

Wellbeing components. WeD Peru. Executive summary of Phase I.

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INTRODUCTION.

As a summary of the wellbeing components report of the Peru WeD, an abstract of results and discussion is presented. This report integrates the data collected through the participant observation, ethnographic approach and in depth interview (ECB) in the Peruvian corridor that integrates two rural, two peri urban and two urban shantytowns. Six field researchers living in the sites conducted the fieldwork in order to achieve the maximum level of trust, valid and reliable data. The sample for the in-depth interviews was per quota stratified proportional in the sites whose universe is greater than 100 households and the sample size was 419. This interview was processed through content analysis that converted the open answers into a dichotomized database. Descriptive, inferential non-parametric and non-metric descriptive factor analyses were conducted.

1. Goals.

There are some specific universal¹ goals like house. However, the conception of the house varies from site to site (in addition to individual differences within site). Furniture and appliances are universal but acquires more importance, complexity and sophistication in urban environments. Sustenance is also universal, in rural environments means animals and agriculture while in urban settlements is job. Land is universal, nevertheless in the rural is more related to house, agriculture and cattle while in urban is related to house. Partner and family are universal. Husband-wife is part of these, however they are not explicitly mentioned in all the sites. Furniture and appliances are universal but acquires more importance, complexity and sophistication in urban environments. Power supply and water is universal.

The pattern found did not show pure universal goals in the specific goal level. However, if we analyse these data in a more abstract level, we can find universal tendencies like shelter with appropriate services and facilities, sustenance, partner and family.

We can conclude that the coherence of the patterns and factorial validation criteria supports the future direction of applying the psychometric scale of goals.

2. Resources.

Resources appear as mediators between needs and the specific environment in each site. There are differences between rural, peri-urban and urban sites. However, beyond those differences, all the resources have this common aspect in the abstract level.

About differences, to buy and market exchange are universal, however, in the rural sites there is an important barter and non-market exchange economy. In these rural sites, direct work is an important resource; this means that people work directly to get food, shelter, clothing, etc., without intermediation of money or the market exchange. Consequently, seeding is another important resource. Communication appears as other significant resource in the rural and

¹ In this report, universal is referred to something found in the six sites.

could be related to the collectivistic strategy, let us say, in a small isolated community, the villagers requires a highly group cohesion in order to satisfy their needs because they cannot hire or expel other people as in the “modern” sites. Therefore, communication is an important mediator in this collectivism for strong cohesion and coordinated collective action.

In peri urban sites, friend relationships as resource appear as intermediate solution between the collectivistic and the individualistic strategy. In Chucuna we found the community as a solid unity of mutual support. In the urban sites, the individualism and autonomy could be the “universal” motivation. Friend relationships appear like intermediate solutions, a high cohesion group of friend in the middle between the individual and the collectivity. In this context, interpersonal relationships and social relationships are important resources found in the data.

In addition, in the urban sites values appear as resources: hard worker, and personal reliability. In the smaller sites, almost every body knows every body; the villagers quite acknowledge who is who. Nevertheless, in the mass population of the urban sites, this is not possible and there could be a need to trust and know people through perceived values. In the poverty context of these urban sites, with lots of challenges and honesty as a scarce behaviour, hard working and personal reliability could appear as fundamental resources for personal and collective development. Conduct and work are more urban resources. In these market-inserted sites, is not possible the rural direct work and traditional work for a salary is necessary. This sites are integrated in a central government dependant relationship, where the conduct in order to be part of the system results is an important resource to get power supply, water and sewage, roads, communal sports centers, etc.

Due to the coherence of these results and the factorial validity criteria found, there is evidence to support the application of the psychometric scale of resources. It is important to go in depth in the role of resources as mediators between specific environmental characteristics and needs satisfaction. This could be easily done through an objective scale of environmental characteristics loaded in the psychometric result database in order to analyse the underlying causal and mediator functions.

3. Values.

Help is universal. The fact that the only one universal specific value found is getting help from others provides evidence that support Schwarz (1996) theory about human values as adaptive collective mechanisms in order to satisfy needs in specific environments.

