



Political Views as a Lens: Examining the Impact of Socioeconomic Status on Perceived Human Rights Practices Through Life Satisfaction

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Abstract

This study aims to examine the relationships between socioeconomic status (SES), life satisfaction, and perceived human rights practices (PHRP) within the framework of Bandura's social cognitive theory, which emphasizes the interaction of personal, environmental, and behavioral factors in shaping perceptions and behaviors. By integrating this perspective, the study provides a novel understanding of how socioeconomic factors and well-being influence human rights perceptions. In addition, a revalidation study of the Human Rights in the Context of Generational Rights Scale was conducted. The research was designed as a quantitative and cross-sectional study. A total of 791 adults living in different cities in Türkiye were reached online in June 2022. The data collection tools were a demographic information form, the revalidated version of Human Rights in the Context of Generational Rights Scale, and the Life Satisfaction Scale. The collected data were analysed using IBM's SPSS v.26 and SPSS Amos v.24 and Hayes' Process Macro plug-in v.4.2. It was found that SES has a direct negative effect on PHRP and an indirect positive effect through life satisfaction. In addition, political opinion was found to have a moderating effect on the relationship between SES and PHRP in terms of government and opposition. These findings suggest that perceptions of human rights are influenced not only by structural socioeconomic conditions but also by subjective well-being and political affiliations. This highlights the importance of considering psychological and ideological factors in discussions on human rights perceptions, providing implications for policymakers and scholars examining social inequalities and governance.

Keywords Socioeconomic status · Life satisfaction · Perceived human rights practices · Political view · Social cognitive theory

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Introduction

As detailed in the 2024 Amnesty International report on global human rights violations, there has been a notable increase in the incidence of human rights violations across the globe. These violations have been perpetrated by states and armed groups through the use of unlawful attacks. Fundamental rights, including freedoms of expression, social rights, and the rights of migrants, have been significantly restricted in various regions. The global economic crisis and the effects of climate change have had a particularly adverse impact on marginalized communities, while gender rights have also been threatened. International organizations such as the UN and the EU have faced challenges in preventing human rights violations and delivering justice (The State of the World's Human Rights (POL 10/7200/2024), 2024).

In Türkiye, human rights discussions have been influenced by various social, economic, and political developments. Restrictions were imposed in some areas, including social and economic freedoms and freedom of expression, following the February earthquakes. Furthermore, there was an increase in hostility towards refugees in society as a result of election-period rhetoric. Economic hardships stemming from inflation and the post-pandemic financial downturn have further exacerbated concerns regarding the protection of human rights and social justice (The State of the World's Human Rights (POL 10/7200/2024), 2024).

Figure 1 presents the Human Rights Index data, as presented by V-Dem (Herre et al., 2013). The Human Rights Index captures the extent to which individuals are free from government torture, political killings, and forced labor; possess property rights; and enjoy the freedoms of movement, religion, expression, and association. It should be noted, however, that the values represented in this graph are not directly related to the government in question but rather to the geographical region. This distinction is important in understanding how human rights conditions are perceived and measured across different contexts.

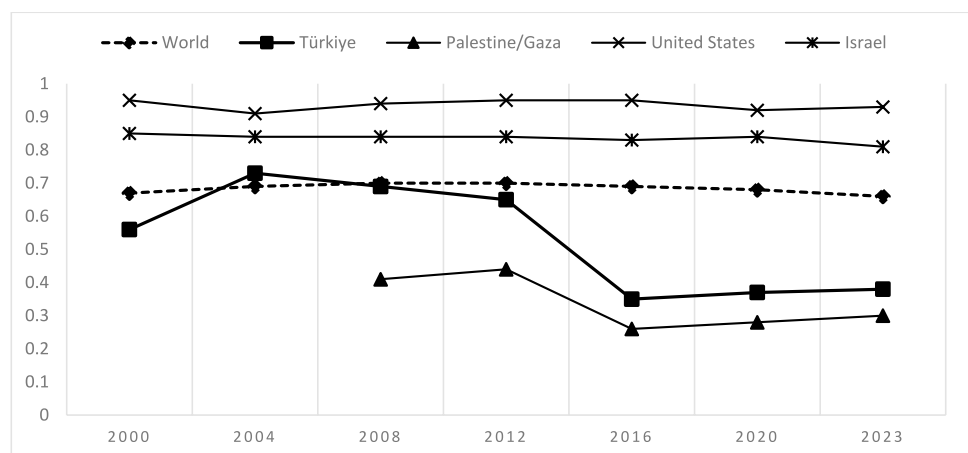
As indicated in the report, Türkiye's human rights index in 2004 reached its highest point in history, with a score of 0.73, exceeding the global average over the past 23 years (0.69). This advancement can be attributed to the legal and democratic reforms undertaken during the early 2000s in the context of EU accession negotiations (Gülmez, 2018). However, by 2016, the country's index score had declined significantly, reaching 0.35, reflecting various sociopolitical challenges, including restrictions on press freedom and freedom of expression following the 2016 coup attempt (Kakışım & Erdoğan, 2018). Despite an upward trajectory since 2022, Türkiye's human rights index remains considerably below the global average (0.66).

However, it is critical to assess the objectivity of these reports and indices. While Amnesty International and V-Dem data provide a global perspective on human rights violations, their methodologies and the influence of political biases must be carefully considered.

One of the primary concerns regarding these indices is their potential subjectivity. The Amnesty International report and Human Rights Index reflect aggregated data that may not always accurately represent the real conditions on the ground. For example, while human rights violations in regions like Palestine/Gaza are extensively documented, Israel's overall human rights index remains significantly higher than the global average. This raises the question of whether the methodology used in such indices effectively differentiates between governmental responsibility and regional conditions.

Similarly, Türkiye's human rights index has shown a sharp decline, particularly post-2016, despite its efforts in managing regional security, handling a significant refugee population, and maintaining internal stability amidst external pressures (Erbil, 2023; Solmaz et al., 2024). In contrast, countries such as the USA and Israel, where law enforcement responses to protests have been far more severe in certain instances, maintain consistently high scores in these indices.

Fig. 1 Human rights indexes of the world, Türkiye, the USA, Israel, and Palestine/Gaza



These discrepancies suggest that human rights reports and indices do not always align with on-the-ground realities. While our study primarily focuses on subjective perceptions of human rights, it is essential to provide a contextual understanding of real human rights practices as reflected in scientific and policy reports. This enables us to examine the extent to which perceived human rights levels deviate from actual conditions, allowing for a more comprehensive analysis of the perception-reality gap.

A recent study on the perception of human rights practices in the world has yet to be identified. Nevertheless, a study conducted by Civil Rights Defenders in 2021 on the perception of human rights in Türkiye's society is available for consultation. The findings of the study indicated that the concept of human rights was most closely associated with the notion of equality within the population in Türkiye. Among the adult population, 73% perceive a human rights issue in Türkiye, with 52% attributing this problem to a lack of education. Over the past 9 years, there has been a notable decline in the proportion of individuals who have expressed positive views regarding the state's recognition, protection, and promotion of human rights. Specifically, the percentage of respondents who have rated these aspects as good or very good has decreased from 35 to 26%. A significant proportion of the population (59%) believes that no political party is capable of resolving Türkiye's human rights issues. Türkiye's population perceives the most egregious violations of human rights to be those affecting women, the economically disadvantaged, and the younger generation. The society in question acknowledges the existence of inherent human rights, which are not contingent on the state. However, it is aware of the limitations of democracy and human rights in Türkiye. While human rights violations affect all segments of society, the necessity for legal recourse is underscored. The level of education plays a pivotal role in this awareness, with the more educated younger generation influencing traditional perspectives and heightening sensitivity to human rights. Furthermore, a significant proportion of the population tends to vote against politicians who neglect human rights, indicating that the issue of human rights will be a pivotal factor in elections (İnsan Hakları Araştırması, 2021).

