

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"

Daniel Mont¹

1. Independent researcher

This is a good summary of thinking about how to begin thinking about capturing a quality of life. There is only one key omission from this article, and that is that the minimum budget for such things is not uniform across the population. In fact, for some subpopulations, those needs are very much higher. The prime example is persons with disabilities, who can face much higher costs associated with obtaining a certain standard of living. I'd direct the author to: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10198-025-01851-x>

Moreover, multidimensional measures of poverty show that persons with disabilities show that gaps in indicators not normally considered in thinking about quality of life – e.g., autonomy, safety, friendships – are quite significant. See the following two articles:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/19452829.2020.1828316>

<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781315206646-4/disability-poverty-morocco-tunisia-multidimensional-approach-jean-francois-trani-parul-bakhshi-sarah-myers-tlapek-dominique-lopez-fiona-gall>

I think we could extend this analysis to women – especially when gender roles around child-rearing and providing care and support to disabled and elderly family members are considered.

You might want to think about autonomy measures when considering the elderly population, which is also relevant to persons with disabilities: See

https://www.un.org/development/desa/ageing/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2022/03/Measuring-the-Autonomy-Participation-and-Contribution-of-Older-People_final.pdf

As the world population is aging rapidly, and as the WHO estimates that 16% of the world's population has a disability, this is not a minor issue.

I'd ask the authors to consider addressing how measuring the quality of life – and determining what is needed to assure a minimum acceptable level of that quality – depends on factors like disability, age, and gender.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.