To be hard worker is only absent in Chucuna. The participant observation suggest that all people in Chucuna are really hard workers so then would be possible that does not appear as a value because is considered as a default behaviour, not a special way of being to achieve. Therefore the fact that a value does not appear here does not mean necessarily that this is not important for the population, so it probably means that the base line is beyond that. This has important consequences in value data interpretation and needs confirmatory empirical support.

Wealth and material belongings are not present in all sites and do not describe a clear pattern among rural or urban sites. It could mean that wealth and material belongings are not important life states and development programs centered on that are imposing values different of the ones of this population.

Specific adaptation strategy is an analytical category that covers different specific values found in the corridor. Refers to a process related to satisfy needs in the specific environmental (including social) characteristics. In urban sites, gossip, conformist, quiet, cheerful and respectful are values. In urban and peri urban, to be professional, to be focus on progress, to be responsible, counselor and have education are values. In rural environment to share, not be fighter, counselor, organized, to make festivities, be cheerful and be focus on progress are the

values. All they could be related to adaptations in the specific context. In example, the value of be conformist found in urban (shantytowns in the corridor sample) sites in a first approach could be interpreted as an anti value. However, the integral analysis describes a situation where the possibility to achieve a high expectation performance in this shantytowns are far remote. So then, if the population will keep a high expectation level, the frustration will be related to a high unhappiness feeling. However a lowering in the expectations, let us say a conformism mode, could function as a coping mechanism to poverty. If this is correct, if an NGO want to increase the need of achievement with a single program related to a component of poverty (like credits, or agricultural technology or gender issues) not the complex poverty and exclusion system, this will lead in objective terms into a non sustainable development. In subjective terms will lead into an increase of frustration and unhappiness.

It is interesting to point the hybrid character of the peri urban sites that describes categories found in both urban and rural sites.

These data brings evidence about values as specific adaptation strategies where the base is the helping to each other and the underlying pattern is a collective strategy² for need satisfaction in specific environmental-cultural contexts.

The data does not provide new values or motivational dimension of values provided by cross-culturally tested theories like Schwarz theory. For cross-culturally comparison purposes, an adaptation of the Schwarz value survey could be applied in the corridor sample. However, the application of the native value scale developed from the base of the results of the present study will provide more precise and discriminative information. The issue of antivalues appears as a promissory new field or research, however, in the PRANQ tight agenda seems not to be feasible.

4. Happiest life moments.

Festivity is the most important happiest moment in rural sites. It is not a one-night party, is a traditional social system of wealth redistribution and social prestige conducted in an intense emotional session of more than one day that functions as a periodical collective emotional regulator (See: Yamamoto, Arroyo & Carhuallanqui 2004). The category festivity is present in urban sites, however its content is related to a party or disco and it is considered in the recuperation issue in this analysis.

Birth, couple, exploration³ and recuperation⁴ are universal but more frequently mentioned in urban sites. Family including marriage and life with children-parents is universal. Scarce adaptive achievement⁵ is universal as well. These episodes are related to core life achievements during life span, previously named developmental tasks (Havighurst 1953, cited by Dion 1985) or developmental goals. It is very important to analyse in depth this facet of happiness.

All this date suggest that happy moments are not life ends or life states by itself in contradiction to the Aristotle's conception of happiness as the end of the life. Happiness appears like strong

² That could have the shape of individualism in some cases.

³ Exploration refers to learn new things in an exciting and significant way. To travel and learn new things, to study things that help for life are some examples. A secondary analysis of the specific contents of exploration is suggested.

⁴ A happy moment related to the recuperation of a lost issue. To lost an animal and found it later, to break a significant relationship and restart again are examples. A comprehensive secondary data analysis is suggested.

⁵ In some specific environments, there are some scarce resources, like work in a shantytown, or like superior education in a peri-urban site where is no easy access to that. When a subject expects and achieves a goal whose resources are scarce, the scarce adaptive achievement occurs.

emotions that regulate behaviour in order to control the satisfaction of core needs through the life span.

