

Project Instructions

Using the provided Life in Kyrgyzstan dataset (available on the Moodle course page), you are to explore at least two research questions related to the dataset (potential research questions given in the bottom). The dataset contains information about various aspects of life in Kyrgyzstan, such as socio-economic indicators, health, education, or other variables, which you will explore to formulate and answer your questions. Your report must include the following sections: Abstract, Introduction, Literature Review, Methodology, Results, and Conclusions. All referencing must follow APA style.

Report Structure

Your final submission should include a well-structured report with the following sections:

1. Abstract

- Summarize the purpose, methods, key findings, and conclusions of your study in no more than 250 words.

2. Introduction

- Introduce the context and relevance of the Life in Kyrgyzstan dataset.
- Clearly state the research questions or objectives.
- Explain why these questions are important to understanding aspects of life in Kyrgyzstan.

3. Literature Review

- Review existing research related to your chosen research questions.
- Identify gaps in the literature that your analysis may help address.
- Ensure all sources are cited in APA style.

4. Methodology

- Describe the dataset (e.g., source, variables, sample size).
- Explain the analytical methods and tools you used to answer your research questions.
- Justify why the chosen methods are appropriate for your analysis.

5. Results

- Present your findings clearly using tables, graphs, and/or charts where applicable.
- Provide descriptive statistics and, if relevant, inferential analysis.
- Interpret the results in relation to your research questions.

6. Conclusions

- Summarize the main findings and their implications.
- Discuss any limitations of your study and suggest areas for future research.

7. References

- Include all sources cited in your literature review and throughout your report.
- Follow APA style guidelines for formatting your reference list.

Additional Guidelines

- **Data Analysis:**

Your analysis should be thorough and appropriately documented. This may include coding scripts, screenshots of your data exploration, or a description of statistical tests used.

- **Report Formatting:**

Your report should be well-organized, clearly written, and free of grammatical errors. Use headings and subheadings consistently, and ensure visualizations are clearly labeled and integrated into your discussion.

- **APA Style:**

All in-text citations and references must adhere to APA style. Check that all sources are properly referenced.

Submission

Submit your final report as a PDF document and provide the cleaned dataset along with any supplemental materials (e.g., code files) as required by the course guidelines. The results should be reproducible.

AI Policy for the Project

This policy outlines the acceptable and unacceptable uses of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools for your project using the "Life in Kyrgyzstan" dataset. The goal is to ensure that you can benefit from AI assistance while maintaining academic integrity and producing original work.

Permitted Uses of AI

1. Researching

- You are allowed to use any AI tools to assist with research tasks. This includes finding relevant information, summarizing articles, or exploring background details about the "Life in Kyrgyzstan" dataset or related topics.
- Examples: Using AI to locate studies, generate summaries of existing research, or understand the context of Kyrgyzstan.

2. Assistance in Coding

- You may use AI to help with coding tasks, such as writing code, debugging, or learning how to perform data analysis (e.g., in Python, R, or other tools).
- Examples: Asking AI to suggest a code snippet for data cleaning, fix a bug, or explain a statistical method.

Prohibited Uses of AI

1. Use in Write-Up

- You are NOT allowed to use AI for any part of the project write-up. This includes writing sections like the Introduction, Methodology, Results, or Conclusions, as well as editing or rephrasing text.
- The write-up must be entirely your own work, reflecting your own ideas, analysis, and wording.
- Consequence of Misuse: Using AI in the write-up will result in disciplinary action, which may include failing the project, failing the course, or other penalties based on institutional rules.

Potential Research Questions

Household Economics & Welfare

1. How does household composition affect total household income and expenditure patterns in Kyrgyzstan?
 - Variables: Household size, number of income earners, total income, expenditure categories
2. What is the impact of remittances on household savings and investment decisions?
 - Variables: Remittances received, household savings, investment in housing/assets, business ownership
3. Does access to formal financial institutions influence household credit behavior and loan repayment in rural Kyrgyzstan?
 - Variables: Bank account ownership, microfinance loans, repayment status, household location

Education & Labor Market

4. What is the effect of migration on labor force participation among household members left behind?

- Variables: Presence of a migrant worker in the household, employment status of remaining members, household labor supply

Agricultural Economics

5. How do climate shocks (e.g., droughts, extreme temperatures) impact livestock productivity and household resilience?
 - Variables: Weather shocks, income from livestock, etc
6. How do land ownership and access to credit impact agricultural productivity?
 - Variables: Land size, ownership status, use of credit, crop yields
7. Does access to irrigation improve farm income and productivity?
 - Variables: Irrigation type, cost of irrigation, crop yields, farm income
8. What are the determinants of crop diversification among smallholder farmers in Kyrgyzstan?
 - Variables: Number of crops grown, land area, access to markets, agricultural extension services

Health & Nutrition Economics

9. How does food insecurity affect household health expenditures and child malnutrition?
 - Variables: Food insecurity index, healthcare costs, child weight-for-age, household income
10. Does household economic status impact healthcare access and frequency of doctor visits?
 - Variables: Household income, presence of chronic illnesses, number of doctor visits, health insurance status

Gender & Social Welfare

11. What is the impact of women's employment on household welfare and child education outcomes?
 - Variables: Female employment status, household income, child school attendance, education expenditures