

The Youth Reference

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International Youth Sustainable Development Index (YSDI) Report 2021



Newsletter from All-China Youth Federation

NOTE

This e-magazine is a product of All-China Youth Federation, China Youth Daily and China International Youth Exchange Center to introduce the youth work and youth development in China on a regular basis. We hope that it can provide you with updated information about Chinese youth, youth policy and youth programs, and we sincerely look forward to feedbacks and suggestions from friends all over the world.

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I. Foreword

According to the United Nations, there are currently 1.2 billion young people aged between 15 and 24 in the world, and 87% of them live in developing countries.

China, the largest developing country in the world, has always regarded young people as the most powerful agent of social and economic development. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Party and central government have given substantial support to youth development. As part of its sustainable development strategy, in 2017, China formulated the first

national plan for youth development in its history to prioritize youth development and launched a series of practical measures in 10 key areas of youth development. Up to date, China's youth development policy and promotion mechanism with Chinese characteristics have become rather mature and complete, and youth development in China has entered a new stage.

Conducting objective assessments based on a well – designed index system is important for promoting youth development.

This joint group comprises China Youth and Children Research Center, China International Youth Exchange Center, the Center for Youth Moral Education, Tsinghua University, and the Research Center for Contemporary China at Peking University. With insights from interdisciplinary theoretical research and current international evaluation metrics, the joint project group has developed an international index of sustainable youth development with the hope of informing policies to boost sustainable youth development in all countries.

II. Framework of Indicators

Borrowing from the metrics of the United Nations and other international organizations to measure youth development and considering the availability and comparability of data, the project group has focused on five YDI domains: Health and

Well – being, Education, Employment and Opportunity, Family and Society , and Civic Participation, which concern the young people around the world. Each domain has 3–4 indicators (Table 1) , so there are 17 indicators in total.



Table 1 Domains and Indicators of the YSDI Index

| Domains | Health & Well-being | Education | Employment & Opportunity | Family & Society | Civic Participation |
|------------|--|--|--------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Indicators | Healthy weight percentage | Expected years of schooling | Labor force participation rate | Youth marriage rate | Engagement in state-administered mass organizations |
| | Life expectancy at the age of 20 | Gross enrollment ratio, tertiary | Youth unemployment rate | Fertility rate | Members of parliament under age 40 |
| | Anxiety disorder prevalence of 15-39-year-olds | Percentage of individuals using the Internet | Youth entrepreneurship rate | Total dependency ratio | Voter turnout in parliamentary elections |
| | Youth drug abuse rate | | | Numbeo Safety Index | |

Table 2 International Youth Sustainable Development Index Ranking

| Ranking | Country | Score (Total score: 100) |
|---------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Singapore | 70.5 |
| 2 | Norway | 65.8 |
| 3 | Belgium | 65.6 |
| 4 | Denmark | 63.2 |
| 5 | Iceland | 61.7 |
| 6 | Australia | 61.3 |
| 7 | Israel | 61.2 |
| 8 | Bahrain | 60.7 |
| 9 | Kuwait | 60.6 |
| 10 | Austria | 60.3 |
| 11 | Sweden | 59.8 |
| 12 | South Korea | 59.7 |
| 13 | Luxembourg | 59.2 |
| 14 | Kazakhstan | 58.9 |
| 15 | Japan | 58.9 |
| 16 | Latvia | 58.8 |
| 17 | Estonia | 58.7 |
| 18 | Turkey | 58.6 |
| 19 | The Netherlands | 58.3 |
| 20 | Finland | 58.1 |
| 21 | New Zealand | 58.1 |
| 22 | Cyprus | 57.7 |
| 23 | China | 57.4 |
| 24 | Saudi Arabia | 57.0 |
| 25 | Malta | 56.9 |
| 26 | Germany | 56.6 |
| 27 | Greece | 56.5 |
| 28 | Slovak Republic | 55.9 |
| 29 | Malaysia | 55.8 |
| 30 | Slovenia | 55.5 |
| 31 | Argentina | 55.1 |
| 32 | Canada | 54.8 |
| 33 | Czech Republic | 54.5 |
| 34 | Trinidad and Tobago | 53.6 |
| 35 | USA | 53.4 |
| 36 | Croatia | 53.4 |
| 37 | Chile | 53.3 |
| 38 | Spain | 53.3 |
| 39 | Ireland | 52.9 |
| 40 | Thailand | 52.9 |
| 41 | Peru | 52.7 |
| 42 | Portugal | 52.6 |
| 43 | Hungary | 52.4 |
| 44 | Poland | 52.3 |
| 45 | UK | 52.3 |
| 46 | Philippines | 52.2 |
| 47 | Azerbaijan | 52.2 |
| 48 | Panama | 51.6 |
| 49 | Switzerland | 51.5 |
| 50 | Russian Federation | 51.2 |
| 51 | Indonesia | 51.0 |
| 52 | Uruguay | 50.8 |
| 53 | Lithuania | 50.5 |
| 54 | Uzbekistan | 50.3 |
| 55 | Mongolia | 50.2 |
| 56 | Bulgaria | 50.0 |

