

MODELLING ECONOMIC WELLBEING AND SOCIAL WELLBEING FOR SUSTAINABILITY:

A THEORETICAL CONCEPT THE CASE OF MALAYSIA

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■ **AIM:**

to explore relationships between wellbeing and sustainability in the attempt to establish theoretical concept for sustainable well-being

■ **METHODOLOGY:**

Literature review

■ **ISSUES:**

Factors constitute well-being are not necessarily indicating sustainability. Despite sustainability studies share the same aim that is to improve well-being, distinction between sustainability and well-being was clear. Sustainability is more of a future-oriented concept while well-being accounts for the present condition.

■ **FINDINGS:**

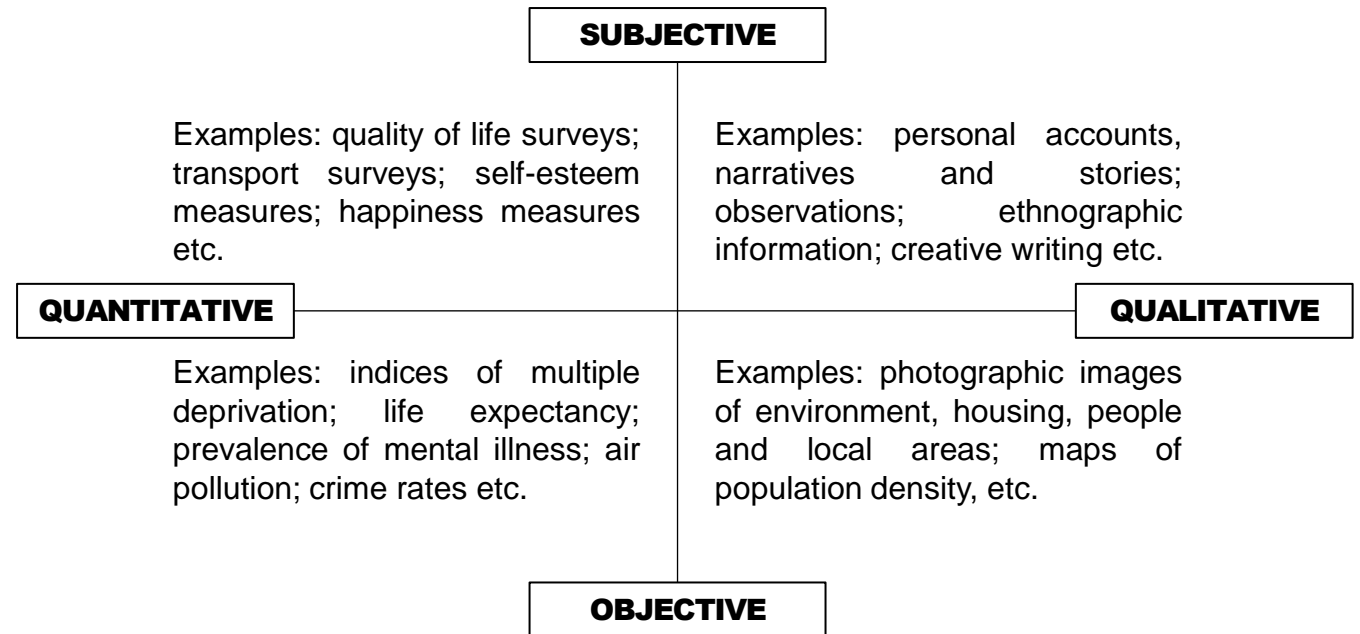
Sustainable wellbeing recognizes (i) limits and boundaries in economic and social progress, as well as (ii) human interconnectedness with human and human interconnectedness with environment.



