L5 Rethinking Development

Community Economies: Surviving Well
Measuring the ‘Good Life’

- **Traditional Society**
  - Limited technology
  - Static society

- **Preconditions for Take-off**
  - Commercial exploitation of agriculture and extractive industry

- **Take-off**
  - Development of a manufacturing sector

- **Drive to Maturity**
  - Development of wider industrial and commercial base
  - Exploitation of comparative advantages in international trade
  - Investment in manufacturing exceeds 10 percent of national income; development of modern social, economic, and political institutions
  - Installation of physical infrastructure (roads, railways, etc.) and emergence of social/political elite

- **High-mass Consumption**
  - Transition triggered by external influence, interests, or markets
Measuring the ‘Good Life’

World Happiness Index

- Social Support
- GDP Per Capita
- Life Expectancy at Birth
- Freedom of Life Choices
- Generosity
- Self-Reported Behaviour

Source: http://worldhappiness.report

FreeBalance
Measuring the ‘Good Life’

Figure 2.2: Ranking of Happiness 2015-2017 (Part 1)

1. Finland (7.632)
2. Norway (7.594)
3. Denmark (7.555)
4. Iceland (7.495)
5. Switzerland (7.487)
6. Netherlands (7.441)
7. Canada (7.328)
8. New Zealand (7.324)
9. Sweden (7.314)
10. Australia (7.272)
11. Israel (7.190)
12. Austria (7.139)
13. Costa Rica (7.072)
14. Ireland (6.977)
15. Germany (6.965)
16. Belgium (6.927)
17. Luxembourg (6.910)
18. United States (6.886)
19. United Kingdom (6.814)
20. United Arab Emirates (6.774)
Measuring the ‘Good Life’

Global antidepressant drug consumption visualised
Defined daily dose, per 1,000 people per day in 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Defined daily dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>118</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>96</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>82</td>
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<td>Denmark</td>
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<td>Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD
Measuring the ‘Good Life’

Figure 1.6.1 Suicide mortality rates, 2011 (or nearest year)

Measuring the ‘Good Life’

World Happiness Index

- GDP Per Capita
- Life Expectancy at Birth
- Freedom of Life Choices
- Corruption Perception
- Social Support

Perception Surveys

Government & Country Statistical Analysis

Source: http://worldhappiness.report

FreeBalance
CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2017

Perceived levels of public sector corruption in 180 economies

Economies perceived as “Very Clean”

1. New Zealand - 89
2. Denmark - 88
3. Finland - 85
4. Norway - 85
5. Switzerland - 85
6. Singapore - 84
7. Sweden - 84
8. Canada - 82
9. Luxembourg - 82
10. Netherlands - 82
11. United Kingdom - 82
12. Germany - 81

Economies perceived as “Highly Corrupt”

167. Angola - 19
167. Turkmenistan - 19
169. Iraq - 18
169. Venezuela - 18
171. North Korea - 17
171. Equatorial Guinea - 17
171. Guinea Bissau - 17
171. Libya - 17
175. Sudan - 16
175. Yemen - 16
177. Afghanistan - 15
178. Syria - 14
179. South Sudan - 12
180. Somalia - 9

“...in some economies across Asia and the Pacific, journalists, activists, opposition leaders and even staff of law enforcement or watchdog agencies are threatened, and in the worst cases, even murdered. The Philippines, India and the Maldives are among the worst regional offenders in this respect. These countries score high for corruption and have fewer press freedoms and higher numbers of journalist deaths.” — Corruption Perceptions Index 2017

SOURCE: CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2017, TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESSWORLD GRAPHICS: DJOGB. FORTIN
Expenditure on pensions

Public non-health social protection expenditure on benefits for older persons, 2010/2011

Share of older persons in total population

- Non-health public social protection expenditure for older persons
- Share of persons aged 65 and above in total population

Percentage of GDP

- Total
- Western Europe
- North America
- Central and Eastern Europe
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Middle East
- Asia and the Pacific
- Africa
Global Maternity Leave (2014)

- Less than 12 weeks (31)
- 12–13 weeks (meets Convention No. 102) (59)
- 14–17 weeks (meets Convention No. 183) (55)
- 18–26 weeks (meets Recommendation No. 191) (31)
- More than 26 weeks (10)
- Unpaid (2)
Problems with measuring the ‘good life’ globally

• Bias in what indicators are chosen to represent a good life

• Ignoring inter-country factors that create these issues, for example
  – Debt regimes that demand austerity and the reduction of social protections
  – Provision of social protection services by NGOs
  – Trade relations and tax free zones that undermine government ability to collect tax
Gross National Happiness

The 4 Pillars of GNH

- Sustainable & Equitable Socio-Economic Development
- Environmental Conservation
- Preservation & Promotion Of Culture
- Good Governance
Nine Domains of GNH

- Living standards
- Psychological wellbeing
- Health
- Ecological diversity and resilience
- Community vitality
- Good Governance
- Cultural diversity and resilience
- Time use
- Education

Gross National Happiness
Gross National Happiness

- Based in community aspirations and beliefs
- Tracks change over time towards shared goals rather than outside measures
GNH as ‘surviving well’ together

• Collective or relational happiness rather than individual
• Involves a level of material comfort beyond survival
• But also involves political participation, healthy environment, continuation of valued cultural practices, and should not be at the expense of others
• Non-competitive? More collective?
“Surviving well together is a collective endeavour engaging multiple elements – individual happiness and well-being, and the well-being of others and the planet on which we live.” Gibson-Graham, Cameron and Healy 2015: 123

“...we are imagining groups of people engaging in joint reflection on their lives as a prelude to collective actions to more effectively survive well together and in so doing achieve happiness.” Gibson-Graham, Cameron and Healy 2015: 129.
Relational Metrics

• Looking at the handout, examples in the ‘Pursuing happiness reading’
• Do a similar analysis of your own day
• To what degree does your wellbeing rely on others?
• To what degree to others rely on you for their wellbeing?
• To what degree is your wellbeing interdependent with planetary and social wellbeing?
Learning Outcomes

By the end of this week, you should be able to:

• Name a number of different requirements for life, and the five different aspects of wellbeing we need to consider in assessing quality of life.

• Assess the different types of wellbeing against a real life case study.

• Give examples of different types of material culture/ways of living.

• Articulate the relationship between your own values, lifestyle and material culture with your wellbeing, and reflect on some differences between your way of life and others’.
Key Concerns

Key concerns

• How do we survive well?
• How do we distribute surplus?
• How do we encounter others as we survive well?
• What do we consume?
• How do we care for our commons?
• How do we invest for the future?
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Elements of the economy
• Labour (Work)
• Enterprise (Business)
• Transactions (Market & Consumption)
• Property (Land)
• Investment (Finance)
Readings this week


References


