

difference between wellbeing and wellness

The Difference Between Wellbeing and Wellness: Unpacking Two Vital Concepts

Feeling good? That's great! But do you understand the difference between wellbeing and wellness? Many use these terms interchangeably, but there's a subtle yet significant distinction. This post will dive deep into the difference between wellbeing and wellness, exploring their nuances, components, and how understanding the difference can lead to a more fulfilling and healthier life. We'll unravel the complexities, separating fact from fiction, and empowering you to take control of your overall health and happiness. Get ready to unlock a clearer understanding of these two crucial concepts!

What is Wellbeing?

Wellbeing is a broader, more holistic concept encompassing your overall state of being. It's a subjective experience encompassing your physical, mental, and social aspects. Think of it as a snapshot of your current life satisfaction – a feeling, rather than a journey. Are you happy today? Are you content with your current circumstances? That's wellbeing in action. It fluctuates; some days you'll score high, others low. Your wellbeing might be excellent one week, then impacted by a stressful event the next.

Wellbeing is influenced by a wide range of factors, including:

Emotional state: Are you feeling happy, content, or anxious?

Financial security: Do you feel financially stable and secure?

Relationships: Are your relationships supportive and fulfilling?

Physical health: Are you physically healthy and energetic?

Sense of purpose: Do you feel you have a purpose in life?

Environment: Is your environment supportive and conducive to your needs?

Wellbeing is less about actively striving for improvement and more about acknowledging and appreciating your current state of being. It's about recognizing the positive aspects of your life while acknowledging the areas that could use some attention.

What is Wellness?

Wellness, on the other hand, is an active, ongoing journey towards optimal health and wellbeing. It's a proactive approach focused on making conscious choices that contribute to your overall health and happiness. It's not a destination, but a process of continuous growth and improvement. Think of it as a marathon, not a sprint.

Wellness encompasses several interconnected dimensions:

Physical Wellness: This involves taking care of your physical body through healthy eating, regular

exercise, sufficient sleep, and avoiding harmful substances.

Mental Wellness: This includes managing stress, cultivating positive self-talk, seeking help when needed, and engaging in activities that promote mental clarity and focus.

Emotional Wellness: This involves understanding and managing your emotions effectively, expressing your feelings healthily, and building resilience.

Social Wellness: This focuses on building and maintaining strong, healthy relationships with others and fostering a sense of belonging.

Spiritual Wellness: This involves exploring your values, beliefs, and purpose in life, connecting with something larger than yourself, and finding meaning and fulfillment.

Intellectual Wellness: This entails engaging in stimulating activities that challenge your mind, learning new things, and staying curious.

Occupational Wellness: This aspect focuses on finding fulfillment and satisfaction in your work or career, feeling valued, and having a positive work-life balance.

Environmental Wellness: This is about recognizing the impact your environment has on your wellbeing and taking steps to live sustainably and create a healthy living space.

Wellness is about consciously making choices that support each of these dimensions to achieve a state of overall harmony and balance.

The Key Difference: Proactive vs. Reactive

The core difference lies in their approach: wellbeing is a reactive assessment of your current state, while wellness is a proactive pursuit of optimal health. You can have high wellbeing without actively pursuing wellness, but actively pursuing wellness will, in the long run, significantly improve your wellbeing.

Imagine a car. Your wellbeing is the current condition of the car – is it running smoothly, or are there some warning lights on? Wellness is the regular maintenance – oil changes, tire rotations, etc. – that keeps the car running optimally. You might have a well-functioning car (high wellbeing) without regular maintenance, but regular maintenance (wellness) ensures the car runs smoothly for much longer.

Integrating Wellbeing and Wellness for a Fulfilling Life

Understanding the difference between wellbeing and wellness isn't about choosing one over the other; it's about integrating them. Regularly assessing your wellbeing provides valuable feedback, highlighting areas where you might need to focus your wellness efforts. For example, if your wellbeing is low due to stress, you might incorporate mindfulness practices or stress-reduction techniques into your wellness routine.

By actively pursuing wellness, you create a foundation for improved wellbeing. It's a cycle of continuous improvement, where your proactive wellness efforts positively impact your reactive wellbeing assessment.