A further survey of human rights perceptions, conducted by Amnesty International in 2019, revealed that 82% of respondents believed that human rights violations were taking place in Türkiye ('İnsan Hakları Algısı' Araştırması: Toplumun %82'si Temel Hak ve Özgürlüklerin İhlal Edildiğini Düşünüyor, 2019). A comparison of the data presented by V-Dem with the results of the two surveys conducted by Civil Rights Defenders and Amnesty reveals a discrepancy of approximately 10% in the perception of human rights in Türkiye's society between the 2019 and 2021 surveys. Despite this similarity in the human rights index scores for Türkiye in 2019 and 2021, the two surveys yield markedly different results. This

considerable discrepancy gives rise to the question of whether the environmental and individual characteristics of the participants in the two distinct samples, despite residing in the same country, may have influenced their perceptions.

The objective of this study is to examine the relationships between socioeconomic status (SES), life satisfaction, and perceived human rights practices (PHRP) within the framework of Social Cognitive Theory (SCT). This theory emphasizes the dynamic interaction between environmental and individual factors in shaping human behavior and perceptions. Specifically, we investigate how SES influences PHRP and whether life satisfaction acts as a mediating factor in this relationship. Additionally, we explore whether political view moderates the impact of SES on PHRP. By addressing these questions, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of the sociopsychological mechanisms underlying human rights perceptions.

Furthermore, this study extends the literature by revalidating the Human Rights in the Context of Generation Rights Scale (Durul et al., 2022), the only validated and reliable scale in Turkish for measuring perceived human rights practices. Unlike previous studies, which primarily focus on objective measures of human rights conditions, this research uniquely examines subjective perceptions, emphasizing how psychological and socioeconomic factors interact in shaping human rights attitudes. In doing so, it fills an important research gap by integrating human rights perception studies with social cognitive theory, offering novel insights for both theoretical and policy-related discussions.

Theoretical-Conceptional Framework and Research Questions

Social cognitive theory (SCT) is an approach developed by Albert Bandura to understand the learning processes of individuals in interaction with environmental factors (Bandura, 2001). The objective of this theory is to elucidate the mechanisms through which individuals learn; the influence of social norms, values, and beliefs on their development; and the impact of these processes on their behaviors and thoughts (Schunk & DiBenedetto, 2023). Social cognitive theory is employed to comprehend the manner in which individuals shape their behaviors and ways of thinking through social interactions and environmental factors (Laranjo, 2016).

Albert Bandura's social cognitive theory is based on three main components: observational learning (modeling), cognitive processes, and social interaction (Bandura, 1986). The following section will elucidate these components through the lens of perceived human rights practices.

Observational Learning (Modeling) As postulated by Bandura, this concept refers to the process by which individuals

acquire knowledge by directly observing the behaviors of others (Hidayat & Ramli, 2019). This process encompasses the observation of human rights practices by individuals in their immediate environment, as well as their reactions to such practices. For instance, an individual may observe social actions that contravene human rights, or observe how individuals react to such violations. These observations inform individuals' perceptions and attitudes towards human rights (Bandura, 1986).

Cognitive Processes Social cognitive theory places emphasis on the manner in which individuals process and evaluate environmental information. Cognitive processes evaluate the accuracy and validity of information obtained from a variety of sources, including school education, media programs, and internet content (Almulla & Al-Rahmi, 2023). Academic education and other sources of information enable individuals to acquire knowledge about human rights and influence how this knowledge is made sense of. These cognitive processes shape individuals' thinking about human rights and their ability to assess whether these rights are fairly applied (Bandura, 1986).

Social and Societal Interaction These terms are used to describe the ways in which individuals engage with one another and with the social structures that surround them. The term "social interaction" is used to describe the ways in which individuals engage with one another, including interactions with friends and family members on an individual level (Uzakgiden & Avcı, 2024). Such interactions have the potential to influence individuals' attitudes and beliefs regarding human rights. For example, an individual may engage in discourse on human rights with friends or be influenced by a family member's attitudes towards human rights. Societal interaction refers to individuals' relationships with wider social groups and society. These interactions provide general information about human rights practices in society. The importance society attaches to human rights, government

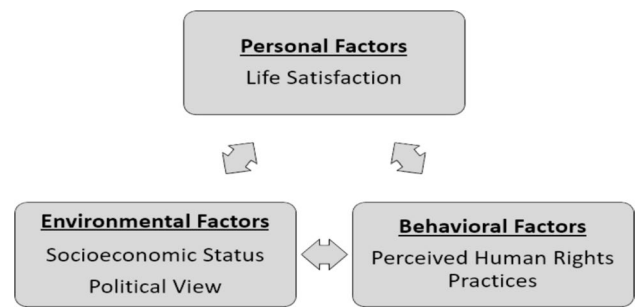


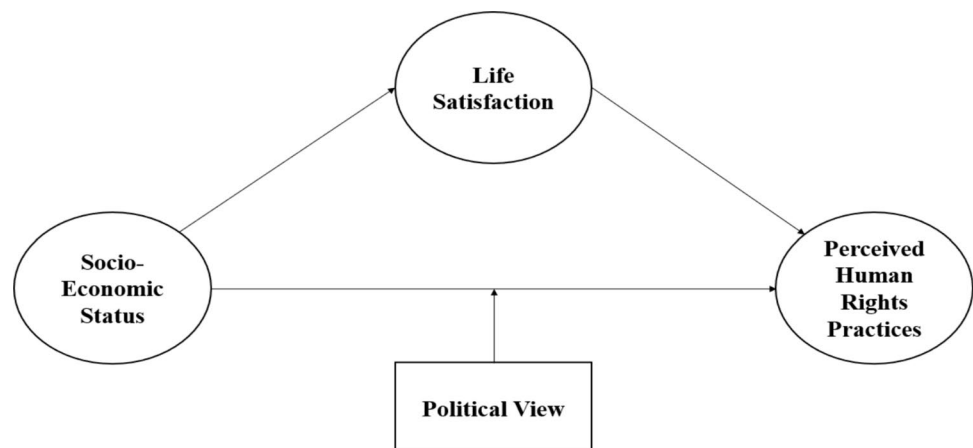
Fig. 2 Conceptual diagram of research model

policies, and media reports on human rights affect individuals' perceptions and attitudes towards these rights. Societal interactions shape individuals' perceptions of human rights in line with social norms and values (Bandura, 1986).

Although SCT provides a robust theoretical framework for this study, alternative perspectives such as the social dominance theory (Sidanius & Pratto, 1999) or system justification theory (Jost, 2019) may also be applicable in examining the stability of human rights perceptions across different political alignments. Future research may benefit from integrating these perspectives to provide a more comprehensive explanation of human rights attitudes.

As illustrated in Fig. 2, the social cognitive theory provides an effective framework for understanding how environmental and individual factors interact in the evaluation of perceived human rights practices. This theory offers an important tool for explaining individuals' perceptions of human rights and the factors that play a role in shaping these perceptions. The interaction of environmental, individual, and behavioral factors can affect individuals' perceptions of human rights. In line with these assumptions, the following research questions were sought and research model was illustrated in Fig. 3:

Fig. 3 Research model



RQ-1: Does Socioeconomic Status Predict Perceived Human Rights Practices?

