Social Sciences: Sociology, Quality of Life Research, Well-Being, Social Justice, International Relations, Development Studies, Economic Development, Innovation and Growth

Cornelia C. Walther - University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Handbook of Quality of Life and Social Change

Individual and Collective Paths

- Looks at change vis-à-vis the material and non-material components of quality of life across contexts
- Represents a vast diversity in authorship as well as region
- Includes combined access to online course materials

This handbook provides an extensive overview of the links between quality of life and social change as pursued in not only humanitarian and development work, but also in the private sector and academia. It combines theoretical and practice-focused chapters and addresses socio-economic, environmental, and political/governance aspects as well as communication and human behavioural factors that favour or hamper social change dynamics. The handbook showcases vast diversity both in the authorship—which includes practitioners from a wide range of sectors and academics from various disciplines—as well in geographical contexts and regions. The chapters cover a wide range methods and tools, which facilitate an inclusive understanding of the relationship between quality of life and social change. They show connections between micro (individual) changes and the dynamics that derive from them at the meso (community), macro (country) and meta levels (planet) of quality of life, and the social change processes sustained through time. The chapters demonstrate that quality of life and social change mutually condition and nurture each other. The handbook overall provides a holistic perspective to social change processes that includes both material and non-material aspects relating to quality of life. This comprehensive and one-of-a-kind volume is of interest to a wide readership, from students and researchers of social development, quality of life and wellbeing research, to development workers, policy makers and other government officials. The handbook is bundled with an interactive online course.

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