

Peer Review

Review of: "The Price of Living a Full Life and Experiencing Well-Being: Why a Dignified Life Costs Thousands of Dollars per Person – And Why This Is a Structural Question for Nations"

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Thank you for a very interesting paper, displaying novel and useful work. My feedback is mainly on the positioning, structure, and organization of the paper.

On page 1, in a text that might be an abstract (it is not clear as it has no heading), the case for your work is laid out briefly in the first sentences. This, to me, could serve as the starting point in the Introduction, which is currently too short. You need to expand it a bit to more clearly position it in relation to other scientific papers, giving a broader context in terms of the state of the art in academia for measuring well-being, why they are faulty or insufficient, thereby systematically identifying the problem you intend to solve. Further, you need to identify other attempts to solve this problem (if any) and why your approach is different. The Introduction should result in a framing of the blank spot that your work aims at filling, and hence give the Aim of the paper, which needs to be more clearly stated.

In the section called Structural conditions of well-being on page 2, you discuss several approaches to subjective well-being, life satisfaction, and the Flourishing framework. It would be helpful for the reader, as there are many topics and concepts mentioned, if you created a graphic overview or a table of these and illustrated how they relate to each other. What are the overlaps and/or differences between the approaches, why do they differ, and how (if) do they feed into each other?

For Table 1 on page 5, the text in brackets below the table should instead be included in the caption of the table as it gives needed information for interpreting the same.

On page 6, please give some examples of the statement ‘Many countries, particularly in the Global South, are currently well below these ranges.’ It would be useful for the reader to get an understanding of how much below they are, approximately. On the same page, for Table 2, please explain how the values for the “global citizen” are calculated.

On page 7, the question arises on how different political approaches to social security relate to this conclusion. For example, in Switzerland, a lot of the social security is paid by the individual and not by taxes, in comparison to the Nordic countries, as far as I know. Not knowing for sure, but I assume Switzerland would still display quite high levels of flourishing. This would need to be examined and discussed. Overall, the work would benefit from more problematizing of the conclusion—what could be sources of errors, missing information, erroneous data, misguided conclusions, other interpretations, etc. Again, I have very much appreciated your work, and I’m looking forward to seeing it published and made available to a broader audience.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.