The term “perceived human rights practices” refers to the manner in which individuals observe and evaluate the behaviors and practices related to human rights, including the extent to which these rights are protected and violated (Carlson & Listhaug, 2007). These practices are informed by individuals’ personal experiences, observations, and knowledge derived from their social environment. For instance, the extent to which human rights are upheld in one’s society or country, the manner in which the rule of law is enforced, and the prevailing attitudes and practices concerning issues such as discrimination can be assessed within this framework. In the context of social cognitive theory, perceived human rights practices can be considered a behavioral factor. Social cognitive theory posits that individuals’ interactions with their environment shape the behaviors they learn through observation, imitation, and modelling. Perceived human rights practices affect individuals’ attitudes and beliefs about human rights, determining their behaviors in this field. Therefore, individuals’ perceptions of human rights practices can be considered an important component of their behavior towards human rights.

As posited by Bandura (2001), environmental factors exert a significant influence on individuals’ behaviors. Socioeconomic status (SES) is defined as the sum of factors that determine an individual’s or family’s economic and social position. These factors include income level, education level, occupation, living standards, and social status (Baker, 2014). However, in the present study, we calculated socioeconomic status based solely on parental education and total family income. Socioeconomic status affects individuals’ access to health, education and social opportunities, quality of life, and general well-being. Furthermore, it reflects the economic and social differences between individuals in society (Adler & Rehkopf, 2008).

As socioeconomic status increases, individuals may have greater exposure to individuals with high human rights awareness, which may in turn lead to an increase in their awareness of human rights through social interaction. Furthermore, the cognitive process enables individuals to adopt a more conscious perspective on human rights by accessing a wider range of educational and information resources. Through observation, individuals may gain a more grounded perception of the extent to which human rights are implemented in their country of residence. This assumption has been corroborated by previous studies (Anderson et al., 2005; Hemmerechts et al., 2017; Torney-Purta et al., 2008). In light of the scientific reports on human rights practices in Türkiye in recent years (Herre et al., 2013), it can be posited

that there is a negative relationship between socioeconomic status and perceived human rights practices.

H1: Socioeconomic status (SES) is negatively associated with perceived human rights practices (PHRP).

RQ-2: Does Life Satisfaction Mediate the Relationship Between Socioeconomic Status and Perceived Human Rights Practices?

Bandura posited that individual factors exert a significant influence on an individual’s behaviors and perceptions, to a degree that is on par with that of environmental factors (Nabavi & Bijandi, 2011). One of the individual factors that affects life satisfaction is an individual’s evaluation of their quality of life and overall happiness, which is expressed as a sense of enjoyment of life (Diener et al., 1985). Various predictive factors, including religion, age, human rights, and welfare, have been identified as influencing life satisfaction (Habib et al., 2018; Jovanović & Joshanloo, 2022).

Life satisfaction is associated with a number of factors, including an individual’s biological, sexual, emotional, social, cultural, spiritual, occupational, intellectual, financial, and environmental subjective well-being (Miller & Foster, 2010). An improvement in socioeconomic status may lead to an increase in life satisfaction, due to a positive effect on some of the aforementioned well-being factors. Nevertheless, this may not be applicable to forms of well-being that are not directly related to socioeconomic status, such as spiritual well-being. In other words, if one of the two individuals in the same socioeconomic status exhibits higher spiritual well-being than the other, it may result in higher life satisfaction (Dolan et al., 2008). This may result in a shift in the way the world is perceived, irrespective of objective reality. To illustrate, while the attitudes of individuals with high life satisfaction may become more positive towards human rights, those whose life satisfaction declines due to personal adversity may also adopt a more negative stance towards human rights practices in their country. This represents a behavioral factor (Di Martino & Prilleltensky, 2020). Despite the absence of studies examining this indirect effect in the literature, studies with findings indicating direct effects between variables support this assumption. Consequently, it can be posited that life satisfaction serves as a mediating factor between socioeconomic status and perceived human rights practices.

H2: Life satisfaction mediates the relationship between SES and PHRP.

RQ-3: Does Political View Moderate the Relationship Between Socioeconomic Status and Perceived Human Rights Practices?

Bandura posits that human behavior is influenced by two distinct factors: environmental and individual (Schunk, 2012). Nevertheless, certain concepts can be assessed under both headings in different contexts. As a concept that can be evaluated as both an environmental and an individual factor, political opinion is among those that can be considered. Political opinion can be defined as an individual's thoughts, beliefs, and attitudes concerning the governance of society, the implementation of policies, and the role of the government (Heywood, 1998). These views encompass attitudes on a range of issues, including economic policies, social justice, human rights, environmental protection, education, and health services (Heywood, 2019). Political views are shaped by individuals' values, experiences, and social environment, and are frequently associated with a particular political party or ideology (Heywood, 2018). However, in this study, it was deemed appropriate to evaluate political opinion not through the lens of political party and ideology, but through the lens of preference for power-opposition. It is possible that power-opposition preferences are not always related to ideology. Even in the absence of a general ideological alignment, voters may favor parties with disparate ideologies on the basis of the services they provide and the efficacy of their policies in specific domains (Green et al., 2002). As evidenced by the recent local elections in Türkiye, voters may even cast their ballots for opposition parties with the intention of punishing the ruling party with which they align ideologically ('Dış Basında İlk Yorumlar: Seçmen İktidar Partisini Cezalandırmak İstedi', 2024). However, the behavior of voting for the opposition with the purpose of punishment, which can be considered an individual factor, is challenging to interpret independently from environmental factors in collectivist societies such as Türkiye's society.

While the role of individual decision-making processes cannot be discounted, political opinion is frequently associated with one's place of residence (Campbell, 2013). It is evident that this relationship is particularly reinforced in collectivist societies (Mcclurg, 2003). Accordingly, the conceptual model of our research considers political opinion to be an environmental factor. In accordance with the tenets of social cognitive theory, it is anticipated that there will be a correlation between political opinion and socioeconomic status. The socioeconomic status of individuals, defined as the economic power and education levels of their environment, has been demonstrated to shape their political opinion (Brady et al., 1995). Both observational and social interaction methods are based on the interaction of individuals with their environment, which they generally cannot change. They can also be effective on cognitive processes such as the preference for echo chambers (Baumgaertner & Justwan, 2022). Some studies in the literature lend support to this assumption (Andersen & Heath, 2000). Nevertheless, it can be posited that the perception of human rights

practices is influenced by political opinion. This is because one environmental factor, socioeconomic status, which is related to another environmental factor, political opinion, is expected to affect the perception of human rights practices. Previous studies also support this assumption (Campos, 2022). However, no study in the literature has demonstrated a direct moderating effect of political opinion. Nevertheless, the findings on the binary relationships of the variables reinforce our assumption about this effect. Therefore, it can be stated that political opinion exerts a moderating influence between socioeconomic status and perceived human rights practices.

Political view can act as a moderating variable because individuals with different political orientations may interpret and evaluate human rights practices differently, even when they share similar socioeconomic backgrounds. This aligns with social cognitive theory, as political views shape and are shaped by social interactions, media exposure, and group affiliations, influencing how individuals perceive human rights practices.

H3: Political view moderates the relationship between SES and PHRP, such that individuals supporting the ruling party will report different perceptions than those supporting the opposition.

Materials and Methods

Study Design, Participants, and Procedure

This research was conducted in accordance with a quantitative cross-sectional descriptive model, employing a convenience sampling technique and utilizing a survey method for data collection (Leavy, 2022). The participants were contacted via the online platform SurveyMonkey in June 2022, and their consent was obtained by providing them with information regarding the purpose, methodology, and data security of the research. The participants' privacy was safeguarded; no private information was solicited, and IP addresses were not retained. The mean completion time for the survey was 10 min, with participants permitted to commence and conclude the survey at their discretion. The research was conducted in accordance with the ethical standards set forth in the Helsinki Declaration, and ethical approval was granted by Istanbul Nişantaşı University. The study population comprised individuals aged 18 years and over residing in Türkiye. The sample size was calculated to be at least 384, based on a heterogeneous distribution with a 95% confidence interval for this large population (Taherdoost, 2018). The sample size of 791 people ensures reliable generalizability for the population of Türkiye. A total of 1500 survey invitations were distributed, of which 820 responses were received. After data cleaning and exclusion

of incomplete responses, the final sample consisted of 791 participants, resulting in a response rate of 54.7%.

