first Version

**Research Framework**

Lack of social capital has been claimed to be the main reason of slow GDP growth in post-socialist countries. This was the case in spite of physical and human capital available at the start of the transition (Paldam, 2000.)[[1]](#footnote-1) As previously empirical evidence has found a direct link between family structure and human and social capital.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Inequality of family structure has also been found to be an important mechanism for the generation of poverty.[[3]](#footnote-3) The ground-breaking work of Gary Becker clearly defined the relationship between family and production. More specifically, Becker summarizes the case for connection that exists between the household and production of human capital, social and moral capital.[[4]](#footnote-4) Aguirre expanded this discussion by addressing the role of the family in the economy activity and establishing the connection between the family structure and sustainable development. Specifically, Aguirre (2007) and Aguirre and Saidi(2013) and (2015), in expanding the analysis of the relationship between the growth process and family structure to several countries, finds a causal relationship between family structure and fundamental elements of sustainable growth such as savings, wealth accumulation, and access to credit, education, and school attendance, among others.[[5]](#footnote-5)

The above referred findings underline the relevance of the work of IFFD for sustainable development in any given country. The evaluation will be carried out with an integral approach as proposed in Aguirre (2013.)[[6]](#footnote-6) The approach evaluates more than the usual immediate effects, what in this case would amount to measuring the capacity of parents to face the different daily family challenges. The integral approach also evaluates the impact of the intervention on the quality of life of those benefitting from the program, and on their communities. To do so, it assesses the impact of the intervention on the quality of life of those benefiting from the program as well as the way they live out their social and civic responsibility.

The approach innovatively utilizes market research techniques and 360 methodologies to capture the interpersonal effects of any human interaction, while meeting the standards required for rigorous econometric analysis. It also resorts to behavioral and experimental economics to run experiments with a framework that does not require assuming a self-utility maximizing economic agent. Rather, measurements are developed and the experiments conducted with a holistic view of the economic agent in mind. Thus, the variables designed normally seek to capture proactive behavior instead of the monetary incentive-response model typically used in experimental economics. Thus far, this approach has proven to be enriching and promising in the quest to improve the way we understand, and therefore carry out economic development. It is also a good fit for the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs that embody a bottom-up piecemeal approach to economic development interventions.

An important consequence of framing evaluations in this way is that the measures developed and applied for this assessment, always seek to achieve a proactive behavior born of the agent’s recognition of his/her dignity as well as that of the others. This alternative behavior is rooted not in the assumption of selfish economic reasons, but rather in an understanding of rationality, which takes seriously the consequence of the social nature of man for human behavior.

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Second Version

**Research Framework**

A number of studies have shown that there is a strong correlation between family structure and sustainable development in both developed and developing countries. Family structure affects saving, education, and health. Furthermore, it has a significant effect on human, social, and moral capital. Family stability has a considerable impact on economic growth. Families are essential for economic growth as they are the producers of human capital, which is one of the important production elements stated in the modern growth theory (Michael, 2003).

In addition, the literature suggests that a healthy marriage increases the quality of human and social capital. Children with stable family structure, tend to have better academic performance and better health compared to children with divorced parents, who have lower performance levels academically, socially and psychologically (Amato, 2001). At the same time, the breakdown of families is rising across the world (Wilcox, 2017). FEP is trying to act as a preventative force to this breakdown.

In carrying out this evaluation, an integral approach to impact evaluation will be used (Aguirre 2013). The approach evaluates more than the usual immediate effects, which in this case would amount to measuring maternal health outcomes. The integral approach also evaluates the impact of the intervention on the quality of life for those benefitting from the program and on their communities. To do so, it assesses the impact of the intervention on the quality of life of those benefiting from the program as well as the way they live out their social and civic responsibility.

The approach innovatively utilizes market research techniques and 360 methodologies to capture the interpersonal effects of any human interaction, while meeting the standards required for rigorous econometric analysis. It also resorts to behavioral and experimental economics to run experiments with a framework that does not require assuming a self-utility maximizing economic agent. Rather, measurements are developed and the experiments conducted with a holistic view of the economic agent in mind. Thus, the variables designed normally seek to capture proactive behavior instead of the monetary incentive-response model typically used in experimental economics. Thus far, this approach has proven to be enriching and promising in the quest to improving the way we understand and therefore, carry out economic development. It is also a good fit for the design, implementation and evaluation of programs that embody a bottom-up piecemeal approach to economic development interventions.

An important consequence of framing evaluations in this way, is that the measures developed and applied for this assessment, always seek to achieve a proactive behavior born of the agent’s recognition of his/her dignity as well as that of the others. This alternative behavior is rooted not in the assumption of selfish economic reasons, but rather in an understanding of a rationality, which takes seriously the consequence of the social nature of man for human behavior.

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1. . Paldam, 2000, p13. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. . Aguirre, S., et al. (2015). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. . Lundberg S., et *al.* (2016). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. . Becker G., (1991) and Aguirre (2006). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Aguirre S. (2007), p33, Aguirre and Saidi (2013), and Aguirre *et al* (2015). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. . Aguirre S., (2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)