

## **Gross National Happiness and Development in India: An Insight**

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### **Abstract**

World Happiness Report 2019 is the witness of ranking India on 65<sup>th</sup> position among those unhappy countries which even includes USA which ranks 18 among happy countries. The basic competition of our country is with Nordic countries namely Nigeria, Finland and Denmark which stand in consistent toppers. GNH i.e. Gross National Happiness is an hour's need for India. Bhutan played an important role in showing the world about the same. It said GDP is not important GNP is important. The paper converses the concerns related to Indian Happiness and its economic development in comparison to countries which stand within top 5 in world happiness chart of 156 countries.

**Key words:** GNP, Economic development, UNDP, Happiness

### **Introduction**

Human happiness has been considered as an important factor in terms of GDP or in other words, I would like to add for economic wealth of any country. Happiness starts from home and takes you till the growth and development of nation. In addition to income, luxury and materials in life, happiness and prosperity play an important role in human life. This gives birth to another supposition that an economically weaker person can also lead a happy life but on the contrary it comes to finding happiness through increased income because increased amount of money would give you physical happiness. Overall discussion ends on the public policies taken into account which stress upon increase in income of not only entire society but also entire nation. A happy citizen in any category of nation i.e. developed or developing or underdeveloped will be the sign of prosperity and well-being of that country. Economic prosperity comes when there is a long list of happy residents who are leading their lives happily and are stable enough. The most important is harmony between income and satisfaction.

Human Happiness is the most imperative nitty-gritties of economic thoughts and processes to attain growth and development of country. Philosophers like Aristotle described as

metaphysical happiness, Epicurus described as hedonistic happiness and many more nominated happiness by unique names. But, in my view happiness is that which can give any country a valuable atmosphere, trustable government policies, proper income to individuals of the nation. Considering factors on which a country depends on analysing human happiness such as economic, social, political and mental. Human happiness is defined as the desire of staying happy and stable from entire human heart. This is also been considered as a complex matter where pragmatic measurements have been done in earlier times but in today's era welfare of each and every individual is necessary for which some welfare indicators are being used. Gross domestic product for determining the income of an economy at the macro level; GDP or gross national product; it is considered as the welfare indicators of the economy. It does not choose all the dimensions of the life of the inhabitants of any country.

Aristotle stated in his statement about happiness that, "Happiness is the highest desire and ambition of all human beings" GDP is considered as a very good indicator. It reckons the deficiency of Redwood and the lack of natural aquifers ending with a disorganized dispersion. It also reckons the useful vehicles for the prevention of atomic war zones and police, its war weapons and TV. It also counts programs that promote violent programs to be shown. But still; the health of the poor children does not accept the quality of education or the sports love for them. Neither the intellect accepts nor the courage. Neither does it show mercy or patriotism. In short this indicator counts all other components except for useful elements for the betterment of life. Clearly, we can say that GDP cannot be considered useful for measuring the index of human happiness. Therefore, it will also be used for economic welfare measures. Although, it can generally be collected through some important resources for welfare measure and economic human health measures such as:

- 1) No help can be taken by any other institutions for welfare measures affecting the product or service capacity during measuring GDP.
- 2) GDP / GNP does not study product or services separately, so it is difficult to obtain information from whom to get the human happiness. For example, scientific conclusions also say things like drugs; cigarettes are harmful for health and for human welfare, and ultimately affect human happiness index, or GDP / GNP. They will be counted in the same way without separating from those things which are for human or economic welfare.

GDP or GNP is the only thing that carries the weight of goods and products available in the market are without knowing whether the item / service are useful for human welfare or not. There is no such obligation in GDP on technical basis, but this compulsion has been the prevalent evolution of economic welfare, in which the numerical and qualitative differences

of those different people or individuals are not considered, which are sophisticated, Happiness is based on comparative study.

3) Due to this unsuccessful conclusion -The difference between human needs and the economy in which they are living is eliminated and a deep analysis of the various activities related to the production and consumption of different economic activities of different individuals / nations was done.

From the perspective of economic welfare, a common procedure for making the difference in the various activities required for measuring the value of the economic welfare and its services, which is the final middle path.

