

Happiness & Sustainability Around the Earth

An Evaluation of Some Nigerians'
Perspectives of Happiness:
An Introduction to Webinar

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Introduction

- ❖ Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and perceived in some climes to be one of the happiest in the world
- ❖ Over the years, this position has been challenged as the country is also home to a large proportion of poor people
- ❖ This webinar is organised to bring into focus, the Nigerian perspective(s) of the nature, extent and context of happiness



Happiness is universally desired but not universally defined...

- ❖ Happiness is about what gives satisfaction to the individual such that the person has a sense of worth and appreciation
- ❖ Happiness is personal and what gives satisfaction are varied as people have different perceptions about life and different issues that makes them happy and fulfil their self-worth
- ❖ What drives happiness in Nigeria is different from what drives happiness in other countries and culture
- ❖ What drives an individual or a society's passion are different and what gives them happiness is not universal



What Drives happiness?

- ❖ Income, prosperity and happiness?
- ❖ Freedom? Freedom to live, to choose and to determine one's preferences
- ❖ Quality of life to happiness?
- ❖ Religiosity and hope?
- ❖ Lifetime Achievement and satisfaction? For example, attainment for children, leadership position, self-dignity and self-worth
- ❖ Cultural values? For example, number of wives, children, dependants, and chieftaincy titles acquired by the individual



Measurement of happiness is difficult and subjective...

- ❖ Many of the indicators for measurement tend to suffer from reliability and validity issues
- ❖ In fact, the responses of the respondents can either reflect their true feeling or may be a cover-up of deep inner feelings
- ❖ The World Happiness report publishes the World happiness index, which is a composite of subjective and objective indicators
- ❖ Do the computed indices and ranking from World Happiness Index really reflect reality or do they reflect pretensions?



Certain Questions Remain...

- ❖ Is happiness really Universal?
- ❖ Is Nigeria a happy country and are Nigerians happy?
- ❖ Within this context, how is Nigeria different from other nations?
- ❖ This webinar is structured to provide some insights into these questions
- ❖ At the end of this webinar, a new perspective on perception of Nigeria and Nigerians on happiness and sustainability will be understood and appreciated

