**World Regional Geography Activity: Indices of wealth, health, and happiness**

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Through various chapters of the book, we have explored different ways of measuring the well-being of societies. These include Population, Gross National Income (GNI, use Gross National Product GNP if you can’t find this, although it doesn’t include foreign income, Chapter 3), Per Capita Income (GNI/Population), Human Development Index (HDI, Chapter 3), and Gross National Happiness (GNH, Chapter 6). Please use online resources to identify these values for India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka and then answer the questions below.

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| Country | Population | GNI | PCI | HDI | GNH |
| Bangladesh | 164 | 321 | 1950 | 0.608 | Moderate |
| Bhutan | <1 | 2 | 3120 | 0.654 | High |
| India | 1366 | 10386 | 7600 | 0.645 | Moderate |
| Nepal | 29 | 102 | 3520 | 0.607 | Moderate |
| Pakistan | 220 | 1232 | 5580 | 0.562 | Low |
| Sri Lanka | 21 | 94 | 4390 | 0.782 | High |

1. Briefly examine which countries have the greatest economic wealth (GNI) and greatest wealth per person (PCI). What are some factors that might explain the wealthiest and poorest countries?

Out of these South Asia Countries:

Greatest GNI: India, having the largest population contributes greatly to their GNI

Greatest PCI: Bhutan, could have higher tourism, exports that result in a higher PCI

Some factors that might explain economic disparities are natural resources, industrialization, government efficiency and infrastructure

1. Now examine HDI. How well do trends in HDI compare with GNI and PCI? What might explain deviations from the differences in wealth between countries?

HDI trends don't directly align with GNI or PCI. Such as Sri Lanka has a HDI than India despite having a lower GNI and PCI. Differences in wealth can be a result of social policies, education and income distribution.

1. Finally consider GNH. How do trends in GNH differ from trends in GNI and/or PCI? Look at the criteria for GNH online and consider what might be different in the countries with high GNH but low GNI or PCI and discuss.

Trends in GNH can differ slightly from GNI and PCI. Countries like Bhutan have a high GNH despite not having the highest GNI or PCI. This is because GNH considers holistic well-being. Countries with high GNH but low GNI or PCI might prioritize non-material aspects of well-being such as community cohesions and spiritual fulfillment.

1. Based on these numbers and what goes in them, which measure of a nation’s well-being seems to make the most sense to you and why?

To me, a measure like HDI seems to be the most sensible as it combines economic indicators with social factors like education and healthcare, which provides a more comprehensive view of a nation’s well-being.