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## ANALYSIS OF INTERNATIONAL INDICES FOR MEASURING YOUTH WELL-BEING

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### ABSTRACT

In a rapidly developing world, in particular in Uzbekistan, a colossal number of transformational changes are taking place in all spheres of life. The most adaptive and driving actors of these changes are young people, who thereby increase the need for constant work to improve the conditions created for further personal and national growth. In this regard, in this article, the author analyzed indexes for measuring the welfare of the population and youth, the data of which can serve as the basis for drawing up plans for the further implementation of youth policy, based on the current needs of young people.

### KEYWORDS

Youth policy, transformation processes, information, welfare, Internet, information and communication space, indices for measuring the welfare of the population and youth.

### INTRODUCTION

It is known that youth are the driving force in the development of the state and the world community as a whole. For this reason, on a global scale, close attention is paid to youth, where the comprehensive

development of the younger generation is at the center of all research and innovation.

In this regard, many transformation processes are taking place in Uzbekistan in the economy, social

protection, education, migration, culture and sports, i.e. in all spheres of life, which reflect the level of well-being of the younger generation. The justification for the development of all these areas is the “Law on State Youth Policy”, adopted on September 14, 2016 [1].

Today, the younger generation is associated primarily with advancement in the assimilation of information and communication technologies and the promotion of digitalization of data and services, which already implies another transformational moment in the perception of young people as full-fledged members of society, whose voice, knowledge and worldview are an important component of the formation information society of well-being. We also note that today the Internet is the main condition for the development of the information and communication space, which directly affects the well-being of young people [2]. In particular, the Internet is an integral tool, a resource of humanity, both for obtaining information and for organizing leisure time.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This article examines indices for measuring the well-being of the population, such as the Happiness Index (The Happy Planet Index), the Real Progress Indicator, the annual World Happiness Report of the United Nations, the Legatum Prosperity Index 2010-2013, which are a derived basis in methodologies for measuring youth well-being. It is also expected to

consider the main indices regarding youth: UNESCO Youth Development Index, Youth Development Index (The Commonwealth), Global Youth Well-Being Index and Youth Progress Index. It is also planned to conduct a comparative analysis with indices for measuring the well-being of the population.

## **MAIN PART**

The Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) [2] consists of three large blocks: economic, environmental and social, which include 26 indicators in total. It is assumed that the use of these indicators can provide a fairly comprehensive picture of the well-being of the country's population.

This index makes it possible to assess the real progress of society, taking into account economic, environmental and social spheres, and types of non-market activities, inclusive. Based on the results of the study, it becomes possible to make effective decisions in the field of sustainable development.

However, the author believes that these indicators do not fully reveal the well-being of the population, especially young people. As discussed earlier, young people need information, information technology, and the information and communication space in general. These indicators do not include the information sphere, and call into question the effectiveness of the sustainable development program.

The Happy Planet Index documents and compares the achievements of countries around the world in real economic and non-economic development, which results in the level of happiness of each individual citizen.

The index is calculated every two to three years using the methods of the British research center New Economics Foundation in collaboration with the environmental organization Friends of the Earth and the humanitarian organization World Development Movement. In the international happiness index, quality of life is determined by material and spiritual indicators. The purpose of the study is to find out to what extent the economic development of a country contributes to the growth of non-economic values that lead people to a state of happiness. The most interesting thing is that happier people live in the least developed and underdeveloped countries of the world, where the average standard of living can be less than US\$2 per day.

The index consists of three indicators: subjective life satisfaction, life expectancy and ecological footprint. The calculation is made according to the principle:

$$\frac{(\text{Subjective well-being} \times \text{Life expectancy})}{\text{Environmental load}}$$

The data is normalized so that the final value is in the range 0-100, where “0” is the worst value. In addition, in countries that have a large spread of individual

indicators due to social inequalities, additional normalization of the calculated index data is carried out [3].

For information, we note that according to the 2022 report, Uzbekistan ranks 24th in terms of happiness, and 47th in well-being among 152 countries. By comparison, the United States is in 122nd place, suggesting that the material wealth of the United States is not effectively translated into sustainable well-being of its people [4], and in general, does not satisfy the vital needs of its population, despite the country's high GDP figures [5].

Let us note that scientists at Columbia University came to this conclusion back in 2012, as reported in the World Happiness Report, published annually by the United Nations. However, these results have not lost their relevance to this day.

According to the report, in 2021, Uzbekistan ranked 42nd in the ranking of countries in terms of happiness. However, in 2022, this indicator dropped by 11 steps, and in 2023, Uzbekistan is in 54th place in terms of happiness [3]. The reason for this may be the COVID-19 pandemic with all the ensuing consequences: unemployment, information noise, the unpreparedness of not only Uzbekistan, but the world as a whole, to provide the population with everything and necessary services, medicines, etc., under lockdown conditions.

Based on the data studied, the author came to the conclusion that the World Happiness Index, for the most part, reveals the subjective side of well-being. In addition, among the indicators, there is no separate block assessing the mood of young people due to the lack of information, information technology, and isolation from the information and communication space in general. According to the author, in modern realities, these components play an important role in the life and behavior of the younger generation, due to their obvious dependence on the Internet.

It is proposed to consider indices directly related to youth, as to date, various Indices have been developed that give an assessment and idea of the state and development of youth.

The UNESCO Youth Development Index (YDI) is a composite index that is similar in content and methodology to the UNDP Human Development Index (Human Development Index since 2013) and provides a comprehensive assessment of the state of human potential of young people. The index is measured based on 3 areas of indicators: health, education and income [6].

The Commonwealth Youth Development Index (YDI) is one of the authoritative indices of the world, which was developed at the initiative of the British Commonwealth of Nations in 2013. Data from the UN and World Bank database for 183 countries are

components of the index. The calculation is made in five directions for 18 indicators: education, health and well-being, employment, political and civic participation. The main objectives of the index are to assess youth development, along with the development and improvement of existing youth policies. Essentially, this is an improved version of the global Human Development Index with an emphasis on youth [7].

Global Youth Wellbeing Index, compiled on the initiative of the Center for Strategic and International Studies of the United States of America and the International Youth Foundation. Since 2014, the rating has been calculated for 30 countries, where 70% of the world's youth live, based on seven indicators: gender equality, economic opportunity, education, health care, civic participation, security and law and order, information and communication technologies [7].

Youth Progress Index (YPI), created at the initiative of the European Youth Forum and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). 102 countries are studied using 60 indicators in three segments – basic human needs, well-being and opportunities for youth [8].

## CONCLUSIONS

As a conclusion, we note that all of the listed international indicators are summary indicators that analyze qualitative and quantitative indicators in key

areas of youth well-being and development. The author considers these indices as most fully reflecting the state of youth in the study of youth well-being in the information and communication space.

Summarizing the results based on the existing indices studied, the author came to the conclusion that the indicators of indices aimed at studying the well-being of young people more fully reflect the state and needs of the younger generation, in contrast to the generally accepted Indices for studying the well-being of the population. It is this distinction in the indices that allows us to obtain the most complete understanding of the digital indicators as a percentage of youth well-being. Especially, the added modern indicator “information and communication technologies” for the most part refers specifically to young people, who are active users of modern technologies and opportunities.

Noting the prospect of studying data on the well-being of young people, we note that, based on the obtained indicators, the construction of further plans for the development of youth policy seems to be the most effective.

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