

Forced Migrant: The Factors Contributing to Social Functionality of Syrian Youth

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Abstract

Forced migrants face many problems during the forced migration process. At the forefront of these problems is the negative impact of the forced migration process on their social functionality. The aim of this study is to investigate the factors contributing to the social functionality of Syrian youth under temporary protection status in Turkey. The sample of the study consisted of 326 young Syrian forced migrants aged 18 to 29 who are under temporary protection status in Turkey and was conducted in Istanbul, Sakarya, and Izmir. The study was carried out with the quantitative method and snowball sampling. The obtained data were evaluated by correlation, mediator and moderator analysis methods. According to the data obtained in the study, Perceived social support and satisfaction with life have a significant effect on social functionality. Satisfaction with life has a full mediating effect on the effect of perceived social support on social functionality. In other words, as a Syrian youth's perceived social support grows, so does their social functionality, and satisfaction with life has a full mediating positive effect on this relationship. Planning activity, which is an active coping strategy, has a positive moderating effect on the connection between perceived social support and social functionality, according to this model. In this context, social work practice with a multidimensional community is recommended.

Keywords: Active Coping, Satisfaction with Life, Perceived Social Support, Social Functionality, Young Refugee.

Öz

Zorunlu göçmenler, zorunlu göç sürecinde çok sayıda sorun yaşamaktadır. Bu sorunların başında zorunlu göç sürecinin sosyal işlevselliklerini olumsuz etkilemesi gelmektedir. Bu çalışmanın amacı Türkiye'de geçici koruma statüsü altındaki Suriyeli gençlerin sosyal işlevselliğine katkı sunan faktörleri araştırmaktır. Araştırmanın örneklemini Türkiye'de geçici koruma statüsü altında bulunan 326 Suriyeli genç zorunlu göçmen oluşturmaktadır. Çalışma nicel yöntem, kartopu örnekleme ile yapılmıştır. Elde edilen veriler korelasyon, aracı ve düzenleyici analiz yöntemleriyle değerlendirilmiştir. Çalışmada elde edilen verilere göre yaşam doyumu ve algılanan sosyal desteğin sosyal işlevsellik üzerinde anlamlı etkisi bulunmaktadır. Algılanan sosyal desteğin sosyal işlevsellik üzerindeki etkisinde yaşam doyumu tam aracı etkide bulunmaktadır. Buna göre Suriyeli gençlerin algılanan sosyal destekleri arttıkça sosyal işlevselliği artmakta, bu ilişkiye yaşam doyumu tam aracı olarak pozitif etki etmektedir. Bu modele göre aktif başatme stili olan planlama yapma algılanan sosyal destek ile sosyal işlevsellik arasındaki ilişkiye pozitif düzenleyici etkide bulunmaktadır. Çözüm için çok boyutlu toplulukla sosyal hizmet uygulaması tavsiye edilmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Aktif Başatme, Yaşam Doyumu, Algılanan Sosyal Destek, Sosyal İşlevsellik, Genç Mülteci.

November 2022

Volume:19

Issue:50

DOI: [10.26466/opusjsr.1160988](https://doi.org/10.26466/opusjsr.1160988)

Citation:

Arifoğlu, A. T. and Koçak, O. (2022). Forced migrant: The factors contributing to social functionality of Syrian youth. *OPUS- Journal of Society Research*, 19(50), 807-823.

Introduction

Except Syria, neighboring countries are the most affected by the Syrian civil war. Because of the events in Syria, these countries are seeing massive migration movements (Deniz et al., 2016). The number of registered Syrians in Türkiye as of the end of June 2021 was 3.684.412 (Refugees Association, 2021). When Syrians fleeing the war were first admitted to Türkiye in 2011, Türkiye assumed the war would be short-lived and adopted a migration management strategy based on an emergency perspective oriented "guests," with the expectation that the Syrians admitted to the country would return to their home countries after the war (Eren, 2018).

Until the end of 2013, when mass migration was relatively low, public perception of 'hospitage' led to significant breaks with the increasing continuation of mass migration and its tendency to become permanent. In a study conducted in 2015 on Syrians' daily life practices, it was found that locals blamed Syrians for problems in areas such as health, trade, and security, as well as access to public services, and refused to rent a house to them or interact with them in their social lives (Deniz et al., 2016). Furthermore, in studies conducted in 2019 and 2020, it was found that the perception of Syrians as the second most important problem in Türkiye after the economy, that they are the cause of unemployment, that they are not victims of war, that they are responsible for disruptions in public services, and that the state treats Syrians better than their own citizens has grown. (İstanbul, 2020; İstanbul, 2019).

Young refugees and asylum seekers experience many psychological and social problems during the forced migration process. One of these issues is that the forced migration process causes social and psychological problems in the process of youth identity formation. Therefore, social work intervention should develop practices aimed at mitigating the negative effects of these radical changes while also contributing to social functionality (Buz & Dikmen, 2020).

The factors that have a positive influence on the social functionality of Syrian youth in Türkiye

under temporary protection were examined in this study. The effects of young people's perceived social support, satisfaction with life, and active coping style planning on their social functionality were tested as mediators and moderator. Educational background and their friendship with Turkish people were used as control variables.