III. Overall Results

The project group ranks 85 countries (Table 2). The results reflect the levels of youth development in various countries. In terms of geographical distribution, the top 10 countries include 4 Asian countries (Singapore, Israel, Bahrain, and Kuwait), 5 European countries (Norway, Belgium, Denmark, Iceland, and Austria) and one country from Oceania (Australia); in terms of development level, the top 10 countries include 8 developed countries (Singapore, Norway, Belgium, Denmark, Iceland, Australia, Israel, and Austria) and two developing countries (Bahrain and Kuwait).

| | | |
|----|------------------------|------|
| 57 | Italy | 49.2 |
| 58 | Paraguay | 48.9 |
| 59 | Mexico | 47.8 |
| 60 | Dominican Republic | 47.5 |
| 61 | Brazil | 47.2 |
| 62 | Colombia | 47.0 |
| 63 | Tunisia | 46.9 |
| 64 | Nicaragua | 46.3 |
| 65 | France | 44.8 |
| 66 | Morocco | 44.7 |
| 67 | Romania | 44.6 |
| 68 | Ghana | 44.5 |
| 69 | Bosnia and Herzegovina | 44.3 |
| 70 | Nepal | 43.5 |
| 71 | Kenya | 43.3 |
| 72 | South Africa | 43.2 |
| 73 | Benin | 43.0 |
| 74 | Iraq | 42.6 |
| 75 | El Salvador | 41.1 |
| 76 | Zimbabwe | 40.5 |
| 77 | Jamaica | 40.0 |
| 78 | Mozambique | 38.6 |
| 79 | Namibia | 37.4 |
| 80 | Niger | 37.2 |
| 81 | Bangladesh | 36.9 |
| 82 | Chad | 36.6 |
| 83 | Honduras | 36.5 |
| 84 | India | 35.9 |
| 85 | Nigeria | 33.9 |

1. Comparison with GDP per capita

Youth development is closely related to economic development, while GDP per capita is a key indicator of economic development. The project group has compared YDI with GDP per capita (Table 3). Overall, the level of youth development is basically on a par with the level of economic development. More exactly, of all the 85 countries, youth development is ahead of economic development in 20 countries, the two levels are close in 46, and youth development lags behind economic development in 19;

of the top 10 countries, youth development is ahead of economic development in 3, and the two levels are close in 7. It is interesting to find that among 34 developed countries as recognized by IMF, youth development goes ahead of economic development in only 4, the two levels are close in 19, but youth development lags behind economic development in 11; on the other hand, among 51 developing countries, youth development is more advanced than economic development in 16, both

levels are close in 27, and youth development lags behind economic development in 8. Obviously, although youth development is closely linked to economic development, they are not strictly or fully synchronized. Youth development is comprehensive and systematic, while economic development is mono-dimensional, so it cannot directly determine the level of youth development. Multi-sided synergy is needed to promote youth development.

Table 3 Comparison between Youth Sustainable Development Index and GDP per Capita