### **Historical Happiness: A Historical Perspective**

Since the establishment of the administrative economy, happiness has been the subject of study of economists. In the theory of moral sentiments, Adam Smith has said about the concept of happiness that all the factors affecting the happiness of life on different categories of human beings are generally at the same level. According to him, it is worth the ambition and emulation to try and find human dignity and respect. The situation of Introduction of this situation has been "the study of the practice of knowledge and virtues" and not "the abolition of wealth and power". He advocates this principle, that all the formation of the government only adopts proportional values because the reason is to promote the happiness of those who live in them. This is his only and last motto. The aforementioned vote of Smith was generally given by many former economists, but many slowly reached the point of view.

"Utility is merciful; it is a passion's satisfaction." - Ferdinando Galliano (Italy, 1729-87)

"Thomas Malthus (England, 1766-1834) discovered the reasons that affect the well-being of citizens of any country."

"For Jeremy Bentham (England, 1748-1832) - The greatest pleasure of the greatest number was right - the measure of the wrong."

Clearly the concept of old utility of these economists later became synonymous with money (GDP). At the same time, the importance of happiness for the twenty-first century economists was more than the economic advancement. In the history of economics, the concept of utility changed. In the last part of the nineteenth century, the utility was considered as the benefits that the consumers received from economic products based on their personal preferences.

When these priorities are added to the deficiency of such a product, this is a personal preference (demand), when any such goods are linked with the lack of supply, then the value is taken on the 'margin', that is, the price at which the cost of supply of another goods is met, the price at which a consumer is ready to pay (demand) for the product group. In return, the

financial agent (person) who resides in such a world was adopted to display very specific behaviour, that is, to take the most of the perfectly rational, strictly individualist, past, present and future in which the utility was equal to the amount of goods and thus was equal to the size of the income. This idea says "is better" where there is a relation with which goods are delayed and where it is measured with relative deficiency in place of gross utility. That is why money becomes the sole measure of development and therefore the concept of the welfare of the country or the society is calculated by the GDP. Is done by That is, the increase in economic prosperity increases the standard of living and happiness. Although seeing humans as rational agents ignore other non-economic sources of good living standards, such as the theory of knowledge of the truth of truth and the knowledge of the values is neglected here. The complexity of human psychology is based on their irrational financial decisions here. Economist Amartya Sen assumes that reconciliation between the concepts of human behaviour and economic leaders is a very reputable act. They talk of complaining fools because they believe that in general, people cannot make decisions according to the concepts that are poisonous and rational.

**Source: Google images**

In 1974, Estherin drew a debate on "Paradox of Pleasure" and, according to some statistics, people told not to be happy despite rising income. Another major example was the publication of Tiber Sietowski's book "The Palace Economy: An Inquiry into Human Satisfaction and Conspiracy Disclosure (1976)" by the recent economists like Richard Layard, It is interesting to see here that only the idea of measuring social development from GDP was strongly denied. In 1934, Simon Kountets warned the United Nations Congress that welfare of any country could be done only by measuring the national income. In this imitation, John Maynard Keynes said in 1931 that he thinks of the day when his problems will be replaced by emotional problems, human problems, creation, behavior, and religion etc., by overcoming financial problems.

65 out of 309 Proposals were brought in the United Nations General Assembly in July 2011, according to which "Khushhaali": The overall definition of development" was used to help the government policies by gathering data from the happy indices of the citizens there. On April 2, 2012, the U.N. A high-level meeting was organized by the name of 'Wellbeing and Happiness'. It is headed by U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon and Bhutan Naresh Jigme Thinly

The first great happiness report on international level recognition was given on April 1, 2012 as the object of the UN High Level meeting - Wellbeing and Happiness: Defining a New

Eclectic Paradigm. In the report, the status of happiness was shown and implementation of central policies was discussed. The report uses primarily Galloch Vashavik opinion data. It is also clear from the history of economic history that all economists have also considered happiness to be the ultimate objective of social development and an important factor in human welfare.

