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## **CORRELATION BETWEEN QUALITY OF LIFE AND TOLERANCE AMONG MILITARISTS**

### **Abstract**

This study examines social tolerance as significant factor affecting human's social tension in current uncertain economic and labour market situation in Latvia. Previously performed pilot examination revealed negative correlation between life quality and tolerance among students. It motivated to examine people with experience in living in extreme conditions. The goal of this research is to develop and diagnose social tolerance of militarists in Latvia. To investigate tolerance such quantitative methods are used - Diversity Icebreaker by B.Z.Ekelund, E.Langvik, and method of determination of tolerance index by U.Soldatova, O.A. Kravtsova and O.J.Huhlayeva and life quality questionnaire; qualitative methods – assessment scale of tolerance by M.Vidnere, program of development of social tolerance drafted in Latvia and practiced in seminars by M.Vidnere and D.Olukalne based on methods by B.Ekelund. 60 militarists participated in the research. In the result of mathematical processing and analysis of all the data of the research tight correlations between tolerance as a personality trait, ethnic tolerance and social tolerance were found. Projective method shows high validation and is useful in the research.

**Key words:** Quality of life, tolerance, social tolerance, ethnic tolerance, tolerance as a personality character trait, intolerance.

In Latvia the problem of life quality and tolerance has become a topical issue because of the economic and social changes. Recently Latvian society has been invited to be more tolerant to different social groups. Intolerance is common not only between adults but also between children, therefore it is important to find the correlation between life quality and tolerance. Previous researches showed that students' level of tolerance is average, for some part of students it is low; in comparison with men women are more tolerant; medical students are more tolerant than students of social sciences. These researches are basis for the idea of this particular research in which the militarists are the subject. Both the police and the coast guard job are to rescue and protect people, because of their professional activities often related with stress and extreme situations. Feeling of security is significant aspect of life quality. It is connected with identification to a particular community. Besides feeling of security is one of basal feelings for normal person (Janoff-Bulman, 1992).

Research made in Brazilia in 2009 revealed that high-ranking Brazilian police officers view, that their profession is very stressful. Quality of life is found to be shortage in the

professional and health scales (Novaes Lipp, 2009).

Researches in military units shown that the militarists view, that their profession is very stressful (Barret, D.H., Carney Doebbeling C., Schwartz D.A., Voelker M.D., Falter K.H., Woolson R.F., Doebbeling B.N., 2002), but in the quality of life scales the lowest ratings are of physical, emotional and mental scales (Black, D.W., Blum N., Letuchy E., Carney Doebbeling C., Forman, Hoffman V.L. Doebbeling B.N., 2006; Suris A. 2007).

Human factors is a means to improve and keep a better quality of life in both the workplace and the home. High life quality depends on financial provision, good health, education, family, feeling of security and self-expression. So life quality and well-being is not the same. Concerning primary needs subjective life quality is slightly connected with the level of incomes. It depends on objective situation, person's expectations, cognitive processes and individual's role in society.

People feel good when their needs, expectations and requirements are fulfilled according to their health as well as to material and social points (Zikmund, 2003). Their attitude to decline is wait-and-see policy, more often they express their disappointment that reflects negatively in relationship with other people. They face intolerance everywhere in society so they feel to show intolerance to others. To a great extent life quality is individual's psychological attitude which in abstract level determines satisfaction with life. An optimist sees positive aspects in critical situations, but pessimist is tend to see only negative things and no benefits, so they perceive the same situation differently (Lucas, 2009).

Tolerance means composure and readiness for compromise; it is oriented to partnership or recovery of friendly relationship. The term "tolerance" symbolises indulgence, non-confronting principle of relationship. Indulgence in interrelation is identical to harmonious life, so that it means cooperation.

The sign of tolerance in everyday life is coherence between individuals and social groups. However more often in interrelation intolerance is expressed – impatience, inability to count on others, for example, disrespect of other opinions and lifestyle. Tolerance is not just one of personal traits, but it is a condition of attitude to values. Tolerance is studied as moral principle as well as role model of behaviour, individual or social reaction to social manifestations etc. The first historical form of tolerance was indulgence of religion, which was approved in Westphalia peace treaty in 1648 (Gulyev, Korotec, Tsernobrovkin, 2007).

G.Allport explains tolerance relating to humanism. There is no better mark to name friendship and mutual confidence with respect to every social community. The term "to celebrate diversity" is widely used (Allport, 1979). Thus tolerant person is a person who is equally well-minded to everyone without exception – this person does not pay attention to race, skin colour or belief. The one not only stands these issues, but love all people.