Conclusion

The journey towards a healthier, happier life involves understanding and integrating both wellbeing and wellness. While wellbeing offers a snapshot of your current state, wellness provides the roadmap for improvement. By consciously nurturing the various dimensions of wellness, you lay the groundwork for consistent, elevated wellbeing. Remember, it's a journey, not a destination, so celebrate the small wins along the way!

FAQs

1. Can someone have high wellbeing but low wellness? Yes, absolutely. Someone might be happy in the moment (high wellbeing) but have unhealthy habits that could negatively impact their long-term health (low wellness).
1. Is wellness the same as self-care? While self-care is a crucial component of wellness, wellness is a broader concept encompassing more than just self-care practices. Self-care focuses on individual actions, while wellness encompasses a holistic approach to all aspects of life.
1. How often should I assess my wellbeing? Regular self-reflection is key. Consider taking a moment each week or month to honestly assess your current wellbeing across different areas of your life.
1. What if I don't know where to start with wellness? Start small! Choose one area of wellness to focus on, and gradually incorporate other aspects. Consistency is more important than perfection.
1. Can a therapist help me improve my wellbeing and wellness? Yes! A therapist can provide support and guidance in addressing any challenges you face and help you develop strategies for improving your wellbeing and wellness.

difference between wellbeing and wellness: Wellbeing: The Five Essential Elements Tom Rath, James K. Harter, 2010-05-04 Shows the interconnections among the elements of well-being, how they cannot be considered independently, and provides readers with a research-based approach to improving all aspects of their lives.

difference between wellbeing and wellness: The Handbook of Wellness Medicine Waguih William IsHak, 2020-08-20 This book presents scientific wellness interventions to aid healthcare professionals helping people complete their journeys to full health.

difference between wellbeing and wellness: Subjective Well-Being Panel on Measuring Subjective Well-Being in a Policy-Relevant Framework, Committee on National Statistics, Division on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, National Research Council, 2014-01-01 Subjective well-being refers to how people experience and evaluate their lives and specific domains and activities in their lives. This information has already proven valuable to researchers, who have produced insights about the emotional states and experiences of people belonging to different groups, engaged in different activities, at different points in the life course, and involved in different family and community structures. Research has also revealed relationships between people's self-reported, subjectively assessed states and their behavior and decisions. Research on subjective well-being has been ongoing for decades, providing new information about the human condition. During the past decade, interest in the topic among policy makers, national statistical offices, academic researchers, the media, and the public has increased markedly because of its potential for shedding light on the economic, social, and health conditions of populations and for informing policy decisions across these domains. Subjective Well-Being: Measuring Happiness, Suffering, and Other Dimensions of Experience explores the use of this measure in population surveys. This report reviews the current state of research and evaluates methods for the measurement. In this report, a range of potential experienced well-being data applications are cited, from cost-benefit studies of health care delivery to commuting and transportation planning, environmental valuation, and outdoor recreation resource monitoring, and even to assessment of end-of-life treatment options. Subjective Well-Being finds that, whether used to assess the consequence of people's situations and policies that might affect them or to explore determinants of outcomes, contextual and covariate data are needed alongside the subjective well-being measures. This report offers guidance about adopting subjective well-being measures in official government surveys to inform social and economic policies and considers whether research has advanced to a point which warrants the federal government collecting data that allow aspects of the population's subjective well-being to be tracked and associated with changing conditions.

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difference between wellbeing and wellness: Wellbeing, Recovery and Mental Health Mike Slade, Lindsay Oades, Aaron Jarden, 2017-02-01 This book brings together two bodies of knowledge - wellbeing and recovery. Wellbeing and 'positive' approaches are increasingly influencing many areas of society. Recovery in mental illness has a growing empirical evidence base. For the first time, overlaps and cross-fertilisation opportunities between the two bodies of knowledge are identified. International experts present innovations taking place within the mental health system, which include wellbeing-informed new therapies, e-health approaches and peer-led recovery communities. State-of-the-art applications of wellbeing to the wider community are also described, across education, employment, parenting and city planning. This book will be of interest to anyone connected with the mental health system, especially people using and working in services, and clinical and administrators leaders, and those interested in using research from the mental health system in the wider community.