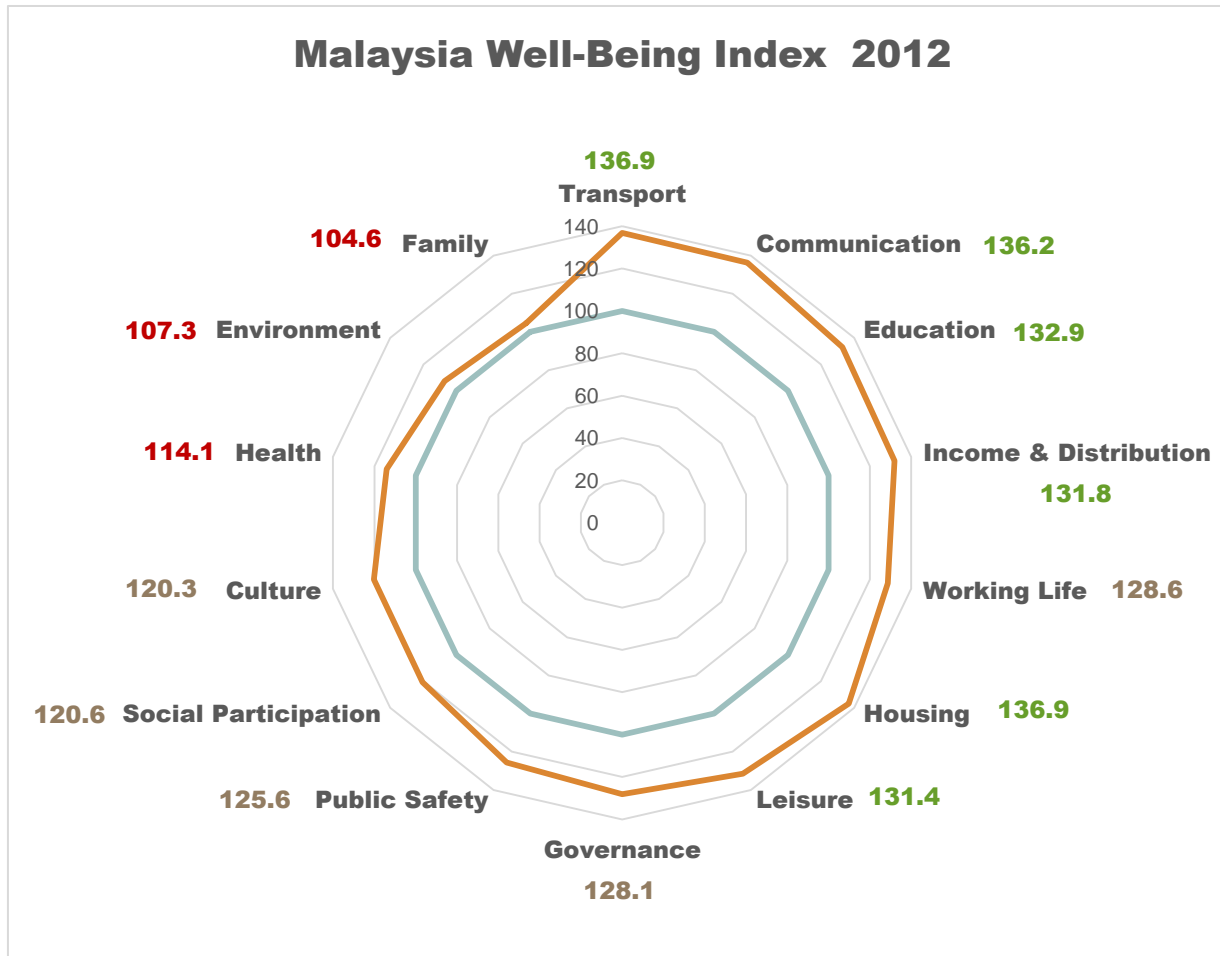
SOCIAL INDICATORS

Social indicators are the explanatory tool to directly **exhibit the most significant features of social change through** the data they represent.

- Social indicators were fast becoming the instrument especially since 1960s to **keep track of social development** at national and international level
- Three fundamental functions of social indicators were to **monitor** and measure social progress, **record** the social progress as a public information and **forecast** impending social changes.
- Since indicators **vary across locations and communities**, indicators and data for different countries were **obtained and measured in different ways**.



