TOH → GLS	.007	0.617	.537	[-.015, .030]
DLS → EWB	.759	87.008	< .001	[.742, .776]
DLS → GLS	.348	17.436	< .001	[.311, .388]
EWB → GLS	.408	20.231	< .001	[.368, .446]
DLS × TOH → EWB	-.025	2.212	.027	[-.048, -.003]
Moderated mediation: DLS × TOH → EWB → GLS	-.010	2.217	.027	[-.020, -.001]

Note. β = standardized path coefficient; CI = 95% percentile bootstrap confidence interval based on 5,000 bootstrap resamples.

happiness over an uncertain future, the negative coefficient indicates that the positive association between DLS and EWB becomes weaker as present-oriented happiness becomes stronger. Conversely, DLS is more strongly associated with EWB among older adults who are more willing to sacrifice or regulate the present in view of future happiness. Thus, H5 was supported.

The moderated mediation effect was also significant. The indirect effect through the interaction term was negative and significant (β = −.010, t = 2.217, p = .027, 95% percentile bootstrap CI [−.020, −.001]). This finding indicates that TOH conditions the indirect association between DLS and GLS through EWB. Specifically, the indirect association between DLS and GLS through EWB becomes weaker as present-oriented happiness becomes stronger. Thus, H6 was supported. The non-significant direct association between TOH and GLS (β = .007, p = .537) suggests that TOH was not directly associated with GLS in the moderated mediation model. Instead, TOH primarily functioned as a condition shaping the DLS–EWB relationship and the resulting indirect association through EWB. The effect size of the interaction term was very small (f^2 = .005), falling below the conventional small-effect benchmark (Cohen, 1988). Therefore, the statistically significant interaction should be interpreted as a reliable but modest conditioning effect. The model explained 57.9% of the variance in EWB and 50.4% of the variance in GLS. Because prior studies have used different constructs, samples, and analytic models, direct comparison of R^2 values should be made cautiously. Nevertheless, the model explained a substantial proportion of variance in both EWB and GLS, suggesting that the proposed model captured meaningful variation in later-life well-being.

As an additional robustness check, the model was re-estimated after excluding the achievement satisfaction indicator from the formative DLS composite because of its conceptual proximity to the accomplishment item of EWB. The substantive pattern of results remained unchanged. Specifically, the paths from DLS to EWB (β = .748, p < .001), from EWB to GLS (β = .411, p < .001), and from DLS to GLS (β = .350, p < .001) remained statistically significant. The interaction between DLS and TOH also remained significant (β = −.029, p = .012), as did the moderated mediation effect through EWB (β = −.012, p = .012, 95% percentile bootstrap CI [−.022, −.003]). These results provide additional support for the robustness of the mediation and moderated mediation findings.

5. Robustness Checks with Sociodemographic Controls

To address the potential influence of sociodemographic characteristics, the baseline

mediation model and the moderated mediation model were re-estimated after including age, gender, education, household income, and marital status as control variables. Because respondents with unknown or no-response education status were treated as missing, the controlled robustness analyses were based on 3,823 respondents.

The results remained substantively unchanged. In the controlled baseline mediation model, DLS was positively associated with EWB (β = .756, t = 78.315, p < .001, 95% percentile bootstrap CI [.737, .775]) and GLS (β = .346, t = 16.485, p < .001, 95% percentile bootstrap CI [.307, .389]). EWB was also positively associated with GLS (β = .402, t = 18.766, p < .001, 95% percentile bootstrap CI [.358, .442]). The indirect effect of DLS on GLS through EWB remained significant (β = .304, t = 17.748, p < .001, 95% percentile bootstrap CI [.268, .337]). These findings indicate that the baseline mediation pattern was robust after accounting for major sociodemographic characteristics.

The controlled moderated mediation model also showed the same substantive pattern. DLS remained positively associated with EWB (β = .753, t = 77.255, p < .001, 95% percentile bootstrap CI [.734, .773]) and GLS (β = .347, t = 16.488, p < .001, 95% percentile bootstrap CI [.307, .389]), and EWB remained positively associated with GLS (β = .401, t = 18.714, p < .001, 95% percentile bootstrap CI [.357, .442]). The interaction between DLS and TOH remained negative and significant (β = −.028, t = 2.376, p = .018, 95% percentile bootstrap CI [−.050, −.004]), and the moderated mediation effect also remained significant (β = −.011, t = 2.374, p = .018, 95% percentile bootstrap CI [−.020, −.002]). The controlled moderated mediation model explained 57.8% of the variance in EWB and 50.0% of the variance in GLS. Taken together, these results indicate that the main findings were robust after accounting for major sociodemographic differences among older adults.