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becoming increasingly hard to balance professional and private lives, and this takes its toll. The authors examine the working relationship between the organisation and employee, and establish new ways that managers can broker a better deal for all concerned.

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difference between wellbeing and wellness: *Encyclopedia of Quality of Life and Well-Being Research* Alex C. Michalos, 2014-02-12 The aim of this encyclopedia is to provide a comprehensive reference work on scientific and other scholarly research on the quality of life, including health-related quality of life research or also called patient-reported outcomes research. Since the 1960s two overlapping but fairly distinct research communities and traditions have developed concerning ideas about the quality of life, individually and collectively, one with a fairly narrow focus on health-related issues and one with a quite broad focus. In many ways, the central issues of these fields have roots extending to the observations and speculations of ancient philosophers, creating a continuous exploration by diverse explorers in diverse historic and cultural circumstances over several centuries of the qualities of human existence. What we have not had so far is a single, multidimensional reference work connecting the most salient and important contributions to the relevant fields. Entries are organized alphabetically and cover basic concepts, relatively well established facts, lawlike and causal relations, theories, methods, standardized tests, biographic entries on significant figures, organizational profiles, indicators and indexes of qualities of individuals and of communities of diverse sizes, including rural areas, towns, cities, counties, provinces, states, regions, countries and groups of countries.

difference between wellbeing and wellness: *Wellbeing at Work* Jim Clifton, Jim Harter, 2021-06-01 What if the next global crisis is a mental health pandemic? It is here now. One-third of Americans have shown signs of clinical anxiety or depression, and the current state of suffering globally has risen significantly. The mental health pandemic manifests everywhere, not least in your workplace. As organizations around the world face health and social crises, as well as economic uncertainty, acknowledging and improving wellbeing in your workplace is more critical than ever. Increasingly, leaders and managers must support mental health and cultivate resilience in employees — not just increase engagement and performance. Based on more than 100 million Gallup global interviews, Wellbeing at Work shows you how to do just that. Coauthored by Gallup's CEO and its Chief Workplace Scientist, Wellbeing at Work explores the five key elements of wellbeing —

career, social, financial, physical and community — and how organizations can help employees and teams thrive in those elements. The book also gives leaders ideas and action items to help employees use their innate talents and strengths to thrive in each of the wellbeing elements. And Wellbeing at Work introduces a metric to report a person's best possible life: Gallup Net Thriving, which will become the "other stock price" for organizations. In a world where work and life are more blended than ever, maximizing employee wellbeing takes on greater urgency. Wellbeing at Work shows leaders how to create a thriving and resilient culture. If you and your leaders don't change the world, who will? Wellbeing at Work includes a unique code to take the CliftonStrengths assessment, which reveals your top five strengths.

difference between wellbeing and wellness: Fostering Wellness in the Workplace Bobbi L. Newman, 2022-01-24 Whether you're an administrator or library leader concerned about the health and well-being of your team, or a library worker excited to launch a health and wellness movement in your library, you'll find sensible guidance and inspiration in Newman's handbook. As part of their dedication to improving the lives of their patrons, libraries have long offered services, programs, and outreach dedicated to the health and wellness of their communities. There is a growing recognition that library workers themselves are in urgent need of such attention; low morale, and complaints of burnout and a toxic work environment, are only a few of the obvious symptoms. The good news is that by turning inward, libraries can foster wellness in their workplace and make a real difference in the day-to-day lives of their staff. Newman, who has led a popular course on the subject attended by workers from many types of different libraries, here takes a holistic approach to examine why and how libraries should focus on improving the health and wellness of employees. Filled with hands-on advice, examples of successful initiatives, and suggested action steps, in this book readers will learn how to define health and wellness, including its physical, psychological, and social aspects, and why they touch upon nearly everything that happens in the workplace; what a workplace looks like when it strives to ensure the complete physical, mental, and social well-being of workers, and the ways in which this approach to a work environment benefits both the library and the community it serves; the role played by the physical aspects of the workplace, such as the ergonomics of sitting and standing desks, the effects of air quality and smell on worker health and productivity, and noise levels stemming from open plan workspaces; about key policies relating to wages, working schedules, where employees work, and child and elder care; real-world advice on addressing complicated workplace issues like emotional and invisible labor, with a look at the part that burdensome or indifferent policies and practices can play in contributing to compassion fatigue and burnout; ways to make healthy choices for oneself and encourage healthy choices in co-workers and staff; concrete, evidence-based steps that libraries can take to improve workplace wellness; how to make a lasting difference by focusing on one aspect they can change personally and one that they can advocate changing library wide.