This study is based on the theory of ecological systems. This theory was first used in the field of social work in 1979 when C. Germain defined it as harmony balance. Since the basic acceptance of the theory is that humans are creatures that are constantly interacting with their environment, they must have a mutually harmonious relationship with their environment. (Teater, 2015, p.33-38). According to a study conducted by Yüksek, Tekin, and Taşgın (2021), Syrian youth dropped out of school during and after migration, the areas where they could socially communicate with their Turkish peers were limited, their Turkish language knowledge was lacking, and they were constantly subjected to violence and discrimination in social life. Furthermore, it has been observed that Syrian youth want to establish a life in Türkiye, have future plans in this regard, start a business, and attend university. The findings indicate that the social work intervention should be multidimensional in order to help forced migrants adapt to their new social environment and strengthen their social functionality. One of these factors is increasing refugees' perceived social support. However, studies indicate that perceived social support alone does not have a significant effect on social functionality (Kararmak & Önder, 2020; Hynie et al., 2011). Satisfaction with life and active coping styles become more important in this context. There are studies in the literature showing that satisfaction with life mediates the effect of perceived social support on social functionality (Kristiansen et al., 2006; Fernandez et al., 2015; Birman et al., 2014). Simultaneously, studies show that active coping styles are an intervention area that protects against trauma while also strengthening mental health and social functionality (Cardoso, 2018; Chemin, 2017; Ahmad et al., 2020).

In this context, the study began with the question of what factors positively affect the social functionality of young Syrian forced migrants in Türkiye. The study's most striking finding is that planning, an active coping style, has a positive moderating effect on the relationship between perceived social support and social functionality. In other words, a high planning coping style leads to a better perception of the individual's perceived moral and material social support opportunities and increases social functionality. On the other hand, a low planning coping style results in a lower perception of perceived social support and increases social functioning less. Satisfaction with life has a mediating effect on the effect of perceived social support of social functionality. On the other hand, it was found that high levels of education positively affect their satisfaction with life, and having a Turkish friend positively affects their social functionality as well as their satisfaction with life.

Literature

Perceived Social Support, Satisfaction with Life and Social Functionality in the Forced Migration Context

Ecology is the study of an organism's relationship with its environment. Ecological systems theory emphasizes the individuals' interaction with their environment. The concept of ecology was first used in behavioral sciences by psychologist Roger Barker in 1965, and it was introduced to social work literature in 1979 by Carel Germain, who defined ecology as harmony balance. When the mutual demands of the individual and the environment are met, an individual-environment harmony balance emerges, and this harmony balance contributes to the individual's psychosocial state and personal development (Duyan, et al., 2014; Danış, 2006).

Individuals, according to ecological system theory, are entities that interact with many systems, particularly family, friends, cultural values, education system, and working life. This theory investigates the current level of harmony between the individual and the environment, which includes these systems, and is based on the

assumption that each individual has a positive level of harmony with his environment. It assumes that every person is capable of adapting to their environment, reducing stress in the face of stressful events, and promoting positive personal development. The theory's main reference point is that it assumes people will contribute to their psychosocial health, competence, and personal development as long as they maintain harmony and balance with their environment. According to this theory, social problems are primarily caused by interactions between individuals and their environment (Danış, 2006; Hartmann, 2016; Teater, 2015). In this regard, human development, as well as the realization of one's competence, potential, and independence, are dependent on the strong harmonious relationship one establishes with one's environment (Hartmann, 2016). However, because forced migrants are suddenly subjected to environmental change, their ecological balance has deteriorated. This situation also has a negative psychological and social impact on forced migrants (Ergin, 2020; Tuzcu & Bademli, 2014; Akıncı et al., 2015).

The aim of the ecological approach is to help the individuals' family and social environment resources work better by focusing on the system they are in. This theory includes the aim of social work, which is to add social functionality to human life (Payne, 2020, p.240-241). This theory aims to improve an individual's social functionality by implementing various interventions for the individual and/or his environment in order to achieve individual-environment harmony (Teater, 2015, p.37). The following research question was developed using research theory literature.

Research Question: What are the Factors Contributing to the Social Functioning of Syrian Youth?

In social work for refugees and asylum seekers, it is critical to assist applicants in using their social resources to establish, protect, and increase the social functionality of the individual, family, and social groups they are a part of, as well as to ensure the development of these structures (Duyan, 2003). Because the psychosocial difference between migration and exile is determined by the social

support perceived by the person during the forced migration process (Akhtar, 2018; Bhugra, 2004).

Natural social support resources play an important role in refugees' and asylum seekers' psychosocial well-being and adaptation to the new physical, institutional, and socio-cultural structure. Because when refugees and asylum seekers require assistance, they usually turn to easily accessible and trustworthy sources. These resources are usually people who understand their situation and believe that the assistance they will receive will be inexpensive and will stigmatize them less. These features characterize the social support provided by family, friends, and other acquaintances (Plaza, et al., 2006; Day, et al., 2007). Social support is defined as interactions with family members, friends, peers, and professionals who convey information, respect, and financial or emotional help. The main determinant of health is social support, which is essential for maintaining psychosocial well-being as well as access to food, shelter, income, health services, and social opportunities. Increased social support for forced migrants lowers the risk of social cohesion and psychological health issues that may arise during this process (Simich et al., 2005).

