



# HAPPINESS AND DEVELOPMENT

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# INTRODUCTION

- A growing importance of happiness
- Example: work-life-balance
- Connection between development and happiness? → Conclusion of that
- Individuell or not
- Finland = happiest country for several years, but low GDP

# LITERATURE REVIEW I

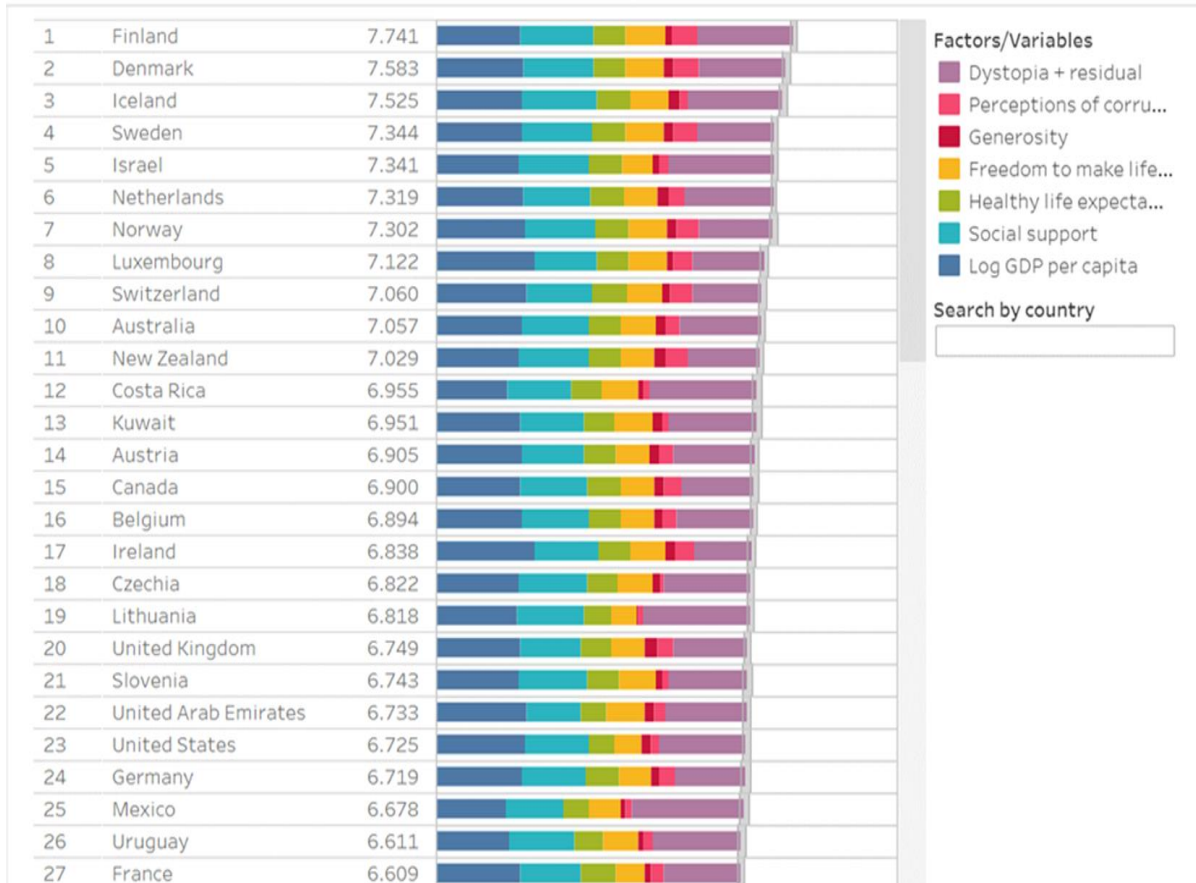
- World Happiness Report => partnership between global researchers to find out more about happiness
- Over 100,000 people responding to their survey each year worldwide
- Six different explanatory factors for happiness
  - Social support, GDP per capita, healthy life expectancy, freedom to make life choices, perception of corruption and generosity
- Development measured in GDP, HDI, poverty and inequality, unemployment level, mortality rate

## LITERATURE REVIEW 2

- Influence on happiness:
  - How are people asked
  - Individual point of view
  - Income
  - GDP => depends how big the impact is
- Developed countries are on average happier than developing ones, makes it harder to notice a rate of change in their level of happiness
- A society with low income inequality is much happier than one with high income inequality
- Latin American countries

# ANALYSIS

Table I.: Country Ranking by Life Evaluation 2021-2023 – explained by six factors



- Results of the questionnaire collected during 2021-2023
- First 27 countries
- Germany in on place 24 with an average of 6.719
- Of the six factors GDP per capita and social support => biggest influence

