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