Book Review: The Quality of Life and Policy Issues among the Middle East and North African Countries

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The book is written by el-Sayed el-Aswad. He is instructor of anthropology at United Arab Emirates University and has written 3 books on life quality, well-being, religion and policy issues. In this book theory of well-being is used in all scenarios and the most focused variable was the ultimate well-being, that generates occasions for well-being and happiness (Haybron and Tiberius 2015; Helliwell et al. 2016)) of people. Particularly this book is based on MENA – the Middle East and North Africa. MENA has gained significant importance by scholars and media at international level after the event of Sep 11, 2001, 2008's financial crisis, spring of 2011 in Arab. Each event has highly effected the politics, societies and wellbeing of people. Furthermore, the wars of Syria and Yemen which have harmful effect on the well-being of public. Furthermore, this study takes the important dimensions of well-being, for instance, living standard, health, education, communication and technology, and social welfare. Moreover, the study has been conducted in the context of cultures, socio-economics, demographics, and politics and focused on, cross-cultural similarities and differences in most influential countries of the region. For instance, Iran, Tunisia, Israel, Turkey, Egypt, and UAE. Life quality "well-being" or the good life involves satisfaction in day-to-day life, for instance, salary, schooling, health, household, and freedom (Massam 2002; Peter and Machin 2015; Theofilou 2013).

Chapter 1 of the book introduces the overall study that has been conducted, it includes the importance of the MENA region, and why the study should be conducted on this topic in a specific context. Over 4 decades researchers, are focused on the well-being of people (Brixi et al. 2015; Estes and Sirgy 2017; McGillivray and Clarke 2007; Sirgy 1998; Sirgy et al. 2017; Kwon 2005). This book has enlightened internal relations

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in the outcomes of well-being, for instance, economics, healthiness, and educational advancement. Furthermore, influencing factors namely demographic, cultural, socio-economic, technological, organizational, and political awareness is enlightened. Moreover, the research questions are explained on te basis of historical context for policy issues in MENA countries, present circumstances related to life and policy issues, core indicators, for instance, health, education and living standard. Furthermore, fiscal and non-fiscal drivers like well-being, communication, education, health and technology, economics, religious and political tolerance for each of 6 counties on which this study has been conducted has explained. Moreover, the extent of social and public policies, practical goals and lessons, additional policy initiatives to the life quality and procedure problems in the MENA republics are defined on the basis of facts and figures.

Chapter 2 describes the methodology of the book, for instance, there were 6 countries (Iran, Israel, Tunisia, Egypt, Turkey, and the UAE) out of 21 were selected based on social development research paradigm within the MENA region for research. Furthermore, this book used information and global measures that are gathered from international data based agencies. For instance, HDI – Human Development Index, Global Firepower Index, UNDES – Uniter Nation, Economic and Social Affairs Department, UNESCO Institute for Statistics, SPI – Social Progress Index, Global Militarization Index, Vision of Humanity, Pew Research Center, Freedom House, Institute for Economics and Peace, Global Competitiveness Index, World Values Survey, the Gallup Poll.

Chapter 3 covers the historical background of MENA, its origin, population, human development, a brief history in respect of the life quality in the ancient MENA area, the medieval era, and modern history. Furthermore, the challenges since 1950, including internal, external and militarization factors. To begin with, internal factors that include conflict of Israel and Palestine or Arab and Israel, Involvement of Gulf, in the Civil War of Syria, Conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran, Intervention of Saudi-led in Yemen, and IS – Islamic State self-declaration, Da'ish originated by Al-Qa'ida in Iraq. Secondly, the external factors that are including economic, political and social problems that affected community development and happiness in the MENA region. Pew Research Center 2011 found that median of 35% of Muslims belongs to MENA emphasizes the main reason for Muslims lagging behind in well-being, prosperity and economics are the policies of the US and West. Third, militarization factors including huge militarization expenditures, Arabian Non-State Actor, for instance, Al-Qa'ida, ISIS or IS, Hezbollah, Jabat Al-Nusra and state forces, amongst further revelries and paramilitaries, depend on weapons for the promotion of their political motive. Moreover, it covers the religion and ideology of people with respect to the life quality and happiness among people.

Chapter 4 and 5 explain the life quality in the current scenario of MENA nations in terms of happiness and well-being. Furthermore, life quality in that very 6 chosen countries, individually and comparatively analysis based on happiness, human development, and inequality issues. Moreover, it covers the brief history of key drivers (well-being, health, education, communication and technology, economics, religious and political tolerance) of quality of life and happiness in those 6 countries. Similarly, comparative analysis of key drivers among MENA countries and human and religious tolerance in MENA. Furthermore, it explains the information communication technology in Egypt, Iran, Israel, Tunisia, Turkey, and UAE, similarly gave comparative analysis and similarly, it explains the social policies in each country and its comparative analysis.

The last and 6th Chapter of the Book has the analysis of the historical and multicultural perspectives, life quality, well-being, and governmental and non-governmental policies in 6 chosen countries. Moreover, objective and subjective indicators applied for the assessment of the dimensions of life quality and well-being, including human rights, happiness, incomes, religious freedom and many more. Moreover, similarity and differences among MENA countries have been explained with the perspective of cross-culture.

Moreover, this book used the Well-Being Theory in each of its chapter and study. Further, the study has covered well-being and development as a central focus in the context of policy development. But few limitations still exist in the study, only 6 countries were chosen out of 21. The study has completely ignored 15 countries that might have very different cultures, environments, and social settings. Moreover, this study based on economy, health, education, technology, and social welfare factors, but it might be possible that there are many other factors that are totally ignored. Further, this book has significant importance in very 6 countries on which it is conducted.

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This article does not contain any studies with human participants performed by any of the authors.

This article does not contain any studies with animals performed by any of the authors.

This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

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