

QUALITY OF LIFE

What is quality of life?



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

What is quality of life?

- it is not (only) issue of the definition
- it is the question of the overall view on the world around us and us in it - extraordinary complexity, complicity
- Plašienková (1994) - it's even wonderful that the more the quality of life is being discussed, the less clear is what it actually represents

What is quality of life?

- **why there is not a single, unified answer to our question?**
 - **latent nature**
 - **subjective nature of the concept (Liu 1976, Massam 2002)**
 - **complex and composite nature - “quality” and “life” (Schuessler a Fisher 1985)**
- **the problem of defining QOL is therefore (indirectly) the problem of defining human life**

What is quality of life?

- Rybczynski (1986):
- “It’s like describing an onion. It appears simple on the outside, but it’s deceptive, for it has many layers. If it is cut apart there are just onion-skins left and the original form has disappeared. If each layer is described separately, we lose sight of the whole...”

What is quality of life?

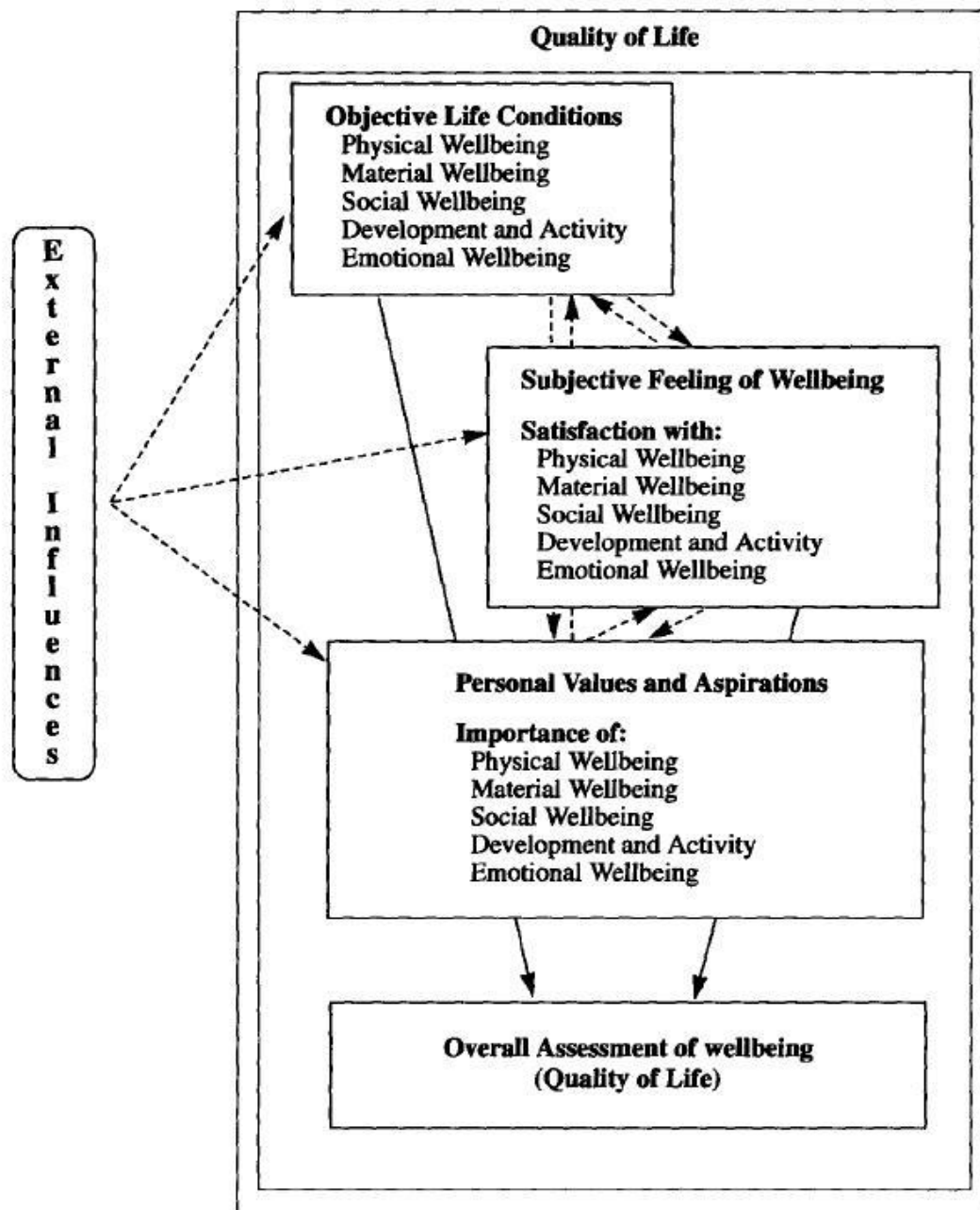
- Szalai 1980 – basic attributes of QOL concept:
 - it refers to human life only,
 - it is rarely if ever used in the plural,
 - it is used as a single indivisible generic term whose meaning can be clarified,
 - it is difficult to classify into any discrete category of related social sciences.

