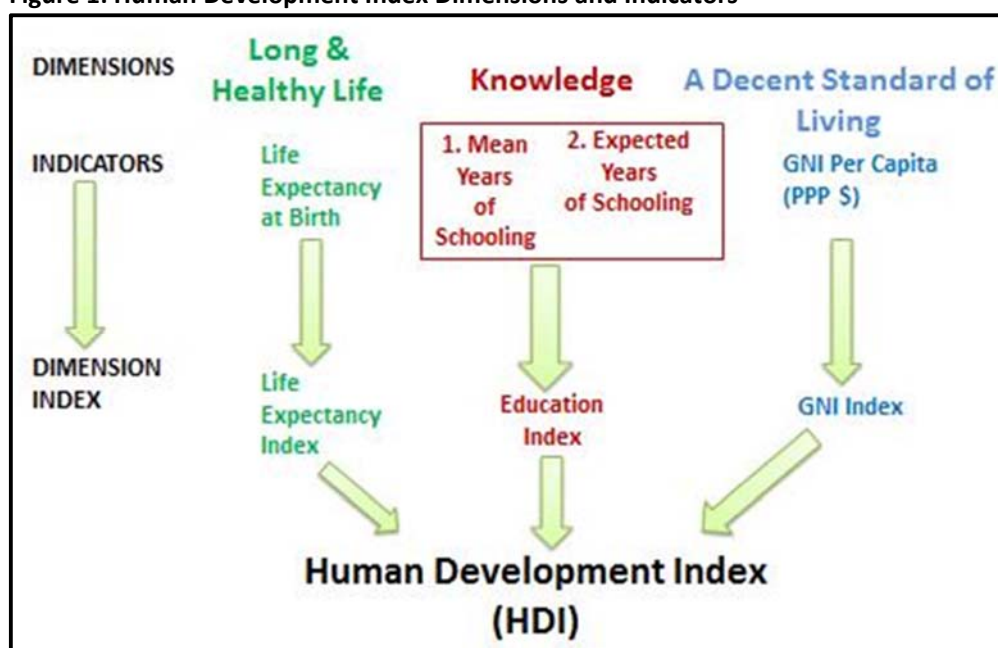


Sunrise Andhra Pradesh Vision 2029: State Happiness Index Assessment

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Conventionally, human development has been measured globally in terms of a country's Human Development Index (HDI), a composite index composed of three dimensions – Long and Healthy Life; Knowledge; and A Decent Standard of Living which are assessed respectively as the Life Expectancy Index, the Education Index and the GNI Index (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Human Development Index Dimensions and Indicators



Source: Human Development Index, UNDP

The HDI value for Andhra Pradesh (residuary state¹) in 2011-12 (the latest year for which the state data for computing HDI value was available) was assessed as 0.665², which placed it at 10th rank amongst the Indian states (India HDI value was 0.651). This was an improvement from 2004-05 when the residuary state's human development index was 0.544 with an all India 12th rank (India HDI value was 0.584). Under the Vision 2029, Andhra Pradesh hence planned to improve its HDI value to 0.7 by 2022; 0.8 by 2024 and 0.9 by 2029.

Although the Andhra Pradesh government, at the time of formulating the vision, enunciated social and human development through the use of the HDI, it recognized that it encompassed only a limited aspect of social and human development primarily in terms of health, education and income. Alternately, the state vision envisaged social and human development in terms of creating a "Happy Society". However, since at that time there was no assessment of Happiness score for Andhra

¹ During the state re-organization in 2014, the erstwhile state of Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated into the 2 states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh (residuary).

² Human Development Index Assessment of Andhra Pradesh and Other States, 2015 by Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad (unpublished study). The human development index calculation methodology and the human development index component indicators used by Centre for Economic and Social Studies were those used by Government of India to compute the state values, which were different from those used by UNDP to compute the country values.

Pradesh, it was decided to first carry out such an assessment and then define the vision's social and human development goals and targets in terms of Happiness.

Based on the review of five alternate social and human development framework approaches, namely Gross National Happiness Index (Government of Bhutan); Social Progress Index (Social Progress Imperative, USA), World Happiness Report (Sustainable Development Solutions Network, UN), Well Being (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Paris) and Equitable and Sustainable Well-being (Government of Italy), the state government proceeded to assess the happiness level amongst the people of the state using the World Happiness Framework of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, UN.