difference between wellbeing and wellness: Culture and Subjective Well-Being Edward Diener, Eunkook M. Suh, 2003-01-24 The question of what constitutes the good life has been pondered for millennia. Yet only in the last decades has the study of well-being become a scientific endeavor. This book is based on the idea that we can empirically study quality of life and make cross-society comparisons of subjective well-being (SWB). A potential problem in studying SWB across societies is that of cultural relativism: if societies have different values, the members of those societies will use different criteria in evaluating the success of their society. By examining, however, such aspects of SWB as whether people believe they are living correctly, whether they enjoy their lives, and whether others important to them believe they are living well, SWB can represent the degree to which people in a society are achieving the values they hold dear. The contributors analyze SWB in relation to money, age, gender, democracy, and other factors. Among the interesting findings is that although wealthy nations are on average happier than poor ones, people do not get happier as a wealthy nation grows wealthier.

difference between wellbeing and wellness: Wellbeing in Educational Contexts University of Southern Queensland, 2023

difference between wellbeing and wellness: *Happiness: A Very Short Introduction* Daniel M. Haybron, 2013-08-29 Most of us spend our lives striving for happiness. But what is it? How important is it? How can we (and should we) pursue it? In this Very Short Introduction Dan Haybron provides a comprehensive look at the nature of happiness. By using examples, Haybron considers how we measure happiness, what makes us happy, and considers its subjective nature.

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difference between wellbeing and wellness: *A Design Thinking, Systems Approach to Well-Being Within Education and Practice* National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Health and Medicine Division, Board on Global Health, Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education, 2019-04-04 The mental health and well-being of health professionals is a topic that is broad, exceptionally relevant, and urgent to address. It is both a local and a global issue, and affects professionals in all stages of their careers. To explore this topic, the Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education held a 1.5 day workshop. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.

difference between wellbeing and wellness: *Mental Health, Substance Use, and Wellbeing in Higher Education* National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Health and Medicine Division, Policy and Global Affairs, Board on Health Sciences Policy, Board on Higher Education and Workforce, Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use, and Wellbeing in STEMM Undergraduate and Graduate Education, 2021-03-05 Student wellbeing is foundational to academic success. One recent survey of postsecondary educators found that nearly 80 percent believed emotional wellbeing is a very or extremely important factor in student success. Studies have found the dropout rates for students with a diagnosed mental health problem range from 43 percent to as high as 86 percent. While dealing with stress is a normal part of life, for some students, stress can adversely affect their physical, emotional, and psychological health, particularly given that adolescence and early adulthood are when most mental illnesses are first manifested. In addition to students who may develop mental health challenges during their time in postsecondary education, many students arrive on campus with a mental health problem or having experienced significant trauma in their lives, which can also negatively affect physical, emotional, and psychological wellbeing. The nation's institutions of higher education are seeing increasing levels of mental illness, substance use and other forms of emotional distress among their students. Some of the problematic trends have been ongoing for decades. Some have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic consequences. Some are the result of long-festering systemic racism in almost every sphere of American life that are becoming more widely acknowledged throughout society and must, at last, be addressed. *Mental Health, Substance Use, and Wellbeing in Higher Education* lays out a variety of possible strategies and approaches to meet increasing demand for mental health and substance use services, based on the available evidence on the nature of the issues and what works in various situations. The recommendations of this report will support the delivery of mental health and wellness services by the nation's institutions of higher education.