6. Supplementary PROCESS Analysis

Because the PLS-SEM results were treated as the primary findings, PROCESS Macro analyses were conducted as supplementary robustness checks using composite scores. These analyses do not fully reproduce the formative-reflective specification of the PLS-SEM model, but they provide an additional regression-based assessment of the mediation and moderated mediation patterns. PROCESS Macro Model 4 produced results consistent with the baseline PLS-SEM mediation model: the total association between DLS and GLS was positive and significant, the indirect effect through EWB was significant, and the direct association between DLS and GLS remained significant after accounting for EWB. PROCESS Macro Model 7 also produced results consistent with the

PLS-SEM moderated mediation model: the DLS × TOH interaction was negative and significant, and the index of moderated mediation was significant and negative. Although all conditional indirect effects were significant across the observed range of TOH, their magnitude decreased as TOH increased.

Ⅴ. Discussion

This study examined how domain life satisfaction (DLS) is associated with general life satisfaction (GLS) among Korean older adults and whether this association is conditioned by temporal orientation toward happiness (TOH). Using data from 3,997 Korean adults aged 65 years and older, the study tested a first-stage moderated mediation model with partial least squares structural equation modeling (PLS-SEM) and a two-stage interaction approach. The findings generally supported the proposed model. DLS was positively associated with both GLS and eudaimonic well-being (EWB), and EWB was positively associated with GLS. EWB also statistically mediated the relationship between DLS and GLS. In addition, TOH negatively moderated the DLS–EWB relationship, and this moderation extended to the indirect association between DLS and GLS through EWB.

The findings provide three main insights. First, DLS was strongly associated with EWB. Older adults who were more satisfied with specific life domains were more likely to report that their everyday activities were meaningful, that they experienced a sense of accomplishment, and that they felt free to decide how to live. This suggests that satisfaction with concrete life domains may provide psychological resources that support positive functioning in later life (Ryan & Deci, 2001; Ryff, 2013; Steptoe et al., 2015). Satisfaction with health, relationships, safety, community belonging, and future stability may not only reflect favorable life conditions but also contribute to older adults' sense that their lives remain meaningful, manageable, and self-directed. The effect-size pattern further clarifies the relative importance of the model components. The DLS → EWB path showed a very large effect size, indicating that satisfaction with concrete life domains was the dominant correlate of eudaimonic well-being in the model. This suggests that, among older adults, perceived satisfaction with health, relationships, safety, community belonging, future stability, and other everyday domains is closely tied to whether they experience daily life as meaningful, accomplished, and autonomous (Chong et al., 2012; Kim et al., 2016; Lee & Choi, 2022; Liu & Heo, 2022).

Second, EWB partially mediated the relationship between DLS and GLS. This finding extends the bottom-up perspective of life satisfaction by showing that the association between domain-level satisfaction and overall

life satisfaction is not merely additive. Although DLS remained directly associated with GLS, part of its association with GLS was statistically mediated by EWB. Thus, satisfaction with specific life domains appears to become integrated into general life satisfaction partly through a process involving meaning, accomplishment, and autonomy. In later life, this eudaimonic pathway may be especially important because older adults often evaluate their lives not only in terms of favorable external conditions but also in terms of whether they can maintain purpose, agency, and a coherent sense of self (Ryff, 2013; Steptoe et al., 2015). This finding is consistent with the bottom-up perspective of life satisfaction, but it extends prior work by showing that domain satisfaction is not only directly associated with global life satisfaction but also indirectly associated through eudaimonic well-being. Whereas many studies of later-life satisfaction have emphasized health, economic status, social relationships, and living environment as direct correlates of life satisfaction, the present study suggests that these domain-level evaluations may become more consequential when they are connected to meaning, accomplishment, and autonomy (Joshanloo & Blasco-Belled, 2023; Kim et al., 2016; Lee, 2026; Lee & Choi, 2022; Liu & Heo, 2022; Park & Son, 2016; Ryff, 2013).

