

Eglinton East- Kennedy Park, Neighborhood- Wellbeing



Geumran (Grace) Park

Toronto Center for Community Learning & Development
Immigrant women Integration Program 2012-2013



Acknowledgement

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Furthermore, I would like to thank all the residents who spent precious time responding to the survey in the Eglinton East- Kennedy Park community as well as small business owners and organizations in the area. Particularly I would like to thank Cathy, an English teacher at Afghanistan organization, for supporting me during the survey. I appreciate many things my family has done to support, help and encourage me to complete the survey and report.

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Executive Summary

How many people think about their life quality in our society? Every year economic, social and political issues change and peak our interests. Various situations affect our lives daily such as safety, income, happiness, community spirits, lifestyle and level of satisfaction with our standard of living. Therefore, people have different expectations and meanings of wellbeing in their daily lives. Because of the various measures of wellbeing used by people to gauge their satisfaction with their lives, this survey branches out from the usual economic measures to measure happiness. This survey covers Eglinton East-Kennedy Park neighborhood. The survey provided questions about wellbeing to measure each neighbourhood. The multicultural communities surveyed are diverse in language, religion, strengths and weaknesses.

Through the survey overall findings are:

- Currently the respondents' Civic/Immigration Status are 60% citizen and 40% immigrant.
- The area's most respondents are from Southeast, South, and East Asia, more specifically from Sri Lanka and the Philippines.
- The most respondents are 26-55 years old at 67% of participants in the survey.
- People have high levels of education as 75% of participants have obtained at least some college.
- 58% of respondents' have an annual household income of under \$25,000.
- Over 50% of respondents live in a rented house. Only 20% own their house.
- 32% of participants spend 31%-40% of their income on housing. Seriously, 20% of participants use more than 50% their income for their housing.
- 41% of respondents are in school for daily and 30% of respondents are employed. However the jobs they have only require high school and they have a higher level of education than this.
- 85% of the people feel satisfied with their standard of living.
- Over 90% of respondents feel positive about their health and 97% of people have a family doctor. There is not much exercise in the community as 39% of respondents report engaging in physical activity less than once a week
- 63% of respondents feel their quality of life is good, 17% of the respondents feel neither good nor poor, and 20% responded say their quality of life is bad.
- Most respondents answered positively to measures of happiness including confidence level, optimism, feeling warm towards others and feel there is meaning and purpose in their lives
- Through the survey the weakest area of participation is democratic engagement as about 70% of responds don't know who their MP, MPP, and city councillor are. Also only 41% vote among those who are eligible.

- 55% of respondents have lived in the community for over 5 years, and 57% of respondents are satisfied with the community. Moreover there is a moderate sense of belonging and are minimally involved in activities, groups or organizations where they volunteer but there is a desire to participate in the community.
- Most of respondents have a weak of community spirit and support because over 60% answered negative feeling.
- Overall, over 50% of respondents don't know well changing of public government services are either better or not. About 25% feel that they have stayed same the services from previous, and about 10% have got worse. Especially, About 30% of respondents have got worse about community spirit, employment services, immigrants, and children and youth services.
- Over 80% of respondents have gotten strong social supporting from family and friends.
- Most respondents frequently enjoy their extra time for watching TV, walking, listening to music and surfing web. Also about 45% the people never do adult games, bicycling, sports events and visiting galleries & museums. 76% never go to a ballet, opera, and shows.
- High percentage of respondents participates recycling and environment care.

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY

1. Kennedy Park

Kennedy Park is a neighbourhood in the Scarborough district of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. It is bordered by Birchmount Road, Brimley Road, Eglinton Avenue, and St. Clair Avenue. People know as **Scarborough Junction**.

Scarborough Junction received its name in 1873, when a post office using this name was opened in the Bell General Store which stood on the south-west corner of Kennedy Road and St. Clair Avenue. The Junction part of this name referred to the two railways - the Grand Trunk and the Toronto-Nippissing - which crossed paths at the south end of this neighbourhood.

In 1896, Scarborough Junction was the most heavily populated village in the former Township of Scarborough. It had its own school, general store, and the Bethel Methodist Church. The historic Bethel Church Cemetery is quietly tucked away off Kennedy Road, south of Eglinton Avenue.

Scarborough Junction was also one of the first areas in Scarborough to develop residential communities, with the construction of houses on “side streets” as early as 1900. The urbanization of Scarborough Junction took place in the late 1940's and the 1950's when farm fields were replaced with rows of war veterans' housing and cosy little bungalows. These houses sold very quickly to young families that were looking for affordable houses in what was then the outskirts of Toronto.

Kennedy Park community is a culturally diverse family oriented neighbourhood. Scarborough Junction has many fine attributes including affordable homes, a vibrant shopping district along Eglinton Avenue, and convenient access to TTC and Go Transit stations (Toronto.ca).

2. Eglinton East

Eglinton East, also known as **Knob Hill**, is a neighbourhood in eastern Toronto, in the district of Scarborough. It is bounded by Stansbury Crescent, Citadel Drive, and West Highland Creek to the north, Midland Avenue to the west, the CNR rail line, Brimley Road, and Eglinton Avenue to the south, and Bellamy Road North to the east.

Eglinton East is a working class neighbourhood with a high percentage of immigration to the area. Sri Lanka has produced the most immigration to the area over the past decade and correspondingly the most spoken (non English) language is Tamil. There is a large number of East Indian, Filipino and Jamaican people living in this neighbourhood. While there is an equal number of Chinese the other figures are above average.

The residents of this neighbourhood primarily live in high rise buildings with only 22% of people owning their place of residence (wikipedia.org).

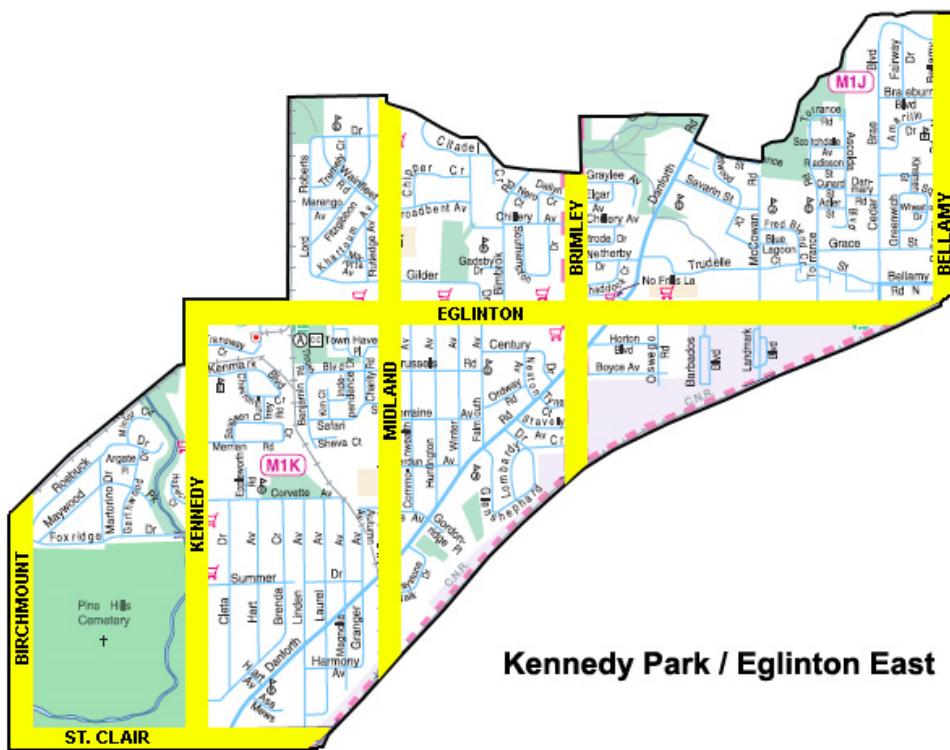
COMMUNITY PROFILE (Toronto.ca)