| Country | YSDI Ranking | Ranking by GDP per Capita | YDI relative to Economic Development |
|------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Singapore | 1 | 6 | On par |
| Norway | 2 | 4 | On par |
| Belgium | 3 | 15 | Ahead |
| Denmark | 4 | 8 | On par |
| Iceland | 5 | 5 | On par |
| Australia | 6 | 9 | On par |
| Israel | 7 | 17 | On par |
| Bahrain | 8 | 31 | Ahead |
| Kuwait | 9 | 23 | Ahead |
| Austria | 10 | 12 | On par |
| Sweden | 11 | 11 | On par |
| South Korea | 12 | 24 | Ahead |
| Luxembourg | 13 | 1 | Behind |
| Kazakhstan | 14 | 52 | Ahead |
| Japan | 15 | 21 | On par |
| Latvia | 16 | 37 | Ahead |
| Estonia | 17 | 29 | Ahead |
| Turkey | 18 | 53 | Ahead |
| The Netherlands | 19 | 10 | On par |
| Finland | 20 | 13 | On par |
| New Zealand | 21 | 19 | On par |
| Cyprus | 22 | 27 | On par |
| China | 23 | 48 | Ahead |
| Saudi Arabia | 24 | 33 | On par |
| Malta | 25 | 25 | On par |
| Germany | 26 | 14 | Behind |
| Greece | 27 | 36 | On par |
| Slovak Republic | 28 | 35 | On par |
| Malaysia | 29 | 47 | Ahead |
| Slovenia | 30 | 28 | On par |
| Argentina | 31 | 50 | Ahead |
| Canada | 32 | 16 | Behind |
| Czech Republic | 33 | 30 | On par |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 34 | 40 | On par |
| USA | 35 | 7 | Behind |
| Croatia | 36 | 43 | On par |
| Chile | 37 | 44 | On par |
| Spain | 38 | 26 | Behind |
| Ireland | 39 | 3 | Behind |
| Thailand | 40 | 56 | Ahead |
| Peru | 41 | 57 | Ahead |
| Portugal | 42 | 32 | On par |
| Hungary | 43 | 39 | On par |
| Poland | 44 | 42 | On par |
| UK | 45 | 18 | Behind |
| Philippines | 46 | 69 | Ahead |
| Azerbaijan | 47 | 65 | Ahead |
| Panama | 48 | 41 | On par |
| Switzerland | 49 | 2 | Behind |
| Russian Federation | 50 | 46 | On par |
| Indonesia | 51 | 68 | Ahead |
| Uruguay | 52 | 38 | Behind |
| Lithuania | 53 | 34 | Behind |
| Uzbekistan | 54 | 79 | Ahead |
| Mongolia | 55 | 66 | Ahead |
| Bulgaria | 56 | 51 | On par |
| Italy | 57 | 22 | Behind |
| Paraguay | 58 | 62 | On par |
| Mexico | 59 | 49 | On par |
| Dominican Republic | 60 | 55 | On par |
| Brazil | 61 | 54 | On par |
| Colombia | 62 | 58 | On par |
| Tunisia | 63 | 70 | On par |
| Nicaragua | 64 | 76 | Ahead |
| France | 65 | 20 | Behind |
| Morocco | 66 | 71 | On par |
| Romania | 67 | 45 | Behind |
| Ghana | 68 | 74 | On par |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 69 | 59 | On par |
| Nepal | 70 | 81 | Ahead |
| Kenya | 71 | 78 | On par |

| Country | YSDI Ranking | Ranking by GDP per Capita | YDI relative to Economic Development |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| South Africa | 72 | 60 | Behind |
| Benin | 73 | 80 | On par |
| Iraq | 74 | 61 | Behind |
| El Salvador | 75 | 67 | On par |
| Zimbabwe | 76 | 82 | On par |
| Jamaica | 77 | 63 | Behind |
| Mozambique | 78 | 85 | On par |
| Namibia | 79 | 64 | Behind |
| Niger | 80 | 84 | On par |
| Bangladesh | 81 | 77 | On par |
| Chad | 82 | 83 | On par |
| Honduras | 83 | 72 | Behind |
| India | 84 | 75 | On par |
| Nigeria | 85 | 73 | Behind |

Notes:

1. In this table, being "Ahead" means the YSDI Ranking of a country is 10 or more places higher than its ranking by GDP per capita; "On par" means the difference is less than 10 places; and lagging "Behind" indicates that its YSDI Ranking is more than 10 or more places lower than its ranking by GDP per capita.

2. In this table, "Ranking by GDP per Capita" refers to the relative positions of the 85 countries measured.

2. Comparison with Human Development Index (HDI)

The Human Development Index (HDI), published regularly, is a tool developed by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to measure countries' levels of social and to thereby guide the formulation of national development strategies. The project team has compared YDI with HDI (Table 4). Overall, youth development basically reflects human development. More exactly, among all the 85 countries, youth development is ahead of overall human development in 16 countries, both levels are close in 54, and youth development falls behind human development in 15; among the top 10 countries, youth development goes ahead of human development in 3 and both levels are close in 7. Among the 34 developed countries recognized by IMF, youth development is ahead of overall human development in only 2 countries, both levels are close in 21, and youth development falls behind overall human development in 11; on the other hand, among the 51 developing countries, youth development is ahead of human development in 14 countries, both levels are close in 33, and youth development lags behind human development in only 4 countries.

