



Happiness Explained: Human Flourishing and Global Progress

By Paul Anand

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What is human happiness and how can we promote it?

These questions are central to human existence and Happiness Explained draws on scientific research from economics, psychology, and philosophy, as well as a range of other disciplines, to outline a new paradigm in which human flourishing plays a central role in the assessment of national and global progress. It shows why the traditional national income approach is limited as a measure of human wellbeing and demonstrates how the contributors to happiness, wellbeing, and quality of life can be measured and understood across the human life course. Discussing wide-ranging aspects, from parenting, decent employment, friendship, education, and health in old age, through to money, autonomy, and fairness, as well as personal strategies and governmental policies used in the pursuit of happiness, it offers a science-based understanding of human flourishing.

Written by an economist involved in helping governmental organisations move 'beyond GDP', Happiness Explained shows how a wide range of factors that contribute to better and happier lives and how, together, they provide a new blueprint for the assessment of progress in terms of personal wellbeing.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Paul Anand's brilliant book on happiness is also a fine contribution to the ethical foundations of economics. It combines exceptional lucidity with analytical rigour, and shows that the so-called dismal science need not be dismal at all."

-- Amartya Sen, Thomas W. Lamont University Professor, and Professor of Economics and Philosophy, Harvard University

"Economists are usually shy about happiness. Paul Anand is not. He writes with verve and clarity about ways to understand, measure and promote human happiness... a readable and intriguing guide to what ought to be - but rarely is - one of the most important policy issues for any government."

--Frances Cairncross

"A helpful introduction for beginners to the current state of happiness research"

-- *Choice*

About the Author

Paul Anand is an economist involved in helping governmental organizations move beyond GDP. He has held posts at Oxford University where he obtained his doctorate on the foundations of rational choice. He has written extensively on quality of life issues through research funded by the Leverhulme Trust and the Arts and Humanities Research Board. He has contributed to a number of journal boards including the *Journal of Economic Psychology*, and been a member of research commissioning panels for the ESRC and NHS. He also has long standing interests in the utilization of research having worked closely for a number of years with the Statistics Directorate of the OECD and the UK Office of National Statistics Task force. He is a professor of Economics Decision Sciences and Philosophy at the Open University and a research associate in Oxford University and the LSE. He has been a founder of the Oxford Foundation for Knowledge Exchange and is a Fellow of the Human Capability and Development Association.

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