MALAYSIA WELLBEING INDEX



In recent presentation of MWI (June 2014), EPU addressed that:
“there is a need for a comprehensive strategies to tackle
what matter most to the citizens.”

Among critical issues facing Malaysians:

- the increase in cost of living,
- low housing affordability,
- deterioration of family institution,
- increase of non-communicable diseases,
- environmental degradation.

MWI cannot capture every aspects of quality of life:

- non-quantifiable aspects such as harmony of the country, unity of multiethnic ties, work ethics and values, and accessibility to better political and economic opportunities

Sustainability is not attainable without economic growth -

- MWI has shown positive track record of the country's quality of life, the fluctuations of the indices depend on the continuous growth and higher levels of income
- it is imperative that economic and other aspects of development go hand in hand, yet some of the most important indices are deteriorating, particularly **environment** and **family life**.

SUSTAINABLE WELLBEING

- pursuing sustainability towards achieving well-being of all
- achieving well-being **without compromising others'** ability to achieve their wellbeing
- Most studies observed that although well-being studies and sustainability studies aims to provide better well-being, **wellbeing and sustainability were highly separated**
- sustainable wellbeing offer potential of more **comprehensive well-being indicators** which accounts for a long term use
- Limits and interdependence
- Among Existing Approaches: Sustainable Society Index, Social Progress Index



SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY INDEX

Sustainable Society Foundation

NO LIMITS

Dimensions	Categories	Indicators
Human Wellbeing	Basic Needs	Sufficient Food
		Sufficient To Drink
		Safe Sanitation
	Health	Healthy Life
		Clean Air
		Clean Water
	Personal and Social Development	Education
		Gender Equality
		Income Distribution
		Good Governance
Environmental Wellbeing	Nature and Environment	Air Quality
		Biodiversity
	Natural Resources	Renewable Water Resources
	Climate and Energy	Consumption
		Renewable Energy
Economic Wellbeing	Transition	Greenhouse Gasses
		Organic Farming
	Economy	Genuine Savings
		Gross Domestic Product
		Employment
		Public Debt

PRINCIPLES OF SSI

1. Intra-generational Equity
2. Inter-generational Equity
3. Ecological Limits

SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX

Social Progress Imperatives

ADDRESS LIMITS

Dimensions	Components	Indicators
Basic Human Needs	Nutrition and Basic Medical Care	Undernourishment
		Depth of food deficit
		Maternal mortality rate
		Stillbirth rate
		Child mortality rate
	Water and Sanitation	Deaths from infectious diseases
		Access to piped water
		Rural vs urban access to improved water source
	Shelter	Access to improved sanitation facilities
		Availability of affordable of housing
Foundations of Wellbeing	Personal Safety	Access to electricity
		Quality of electricity supply
		Indoor air pollution attributable deaths
	Access to Basic Knowledge	Homicide rate
		Level of violent crime
		Perceived criminality
		Political terror
	Access to Information and Communications	Traffic deaths
		Adult literacy rate
		Primary school enrollment
Opportunity	Health and Wellness	Lower secondary school enrollment
		Upper secondary school enrollment
		Gender parity in secondary enrollment
	Ecosystem Sustainability	Mobile telephone subscriptions
		Internet users
	Personal Rights	Press Freedom Index
		Life expectancy
		Non-communicable disease deaths
	Personal Freedom and Choice	Obesity rate
		Outdoor air pollution attributable deaths
		Suicide rate
Opportunity	Tolerance and Inclusion	Greenhouse gas emissions
		Water withdrawals as a percent of resources
		Biodiversity and habitat
	Access to Advanced Education	Political rights
		Freedom of speech
		Freedom of assembly/association
	Tolerance and Inclusion	Freedom of movement
		Private property rights
		Freedom over life choices
	Access to Advanced Education	Freedom of religion
		Modern slavery, human trafficking and child marriage
		Satisfied demand for contraception
Opportunity	Tolerance and Inclusion	Corruption
		Women treated with respect
		Tolerance for immigrants
	Access to Advanced Education	Tolerance for homosexuals
		Discrimination and violence against minorities
		Religious tolerance
	Tolerance and Inclusion	Community safety net
		Years of tertiary schooling
		Women's average years in school
	Access to Advanced Education	Inequality in the attainment of education
		Number of globally ranked universities