Table 4 Comparison between Youth Development Index and Human Development Index

| Country | YSDI Ranking | HDI Ranking | YDI relative to HDI |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Singapore | 1 | 10 | On par |
| Norway | 2 | 1 | On par |
| Belgium | 3 | 13 | On par |
| Denmark | 4 | 9 | On par |
| Iceland | 5 | 4 | On par |
| Australia | 6 | 7 | On par |
| Israel | 7 | 18 | Ahead |
| Bahrain | 8 | 38 | Ahead |
| Kuwait | 9 | 50 | Ahead |
| Austria | 10 | 17 | On par |
| Sweden | 11 | 6 | On par |
| South Korea | 12 | 21 | On par |
| Luxembourg | 13 | 21 | On par |
| Kazakhstan | 14 | 43 | Ahead |
| Japan | 15 | 18 | On par |
| Latvia | 16 | 33 | Ahead |
| Estonia | 17 | 27 | On par |
| Turkey | 18 | 45 | Ahead |
| The Netherlands | 19 | 7 | Behind |
| Finland | 20 | 10 | On par |
| New Zealand | 21 | 13 | On par |
| Cyprus | 22 | 30 | On par |
| China | 23 | 58 | Ahead |
| Saudi Arabia | 24 | 36 | Ahead |
| Malta | 25 | 26 | On par |
| Germany | 26 | 5 | Behind |
| Greece | 27 | 29 | On par |
| Slovak Republic | 28 | 35 | On par |
| Malaysia | 29 | 49 | Ahead |
| Slovenia | 30 | 20 | On par |
| Argentina | 31 | 41 | On par |
| Canada | 32 | 15 | Behind |
| Czech Republic | 33 | 25 | On par |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 34 | 51 | Ahead |

| Country | YSDI Ranking | HDI Ranking | YDI relative to HDI |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------|
| USA | 35 | 16 | Behind |
| Croatia | 36 | 39 | On par |
| Chile | 37 | 39 | On par |
| Spain | 38 | 23 | Behind |
| Ireland | 39 | 2 | Behind |
| Thailand | 40 | 54 | Ahead |
| Peru | 41 | 54 | Ahead |
| Portugal | 42 | 34 | On par |
| Hungary | 43 | 36 | On par |
| Poland | 44 | 32 | Behind |
| UK | 45 | 12 | Behind |
| Philippines | 46 | 66 | Ahead |
| Azerbaijan | 47 | 59 | Ahead |
| Panama | 48 | 48 | On par |
| Switzerland | 49 | 2 | Behind |
| Russian Federation | 50 | 44 | On par |
| Indonesia | 51 | 66 | Ahead |
| Uruguay | 52 | 46 | On par |
| Lithuania | 53 | 31 | Behind |
| Uzbekistan | 54 | 65 | Ahead |
| Mongolia | 55 | 62 | On par |
| Bulgaria | 56 | 47 | On par |
| Italy | 57 | 27 | Behind |
| Paraguay | 58 | 64 | On par |
| Mexico | 59 | 53 | On par |
| Dominican Republic | 60 | 59 | On par |
| Brazil | 61 | 57 | On par |
| Colombia | 62 | 56 | On par |
| Tunisia | 63 | 61 | On par |
| Nicaragua | 64 | 72 | On par |
| France | 65 | 24 | Behind |

| | | | |
|------------------------|----|----|--------|
| Morocco | 66 | 69 | On par |
| Romania | 67 | 42 | Behind |
| Ghana | 68 | 77 | On par |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 69 | 52 | Behind |
| Nepal | 70 | 78 | On par |
| Kenya | 71 | 79 | On par |
| South Africa | 72 | 68 | On par |
| Benin | 73 | 81 | On par |
| Iraq | 74 | 70 | On par |
| El Salvador | 75 | 71 | On par |
| Zimbabwe | 76 | 80 | On par |
| Jamaica | 77 | 63 | Behind |
| Mozambique | 78 | 83 | On par |
| Namibia | 79 | 73 | On par |
| Niger | 80 | 85 | On par |
| Bangladesh | 81 | 76 | On par |
| Chad | 82 | 84 | On par |
| Honduras | 83 | 75 | On par |
| India | 84 | 74 | On par |
| Nigeria | 85 | 82 | On par |

Notes:

1. In this table, being "Ahead" means the YSDI Ranking of a country is 10 or more places higher than its HDI ranking; "On par" means the difference is less than 10 places; and lagging "Behind" indicates that its YSDI Ranking is 10 or more places lower than its HDI ranking.
2. HDI encompasses the rankings and scores of 189 countries and regions. Among them, this co-op project group has selected and ranked 85 countries.

IV. Rankings and Scores by Domain

1. Health and Well-being

The well-being of youth is critical to a country or region, while physical and mental health are important prerequisites for young people to grow and live happily. In the Health and Well-being domain, the project team measures four indicators: healthy weight percentage, life expectancy at the age of 20, anxiety disorder prevalence of 15-39-year-olds, and youth drug abuse rate. Country rankings and scores in this domain are as follows (Table 5):