There are studies indicating that perceived social support alone is insufficient to improve the mental health and social functionality of a forced migrant. According to these studies, an increase in perceived social support has a positive effect on satisfaction with life (Young, 2005; Ayon & Naddy, 2013; Thoits, 1982; Kasprzak, 2010). Also, numerous studies have found a link between satisfaction with life and social support. Other studies on this subject suggest that satisfaction with life moderates the effect of perceived social support on psychological adaptation (Kristiansen et al., 2006; Fernandez et al., 2015; Birman et al., 2014).

The ability of an individual to meet the basic needs of social roles deemed necessary by the social environment is referred to as social functionality. These needs include access to food, shelter, and health care, as well as people and resources to protect the person from harm and provide social acceptance and support (Duyan,

2003). Since forced migration includes situations such as exposure to violence and abuse, uncertainty about the future, deterioration of the social environment, discrimination, difficulty in accessing job opportunities, and a lack of social support and interaction (Tuzcu et al., 2014; Özcan, 2019), it impairs a forced migrant's social functionality.

When the literature is examined, it is determined that perceived social support will play an important role in increasing satisfaction with life and social functionality (Bloom & Spiegel, 1984; Lamis et al., 2014; Tsai et al., 2012). The following hypothesis has been established based on the literature.

Hypothesis 1 (H1). There is a positive correlation between perceived social support, satisfaction with life, and social functionality.

Perceived Social Support and Social Functionality

There are many studies that show that social adaptation and psychological problems that can be observed in forced migrants are not a standard result of forced migration. The common finding of these studies is that the reasons that cause these problems are the low social support perceptions of forced migrants, their frequent preference to use negative coping styles, and low satisfaction with life perceptions.

When forced migrants require assistance, they usually turn to easily accessible and trustworthy sources. These resources are usually people who understand their situation and believe that the assistance they will receive will be inexpensive and will stigmatize them less. These people are usually their family, friends, and members of their own social networks (Plaza et al., 2006; Day, et al., 2007). However, forced migrants arrive in their destination country lacking language skills, financial resources, and the practical skills required for social life and the labor market. They need both material and moral assistance. They may come from distinct cultural backgrounds in their new environment (Ward et al., 2001, p.213).

Because of their social and economic disadvantages, they settle in poor neighborhoods and have limited access to food, health services, shelter, legal documentation, and material resources, including their basic rights, when they migrate to a new country.

The concept of perceived social support is prominent in the studies of Kararımak and Önder (2020) and Acartürk (2016) which examine the literature between forced migration experience and mental health. According to these studies, forced migrants lack social support because they are socially and psychologically alien to the host culture. It is discussed that this situation has a negative impact on their psychosocial well-being and prevents them from using healthy stress coping strategies. According to another study conducted by Hynie et al. (2011), it was found that having a social support network has a positive effect on one's physical and mental health. The study by Özcan (2019) confirms the previous studies. It is considered that as the social support of Syrian, Afghan, and Iraqi migrant students in Türkiye increases, it contributes to their mental and physical health and also serves their cultural harmony. The following hypothesis has been established based on the literature.

Hypothesis 2 (H2): Perceived social support has a positive direct effect on the social functionality.

Satisfaction with Life and Social Functionality

Satisfaction with life reflects the gap between one's expectations for the future and what one currently has. The greater the disparity between one's expectations and the things one has currently, the lower one's satisfaction with life (Koçak, 2021). Many studies in the literature have found that low satisfaction with life causes a variety of mental health problems, particularly depression (Lombardo et al., 2018; Moksnes et al., 2014). Furthermore, there are studies in the literature that show that low satisfaction with life and mental health problems both affect and are affected by one another (Fergusson, et al., 2015).

However, there are studies in the literature that show a negative relationship between satisfaction with life and depression, arguing that a person

cannot be both happy and depressed (Headey et al., 1993). Furthermore, the findings of a study examining the relationship between psychological well-being and social functionality show that satisfaction with life acts as a mediator between these two (Guzmán et al., 2020). The following hypothesis has been established based on the literature.

Hypothesis 3 (H3): Satisfaction with life has a positive direct effect on social functionality

Syrian Youth in Türkiye

According to the International Crisis Group's (2019) field research in Şanlıurfa, Syrian youth do not receive as much support as they need in social, economic, health, and education areas, job opportunities are limited, and many young people work under poor conditions to make a living rather than attending school, and existing jobs have long hours and low wages. It has been determined that most young people suffer from psychosocial trauma, do not receive treatment for it, and are constantly subjected to discrimination in social situations; it is also emphasized that young people try to cope with anger and resentment. It has been argued that the overall process disadvantages young people and impedes their integration into Turkish society. The following hypothesis has been established based on the literature.

Hypothesis 4 (H4): Educational background has a positive direct effect on satisfaction with life.

Hypothesis 5 (H5): Educational background has a positive direct effect on social functionality.

According to the study of Yüксеker, Tekin, and Taşğın (2021), which focuses on the daily life experiences of Syrian youth in Küçükçekmece and Sultanbeyli, Syrian youth are disconnected from school during and after migration, the public spaces they can socially interact with Turks are limited, their knowledge of Turkish language is weak, they face violence and discrimination on the street, but they have future plans, they want to start a business and study at university.

