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MISSING DIMENSIONS OF POVERTY DATA

A Proposal for Internationally Comparable Indicators of Psychological and Subjective Wellbeing

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This document contains a modified version of the survey questions proposed in the paper *A Proposal for Internationally Comparable Indicators of Psychological and Subjective Wellbeing*¹ prepared for the May 2007 Workshop on Missing Dimensions of Poverty Data. The paper recommended that these questions – or a refinement of them – might be considered a module that could be added to nationally representative individual or household surveys. This module proposes seven indicators of psychological and subjective wellbeing:

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Meaning in life
2. Autonomy
3. Competence
4. Relatedness

SUBJECTIVE

5. Overall life satisfaction

6. Domain-specific life satisfaction

The domains proposed are material wellbeing (food, housing, income), health, productivity (work), security (physical safety); intimacy (relations with friends and family); community (education, neighborhood, actively helping others); and wellbeing from spiritual/religious/ philosophical beliefs.

7. Happiness

This module also contains a question on whether the respondent practices a religion and one on the importance of religion to them, to assess its contribution to perceived wellbeing.

(These questions are given too in OPHI's empowerment module, as they can be followed by the domain-specific questions on empowerment with respect to religious practice. These questions are also repeated here, for convenience.)

¹ Samman, Emma (2007), *A proposal for internationally comparable indicators of psychological and subjective wellbeing*. OPHI Working Paper no. 5. Available at http://www.ophi.org.uk/pubs/Samman_Psych_Subj_Wellbeing_FINAL.pdf and in December 2007 *Oxford Development Studies* (35:4, p. 459-486).

PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SUBJECTIVE WELLBEING (RESPONDENT ONLY ANSWERS)

<p>MV1 (HAPPINESS). Taking all things together, would you say you are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very happy 2. Fairly happy 3. Not very happy 4. Not at all happy
<p>MV1</p>

MV2 (SATISFACTION WITH LIFE). In general, how satisfied or unsatisfied are you with your: SHOW CARD	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Not very satisfied	Not at all satisfied	Don't Know / No Answer
a. Life overall	1	2	3	4	99
b. Food	1	2	3	4	99
c. Housing	1	2	3	4	99
d. Income	1	2	3	4	99
e. Health	1	2	3	4	99
f. Work	1	2	3	4	99
g. Local security level	1	2	3	4	99
h. Friends	1	2	3	4	99
i. Family	1	2	3	4	99
j. Education	1	2	3	4	99
k. Free choice and control over your life	1	2	3	4	99
l. Dignity	1	2	3	4	99
m. Neighbourhood/town/community/	1	2	3	4	99
n. Ability to help others	1	2	3	4	99
o. Spiritual, religious or philosophical beliefs	1	2	3	4	99

MV3 (MEANING IN LIFE). Please take a few minutes to think about the things that make your life important. How true are the following statements for you? SHOW CARD	Not at all true	Somewhat true	Fairly true	Completely true	Don't know / No answer	MV4 (AUTONOMY). How true are the following statements for you? SHOW CARD	Not at all true	Somewhat true	Fairly true	Completely true	Don't know / No answer
a. My life has a clear meaning or purpose.	1	2	3	4	99	a. I feel free to decide for myself how to lead my life.	1	2	3	4	99
b. I have found a satisfactory meaning in life.	1	2	3	4	99	b. I generally feel free to express my ideas and opinions.	1	2	3	4	99
c. I have a clear sense of what gives meaning to my life.	1	2	3	4	99	c. I feel like I can pretty much be honest with myself in daily situations.	1	2	3	4	99

MV5 (COMPETENCE). How true are the following statements for you? SHOW CARD	Not at all true	Somewhat true	Fairly true	Completely true	Don't know / No answer	MV6 (RELATEDNESS). How true are the following statements for you? SHOW CARD	Not at all true	Somewhat true	Fairly true	Completely true	Don't know / No answer
a. People I know tell me I am competent/capable at what I do.	1	2	3	4	99	a. I get along well with people I come into contact with.	1	2	3	4	99
b. Most of the time I feel a sense of accomplishment from what I do.	1	2	3	4	99	b. I consider myself close to the people I regularly interact with.	1	2	3	4	99
c. I generally feel very capable.	1	2	3	4	99	c. People in my life care about me.	1	2	3	4	99

