

# Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Klára Hanusová</b>
<b>Advisor:</b>	<b>Mgr. Milan Ščasný, Ph.D.</b>
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>Health, Happiness and Consumption of Sugary Goods</b>

## **OVERALL ASSESSMENT** (provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):

*Please provide your assessment of each of the following four categories, summary and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.*

### **Contribution**

Klára analyses the relation between life satisfaction, in particular happiness and sugar consumption. Given the worldwide criticism of GDP being the indicator as „human well being“, happiness could serve as an alternative way how to measure human well being. Therefore, identifying variables, which affect happiness is relevant topic for research. Klára’s main contribution lies in explaining the effect of sugar consumption on happiness. She uses rich dataset from INHERIT project conducted by Zvěřinová et al. (2018). To answer the research question about relation of happiness and sugar consumption she employs logit and negative binomial model. She concludes that an association between sugar consumption and happiness was not found in the dataset.

### **Methods**

I highly appreciate Klara’s methodology part. She deeply discusses various econometrics technique and give a clear reason for using logit and negative binomial model, and for determinants of life satisfaction and happiness the multinomial logit and bivariate probit model. On the other hand, in the conclusion part she explains advantages of Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) over chosen methods. I would appreciate more reasoning of preferring her chosen methods over SEM.

### **Literature**

The literature part is very well structured and provides a clear introduction to the topic. Klara provides a rich list of related literature for both measurement the life satisfaction and happiness as well as for the methodology she used. However, I miss literature about behavioral economics insights and its help to reduce sugar consumption. The tax reduction is not the only attempt to reduce sugar consumption as is stated on page 2.

### **Manuscript form**

The manuscript form suits the needs for Bachelor thesis. However, I would appreciate using advanced editing tools, for example LaTeX.

### **Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense**

Overall, a student shows an excellent practical use of a theoretical knowledge earned during the bachelor studies. The thesis is well structured and a reader is able to understand the main message of the thesis from the beginning. For the discussion during the defense I would aim on the practical use of the results. Moreover, on page 28 she states „*Consequently, there is an indication that people who consume more sugar tend to be less happy and less satisfied. Nonetheless, these results should be interpreted with caution, due to a potential bias.*“ What are these potential bias?

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**SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED** (for details, see below):

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	26
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	23
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	16
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	16
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> (max. 100 points)	<b>81</b>
<b>GRADE</b> (A – B – C – D – E – F)	<b>B</b>

**NAME OF THE REFEREE:** *Matěj Opatrný*

**DATE OF EVALUATION:** 12.5.2020

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**Referee Signature**

**EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:**

**CONTRIBUTION:** *The author presents original ideas on the topic demonstrating critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics. There is a distinct value added of the thesis.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
30	15	0

**METHODS:** *The tools used are relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The thesis topic is comprehensively analyzed.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
30	15	0

**LITERATURE REVIEW:** *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
20	10	0

**MANUSCRIPT FORM:** *The thesis is well structured. The student uses appropriate language and style, including academic format for graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables and disposes with a complete bibliography.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
20	10	0

**Overall grading:**

TOTAL	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 - 90	B
71 - 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F