Attar and Küçükşen's (2019) study, which is based on the problems that students face at Mersin University, found that Turkish and Syrian young people are strangers to each other and avoid social interaction. Another finding of the study is that Syrian youth believe they are subjected to bad behavior and discrimination at university. Furthermore, Syrian youth stated that they do not speak Turkish well and that if they did, they would engage in more frequent dialogue with Turks. The following hypothesis has been established based on the literature.

Hypothesis 6 (H6): Turkish Friend Presence has a positive direct effect on social functionality.

Hypothesis 7 (H7): Turkish Friend Presence has a positive direct effect on satisfaction with life.

Mediating Effect of Satisfaction with Life and Perceived Social Support on Social Functionality

In terms of physical and mental health, social support, and effective social adaptation play an important role in promoting preventive and health-protective behaviors. The study of social support among forced migrants focuses on factors that influence subjective well-being, or satisfaction with life (Hombrados-Mendieta, et al., 2019). Forced migration has a psychological and social impact on individuals. In this rapidly evolving process, various life changes such as housing, finance, health, work, and education complicate forced migration and reduce satisfaction with life (Durak, et al., 2019).

According to studies examining the relationship between social support and satisfaction with life, an increase in perceived social support influences satisfaction with life (Young, 2005; Ayon & Naddy, 2013; Thoits, 1982; Kasprzak, 2010). Other studies on this subject found that satisfaction with life moderates the effect of perceived social support on psychological adaptation (Kristiansen et al., 2006; Fernandez et al., 2015; Birman et al., 2014).

According to the literature on the subject, methods that will allow them to interact with other

individuals in society continuously and sustainably should be developed in order to protect and develop the social functionality of forced migrants. Furthermore, it is stated in the study that forced migrants have greater economic control in their new social environment (Tuzcu & Bademli, 2014).

When the relevant literature is examined, it is determined that social support, satisfaction with life and active coping styles will play an important role in increasing social functionality (Bloom & Spiegel, 1984; Lamis et al., 2014; Tsai et al., 2012). The following hypothesis has been established based on the literature.

Hypothesis 8 (H8): Satisfaction with life has a mediating effect on the impact of perceived social support of social functionality.

The Moderating Effect of Active Coping Style Planning on Perceived Social Support and Social Functioning

Another notable feature of traumatized migrant communities with traumatic life experiences caused by forced migration is that, despite the high risk, many of them do not develop mental disorders. As a concept, 'resilience' encompasses all the factors that prevent the development of mental disorders in an individual in the face of adversity. The individual's response to stress, or coping style, and the level of perceived social support during the time they are exposed to this stress are at the forefront of these factors (Siriwardhana & Stewart, 2013). The person forced to migrate constantly strives cognitively and emotionally to meet and adapt to the ever-changing environmental, psychological, and social demands. In order to adapt to these stressful life events, the individual develops various cognitive and emotional styles, which are referred to as coping styles (Cardoso, 2018).

Coping styles are defined as the approaches, skills, and abilities that people use in their daily lives to face and manage social and environmental stressors, as well as to prevent and/or minimize stress-related problems or illnesses. Many coping

styles can be classified into two groups. These are positive active coping styles and negative maladaptive coping styles (Solberg, et al, 2021).

Various studies show that active coping styles are a feature that develops independently of the stressful situation, have a protective effect against stress, and contribute to an individual's psychosocial well-being (Afshar, et al., 2015; Watson & Hubbard, 1996; Lu & Chen, 1996). According to research conducted on unaccompanied Latino youth who fled internal conflicts in South America and sought refuge in the United States, strengthening and displaying active coping styles is an intervention area that protects against trauma, strengthens mental health, and increases young people's well-being (Cardoso, 2018).

Furthermore, various studies argue that coping styles still need to be investigated empirically in order to generalize the functions of coping with stress buffering and contributing to psychosocial well-being in the forced migrant population exposed to stress (Solberg, et al., 2021). Social support represents the material and spiritual resource, and social functionality represents the ability of the person to meet the basic needs of the social roles deemed necessary to be fulfilled by society. The following hypothesis has been established based on the literature.

Hipotez 9 (H9): Planning, an active coping style, has a positive moderating effect on the relationship between perceived social support and social functionality.

Content of The Present Study

Many studies have been conducted on the perceptions of social exclusion and vulnerability risks among Syrian youth in their tenth year in Türkiye. The aim of this study is not to draw attention to these risks, but to strengthen Syrian youth's social functionality in the face of social exclusion, discrimination, material, and moral disadvantages that they experience or may experience in their daily lives, and thus to ensure their full participation in Turkish society with individual-environment harmony. Figure 1 shows the conceptual model of the study.

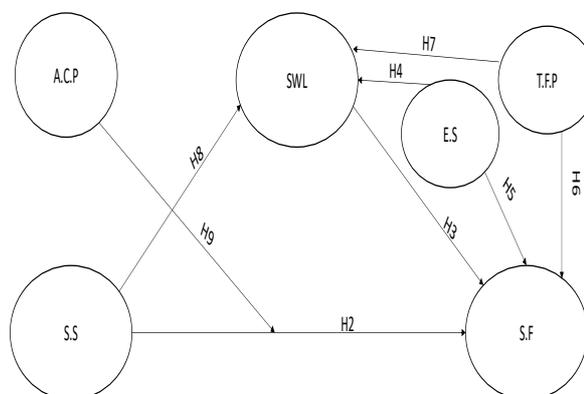


Figure 1. The Research Model

*SS: Social Support *A.C.P: Active Coping Planning *SWL: Satisfaction with Life *SF: Social Functioning *E.S: Education Status *T.F.P: Turkish Friend Presence

