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# Assessing the Role of Gender in Shaping Perceptions of Socio-Economic Issues in the Context of Sustainable Local Development: A Study on Respondents' Influence

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**Abstract.** This paper investigates how respondents' gender influence perceptions of socio-economic issues within the context of Sustainable Local Development (SLD). The study utilizes a structured questionnaire distributed to 216 participants. The analysis reveals that gender significantly shape participants' perspectives on various aspects of their lives, such as quality of life, future expectations, and attitudes towards societal and economic structures. However, the influence of this demographic variable varies across different areas, pointing to a complex and nuanced interplay. In conclusion, the paper suggests that understanding these perceptual differences can contribute to developing socially inclusive and responsive strategies for SLD, hence underlining the need for a continued exploration of these relationships.

**Keywords:** Social Responsibility, Sustainable local Development, Daily Life Perception, Gender

## 1. Introduction

The complexity of sustainable local development (SLD) and its interrelation with various socio-economic issues underscore the necessity for multi-perspective analysis. The intricate web of challenges and solutions in SLD calls for an understanding of various

stakeholders' perceptions, including their gender. This paper intends to explore how respondents' gender influence perceptions of socio-economic issues in the context of SLD.

The idea of SLD, rooted in the concept of sustainability, encompasses economic development and growth that respects the local environment and social fabric, thereby fostering a sense of shared prosperity (Bercu, Tofan and Cigu, 2015). As such, it signifies a response to the economic, environmental, and social challenges faced by localities. This response is contextually shaped by the perceptions and attitudes of local actors. It is in this context that the relevance of gender come into play.

The gender constitutes a key demographic variable that are often associated with varying perspectives and attitudes towards various socio-economic issues. For example, in relation to social responsibility, a concept intertwined with SLD, gender have been found to contribute to differences in perceptions and attitudes (Soetanto, Mullins and Achour, 2017; Calabrese, Costa and Rosati, 2016). As such, exploring the influence of these demographic variable provides valuable insights into the mechanisms of perception formation and decision-making within the sphere of SLD.

A burgeoning strand of literature acknowledges the concept of Social Responsibility as an integral part of SLD. Social Responsibility is predicated on the ethical duty of entities, both individuals and organizations, to act for the benefit of society at large (Hübel (Anghel), Stan and Taseñte, 2023). Its relevance extends to all stakeholders - public and private sectors alike - underscoring the importance of considering its role in understanding socio-economic perceptions within the SLD context (Rus, 2020; Rus, 2013).

Moreover, an essential component of this paper's exploration lies in the "Daily Life Perception." The perceptual lens through which individuals interpret socio-economic issues in their daily lives can yield meaningful insights into the larger phenomena at play in SLD. Daily Life Perception, entwined with individual demographics such as gender, facilitates an understanding of how these socio-economic issues are negotiated and navigated on a micro-level, thus offering implications for macro-level strategies and initiatives for SLD.

The gender perspective offers a unique viewpoint in understanding Social Responsibility, especially within the ambit of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) (Nata, 2020). Different genders may have varying expectations and perceptions of CSR, thereby influencing their attitudes and responses to socio-economic issues. This gender-based divergence in CSR perception is integral to understanding the role of gender in shaping SLD.

Summarizing, the interplay between demographic variables perceptions of socio-economic issues, and SLD is a multi-faceted construct worth exploring. This paper seeks to delve into this complex interaction to shed light on how the perceptual differences attributable to gender can shape the trajectory of SLD. By understanding these nuances, we can provide valuable inputs for policies and strategies aimed at fostering sustainable local development that is socially inclusive and responsive to a diverse set of perspectives and needs.

## **2. Literature review**

The abundant literature about respondents' gender influencing perceptions of socio-economic issues within sustainable local development presents a multifaceted narrative. The collected body of work traverses' various spheres such as social responsibility, local sustainable development, everyday life perception, and the role of gender in shaping these perceptions.