The response rate (54.7%) is within the acceptable range for online survey research (Baruch & Holtom, 2008) ensuring adequate representation of the target population. However, potential non-response bias remains a consideration, as individuals who chose not to participate or failed to complete the survey may differ systematically from respondents in terms of demographic factors, attitudes, or access to digital resources. To assess the impact of non-response, early and late respondents were compared, revealing no significant differences in key variables (Armstrong & Overton, 1977). Nonetheless, future research could employ follow-up surveys or alternative data collection methods to further mitigate potential biases and enhance representativeness.

Measures

In this study, a questionnaire consisting of demographic questions and Life Satisfaction and Human Rights scales were used as data collection tools.

Demographic Information Form This form included questions pertaining to the following variables: age, gender, level of education, income, marital status, employment status, student status, place of residence, and political views.

Political Views Participants' political views were assessed based on their preference for the ruling party, the opposition, neutrality, or protest voting behavior. Given the potential sensitivity of political affiliations, additional response categories were included: "No answer," "None," and "Hesitant."

For analytical purposes, responses were categorized as follows:

The Government: Participants who explicitly indicated support for the ruling party.

The Opposition: Participants who explicitly indicated support for an opposition party.

Neutral/Undecided: Participants who selected "Hesitant," indicating that they were undecided about their political stance.

Protest Voters: Participants who selected "None," explicitly rejecting all political parties.

Missing Data: Participants who selected "No answer" were excluded from inferential analyses but retained in descriptive statistics to acknowledge response patterns.

To evaluate the impact of these categories on the findings, sensitivity analyses were conducted by running models both with and without neutral and protest voters. The results

remained consistent, indicating that these categorizations did not significantly bias the interpretations.

Socioeconomic Status (SES) In order to ascertain the socioeconomic status of the participants, the educational status of the parents and the income level of the family were calculated and averaged using a 5-point Likert scale. A new factor, designated as SES, was then formed.

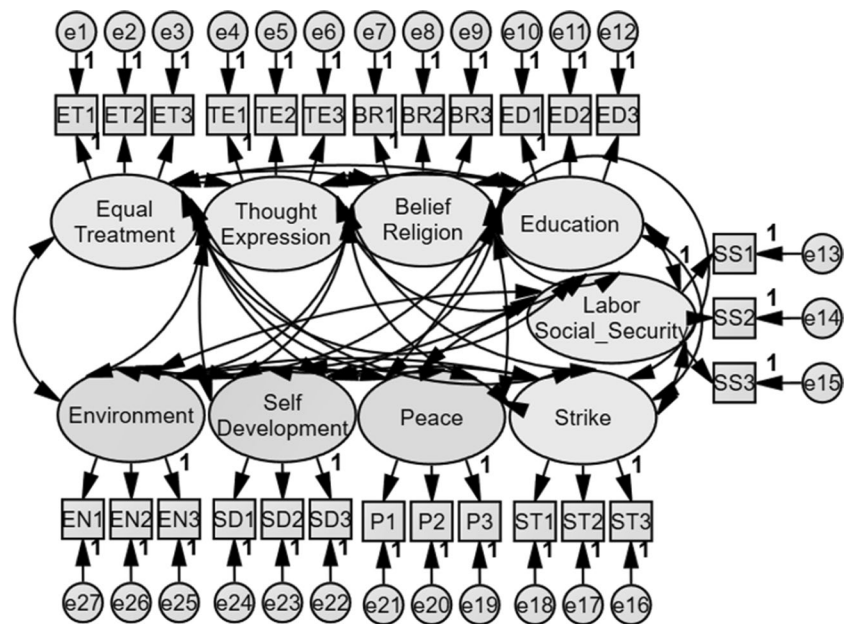
Human Rights Scale in the Context of Generation Rights (HRS) The 40-item and 5-point Likert-type response scale, developed by Durul et al. (2022), is designed to assess perceptions of human rights. The Cronbach alpha reliability coefficient of the scale is 0.97. This study aimed to reconstruct the reliability and validity of the scale. The resulting scale comprises nine factors and 27 items. The "Data Analysis" section presents the validity and reliability values. The appendix contains a table of the scale factors and items.

Satisfaction with Life Scale (SLS) The scale was developed by Diener et al. (1985). The Turkish adaptation of the scale was carried out by Dağlı and Baysal (2016). It is established that the scale has a single-factor structure, was created with a 7-point Likert scale, and comprises five items.

Data Analysis

The study's validity was evaluated using IBM SPSS Amos software (version 24.0). The normality, reliability, descriptive statistics, and correlation results were obtained using the SPSS software (version 24.0). A mediation analysis was conducted using model 4, and a moderation analysis was conducted using model 5, both with the Process Macro (version 4.2). The direct and indirect effects in the model were tested using 95% bias-corrected confidence intervals obtained from 5000 resamples generated by the bias-corrected bootstrapping method. The results of the analyses regarding the validity study of the Human Rights in the Context of Generation Rights Scale and the validity of the research model are presented below.

The validity diagram of the HRS is given in Fig. 4. Equal treatment, freedom of thought-expression, and freedom of belief-religion are within the scope of first-generation rights. Education, work-social security, and strike rights are within the scope of second-generation rights. Peace, self-development, and environmental rights are within the scope of third-generation rights. Goodness of fit values are in the acceptable range (CMIN/DF = 4.005; RMSEA = 0.062; GFI = 0.902; CFI = 0.955; TLI = 0.945; IFI = 0.955; NFI = 0.941; SRMR = 0.0470). SLS was also included in the confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) to ensure the validity of the research model. As a result of the analysis, it was seen that the values of goodness of fit were not in the acceptable range. With the help of modification indices, covariances were established

Fig. 4 Validity of generation rights scale

between scale items in five different factors as shown in Fig. 5. The values were found to be in the acceptable range (CMIN/DF = 2.789; RMSEA = 0.048; GFI = 0.915; CFI = 0.966; TLI = 0.959; IFI = 0.966; NFI = 0.948; SRMR = 0.0357).

Cronbach's alpha values were found to be 0.88 on the SLS and 0.97 on the HRS. Cronbach alpha values of the factors are 0.82 (ETR), 0.87 (FTE), 0.89 (FBR), 0.87 (EDR), 0.83 (LSSR), 0.88 (STR), 0.88 (PR), 0.89 (SDR), and 0.91 (ENR), respectively. Skewness and kurtosis values were found to be between -2 and $+2$ (George & Mallery, 2018). As a result, it is seen that normality, validity, and reliability are provided.

Tables 1, 2, and 3 illustrate the factor loadings of the HRS items, together with their ranking in accordance with the factors to which they are related. This information is derived from the results of the CFA. While the original scale comprised 40 items organized into four factors, our validity study yielded a reduced set of 27 items organized into nine factors across three themes. This facilitates the investigation of specific sub-dimensions related to human rights. Furthermore, our current study has produced an instrument that is more aligned with existing literature by focusing exclusively on human rights across three generations.

