Can You Learn Yourself Happy?

Research Paper

Leite, Â., Costa, A., Dias, P. C., & Veenhoven, R. (2024). The Effect of Education in Happiness: Lower at the Micro Level of Individuals than at the Macro Level of Nations. In Humanistic Perspectives in Happiness Research (pp. 141-160). Springer International Publishing



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Overview

This study explores the influence of education on happiness at both the micro and macro levels, showing a strong correlation between average education and happiness at the national level, but a weaker relationship within individual countries.

Key Findings

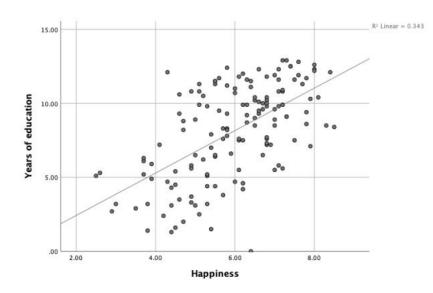
Macro-level (nations): Average education levels strongly correlated with average happiness (r = +0.59). Micro-level (individuals): Education and happiness within countries had a weaker correlation (r = +0.09). More educated nations may foster more inclusive values, boosting overall well-being and reducing disparities.

Methods

The study analyzed data from 147 nations and correlated average education levels with average happiness levels. Individual-level analysis examined the years of schooling and their effects on subjective well-being.

Results

Macro-level plot of happiness across countries





Implications

The study suggests that while education has a modest direct impact on individual happiness, educated societies benefit from shared progressive values, leading to higher overall happiness. In short, we all benefit from our 'country smarts'!?

Insight

For local relevance, focus on individual and cultural contexts when considering the effects of education. Remember that education still delivers essential benefits like life choices and improved critical thinking.