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SATISFACTION WITH LIFE, FEELING OF HAPPINESS AND PROFESSIONAL MOBILITY OF SCIENTISTS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF BELARUS

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**SATISFACTION WITH LIFE, FEELING OF HAPPINESS
AND PROFESSIONAL MOBILITY OF SCIENTISTS
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF BELARUS**

The level of happiness and life satisfaction are, on the one hand, one of the main indicators of a person's social well-being, and, on the other hand, are its resulting indicators. These indicators include satisfaction with key aspects of a person's life, his social position and achievements of goals. They reflect subjective feelings regarding his life on the whole and perception of his position in society and professional group, determined by social factors. One of the main spheres of human life is professional activity, different aspect of which could be directly influenced by satisfaction with life and feeling of happiness. By the example of scientists, let us consider how this professional group is satisfied with its life and how many scientists feel happy. Let us try to answer the question whether there are differences between scientists who are satisfied with life, who feel happy and who do not consider themselves as such, and such indicators of their professional mobility as work intentions and migration attitudes.

Empirical basis of analysis is results of sociological research conducted in 2020 among scientists of scientific organizations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus ($N = 501$; $\Delta = \pm 4.17\%$, at $\alpha = 0.05$). The research was carried out with support of the grant “BRFFR-RFFR M” (№ G19RM-028 dated 02.05.2019). According to the results of the research, most scientists are satisfied with their lives to some extent:

Figure 1. Scientists' assessment of satisfaction with their lives (in %, for the whole sample)

As can be seen from the Figure 1, 81.3% of scientists are more or less satisfied with their lives (including completely satisfied – 23.0%, rather satisfied – 58.3%). Every eighth scientist is not satisfied with his life – 12.3% (including completely not satisfied – 2.0%, rather not satisfied – 10.3%). It was difficult to assess the satisfaction with their life for 6.5% of the respondents. While slightly fewer respondents feel happy, they also make up the majority of the researched population of scientists (Figure 2).

Figure 2. – Distribution of answers to the question “Do you feel happy at the moment?” (in %, for the whole sample)

According to the results of the research, 70.7% of scientists felt happy at the time of the survey (including yes – 18.4%, rather yes – 52.3%). 14.6% did not feel as such (including no – 10.8%, rather not – 3.8%). The same number of scientists found it difficult to answer this question, as well as those who feel “unhappy” – 14.6%. It should be said that the share of those who found it difficult to assess their “own happiness” is two times greater than the share of those who found it difficult to assess their satisfaction with their lives (differences 6.5% and 14.6% are statistically significant: $\phi * emp = 4.279$, $p < 0.001$).

Considering the work intentions of scientists, it should be said that almost half of the respondents (47.9%) do not intend to leave the institute in the next five years. Every fourth (25.4%) thinks about leaving, but has not yet taken concrete steps. Only 2.8% of scientists firmly decided to leave the institute. Almost every fifth person found it difficult to answer the question (22.1%). Among those who feel happy, only 3.4% of scientists firmly decided to leave the institute. While among those who do not feel happy, proportion of those who decided to leave the institute is six times higher – 21.4% ($\phi * emp = 2.318$, $p < 0.01$). Among those who feel happy, 44.0% think about leaving the institute, but have not yet taken concrete steps, and among those who do not feel happy, there are 21.5% more of them – 65.5% ($\phi * emp = 2.699$, $p < 0.01$). Among those who are “rather satisfied” with their life, every fourth scientist (25.3%) thinks to leave the

institute, and among those who are “rather dissatisfied” with their life, almost half thinks to leave their institute – 49.0% ($\varphi * emp = 3.204$ $p < 0.001$).

As for migration attitudes of scientists, more than half (62.5%) do not plan to leave abroad permanently or temporarily. 10.6% intend to leave temporarily (including 5.1% intend to leave for temporary work on a research grant or contract, 5.5% intend to leave for study or advanced training). 5.1% of the respondents intend to go abroad forever. Every fifth (21.3%) found it difficult to answer the question. Among those who plan to leave abroad forever, the share of those who feel unhappy is two times higher than among those who do not intend to leave forever: 26.9% and 12.3%, respectively ($\varphi * emp = 1.828$ $p < 0.04$). There are three times more among those who intend to go abroad forever not satisfied with their lives than among those who do not have such plans: 26.9% and 9.2%, respectively ($\varphi * emp = 2.332$, $p < 0.01$).

Thus, the assessment of differences between two independent samples (“happy” and “unhappy” scientists; “satisfied with life” and “not satisfied with life” scientists), which was carried out using the statistical criterion F-test (Fisher’s angular transformation), allows us to conclude that differences exist between the feeling of happiness / level of life satisfaction and work intentions and migration attitudes of scientists. From the point of view of practical significance, data obtained indicate the need for further in-depth study of motivation of labor and migration mobility of scientists, as well as determination of cause-and-effect relationships between the feeling of happiness / level of life satisfaction and indicators of professional mobility of scientists we have considered.