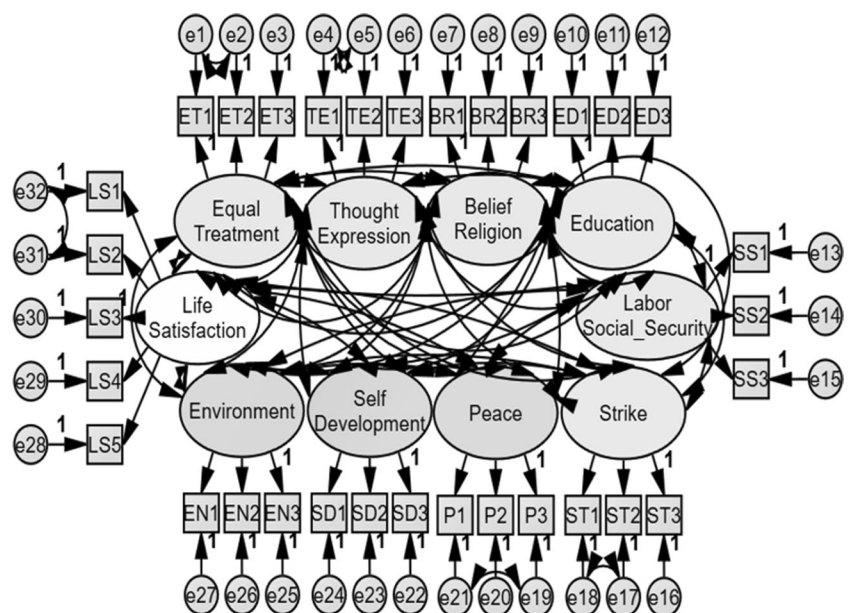
Fig. 5 Validity of the research model

Table 1 First generation rights scale

Scale	Factor	Code	Items	Estimates
First Generation Rights	Equal treatment before the law	ET1	Ülkemde herkes, cinsiyet veya cinsel tercih fark etmeksizin eşit haklardan yararlanmaktadır. [In my country, everyone has equal rights, regardless of gender or sexual orientation.]	0.802
		ET2	Ülkemde Laz, Kürt, Çerkez, Türkmen veya genel olarak göçmen, muhacir vb. bakılmaksızın herkes eşit haklardan yararlanmaktadır. [In my country, everyone has equal rights, whether Laz, Kurd, Circassian, Turkmen, immigrants, refugees, etc.]	0.770
		ET3	Ülkemde yasa önünde herkes eşit muamele görmektedir. [In my country, everyone is treated as an equal before the law.]	0.774
	Freedom of thought and expression	TE1	Ülkemde herkes düşünce ve kanaatlerini tek başına veya toplu olarak açıklama konusunda kendini güvende hissetmektedir. [In my country, everyone feels safe to express their thoughts and opinions, individually or collectively.]	0.816
		TE2	Ülkemde herkesin, asayışı bozmadan gösteri yürüyüşü ve siyasal toplantılar düzenleme hakkı bulunmaktadır. [In my country, everyone has the right to organise demonstrations and political meetings without disturbing public order.]	0.823
		TE3	Ülkemde herkes düşünce ve kanaatlerini özgürce açıklayabilmektedir. [In my country, everyone can freely express their thoughts and opinions.]	0.887
	Freedom of belief and religion	BR1	Ülkemde herkes inandıkları din ya da inancı açıklayabilme özgürlüğüne sahiptir [In my country, everyone has the freedom to express their religion or belief.]	0.864
		BR2	Ülkemde herkes, hiçbir zorlama olmadan, inancını özgürce yaşamaktadır. [In my country, everyone is free to live their faith without any coercion.]	0.920
		BR3	Ülkemde herkesin tercih ettiği bir dini kabul etme ya da değiştirme özgürlüğü bulunmaktadır. [In my country, everyone has the freedom to adopt or change the religion of their choice.]	0.804

Results

Descriptive Statistics

The results of the descriptive analysis are presented in Table 4. The sample consists of 791 participants with an average age of 24.8 years ($SD=8.0$), ranging from 18 to 67 years. The majority of participants (65.2%) identify as female, while 34.8% are male. Regarding education levels, 70% have completed or are currently pursuing an undergraduate degree, while 24.5% have a further education background, and only 5.5% hold a postgraduate degree.

The mean SES score is 2.1 (on a 1–5 scale), indicating a relatively low socioeconomic status among participants. This measure was derived from parental education levels and household income. In terms of employment, 73.7% of participants are unemployed, whereas 26.3% are employed. Given that the majority of the sample consists of students

(60.2%), this high unemployment rate is expected. Furthermore, a significant proportion of participants (82.2%) do not have a partner, reinforcing that the sample largely comprises young, single individuals.

Participants are predominantly urban dwellers, with 43.9% living in metropolitan areas, 30.6% in urban districts, and 25.5% in rural areas. This urban-heavy distribution aligns with the demographic characteristics of the sample.

The distribution of political views indicates diverse political orientations. In total, 32.4% of respondents chose not to disclose their political stance, while 31.7% selected “None,” indicating a rejection of all political parties rather than political indecision. Among those who expressed a political preference, 10.5% support the opposition, while 7.8% support the ruling party. Additionally, 17.6% identified as hesitant, meaning they were either undecided or held a neutral stance regarding political alignment.

Table 2 Second generation rights scale

Scale	Factor	Code	Items	Estimates
Second Generation Rights	Education	ED1	Ülkemde herkes adil ve eşit koşullarda eğitim almaktadır. [In my country, everyone receives education under fair and equal conditions.]	0.856
		ED2	Ülkemde herkesin aldığı eğitim sahip olduğu yetenekleri hayata geçirebilecek yeterliliktedir. [In my country, the education everyone receives is sufficient to realise their talents.]	0.854
		ED3	Ülkemde herkesin eğitimde herhangi bir ayrımcılığa maruz kalmama güvencesi bulunmaktadır. [In my country, everyone has the guarantee of non-discrimination in education.]	0.796
	Labor and social security	SS1	Ülkemde çalışan herkes, sosyal güvencesi olan bir işte çalışmaktadır. [In my country, everyone who works has a job with social security.]	0.763
		SS2	Ülkemde herkes, hayatını idame ettirebileceği işe sahiptir. [In my country, everyone has a job to make a living.]	0.841
		SS3	Ülkemde her çalışan işten çıkartıldığında tazminatını alabilmektedir. [In my country, every employee can receive compensation when they are dismissed.]	0.783
	Strike	ST1	Ülkemde işveren ve sendika temsilcileri arasında, çalışma koşulları, ücretler, çalışma süreleri, sosyal yardımlar gibi konularda toplu sözleşmeler yapılmaktadır. [In my country, collective agreements are concluded between employers and trade union representatives on working conditions, wages, working hours, social benefits, etc.]	0.908
		ST2	Ülkemde işçi ve işveren sendikaları, temsil ettikleri üyeleriyle ilgili sözleşmeler yapmaktadır. [In my country, trade unions and employers' unions conclude contracts with the members they represent.]	0.902
		ST3	Ülkemde grev ve lokavt haklarının kullanılmasında herhangi bir engelleme bulunmamaktadır. [In my country there are no restrictions on the exercise of the right to strike and lock-out.]	0.744

The mean score for Perceived Human Rights Practices (PHRP) is 2.4 ($SD = 1.0$, on a 1–5 scale), indicating a generally low perception of human rights protection. Among the dimensions of human rights, education rights were rated the lowest (1.8), suggesting that participants perceive education-related human rights to be more restricted than other rights. Conversely, freedom of belief and religion scored relatively higher (2.9), but still below the midpoint of the scale.

The mean life satisfaction score is 2.7 ($SD = 1.0$, on a 1–5 scale), also indicating moderate-to-low satisfaction levels. This suggests that participants' socioeconomic background, employment status, and perceived human rights conditions may play a role in shaping overall well-being.