In 2012, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) to mobilize global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical problem solving for sustainable development, including the design and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDSN has since been conducting an annual happiness assessments survey across countries, published as the World Happiness Report. The most recent comprehensive world happiness assessment, the World Happiness Report, 2017, ranked 155 countries by their happiness scores with India securing the 122nd rank with a happiness score of 4.315.

The state government decided to assess the levels of happiness in Andhra Pradesh using the same methodology and indicators as enunciated by SDSN, thereby becoming the front runner state in attempting to ascertain happiness levels using a globally established methodology.

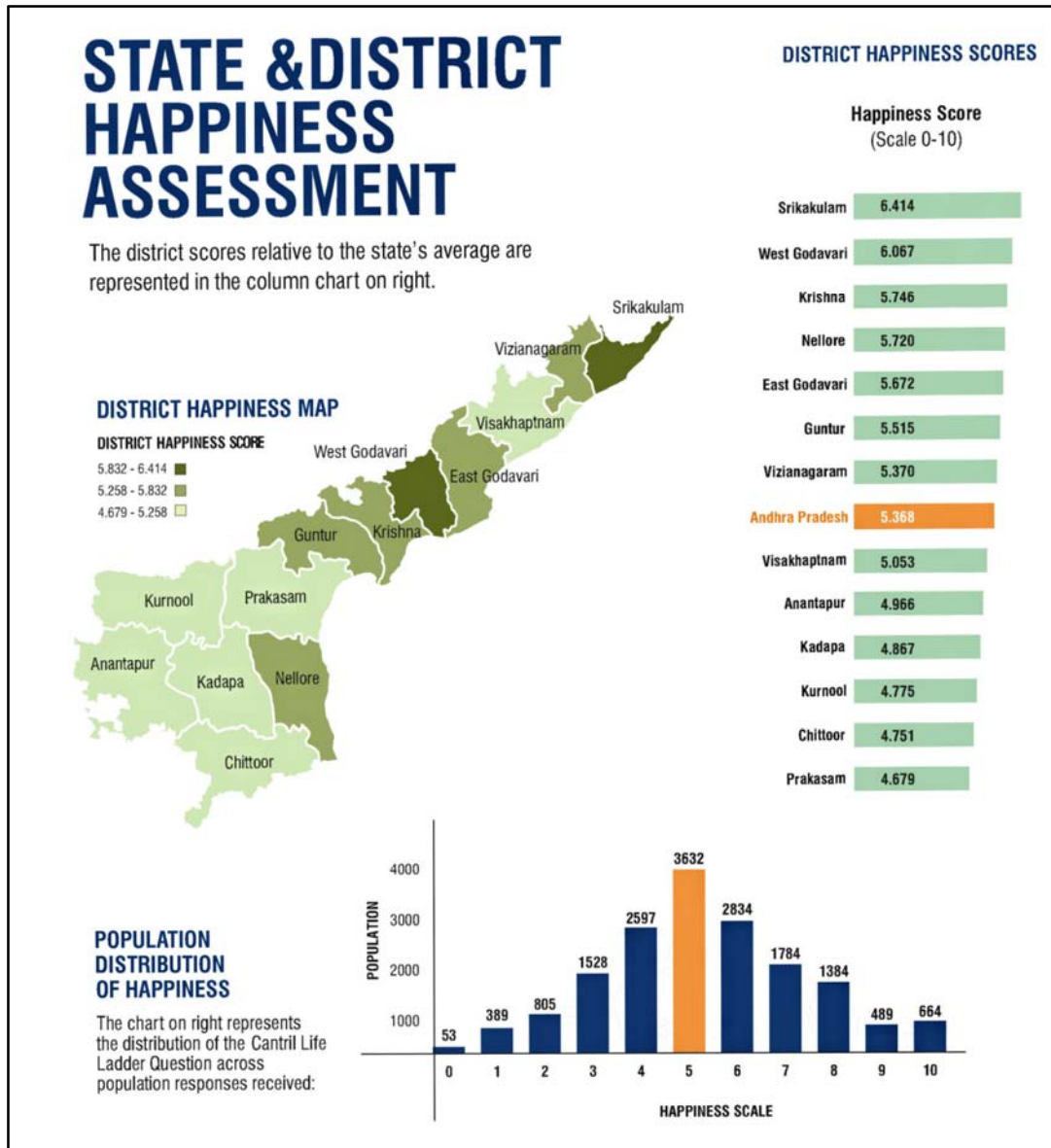
The Happiness score in this approach simply reflected the evaluation people made of their own lives as a responses to a Cantril Life Ladder Question, i.e. "Please imagine a ladder, with steps numbered from 0 at the bottom to 10 at the top. The top of the ladder represents the best possible life for you and the bottom of the ladder represents the worst possible life for you. On which step of the ladder would you say you personally feel you stand at this time?"