NO ECONOMIC WELLBEING INDICATORS

"All of the dimensions in SPI is distinct and the components of SSI are also distinct"



SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY INDEX

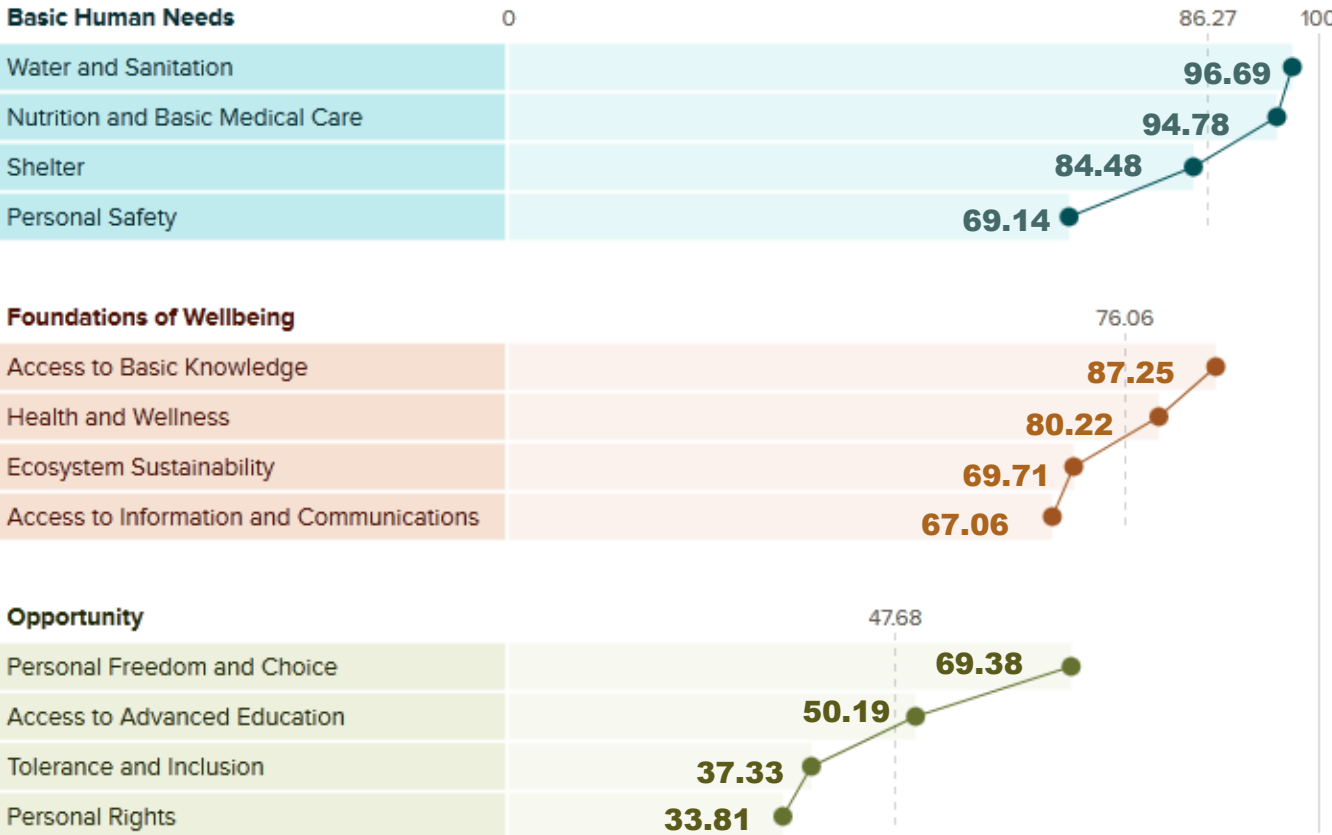
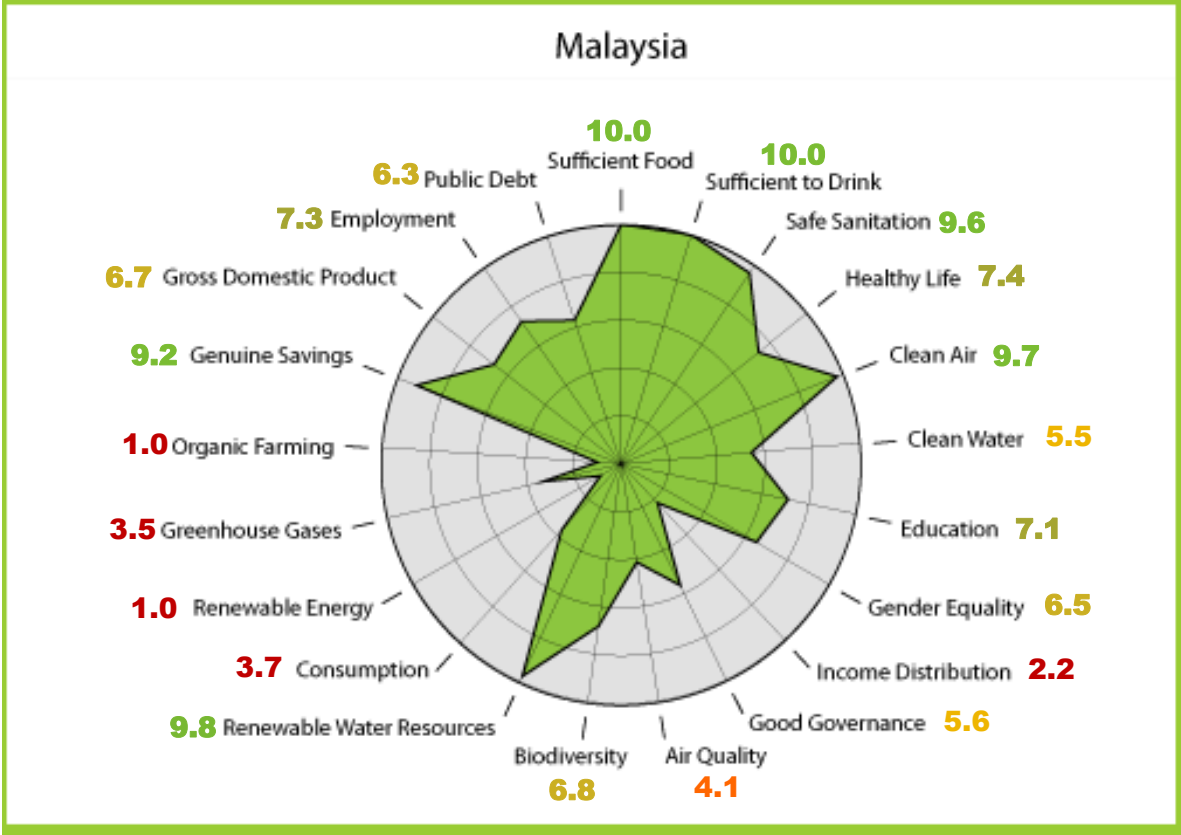
Sustainable Society Foundation