The correlation analysis outputs presented in Table 5 provides insights into the relationships between perceived human rights practices (PHRP), life satisfaction, and socioeconomic status (SES) across different dimensions. The key findings from the analysis are as follows:

PHRP is examined across three generations of human rights categories, including civil and political rights (first-generation), economic and social rights (second-generation),

and collective rights (third-generation). Equal treatment, thought and expression, and belief and religion are significantly correlated with each other ($p < 0.001$). Equal treatment is strongly correlated with thought and expression ($r = 0.442$, $p < 0.001$) and belief and religion ($r = 0.360$, $p < 0.001$), indicating that individuals who perceive fair treatment also tend to view freedom of thought and religious rights more positively. Thought and expression is highly correlated with belief and religion ($r = 0.447$, $p < 0.001$), showing that perceptions of political freedoms and religious freedoms are closely linked.

Education, labor and social security, and strike rights exhibit significant positive correlations with each other ($p < 0.001$). Education is positively correlated with labor and social security ($r = 0.461$, $p < 0.001$) and strike rights ($r = 0.513$, $p < 0.001$), suggesting that individuals who perceive strong education rights also recognize better labor protections and the right to strike. Labor and social security is positively correlated with strike rights ($r = 0.426$, $p < 0.001$), reflecting the interconnection between labor policies and workers' rights to collective action.

Table 3 Third Generation Rights Scale

Scale	Factor	Code	Items	Estimates
Third Generation Rights	Peace	P1	Ülkemde herkes yerel, bölgesel, ulusal olarak şiddet eylemlerine karşı korunmaktadır. [In my country, everyone is protected against acts of violence locally, regionally, nationally.]	0.843
		P2	Ülkemde herkes, uluslararası alanda şiddet eylemlerine (terör eylemleri, dış ülkelere gelebilecek saldırılar vb.) karşı korunmaktadır. [In my country, everyone is internationally protected against acts of violence (acts of terrorism, attacks from abroad, etc.).]	0.849
		P3	Ülkemde savaşın engellenmesi ve barışçıl bir ortamın sağlanması için gerekli önlemler alınmaktadır. [In my country, necessary measures are being taken to prevent war and to ensure a peaceful environment.]	0.865
	Self-development	SD1	Ülkemde insanlar, kişiliğini serbestçe geliştirme hakkını kullanmaktadır. [In my country, people have the right to develop their personality freely.]	0.828
		SD2	Ülkemde herkes kendini geliştirme konusunda eğitim vb. yollarla devlet kurumları tarafından desteklenmektedir. [In my country, everyone is supported by state institutions for self-development through training etc.]	0.856
		SD3	Ülkemde insanların bulunduğu toplumdaki kültürel kimliğine saygı gösterilerek gelişimine katkı sağlanmaktadır. [In my country, people's cultural identity in the society they live in is respected and contributed to their development.]	0.887
	Environment	EN1	Ülkemde çevrenin korunması ve geliştirilmesi konusundaki farkındalık yüksektir. [In my country, awareness of environmental protection and development is high.]	0.839
		EN2	Ülkemde yaşanılır bir çevre için devlet gerekli önlemleri almaktadır. [In my country, the state takes the necessary measures for a liveable environment.]	0.901
		EN3	Ülkemde yaşanabilir bir çevrenin devamlılığının sağlanması konusunda insanlar kendini güvende hissetmektedir. [In my country, people feel confident in ensuring the continuity of a liveable environment.]	0.899

Peace, self-development, and environmental rights are positively correlated ($p < 0.001$). Peace is correlated with self-development ($r = 0.381$, $p < 0.001$) and environmental rights ($r = 0.382$, $p < 0.001$), suggesting that perceptions of a peaceful society contribute to broader concerns about personal growth and environmental protection. Self-development and environmental rights are also positively correlated ($r = 0.437$, $p < 0.001$), indicating that individuals who value opportunities for self-improvement are also likely to be concerned about environmental conditions.

Life satisfaction is significantly and positively correlated with all dimensions of PHRP ($r = 0.495$, $p < 0.001$), showing that individuals who report higher well-being tend to perceive human rights practices more positively. The strongest correlations between life satisfaction and human rights dimensions are found in education rights ($r = 0.513$, $p < 0.001$), strike rights ($r = 0.513$, $p < 0.001$), and labor and social security rights ($r = 0.461$, $p < 0.001$), indicating that economic and social factors have a significant influence on well-being. SES is positively correlated with life satisfaction ($r = 0.261$, $p < 0.001$), reinforcing

that higher socioeconomic conditions contribute to better subjective well-being. However, SES does not show a direct significant correlation with any individual PHRP dimensions ($p > 0.05$), suggesting that socioeconomic background alone may not shape human rights perceptions but may have an indirect effect through life satisfaction.

Testing Research Model

Direct, Indirect and Total Effects

A mediation analysis was conducted using model 4 to ascertain the mediating role of life satisfaction in the effect of SES on PHRP. The analysis demonstrated that as socioeconomic status increases, the level of PHRP decreases ($\gamma = -0.2000$, $SE = 0.0617$, 95% $CI[-0.3210, -0.0789]$). H1 was supported. However, when life satisfaction acts as a mediator, the relationship shifts in a positive direction ($\gamma = 0.2639$, $SE = 0.0353$, 95% $CI[0.1973, 0.3368]$). Furthermore, life satisfaction fully mediates the relationship between SES and PHRP ($p < 0.05$, see Table 6). H2 was supported.

Table 4 Descriptive statistics

Variables	Descriptives		
	Mean (stand- ard deviation)	Range	Number (%)
<i>Characteristics</i>			
Age	24.8 (8.0)	18–67	
Gender			
Male			275 (34.8)
Female			516 (65.2)
Education			
Further education			194 (24.5)
Undergraduate			554 (70.0)
Postgraduate			43 (5.5)
Socioeconomic status			
Income	2.1 (0.5)	1–5	
Father education			
Mother education			
Employeehip			
Unemployed			583 (73.7)
Employed			208 (26.3)
Studentship			
Non-student			315 (39.8)
Student			476 (60.2)
Marital status			
No partner			650 (82.2)
Has partner			141 (17.8)
Living area			
Rural district			202 (25.5)
Urban district			242 (30.6)
Metropolitan district			347 (43.9)
Political view			
No answer			256 (32.4)
None			251 (31.7)
The opposition			83 (10.5)
Hesitant			139 (17.6)
The government			62 (7.8)
Perceived human rights practices	2.4 (1.0)	1–5	
<i>First-generation rights</i>	2.6 (1.1)	1–5	
Equal treatment	2.5 (1.2)	1–5	
Thought and expression	2.3 (1.2)	1–5	
Belief and religion	2.9 (1.3)	1–5	
<i>Second-generation rights</i>	2.2 (0.9)	1–5	
Education	1.8 (1.0)	1–5	
Labor and social security	1.9 (1.0)	1–5	
Strike	2.8 (1.1)	1–5	
<i>Third-generation rights</i>	2.6 (1.1)	1–5	
Peace	2.7 (1.2)	1–5	
Self-development	2.6 (1.2)	1–5	
Environment	2.4 (1.1)	1–5	
Life satisfaction	2.7 (1.0)	1–5	
Total			791 (100)

Moderator Effects

In order to ascertain the moderating role of political views in the effect of SES on PHRP, the political views variable was incorporated into the model. The dummy variable method was employed to categorize respondents according to their political views. Those who expressed support for the ruling party were assigned the value of 2, while those with alternative views were assigned the value of 1. The analysis was then conducted anew using model 5. The findings indicated that as SES increases, PHRP levels decline for both supporters of the ruling party and those with alternative political views. Nevertheless, the decline was more pronounced among supporters of the ruling party ($\gamma = -0.6535$, $SE = 0.2183$, 95% $CI[-1.0821, -0.2249]$) in comparison to those with alternative political perspectives ($\gamma = -0.1265$, $SE = 0.0621$, 95% $CI[-0.2484, -0.0046]$). The results demonstrate that political views exert a moderating influence on the relationship between SES and PHRP, with a statistically significant effect ($p < 0.05$; see Table 7 and Fig. 6). H3 was supported.