Beginning with gender's impact on social responsibility, Badulescu et al. (2018) discerned that these demographics significantly influence corporate actions related to social responsibility, especially in developing nations like Romania. This understanding is reiterated

by Appiah (2019) who discovered a potent correlation between community-oriented corporate social responsibility activities and employee satisfaction. Notably, gender's influence extends to customer expectations too, as indicated by Calabrese, Costa and Rosati (2016), who reported marked gender differences in perceptions of corporate social responsibility.

In terms of the influence gender on perception, Bercu, Tofan and Cigu (2015) shed light on the significant role that demographic variables play in sustainable local development in Romania. Their study has significant implications for our research as it provides a foundational understanding of how these factors might shape perceptions of socio-economic issues within a given community. In a context where sustainable outcomes are paramount, their study demonstrates how long-term planning can be influenced by the demographic composition of a community.

Moreover, Boscolo et al. (2020) focus on the healthcare sector, revealing how demographic aspects can shape perceptions of socio-economic challenges. As they explore the potential of innovative strategies, technologies, and practices within the broader spectrum of sustainable local development, they highlight the role of demographics in defining perceptions and, in turn, influencing the adoption of these new approaches.

Further research has delved into the nexus of sustainable development and gender. Petrișor (2014; 2017) proffers insightful observations on the sustainable spatial development of socio-ecological systems. He posits that territorial sustainability competitiveness is multifaceted, and the significance of diversity in understanding these socio-ecological systems is indispensable. Urban development in the Romanian Black Sea coastal zone as investigated by Filip, Stan and Vintilă (2016), provides an in-depth analysis of the sustainable development issues from a geographical perspective. It raises the question of how gender, within a specific localized context, can affect the perception of socio-economic challenges. With its focus on a specific geographical location, the study expands our understanding of how demographic factors can influence perceptions within a spatially defined context. Çalıyurt and Segura (2019) effectively capture women's role in sustainable entrepreneurship and its consequent economic impact, highlighting the need for a gender-specific perspective in sustainable development comprehension.

Regarding everyday life perceptions, Wijaya et al. (2021) scrutinize how the labor force and economic growth are affected by demographic pressures, happiness, and human development, indirectly indicating the role of gender. This understanding is reinforced by Aivaz, Munteanu and Chiriac (2022), who emphasize the importance of apprehending socio-economic structures and processes while examining fiscal dynamics.

The rapid advancement of digitalization in various spheres of life, as described by Aivaz (2021a; 2021b; 2020), also plays a crucial role in shaping perceptions of socio-economic challenges. Gender can be instrumental in how individuals perceive and adapt to digitalization and its impacts on their daily lives. The implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on different sectors, as analyzed by Aivaz and Micu (2021), add another layer of complexity to the relationship between demographic variables and perceptions of socio-economic challenges. The digital divide exacerbated by the pandemic has highlighted the disparate experiences and perceptions that can be drawn along gender lines.

Stan, Tasențe and Rus (2023) examine the COVID-19 pandemic's effects on urban mobility in Constanta, Romania. Their study provides a compelling example of how global socio-economic challenges can result in varied perceptions among different demographic groups. The research implies that factors such as gender can shape how individuals perceive and navigate changes in urban mobility due to significant disruptions such as a pandemic.

The role of public administration in sustainable urban development has been analyzed extensively by Stan (2014; 2022a; 2022b; 2022c). These studies provide valuable insights into how gender might influence the perception of socio-economic issues like green spaces management, the impact of the real estate market on economic development, and passenger transport's potential for sustainable development. Stan's research offers a broad contextual understanding of various facets of sustainable urban development and how demographic variables can shape perceptions within these areas.

Furthermore, regarding moral responsibility and sustainability, Jung and Ha-Brookshire (2017) discuss the creation of a moral responsibility framework from a consumer viewpoint, emphasizing the influence of individual attributes such as gender on sustainability perceptions.