Malaysia 2012 SSI Rank – 54th out of 151 Countries

SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX

Social Progress Imperatives

Malaysia 2011 SPI Rank – 45th out of 132 Countries



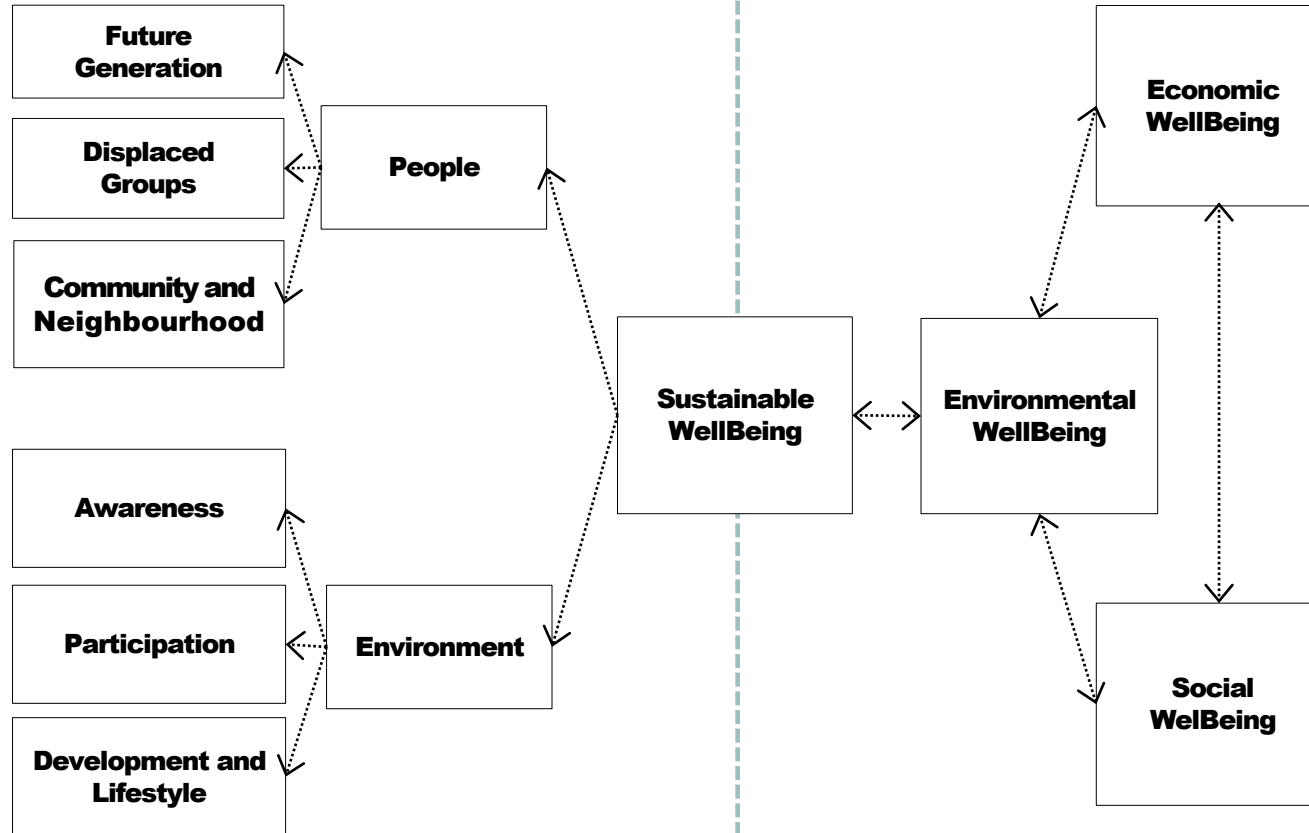
CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE WELLBEING

Interdependencies with humans

the well-being of a person or a community should not be on the expense of others' well-being

Interdependencies with environment

account for knowledge, sensitivity and everyday activities that attentively **recognize boundaries of use of the environment**



Indicators should be categorized under 3 levels (**LIMITS**):

Basic Necessities

Requirements of basic survival – without it, living system is disrupted

Complimentary Needs

Moral basis to happiness – without it, living system is not disrupted, but lives will be difficult

Opportunities

Desired or greater life prospects – without it, living system is not disrupted, and lives will not be difficult

SUBJECTIVE INDICATORS

<http://www.sustainablewellbeing.info>

OBJECTIVE INDICATORS

<http://www.ssfindex.com> & <http://www.socialprogressimperative.org>



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