Discussion

The objective of this study is to examine the interrelationships between the concepts of socioeconomic status, life satisfaction, and perceived human rights practices within the context of Albert Bandura's social cognitive theory. Path analyses were conducted using a structural equation modelling framework to gain insight into the influence of the independent variables. The findings of this study provide significant insights into the complex interplay between socioeconomic status (SES), life satisfaction, and perceived human rights practices (PHRP). The results reveal that SES has both direct and indirect effects on PHRP, highlighting the importance of considering both structural and psychological factors when examining human rights perceptions. One of the key takeaways from this study is that individuals with higher SES tend to be more critical of human rights practices, potentially due to increased access to information and greater exposure to societal inequalities. Conversely, life satisfaction acts as a buffering factor, shaping how individuals interpret human rights conditions. Additionally, political views emerge as a crucial moderating variable, influencing how different groups perceive the state of human rights in their country. These findings suggest that human rights perceptions are not solely based on objective conditions but are also shaped by subjective well-being and ideological perspectives. This underscores the necessity for policymakers and human rights organizations to adopt a multidimensional approach when addressing public concerns about

Table 5 Bivariate Pearson correlations

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. SES	1										
2. ET	0.03	1									
3. TE	0.05	0.82**	1								
4. BR	0.07*	0.71**	0.70**	1							
5. EDU	0.05	0.60**	0.68**	0.49**	1						
6. LSS	0.06	0.59**	0.66**	0.50**	0.86**	1					
7. STRIKE	-0.00	0.63**	0.62**	0.58**	0.45**	0.45**	1				
8. PEACE	-0.01	0.74**	0.71**	0.67**	0.52**	0.49**	0.68**	1			
9. SELF	-0.00	0.79**	0.78**	0.68**	0.59**	0.55**	0.71**	0.85**	1		
10. ENV	-0.01	0.76**	0.74**	0.63**	0.63**	0.58**	0.63**	0.79**	0.82**	1	
11. PHRP	0.03	0.89**	0.89**	0.80**	0.76**	0.74**	0.77**	0.86**	0.90**	0.88**	1
12. LS	0.26**	0.44**	0.44**	0.36**	0.46**	0.46**	0.38**	0.38**	0.43**	0.38**	0.49**

SES, socioeconomic status; ET, equal treatment; TE, thought and expression; BR, belief and religion; EDU, education; LSS, labor and social security; SD, self-development; ENV., environment; PHRP, perceived human rights practices; LS., life satisfaction

*Significant (0.05), **significant (0.01)

Table 6 Direct, indirect, and total effects

Model 4			Effect	Unstd. estimates	SE	LLCI	ULCI
Socioeconomic status	→	Perceived human rights practices	Total	0.06	0.06	− 0.07	0.19
Socioeconomic status	→	Perceived human rights practices	Direct	− 0.20	0.06	− 0.32*	− 0.07*
Socioeconomic status	→ Life Satisfaction →	Perceived human rights practices	Indirect	0.26	0.03	0.19*	0.33*

Unstd., unstandardized; SE, standard errors; LLCI, lower level confidence interval; ULCI, upper level confidence interval

Table 7 Political view's moderator effect

Model 5			Effect	Unstd. estimates	SE	LLCI	ULCI	
Socioeconomic status	→	Political view	→ Perceived human rights practices	The other views	−0.12	0.06	−0.24*	−0.00*
				The government	−0.65	0.21	−1.08*	−0.22*

Unstd., unstandardized; SE, standard errors; LLCI, lower level confidence interval; ULCI, upper level confidence interval

governance and justice. For a more in-depth discussion, this section will focus on the three research questions.

Direct Effect

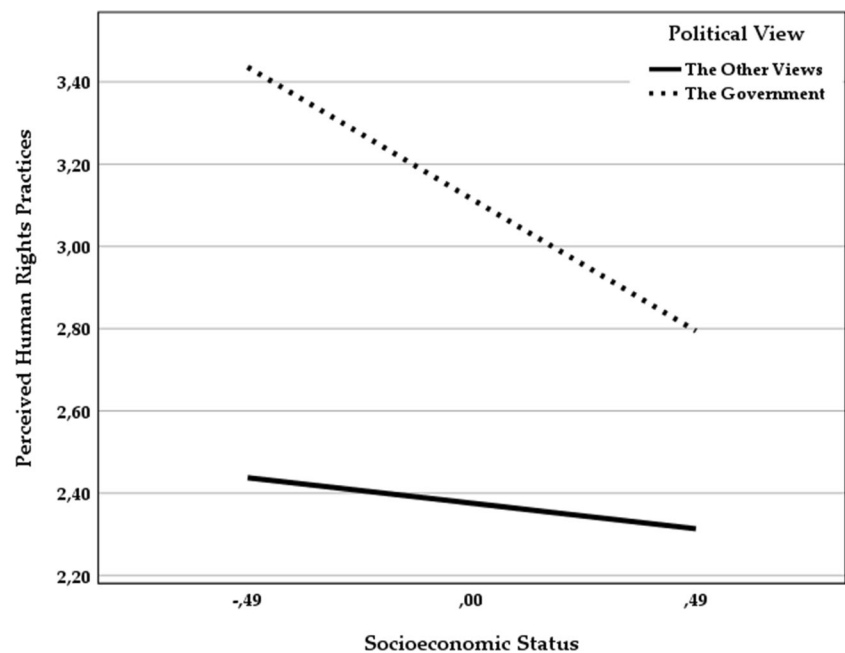
RQ-1: Does Socioeconomic Status Predict Perceived Human Rights Practices?

In accordance with Bandura's social cognitive theory, the triadic reciprocal causation model pertains to the prospective impact of individual and environmental factors on behavior. The observed practice of human rights represents the behavior itself, and the individual's observations, cognitive processes, and social interactions play a significant role in shaping this behavior (Bandura, 1986). While perceived

human rights practices reflect individuals' behaviors regarding human rights, this behavior is not a sufficient condition for the formation of human rights practices. In other words, this behavior can be seen as the result of a complex interaction between individual and environmental factors.

An individual's socioeconomic status represents the environmental aspect of behavior and can be either constructive or destructive with regard to access to opportunities, quality of life, and overall well-being. This constructive and destructive context can be conceptualized as social classes among individuals and is considered a significant determinant of perceptions of human rights (Adler & Rehkopf, 2008). This is due to the fact that socioeconomic status is associated with a heightened awareness of the context of human rights. Accordingly, it was predicted that as

Fig. 6 Political view's moderation



socioeconomic status increases, perceived human rights practices would decrease. This hypothesis was supported by studies in the literature (Anderson et al., 2005; Hemmerichs et al., 2017; Torney-Purta et al., 2008). The findings of this study confirm this prediction based on the triadic reciprocal causation model, revealing a negative direct effect of socioeconomic status on perceived human rights practices. H1 was supported.

Indirect Effect

RQ-2: Does Life Satisfaction Mediate the Relationship Between Socioeconomic Status and Perceived Human Rights Practices?

