

SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX 2015

Social Progress Imperative

Introduction

This report defines and highlights the importance of measuring Social Progress Index for any particular nation. Further, it emphasizes the effectiveness of the Index in turning a country's economic success into social progress. It also discusses the critical issues addressed by the Index, and finally focuses on the rank attained by each country on the Index, based on scores across a set of indicators.

What is Social Progress?

Social progress is the capacity of a society to meet the basic human needs of its citizens, establish the building blocks that allow citizens and communities to enhance and sustain the quality of their lives, and create the conditions for all individuals to reach their full potential.

Why measure Social Progress?

A development model based on economic growth alone is incomplete. A society that fails to address basic human needs, improve citizens' quality of life, or protect the environment is not successful unless it widens his understanding beyond economic outcomes, unless it includes social progress. A broader and inclusive model of development will enable policymakers and citizens of a country to evaluate its national performance.

Critical Issues addressed using Social Progress Index:

Inequality and Poverty: How the Index relates to the overall distribution of income, as well as the incidence of poverty on an absolute and relative basis has been explored in the Report.

International Aid: How international aid reception by nations can be re-structured by focusing on Social Progress Index, rather than solely on GDP per capita.

Life Satisfaction: Using measures of subjective wellbeing, such as the Index, to guide government policy and engagement by civil society.

What is Social Progress Index?

It is a framework for national social and environmental performance that can be used by leaders in government, business, and civil society to accelerate progress. It is the first comprehensive framework for measuring social progress that is independent of GDP, and complementary to it. It is structured around **12** components and **52** distinct indicators. It includes **133 countries** covering 94% of the world's population, plus 28 countries with partial data. The 133 countries with sufficient data has been ranked from highest to lowest in terms of social progress, and classified into six tiers: **Very High Social Progress, High Social Progress, Upper Middle Social Progress, Lower Middle Social Progress, Low Social Progress and Very Low Social Progress.**

Social Progress Index Component-level Framework

Basic Human Needs

- Nutrition and Basic Medical Care
- Water and Sanitation
- Shelter
- Personal Safety

Foundation of Well-being

- Access to Basic Knowledge
- Access to Information and Communications
- Health and Wellness
- Ecosystem Sustainability

Opportunity

- Personal Rights
- Personal Freedom and Choice
- Tolerance and Inclusion
- Access to Advanced Education

Each component of the framework comprises between three and five specific outcome indicators. The included indicators are selected because they are measured appropriately, with a consistent methodology, by the same organization, and across all (or essentially all) of the countries in our sample. The overall Social Progress Index score is a simple average of the three dimensions. Each dimension, in turn, is the simple average of its four components.

Highlights

Changes from 2014

- **Stillbirth rate** indicator has been **removed**.
- The 3 components of **Ecosystem sustainability** are now weighted equally.
- The previous 'modern slavery, human trafficking and child marriage' indicator has been **replaced** by a stand-alone indicator of child marriage.
- The previous rural vs. urban access to improved water source indicator has been **replaced** by a measure of Rural access to improved water.
- The number of globally ranked universities was **modified** from the number of universities in the country.
- Four new Countries-**Afghanistan, Cyprus, Ethiopia, and Vietnam**, have been **added**; while **Burundi, Sudan, and Trinidad & Tobago** were **removed**.
- Net number of countries for which the Index has been reported **rose** from **132 to 133** in 2015.

Relation between Social Progress Index and Economic Development:

The Social Progress Index allows an analysis of how social progress is correlated with measures of economic success, and how this relationship varies by dimension, component, and indicator for various groupings of countries.

The Social Progress Index allows us to evaluate the *effectiveness or lack of effectiveness with which a country's economic success is turned into social progress*.

The Social Progress Index is a powerful tool for understanding contemporary debates about inclusive growth, rather than growth at all costs.

Social Progress Index 2015 Results

Social Progress Globally

If the world were a country, it would score **64.39** in Social Progress based on a simple average of countries and **61.00** on a population-weighted basis.

On population-weighted basis, The world scores **68.33** in Basic Human Needs and **66.45** on the Foundations of Wellbeing dimension, but in **Opportunity** scores just **48.23**.

Using simple average global scores, The world scores 70.82 (Basic Human Needs), 67.68 (Foundations of Wellbeing) and 52.03 (Opportunity).

Social Progress By Country

Only 10 countries have **recorded Very high social progress**, with **Norway** (88.36), **Sweden** (88.06) and **Switzerland** (87.97) being the top 3.

India (53.06) features on **low social progress**, ranked at **101th** position.

India's highest score is in Basic Human Needs, with GDP per capita (at PPP) of **\$5238**.

Foundations of Wellbeing, India's second highest component, shows **strong performance in Access to Basic Knowledge**.

India records worst performance on overall SPI and individually for Basic Human Needs and Foundations of Wellbeing, among BRICS nations.

India shows particular weakness in Health and Wellness and Tolerance and Inclusion.

Highlights