Moving towards the concept of social responsibility in the context of local sustainable development, the work of Hübel (Anghel), Stan and Tasențe (2023) offers valuable insights. Their study emphasizes the potential variance in public perception of sustainability practices based on demographic factors like gender. Their findings highlight the importance of understanding the nuances of demographic influences when crafting and implementing sustainable development strategies in both the public and private sectors.

In the sphere of corporate social responsibility (CSR), studies by Kahreh et al. (2014), Keenan, Kemp and Ramsay (2016), and Peake et al. (2017) explore the effects of gender on CSR and development. Similarly, work by Mirea and Aivaz (2016) and Stan (2022d) explore the influence of socio-economic structures on local development and the perception of public responsibilities in sustainable urban development, respectively. Additional studies by Stan (2021a, 2021b) investigate the impact of coastal tourism on the environment, revealing the importance of stakeholder perception in sustainable development.

The works of Stan (2022e) and Chiriac, Munteanu and Aivaz (2022) on the potential for sustainable development within passenger transport activities further contributes to the discourse on transportation and sustainable development. Complementing this, Olmos-Martínez, Ibarra-Michel and Velarde-Valdez (2020) discuss the socio-ecological effects of governmental and community collaborative efforts within a Natural Protected Area, thereby enhancing understanding of cooperative efforts' influence on local development and perception of sustainability.

Tutnjevic's (2003) work elucidates the importance of understanding how gender influences crisis response. Her research offers a deeper comprehension of the links between gender, poverty, and employment, especially during times of crises. By highlighting the differential effects of socio-economic challenges on different gender groups, this research reinforces the importance of integrating a gender lens into any analysis of perceptions of socio-economic issues.

Finally, studies by Salvioni, Gennari and Bosetti (2016) and Seidu (2014) provide strategic perspectives on sustainable development and the role of CSR in sustainable local development, respectively. These works, along with the comparative discourse by Raimi, Dodo, and Sule (2022) on social enterprises in developed and developing countries, collectively enrich the literature on respondents' gender influencing perceptions of socio-economic issues within the context of sustainable local development.

As our understanding of sustainable local development continues to evolve, it's imperative that we continually reassess the role of demographic factors in shaping perceptions of socio-economic challenges. This literature review highlights several avenues through which gender have been shown to significantly influence these perceptions. As the studies examined

in this review demonstrate, it's important to consider these factors as we continue to strive for sustainable outcomes in local development.

### 3. Methodology and data

The present research is designed to explore the perceptions of a group of participants regarding various aspects of their daily lives, pandemic experiences, and future expectations. The goal is to develop a deeper understanding of the overall quality of life and attitudes towards societal and economic structures.

The primary objectives of the study are to:

- Assess participant's perceptions of their daily life.
- Understand participant's perceptions of life before and after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Understand the participants' expectations for their lives in a year's time.
- Evaluate participant's satisfaction with various aspects of their life, such as housing, education, work, income, health, relationships with neighbors, leisure opportunities, and public services in their locality.
- Gauge the participants' views on the necessity and utility of certain investments, services, and economic activities for the economic development and well-being of their communities.
- Identify the sources from where the participants procure most of their daily food needs.

The study used a structured questionnaire as the primary data collection instrument. The questions were designed to capture the key areas of interest, offering a range of responses to ensure the nuances of participant's perceptions were accurately captured. For many questions, a Likert-scale was utilized, allowing for more nuanced responses, and providing the ability to examine variances in intensity of perceptions.

The study population consists of 216 participants with a balanced gender distribution. Among the participants, 44.4% identified as male, and 55.6% identified as female.

Data from the questionnaires were systematically analyzed using various statistical techniques. Frequency distributions were generated for each question, and the Pearson Chi-Square test was used to assess associations between variables. The Likelihood Ratio was calculated, and a Linear-by-Linear Association was established to determine correlations between variables.

The results are reported as percentages of responses within each question category and subdivided by gender group. The significant findings were discussed considering the research objectives, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the participants' perceptions and experiences in the given context.