Kennedy Park (#124)



Eglinton East (#138),

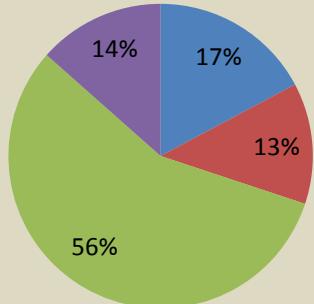


Kennedy Park / Eglinton East

COMMUNITY FACTS AND DEMOGRAPHICS (Toronto.ca)

2011 Kennedy Park Age Profile

■ Children 0-14 ■ Youth 14-24 ■ working 25-64 ■ Senior 65+

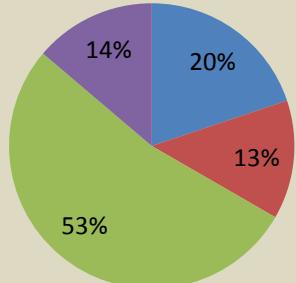


2011 Kennedy Park age profile

Total	17,080	100%
Children 0-14	2,940	17.20%
Youth 14-24	2,200	12.90%
working age 25-64	9,640	56.40%
Senior 65+	2,300	13.50%

2011 Eglinton East Age Profile

■ Children ■ Youth 14-24 ■ Working age 25-64 ■ Senior 65+



2011 Eglinton East Age Profile

Total	22,845	100%
Children	4,535	19.90%
Youth 14-24	3,080	13.50%
Working age 25-64	12,080	52.90%
Senior 65+	3,150	13.80%

(Data base on 2011 city of Toronto neighborhood profiles-Toronto.ca)

Following the data from the city of Toronto, Kennedy Park and Eglinton East age profile is very similar. There are over 50 % working age, 34% under 24 young people. These people are strong community members.

Top Recent (2006) Immigrant Origin

Origin	%
South Asia (India, Pakistan etc.)	40.1%
Southeast Asia (Philippines etc.)	24.6%
Eastern Asian (China, Japan etc.)	9.7%
Western Central Asia & the Middle East	5.8%
Other	19.9%
Total	100%

Top Non-Official Language Spoken (Eglinton East- Kennedy Park)

1. Tamil
2. Tagalong (Filipino)
3. Chinese (no dialect indicated)
4. Chinese (Cantonese)
5. Bengali
6. Persian (Farsi)
7. Urdu
8. Greek
9. Chinese (Mandarin)
10. Italian
11. Spanish

2006 community fact

2006 Population: **39,421**

% Change Since 2001: **-2.4%**

Area: **6.8 Km²**

Population Density: **5,795 persons / Km²**

Pop. of Children (0-4 yrs): **7.0%**

Pop. of Children (5-14 yrs): **13.3%**

Pop. of Youth (15-19): **6.3%**

Pop. of Youth (20-24): **6.8%**

Pop. of Seniors (65+ yrs): **12.9%**

Pop <15 and >64: **33.2%**

Parks & Open Space: **0.5 Km²**

Distance to nearest subway station: **0.9 Km**

Number of TTC surface routes: **26**

Total Employment: **4,252**

Part-Time Employment: **1,609**

Business Establishments: **556**

Visible Minority: **67%**

Not Visible Minority: **33%** (Data base from 2006 Census from city of Toronto-Toronto.ca)

Household Income 2005 Priority Area City

Household Income 2005	Priority Area (Eglinton East-Kennedy Park)	City
Median After-Tax	\$39,320	\$46,240
Average After-Tax	\$45,835	\$63,870
Total Person in Private Households	39,075	2,465,500
Low Income Persons	10,340	478,307
% Low Income After-Tax	26.5%	19.4%

The priority area income is lower than the average city income in 2005. 26.5% low income is higher than city level. Unfortunately, it's unable to reflect current data.

Renter/Owner Characteristics (2006 Eglinton East)

	Number	%
Average gross rent \$	837	
Renter spending 30-99% of income	1,670	39.1
Owner payments 30-99% of income	1,075	34.9
Average value of dwelling \$	261,036	
Average owner major payments \$	1,163	

(Source: Census 2006; 211toronto.ca; City of Toronto)

Unfortunately, most data available is from the Census in 2006. Only the age profile updated in 2011, following the data the priority area population and the age level is very similar from 2006.

Unfortunately, there is only data available from the Census taken in 2006, 2011 data on housing has not been released or is no longer available due to government cuts.

The immigrant origin data reflects that these communities are strong and diverse Asian communities especially such as South Asian and Southeast Asian.

METHODOLOGY

To collect the data a survey was constructed and distributed in the area of interests for neighbourhood wellbeing. It was designed 17 domains in 18 pages by the website bookmarks and hard copies. It took almost 50 days to survey. People in the area were asked to fill out the wellbeing survey so that data could be collected for the purpose of community activities and satisfaction for their reality of wellbeing.

Public data was also sourced from;

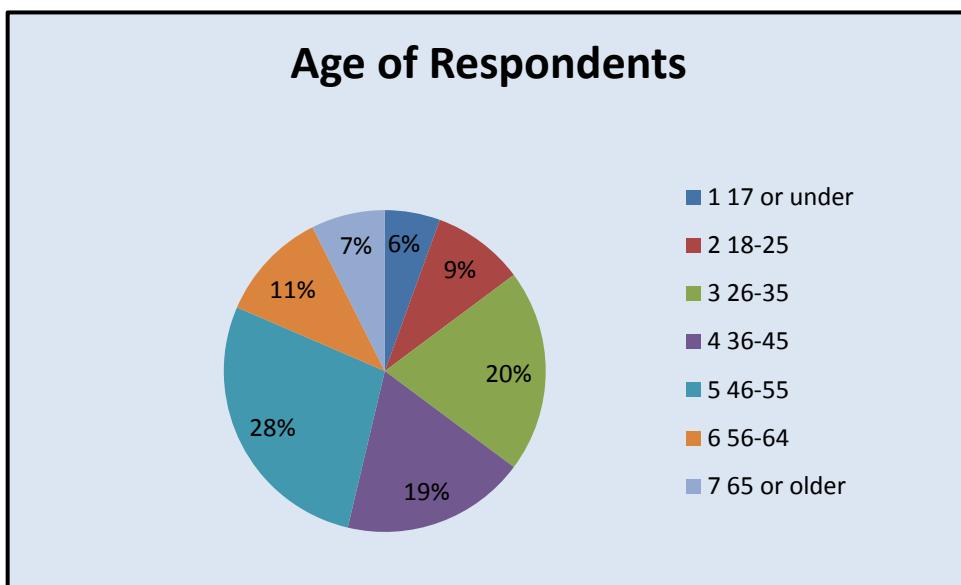
- wikipedia.org
- City of Toronto and Statistics Canada
- Census 2006 data Toronto
- torontoneighbourhoods.net