Table 5 Country Rankings and Scores in the Health and Well-being Domain

| Country | Ranking | Score | Domain ranking relative to overall YSDI Ranking |
|------------------------|---------|-------|---|
| Japan | 1 | 96.1 | Ahead |
| Singapore | 2 | 88.5 | On par |
| South Korea | 3 | 83.3 | On par |
| Slovenia | 4 | 80.1 | Ahead |
| Sweden | 5 | 78.7 | On par |
| Israel | 6 | 77.3 | On par |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 7 | 77.2 | Ahead |
| Finland | 8 | 77.1 | Ahead |
| Poland | 9 | 76.6 | Ahead |
| Panama | 10 | 76.0 | Ahead |
| Azerbaijan | 11 | 75.9 | Ahead |
| China | 12 | 75.7 | Ahead |
| Uzbekistan | 13 | 75.6 | Ahead |
| Slovak Republic | 14 | 75.5 | Ahead |
| Belgium | 15 | 74.5 | Behind |
| Iceland | 16 | 74.5 | Behind |
| Czech Republic | 17 | 74.4 | Ahead |
| Romania | 18 | 74.3 | Ahead |
| Bangladesh | 19 | 74.3 | Ahead |
| Croatia | 20 | 73.6 | Ahead |
| Denmark | 21 | 73.5 | Behind |
| Kazakhstan | 22 | 73.2 | On par |
| Luxembourg | 23 | 73.1 | On Par |
| Estonia | 24 | 72.7 | On par |
| Switzerland | 25 | 72.3 | Ahead |
| Thailand | 26 | 72.1 | Ahead |
| Spain | 27 | 71.8 | Ahead |
| Italy | 28 | 71.4 | Ahead |
| Nepal | 29 | 71.4 | Ahead |
| Mongolia | 30 | 70.7 | Ahead |

Note: In this table, being "Ahead" means a country's ranking in this domain is 10 or more places higher than its overall YSDI Ranking; "On par" means the difference is less than 10 places; "behind" indicates that the country's ranking in this domain is 10 or more places lower than the country's overall YSDI Ranking.

As the table shows, among the top 10 countries in the Health and Well-being domain, there are four Asian countries (Japan, Singapore, South Korea, and Israel), and three developing countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland, and Panama), which is similar to the overall YSDI Ranking. Meanwhile, the ranking of 20 out of the 30 highest ranking countries in this domain goes ahead of their YSDI Ranking, and despite the comparatively low development level of these countries, their young people are healthy and have the potential to drive future development. It should be noted that some developed countries including the United States score rather low in the Health and Well-being domain. This is mainly because their youth drug abuse rate and healthy weight percentage are significantly lower than other countries, which indicates that their youth drug abuse and obesity issues pose a big threat to the health of their young people and would hamper their youth's future development.

2. Education

It is well understood that knowledge is power. The level of education is a key indicator of youth development. In the Education domain, the project team measures three indicators: expected years of schooling, ratio of gross enrollment in tertiary education, and percentage of individuals using the Internet. Country rankings and scores in this domain are as follows (Table 6):



Table 6 Country Rankings and Scores in the Education Domain

| Country | Ranking | Score | Domain ranking relative to overall YSDI Ranking |
|-----------------|---------|-------|---|
| Australia | 1 | 86.4 | On par |
| Greece | 2 | 81.3 | Ahead |
| Denmark | 3 | 79.3 | On par |
| Finland | 4 | 78.5 | Ahead |
| Iceland | 5 | 78.4 | On par |
| South Korea | 6 | 78.4 | On par |
| Norway | 7 | 78.1 | On par |
| The Netherlands | 8 | 77.9 | Ahead |
| New Zealand | 9 | 77.3 | Ahead |
| Sweden | 10 | 76.4 | On par |
| Belgium | 11 | 76.3 | On par |
| Spain | 12 | 74.6 | Ahead |
| Chile | 13 | 73.8 | Ahead |
| Japan | 14 | 73.4 | On par |
| Singapore | 15 | 73.1 | Behind |
| USA | 16 | 72.9 | Ahead |
| Ireland | 17 | 72.3 | Ahead |
| Argentina | 18 | 71.9 | Ahead |
| Austria | 19 | 71.8 | On par |
| Latvia | 20 | 71.7 | On par |
| Turkey | 21 | 71.6 | On par |
| Canada | 22 | 71.0 | On par |
| Saudi Arabia | 23 | 69.9 | On par |
| UK | 24 | 69.4 | Ahead |
| Germany | 25 | 69.1 | On par |
| Estonia | 26 | 68.5 | On par |
| Bahrain | 27 | 68.4 | Behind |
| Slovenia | 28 | 68.4 | On par |
| Cyprus | 29 | 67.7 | On par |
| Switzerland | 30 | 67.3 | Ahead |

Note: In this table, being "Ahead" means a country's ranking in this domain is 10 or more places higher than its overall YSDI Ranking; "On par" means the difference is less than 10 places; "behind" indicates that the country's ranking in this domain is 10 or more places lower than the country's overall YSDI Ranking.

