



Children's Global Satisfaction with Life: Importance of Family, School and Relationships with Others

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Introduction



- The variety of people's social contexts, such as the interactions established in those, should be a focus of attention in the identification of positive or negative aspects in children's lives
- Thus, it is understood that the interaction between the internal aspects of the individual, their relationships with others and with the context contribute to well-being

(Casas, 2010)



- Although the child's main relationships are with their family, interactions with other people and systems (such as friends and school) also compose their microsystem, which influences children in a most direct way

(Ben-Arieh, 2008)



- Subjective well-being refers to cognitive evaluations that people make about their lives, such as satisfaction with different aspects of life, and affective reactions toward life events

(Diener, 2006)

Objective



- In this direction, this study aims to investigate the relationship between overall life satisfaction and the contexts of family and home, school, and relationship with others

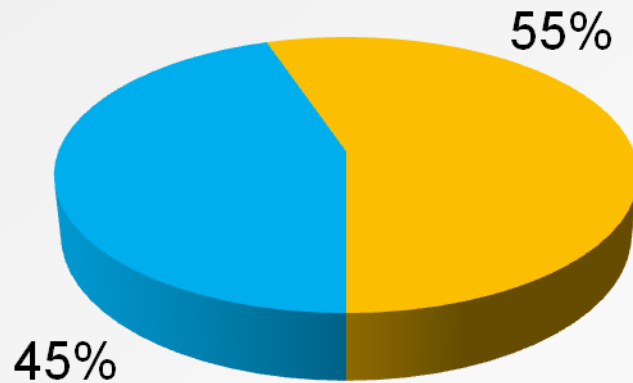
Participants (N=1993)



Age
9 to 13 years old
($M=10.9$, $SD=1.0$)

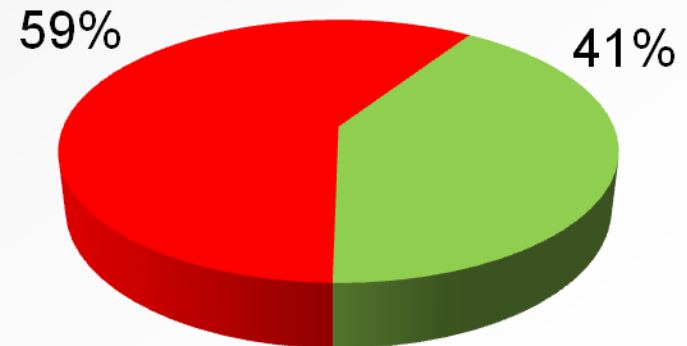
Sex

■ Boys ■ Girls



School

■ Public ■ Private



Instruments



- **Overall Life Satisfaction:** single item to measure satisfaction with life as a whole

How satisfied are you with your life as a whole?

- Items regarding the three different contexts, extracted from ISCI WeB's Questionnaire



Items regarding Family

- Satisfaction with family life
- Satisfaction with the house or flat where you live
- Satisfaction with the people who live with you
- Satisfaction with all the other people in your family



Items regarding School

- Satisfaction with your school experience
- Satisfaction with other children in your class
- Satisfaction with your school marks
- Satisfaction with the school you go to



Items regarding Relationship with Others

- Satisfaction with your friends
- Satisfaction with your relationships with people in general
- Satisfaction with the people who live in your area

Data Collection



Public and Private schools were contacted in 5 cities:

- Porto Alegre
- Passo Fundo
- Rio Grande
- Santa Maria
- Santa Cruz do Sul





Data Collection

- The application took place in the classrooms, and had the presence of two researchers in each class
- To avoid missing data, when children completed the questionnaire, it was checked if they had marked each of the items. In case of an unmarked question, children were asked if they would like to fill it
- The application took about 50 minutes

Ethical issues



According to the Brazilian' Resolution of the National Health Council - 196/96, children can only participate with their parents' permission by signing the Consent Term

Some of the children forget to bring the Consent Terms, and parents of some children don't allow them to participate

Results



Descriptive data

	Variables	M	SD
Family	Satisfaction with family life	9.15	1.78
	Satisfaction with the house or flat where you live	8.90	1.90
	Satisfaction with the people who live with you	9.24	1.69
	Satisfaction with all the other people in your family	8.82	1.94
School	Satisfaction with your school experience	8.95	1.71
	Satisfaction with other children in your class	8.23	2.20
	Satisfaction with your school marks	8.44	2.13
	Satisfaction with the school you go to	9.02	1.88
Relationships with Others	Satisfaction with your friends	9.00	1.73
	Satisfaction with your relationships with people in general	8.72	1.91
	Satisfaction with the people who live in your area	7.37	2.76
	Satisfaction with your life as a whole	9.19	1.63

Results



Multiple Linear Regression Predicting Overall Life Satisfaction using Satisfaction with Contexts

	Satisfaction with...	B	SE B	β	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
Family and Home	Your Family Life	.232	.020	.252	11.472	<.001
	The house or flat where you live	.036	.017	.043	2.082	.037
Relationships with Others	Your friends	.122	.021	.130	5.836	<.001
	Your relationships with people in general	.080	.018	.094	4.337	<.001
School	Your school experience	.114	.021	.122	5.354	<.001
	Other children in your class	.066	.017	.089	3.893	<.001
	Your school marks	.048	.016	.063	3.006	.003
	The school you go to	.058	.019	.067	3.095	.002
R = .553		R ² = .306		R ² adj. = .302		

Discussion



- Previous studies pointed out to the contribution of different contexts to the explanation of a child's well-being

(Diener, 1999)

- The three researched contexts presented significant contributions to life satisfaction, as already discussed in other studies

(Levin, Dallago, & Currie, 2012; Piko & Hamvai, 2010)

Discussion



- Previous studies indicated that life domains related to interpersonal relationships, such as satisfaction with family and pairs, are the most significant domains to life satisfaction

(Huebner, 1991; Terry & Huebner, 1995)

Discussion



- Giacomoni's (2002) study of children's happiness pointed out that satisfaction with family life, school and friends, among other categories (leisure, non-violence, self, satisfaction of basic needs and wishes' satisfaction) are relevant for children's happiness



- For our sample, the item with the highest weight in the model is “Satisfaction with your family life”
- Considering that family is the first instance of care and protection (Araújo, 2002) and that it is the first agent of socialization, contributing to the acquisition of abilities, behaviors and values (Oliveira, Siqueira, Dell’Aglio & Lopes, 2008), it is possible to understand its contribution to life satisfaction



- It seems that positive relations in multiple domains contribute more to life satisfaction evaluation than a great evaluation of a single social domain
(Oberle, Schonert-Reichl & Zumbo, 2011)
- Therefore, our findings reaffirm the important contributions of the ecological paradigm to the understanding of life satisfaction, considering the influence of the environment and the interactions between its different contexts (Sarriera et al, 2007)



- *Research Limitation:* The use of a single instrument to assess satisfaction with life

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Thank You!
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