The individual is shaped by their environment, yet remains aware of themselves. Individual factors are as instrumental in shaping behavior as environmental factors (Nabavi & Bijandi, 2011). This implies an awareness of the multifaceted nature of behavior. Life satisfaction is considered from a broad perspective as an individual determinant and is associated with various predictors, including religion, age, human rights, and well-being (Habib et al., 2018; Jovanović & Joshanloo, 2022). Both biopsychosocial and spiritual well-being have the capacity to contribute to life satisfaction, either individually or in combination (Miller & Foster, 2010). Improvements in SES, defined as an environmental factor, have the potential to positively influence life satisfaction and may also positively impact perceptions of human rights. Conversely, adverse life experiences may

concurrently diminish perceptions of human rights practices in the country (Di Martino & Prilleltensky, 2020). H2 was supported.

In this context, we considered that life satisfaction could be addressed as an individual factor within Bandura's triadic reciprocal causation model and sought to test its mediating effect. Despite the absence of prior studies examining this indirect effect in the literature, studies demonstrating direct effects among variables have provided support for our argument regarding the mediation role of life satisfaction (Cummins, 1998; Oishi et al., 1999; Veenhoven, 1991). The findings demonstrated that life satisfaction has a complete mediating effect between SES and PHRP, thus supporting the triadic reciprocal causation model proposed by Bandura. This serves to reinforce our confidence in the reliability of this framework.

While the findings suggest that life satisfaction fully mediates the relationship between SES and perceived human rights practices, it is important to consider potential confounding variables that may influence this relationship. Cultural factors, such as societal norms and collective attitudes toward governance and rights, may shape how individuals perceive human rights conditions. Additionally, political stability and trust in institutions can significantly impact perceptions, as individuals living in politically unstable environments may report lower human rights satisfaction regardless of their SES. Future research could explore how these factors interact with life satisfaction and SES to provide a more nuanced understanding of human rights perceptions.

Moderating Effect

RQ-3: Does Political View Moderate the Relationship Between Socioeconomic Status and Perceived Human Rights Practices?

According to the triadic reciprocal causation framework of SCT, both individual and environmental factors influence behavior. However, some concepts can be considered both individual and environmental. Political views can be seen as a variable that fits this definition. While political views reflect an individual's thoughts, beliefs, and attitudes about how society should be governed, what policies should be implemented, and the role of government, they are also shaped by the social environment (Heywood, 1998, 2018). Political views are often associated with a political party or ideology (Heywood, 2018). Although the influence of individual decision-making mechanisms cannot be denied, political views are often associated with the neighborhood one comes from (Campbell, 2013). Therefore, within the triadic reciprocal causation framework, political views are considered an environmental factor. According to Bandura, political views are expected to be associated with SES, as SES is related to the economic power and educational level of the current environment, which can influence the political views of a social class (Brady et al., 1995).

In the context of theory, both the observational and social interaction components affect behavior, which is often based on interactions with the environment. This makes it typically difficult to change. Furthermore, political views can also influence perceptions of human rights. The political climate that is shaped by SES may have the capacity to either increase or decrease behaviors related to PHRP in the country (Campos, 2022). In this context, we considered political views to be another environmental factor that might moderate the relationship between SES and PHRP and tested this hypothesis. No previous literature has highlighted the direct moderating role of political views. However, findings on the dual relationships between variables and theoretical implications supported our assumption about this effect. Our results demonstrated that while PHRP levels decreased with increasing socioeconomic status among both supporters of the ruling party and those with other political views, the decrease was more pronounced among supporters of the ruling party compared to those with other views. Political views, by showing a moderating effect between SES and PHRP, supported SCT. H3 was supported.

Conclusion

The triadic reciprocal causation framework, grounded in social cognitive theory, provides a clear explanation of the relationship between SES and PHRP through life

satisfaction. This study highlights that perceptions of human rights are significantly influenced by socioeconomic status, with life satisfaction playing a key mediating role. These findings suggest that both individual and environmental factors must be considered simultaneously to develop effective interventions addressing human rights perceptions.

From a policy perspective, these results have practical implications for policymakers and human rights organizations. Efforts to improve public perceptions of human rights should not focus solely on socioeconomic advancements but also incorporate initiatives that enhance psychological well-being. Furthermore, addressing political polarization through transparent governance and inclusive dialogue may help reduce ideological biases in human rights perceptions. Future policies should integrate socioeconomic and psychological support mechanisms to promote a more balanced and informed understanding of human rights.

Additionally, the emergence of perceptions misaligned with objective realities, particularly in the context of political views, underscores the necessity of employing objective and standardized criteria in assessing societal conditions. Otherwise, assessments of human rights perceptions may become skewed by individual biases, potentially reversing positive trends in life satisfaction and influencing the broader societal climate.

As socioeconomic status supports life satisfaction and, in turn, positively affects human rights perceptions, the significance of life satisfaction as a key determinant is evident. Future research should further explore the intersection of economic, psychological, and political factors to develop more effective strategies for promoting human rights awareness and policy interventions.

Theoretical Contributions

This study contributes to the literature by integrating social cognitive theory into the analysis of human rights perceptions. The results validate Bandura's model (1986) by demonstrating that environmental and individual factors interact dynamically in shaping perceptions. By incorporating political views as a moderating variable, this study extends the application of social cognitive theory to political psychology, suggesting that ideological factors act as filters in interpreting human rights conditions.

Additionally, this study supports the conceptual framework of subjective well-being in human rights research. While previous studies have primarily focused on objective measures of human rights conditions, this research demonstrates that life satisfaction serves as a psychological mechanism linking socioeconomic factors and human rights perceptions.

Practical Implications

The findings provide valuable insights for policymakers and human rights organizations. Efforts to improve public perceptions of human rights should not focus solely on socioeconomic improvements but also incorporate initiatives that enhance life satisfaction and psychological well-being. This could include mental health programs, social support mechanisms, and educational initiatives that promote civic engagement.

Furthermore, the moderating effect of political views suggests that addressing political polarization through transparent governance and inclusive dialogue may help reduce ideological biases in human rights perceptions. Promoting media literacy and fostering critical thinking skills could also enable individuals to assess human rights conditions more objectively, rather than through partisan lenses.

Assumptions, Limitations, and Suggestions for Future Studies

This study is valuable as a preparatory work for testing whether perceptions of human rights practices vary according to political parties or ideologies once these parties or ideologies come into power. This is a pilot study that will show how perceptions of human rights practices in Türkiye change when the ruling AK Party is in power versus when it is in opposition. Similarly, we are confident that individuals aligned with the opposition will see a positive shift in their perception of human rights practices when their party comes to power.

To understand the gap between reality and perception, it is important to note that the international human rights reports used in the study do not fully align with the actual situation. This poses a limitation for the study. Additionally, another limitation of this study is that SES was assessed using only parental education and income. While these indicators are widely used in the literature to capture socioeconomic background (Diemer et al., 2013), SES is a multidimensional construct that encompasses additional factors such as occupational status, wealth accumulation, and access to resources. Future research may benefit from incorporating a broader range of SES indicators to provide a more comprehensive understanding of its effects on human rights perceptions.

Another important limitation of this study is the reliance on self-reported measures, which may be subject to biases such as social desirability bias and recall bias. Participants may provide responses that align with socially accepted norms or personal beliefs rather than offering entirely objective assessments. Additionally, political views and individual predispositions may influence responses,

further complicating the interpretation of self-reported human rights perceptions. Future research could address these biases by incorporating mixed-method approaches, such as experimental designs, behavioral observations, or the use of secondary data sources (e.g., official reports on human rights violations) to triangulate findings. Employing longitudinal methodologies with repeated measures could also help track consistency in responses over time, reducing the risk of bias in single-time-point assessments.

We also recommend longitudinal studies related to changes in power dynamics in Türkiye to better understand perceptions of human rights.

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Data Availability No datasets were generated or analysed during the current study.

Declarations

Competing Interests The authors declare no competing interests.

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