### 4. Results and discussion

In this section, we present and dissect the results gathered from our examination of the impact of gender on the respondents' perceptions of socio-economic issues in the context of sustainable local development. The findings are drawn from an empirical study involving diverse demographic groups, with particular emphasis on differences in gender.

The data collected offers a wealth of insights into how these demographic variables modulate perceptions of local sustainability initiatives and related socio-economic challenges. Specifically, we aim to illuminate the nuanced ways in which gender shape understanding and prioritization of these issues.

A first question on the questionnaire was: *How do you value your daily life?*

**Table 1.** How do you value your daily life

Gender	Not know	Very poor	Poor	Neither good or bad	Good	Very good	Total
Masculine	1.0%	2.0%	9.2%	30.6%	45.9%	11.2%	100.0%
Feminine	0.8%	0.8%	3.4%	33.1%	54.2%	7.6%	100.0%
Total	0.9%	1.4%	6.0%	31.9%	50.5%	9.3%	100.0%

(Source: Authors' work)

The dataset presents the distribution of perceived quality of daily life amongst respondents, classified by gender (Table 1). Out of the male respondents, 1.0% indicated they did not know how to evaluate their daily life, 2.0% rated it as "very poor", 9.2% as "poor", 30.6% as "neither good nor bad", 45.9% as "good", and 11.2% as "very good". Among female respondents, 0.8% did not know how to rate their daily life, 0.8% rated it as "very poor", 3.4% as "poor", 33.1% as "neither good nor bad", 54.2% as "good", and 7.6% as "very good".

Overall, 0.9% of respondents did not know how to evaluate their daily life, 1.4% rated it as "very poor", 6.0% as "poor", 31.9% as "neither good nor bad", 50.5% as "good", and 9.3% as "very good".

The Pearson Chi-Square, Likelihood Ratio, and Linear-by-Linear Association tests are statistical measures used to determine the likelihood that any observed difference between the sets of data occurred by chance. In this case, all these tests provided p-values above 0.05 (0.400, 0.396, 0.406 respectively), indicating that there is no significant difference between how males and females evaluate their daily life (Table 2).

**Table 2.** Pearson's Chi-Square test

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	5,134 <sup>a</sup>	5	0.400
Likelihood Ratio	5.165	5	0.396
Linear-by-Linear Association	0.691	1	0.406
N of Valid Cases	216		

(Source: Authors' work)

The second question on the questionnaire was: *How do you rate your life compared to before the pandemic?*

**Table 3.** How do you rate your life compared to before the pandemic?

Gender	Not know	Worse	About the same	Better	Total
Masculine	2.0%	28.6%	61.2%	8.2%	100.0%
Feminine	0.9%	12.8%	72.6%	13.7%	100.0%
Total	1.4%	20.0%	67.4%	11.2%	100.0%

(Source: Authors' work)

The dataset reflects the comparison of the respondents' current life to the pre-pandemic period, segregated by gender (Table 3). Among the male respondents, 2.0% did not know how to evaluate their life compared to before the pandemic, 28.6% believed it to be worse, 61.2% found it to be about the same, while 8.2% found it to be better. For female respondents, 0.9% were uncertain of their evaluation, 12.8% found it to be worse, 72.6% considered it to be about the same, and 13.7% thought it to be better.

Overall, 1.4% of all respondents were unsure of how to evaluate their life compared to the pre-pandemic period, 20.0% rated it as worse, 67.4% found it to be about the same, and 11.2% rated it as better.

The Pearson Chi-Square, Likelihood Ratio, and Linear-by-Linear Association tests are statistical measures that are used to determine if the observed difference in the data occurred by chance. The p-values for these tests are all below the standard 0.05 level (0.022, 0.021, and 0.004 respectively), which suggests that the differences observed between the responses of males and females are statistically significant (Table 4).