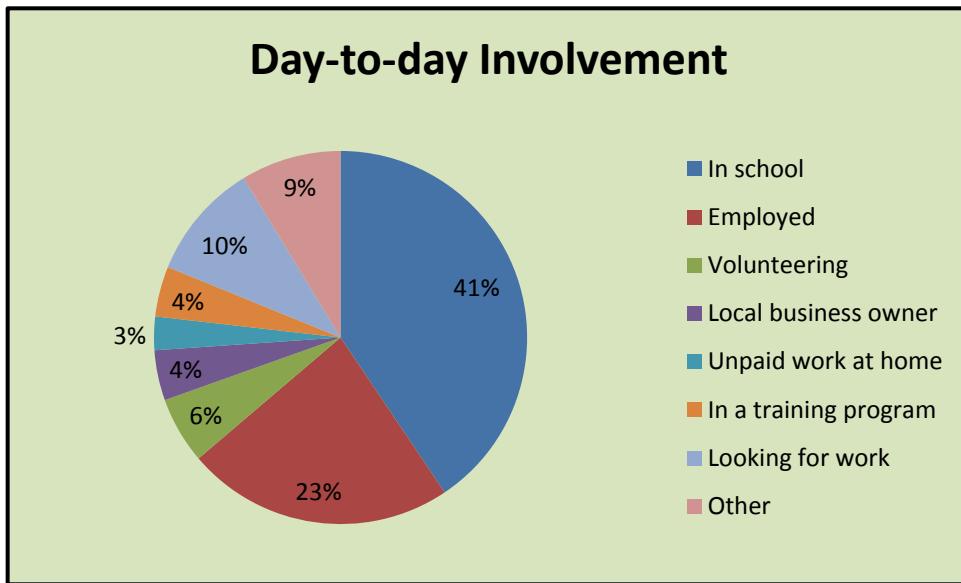
All those data used for the report.

MAIN SURVEY FINDING AND ANALYSIS

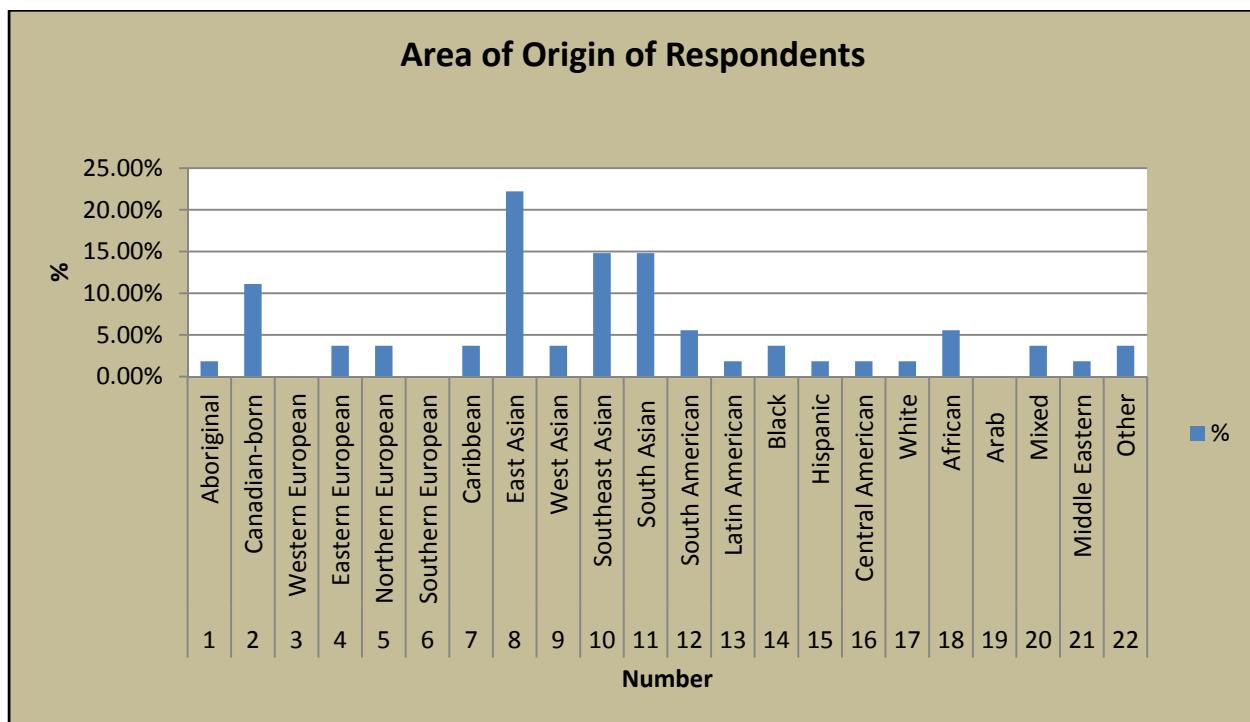
Demographic

There were total 54 respondents to the survey, of those respondents, 60% were currently Canadian Citizen and 40% were Permanent Residents, and 77% of respondents have lived in Canada for more than 6 years.

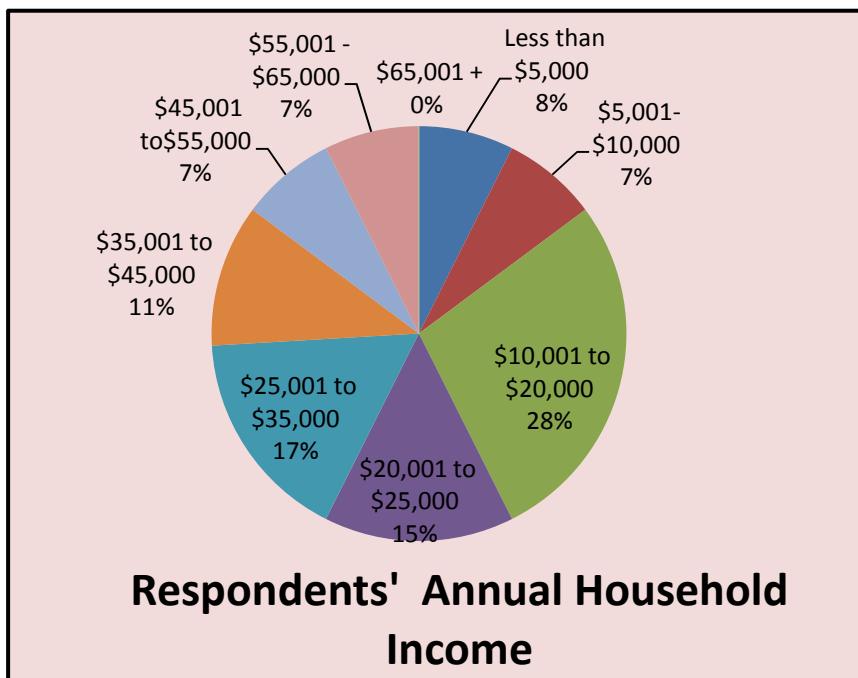




67% of respondents are 26-55. The age group is a strong labor resource in society, but the most of the members are in a school. 41% of respondents' daily involvement is school. Others are involved in other activities as 23% are employed, and a low percentage cover volunteering, local business owner, work at home, in a training program and looking for job.