# ANALYSIS

Table 2.:The 10 largest economies/ richest countries 2024

Rank & Country	GDP (USD billion)	GDP Per Capita (USD thousand)
#1 United States Of America (U.S.A)	28,783	85.37
#2 China	18,536	13.14
#3 Germany	4,730	56.29
#4 Japan	4,112	34.14
#5 India	3,942	2.73
#6 United Kingdom (U.K.)	3,502	51.07
#7 France	3,132	47.36
#8 Brazil	2,333	11.35
#9 Italy	2,332	39.58
#10 Canada	2,242	54.87

Source:FORBES INDIA, article published April 2024

- Data by the IMF (International Monetary Fund)
- 10 first countries here are all quite low on the WHR
- Highest is Canada on place 15
- So either high GDP or high happiness
  - Why? Because literature gives away that there is a connection

# ANALYSIS

Table 3.: HDI dataset 2022

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
1	Table 1. Human Development Index and its components															
2																
3					SDG3		SDG4.3		SDG4.4		SDG8.5					
4																
5			Human Development Index (HDI)	Life expectancy at birth	Expected years of schooling	Mean years of schooling	Gross national income (GNI) per capita	GNI per capita rank minus HDI rank	HDI rank							
6	HDI rank	Country	Value	(years)	(years)	(years)	(2017 PPP \$)									
7			2022	2022	2022	<sup>a</sup>	2022	<sup>a</sup>	2022	<sup>b</sup>	2021					
8	VERY HIGH HUMAN DEVELOPMENT															
9	1	Switzerland	0,967	84,3	16,6	13,9	<sup>c</sup>	69 433	6	1						
10	2	Norway	0,966	83,4	18,6	13,1	<sup>c</sup>	69 190	6	2						
11	3	Iceland	0,959	82,8	19,1	13,8	<sup>d</sup>	54 688	16	4						
12	4	Hong Kong, China (SAR)	0,956	84,3	17,8	12,3		62 486	6	3						
13	5	Denmark	0,952	81,9	18,8	13,0	<sup>d</sup>	62 019	6	8						
14	5	Sweden	0,952	83,5	19,0	12,7	<sup>c</sup>	56 996	10	5						
15	7	Germany	0,950	81,0	17,3	14,3		55 340	11	7						
16	7	Ireland	0,950	82,7	19,1	11,7	<sup>c</sup>	87 468	<sup>e</sup>	-3	9					
17	9	Singapore	0,949	84,1	16,9	11,9		88 761	<sup>e</sup>	-6	10					
18	10	Australia	0,946	83,6	21,1	12,7	<sup>d</sup>	49 257	14	5						
19	10	Netherlands	0,946	82,5	18,6	12,6	<sup>d</sup>	57 278	4	11						
20	12	Belgium	0,942	82,3	18,9	12,5	<sup>d</sup>	53 644	9	13						
21	12	Finland	0,942	82,4	19,2	12,9	<sup>c</sup>	49 522	11	11						
22	12	Liechtenstein	0,942	84,7	15,5	12,4	<sup>f</sup>	146 673	<sup>g</sup>	-11	14					
23	15	United Kingdom	0,940	82,2	17,6	13,4		46 624	13	17						
24	16	New Zealand	0,939	83,0	19,7	12,9	<sup>d</sup>	43 665	16	14						
25	17	United Arab Emirates	0,937	79,2	17,2	12,8		74 104	-11	17						
26	18	Canada	0,935	82,8	16,0	13,9	<sup>c</sup>	48 444	8	16						
27	19	Korea (Republic of)	0,929	84,0	16,5	12,6	<sup>c</sup>	46 026	10	20						
28	20	Luxembourg	0,927	82,6	14,2	13,0	<sup>h</sup>	78 554	<sup>e</sup>	-15	19					
29	20	United States	0,927	78,2	16,4	13,6		65 565	-11	21						

Source: Human Development Reports

- Human Development Index is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development
- 3 key dimensions
  - a long and healthy life
  - Education/knowledge
  - A decent standard of living
- Countries are sorted in categories after listing
- Very high human development, high HD, medium HD and low HD
- Countries listed in the top ten for happiness have also very high human development



## RESULTS & CONCLUSION

- GDP has a connection with Happiness as well as HDI
- Impact of the GDP seems to be too low
- Latin American countries seem to be quite happy despite their low income
- Social factors seem to have a high impact on Happiness
- United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) defines social development as such “processes of change that lead to improvements in human well-being, social relations and social institutions, and that are equitable, sustainable, and compatible with principles of democratic governance and social justice”
- No literature that combines happiness with social development
- Would be interesting to research and answer