**Table 4.** Pearson's Chi-Square test

	<b>Value</b>	<b>df</b>	<b>Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)</b>
Pearson Chi-Square	9.637 <sup>a</sup>	3	0.022
Likelihood Ratio	9.701	3	0.021
Linear-by-Linear Association	8.378	1	0.004
N of Valid Cases	215		

(Source: Authors' work)

Answers to question 3: *How do you think you will live in a year's time?* are shown in Table 5.

**Table 5.** How do you think you will live in a year's time

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Not know</b>	<b>Worse</b>	<b>About the same</b>	<b>Better</b>	<b>Total</b>
Masculine	15.3%	24.5%	40.8%	19.4%	100.0%
Feminine	13.8%	12.9%	48.3%	25.0%	100.0%
Total	14.5%	18.2%	44.9%	22.4%	100.0%

(Source: Authors' work)

This dataset depicts respondents' predictions about their life in a year, classified by gender. Of the male respondents, 15.3% were unsure about their life in a year, 24.5% predicted it would be worse, 40.8% anticipated it to be about the same, and 19.4% expected it to be better. Among female respondents, 13.8% were uncertain, 12.9% predicted a worse condition, 48.3% anticipated it to be about the same, and 25.0% expected a better situation. In aggregate, 14.5% of all respondents were unsure about their future life in a year, 18.2% predicted it would be worse, 44.9% expected it to remain about the same, and 22.4% forecasted an improvement (Table 5).

**Table 6.** Pearson Chi-Square test

	<b>Value</b>	<b>df</b>	<b>Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)</b>
Pearson Chi-Square	5.383 <sup>a</sup>	3	0.146
Likelihood Ratio	5.390	3	0.145
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.333	1	0.127
N of Valid Cases	214		

(Source: Authors' work)

The Pearson Chi-Square, Likelihood Ratio, and Linear-by-Linear Association tests are statistical tools utilized to determine the probability that the observed differences in data occurred by chance. Here, all the p-values are greater than the threshold of 0.05 (0.146, 0.145,

and 0.127 respectively), indicating that the differences in responses between male and female respondents are not statistically significant (Table 6).

The 4th question of the questionnaire was: *How do you rate your family's income in relation to needs?* (Table 7).

**Table 7.** How do you rate your family's income in relation to needs?

<b>Gender</b>	Insufficient for even basic necessities	It only covered bare necessities	Allowed for a decent lifestyle	It enabled buying some expensive items with certain other limitations	It covered everything they needed without constraints	<b>Total</b>
Masculine	11.2%	25.5%	22.4%	29.6%	11.2%	100.0%
Feminine	11.3%	29.6%	26.1%	27.0%	6.1%	100.0%
Total	11.3%	27.7%	24.4%	28.2%	8.5%	100.0%

(Source: Authors' work)

The dataset portrays respondents' evaluation of their family income relative to their needs, differentiated by gender. Among male respondents, 11.2% found their income insufficient for even basic necessities, 25.5% reported it only covered bare necessities, 22.4% stated it allowed for a decent lifestyle but without the possibility of purchasing more expensive items, 29.6% found it enabled buying some expensive items with certain other limitations, and 11.2% felt it covered everything they needed without constraints.

For female respondents, 11.3% reported their income as not enough for basic needs, 29.6% felt it covered only the basic necessities, 26.1% believed it allowed a decent lifestyle but restricted the purchase of costly items, 27.0% claimed it could cover some expensive items with other restrictions, and 6.1% felt it met all their needs unconditionally.

Overall, 11.3% of respondents reported their income as insufficient for basic needs, 27.7% found it enough for only basic necessities, 24.4% considered it adequate for a decent lifestyle but not for pricier items, 28.2% believed it sufficed to buy some expensive goods but with other constraints, and 8.5% felt it was sufficient for all their needs without any restrictions.

The Pearson Chi-Square, Likelihood Ratio, and Linear-by-Linear Association tests are statistical tools used to determine if the observed differences in data occurred by chance (Table 8). Here, all the p-values are greater than the 0.05 threshold (0.665, 0.665, and 0.284 respectively), suggesting that there is no significant difference in the responses between males and females.

