



## **ASSESSMENT OF PERCEPTION INDICATORS FOR THE REQUIREMENTS OF SATISFYING QUALITY OF LIFE IN HILLA CITY**

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This research included the study of perception indicators for the satisfying quality of life requirements which are ,the knowledge and skill, healthy environment, social adjustment, and adequate income. This assessment had been achieved to different groups of Hilla city society. Questioner and personal interview methods had been used to collect the evaluating data.

**Keywords:** Quality of Life, knowledge, skills, healthy environment, social adjustment.

### **First: Introduction and Research Aim**

The planning and developing any city is concerned with the human and social elements in relation to the built environment. Quality of life encompasses the fulfillment of all human needs such as a satisfactory standard of material life, health, education, security, the satisfaction of living in a clean environment as well as the enjoyment of the aesthetic and the spiritual.

In short, it relates to the general well-being of the populace. For governments the responsibility in bringing about a high quality of life is in ensuring that, inter alia, the necessary infrastructure of utilities and amenities, the institutions of social organization and governance that permits an acceptable level of individual expression and choice, are in place. For the individual, a prerequisite of a good quality of life is an adequate income, sufficient to permit access to the facilities that the city can provide(Omar, Dasimah Bt,2009).

Quality of life, which has gained prominence in social research study since the 1970s, is a broad concept concerned with overall well-being within society. Its aim is to enable people, as far as possible, to achieve their goals and choose their ideal lifestyle. In that sense, the quality of life concept goes beyond the living conditions approach, which tends to focus on the material resources available to individuals(European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, 2004). Three major characteristics are associated with the quality of life concept (Fahey, Nolan and Whelan, 2003):

1. Quality of life refers to individuals' life situations. The concept requires a micro perspective, where the conditions and perceptions of individuals play a key role. Macroscopic features relating to the economic and social situation of a society are important for putting the findings at individual level into their proper context, but they do not take centre stage.

2. Quality of life is a multi-dimensional concept. As noted above, the notion of quality and the consideration of several areas of life broaden the narrower focus on income and material conditions which prevails in other approaches. Multi-dimensionality not only requires the description of several life domains, but emphasizes the interplay between domains as this contributes to quality of life.
3. Quality of life is measured by objective as well as subjective indicators. Subjective and attitudinal perceptions are of particular relevance in identifying individual goals and orientations. Individual perceptions and evaluations are most valuable when these subjective evaluations are linked to objective living conditions. Applying both ways of measuring quality of life gives a more complete picture.

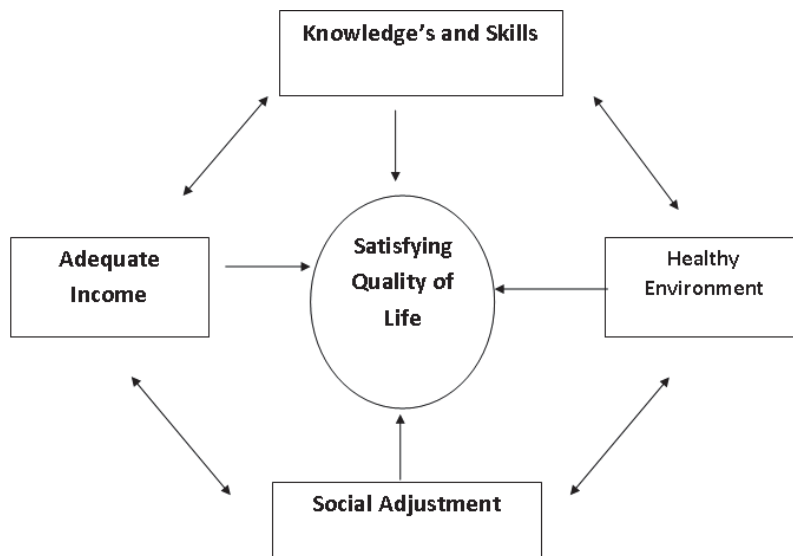
In the recent period, the demand for the quality of life studies had been increased because of the deterioration in its requirements for the various communities, whether developed or developing. The most important requirements of satisfying quality of life are as follows(Purdam, P. Walton and Anderson, Stanley H. , 1980) :

- Knowledge's and Skills
- Healthy Environment
- Social Adjustment
- Adequate Income

These requirements are linked with each other interactively, each one affect the other , and affected by the other and its impact on quality of life. The installation of these requirements with each respective interest rates will guide us to quality of life index.

Figure (1) illustrates the nature of the relationship between the requirements of satisfying quality of life:

Because of the difference made in these requirements at the level of the world in general, and on the level of Iraq in particular ,and to explain the perception indicators to these requirements in Iraq cities, Hilla city has been studied as a case study as its proximity from workplace of the researcher and similarity with most cities in Iraq.



**Figure 1.** The nature of the relationship between the requirements of satisfying quality of Life.

**Second: Research Methodology**

For the purpose of achieving the aim of the research above, use the style of the questionnaire and the personal interview to the groups of the community in Hilla city. Questionnaire and interviews for the three groups during 2012:

- a Technological group
- b Medical Group
- c Management group

I have been a questionnaire and interview twenty people per group. These aggregates are employed in the public sector (state officials) are holders of bachelor's degree or above and functional service of not less than twenty years. That the scientific level and the the long functional service will help workers to give a picture of of perception indicators for the satisfying quality life requirements. And has been the demand of these distribution (40) points on four requirements in their city so that represents the value of points given the importance of each requirement and so the total points given to the requirements of the four is (40) points, inevitably, in the case of equal importance is given each requirement (10) points.( Alanbari, Mohammad Ali, 2000).

**Third: Results of the Questionnaire**

I've been compiling the results of the questionnaire to the three community groups and the four requirements of satisfying quality of life as it is in table (1).

**Table 1.** The total number of points have been distributed by various community groups on the four requirements of satisfying quality of life in Hilla city. (Researcher).

| No. | Requirements of Satisfying Quality of Life | Technological Group Points | Medical Group Points | Management Group Points | Total points |
|-----|--|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1   | Knowledge's and Skills                     | 147                        | 205                  | 99                      | 451          |
| 2   | Healthy Environment                        | 73                         | 124                  | 200                     | 397          |
| 3   | Social Adjustment                          | 85                         | 86                   | 145                     | 316          |
| 4   | Adequate Income                            | 495                        | 385                  | 356                     | 1236         |
|     | Total points                               | 800                        | 800                  | 800                     | 2400         |

**Forth: Analysis of the Results of the Questionnaire**

Table 1 above can be converted from points distributed by community groups to interest rates horizontally and vertically and as in Table (2):

**Table 2.** Distribution of the interest rates of various community groups to the four requirements of satisfying quality of life in Hilla city. ( Researcher).

| No. | Requirements of Satisfying Quality of Life | Technological Group points | Medical Group points | Management Group points |
|-----|--|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1   | Knowledge's and skills                     | 0.33<br>0.18               | 0.45<br>0.26         | 0.22<br>0.12            |
| 2   | Healthy Environment                        | 0.19<br>0.09               | 0.31<br>0.15         | 0.50<br>0.25            |
| 3   | Social Adjustment                          | 0.27<br>0.11               | 0.27<br>0.11         | 0.46<br>0.18            |
| 4   | Adequate income                            | 0.40<br>0.62               | 0.31<br>0.48         | 0.29<br>0.45            |

These interest rates included in table (2) above, may represent the perception indicators of the society to the requirements of satisfying quality of life in Hilla city . Two kinds of analysis, horizontal and vertical analysis, can be conducted.

The horizontal analysis of the table (2) includes the study of the interest of three community groups for each individual requirement, and as follows:

- a Interesting rates of knowledge and skills distributed to (33%) for the technological group ,(45%) for the medical group, and (22%) for the management group.
- b Interesting rates of healthy environment distributed to (19%) for the technological group, (31%) for the medical group and (50%) for the management group.
- c Interesting rates of social adjustment distributed to (27%) for the technological and medical groups and (46%) for the management group.
- d Interesting rates of adequate income distributed to (40%) for the technological group, (31%) for the medical group and (29%) for the management group.

The vertical analysis of the table (2) includes the study of the interest of each group of community for the four requirements, and as follows:

- a Interesting rates of technological group distributed among the four requirements as follow: (18%) to knowledge and skills , (9%) to healthy environment, (11%) to social adjustment , and (62%) to adequate income.
- b Interesting rates of medical group distributed among the four requirements as follow: (26%) to knowledge and skills , (15%) to healthy environment, (11%) to social adjustment , and (48%) to adequate income.
- c Interesting rates of management group distributed among the four requirements as follow: (12%) to knowledge and skills , (25%) to healthy environment, (18%) to social adjustment , and (45%) to adequate income.

## **Fifth: Research Conclusions and Recommendations**

### **A. Conclusions**

It may be obvious conclude that:

1. Technological group gave the highest attention to adequate income, both in comparison with the rest of the groups (horizontal analysis) or compared with the rest of the requirements of satisfying quality of life (vertical analysis) in Hilla city.
2. Medical group gave less interest for for social adjustment, whether compared with the management group (horizontal analysis), or compared with the rest of the requirements of satisfying quality of life ( vertical analysis), in Hilla city.
3. Management group gave the highest attention to healthy environment, both in comparison with the rest of the groups (horizontal analysis) or compared with the rest of the requirements of satisfying quality of life (vertical analysis) in Hilla city.
4. The three groups gave different interest rates but not spaced to knowledge and skills both in comparison with the rest of the groups (horizontal analysis) or compared with the rest of requirements of satisfying quality of life (vertical analysis) in Hilla city.

### **B. Recommendations**

It may be useful to recommend:

- a At the level of perception assessment to the requirements of satisfying quality of life, we see the need to expand the case study ranges to include other groups of society as well as to include other cities of Iraq.
- b At the level of standardization requirements of satisfying quality of life, we see the need for scientific institutions and professional adoption process of measuring periodically (every year, for example) to these requirements and presented to the community in form of quality of life index, and take advantage of the the perception indicators( interest rates) of this research in installed this index.

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