The Happiness survey also included survey on predictor factors namely, availability of social support, freedom to make life choices, generosity, perceptions of corruption in the government and in business.

The Happiness Score computed for Andhra Pradesh in 2017 was 5.368, which gave it a global 74th rank. This was 48 ranks better than India's rank. In terms of population distribution against Happiness score, the results showed a near normal distribution with more than 2/3rd of the population responded with a Happiness score between 4 and 7.

The district wise Happiness score showed that Srikakulam with a score of 6.41 was the best in the state, which was equivalent to a Global 34th rank, while the district with the least happiness score of 4.68 was Prakasam, which was still higher than the India average happiness score. The happiness score of the state and the districts along with the distribution of the respondents by happiness score from 0 to 10 are given in **Figure 2**.

Figure 2: State and District Wise Happiness Scores for Andhra Pradesh (2017)

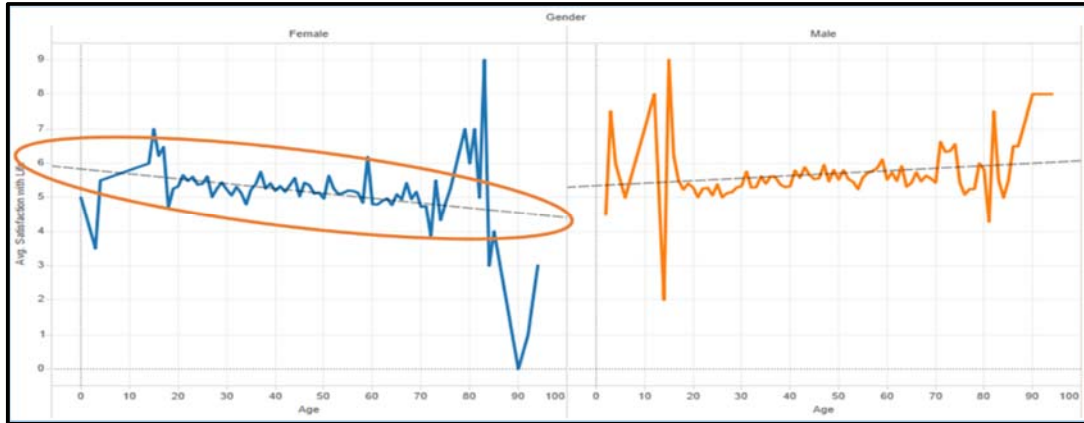


Source: APSDPS, Planning Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh

However, a disaggregated analysis of the happiness score by age, gender, education, employment category and few of the predictor factors shows results that were of much concern.

The average happiness score across gender by age showed a declining trend amongst women - older women reported less happiness, while amongst men it showed an increasing trend - older men reported more happiness (Figure 3).