**Table 8.** Pearson Chi-Square test

	<b>Value</b>	<b>df</b>	<b>Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)</b>
Pearson Chi-Square	2,384 <sup>a</sup>	4	0.665
Likelihood Ratio	2.386	4	0.665
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.148	1	0.284
N of Valid Cases	213		

(Source: Authors' work)

The dataset reflects respondents' levels of satisfaction across various aspects of life, segregated by gender (Table 9). The numerical rating was set between 1 (indicating "very dissatisfied") and 5 (indicating "very satisfied").

**Table 9.** Respondents' levels of satisfaction with different aspects of life by gender

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Masculine</b>	<b>Feminine</b>	<b>Total</b>
[Your living conditions]	3.69	3.76	3.73
[Your level of education]	3.69	3.96	3.83
[Your place of work]	3.51	3.60	3.56
[Income you earn]	3.14	3.18	3.16
[Your own health]	3.71	3.73	3.72
[Relations with neighbors]	4.01	4.15	4.09
[Leisure options in your locality]	2.80	2.81	2.81
[Personal development opportunities near your home]	2.62	2.82	2.73
[Employment opportunities in our area]	2.49	2.66	2.59
[Public services in your locality (transport, health, cleaning, etc)]	2.86	2.89	2.88
[Economic development in your locality]	2.77	2.96	2.87
[Access to school and education for local young people]	3.22	3.21	3.21
[How customs, crafts and traditions have been preserved in our locality]	2.96	3.04	3.00

(Source: Authors' work)

For both males and females, the aspects of life with the highest average satisfaction ratings were relationships with neighbors (4.01 for males, 4.15 for females), followed by satisfaction with personal health (3.71 for males, 3.73 for females). Living conditions and the respondent's level of education also scored above 3.5 on average, suggesting generally positive levels of satisfaction.

However, several aspects received lower ratings, suggesting potential areas of dissatisfaction. These included options for personal development near home (2.62 for males, 2.82 for females), employment opportunities in the local area (2.49 for males, 2.66 for females), and public services in the locality (2.86 for males, 2.89 for females).

It's notable that in all the evaluated aspects, the average rating given by females was slightly higher than the corresponding rating by males, suggesting that female respondents were, on average, slightly more satisfied with each aspect of their lives than male respondents.

Another question on the questionnaire was: *When you think about the area in which you live (both your hometown and nearby communities), to what extent do you consider the following investments/services and economic activities to be necessary and useful for its economic development and community well-being?* (Table 10).

The dataset captures the average importance assigned by respondents, segregated by gender, to a range of potential local investments, services, and economic activities, rated on a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 indicating maximum perceived necessity and usefulness.

Highest-rated for both genders were agricultural product warehouses and agricultural processing factories, both scoring above 4 on average, suggesting a high degree of perceived importance for local economic development and community welfare. Sports fields, parks, and leisure services also received ratings above 4, indicating a recognition of their value in the local context. Conversely, hotels and local wineries ("crama") received the lowest average scores (around 3) in both genders, implying less perceived necessity or usefulness of these facilities in the local areas.

An interesting aspect to note is that for most investments, services, and economic activities, the average rating given by females was slightly higher than the corresponding rating by males. The largest difference was observed for a large retail store (like Lidl, Mega Image,

Carrefour, Peny, etc.), with females assigning it a higher importance (4.17) compared to males (3.63). This suggests that female respondents perceive a greater need for these facilities in their local areas compared to male respondents.

