Evolution of Quality of Life Statistics at Statistics Mauritius

Ms. C. Rughoobur
Nov 2019
Content

- Development of Quality of Life (QoL) statistics
- Initiatives undertaken by Statistics Mauritius (SM)
- QoL statistics over time
Development of QoL Statistics started in 2012

- Government decision as quoted in 2012-2015 Government Programme:

  "The Quality of Life for our people is of paramount importance ...... that conventional economic indicators like GDP do not take into account some of the costs and consequences of economic activities on such things as the physical or social environment within which our people live, work and play."

- Quality of Life of people is a national priority
- To assess Quality of life, ‘Beyond the GDP measurement’
Initiatives undertaken by SM Committee on QoL statistics

- In 2012, a Committee on QoL statistics was set up under the Statistics Board.

- **Aim:** To come up with recommendations on improving quality of life statistics in Mauritius, taking into consideration the 2009 Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi report.

- Committee comprised representatives from Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Academia, International Expert, Mauritius Commercial Bank and SM.
Committee on QoL ....

- Committee stood guided by the 2009 Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi report
  - a set of guidelines on how to improve the measurement of well-being
  - no dashboard of indicators
The Committee recommended the Eight dimensions

1. Economic sustainability and material living standards (*income access to amenities, household durables goods, etc.*)
2. Health
3. Education
4. Personal activities including work (*working life balance – leisure and work & decent work*)
5. Political voice and governance (*public service deliveries, corruption, rights, etc.*)
6. Social connections and relationships (e.g. socializing)
7. Environment
8. Insecurity
Data are required from:

Eight dimensions

1. Economic sustainability and material living standards
2. Health
3. Education
4. Personal activities including work
5. Political voice and governance
6. Social connections and relationships
7. Environment
8. Insecurity
Selection of indicators for QoL

- Selection of indicators benchmarking on
  - 2009 Commission report (recommends to use a set of both quantitative and qualitative indicators)
  - International agencies: OECD, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Eurostat QoL statistics, etc.
A first database on QoL statistics in 2012

- A first ‘national’ database was constructed based on existing data

- The database comprises 48 indicators with figures as from 1990 – it is updated on a monthly basis.

- Posted on SM website:
Areas of data constraints

- No information on Subjective Wellbeing (*major component of QoL*)
  
  e.g.
  
  - *overall life satisfaction,*
  - *How often do you feel stressed, calm, nervous, etc.*
  - *is life getting better? etc.*

- Lack of information on Dimensions 5 & 6
Data constraints

- Dimension 5 - Political voice and governance
  (indicators are still under development at international level – Praia Group)

- Dimension 6 - Social connections and relationships
  - Social interactions
  - How often do you meet relatives/friends
  - Friends/relatives you can share your problems
Initiatives undertaken ...

To date, the list of 48 QoL statistics have been improved in light of:

- New data collection on Subjective Wellbeing from 2018-19 Living Conditions Survey
  - E.g. Self assessment questions on health, financial situation, relationships, mental state (stressed, calm, nervous)

- Benchmark with the 232 indicators of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
QoL & SDGs

SDGs – UN framework of transforming the world by 2030

❖ No poverty
❖ Shared prosperity among all persons
❖ Protecting the planet

QoL meets the objectives of SDGs
QoL & SDGs ...

Eight dimensions closely linked to SDGs

1. Economic sustainability and material living standards e.g. **SDGs 1 (No poverty), SDG 10 (Inequality)**
2. Health e.g. **SDG 3 (Health)**
3. Education e.g. **SDG 4 (Quality education)**
4. Personal activities including work **SDG 8 (Decent work)**
5. Political voice and governance **SDGs 1 - 17**
6. Social connections and relationships ????
7. Environment **SDGs 13 (Climate change), 14 (Life below water), 15 (Life on land)**
8. Insecurity **SDGs 16 (Peace & justice)**
Initiatives undertaken ...

Presentation of a new set of QoL indicators

- A new set of indicators *(To be used for discussion session)*

- Proposal for new presentation of QoL statistics
  3 hierarchical level structure data
    - Primary indicators
    - Secondary indicators
    - Tertiary indicators
QoL statistics over time
“primary indicators”
Relative poverty is increasing over time

*Relative poverty line refers to half median monthly household income per adult equivalent

Source: Household Budget Survey, every five years
Dim 2 – Assessment of self perceived health status (%), 2018/2019

- **67% of the population perceived their health status as good**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Self perceived health status (among population 16+)</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*unweighted estimates based on preliminary 2018/19 LCS data

Source: SM, 2018/19 Living Condition Survey

Level of education is improving

Source: SM, Population Census (every ten years)
Dim 4 – % of employees who work for pay for more than 50 hours per week, 2004 - 2018

% persons working more than 50 hrs per week is decreasing

Source: SM, Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (yearly)
Dim 5 – Corruption Perception Index, 2012 – 2018

- CPI is more or less stable

Source: Transparency International (yearly)
Dim 6 – Percentage of one person households, 1990, 2000 & 2011

➢ One person households are increasing

Source: SM, Population Census (every ten years)
Dim 7 – Carbon dioxide emissions per capita 2000 - 2018

> Carbon dioxide emission is increasing

Source: SM, Environment statistics (every year)
Dim 8 – Crime rate per 1,000 mid year population

An uneven pattern in crime rate

Source: SM, Crime, Justice & Security Statistics (yearly)
Thank you