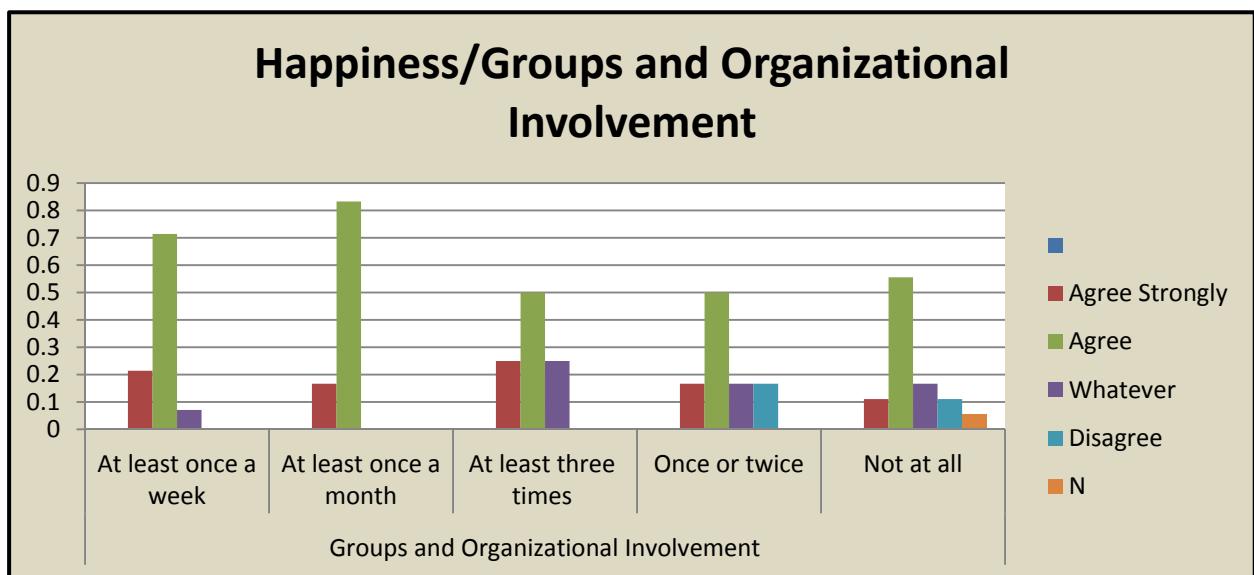
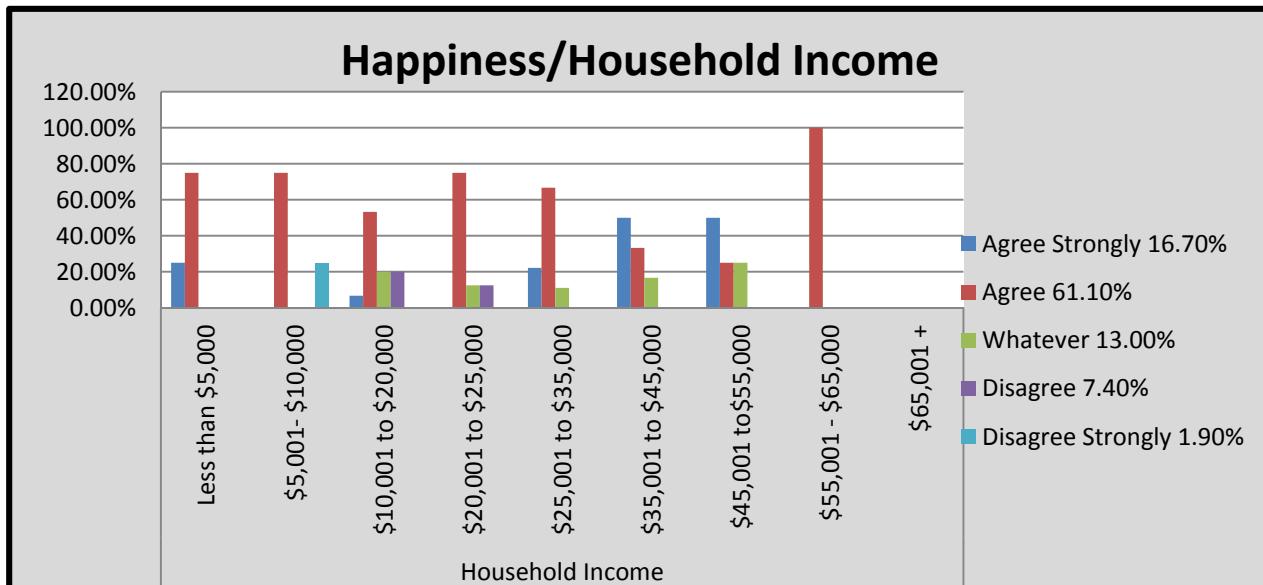
Through the survey, 11% of respondents said they are Canadian-born. 89% of respondents come from a diverse set of various other countries. The majority people are East Asian (22%), the next largest group is Southeast Asian and South Asian (15%), and Africa and South American (6%).



High percentages of respondents have under \$25,000 of annual income because high percentages of respondents are not employed.