difference between wellbeing and wellness: *The Palgrave Handbook of Positive Education* Margaret L. Kern, 2021 The approaches outlined in this volume will help expand the narrow focus on academic success to include psychological well-being for students and educators alike. It is a must-read for anyone interested in how positive outcomes such as life satisfaction, positive emotion, and meaning and purpose can be optimized in the educational settings. -- Judith Moskowitz, PhD MPH, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, USA, IPPA President 2019-2021 This open access handbook provides a comprehensive overview of the growing field of positive education,

featuring a broad range of theoretical, applied, and practice-focused chapters from leading international experts. It demonstrates how positive education offers an approach to understanding learning that blends academic study with life skills such as self-awareness, emotion regulation, healthy mindsets, mindfulness, and positive habits, grounded in the science of wellbeing, to promote character development, optimal functioning, engagement in learning, and resilience. The handbook offers an in-depth understanding and critical consideration of the relevance of positive psychology to education, which encompasses its theoretical foundations, the empirical findings, and the existing educational applications and interventions. The contributors situate wellbeing science within the broader framework of education, considering its implications for teacher training, education and developmental psychology, school administration, policy making, pedagogy, and curriculum studies. This landmark collection will appeal to researchers and practitioners working in positive psychology, educational and school psychology, developmental psychology, education, counselling, social work, and public policy. Margaret (Peggy) L. Kern is Associate Professor at the Centre for Positive Psychology at the University of Melbourne's Graduate School of Education, Australia. Dr Kern is Founding Chair of the Education Division of the International Positive Psychology Association (IPPA). You can find out more about Dr Kern's work at www.peggykern.org. Michael L. Wehmeyer is Ross and Mariana Beach Distinguished Professor of Special Education; Chair of the Department of Special Education; and Director and Senior Scientist, Beach Center on Disability, at the University of Kansas, United States. Dr Wehmeyer is Publications Lead for the Education Division of the International Positive Psychology Association (IPPA). He has published more than 450 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters and is an author or editor of 42 texts. .

difference between wellbeing and wellness: *No Sweat* Michelle Segar, 2015-06-10 Do you secretly hate exercising? Struggle to stick with a program? Millions of people try and fail to stay fit. But what if exercising is the real problem, not you? Motivation scientist and behavior expert Michelle Segar translates years of research on exercise and motivation into a simple four-point program that will empower you to break the cycle of exercise failure once and for all. You'll discover why you should forget about willpower and stop gritting your teeth through workouts you hate. Instead, you'll become motivated from the inside out and start to crave physical activity. In *No Sweat*, Segar will help you find: A step-by-step program for staying encouraged to exercise Pleasure in physical activity Realistic ways to fit fitness into your life The success of the clients Segar has coached testifies to the power of her program. Their stories punctuate the book, entertaining and emboldening you to break the cycle of exercise failure once and for all. Practical, proven, and loaded with inspiring stories, *No Sweat* makes getting fit easier--and more fun--than you ever imagined. Get ready to embrace an active lifestyle that you'll love!

difference between wellbeing and wellness: *The Science of Well-being* Felicia A. Huppert, Nick Baylis, Barry Keverne, 2005 How much do we know about what makes people thrive and societies flourish? While a vast body of research has been dedicated to understanding problems and disorders, we know remarkably little about the positive aspects of life, the things that make life worth living. This landmark volume heralds the emergence of a new field of science that endeavours to understand how individuals and societies thrive and flourish, and how this new knowledge can be applied to foster happiness, health and fulfillment, and institutions that encourage the development of these qualities. Taking a dynamic, cross-disciplinary approach, it sets out to explore the most promising routes to well-being, derived from the latest research in psychology, neuroscience, social science, economics and the effects of our natural environment. Designed for a general readership, this volume is of compelling interest to all those in the social, behavioural and biomedical sciences, the caring professions and policy makers. It provides a stimulating overview for any reader with a serious interest in the latest insights and strategies for enhancing our individual well-being, or the well-being of the communities in which we live and work.

