

6th week Assignment

1.GNH is based on five premises and measures through nine domains. Discuss how five premises support the nine domains.

Answer:The five premises of GNH are:

- Holistic: Recognizing all the aspects of people's needs, be these spiritual or material, physical or social.
- Balanced: Emphasizing balanced progress towards the attributes of GNH.
- Collective: Viewing happiness to be an all-encompassing collective phenomenon.
- Sustainable: Pursuing wellbeing for both current and future generations.
- Equitable: Achieving a reasonable and equitable distributed level of wellbeing.

All human beings, regardless of the environment in which they live, require adequate satisfaction of their need for food, water, shelter, security and respect. All of this, in turn, is dependent upon a sustainable environment. This creates a transformative agenda with interconnected solutions :

- ❖ Environmental conservation
- ❖ Sustainable and equitable socio-economic development
- ❖ Preservation and promotion of culture
- ❖ Good governance.

All solutions will interconnect and support the 9-domains.

2.Why do you think GNH could be important as a measure for the development of any country? Discuss

Answer:GNH is a measure of economic and moral progress a country has. Rather than focusing strictly on quantitative economic measures, gross national happiness takes into account an evolving mix of quality-of-life factors. It is distinguishable from Gross Domestic Product by valuing collective happiness as the goal of governance, by emphasizing harmony with nature and traditional values as expressed in the 9 domains of happiness and 4 pillars of GNH. The four pillars of GNH are:

1. Sustainable and equitable socio-economic development;
2. Environmental conservation;
3. preservation and promotion of culture; and
4. good governance.

The nine domains of GNH are psychological well-being, health, time use, education, cultural diversity and resilience, good governance, community vitality, ecological diversity and resilience, and living standards. Each domain is composed of subjective (survey-based) and objective indicators. The domains weigh equally but the indicators within each domain differ by weight. The domains work differently depending on the person's GDP. For instance, if there are

two people, one whose life is consumed with working, leaving barely any time for friends and family, while the other, though not as good in working conditions, has still enough time to spend quality time with their friends and family: according to theories, the person who spends time with family and friends ends up having a larger GNH, than the person who is just in it for work. In other words, a person is happier, or can be happier, in life when focusing on the little things.

The limitations of GDP as a measure of progress are that it (i) does not make any distinction between GDP made from good development and GDP made from bad development; (ii) does not adequately value natural, human, and social capital in its measurement; (iii) does not value free time and leisure; (iv) does not value unpaid work; and (v) does not explicitly provide for equity. GNH attempts to correct those shortcomings, with proxy measures for social welfare. In the same vein, “GNH measures the quality of a country in a more holistic way and believes that the beneficial development of human society takes place when material and spiritual development occurs side by side to complement and reinforce each other.” “The State shall strive to promote those conditions that will enable the pursuit of GNH.” GDP does not find a specific mention in the constitution like GNH, although words such as economic self-reliance, open and progressive economy, and fair market competition are mentioned. Harmonizing and balancing between GNH and GDP requires increasing skills in governance.