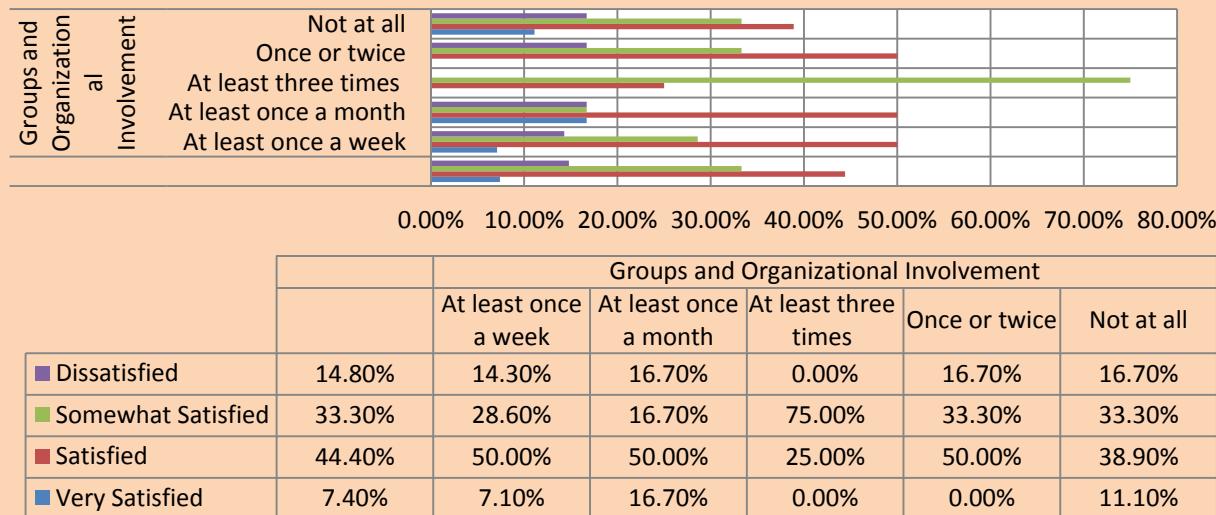
Purpose of the Survey Finding

My purpose of the survey finding is to look at the reality of personal wellbeing such as quality of life through examination of variables like income, social activity, length of time in Canada and sense of belonging in the community.



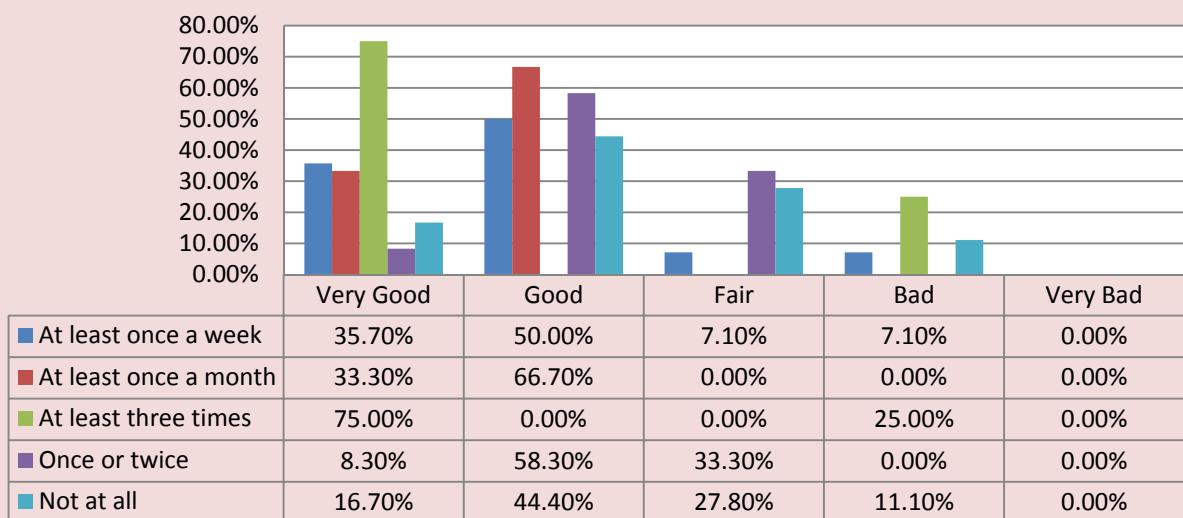
The data compared household income and groups and organizational involvement with happiness. Overall, positive social activities make respondents feel higher percentage of happiness. On the other hand, household income does not affect their happiness at 77% of respondents are positively happy but a high percentage of less than \$10,000 annual income respondents feel happy.

Satisfaction with standard of living/ Groups and Organizational Involvement

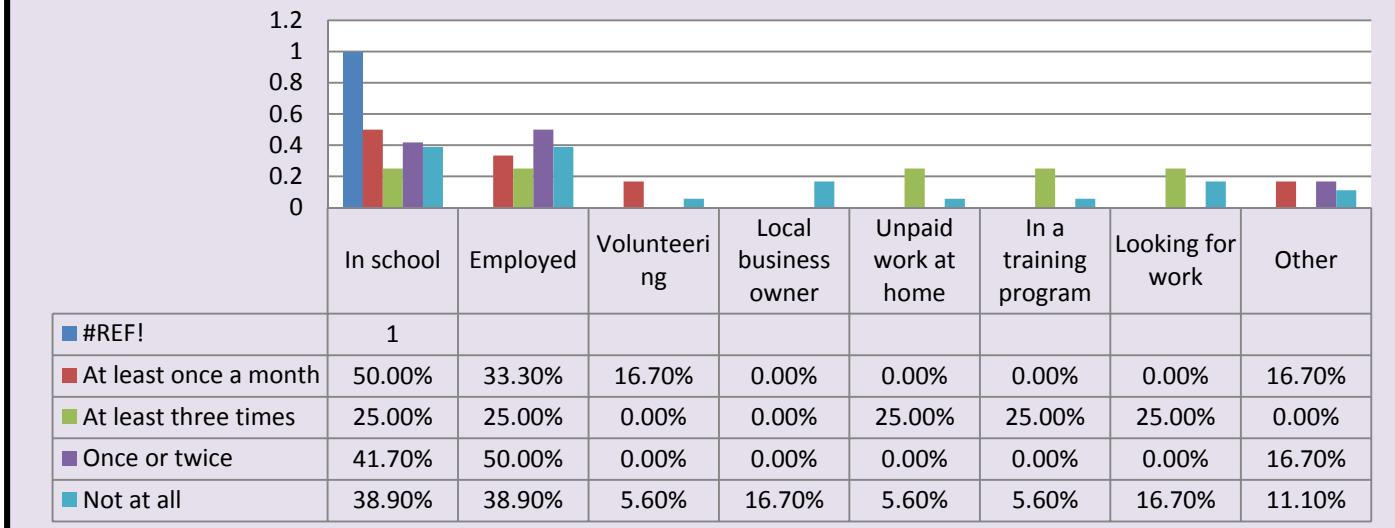


Above the data reflects those respondents that said they participate in community activities with a group or organization at least once a week or once a month. Overall the respondents have higher point for satisfaction with standard of living when actively involved in the community.

