

# **The Impact of Traditional Practices on Subjective Well-being: Evidence from Indigenous people in East Java of Indonesia**

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## **Abstract**

The association between traditional practice and the well-being of indigenous peoples has been well documented in the literature. However, existing literature is focused on the traditional dimension of well-being such as income and health. Another essential indicator such as subjective well-being is overlooked by the literature. Therefore, this study fills the gap by estimating the impact of traditional practice on indigenous peoples' subjective well-being, which is measured by happiness and life satisfaction. Using cross-sectional data from 300 indigenous people of the Tengger tribe in East Java of Indonesia, this study employed a probit and an ordered probit model in the estimation. The finding indicated that people's decisions to employ traditional practices were positively and significantly affected by transportation ownership, social, and financial capital; however, internet access had a negative effect. The main finding reveals that traditional practices significantly improve indigenous peoples' happiness and life satisfaction. Further estimation based on age category reveals that traditional practices failed to significantly improve the subjective well-being of their youth. However, it significantly improved the subjective well-being of the elderly. Therefore, our study suggests that there is a need to maintain the traditional practices, especially for the oldest people in Indonesia.

**Keywords:** Indigenous people, traditional practice, life satisfaction, ordered probit model, Indonesia

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