

BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY

The Correlation between Community Well-Being and a Person's Well-Being, According both to Subjective Data and to the CWB Index in Youth.

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Abstract

A person's well-being has become an important issue in recent years, both empirically and academically. In today's world people seek happiness and terms like satisfaction with life, well-being, welfare and physical and mental health have become the holy-grail for many of us. Apart from the practical level, academic studies are increasingly delving into this multifaceted issue.

A substantial part of a person's well-being perception is the quality of his/her community life, (Bendov-Rydeer, 1997) and the quality of the place where he/she lives, which is comprised of various elements - society, community, cooperation, public institutions, accessibility, educational level, welfare, health services and others. (Segel-Anglzi, 2001).

The Community Well-Being Index (CWB Index) weighs in many and broad aspects of the community well-being, and presents a weighted score of all the parameters of a specific town/city.

The main purpose of the current study was to examine the correlation between a person's well-being and the community well-being, according both to subjective data and to the CWB Index in respect of youth, while investigating the correlations between dimensions of the different factors. Thus, e.g. correlations between community sense of belonging, community involvement and self-image, and well-being, were examined. Other correlations that were investigated were the correlations between components of community well-being and the three critical components of the CWB Index - community capital, community influence and public space.

The study sampled 239 9th-12th grade students, from the towns of Yeger, Kornit, Mezokit and Hedva.

For the purposes of the current study, eight research assumptions were formulated that as stated dealt with the correlation between well-being according to subjective data, self-image and data of the CWB Index.

The first assumption was fully substantiated. A statistically significant positive correlation was found between self-image and community well-being, where the higher the self-image, the higher the well-being. The second research assumption was fully substantiated. A statistically significant positive correlation was found between community sense of belonging and community well-being, where the greater the sense of community belonging, the higher the well-being. The third research assumption was also substantiated. A statistically significant positive correlation was found between community involvement and community well-being, where the greater the community involvement, the higher the well-being.

The fourth research assumption was not substantiated and no statistically significant correlation was found between self-image and community involvement. The fifth research assumption was substantiated. A statistically significant positive correlation was found between self-image and sense of community belonging, where the higher the self-image, the greater the sense of community belonging. The sixth research assumption was also substantiated, and a statistically significant positive correlation was found between community involvement and community sense of belonging, where the higher the sense of community belonging, the greater the community involvement. The seventh research assumption was not substantiated. Statistically significant negative correlations were found between self-image and the community capital component of the CWB Index and community influence component of the CWB Index, and between self-image component and the general score of the CWB Index. In addition, no statistically significant correlation was found between self-image and public space.

The eighth research assumption was partially substantiated. Statistically significant positive correlations were found between community sense of belonging metric and the community capital component of the CWB Index and between community sense of belonging and the general score of the CWB Index. Statistically significant positive correlations were also found between the community involvement score and the

community capital component of the CWB Index, and between the community involvement score and the general score of the CWB Index. However, a statistically significant negative correlation was found between community involvement metric and the public space component of the CWB Index.

The findings correspond to the theoretical literature study relies on it.

Community belonging - is a subjective measure only one of the indicators examined were related to final grade Hm"ah index.

Recommendation of this study emphasizes the importance of community belonging index.

The extension study should focus on the social capital in the community,

At the same time there is a significant practical contribution of this research in working with youth,

Increasing the sense of belonging in the community is a key to increasing the sense of self-esteem and quality of community life of youth.