Health of Past 12 months/Groups and Organizational involvement

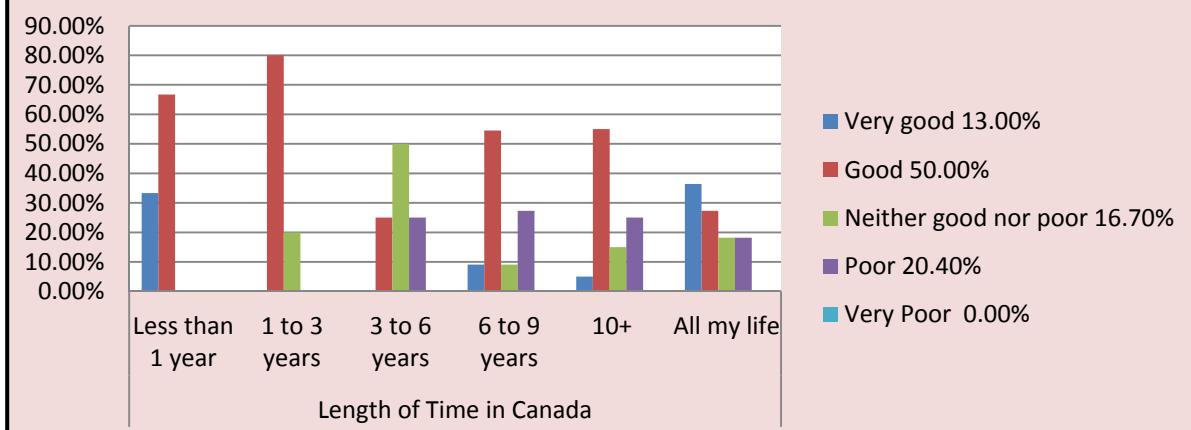


Day to day Involvement/ Group and Organization Invollvement

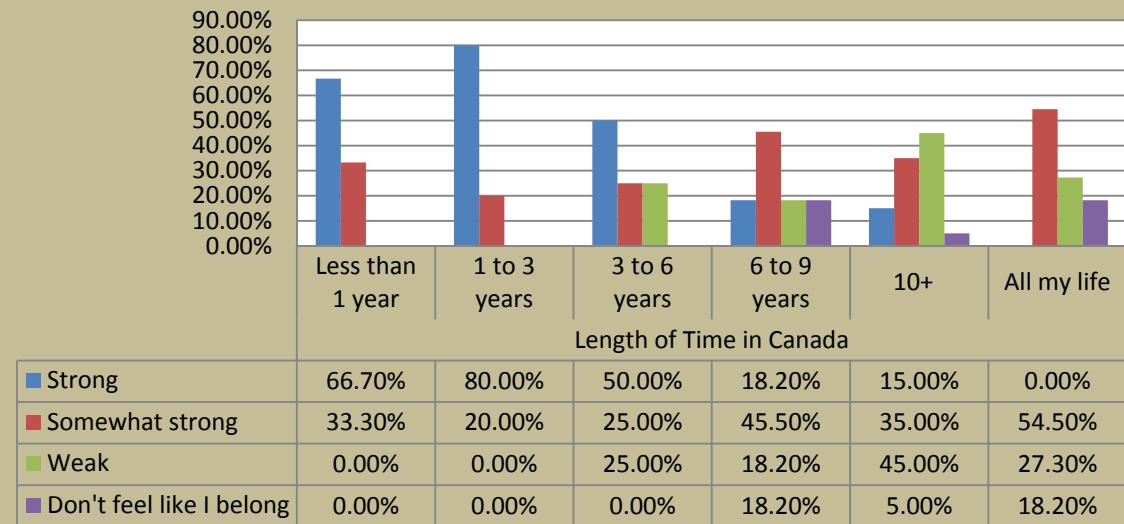


Through data analysis looking at respondents that had good health condition, we can see that they are the same people who are involved in a social activity. Also, those who are in a school or employed, are more likely to join a social group activity than others. Business owners that were also respondents said they never participate in any community group, maybe they are too busy.

Quality of Life/Length of Time in Canada (Eglinton East/Kennedy Park)



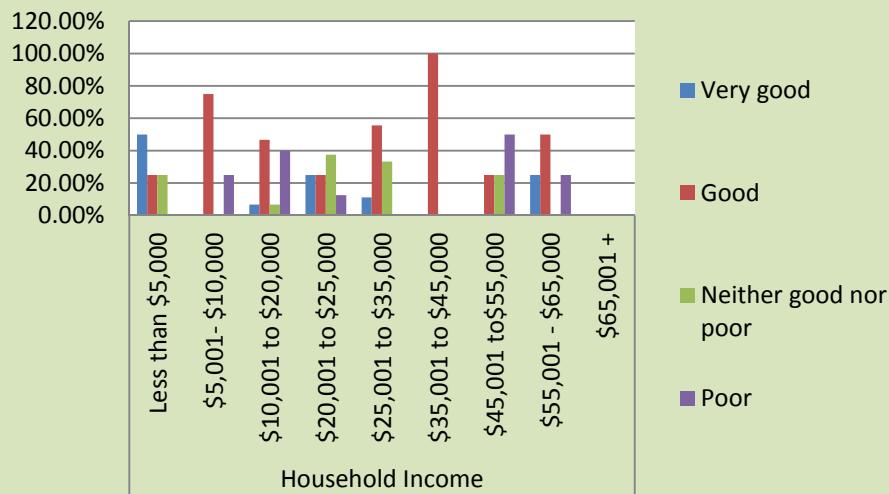
Sense of belonging/Length of Time in Canada (Eglinton East/Kennedy Park)



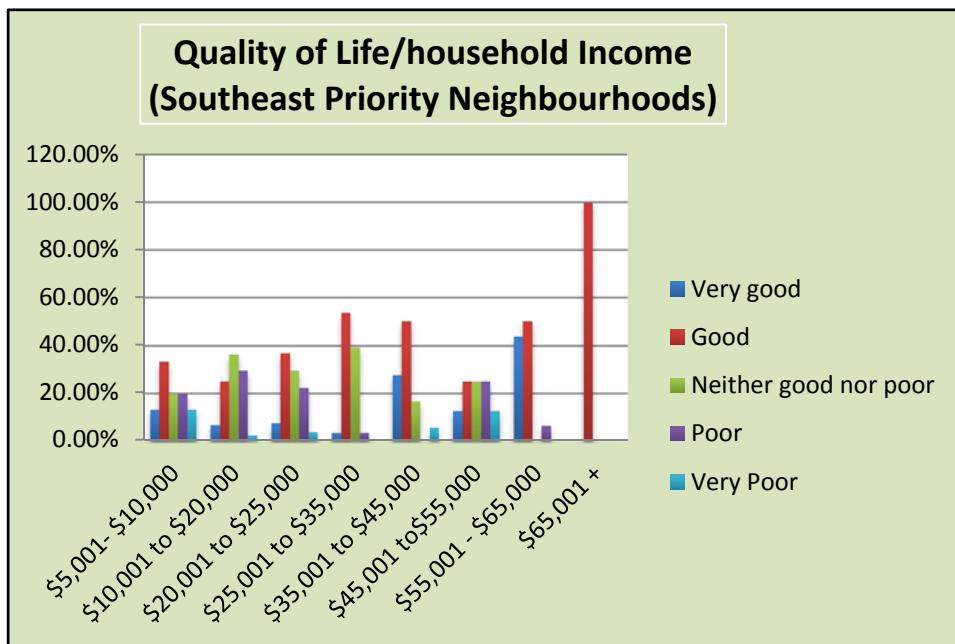
Data analysis of the quality of life and /length of time in Canada displays over 80% of the people who have been in Canada less than 1years to 3 years answered feeling that they have a good quality of life in Canada. Also, the result of the sense of belonging/length of time in Canada shows that respondents who have lived in Canada 1-3 years feel a stronger sense of belonging than those who have lived in Canada for over 3 years.