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difference between wellbeing and wellness: The Power of Habit Charles Duhigg, 2012-02-28
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • This instant classic explores how we can change our lives by changing our habits. NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The Wall Street Journal • Financial Times In *The Power of Habit*, award-winning business reporter Charles Duhigg takes us to the thrilling edge of scientific discoveries that explain why habits exist and how they can be changed. Distilling vast amounts of information into engrossing narratives that take us from the boardrooms of Procter & Gamble to the sidelines of the NFL to the front lines of the civil rights movement, Duhigg presents a whole new understanding of human nature and its potential. At its core, *The Power of Habit* contains an exhilarating argument: The key to exercising regularly, losing weight, being more productive, and achieving success is understanding how habits work. As Duhigg shows, by harnessing this new science, we can transform our businesses, our communities, and our lives. With a new Afterword by the author "Sharp, provocative, and useful."—Jim Collins "Few [books] become essential manuals for business and living. *The Power of Habit* is an exception. Charles Duhigg not only explains how habits are formed but how to kick bad ones and hang on to the good."—Financial Times "A flat-out great read."—David Allen, bestselling author of *Getting Things Done: The Art of Stress-Free Productivity* "You'll never look at yourself, your organization, or your world quite the same way."—Daniel H. Pink, bestselling author of *Drive* and *A Whole New Mind* "Entertaining . . . enjoyable . . . fascinating . . . a serious look at the science of habit formation and change."—The New York Times Book Review

difference between wellbeing and wellness: Workplace Wellness Programs Study Soeren Mattke, Hangsheng Liu, John P. Caloyeras, Christina Y. Huang, Kristin R. Van Busum, 2013 The report investigates the characteristics of workplace wellness programs, their prevalence and impact on employee health and medical cost, facilitators of their success, and the role of incentives in such programs. The authors employ four data collection and analysis streams: a literature review, a survey of employers, a longitudinal analysis of medical claims and wellness program data from a sample of employers, and five employer case studies.

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be well. If we are emotionally, socially, or spiritually sick, we are not well. When people ask how we are doing, we want to be able to say, I'm well!- and mean it in every way. We want to be emotionally, financially, intellectually, socially, and spiritually well, in addition to being physically well. In this book you will learn: A mindset of growth, possibility, and positivity? To let go of the clutter that holds you back? The value of, and the tools to achieve financial freedom? Leveraging the power of owning your own business? The advantage of nonstop learning and how you can take implement this powerful mindset with your current busy schedule? The power and value of kindness? Practical application guidance for Millennials, Gen Xers, and Baby Boomers for each of the 8 dimensions of wellness. In short, we will explore how you can grow personally beyond anything you've imagined if you'll make The Wellness 8 a focus in your life.

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difference between wellbeing and wellness: U.S. Health in International Perspective National Research Council, Institute of Medicine, Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, Committee on Population, Panel on Understanding Cross-National Health Differences Among High-Income Countries, 2013-04-12 The United States is among the wealthiest nations in the world, but it is far from the healthiest. Although life expectancy and survival rates in the United States have improved dramatically over the past century, Americans live shorter lives and experience more injuries and illnesses than people in other high-income countries. The U.S. health disadvantage cannot be attributed solely to the adverse health status of racial or ethnic minorities or poor people: even highly advantaged Americans are in worse health than their counterparts in other, peer countries. In light of the new and growing evidence about the U.S. health disadvantage, the National Institutes of Health asked the National Research Council (NRC) and the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to convene a panel of experts to study the issue. The Panel on Understanding Cross-National Health Differences Among High-Income Countries examined whether the U.S. health disadvantage exists across the life span, considered potential explanations, and assessed the larger implications of the findings. U.S. Health in International Perspective presents detailed evidence on the issue, explores the possible explanations for the shorter and less healthy lives of Americans than those of people in comparable countries, and recommends actions by both government and nongovernment agencies and organizations to address the U.S. health disadvantage.

difference between wellbeing and wellness: The Science of Subjective Well-Being Michael Eid, Randy J. Larsen, 2008-01-01 This authoritative volume reviews the breadth of current scientific knowledge on subjective well-being (SWB): its definition, causes and consequences, measurement,

and practical applications that may help people become happier. Leading experts explore the connections between SWB and a range of intrapersonal and interpersonal phenomena, including personality, health, relationship satisfaction, wealth, cognitive processes, emotion regulation, religion, family life, school and work experiences, and culture. Interventions and practices that enhance SWB are examined, with attention to both their benefits and limitations. The concluding chapter from Ed Diener dispels common myths in the field and presents a thoughtful agenda for future research.

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