In methodology by G.U.Soldatova used in this research there different scales of tolerance are marked: ethnic tolerance, which includes individual's attitude to other ethnic groups and position in intercultural relationship; social tolerance reveals tolerant and intolerant expressions regarding to separate social processes; tolerance as personality trait reveals characteristics, positions and beliefs which in a great extent determines individual's attitude to surrounding. The research is oriented to studying the life quality and correlation of tolerance. It reveals the connection between social, ethnical and tolerance as a personality trait and life quality.

The social tolerance demands politeness to other society members in public, accepting diversity of different groups of people. Social tolerance is unnecessary for all people "to live among others" without fear of physical and emotional violence or offense (Schatz, 2004).

### **The Goal of Research**

The correlation between life quality and tolerance among police officers and coast guards

## Materials and methods

60 persons participated in the research: 30 police officers (16 women and 14 men) and 30 coast guards (11 women and 19 men).

The research data were obtained from a specially organized seminar. The seminar includes two parts: the first part of the workshop participants were informed about the research topic and participated in the discussion, the second part of an organized gathering of data.

The research used both quantitative and qualitative methods. Empiric research was made with the methodology of calculating the tolerance index by G.U.Soldatova, O.A.Kravcova and O.J.Huhlayev (2002), the survey of life quality (Calvert Henderson Quality of life indicators (1994)), Diversity Icebreaker by B.Z.Ekelund, E.Langvik (2008), which was developed in order to promote awareness and improve communication and collaboration in teams, and Social tolerance design analysis, based on identity theory, P. Torrance methodology, and B. Ekelund and E.Langvik methodology, tolerance assessment scale, developed by M. Vidnere.

## Ethics of the research:

The participants of the research were volunteers so they had an opportunity to refuse a participation. The participants were not misinformed – they were informed about the task completely and the usage of their results in future, as well as they were theoretically introduced to the problem. The confidentiality was discussed – their drawings are confidential, none of the participants are identified as individual; and the permission to use their drawings for the research was received.

## Results

Analysing the average data of the research, a tendency of lower indexes of social tolerance and ethnic tolerance among coast guards and lower indexes of social tolerance and tolerance as personality character trait among police officers was observed (table 1). To diagnose if the difference is statistically significant, t-test was used.

The results of the t-test showed, that statistically significant difference is between the indexes of tolerance as personality trait among police officers and coast guards.

Group		Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Police officers	Ethnic tolerance	28.60	4.124	22	38
	Social tolerance	25.93	3.903	20	34
	Tolerance as a personality character trait	25.63	2.659	20	32
Coast guards	Ethnic tolerance	28.77	5.015	18	40
	Social tolerance	25.40	4.987	13	35
	Tolerance as a personality character trait	26.47	4.167	18	35

Table 1. *The Indexes of Descriptive Statistics of Tolerance Among Police Officers and Coast guards*

Analyzing the average data of the research a tendency of lower indexes of

psychological being and community belonging (lowest) among police officers was observed; and the indexes of community belonging (lowest) and physical belonging conditions were lower among marine guards. Even score for both police officers and coast guards were in the scale of Psychological being (table 2). To diagnose if the difference is statistically significant t-test was used. The results of t-test shows that there is no statistically significant difference between indexes of life quality in this selection.

Group		Physical Being	Psychological Being	Spiritual Being	Physical Belonging	Social Belonging	Community Belonging	Practical Becoming	Leisure becoming	Growth Becoming
Police officers	Mean	21.90	20.90	21.80	21.93	22.67	19.00	23.33	23.00	23.53
	Std. Deviation	4.122	4.626	3.854	5.831	4.071	4.503	3.220	3.444	3.441
	Minimum	13	13	13	9	15	12	17	16	18
	Maximum	29	28	30	30	30	30	29	30	29
Coast guards	Mean	21.33	20.90	21.23	20.23	21.33	17.50	24.03	22.23	22.60
	Std. Deviation	3.809	3.916	4.108	4.133	4.581	4.289	3.557	3.213	3.793
	Minimum	12	11	9	8	8	8	18	16	15
	Maximum	28	30	30	28	30	26	30	28	30

Table 2. *The Indexes of Descriptive Statistics of Life Quality Among Police Officers and Mariners*

The analysis of correlation showed positive correlation between ethnic tolerance and practical becoming among police officers ( $r=0,480$ ,  $p=0,007$ ), positive correlation between spiritual being and tolerance as personality trait among coast guards ( $r=0,449$ ,  $p=0,013$ ).

The analysis of correlation showed positive correlation between practical becoming and ethnic tolerance among women police officers ( $r=0,591$ ,  $p=0,016$ ), positive correlation between ethnic tolerance and growth becoming among women police officers ( $r=0,507$ ,  $p=0,045$ ), negative correlation between practical becoming and social tolerance among women police officers ( $r= -0,533$ ,  $p=0,033$ ).