Method

Methodology

This study is based on the quantitative method. The sampling method of the study is snowball sampling. (Berg & Lune, 2015, p.71-72). The population of the study includes people from Sakarya, İzmir, and İstanbul. Since İstanbul and İzmir are provinces where Syrian citizens under temporary protection status live densely in terms of population, they were chosen as target population of the research. The reason why Sakarya was chosen as the target population is due to the researcher's aim of reaching the target group by using his social resources. The sample is 326 Syrian youth between the ages of 18-29 living in these 3 provinces, and under temporary protection status. Provinces comprising the target population of the research constitute the study group. The research first started in the Sakarya field. Syrian youth between the ages of 18-29 were interviewed from Sakarya Sakva and Yedirenk Student Association in Sakarya, their answers were received to the questionnaires, and then the questionnaires were delivered to their acquaintances with relevant qualifications. In

addition, the Sakarya field was completed with the support of Syrian translators working in Sakarya Provincial Migration Administration, Syrian teachers working in the Pictes project in Sakarya IHH, Sakarya Provincial Directorate of National Education, Syrian citizens who came to Sakarya 5th Notary Public, and Syrian nurses and doctors working in Sakarya Karaman Migrant Health Center. Then, the Izmir field was started and completed by volunteer Syrian youth in Izmir Turkish Red Crescent Community Center. The Istanbul field was continued and completed by Syrian translators working at HAK Humanitarian Relief Association and Syrian youth.

During this process, the link to the Google Forms questionnaires was sent via WhatsApp to the participants mentioned as well as employees working in the institutions in order to reach those who are unable to deliver the physical questionnaires in practice. Google Forms and physically collected questionnaires were used to collect answers. The answers were coded and translated into Turkish by an Arabic translator before being analyzed with SPSS Process using model 5, which is the conceptual model of the research question.

Data Collection Tools

Personal Information Form: This form was prepared by the researcher in order to collect information about the socio-demographic characteristics of the participants as a data collection tool.

Coping Styles Scale Short Form: Carver et al. (1997) developed this form, and Bacanlı et al. (2013) conducted a Turkish validity and reliability study of the Coping Styles Scale short form. This scale has 14 factors in total, with each factor representing two items. Each factor is assessed independently of the others. Low scores indicate that the coping style subscale is used less frequently, while high scores indicate that it is used more frequently.

Active coping styles include planning, abandoning other activities, limiting oneself, and

utilizing instrumental social support. Problem-focused coping styles include emotional social support seeking, positive reinterpretation, acceptance, humor, tend toward religion, focusing, and revealing emotions. Behavioral and mental disengagement, substance and alcohol use, denial and representation are all examples of dysfunctional and maladaptive coping styles (Bacanlı et al., 2013).

In the Turkish validity and reliability study, the reliability coefficient of instrumental social support was 0.78, humor was 0.92, focusing and expressing emotions was 0.70, substance and alcohol use was 0.84, acceptance was 0.56, quitting other activities was 0.50, tending toward religion 0.90, denial was 0.69, behavioral disinterest was 0.59, mental disinterest was 0.62, self-limitation was 0.39, positive reinterpretation was 0.76, using emotional social support was 0.85, and planning was 0.70 (Bacanlı et al., 2013).

Since only the planning coping style was discussed in this study, its alpha and KMO values were given. Alpha value is 0.70, while KMO value is 0.726.

Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support: This scale has 12 questions, each with four items, and three groups based on the person's source of social support. These may be family members, friends, and special people. A high score indicates that one has a lot of social support. Eker et al. (2001) assessed the Turkish validity and reliability of this scale, which was developed by Zimet et al. (1988). The family sub-dimension has an alpha value of 0.85, the friend sub-dimension has an alpha value of 0.88, the special person sub-dimension has an alpha value of 0.92, and the total alpha value of the sub-dimensions is 0.89 (Eker, et al. 2001).

According to the data obtained in this study, the Alpha value of the special person sub-dimension was 0.842, the KMO value was 0.778, the alpha value of the family sub-dimension was 0.803, the KMO value was 0.760, the alpha value of the friend sub-dimension was 0.864, the KMO value was 0.762, the alpha value of the general form of the

scale with all sub-dimensions added is 0.899 KMO value is 0.878

Social Adaptation Self-Evaluation Scale: Turkish validity and reliability research made by Akkaya, et al. (2008). It consists of 21 questions. Questions 1 and 2 are answered based on whether the participant is employed. The lowest possible score for each question is 0, and the highest possible score is 3. If the total score of those who answered this scale is less than 35, it is considered a problem in the individual's social functioning. It is assumed that those with a total score of 35 and above have normal social functionality. The scale items examine four aspects of social functioning. These are people's self-perceptions, their interest in various roles in daily life, and their satisfaction, motivations, and behaviors. However, the items have a consistent structure and are evaluated using a single factor. Cronbach's alpha value is 0.90.

Questions 1,2,4,18 and 21 in this 21-item scale measuring social functioning were excluded because the factor loads were not distributed correctly. Analysis was done on 16 questions. The alpha value obtained in this study is 0.792 and the KMO value is 0.837.