Third, TOH significantly moderated the relationship between DLS and EWB. Because higher TOH values indicate stronger prioritization of present happiness over future-oriented sacrifice, the negative interaction suggests that the positive association between DLS and EWB becomes weaker as present-oriented happiness becomes stronger. Conversely, among older adults who are more willing to regulate the present in view of future happiness, DLS appears to be more strongly associated with EWB. This finding highlights temporal orientation as a psychological frame that shapes how older adults interpret satisfaction with concrete life domains. The same level of satisfaction with health, relationships, safety, or community life may have different psychological implications depending on whether older adults interpret present satisfaction mainly as immediate comfort or as a resource for maintaining meaning, accomplishment, and autonomy. An apparent tension in these findings warrants clarification. TOH showed a small positive direct association with EWB (β = .040) while simultaneously showing a negative interaction effect on the DLS－EWB relationship (β = －.025). These two results are not contradictory. The direct association suggests that present-happiness orientation was weakly related to higher EWB on average, whereas the negative interaction indicates that the positive association between DLS and EWB became weaker as present-happiness orientation increased. Thus, TOH appears to shape both the baseline level of EWB and the extent to which domain

satisfaction is associated with EWB, although the direct association was small. The moderation finding also adds to life-span perspectives on time and motivation. Rather than treating older adults as a homogeneous group that uniformly prioritizes present emotional satisfaction, the results suggest that older adults differ in how they connect present satisfaction with future-oriented meaning and self-regulation (Carstensen et al., 1999; Freund & Baltes, 2002; Pfund et al., 2022).

It should also be emphasized that the interaction effect was very small in magnitude. Therefore, TOH should not be interpreted as a strong determinant of EWB. Rather, it appears to function as a modest boundary condition that slightly changes the strength of the DLS–EWB association, while the dominant pattern remains the strong positive association between DLS and EWB. This distinction is important because statistical significance in a large sample does not necessarily imply a large substantive effect (Cohen, 1988). The stability of the main path coefficients after adding TOH and the interaction term also deserves attention. The DLS → EWB, DLS → GLS, and EWB → GLS paths changed only minimally between the baseline and moderated mediation models. This pattern suggests that the core associations among DLS, EWB, and GLS were highly stable, whereas TOH added a statistically significant but substantively modest conditional component to the model. In other words, the dominant explanatory pattern was the strong positive association between DLS and EWB and the partial mediation through EWB, while the moderating role of TOH should be interpreted as a small boundary condition rather than as a major determinant of later-life well-being.

1. Theoretical Implications

This study contributes to gerontological well-being research in several ways. First, it refines the bottom-up perspective of life satisfaction by identifying EWB as a psychological mechanism through which domain satisfaction becomes linked to general life satisfaction. The bottom-up perspective suggests that satisfaction with specific life domains spills over into overall life satisfaction (Diener, 1984; Headey et al., 1991; Sirgy, 2002). The present findings support this view but also indicate that the process is not limited to direct accumulation across domains. Domain satisfaction is also associated with general life satisfaction indirectly through meaning, accomplishment, and autonomy. This finding suggests that later-life well-being involves not only favorable evaluations of concrete life conditions but also the capacity to interpret those conditions as supporting a meaningful and self-directed life. Prior Korean gerontological studies have shown that older adults' life satisfaction is closely related to multidimensional life conditions, including health, economic status, family

relationships, social participation, community environment, and local amenities (Kim et al., 2016; Lee, 2026; Lee & Choi, 2022; Liu & Heo, 2022; Park & Son, 2016). Building on this line of research, the present study shifts attention from the direct association between life conditions and life satisfaction to the psychological pathway through which domain-level satisfaction becomes linked to global life satisfaction through EWB.

Second, the study bridges hedonic and eudaimonic perspectives on well-being. GLS represents a global cognitive evaluation of life, whereas EWB captures positive psychological functioning. By showing that EWB mediates the relationship between DLS and GLS, the study demonstrates that eudaimonic functioning can serve as a transformation mechanism between domain-level evaluations and global life evaluation. This finding is consistent with prior research suggesting that subjective well-being and psychological well-being are related but distinct dimensions of optimal functioning (Keyes et al., 2002; Ryff, 2013). It further suggests that, among older adults, the subjective evaluation of life domains may become more consequential when it is connected to meaning, accomplishment, and autonomy.

