Development of Family Well-Being Index: Malaysia’s Experience

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Empowering Families: A Pathway to Development,
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Doha, Qatar
GDP has become the best known measure of macro-economic activity and a proxy indicator for overall societal development and progress in general.

Wellbeing/Happiness indicators are used to broadly illustrate people’s general satisfaction with life, in relation to their jobs, family life, health conditions, and standards of living, etc.
To build a set of indicators to measure the well-being of the Malaysian family

Mechanism to monitor family well-being trends

To come up with family well-being index

To identify some “Priorities for Action” to enhance the well-being of the family
People’s happiness will influence ‘national well-being’

1. Monitoring progress
2. Informing policy design
3. Policy appraisal

Happiness, Wellbeing & Policy Approaches
FAMILY WELL-BEING

 Achievement

 Perceptions on family satisfaction
 Well being and happiness

 FAMILY WELL-BEING (OBJECTIVE)
 Health indicators
 Housing area
 Public’s safety
 Marriage rates

 FAMILY WELL-BEING (SUBJECTIVE)
 Family member’s satisfaction
 Family happiness
 Interaction/family relationships
 Family functioning
 Family resilience
(7) DOMAINS & (23) INDICATORS
FAMILY WELLBEING

- Parental involvement
- Family resilience
- Family functioning
- Time spent with family
- Balanced work and family
- Husband/wife Relationship

Family Relationship

- Basic amenities
- Pollution levels

Housing & Environment

- Religion/
  - Spirituality

Family & Religious/Spirituality

- Family std of living
- Family econ situation
- Savings
- Debt

Family Economic

- Family health
  - practices
- Stress management

Family Health

- Cooperation in community
- Relationship in community
- Involvement in community

Family & Community

- Emergency response knowledge
- Feel safe at home
- Family safety

Family Safety
Family Well-Being Index and Domains

- Family Relationships: 7.82
- Housing & Environment: 7.28
- Family & Religion/Spiritual: 8.25
- Family & Community: 7.83
- Family’s Economic Situation: 6.90
- Family’s Safety: 7.39
- Family’s Health: 7.38

Family Well-Being Index: 7.55

Color codes:
- Blue: Family Well-Being Index
- Red: Domain's Index
Family Wellbeing Index

2011: 7.55

2020: 

High Income Nation Status
High Happiness Index

*GNI per capita (2011)
USD $9,508

**GNI per capita (2020)
USD $15,000

Note: *Malaysian Insider, 2012
**ETP Annual Report, 2011

** The World Bank defines high-income nation as one with an annual Gross National Income (GNI) per person, or GNI per capita of USD15,000 and above.
Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development

Mission of MWFCD is to integrate the perspectives of women and society into the mainstream of national development and to strengthen the family institution towards improving social welfare.

Target groups:

Women, Family, Disaster victims, Destitute Persons, Children, Senior Citizens, Disabled Persons and NGOs.
Going Forward: Family Well-Being Towards Social Stability

Vision 2020

1 Malaysia
‘People First, Performance Now’

Govt. Transformation Programme (7 NKRS’s)

10th Malaysia Plan

New Economic Model

6 Family Outcomes / Domain

Family Perspective in National Development

Core Family Values

Meeting Parenting Needs of Families

Strengthening of Marriage Institution

Strong Foundation for Adolescents

Family Support Services
Family Well-Being Index: Recommendations

To strengthen family relations especially family resiliency and family functioning.

Helping Families to achieve Work-Life balance through support programs/initiatives

To continue the national agenda to enhance the standard of living of low income households
Family Well-Being Index: Recommendations

To empower the community as a catalyst for family support systems

To enhance knowledge regarding family safety

To propagate healthy lifestyles among families

To promote culture of religiosity and practice of religion/spirituality as well as family values
THANK YOU

1MF1st
Malaysia Family First

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