TAXONOMY FOR CHILD WELL BEING INDICATORS

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Social indicators are a vital tool for the design of social policy especially in the present era of uncertainty and change. Children are among the most affected from these global changes. Thus it is not surprising that recent years have brought a dramatic rise in the number of efforts to measure and monitor the status of children. Yet, despite numerous efforts the field of social child indication is fragmented and lacking a unifying taxonomy, and often the term indicator simply refers to statistical measures, with little elaboration on the theoretical concepts or the relationship between indicators and various other factors. In attempt to create such taxonomy for child indicators, we present circles of five contexts depicted from outside to the inside.

The Influencing and structural factors include gender, age, religion and a variety of personal characteristic, while at the same time children’s well being must be understood in both the context of their development and their interaction with the environment. Constituency refers to a variety of groups such as the general public, the media, policy makers, professionals working with children, the academic world and children themselves - all create the demand to child indicators. Measurement Techniques and Tools encompass three arising sub-fields affecting the way indicators are measured today: the unit of observation; the source of information; and whether the indicator is direct or indirect. In the next circle we look at Perspectives, which in recent years have gone through a number of major shifts. These shifts include the move from survival to beyond, from negative to positive, from well becoming to well being and from “objective” to subjective focus. Finally, the Indicators are divided to different types: outcome measures, indicators of children status and indicators of inputs.