These findings lead to the some recommendations for the next phase of the research: To continue with the planned ethnography about festivity but only in Chucuna, Quintaojo and Acostambo were are important sources of happiness. To include an ethnography and a secondary data analysis of ECB about developmental tasks or developmental goals. To develop a secondary data analysis of ECB data about birth, childhood, couple life, marriage and family as happiest life episodes. In addition, to develop an secondary data analysis of recuperation and scarce adaptive achievements. The originality of the data found and the important implications of this findings support the idea to apply the psychometric scale of happiest life episodes.

5. Unhappiest life moments.

Death, sickness, and familial conflicts are universal single unhappiest episodes. They seem to be related to a significant impairment to the satisfaction of needs. Death could be related to survival, but in this context could be interpreted "the" impairment for need satisfaction. Sickness is related to health, another source of impairment for need satisfaction. Is interesting to see that there were not live and health categories as happiness source. Therefore, according to research work about positive and negative affect (Watson, Clark & Tellegen 1988; Larsen, McGraw & Cacioppo 2001) happiness and unhappiness could not be ends of a single continuous variable, but independent ones. Unhappiness seems to be related to avoidance behaviour in order to reduce the risk of impairment for need satisfaction while happiness seems to be related to positive motivated behaviour in order to achieve goals for need satisfaction.

Critical adaptation problem is an analytical category, which is universal as well, however the content is cultural. It is related to a fundamental issue for adaptation in a specific environment, whose achievement is under a serious risk. In example, in the rural, animals and agriculture are core issues for survival and development and are important sources of attachment and identity as well. Therefore, animal's death and agricultural calamity are critical adaptation problems found as sources of unhappiest life episodes. In the urban sites, critical adaptation problems are poverty, lack of job and economical problems. In the peri-urban are political violence⁶, frustrated studies⁷, poverty and agricultural calamity⁸.

This evidence suggests that unhappiest moments are intense control emotions related to avoidance behaviour for preventing impairment states of need satisfaction.

It is recommended to develop an ethnography about death, including death rituals. In addition, secondary data analysis about sickness, familiar conflicts and critical adaptation problems would bring in depth detailed information about the process about how this control emotions operates.

⁶ Sites within the corridor who had the highest impact of the terrorist and counter terrorist political violence.

⁷ Studies seem like a remote possibility in the rural. In the urban are not so difficult to achieve. In peri urban are possible but challenging, therefore appears like critical adaptive problem.

⁸ Notice the hybrid composition where urban and rural categories appear.

6. Support networks.

Family is universal and seems to be the base line for support. In a small rural village, all the people are member of an extended family. In the peri urban sites, the network is extended, including friends to the family. In the urban sites, this (friends and family) is extended to the neighbors-church⁹.

Community is a source of support in the rural. It is the whole support where every body is important part of the network. The size of the rural communities assumes a face-to-face personal contact at the community level. The urban equivalent is the neighbor organization.

No support, let us say, people does not receive help from others and solve their problems by itself is present in all the sites. It presents negative correlations in all the factor in the different sites with the exception of Quilcas.

Government is universal, but is specified in different cultural ways: the community organization, the local government and the central government.

The financial system, Church and NGO are support sources but its relative importance is quite less.

The baseline of the support is rooted in the family whose specific ways are adapted to each context. As the sample in the corridor goes beyond the rural, the friends are included (at the peri-urban level) and then the neighbors and church members in the urban sites. The government is universal but its specific ways are relative to each site characteristics. Together with the support networks, the self-support or no-support is universal. This provides empirical evidence to the importance of apply the psychometric scale of support networks.

7. Next steps.

To apply the cross-cultural psychometric battery of wellbeing¹⁰ resulted from the analysis of this report (scale of goals, scale of resources, scale of values, happiest moments, unhappiest moments and social networks.)

To develop a set of objective cross variables of environmental characteristics in order to statistically analyse the relationship between environment and resources patterns.

To develop the secondary data analyses of recuperation, scarce adaptive achievements, birth, childhood, couple life, marriage and family as happiest episodes.

To develop secondary data analyses about sickness, familiar conflicts and critical adaptation problems as unhappiest life episodes.

To develop ethnographies about festivity in Chucuna, Quintaojo and Acostambo sites. To develop ethnography about developmental goals, death and death rituals in all sites.

⁹ Church members as part of a close network of face to face interaction, not as an abstract institution.

¹⁰ Ready for application at the moment.

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