



The Development of Family Well-Being Index: Malaysia Experience

EGM on Interlinkages between Migration, Urbanization, New Technologies, Demographic Trends and Climate Change in Asia

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Introduction

The Malaysian Family Well-Being Index (MFWBI)

The 1st MFWBI was initiated in 2011 by the NPFDB with the aim to measure the level of family well-being in the country and to recommend strategic initiatives to strengthen the implementation of future family intervention programs in Malaysia.

Before 2011, there was no single measurement that can reflect the well-being of families in the country. Measuring family well-being is important as family is a basic social unit that provides human capital for the country.

In 2016, measurement of the MFWBI was repeated using an improvised instrument. The MFWBI 2016 had maintained all the 7 domain in the MFWBI 2011 and added one more domain, namely, Family and Communication Technology.

The instrument's refinement exercise was repeated again in 2019 and 2022 in order to measure the family well-being. The purpose of the refinement exercise was to ensure that the questionnaire was valid and relevant for current and near future use.

Four Series of the MFWBI

To measure the well-being of families and indirectly assess the effectiveness of family intervention programs conducted throughout the country.



2011

Number of domains: 7
Number of indicators: 23
Number of items: 74
Sample size: 2,808 parents
Index score: 7.55

2016

Number of domains: 8
Number of indicators: 23
Number of items: 93
Sample size: 3,878 parents
Index score: 7.32

2019

Number of domains: 8
Number of indicators: 22
Number of items: 121
Sample size: 5,005 parents
Index score: 7.72

2022

Number of domains: 8
Number of indicators: 22
Number of items: 123
Sample size: 5,236 parents
Index score: 7.93

Domains and Indicators

Literature
review



Focus Group
Discussion



Expert group
workshop



1

Family Relationship

Parental Involvement, Quality Time with Family, Family Attachment, Work-Family Balance, Family Functioning, Family Coping, Family Resilience.

2

Family Economy

Financial Well-Being, Financial Management.

3

Family Health

Family Health Practice, General Health.

4

Family Safety

Family Safety, Emergency Knowledge.

5

Family and Community Engagement

Cooperation in Community, Relationship in Community.

6

Role of Religion & Spiritual Practice

Role of Religion, Spiritual Practice.

7

Housing and Environment

Residential Area, Environmental Cleanliness, Level of Pollution.

8

Family and Communication Technology

Digital Utilization, Parental Control.

Types of Question

Four different types of question were used in measuring the family well-being.

- 1 Behavior / Practice**
Parental involvement, quality time with family, work-family balance, family attachment, family coping, family functioning, family resilience, financial management, health practices, family safety, cooperation in community, relationship in community, spiritual practices, environment cleanliness, parental control
- 2 Belief**
Family resilience, financial well-being, family safety, general health, role of religion, residential area, digital utilization.
- 3 Knowledge**
Family safety, emergency knowledge, residential area, pollution level.
- 4 Attitude**
Family functioning, health practices, relationship in community, environment cleanliness.

Sample of Questions

For all questions, respondents need to answer using a 5-point scale format: 1=Strongly Disagree, to 5=Strongly Agree.



Quality Time with Family

This indicator was measured by items as below:

1. We have a good bond among the family members.
2. We can rely on each others when facing problems.
3. We can discuss about our concerns with our family members at anytime.
4. I feel very confident and safe when I am together with my family.

Financial Management

This indicator was measured by items as below:

1. Our family saves up for the future.
2. We have sufficient insurance coverage for our family.
3. Our family has investment savings.

MFWBI's Scores

Domain	2011	2016	2019	2022
Family Relationship	7.82	7.90	8.35	8.44
Family Economy	6.90	7.05	7.67	6.90
Family Health	7.38	7.18	7.44	8.07
Family Safety	7.39	7.96	7.86	7.69
Family & Community Engagement	7.83	7.84	8.00	8.24
Family, Role of Religion & Spiritual Practice	8.25	8.04	8.25	8.37
Housing & Environment	7.28	6.24	7.35	7.55
Family & Communication Technology	-	6.38	6.82	8.18
Total	7.55	7.33	7.72	7.93

- ✚ The MFWBI's score has increased since 2016.
- ✚ Number of domains with scores above 8.00 has increased over years.
- ✚ The Family Economy Domain recorded the lowest score in 2011 and 2022.
- ✚ The Family & Communication Technology Domain recorded a substantial increase in score during the MFWBI 2022.

INDICATOR/DOMAIN/ INDEX SCORE	CATEGORY
0-4	Low
5-7	Moderate
8-10	High

MFWBI's score as the National Key Performance Indicator (KPI)

Twelfth Malaysia Plan: Selected Targets

Empowering Specific Target Groups

At the national level, the MFWBI has been recognized by the federal government as one of the national KPI in the country's 5-year development planning (Eleventh Malaysia Plan, 2016-2020 & Twelfth Malaysia Plan, 2021-2025).



2025

Family Wellbeing Index



UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS



International Federation
for Family Development



World Migration Report
Sustainable Development Goals
Global Migration Governance
International Migration Association



LEARNING PARTNERSHIP FOR PEOPLE KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

EXPERT GROUP MEETING IN CELEBRATION OF **THE 30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FAMILY, 2024**

Families and Megatrends Interlinkages between migration, urbanization, new technologies, demographic trends and climate change

28–29 FEBRUARY 2024

The Everly Hotel, Putrajaya, Malaysia



Asian EGM

in Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of Family, with participants from South Korea, Thailand, Japan, India, China, Nepal, Malaysia and Qatar.



EGM has successfully produced **25 recommendations** on “Families and Megatrends Interlinkages between Migration, Urbanization, New Technologies, Demographic Trends and Climate Change.

EGM's Recommendations

- 4 recommendations on Demographic Change**
To support family formation and cohesion, raise awareness on fertility decline issues, empower family economy, and recognize population ageing issues.
- 5 recommendations on Technological Change**
To promote active ageing, increase family accessibility to the technology, educate on digital crimes, and establish fund to the underprivileged population.
- 3 recommendations on Urbanization**
To address housing needs, integrate technology in housing, and increase utilization of local sources (knowledge, expertise and materials).
- 7 recommendations on International Migration**
To discourage the disintegration of families, embrace family-friendly approach, and reduce concentration in cities.
- 6 recommendations on Climate Change**
To promote sustainable and green development, develop family-friendly cities, making the RRR as a way of life, and educate on anticipated disasters.



Thank You



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