

## Chapter 6

# Human Wisdom in the 21st Century

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study is to assess the wisdom potential of humans, which can be applied in human and organizational practice. So far, we have defined a Model of Wisdom Potential of Civilization (WPC) in Chapter 5 which analyzes factors at the highest aggregation level of a civilization. A model which will define the Wisdom Potential of Humans (WPH) must reflect the lowest position of a human within a civilization structure. In other words, a human's wisdom potential depends on the contextual environment, which we will limit

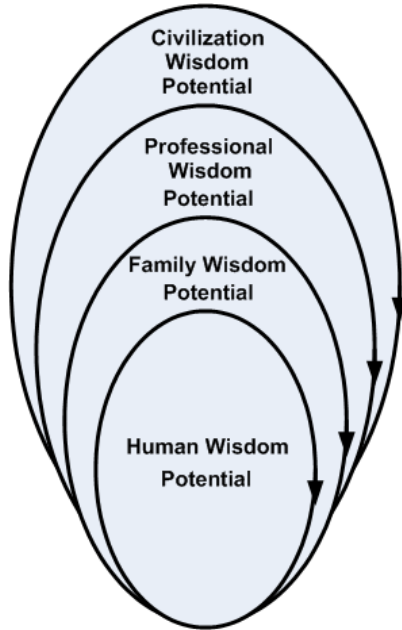
in this study to the levels of family, profession, and civilization as depicted in Figure 1.

This model indicates that all levels of social interactions influence each other and particularly impact human wisdom potential.

A model of Wisdom Potential of Humans is shown in Figure 2. This model is similar in concept to the Model of Wisdom Potential of Civilization (Figure 5.1). Instead of one level, it contains three. Furthermore, this model measures key indicators at the level of the individual. An individual who evolves through the three levels of his/her environment becomes more civilized and wiser. Mental health is not considered in this model because at the individual level, it actually

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*Figure 1. The wisdom potential of humans within the context of the environment*



limits one's wisdom. This model applies the following key indicators:

- IQI: Intelligence Quotient of Individual
- CII: Creativity Index of Individual
- EII: Emotional Index of Individual
- MWII: Mind Wisdom Index of Individual
- DII: Developmental Index of Individual
- MWIF: Mind Wisdom Index of Family
- DIF: Developmental Index of Family
- MWIP: Mind Wisdom Index of Profession
- DIP: Developmental Index of Profession
- MWIC: Mind Wisdom Index of Civilization
- DIC: Developmental Index of Civilization
- WAPII: Wisdom Activity Potential Index of Individual
- WAPIF: Wisdom Activity Potential Index of Family
- WAPIP: Wisdom Activity Potential Index of Profession
- WAPIC: Wisdom Activity Potential Index of Civilization

- WAPIX: Wisdom Activity Potential Index of Contexts
- MWIH: Mind Wisdom Index of Humans
- DIH: Developmental Index of Humans
- WAPIH: Wisdom Activity Potential Index of Humans
- WCPIH: Wisdom Capacity Potential Index of Humans
- WPIH: Wisdom Potential Index of Humans

Applying the listed key indicators, the Wisdom Capacity Potential Index of Humans will be computed first, followed later by the Wisdom Activity Potential Index of Humans. Both indexes will establish the final Wisdom Potential Index of Humans. Selected attributes of the individual, family, profession, and civilization levels will be selected for calculations to exemplify this study's methodological approach, leading to prototype solutions for a given set of variables. By the conclusion of this study, a definition of human wisdom will be provided and examples of the Wisdom Potential Index of Humans will be offered.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, as we deal with the Information, Nanotechnology, and Gene Biology Ages, and the threat of civilizational decline is facilitated by factors such as population growth and declining ecology, the ability to use our resources wisely becomes urgent. This study shows that this ability to be wise creates a new class structure led by a "cognitive elite" (Herrnstein & Murray, 1994) at all levels of human experience, e.g., family, profession, and civilization. It is easily observed from this study that low levels of wisdom differ among families, professions, and civilizations. Public policies reject the idea of human difference, yet it exists and should be minimized in order for all human beings to coexist in a dignified, wise, and good manner. This study aims to lead to better understanding of human wisdom and its applications in human existence.

Each study based on modeling human existence simplifies reality, but it is the main way of sciences which support processes of knowing

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