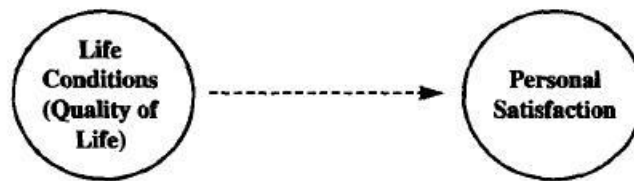
What is quality of life?

- Massam (2002) – in relation to some place QOL is
 - **input** – reason of the places attractiveness
 - **output** – perception of local conditions and the level to which they meet peoples aspirations
- QOL is a composite, quasi public-private good (public planning, private living)

What is quality of life?

- **Borthwick-Duffy (1992) - 3 possible views on QOL:**
 - **quality of living conditions,**
 - **satisfaction with living conditions,**
 - **combination of the two.**
- **Felce a Perry (1995) – the result of joint function of the quality of living conditions and the satisfaction with them, weighted by a personal set of values**

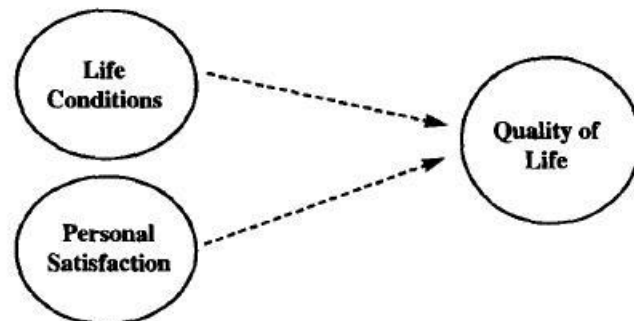




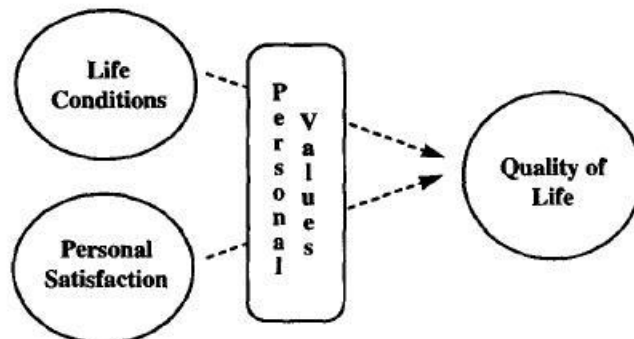
(a) Quality of life is defined in terms of Life Conditions



(b) Quality of Life is defined in terms of Satisfaction with life



(c) Quality of Life defined as a combination of Life Conditions and Satisfaction



(d) Quality of Life defined as a combination of Life Conditions and Satisfaction weighted by Scale of Importance

Conceptualisations of quality of life.

What is quality of life?

- two „classic“ approaches
- QOL of individual or some (e.g. social) group of people
- QOL of some locality, regiony etc.
- they intersect – QOL relating to some place, area IS QOL of the people living here
- what is important is the person – environment relationship and its „formal“ specification (e.g you live here, you work here etc.)
- also restrictions resulting from that
- a wider conceptual framework and its intersection with other conceptions (e.g. time geography)

What is quality of life?

- **vague, unclear semantic interpretation - negative phenomena**
- **Rogerson 1995 - the paradoxical position that contemporaneously QOL is perceived as a useful concept by political groups of different ideological persuasions, other than to note that in many respects this is a reflection of the variety of ways in which quality of life has been defined both academically and popularly**

Definition of QOL

- the result of our ability and interest to usefully and accurately interpret the contents of the selected concept is the exact definition (Andraško 2007)
- unified definition of QOL (of course) does not exist
- why it is so?
- we already know the answer

Definition of QOL

- Romney et al. (1994) (d'alšie) dôvody:
- psychological processes relevant to experience of QOL can be described and interpreted through many conceptual filters and languages,
- the concept of QOL is to a considerable degree value laden,
- the concept embodies the understanding of human growth and development processes, the average life span of individuals within communities, and the extent to which these psychological processes are influenced by environmental factors and individual value systems.

Definition of QOL

- a „natural“ demand to define the object (topic) of study
- (too) many definitions
- despite the plurality – some common aspects
- Pacione (2003) - The meaning of the phrase quality of life differs a good deal as it is variously used but, in general, it is intended to refer to either the conditions of the environment in which people live, (air and water pollution, or poor housing, for example), or to some attribute of people themselves (such as health or educational achievement)

Definition of QOL

- two fundamental elements:
- an internal psychological–physiological mechanism that produces the sense of gratification, and
- external phenomena that engage that mechanism
- subjective and objective dimension – more in separate lecture

Definition of QOL

- **Andráško 2006 - “The QOL is a complex, elusive phenomenon. Roughly it can be defined as a qualitative evaluation of human life, in subjective level expressed as a sense of happiness or satisfaction, which is the result of the influence and relative interaction of the external (environmental, economic and social) and internal (psychological) factors.**

Definition of QOL

- **Andráško 2008 - “In a more simple manner, quality of life can be seen as the degree to which the set of characteristics of one’s life meets the individual needs.”**



Thanks for your attention!