The analysis of correlation showed negative correlation between physical being and tolerance as a personality trait among women coast guards ( $r= -0,698$ ,  $p=0,017$ ), positive correlation between spiritual being and tolerance as a personality trait among men coast guards ( $r= 0,631$ ,  $p=0,004$ ), positive correlation between social identity and tolerance as personality trait among men coast guards ( $r=0,521$ ,  $p= 0,022$ ).

The analysis of Indexes of Blue, Red and Green dimensions among police officers and coast guards showed, that the Blue dimension dominates in both groups – police officers and coast guards, however the Blue dimension is more common among coast guards. The Green dimension is a rare occurrence among these groups (figure 1).

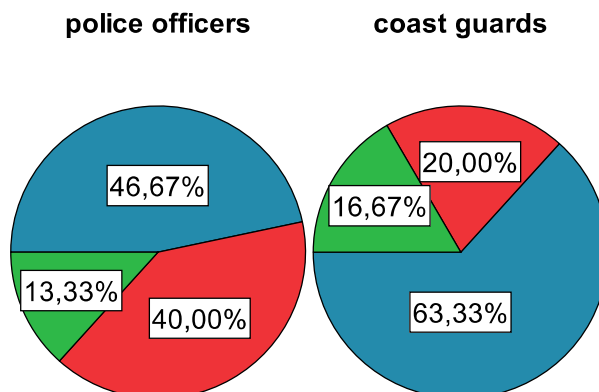


Figure 1. *The Indexes of Blue, Red and Green Dimensions Among Police Officers and Marine guards.*

The interpretation of the results of projective method are based on interpretation scales by Torrance (1962), attributes are ranked appropriately to the theory of identity, the preference of green, blue and red colours is observed according to Diversity Icebreaker by B.Ekelund and E.Langvik (figure 2). Disigns analysis showed that the blue dimension dominates among police officers, but the green and blue color dominate among coast guards. The evaluation of tolerance is processed according to theory by M.Vidnere.

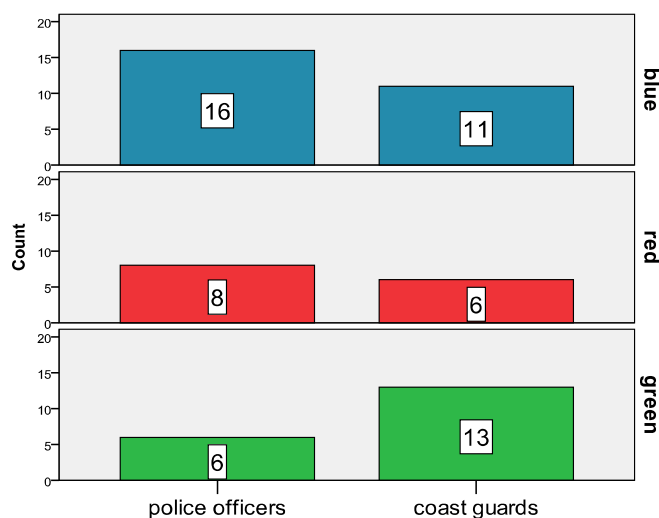


Figure 2. *Dominant color in design of tolerance.*

Tolerance design analysis shows, that the police officers are dominated by medium and high level of tolerance, but the coast guards are dominated by a low level of tolerance, but by G.U.Soldatova, O.A.Kravcova and O.J.Huhlayev show, that level of tolerance in both groups are equal – medium and low.

The analysis of correlation showed positive correlation between dominant color in design of tolerance and dominant dimension of questionnaire Diversity icebreaker among police officers ( $r=0,463$ ,  $p=0,010$ ), and positive correlation between dominant color in design

of tolerance and green color choice ( $r=0,563$ ,  $p= 0,001$ ).

## Conclusions

The results of this research are important because up to now only ethnical identity, tolerance among the young and tolerance to people with special needs have been emphasized; and researches of life quality have been mostly studied in health care. However the connection between tolerance and life quality among militarists has not been studied.

The most of participants gave answers in intervals that indicates average and low level of tolerance (56 participants), so that we can conclude that participants of the research are not always tolerant to other social groups. Is difficult to interpret the analysis of tolerance designs, because the designs reflect the unconscious world and objective analysis is burdensome.

The most of participants gave answers in intervals that indicates mostly average but also low level of life quality. These indexes are a bit lower among coast guards that can be interpreted according to their job specifics – extreme situations in everyday life and being isolated.

Correlations between life quality and tolerance indexes in choice are positive so that if one factor increases the other decreases. Consequently, if life quality increases, the level of tolerance will increase. Practical becoming of women police officers negatively correlated with social tolerance, while the physical being of women coast guards negatively correlated with personal tolerance.

People try to arrange their life in compliance with their ideas, experiences and wish to be successful and happy; however being unsuccessful in these issues they not infrequently express intolerance to others. If life quality increases, but the expectations for further development collapse, the level of tolerance will significantly decrease until the cognition of person accepts the present situation.

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