



9TH MALAYSIA STATISTICS CONFERENCE

Department of Statistics, Malaysia

Dealing with Uncertainties: Unearthing Measures for Recovery



Happiness Index Between Youth and Senior Citizen in Malaysia

Prepared by: Wan Syakirah Wan Jamil, Nurul Afifah Khairool Anuar, Roslawati Yahya, Nor Alkashah Arif Shah

INTRODUCTION

Traditionally, economists and policymakers relied on measures of economic health such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP). However, happiness, or more broadly subjective well-being, has become a major topic in public policy, economics, and psychology over the past decade.

This study is based on the Malaysia Happiness Survey by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM). This study is conducted by age category referring to Dasar Belia Malaysia 2015 which defines youths as those who are individuals aged between 15 years to 30 years old. Meanwhile, senior citizens as someone who are 60 years and above.

OBJECTIVE

This study is conducted to analyse the difference of happiness index between youths and senior citizens of Malaysian in 2021.

METHODOLOGY

Sample: 20,452
Frequency Table of Respondent

	Youths (aged 15-30)	Senior citizens (aged 60 and above)
Frequency (n)	12,907	7,545
Percentage (%)	63.1	36.9

Instruments:
Malaysia Happiness Survey (MHI) contains 13 components and 73 indicators or questionnaire.



Analysis:
$$I_j = \frac{x - x_{min}}{x_{max} - x_{min}}$$

Cutpoint of happiness index

Score Cut points	Category of happiness
0.00-2.00	Very unhappy
2.01-4.00	Unhappy
4.01-6.00	Moderately happy
6.01-8.00	Happy
8.01-10.00	Very happy

LITERATURE REVIEW

Despite growth in wealth, the population's satisfaction in their lives may not have increased at the same time. This situation is named as "The Easterlin Paradox". This Paradox was formulated in 1974 by Richard A. Easterlin, the first economist to study happiness data (Easterlin & OConnor, 2012).

It is necessary to clarify the relationship between age and happiness because a number of recent reports have documented that older people appear happier than middle-aged or younger people, despite the declines in physical health, the deaths of peers and spouses, and other objective rigors that accompany aging. As a result of these hardships, we would expect lower levels of happiness among the elderly (Mroczek & Kolarz, 1998).

RESULT

Scoring of Malaysia Happiness Index

Category	Score
Youths	6.51
Senior citizens	6.52

Scoring of Malaysia Happiness Index by Component

Component	Index Score	
	Youths	Senior citizens
Family	7.19	7.24
Housing and environment	6.52	6.54
Social Participation	6.45	6.52
Health	6.85	6.71
Communication facilities	6.09	6.15
Education	6.39	6.48
Working life	6.26	6.34
Income	5.97	6.00
Public safety	6.56	6.56
Time use	6.75	6.81
Religion and spiritual	7.16	7.31
Culture	6.15	6.26
Emotional experience	6.24	5.88

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The survey's findings indicate that there is no significant difference between youths and senior citizens in term of happiness.

The top three factors influencing youths' happiness are family, religion and spirituality and health, whereas the top three factors influencing senior citizens' happiness are religion and spirituality, family and time use.