Satisfaction with Life Scale: Developed by Diemer et al. (1985), the satisfaction with life scale, which was validated and reliable in Turkish by Dağlı and Baysal (2016), is a single-factor structure and consists of a total of 5 items. The Cronbach's alpha value is 0.88.

In this study, the KMO value of satisfaction with life was 0.827 and the Alpha value was 0.827.

Data Analysis

$p < .05$ was accepted for the 95% significance value for the confidence interval. For data analysis, SPSS 25, and SPSS 25 Process v. 3.5.3 plugin was used. The obtained data were evaluated with t-test, one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA), correlation, mediator, and moderating analysis methods.

Study Duration

The field part of this research was completed between January 2021 and April 2021. The thesis paper was completed in October 2021.

Limitations of the Study

Among the scales used in this study, there is no Arabic validity and reliability scale except for the perceived social support scale. However, because Syrians speak various dialects, a validity and reliability study of Arabic was conducted, and it was found that the existence of a perceived social support scale in this study made no sense in this context. In this study, in order to overcome this limitation, originally a Syrian Turkish-Arabic sworn translator was employed. The scales used in the validity and reliability studies were applied to the participants in Turkish. However, based on the questionnaire answers, it was found that the factor load distributions were not distributed correctly, and the KMO and Cronbach's alpha values were both less than 0.70. As a result, the scales were translated into Arabic by a sworn Arabic translator who was originally a Syrian citizen and had a command of the Syrian dialect, applied to 50 participants again, and the answers were translated back into Turkish, and they were found to be valid and reliable. Based on these results, the questionnaires were applied in Arabic, coded in the SPSS program with the assistance of an Arabic translator, and analyzed. Furthermore, the research participants do not know Turkish. Participants are the disadvantageous group. Participants were hesitant to provide their economic information.

The population of the study is İstanbul, İzmir, and Sakarya. Sakarya was chosen because of the researcher's aim of using his social resources to reach the target group. The choice reason for İstanbul and İzmir is that they are metropolises where the Syrian people are densely populated. The socio-demographic characteristics of the participants in these provinces were not taken into account in the process of participating in the research. Only the age of the participants was included in the study. In this respect, the

participants represent a limitation in terms of their socio-demographic status.

Furthermore, when the literature on social functionality is examined, it is included in the clinical dimension literature. As a result, the guiding function of academic studies on social functionality other than the clinical dimension could not be used due to the limited number of studies examining social functioning outside the clinical dimension in the literature. This represents a study limitation in terms of social functioning literature. Furthermore, this study was conducted during the Covid-19 period and within the constraints of that period. It was aimed to reach at least 384 Syrian youth in order to generalize the research population. However, due to social constraints during this period, the desired number could not be reached, and the research was conducted with 326 participants due to time constraints. In terms of the universe-sample relationship, this situation represents a limitation.

Findings

Table 1. Frequency and Descriptive Statistics on Socio-Demographical Characteristics

Variables	Categories	Frequency	%	Mean	Standard Deviation
Gender	Female	134	42.3	24.05	3.606
	Male	183	57.7		
Educational Level	Primary school	53	16.7	24.05	3.606
	graduate				
	High School	125	39.4		
	graduate				
TFP	University	138	43.5	24.05	3.606
TFP	Yes (1)	210	66.2	24.05	3.606
	No (0)	106	33.4		

*TFP: Turkish Friend Presence

Most of the participants consist of men, while women constitute over 40% of the participants. The mean age of the participants was 24. The research falls within the medium age range. This mean value is significant in terms of the study representing the young audience. Most of the participants have Turkish friends. It is expected

that this situation will strengthen their social support perceptions in terms of peer relationships.

Finally, the educational status of the participants was questioned within the context of their last degree. Despite being university students, some participants marked the "university graduate" option. Therefore, university students and graduates are placed in the same category. In terms of cumulative weight, it was observed that university and high school graduates were distributed healthily.

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics of Planning and Coping and Social Adaptation, Social Support, and Satisfaction with Life Scales

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard Deviation
SWL	312	5.00	34.00	18.6763	6.79235
SF	291	6.00	47.00	31.5773	6.70435
SS	305	14.00	72.00	51.1082	12.7959
Planning	315	2.00	8.00	6.1460	1.45559

*SS: Multi-dimensional Perceived Social Support *SWL: Satisfaction with Life *SI: Social Functionality

Young people have higher levels of social support and social functionality than the mean level of satisfaction with life. Evaluating the higher levels of social support and social functionality with the dynamism that youth contain within itself will be meaningful.

Table 3. Correlation Statistics of Planning, Social Functionality, Social Support, Satisfaction with Life, and Some Sociodemographic Variations

No	Variables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	SF							
2	SS	0.410***						
3	SWL	0.506***	0.482***					
4	Planning	0.298***	0.426***	0.291***				
5	Age	0.085	0.007	-0.064	0.060			
6	Gender	-0.050	-0.052	0.080	-0.078	-0.039		
7	TFP	0.353***	0.311***	0.227***	0.140*	0.085	-0.168**	
8	Education	0.235***	0.172**	0.209***	0.096	0.321***	-0.033	0.157**

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

*TFP: Turkish Friend Presence

Social functioning, social support, satisfaction with life, and planning coping style all have significant correlations. (p<.001) Some socio-demographic variables were also found to have significant p-value correlations with various factors.