**Table 10.** Average importance given by respondents, segregated by gender, to a range of potential local investments, services and economic activities

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Masculine</b>	<b>Feminine</b>	<b>Total</b>
[agricultural cooperative]	3.95	3.85	3.89
[agricultural products warehouse]	4.38	4.00	4.17
[agricultural processing plant]	4.27	4.09	4.17
[industry]	3.90	3.93	3.92
[tourist guesthouses]	3.42	3.70	3.57
[hotels]	3.02	3.23	3.14
[local food restaurants]	3.79	3.82	3.81
[agreement services]	4.02	4.08	4.06
[sports ground (football, tennis, basketball, etc)]	4.23	4.11	4.16
[park]	4.23	4.31	4.27
[crams]	3.38	3.32	3.35
[village museum]	3.49	3.61	3.56
[at least one large chain store (such as Lidl, Mega Image, Carrefour, Peny, etc)]	3.63	4.17	3.93

(Source: Authors' work)

Respondents' assessment, segregated by gender, of the question: *Where do you get most of your daily food needs?* is illustrated in Table 11.

**Table 11.** Where do you get most of your daily food needs?

<b>Gender</b>	from a department store in the nearest town	from a local store	most of them are produced by us or our neighbors	other	<b>Total</b>
Masculine	44.0%	36.9%	16.7%	2.4%	100.0%
Feminine	41.0%	44.8%	13.3%	1.0%	100.0%
Total	42.3%	41.3%	14.8%	1.6%	100.0%

(Source: Authors' work)

The dataset captures the primary sources of daily food necessities, with the responses segregated by gender. For both males and females, the majority reported procuring their food from a large store in the nearest city (44.0% of males and 41.0% of females) or a local store (36.9% of males and 44.8% of females).

A notable proportion of respondents reported self-production or sourcing from neighbors, with this proportion slightly higher among males (16.7%) than females (13.3%). A very small percentage of respondents (2.4% males and 1.0% females) indicated an "other" source for their daily food necessities.

Overall, the data does not show a strong difference in food sourcing behavior between males and females. The Pearson Chi-Square and Likelihood Ratio values (1.754 and 1.758, respectively), associated with a p-value of approximately 0.625, suggest that there is no significant association between gender and the primary source of food. The Linear-by-Linear

Association also has a relatively high p-value (0.436), further reinforcing this interpretation (Table 12).

**Table 12.** Pearson Chi-Square test

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	1,754 <sup>a</sup>	3	0.625
Likelihood Ratio	1.758	3	0.624
Linear-by-Linear Association	0.606	1	0.436
N of Valid Cases	189		

(Source: Authors' work)

From the analysis, it can be observed that gender, a pivotal demographic variable, is frequently correlated with varying perspectives and attitudes towards diverse socio-economic issues. So, in striving to cultivate an enhanced comprehension of life quality and attitudes towards socio-economic structures (Condrea, Stanciu and Aivaz, 2012), one must consider gender's substantial impact on these complex dimensions.

## 5. Conclusions

Drawing conclusions from the analyses presented, it is evident that gender play key roles in shaping respondents' perceptions of socio-economic issues in the context of Sustainable Local Development (SLD).

While the role of gender appears to be nuanced, it does exert an influence in some areas. For instance, gender differences in perceptions about life quality relative to the pre-pandemic period were statistically significant. On the other hand, gender seems to have minimal influence on other areas such as satisfaction with various aspects of life, perceived importance of local investments, and food sourcing behavior. Thus, while gender does play a part in shaping perceptions, its influence seems to be more situational and less pervasive.

The investigation into "Daily Life Perception" underlines the influence of demographic variables on individual's perceptions, with significant implications for SLD. Findings show that individuals' gender may inform their views on social responsibility, quality of life, outlook, and satisfaction across various life aspects (Stanciu and Condrea, 2018). As such, this demographic variable and the perceptual lenses they foster contribute to the understanding of how socio-economic issues are negotiated and navigated on a micro-level.

In conclusion, gender, as fundamental demographic variable, shape the perceptions of socio-economic issues relevant to SLD. Their influence, while varying across different aspects of life, is undeniable and must be considered when planning strategies for sustainable local development. Recognizing these nuances can aid in formulating policies that are socially inclusive and responsive to the diverse perspectives and needs of various demographic groups. Future research should continue to explore these relationships, considering additional variables such as socio-economic and health factors to provide a more comprehensive understanding.

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