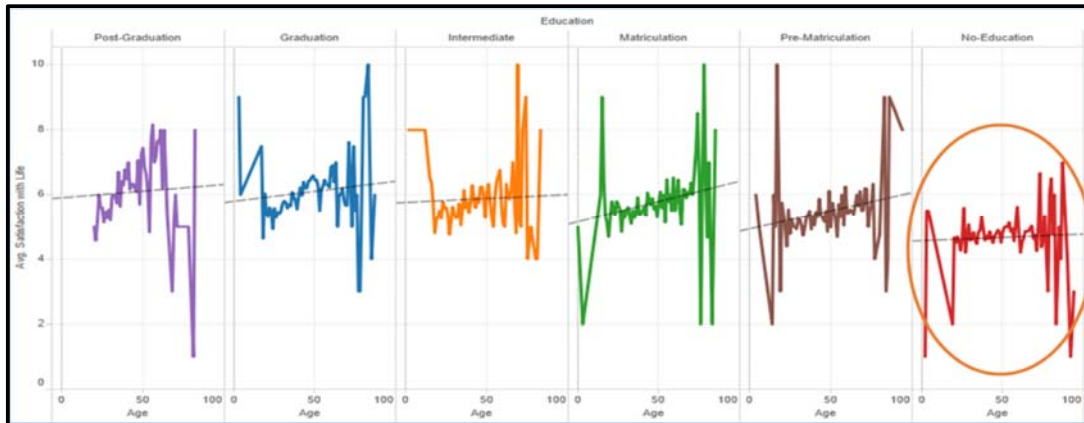
Figure 3: Happiness Score Across Gender by Age



Source: APSDPS, Planning Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh

On the other hand, the average happiness score across education by age showed an increasing trend for all education categories including the not educated one – happiness increasing with age. However, for the no educated category the average happiness score was significantly lower in comparison to all the other education categories (**Figure 4**).

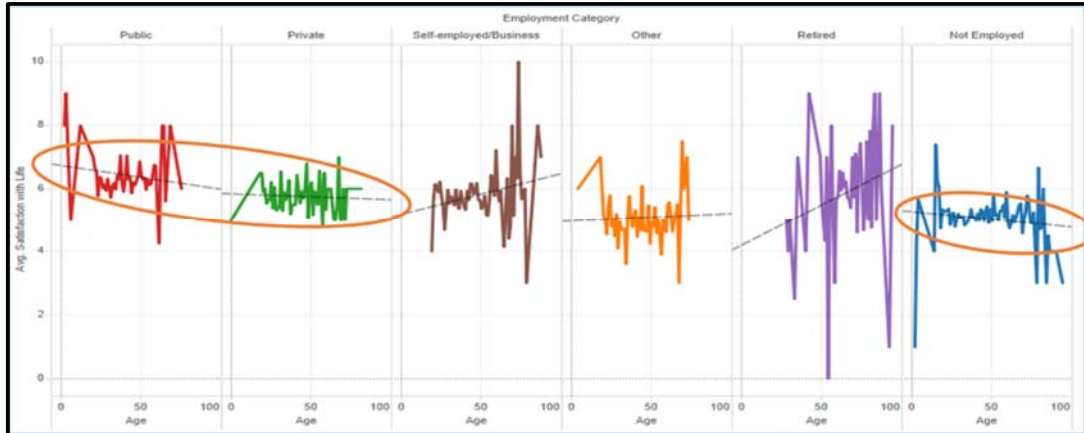
Figure 4: Happiness Score Across Education Categories by Age



Source: APSDPS, Planning Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh

At the same time, the average happiness score across employment categories by age showed a declining trend amongst public sector employees, private sector employees and not employed categories, while it showed an increasing trend amongst the self-employed/ business, other employed and retired categories. However, the retired category population showed the widest range of happiness score with nearly 40% of the respondents reporting happiness score of less than 4, which was a matter of serious concern for the state in terms of senior citizen welfare (**Figure 5**).

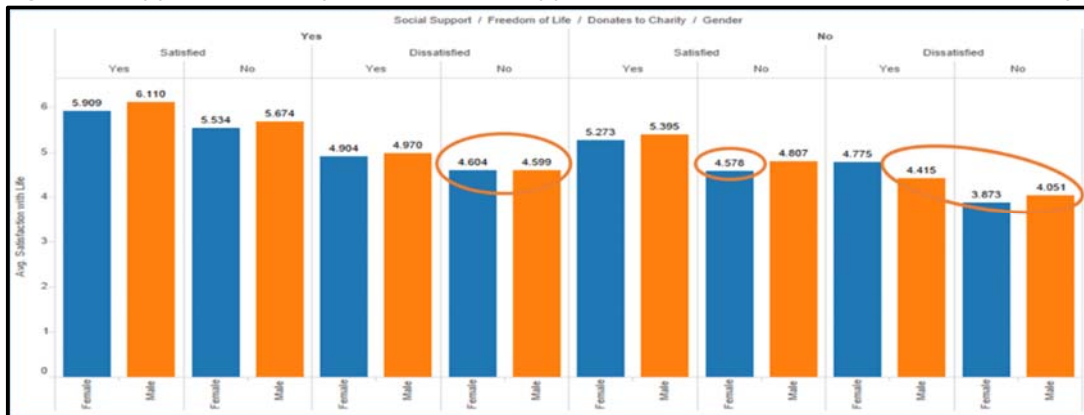
Figure 5: Happiness Score Across Employment Categories by Age