Mediator and Moderator Analysis

This chapter contains the Process model 5 analysis output, which is the conceptual model of the research problem. Control variables included educational status and Turkish friend presence. First, the effects of the control variables and the independent variable on the mediator variable are included, followed by the effects of the independent, control, and mediator variables on the dependent variable.

Table 4. Direct Effects on Satisfaction with Life
Step 1

	B	se	P	LLCI	ULCI
constant	21.1083	2.4065	,0000	16.3700	25.8465
SS	,2359	,0289	,0000	,1790	,2928
Education	1.7396	,5111	,0008	,7332	2.7460
TFP	1.8786	,7819	,0170	,3391	3.4181
F=24,1979					
r ² =.3118					
p=<.001					

*SS: Social Support *TFP: Turkish Friend Presence

Social support had a positive and significant direct effect on the mediator variable (B=.2359 p<.001). Education was found to have a positive and significant effect on satisfaction with life (B=1.7396 p<.001). The Turkish friend presence had a positive and significant effect on satisfaction with life (B=1.8786 p=.017).

Table 5. Direct Effects on Social Functionality
Step 2

	B	se	p	LLCI	ULCI
constant	19.7257	2.5325	,0000	14.7392	24.7123
SS	,0617	,0316	,0523	-.0006	,1240
SWL	,3309	,0569	,0000	,2188	,4429
Planning	,8050	,2678	,0029	,2777	1.3324
SP x Planning	,0409	,0150	,0069	,0113	,0705
Education	,8119	,4817	,0930	-.1365	1.7603
TFP	2.5034	,7293	,0007	1.0675	3.9393
p=<.001					
F=18,7649					
r ² =.3625					

*SS: Social Support *SWL: Satisfaction with Life *TFP: Turkish Friend Presence

The effect of social support on social functionality was found to be realized through the variable of satisfaction with life with the effect of full mediation.

Table 6. Mediating Effect of Satisfaction with Life

	Effect	BootSE	BootLLCI	BootULCI
SWL	,0780	,0160	,0486	,1115

*SWL: Satisfaction with Life

In this regard, the direct effect of social support on social functionality was insignificant. (B=.0617 p=.052). The direct effect of satisfaction with life on social functionality was found to be significant at the (B=.3309 p<.001) level. The direct effect of planning coping style on social functioning was at the (B=.8050 p=.0029) level. The interaction of planning coping style on social functionality of Social Support was found to be significant at the (B=.0409 p=.006) level. It was understood that the Turkish friend presence had a significant effect on social functionality at the (B=2.5034 p=<.001) level.

Educational status did not have a significant effect on social functioning. However, it was determined that the effect of this variable on satisfaction with life was significant and positive. The conditional direct effect of the planning coping style of social support on social functionality was found to be significant at the (B=.1217 p=.002) level.

Table 7. Conditional Direct Effect of Planning Coping Style

Planning	B	se	LLCI	ULCI
	-1.4671	,0016	,0368	-.0709
	,0000	,0617	,0316	-.0006
	1.4671	,1217	,0403	,0425

It has been observed that the use of a planning coping style has a moderating effect on the relationship between perceived social support and social functionality.

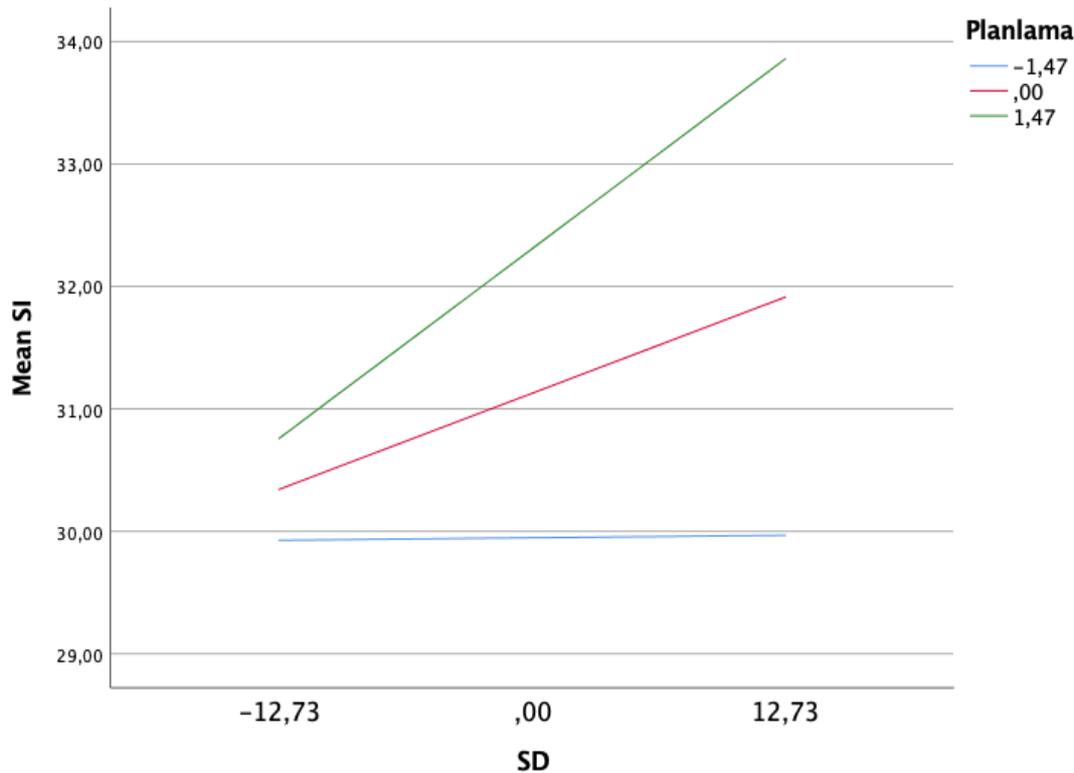


Figure 2. Conditional Direct Effect of Planning Coping Style Graphic
*SI: Social Functioning

