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Consumer based quality of life assessment: a path model of perceived satisfaction

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Abstract

This article reviews recent conceptual and measurement advances within the area of quality of life and summarizes the results of a state-wide study involving consumer-based quality of life assessment that identified factors influencing the perceived level of satisfaction among 237 adult recipients of mental retardation/developmental services and supports. Results of a path analysis conducted on the data indicated that perceived dignity and work contribute most to perceived life satisfaction. The degree of independence consumers feel, and their integration into the community indirectly affect measured satisfaction. Consumer abilities, as measured by intelligence tests, had no direct affect on life satisfaction. Additionally, characteristics such as age, communication problems, and ambulating difficulties also had no effect, either directly or indirectly, on life satisfaction. Results are interpreted in light of the current quality of life movement that includes the search for core quality of life dimensions, the use of methodological pluralism and multivariate research designs, and the increased use of participatory action research. © 2000 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

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