Source: APSDPS, Planning Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh

Lastly, the average happiness scores by gender, social support, freedom of life and donation to charity showed that the average happiness score was comparatively higher amongst the population who had social support and who were satisfied with their freedom of life, while it was the lowest amongst the population who did not have social support and were dissatisfied with their freedom of life (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Happiness Score by Gender, Social Support, Freedom of Life and Donation to Charity

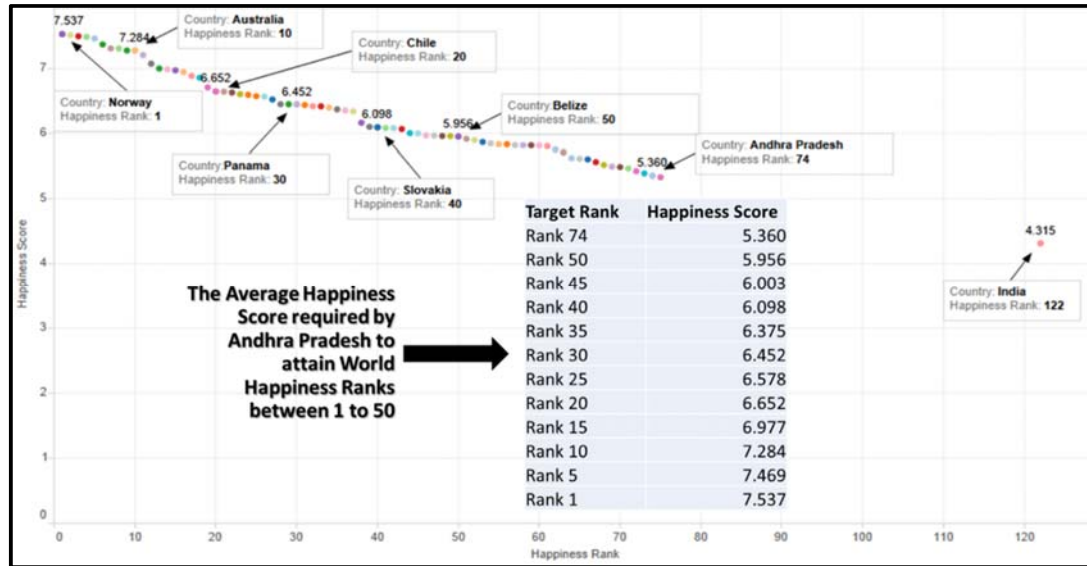


Source: APSDPS, Planning Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh

Hence, the disaggregated analysis of the happiness survey data for Andhra Pradesh showed that there were concerns about happiness amongst older aged women, uneducated people, retired people and people who perceived that they did not have any social support or freedom of life choices. All these people represented specific groups of vulnerable people whose concerns would need to be urgently addressed through focused social security and empowerment measures.

However, to make Andhra Pradesh a truly Happy Society, as was the target under the vision, the state needed to significantly improve its happiness score and also scores on the predictor factors. To be equivalent to the 50th rank globally, the state needed to improve its happiness score to 5.956 and to be the 25th rank it would need to improve its Happiness score to 6.578. Finally, to be amongst the top 10 ranks, the state would need to improve its happiness score more than 7.284. The happiness scores Andhra Pradesh needed to achieve to improve its rank between 1 and 50 is given in Figure 7.

Figure 7: Happiness Score Needed by Andhra Pradesh to Improve Rank between 1 and 50



Source: APSDPS, Planning Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh