

Social Capital Index

The concept of social capital is increasingly valued by scholars and governments around the world. While material infrastructure and human resources are recognized as conditions for sustainable economic development, decision-makers have realized that this alone is not sufficient. Continued economic development requires a mature social infrastructure. This social infrastructure refers to the social capital stored in a place, including social systems, norms, and interpersonal relationships. Social infrastructure not only affects the quality of economic relationships but also determines the cohesion of a society, enabling economic activities to continue developing in a favorable social and political environment.

The Role of Churches in the Community

Community resilience refers to the ability of a community to mobilize and utilize its comprehensive resources, gifts, and capacities to respond to and withstand adverse environments. Every church in a community has its opportunities and calling to be a catalyst for community transformation.

1. Promoting community cohesion - Churches are called to love their neighbors and live out their faith.
2. Collaborative construction - The responsibility of the church is to explore and share community resources and collaborate together.
3. Advocating to different stakeholders within each community (e.g., churches, schools, businesses, residents), aiming to mobilize and increase their proactiveness:
 - a. The necessary resources and capacities to further enhance the flexibility and development of each community.
 - b. Strengthening resilience to face unexpected challenges.
4. Being a blessing to others - The church serves as an important example and encouragement, calling for the community to ignite love and bless one another.

From an individual or micro perspective:

- It refers to the economic resources, information, or opportunities that individuals gain through their social connections with others.

Relating to CNP mission

This is also part of the "empowered life" process in KABCD, promoting community cohesion, helping beneficiaries become helpers, allowing the Gospel to shape their lives, enabling

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them to discover their own value, empowering their lives, and building their resilience against challenges.

From a social, group, or macro perspective:

- Social capital refers to the norms, networks, and trust within a society or organization that promote collective action to achieve common interests.

Relate to CNP mission ¹

This is also part of the "preparation, resource discovery, and community mobilization" process in KABCD.

"Preparation" - Coordinate mutual understanding, build a network in the Lord.

"Resource discovery" - Establish core members, bring together individuals, churches, institutions, build relationships in the Lord, and formulate plans.

"Community mobilization" - Explore opportunities, mobilize social assets, respond to service gaps, and create community opportunities.

This enables every individual in your community to develop the ability to face and deal with their own problems and manage their lives, achieving holistic development of body, mind, society, and spirit. It also improves and transforms various aspects of the community, such as health, education, work, and relationships. It forms a strong network of individuals filled with gifts, talents, and various resources. Each person has their unique resources that can be combined to achieve comprehensive community development.

what is Spiritual Index

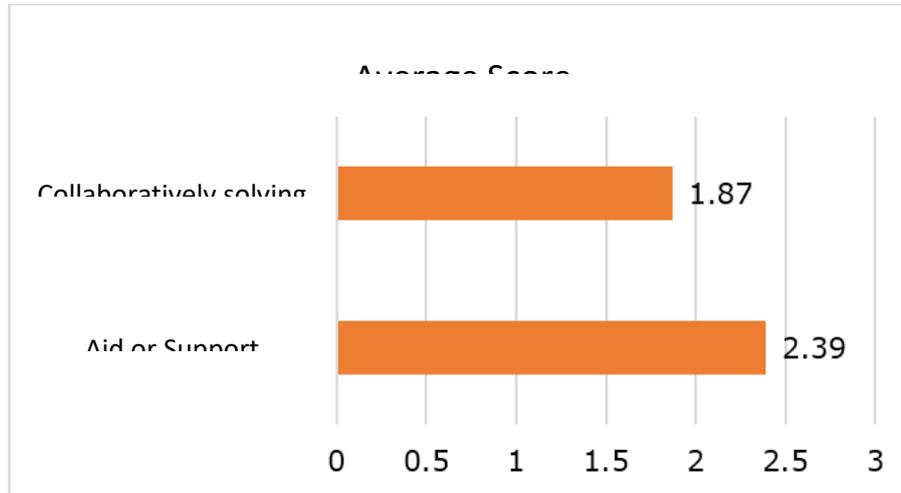
why is Spiritual Index and related index documented in professor Wong NT report

Structural social capital

refers to the observed external behaviors and actions of actors within a network.

In this study, we asked respondents whether they have received assistance or support from neighbors, community leaders, government officials, churches, or charitable/volunteer organizations (such as emotional or economic help) in the past 12 months. We also asked if they have collaborated with other community members to solve problems or address issues in the past 12 months. The scores for the above two questions were 2.39 and 1.87, respectively, on a scale of 1 (none at all) to 5 (a great deal).

¹ HKCNP, KABCD model

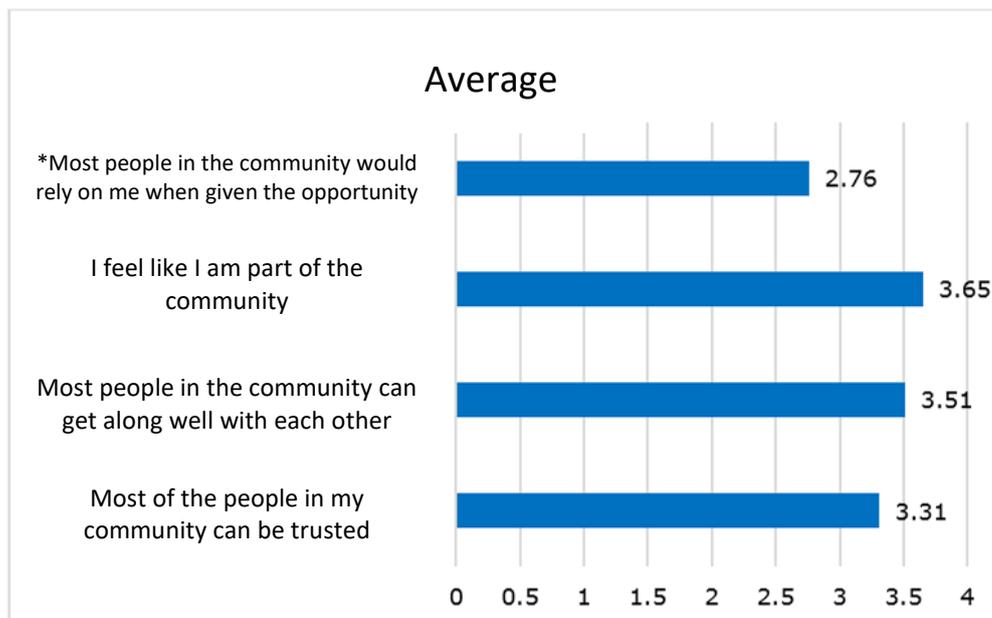


1= Not at all 2= Sometimes 3= Generally 4= More 5= A lot

Cognitive social capital

refers to the appreciation of the community/group at the cognitive level by its members.

In this study, we asked respondents how much they agreed or disagreed with the following statements:



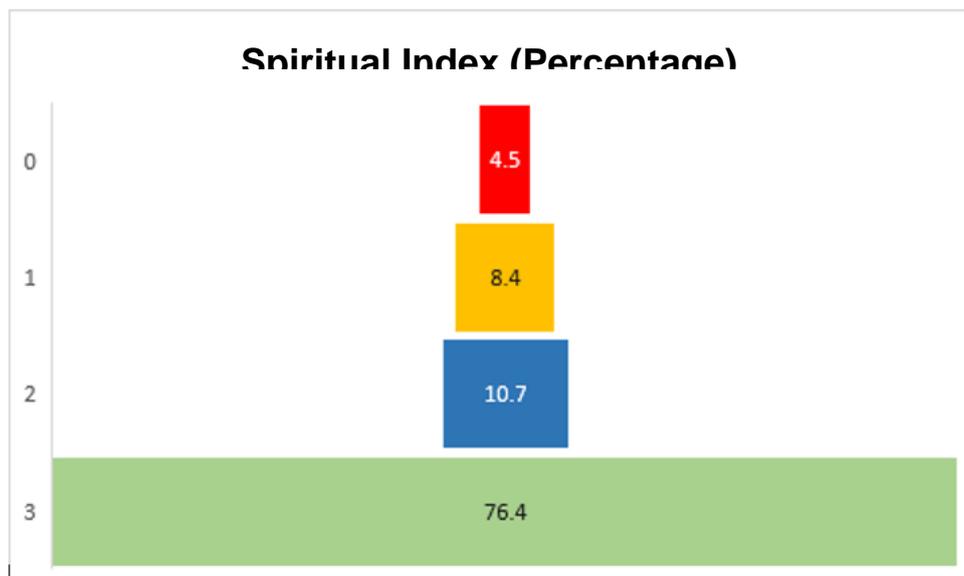
1= Completely Disagree 2= Disagree 3= Generally Disagree 4= Agree 5= Completely Agree

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Structural social capital influences cognitive social capital, and cognitive social capital is an important factor in the mental health and subjective well-being related to the community.

The church plays a crucial role in forming cognitive social capital. As the church enters and blesses the community, the Gospel allows people to understand God's love and connect with a group in society that is lacking and overlooked, thereby building lives and giving back to the community. This aligns with the Kingdom-focused community transformation model promoted by the church, aiming to establish teams through service, enter the community to build networks, and manifest the Kingdom in the community. Subjective well-being, as one of the important elements of cognitive social capital, can be calculated using a spiritual index as one of the measurement methods.

Spiritual Index



76.4% of respondents had a spiritual index of the highest level, which is 3 points. 10.7% had a score of 2, 8.4% had a score of 1, and 4.5% had a low score of 0. Since about 80% of the respondents had regular contact with churches in the northern district (either as church members or service users), their spiritual index may be higher compared to the general population in the northern district due to the influence of the church.

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In a previous survey conducted by the church, we found that individuals who had regular contact with the church (whether as church members or recipients of church care) generally had higher spiritual indexes compared to the average person. We classified the spiritual index into the following three points:

1. "Feeling inner peace"
2. "Feeling spiritually enriched"
3. "Being able to bless others"

When individuals experience these feelings for more than half of their daily lives, they are more likely to feel spiritually fulfilled and be able to share the gospel as a blessing to others. The following will combine the actual work of the church to explain how the church can improve the spiritual index of community residents through service.

"Feeling inner peace":

Through care and service to the community, the church allows those being served to experience love, connection, care, and compassion.

1. We thank God for His grace. During the community service work, especially during the pandemic, when neighbors faced economic difficulties, the church transitioned from serving meals in the church to distributing frozen meals, meeting the needs of the community, and distributing supplies. We walked alongside them, building genuine friendships, gradually inviting them to join small groups, worship with church sisters, learn the truth, and become part of God's family. When they learned about the church's volunteer assistance voucher program, they were encouraged to help others and participate in distributing supplies and visiting others in the church. We are delighted to see their active participation and their proactive care for the community. They express gratitude, saying that even without supermarket vouchers, they are willing to help at any time, doing something for others, which improves their own mood. In the past, they used to keep their thoughts to themselves, but now they can pray to God and share with their sisters. Although the situation may not necessarily be resolved or changed, they feel more comfortable after talking about it, and they feel understood by God and their sisters. Their whole being becomes more cheerful, and even their families have fewer conflicts. By participating in this program again, we see the volunteers being proactive and joyful, providing valuable suggestions to serve the community together. We feel grateful and blessed by the church, and we are happy to see a community full of mutual assistance, love, and support.

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"Feeling spiritually enriched":

Through the church's establishment and community connections, the individuals being served broaden their social networks and build self-image by serving others, leading to inner peace.

1. Seeing the satisfied and grateful expressions of those we help, we feel blessed and thankful. Helping others is a meaningful and fulfilling act!

2. Initially, I had some reservations when coming to the church to receive meals, unsure if everyone genuinely cared for me or if they just wanted me to take the food and leave. After a year of time and participating in various activities, I realized that everyone is genuinely kind-hearted. During the pandemic, the church continuously provided epidemic prevention supplies and fresh ingredients, and I was moved by this love. In the past, I felt lonely, only taking care of my children every day. Now, I have met a group of wonderful sisters.

Recently, I have become a volunteer at the church. In the past, I was a recipient, coming to the church to receive meals, but now I am someone who helps others by distributing meals to neighbors. My life has gained meaning.

3. These various forms of service repeatedly train their faith and communication skills, transforming them from being timid and hesitant to actively reaching out to others. Through the church's care, they become more willing to approach and trust others.

4. They are grateful for the satisfaction of self-affirmation. During the food distribution process, it seems like they are helping others, but in reality, they are helping themselves, gaining more confidence and bringing more joy to their hearts through teamwork.

"Being able to bless others":

Through empowered service, the individuals being served transition from recipients to helpers, expanding their perspectives, making their stories a blessing to others, and building a sense of accomplishment and self-image.

1. After becoming a volunteer, I have learned and experienced different things. Through distributing meals, participating in small groups, moving and visiting, I have learned how to cooperate with others, get along with people, and understand the church's operation. The most important thing I have experienced is the love of the Lord. It is not just about the crowded church; every person needs the love of the Lord. I hope to pass on this love, one person at a time. Even without supermarket vouchers in the future, I will continue to volunteer at the church. I am willing to spread this love.

2. Since childhood, I have been going to church with my parents. At the age of 26, I was diagnosed with tongue cancer. Through multiple surgeries, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy, I deeply understand the physical, mental, and spiritual needs of cancer patients. The Lord moved me to participate in the church's cancer care service group, "Joy Group," and I became a volunteer, walking alongside fellow patients.

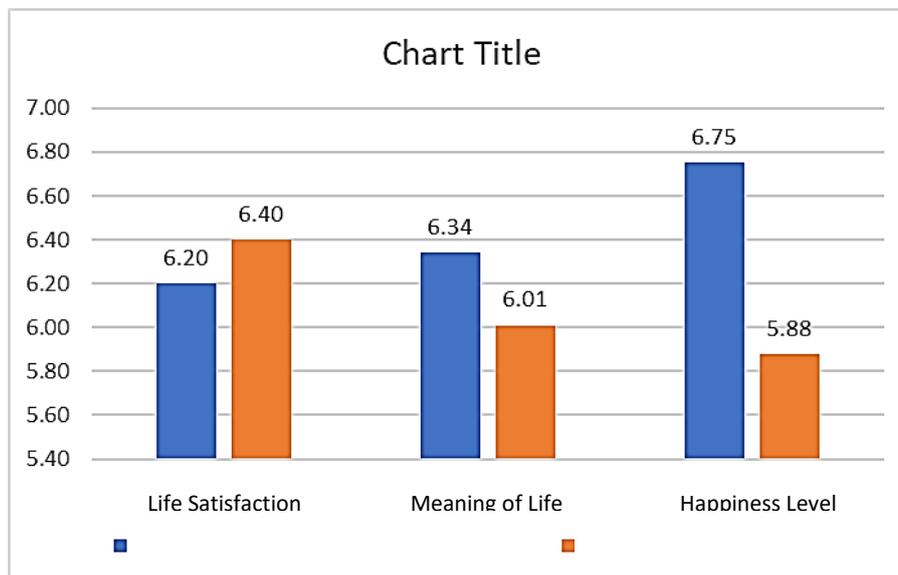
Now, I have no tongue or vocal cords and cannot speak, but God uses me as the group's pianist, playing gentle melodies that bring healing and comfort to the patients' souls. I also design posters for events, participate in preparations and event arrangements, and regularly visit those in need. Volunteering has helped me rebuild confidence, courage, and hope. I have a deeper understanding that fellow patients not only need care but also need to share their

experiences and difficulties with each other, resonate with one another, and journey together, knowing that they are not alone. We watch over each other and bless one another. The group started with three members and now has nearly 30. I am grateful for God's use, bringing comfort in times of suffering.

Respondents' Subjective Well-Being

On a scale from 0, being "not satisfied at all" to 10, being "extremely satisfied", we asked respondents how satisfied they are with their current life, how much value they think they have done with their lives, and whether they feel happy about yesterday.

In the North District Neighborhood Survey, the respondents' life satisfaction scored 6.20 points, which is slightly lower from the score CUHK's Centre for Quality of Life obtained in 2019, which was 6.40 points. Regarding the meaning of life, the respondents from the North District Neighborhood Survey scored 6.34, higher than the Hong Kong Adult Survey 2019, which was 6.01. Furthermore, their well-being index scored 6.75 points, compared to Hong Kong Adult Survey 2019, which was 5.88 points. It is possible that the respondents' life meaning and well-being level are connected with going to church compared to the general population. Additionally, the pandemic may have also contributed to the increased meaning of life and well-being.

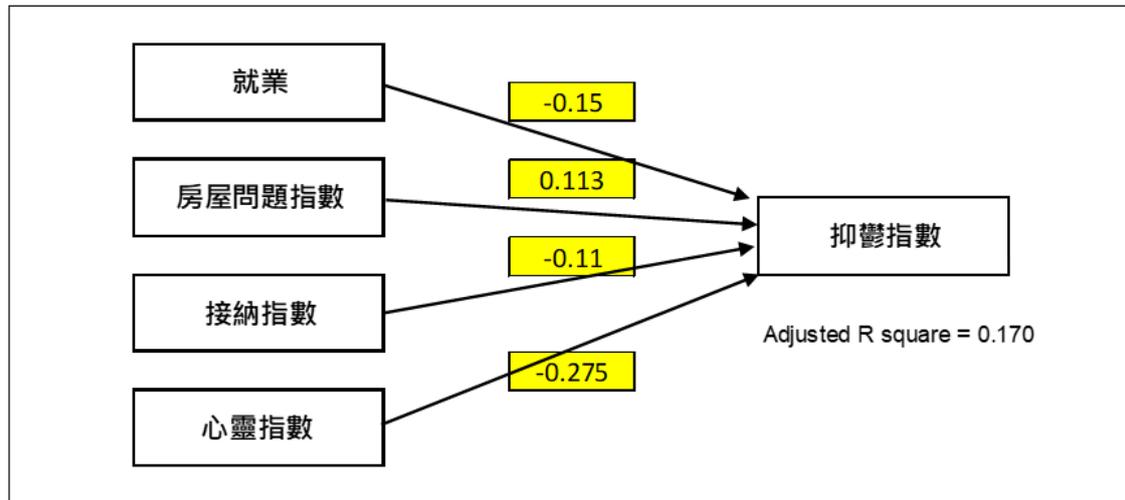


The increase in spiritual index has positive effects in the following aspects:

Relationship Poverty/Motivation Poverty

(how is Spiritual Index related to the 4 prospective of the poor)

對抑鬱的影響因素

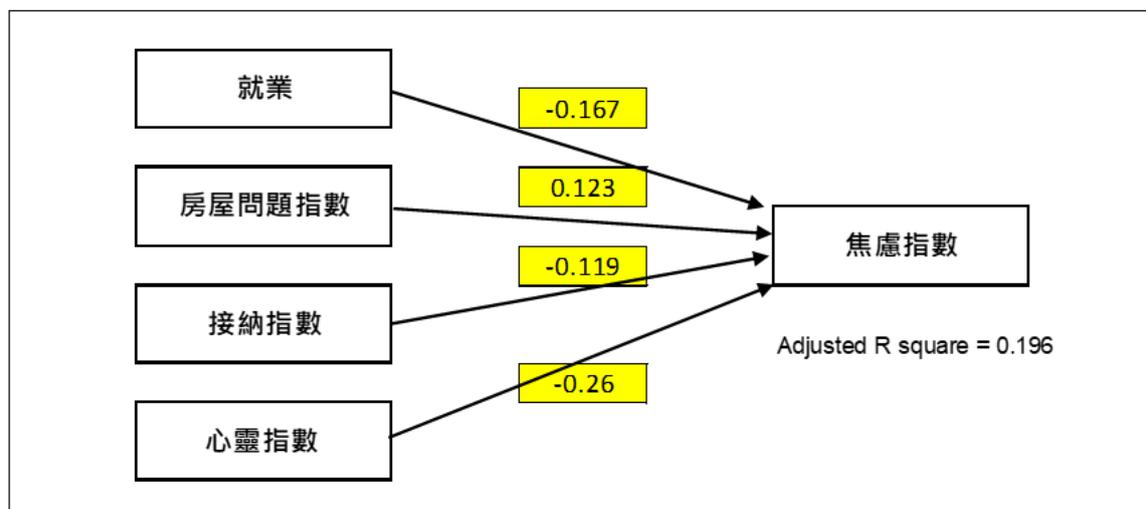


Relationship Poverty/Motivation Poverty

(how is Spiritual Index related to the 4 prospective of the poor)

Factors Influencing Anxiety

Increase in neighbor's spiritual index and reducing the housing problem index can effectively reduce the level of anxiety among residents.

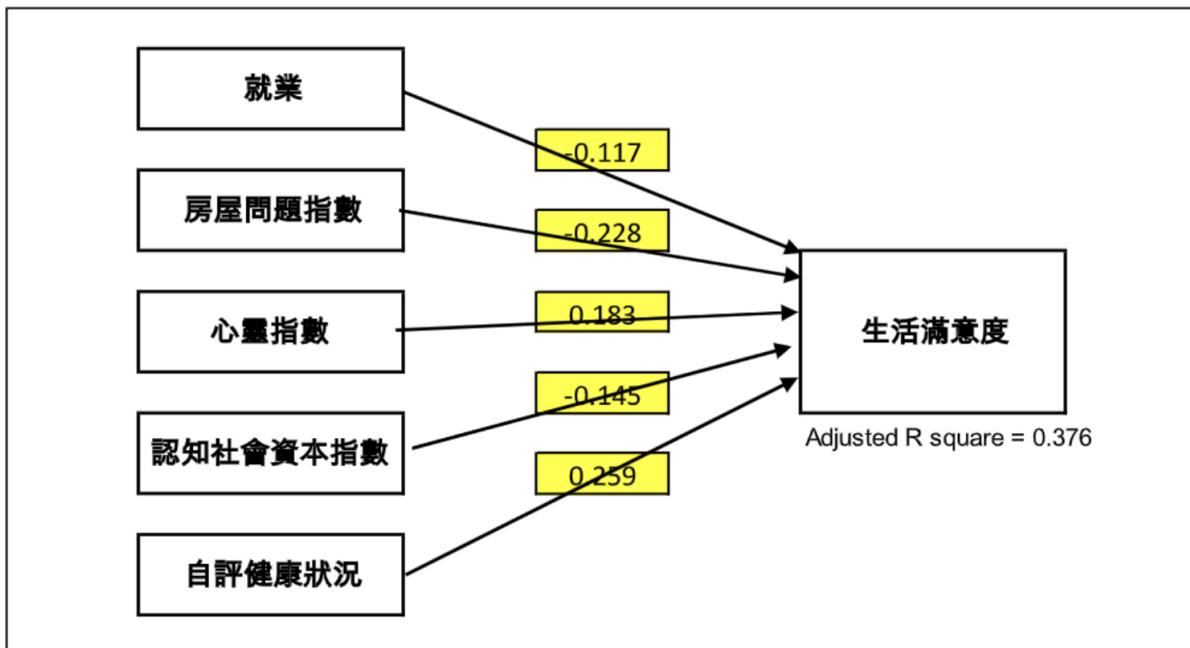


Financial Poverty

(how is Spiritual Index relate to the 4 prospective of the poor)

Factors Influencing Life Satisfaction

Increase in spiritual index and cognitive social capital index of the neighborhood are effective ways to improve the life satisfaction among the residents.



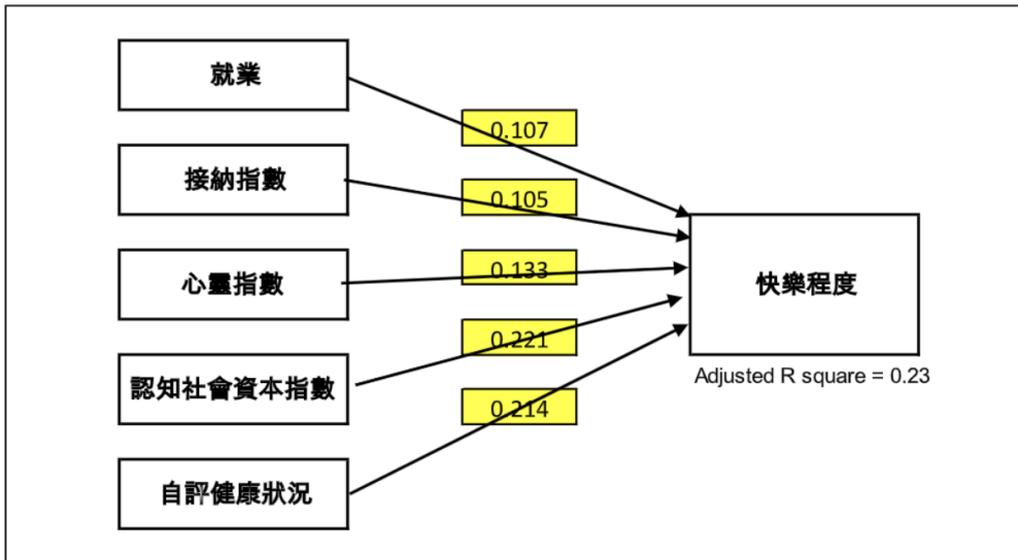
Spiritual Poverty

(how is Spiritual Index related to the 4 prospective of the poor)

Factors Influencing Happiness

Increase in cognitive social capital index, spiritual index, and acceptance index of the neighborhood are effective ways to improve their happiness

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Future:

- With the above knowledge, how do we proceed with CT to achieve?
- What is the plan to improve Spiritual Index in our key districts?
- How to relate Spiritual Index to our key partners?
- How to help our key partners to improve Spiritual Index with those they are serving in their volunteers?