In 28 out of the 30 top ranking countries, education development is either ahead of or close to their overall YSDI Rankings. In terms of regional distribution, 9 out of the 10 highest ranking countries are European and Oceanian countries, while the remaining one is an Asian country (South Korea). Overall, Asian countries rank relatively low. This indicates that Asian countries must invest more resources in youth development in the Education domain, where more progress is needed. In addition, all the 10 top ranking countries are developed countries. This means developed countries still hold a huge advantage over developing countries in terms of educational resources and talent development. Such a gap demands close attention from developing countries, since the level of education of young people is directly related to the country's potential for future development.

3. Employment and Opportunity

Employment is of utmost importance to the well-being of all people across the world, so governments are unanimously committed to promoting youth employment. In the Employment and Opportunity domain, the project team measures three indicators: Labor force participation rate, youth unemployment rate, and youth entrepreneurship rate. Country rankings and scores in this domain are as follows (Table 7):

Table 7 Country Rankings and Scores in the Employment and Opportunity Domain

| Country | Ranking | Score | Domain ranking relative to overall YSDI Ranking |
|-----------------|---------|-------|---|
| Thailand | 1 | 75.2 | Ahead |
| Kuwait | 2 | 73.7 | On par |
| Peru | 3 | 71.6 | Ahead |
| Nepal | 4 | 70.9 | Ahead |
| Chile | 5 | 70.6 | Ahead |
| Slovak Republic | 6 | 69.2 | Ahead |
| Niger | 7 | 68.8 | Ahead |
| Kazakhstan | 8 | 67.4 | On par |

| Country | Ranking | Score | Domain ranking relative to overall YSDI Ranking |
|---------------------|---------|-------|---|
| Estonia | 9 | 66.8 | On par |
| Canada | 10 | 66.5 | Ahead |
| Latvia | 11 | 65.2 | On par |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 12 | 63.4 | Ahead |
| Chad | 13 | 62.9 | Ahead |
| USA | 14 | 62.4 | Ahead |
| Benin | 15 | 62.3 | Ahead |
| Kerrya | 16 | 61.4 | Ahead |
| Panama | 17 | 61.1 | Ahead |
| Israel | 18 | 61.0 | Behind |
| Mozambique | 19 | 60.9 | Ahead |
| Nicaragua | 20 | 60.7 | Ahead |
| South Korea | 21 | 60.6 | On par |
| Azerbaijan | 22 | 59.9 | Ahead |
| Philippines | 23 | 59.7 | Ahead |
| China | 24 | 59.4 | On par |
| Singapore | 25 | 59.4 | Behind |
| The Netherlands | 26 | 59.1 | On par |
| Zimbabwe | 27 | 59.1 | Ahead |
| Iceland | 28 | 59.0 | Behind |
| Switzerland | 29 | 58.3 | Ahead |
| Germany | 30 | 57.9 | On par |

Note: In this table, being "Ahead" means a country's ranking in this domain is 10 or more places higher than its overall YSDI Ranking; "On par" means the difference is less than 10 places; "behind" indicates that the country's ranking in this domain is 10 or more places lower than the country's overall YSDI Ranking.

In this domain, the ranking of 27 out of the 30 highest ranking countries is either ahead or close to their overall YSDI Ranking. Among the top 10 countries, 4 are from Asia, 2 from Europe, 2 from South America, 1 from North America, and 1 from Africa. Meanwhile, only 3 of the 10 highest ranking countries are developed countries. Their distribution is relatively balanced across regions and development levels, which shows that developing economies have made substantial efforts to promote employment and create opportunities for young people. As a result, they have gone ahead of some developed economies and have laid a solid foundation for overall youth development.

4. Family and Society

A happy marriage and a happy family in a safe society are the most important expectations of young people in all countries after they leave school. In the Family and Society domain, the project team measures four indicators: youth marriage rate, fertility rate, total dependency ratio, and social security assessment. Country rankings and scores in this domain are as follows (Table 8):

