

How is well-being in the information society introduced?

The theme of the issue consisting of three research papers is based on the 8th bi-annual implementation of the series Well-being in the Information Society (WIS 2020). As such, well-being is a wide concept that is approached in three papers in this special issue.

The importance of well-being in society is getting ever more visible as people are striving for more productive life and work. Well-being in the information society with its sub-theme of fruits of respect tended to highlight aspects that reveal the cross-section in living, information society and health from several approaches.

Currently, one of the raising topics is blockchain technology, which is based on a cryptographically secured, decentralised, and distributed storage of data. In their literature review Hyrynsalmi et al. proposed that using blockchain in e-Health, medical and well-being applications, poses several ethical questions. The authors approach their research problem by pondering what the state of the blockchain ethics research in e-Health, medical and well-being sector is. In their literature-based study Hyrynsalmi et al. summarise three key findings: 1. Despite several published papers, there are no actual analyses on ethical consequences on blockchain. 2. As there already are applications in the area under discussion, there should be more discussion and ethical analysis done. 3. Even if the use of blockchain is accepted and increasing along with adding artificial intelligence, studies should focus also on ethical side effects and aspects.

Another approach towards well-being was presented by Somerkoski who had studied how young Finnish people perceive immigrants. The informants were aged between 15 and 20 years, and at the time of the study they were second grade stu-

dents. The empirical material was collected by questionnaires that included both quantitative and qualitative questions. The qualitative analysis produced four main categories: immigrants as victims; immigrants as threat; immigrants as the wasters of producers of resources; and immigration in media. The study supported the obvious finding that having a person with multicultural background in one's social life has a positive effect on attitudes towards immigrants.

Somerkoski reminded that Finland will need more people for the labour market in the near future as the population is ageing faster than in other European countries. It is important to know what the current young generation discusses and how it considers immigrants who need to be included, without forgetting that also their education must be taken care. While the results revealed that - in general - attitudes towards migrated children, married people and workers were positive but attitudes towards unemployed and refugees were negative, more research is needed, and knowledge should be shared and adopted by decision-makers to ensure more acceptance among school-aged people. One can argue that only education and inclusive society will provide well-being for the different regions in Finland.

A third angle towards well-being was offered by Rantakangas and Halonen who presented their web-based application to support older people and others when they watch television at home. Many aged people suffer from loneliness, memory issues, hearing loss or sight problem. Rantakangas and Halonen planned and produced an application that was designed for the elderly keeping in mind many of the challenges that the elderly meet when seeking for information about forthcoming TV programmes. The challenges were identified from

earlier studies related to ageing and losing skills when senses deteriorate.

Even if not all elderly, there are people who live alone or who have only limited assistance from other people for their daily TV-watching. Earlier knowledge had also revealed that most elderly like to watch TV, follow news and enjoy old or new films. In this sense, the application was to add well-being of its users. The application was a web-based easy system that with its carefully chosen features was simple but included enough infor-

mation to browse the channels and schedules of the programmes. The current version was a prototype that was functionable already as such, and it could already bring entertainment and joy to any individual who has challenges to interpret programmes written in small print on paper.

Raija Halonen

Mirella Cacace

Chenglong Li

Reima Suomi