Third, the study adds nuance to life-span perspectives on time and motivation by showing that TOH conditions the DLS–EWB relationship. Socioemotional selectivity theory emphasizes that older adults tend to prioritize emotionally meaningful present experiences as perceived future time becomes more limited (Carstensen, 2006; Carstensen et al., 1999). However, the present findings suggest that there remains meaningful within-group variation in how older adults relate present happiness to future happiness. In addition, selective optimization with compensation theory emphasizes the importance of goal selection, optimization, and compensation in successful aging (Baltes & Baltes, 1990; Freund & Baltes, 2002). The present findings are consistent with this broader life-span perspective by showing that older adults who are more willing to regulate the present in view of future happiness appear to translate domain satisfaction into EWB more strongly.

Fourth, the study contributes methodologically by modeling DLS as a formative composite. Different domains of life, such as health, living standards, relationships, safety, community belonging, time use, future stability, and neighborhood environment, are not necessarily interchangeable indicators of a single latent factor. Rather, they represent distinct components that jointly form domain life satisfaction. By using PLS-SEM, this study explicitly accounted for the formative nature of DLS while simultaneously testing the mediating role of EWB and the moderating role of TOH.

2. Practical Implications

The findings also have practical implications

for policies and programs aimed at improving well-being among older adults. First, they support a multi-domain approach to later-life well-being. Improving older adults' satisfaction with health, living standards, social relationships, safety, community belonging, future stability, time use, and neighborhood environment is likely to be associated with higher general life satisfaction, consistent with Korean evidence that later-life satisfaction is shaped by health, economic resources, social participation, neighborhood relationships, and community environments (Kim et al., 2016; Lee, 2026; Lee & Choi, 2022; Liu & Heo, 2022; Park & Son, 2016). Policies that focus on only one domain may have limited impact if other important domains of daily life remain unsatisfactory.

Second, the findings suggest that improving objective or domain-specific conditions may not be sufficient by itself. Domain-level improvements may be more beneficial when they also help older adults experience meaning, accomplishment, and autonomy, which are central elements of eudaimonic well-being (Ryan & Deci, 2001; Ryff, 1989; Steptoe et al., 2015). For example, health promotion programs can emphasize not only physical functioning but also the ability to continue valued activities. Community programs can foster not only social participation but also a sense of contribution and belonging. Lifelong learning and volunteering programs can support accomplishment, autonomy, and purpose in later life.

Third, the moderating role of TOH suggests that older adults may differ in how they psychologically interpret similar levels of domain satisfaction. For older adults who strongly prioritize present happiness, immediate comfort, emotional satisfaction, and present-focused enjoyment may be central. For those who are more willing to regulate the present in view of future happiness, domain satisfaction may be more strongly connected to meaning, self-direction, and future continuity. Programs for older adults should therefore avoid assuming a single pathway from improved life conditions to overall life satisfaction. Rather than using temporal orientation as a rigid basis for classifying older adults, practitioners may consider it as one possible motivational frame when designing activities that connect domain-level improvements to meaning, accomplishment, and autonomy.

Fourth, programs designed to enhance EWB may be particularly useful, but these implications should be framed within the scope of the present correlational findings. More concretely, two types of programs may be especially relevant. First, life-review and reminiscence-based programs may help older adults reinterpret satisfaction with specific life domains as part of a coherent and meaningful life narrative; systematic reviews suggest that life review interventions can improve several psychosocial outcomes among older adults, although effects vary across outcomes (Lan et al., 2017).

Second, lifelong learning, volunteering, and other purposeful activity programs may provide opportunities for older adults to exercise autonomy, use existing strengths, maintain valued social roles, and experience a sense of contribution. Prior intervention research suggests that purposeful activities, particularly those involving functional roles such as volunteering or mentoring, can support well-being and quality of life in later life (Owen et al., 2022). In relation to TOH, these programs should not attempt to change older adults' temporal orientation directly. Rather, they may help older adults frame present experiences in ways that connect immediate satisfaction with longer-term meaning, accomplishment, and autonomy.