**Gross National Happiness Index**

Reckoning happiness was a different step coined by Bhutan’s fourth king named Jigme. GNH was the term which can measure the quality of a country in a more universal way. Here the benefits were thought for human society to accompany and strengthen one and all in the

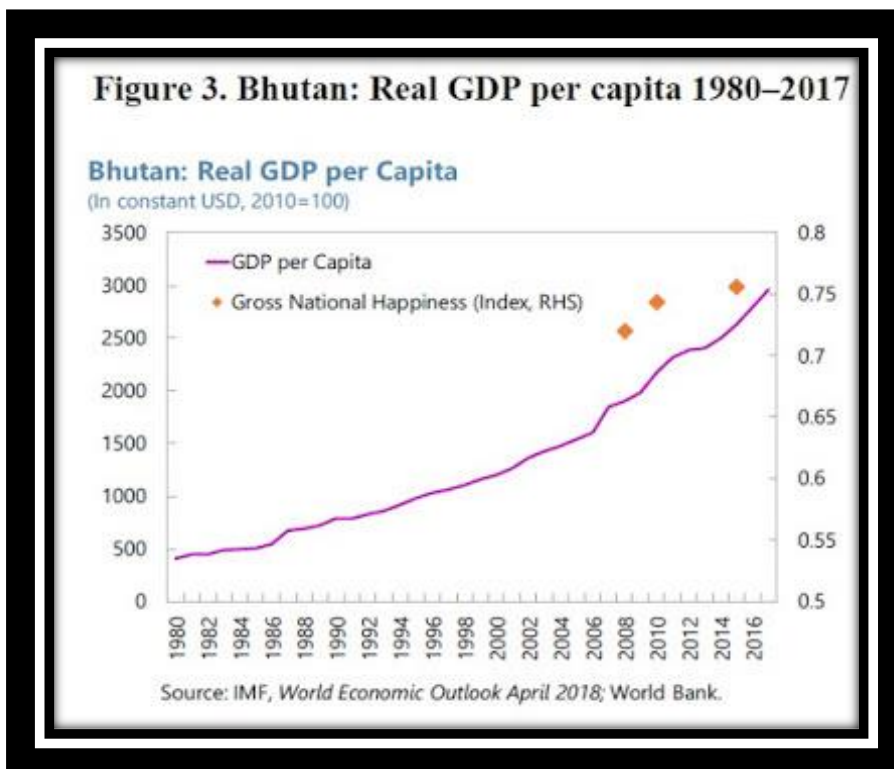
**Table 2. Bhutan: Details of the Nine Domains of Gross National Happiness**

Domains	Definition
<b>Living Standards</b>	Level of material comfort as measured by income, conditions of financial security, housing and asset ownership.
<b>Education</b>	Knowledge, values, skills and formal and informal education across age levels.
<b>Health</b>	Condition of human body and mind to have a holistic healthy lifestyle both at the mental and physical states.
<b>Cultural Diversity and Resilience</b>	Strength and diversity of cultural norms, ethos and festivals across the country and age groups.
<b>Community Vitality</b>	Attempts to focus on the strengths and weaknesses of relationships and interaction within communities. It gathers information on social cohesion among family members and neighbors, and on practices like volunteering.
<b>Time Use</b>	Harmonious work life balance.
<b>Psychological well-being</b>	These living standards include spirituality, reflective cognitive evaluations such as life satisfaction, and affective reactions to life events such as positive and negative emotions.
<b>Ecological Diversity</b>	Measure’s people’s perceptions and evaluations of the environmental conditions of their neighborhood and assess eco-friendly behavior pattern.
<b>Good Governance</b>	Evaluates the level of participation in government decisions at the local level and the presence of various rights and freedom. It also assesses the level of efficacy, honesty and quality within government.

Sources: Centre for Bhutan Studies; Columbia University (2016).

country.

GNH index was grounded on good government policies, social and economic growth of country, safeguarding culture and environment.



The above given graph shows the economic development of Bhutan in terms of GNP since 1980 till 2017. The GNP rose in those years and a large variation in Gross National Happiness index.

### India versus Nordic Countries

Bhutan’s concept of Happiness Index attracted many other countries like South Korea, UK, USA and WHR and UNSDSN worked over the same. The outcomes really helped small countries to grow in these terms.

World Happiness Report 2018 states that India which is world’s largest democracy has been ranked 133 out of 156 countries. In the survey by United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN), happiness is measured on six bases like GDP, life span, society strength, freedom, kindness and corruption.

First stands Finland and then Norway, Iceland, Netherlands, Finland. They are stable, safe and generally liberal with very slight venality where the constabularies and legislators are trustworthy. Every nation will dream to be big in terms of happiness regardless of being rich and powerful. Here even world’s most powerful economy USA falls by ten positions among 156 countries.