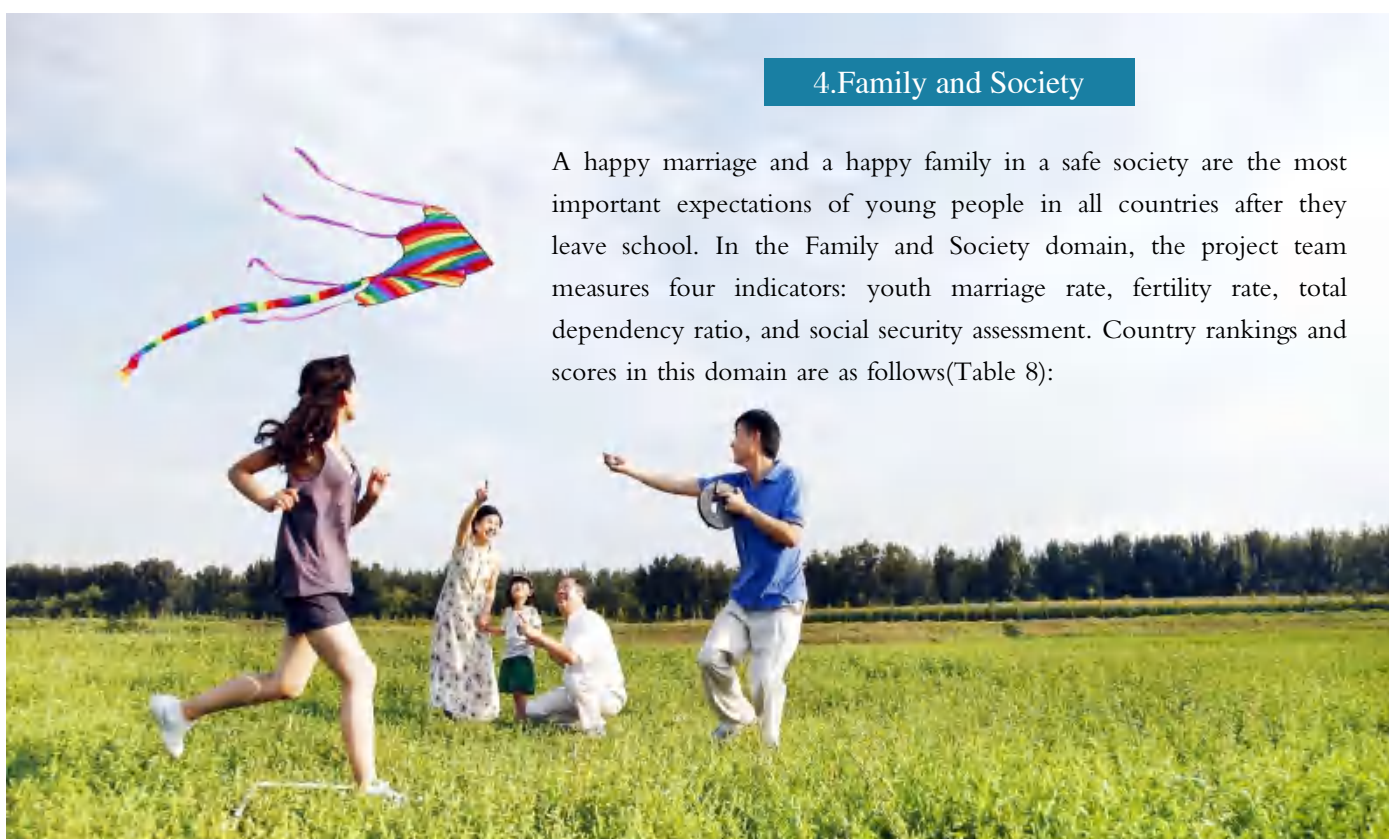


Table 8 Country Rankings and Scores in the Family and Society Domain

| Country | Ranking | Score | Domain ranking relative to overall YSDI Ranking |
|----------------|---------|-------|---|
| Nepal | 1 | 57.1 | Ahead |
| Bahrain | 2 | 57.1 | On par |
| Chad | 3 | 56.3 | Ahead |
| Niger | 4 | 55.6 | Ahead |
| Saudi Arabia | 5 | 55.0 | Ahead |
| Benin | 6 | 54.6 | Ahead |
| India | 7 | 53.5 | Ahead |
| Singapore | 8 | 52.1 | On par |
| Kuwait | 9 | 52.1 | On par |
| Romania | 10 | 51.8 | Ahead |
| Nicaragua | 11 | 51.4 | Ahead |
| Poland | 12 | 51.4 | Ahead |
| Croatia | 13 | 51.0 | Ahead |
| Iceland | 14 | 50.8 | On par |
| Bangladesh | 15 | 50.7 | Ahead |
| Austria | 16 | 50.6 | On par |
| Indonesia | 17 | 50.4 | Ahead |
| Cyprus | 18 | 49.8 | On par |
| Philippines | 19 | 49.8 | Ahead |
| Israel | 20 | 49.5 | Behind |
| Chile | 21 | 49.1 | Ahead |
| South Korea | 22 | 48.8 | On par |
| Ghana | 23 | 48.7 | Ahead |
| Czech Republic | 24 | 48.6 | On par |
| Portugal | 25 | 48.3 | Ahead |
| China | 26 | 47.9 | On par |
| Japan | 27 | 47.8 | Behind |
| Malaysia | 28 | 47.3 | On par |
| Belgium | 29 | 46.9 | Behind |
| Switzerland | 30 | 46.7 | Ahead |

Note: In this table, being "Ahead" means a country's ranking in this domain is 10 or more places higher than its overall YSDI Ranking; "On par" means the difference is less than 10 places; "behind" indicates that the country's ranking in this domain is 10 or more places lower than the country's overall YSDI Ranking.