In the Korean context, these implications can be linked to community-based aging policies and services. Individualized elderly care services and community-based integrated care programs are designed to support older adults' daily living, safety, health, and continued life in the community by connecting care, health, and daily-life support around older adults' needs (Ministry of Health and Welfare, 2026; National Law Information Center, 2026). The present findings suggest that such services may contribute more meaningfully to older adults' overall life satisfaction when they are connected not only to service access or functional support but also to eudaimonic outcomes such as meaning, accomplishment, and autonomy. For example, care managers and community service providers could incorporate brief life-review, goal-setting, or participation-oriented activities that help older adults connect improvements in health, safety, social relationships, or community belonging to a continuing sense of self-directed and meaningful later life. Similarly, active aging programs, lifelong learning, volunteering, and senior welfare center programs may be designed not merely as leisure or participation opportunities but as contexts in which older adults can experience accomplishment, maintain valued roles, and exercise autonomy (Lan et al., 2017; Owen et al., 2022). Given the very small effect size of the TOH interaction, these practical implications should be interpreted cautiously. Temporal orientation should not be used to classify older adults rigidly; rather, it may serve as a useful lens for tailoring motivational framing and communication in programs aimed at enhancing EWB.

3. Limitations and Future Research

This study has several limitations. First, the data are cross-sectional, and causal interpretations should be made with caution. Although the proposed model is theoretically grounded, longitudinal data would be needed to examine whether DLS leads to subsequent changes in EWB and GLS.

It is also possible that EWB influences how older adults evaluate specific life domains. Older adults who experience greater meaning,

accomplishment, and autonomy may appraise their health, relationships, and daily environments more positively, a possibility consistent with research showing reciprocal links between eudaimonic well-being and life satisfaction over time (Joshanloo & Blasco-Belled, 2023). However, the present study followed the bottom-up perspective and tested the theoretically specified pathway from DLS to EWB and GLS. Given the cross-sectional design, this directional interpretation should be made with caution. Second, the analysis was based on Korean older adults. Although the use of a large national survey is a strength, the findings should be generalized cautiously to other cultural and policy contexts. Future research could compare whether the proposed moderated mediation process operates similarly in societies with different family systems, welfare regimes, and aging-service infrastructures. Third, GLS and TOH were measured with single items because the study used a secondary public dataset. Single-item measures of overall life satisfaction are common in large-scale surveys, but they cannot capture the full breadth of global life evaluation. The limitation is more substantial for TOH because the item captures a specific happiness-related temporal priority rather than a comprehensive time-perspective construct. Therefore, findings involving TOH should be interpreted as evidence regarding a specific orientation toward present versus future happiness, not as evidence regarding broader constructs such as future time perspective or balanced time perspective. Fourth, EWB was measured using three items reflecting meaning, accomplishment, and autonomy. These dimensions capture central components of EWB, but they do not fully represent broader frameworks of psychological well-being, which may include environmental mastery, personal growth, positive relations, purpose, and self-acceptance. Future studies could use more comprehensive multi-item scales to examine whether the mediating role of EWB remains consistent across different dimensions of eudaimonic functioning. Fifth, DLS was modeled as a formative composite based on nine life domains, but the secondary dataset did not include a separate global criterion item that could be used for redundancy analysis. Therefore, the convergent validity of the formative DLS construct could not be assessed directly. Although the formative indicators showed acceptable VIF values and significant outer weights, future studies should include an additional global domain-life-satisfaction criterion item to more fully evaluate formative measurement validity. Sixth, future research could compare age groups within the older adult population, such as young-old and old-old adults, to examine whether the moderated mediation process differs across stages of later life. Finally, because the data were cross-sectional and based on self-reported survey responses, common method variance cannot be completely

ruled out, although additional diagnostic checks suggested that it was unlikely to seriously bias the results.

Ⅵ. Conclusion

This study examined the relationships among DLS, EWB, GLS, and TOH among Korean older adults. The findings show that DLS is positively associated with GLS both directly and indirectly through EWB. They also show that the indirect association through EWB depends on TOH. Specifically, the indirect association linking DLS to GLS through EWB is weaker among older adults who place greater importance on present happiness and stronger among those who are more willing to regulate the present in view of future happiness.

These findings suggest that later-life satisfaction is not simply the sum of satisfaction with various life domains. Rather, satisfaction with specific life domains is more strongly linked to general life satisfaction when it is accompanied by meaning, accomplishment, and autonomy. The study therefore highlights the importance of understanding not only what older adults are satisfied with, but also how they temporally frame and psychologically interpret such satisfaction. Despite its limitations, this study offers a multidimensional account of later-life well-being by integrating domain-specific satisfaction, eudaimonic functioning, global life evaluation, and temporal orientation within a single empirical model using large-scale national data.

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