Table 2: Finland versus India

Issues	Finland	India
Health care	3.2 doctors per 1000 population	0.7 doctors per 1000 population
Gender equality	Ranks 4th in Global Gender Gap Report 2017	Ranks 108th in Global Gender Gap Report 2017
Long life expectancy	Male 78.7, female 84.2 and total life expectancy is 81.4 which gives Finland a World Life Expectancy ranking of 21(WHO report-2018)	Male 67.4, female 70.3 and total life expectancy is 68.8 which gives India a World Life Expectancy ranking of 125(WHO report-2018)
Community service	More than 60% of all Finland citizens do voluntary work	1 crore voluntary workers but still not sufficient
Health spending	Spent 4238 USD per capita in 2017 on health sector	Spent a meagre amount of USD 238 per capita on its 2017 on health sector

Issues	USA	India
Health care	2.6 doctors per 1000 population	0.7 doctors per 1000 population
Gender equality	Ranks 17th in Global Gender Gap Report 2017	Ranks 108th in Global Gender Gap Report 2017
Long life expectancy	Male 78.7, female 84.2 and total life expectancy is 81.4 which gives Nigeria a World Life Expectancy ranking of 21(WHO report-2018)	Male 67.4, female 70.3 and total life expectancy is 68.8 which gives India a World Life Expectancy ranking of 125(WHO report-2018)
Community service	More than 40% of all Americans do voluntary work	1 crore voluntary workers but still not sufficient
Health spending	Spent 10,586 USD per capita in Spent a meagre amount of USD 238 per capita on its 2017 on health sector2	Spent a meagre amount of USD 238 per capita on its 2017 on health sector



Issues	Denmark	India
Health care	3.2 doctors per 1000 population	0.7 doctors per 1000 population
Gender equality	Ranks 8th in Global Gender Gap Report 2017	Ranks 108th in Global Gender Gap Report 2017
Long life expectancy	Male 78.7, female 84.2 and total life expectancy is 81.4 which gives Denmark a World Life Expectancy ranking of 21(WHO report-2018)	Male 67.4, female 70.3 and total life expectancy is 68.8 which gives India a World Life Expectancy ranking of 125(WHO report-2018)
Community service	More than 50% of all Denmark citizens do voluntary work	1 crore voluntary workers but still not sufficient
Health spending	Spent 5299USD per capita in 2017 on health sector Spent a meagre amount of USD 238 per capita on its 2017 on health sector2	Spent a meagre amount of USD 238 per capita on its 2017 on health sector

Chart 1: Showing Health Statistics: Health care resources

Source: OECD Health Statistics

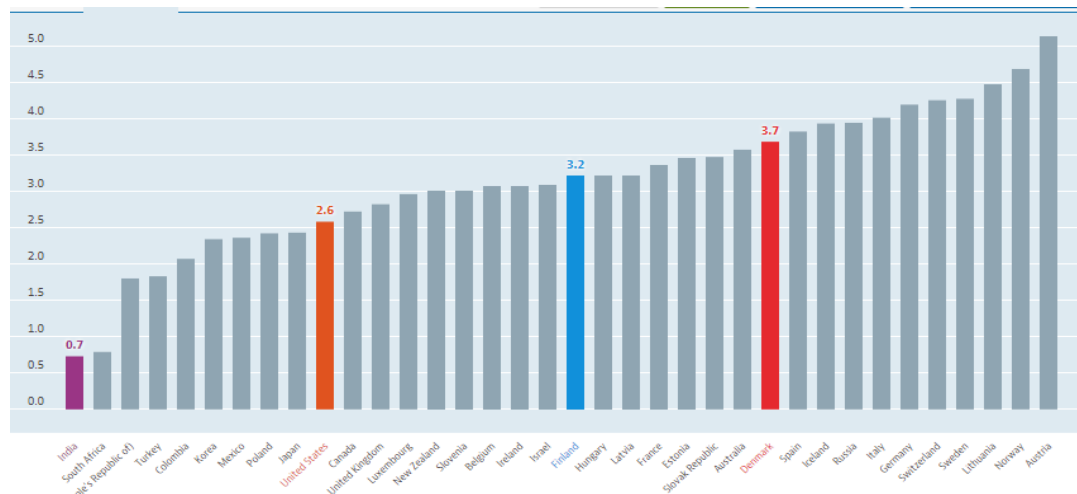
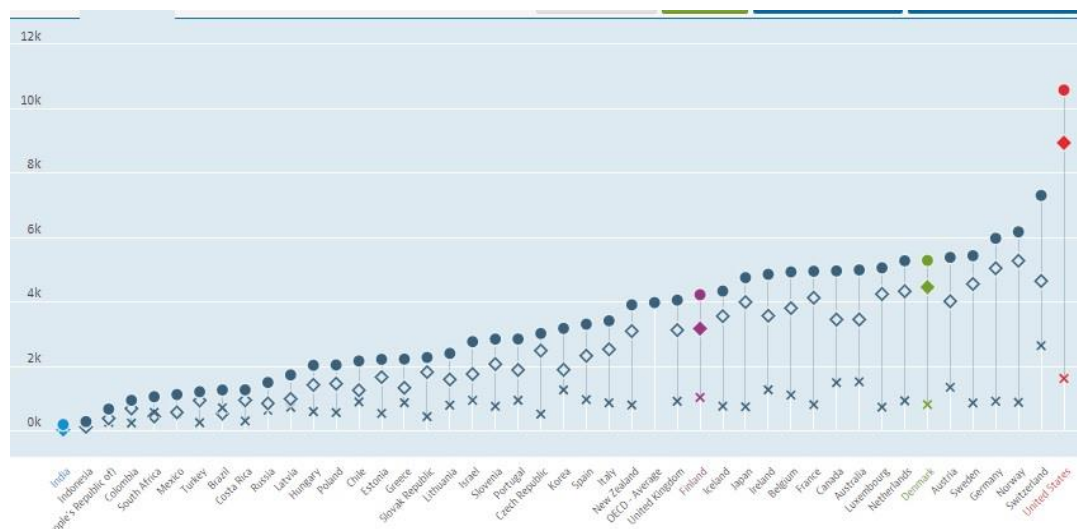


