

# Reconceptualizing the Measure of International Progress:

Utilizing National Happiness Scores to Assess Quality of Life

DS 4002 | Carson Crenshaw | December 11, 2023



What determines a good life? In a society that is increasingly driven by money and power, happiness and quality of life have the potential to be overlooked and under prioritized. Happiness, however, is a powerful tool that can be used to optimize the well-being of whole populations. Acknowledging this, the General Assembly of the [United Nations began publishing](#) the annual World Happiness Report. This report reviews the current state of happiness in the world and illustrates national variations in happiness for a given year. Ultimately, the research reflects an international demand for a greater understanding of happiness.

As a bright new U.N. intern tasked with studying international development, you have the potential to help determine which issues should be prioritized in future U.N. programs. You believe that people's overall wellbeing is the ultimate good and that the international community should center itself around this goal. World Happiness scores can and should be employed to strengthen societies and achieve better standards of living. As happiness is increasingly considered an important measurement of national progress, you are tasked with examining the relationship between World Happiness scores and life evaluation factors. By figuring out the relative importance of different domains in shaping happiness, you will be able to provide evidence-based guidance for your policymaking supervisors on how to achieve a stronger social fabric and better public welfare.

## Deliverable

The objective of this project is to determine which life evaluation factors are associated with high national happiness scores. You will be tasked with presenting your findings to your intern supervisor in order to demonstrate which socioeconomic factor contributes the most to a high national happiness score. This issue will then be the focal point of the next international U.N. development project. In this regard, you want to advocate for the factor which is most likely to lead to a positive growth in public welfare. In order to support your conclusions, you will need to create a **(1)** GitHub repository to store your data and **(2)** a brief presentation.

## Potential Modeling Approach

This project involves exploring geographical and temporal trends of six different factors in relation to happiness scores and global happiness rankings. Although any number of illustrative methods can be used, choropleth maps, scatterplots, and/or correlation heatmaps can all be utilized to visually convey which life evaluation factors are associated with high happiness scores. Your goal is to demonstrate your findings in a clear and concise manner. Choosing the proper graphical representation is paramount to your success and your persuasive ability.