Comparing Neighbourhoods

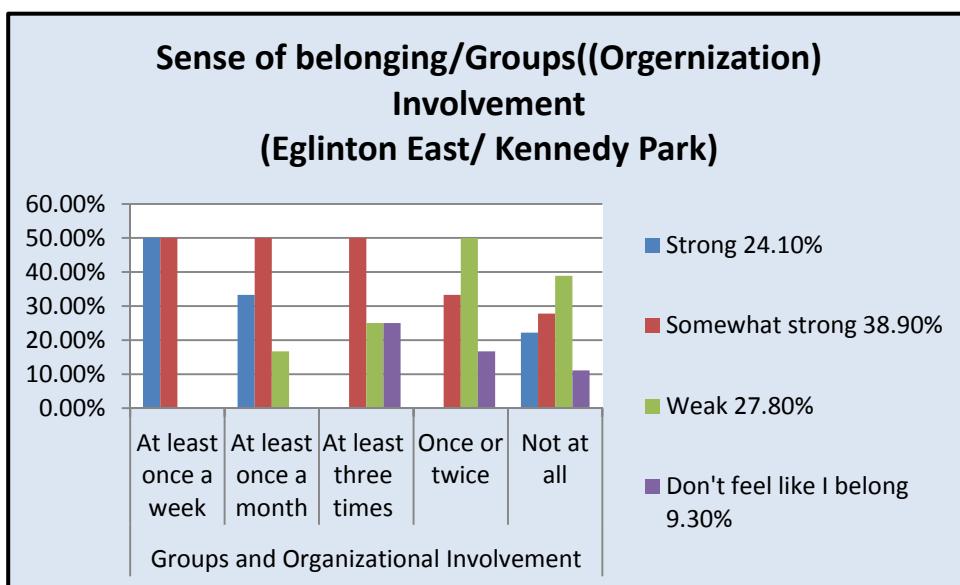
Quality of Life/Household Income (Eglinton East/Kennedy Park)

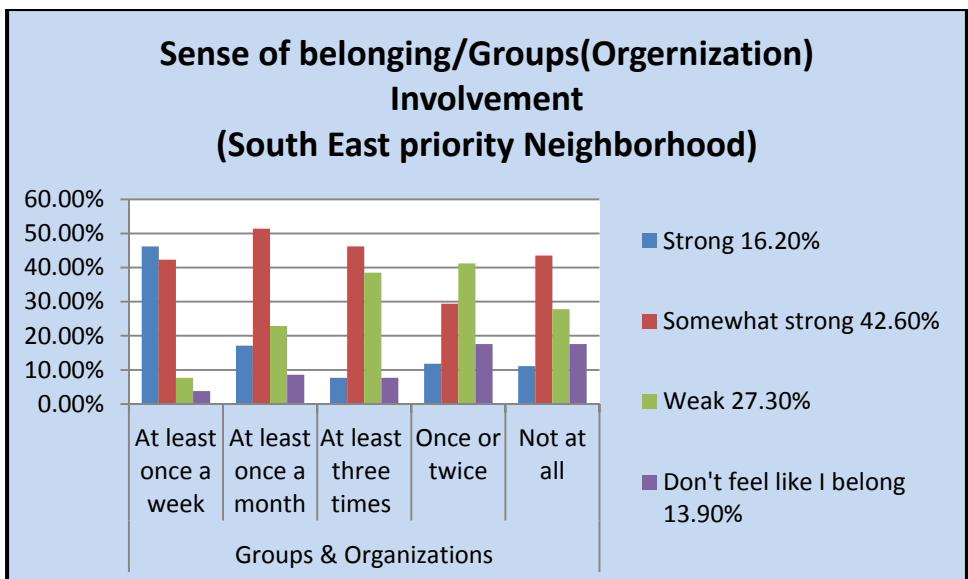


Comparing two areas quality of life/household income, we look Eglinton East/Kennedy Park and Southeast Priority neighbourhoods. Through the data, quality of life is not .

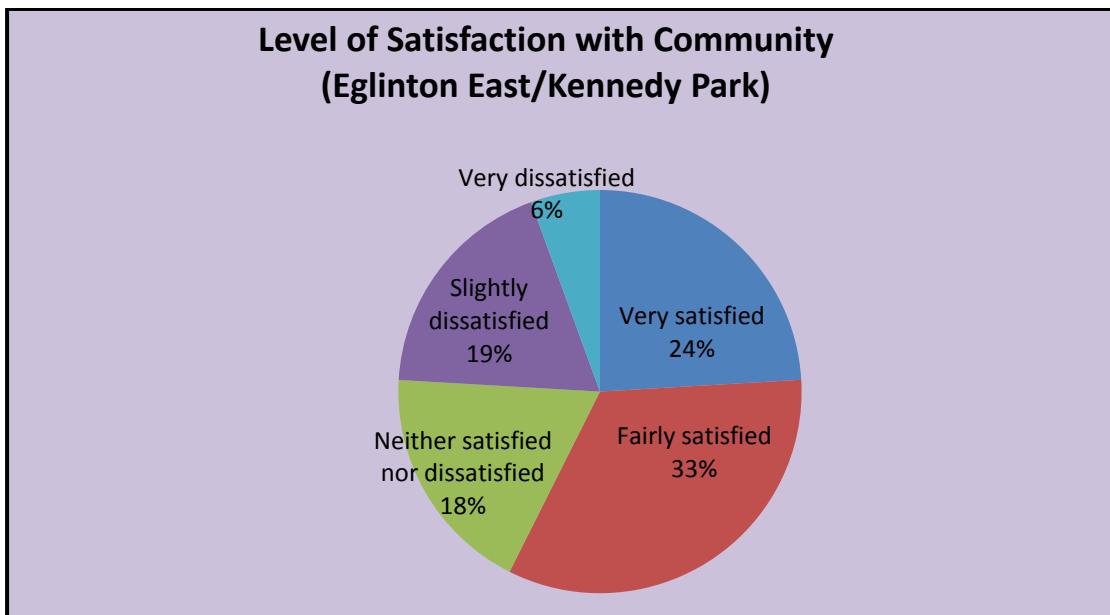


related to income directly. Because in both area's people who said they make less than \$5,000 house hold income answered positively regarding quality of life. Especially, those who cited making less than \$20,000 a year in Eglinton East/ Kennedy Park. The respondents feel pretty positive more than those in the Southeast priority neighbourhoods.