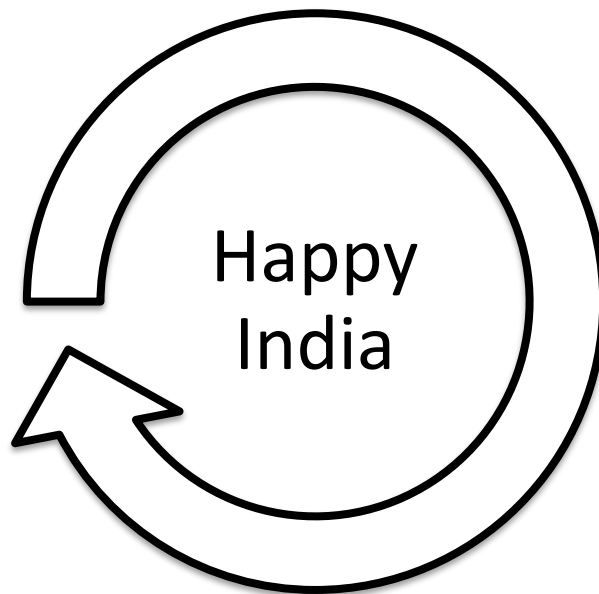
Chart 2: Showing Health expenditure and financing: Health expenditure indicators



Source: OECD Health expenditure and financing statistics

Through the above given charts, it's unblemished that India needs to reorganize the policies regarding main factors related to happiness issue. Here, we can easily chalk out the basic planning of raising the economy of country by improving certain conditions like health care, gender equality, medical expenditure and there are several minor issues which are not even touched at the basic level.

## Recommendations & Conclusion



- **Special Emphasis on Equality in Society**
- **Developing Trustworthy Policies and Politics**
- **Environmental Policy should be improved**
- **Encouraging people for voluntary social service**
- **Work upon faith of public in government**
- **Public spending should be increased on medical spending**

Figure: Six-spike strategy for India to go the Nordic way.

India will have to work in-depth level to attain higher position in world's happiness chart. Nordic countries like Nigeria, Finland, Denmark and Iceland. Indian economy needs to develop in a wider sense of the term happiness as high population, thriving economy, diversified culture whereas Finland, a small country with less population and economy is also not so vast. Several campaigns like Swachhta Abhiyan still running where Indians are participating and are really happy. Other factors include unemployment which contributes to GDP of any country. Powerful nations like USA and UK are still striving to attain highest position in World Happiness Report -2019. Thus, to conclude other than financial stability, there are some factors which may account for the happiness of those Nordic countries.

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