In this domain, the positions of 27 of the 30 highest ranking countries are either ahead of or close to their overall YSDI Ranking. It should be noted that some countries such as Chad, India, Benin, and Niger come up high on the list, far ahead of their overall YSDI Ranking, and there's only one European country (Romania) and one developed economy, (Singapore) among the top 10 countries. This indicates that levels of family and marital happiness and societal safety are not necessarily related to geographical location or socio-economic development. If a country neglects its young people's marriage, family, and societal safety needs while its economy makes strides, overall youth development will be deterred.

5.Civic Participation

Public affairs are of common interest to young people across countries. Civic participation is an indispensable dimension of youth development. In the Civic Participation domain, the project team measures three indicators: rate of organizational participation, percentage of 15 -39 -year -olds in elected representatives, and voting rate of elected representatives. Country rankings and scores in this domain are as follows(Table 9):



Table 9 Country Rankings and Scores in the Civic Participation Domain

| Country | Ranking | Score | Domain ranking relative to overall YSDI Ranking |
|--------------|---------|-------|---|
| Singapore | 1 | 73.2 | On par |
| Norway | 2 | 69.0 | On par |
| South Africa | 3 | 67.9 | Ahead |
| Belgium | 4 | 66.5 | On par |
| Luxembourg | 5 | 65.7 | On par |
| Indonesia | 6 | 64.5 | Ahead |
| Uzbekistan | 7 | 64.1 | Ahead |
| Turkey | 8 | 59.0 | On par |
| China | 9 | 58.2 | Ahead |
| Kenya | 10 | 58.1 | Ahead |
| Malaysia | 11 | 56.5 | Ahead |
| Israel | 12 | 53.8 | On par |
| Bahrain | 13 | 52.8 | On par |
| Kazakhstan | 14 | 52.6 | On par |
| Denmark | 15 | 52.4 | Behind |
| Nicaragua | 16 | 51.2 | Ahead |
| Kuwait | 17 | 50.6 | On par |
| Namibia | 18 | 50.5 | Ahead |
| Tunisia | 19 | 50.2 | Ahead |
| Philippines | 20 | 50.1 | Ahead |
| Benin | 21 | 49.9 | Ahead |
| Malta | 22 | 49.5 | On par |
| Sweden | 23 | 49.3 | Behind |
| Chad | 24 | 48.8 | Ahead |
| Austria | 25 | 48.8 | Behind |
| Ghana | 26 | 48.2 | Ahead |
| Mongolia | 27 | 47.1 | Ahead |
| Saudi Arabia | 28 | 46.6 | On par |
| Zimbabwe | 29 | 46.5 | Ahead |
| Argentina | 30 | 46.3 | On par |

Note: In this table, being "Ahead" means a country's ranking in this domain is 10 or more places higher than its overall YSDI Ranking; "On par" means the difference is less than 10 places; "behind" indicates that the country's ranking in this domain is 10 or more places lower than the country's overall YSDI Ranking.

In this domain, in 27 out of the 30 highest ranking countries, the civic participation of young people is either ahead of or close to their overall YSDI Ranking. Among the 10 highest ranking countries, 4 are from Asia, 4 are from Europe, and 2 are from Africa. Meanwhile, only 3 of the top 10 countries are developed economies. Their distribution is relatively balanced across regions and development levels, indicating that all countries around the world have actively advocated young people's civic participation and have achieved a considerable progress in this regard. It should be noted that China ranks No. 9 in this domain, higher than many other developed economies. This testifies to the notable progress China has made in fostering social inclusion and promoting the civic participation of its young people.

This YSDI report is the outcome of an assessment project co-organized by China Youth and Children Research Center, China International Youth Exchange Center, Center for Youth Moral Education, Tsinghua University, and the Research Center for Contemporary China at Peking University. Launched in February 2021, the joint project has completed theoretical research, indicator design, data collection and analysis, and verification, coming to a fruitful end after about 10 months.

Mankind has entered a new era of development characterized by interconnectivity, which means all countries have closely linked interests

V. Conclusion

and share a common future. The road towards peace and common prosperity is far from smooth. The ambitious initiative to build a community of shared future for mankind requires shared and unremitting efforts of all countries and people all over the world. Young people are the most sensitive "barometer" of the future of a country and the entire world. They are expected to play bigger roles and fulfil greater responsibilities.

The YSDI published in this report aims to offer a common ground for promoting global sustainable youth

development while respecting differences, by measuring the achievements of young people in various countries in an open and inclusive way. This index is also a means to promote lasting peace, common prosperity, the harmonious coexistence and mutual learning of civilizations, and sustainable development.

Chinese young people are ready to work with their peers all around the world to build a community of shared future for mankind and make the world a better place for all.

The full report is available here:
<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/pdf/2021/20211224.docx>