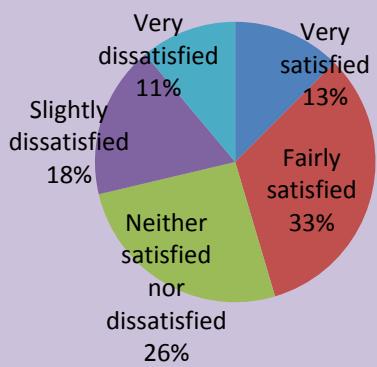




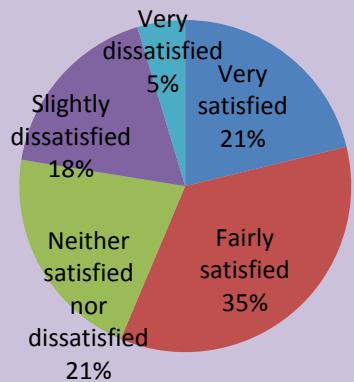
Above is data comparing the two areas of Eglinton East /Kennedy Park and South East priority neighborhood. Looking at variables of the sense of belonging/groups involvement reflects that who have a strong sense of belonging to the community when the respondents go often to group activities in both areas. Especially, those who said they attend at least once a week have very strong sense of belonging in both areas.



Level of Satisfaction with Community (Southeast priority neighbourhood)



Level of Satisfaction with community (Regent Park)



Looking at the research on level of satisfaction with respondents own community, we compare Eglinton/ Kennedy Park, Regent Park and Southeast priority neighbourhood. The response shows 57% respondents of Eglinton East/Kennedy Park are satisfied, 56% respondents of Regent Park are satisfied and 45% respondents of Southeast priority neighbourhood are satisfied with their community. The result displays Eglinton East/Kennedy Park respondents have more positive outlook towards their own neighbourhood than the other neighbourhoods' respondents.

Personal Observations

This survey can help us understand how people feel about quality of their lives in Canada, and what their daily activities are as well as how strong their sense of belonging in the community is.

First, I compare respondents' level of satisfaction with their living standard and length of time they have lived in Canada. I realized people who live in Canada for less than 3 years (60%) feel more satisfied. Of people living in Canada 6-9 years, 54% feel satisfied. The number continues to decrease with number of years lived in Canada as only 40% of people who have lived here more than 10 years feel satisfied. Furthermore, 0% of people living in Canada less than 3years feel dissatisfied but 20% of people living in Canada over 10 years feel dissatisfied. I understood that new comers have strong hope and satisfaction especially those who come from economic or political crisis and civil war. Through the data measurement it is clear to see that most new comers spend time in school and volunteering and keep their hope and looking for a proper job. However, after 3years , they realize there are diverse social problem like a narrow job markets, different expectation from their previous job and some in some cases this brings family difficulty between couples conflict, culture clash and difficult family economic circumstances. If they settle the proper way they keep their satisfaction continuously, otherwise, the respondents lose their quality of life and sense of belonging in Canada after 3years.

Secondly, household income and rate levels of satisfaction don't relate directly, but it is one of important for their satisfaction. Also, social group involvement and social supports from family or friends affect respondents' happiness or satisfaction importantly same like income level. Most who feel happy answered positively in the social supports domains. They say they are over 70% for people who feel a positive relationship with family and friends. As a result, we can see that social capital and activities are very important for qualities of life or happiness in Canada for the respondents.

Thirdly, group and organization involvements impact sense of belonging, health, quality of life and satisfaction with standard of living. Regularly involving social activities are very important for our life. It makes respondents' lives more dynamic, health, and more satisfaction in our society.

Overall, Ellington East/Kennedy Park the respondents have more positive thought about sense of belonging in the community, level of satisfaction with own community and quality of life doesn't impact directly household income than compared other area respondents.

Recommendations

Through the survey I find that community engagement leads positive points of wellbeing such as health, sense of community belonging, happiness, confidence, and satisfaction with community and standard of living. So I recommend that first, the communities should create some integration programs. Second, all residents try to encourage each other to volunteer more. Also the residents should interest in the community programs and activities. Third, more organizations create mixed cultural community events in the area. Last, the local area communities should post more actively their supporting programs to encourage more participation for the residents. Furthermore, I want to suggest some organizations in Eglinton east/Kennedy Park that need helps or participants to volunteer for group activities.

The Hub – Mid Scarborough (United way Toronto)

- 2660 Eglinton Avenue East, 416-847-4175, 416-847-4170
 - West Hill Community Services • Toronto Public Health
 - Action for Neighbourhood Change •Scarborough Community Diabetes Program
 - Sabawoon Afghan Family Education & Counselling Centre (a.k.a. SAFE Counselling)
 - Community Resource Connections of Toronto Vasantham Tamil Seniors Wellness Centre
 - YMCA Employment and Community Services

Community mental health service #301- 2425 Eglinton Ave. E 416-431-8135

- Psychiatric outpatient program • Addictions program • Trauma program
- Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) clinic

Canadian Centre for victims of Toronto #220- 2425 Eglinton Ave. E 416-750-3045

- Medical, mental health and social care • Legal help • Crisis intervention • Community support through volunteer befriending- including interpretation and escort to appointments
- Settlement services • Community consultation and public information • Homework club
- Mutual support groups including children's peer support •Counselling for adults, children, youth • Support youth-(One-to-one tutoring, Job readiness workshops, and Leadership activities.) • English as a Second Language program

Catholic cross-cultural services #202-2425 Eglinton Ave. E 416-759-8800

- LINC Language program(transportation and child care available)
- Family Literacy Program -- language and age appropriate family reading resources through a lending library • Activities to encourage and reinforce family language learning

West Scarborough community legal services #201-2425 Eglinton Ave. E

416-285-4460 ext 221

- Community legal clinic • Deals primarily with tenant issues, social housing, Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program appeals, Canada Pension Plan Disability benefits,

Employment Insurance, Old Age Security may provide representation affidavits, notary public

- Community education - funded by Legal Aid Ontario

Don Montgomery CRC 2467 Eglinton Ave E 416 396-4043

- Offers a variety of programs such as cultural, creative, sports, youth, preschool, and seniors programs

Afghanistan women's organization 2555 Eglinton Ave. East, #211 416- 266-1777

- LinC programs with child care • Family support • Employment service
- **New comer service**

Scarborough Centre for Alternative Studies Adult 720 Midland Ave, 416-396-6921

- Adult program (over 21) and to young adults (18 -20) in EdVance program. The school provides opportunities for learners to achieve their future career goals in different ways:
 - * prepare for further post-secondary education or training
 - * improve skills for employment
 - * earn a high school diploma
- Offer a variety of courses at the college level for students to obtain their high school diploma without the burden of tuition.

Kennedy/Eglinton library 2380 Eglinton Ave. E 416-396-8924

- Youth Advisory Group • Adult Book Club • Tuesday Night Knitting Circle
- Divers event workshops

Second Base Youth Shelter

702 Kennedy Road (west side, south of Eglinton East) 416.261-2733 (103)

Conclusion

As a result, reality of wellbeing is inner happiness and satisfaction of life more than financial level of living standard or social position. Social group activities make people higher satisfaction, and sense of belonging with community. So community leader groups should encourage the residents to join diverse programs and organizations, especially for newcomers. I believe that through the recommended organizations, residents of Eglinton East/Kennedy Park can improve their social engagement, understanding and higher satisfaction with the community.

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