

# What can we learn from Bhutan ?

Prof. Joseph E. Stiglitz 2016 in Davos:  
"GDP is very much the wrong measurement. If we are measuring wrong things, we are going to do wrong things: e.g. wars ..."

Stiglitz loves GNH (Gross National Happiness) – the Bhutanese way to improve the state of mother earth...

**WANTED**

real\*  
happiness



Following the wisdom of Bhutan is inspiring → examples:

- ❖ measuring wellbeing\* ; stopping harmful GDP-competition
- ❖ withdrawing destructive addiction to **growth compulsion** ; investing in peace\*, ecology, organic\* farming, self-reliance
- ❖ realizing that if the gap between 'rich' and 'hungry' is melting, then life becomes increasingly pleasant\* – for all of us
- ❖ doubling millions results in decreasing my/our happiness\*
- ❖ understanding that if I fight symptoms **only** (philanthropy, *without tackling causes*), then pain will increase in the long run
- ❖ being aware that it is much **wiser\*** to take less than to give more.

Thank you for sharing your experiences regarding improving the quality of life:

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**Great minds discuss ideas**

Average minds discuss events

Small minds discuss people

( Eleanor Roosevelt )

1. Who is *forcing* sustained<sup>1</sup> GDP GROWTH?  
**FEW** unelected functionaries, seeking profit<sup>2</sup>-maximization

2. Who is *supporting* POPULATION GROWTH?  
Who is promoting mass migration?  
**FEW** persons, addicted to their GDP GROWTH religion

3.1 Who is *profiting*<sup>2</sup> from GDP GROWTH?  
**FEW** families multiplying money out of money without personal work involvement

3.2 Who *benefits*<sup>2</sup> from an economy without compulsion to materialistic growth?  
**ALL** of us, because a caring economy can satisfy basic needs of all human. Over-production and over-indebtedness can end.

GROWTH BASED ON **GREED** ↔ growth based on **needs**<sup>3</sup>

**WORLD  
ECONOMIC  
FORUM**

COMMITTED TO  
IMPROVING THE STATE  
OF THE WORLD

**FEW**

„there is  
enough for  
our **needs**<sup>3</sup>  
but not enough  
for our **GREED**“  
[gandhi]

<sup>1</sup>SDG = Sust.Dev.Goals,goal 8 ; <sup>2</sup>profit≠benefit ; **needs**≠demand

"Anyone who believes  
exponential growth  
can go on forever  
on a finite planet  
is either  
a madman or  
an economist"

Kenneth Boulding  
Economist

population

indebtedness / poverty  
richness



Photos by Art Explosion

understanding means action  
knowing without action is NOT understanding