In conclusion, Syrian youth's social support affects their social functionality, and satisfaction with life mediates this relationship. Satisfaction with life is positively and significantly affected by the following variables: social support, gender, education, and Turkish friend presence. Social functionality fully has a mediating effect on satisfaction with life; at the same time, Turkish friend presence significantly and positively affects it.

Discussion

Many studies have been conducted on the perceptions of social exclusion and vulnerability risks among Syrian youth in their tenth year in Türkiye. The present study does not aim to attract attention but to strengthen Syrian youth's social functionality against the social exclusion, discrimination, and material and moral disadvantages they experience or may experience in their daily lives, and thus, to ensure their full participation as individuals in Turkish society. The study was conducted and completed in line with

this aim. It was observed that perceived social support positively affects social functionality via satisfaction with life. When the literature on the findings is examined, it is seen that there is a relationship between these factors and there are studies stating that perceived social support has a mediating effect on social functionality via satisfaction with life (Kristiansen, et al., 2006; Fernandez, et al., 2015; Birman, et al., 2014).

It was found that planning, an active coping style, has a positive effect on social functionality. When the literature regarding this result is examined, it is seen that there are studies stating that using active coping styles may positively affect social functionality (Tsai, et al., 2012; Posselt, et al., 2018, p.11-12; Buz & Dikmen, 2020; Cardoso, 2018; Ahmad, et. al., 2020).

Advanced educational background has a positive effect on satisfaction with life. When the related literature is examined, it is seen that there are gaps regarding this result. In the research conducted by Attar and Küçükşen (2019) on Syrian and Turkish students in Mersin, attention is drawn to the positive effect of participation in training on social adaptation. The International Crisis Group's

(2019) fieldwork in Şanlıurfa draws attention to the fact that they lack access to educational opportunities and emphasizes the negative effect this has on their social adaptation and psychosocial well-being. In the study on Syrian youth in İstanbul conducted by Yüксеker, Tekin, and Taşğın (2021), it is stated that Syrian youth dropped out of school before and after the migration. However, they would like to study at a university and have future plans. Though there are no clear studies stating that an increase in education positively affects satisfaction with life, it is evaluated that these studies in the literature and this result are compatible.

Being friends with Turkish people has a positive effect on social functionality and satisfaction with life. Examining the literature related to this result reveals that there are studies stating that establishing sustainable relationships positively affects social functionality (Tuzcu & Bademli, 2014).

As a result of the study, it is observed that there are many factors positively affecting the youth's social functionality. These factors are satisfaction with life, perceived social support, planning, an active coping style, Turkish friend presence, and educational background that positively affect satisfaction with life. The research questionnaire was answered in this regard; it was discovered that there are factors that increase and strengthen the social function of youth.

The research findings suggest that young people should connect more with their social environment in order to improve their social functionality, their participation in education should be promoted, and they should undertake social adaptation programs to improve their satisfaction with life and perceived social support.

Conclusion and Recommendations

As a result of the study, it is observed that there are many factors positively affecting the youth's social functionality. These factors are satisfaction with life, perceived social support, planning, an active coping style, Turkish friend presence, and educational background that positively affect satisfaction with life.

Within the context of the research outcomes, several recommendations were made. Academicians and researchers should study the situations that positively affect and strengthen the Syrian youth's relationships with family, friends, and other people in society. Within the context of the outcomes of this study, it is recommended to develop social adaptation programs via public and/or NGOs. It is evaluated that social adaptation programs that will be carried out especially in the context of Sakarya province will have beneficial effects on the field. The interviews conducted with Syrian citizens during the research process showed that, in contrast to İstanbul and İzmir, there are not enough social adaptation activities in the field. In order to increase their social functionality, their satisfaction with life should also be increased. Within this context, it is recommended to organize social support programs that will increase the perceived social support by increasing and maintaining youth's participation in education.

When the positive effect of interacting with and being friends with Turkish peers on social functionality and satisfaction with life is considered, it is recommended to create a network within the social services. Creating a network aims to organize the relationships among individuals in society via Syrian youth's bonds of friendship.

When the positive effect of planning, an active coping style, on the relationship between social functionality and social support is considered; it is recommended that non-governmental organizations and associations providing psychosocial support for forced migrants such as the Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (SGDD-ASAM), and Turkish Red Crescent Community Centers provide training for young, forced migrants about improving active coping styles.

Ethical Information Related to the Study

This study was submitted to İstanbul University-Cerrahpaşa Social Sciences and Humanities Research Ethical Committee. The committee decision dated 21.01.2021 numbered 12708 reported that this study is ethically appropriate.

Conflict of Interest

The present study does not contain any potential conflicts of interest.

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