

# CHILDREN'S SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING

## FINDINGS FROM SURVEYS IN ALGERIA

Habib Tiliouine

Laboratory of Educational Processes & Social  
Context,

Department of Psychology & Educational  
Sciences, University of Oran, Algeria

[htiliouine@yahoo.fr](mailto:htiliouine@yahoo.fr)

International Society for Child Indicators Conference, Seoul,  
Korea, 29<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> may, 2013

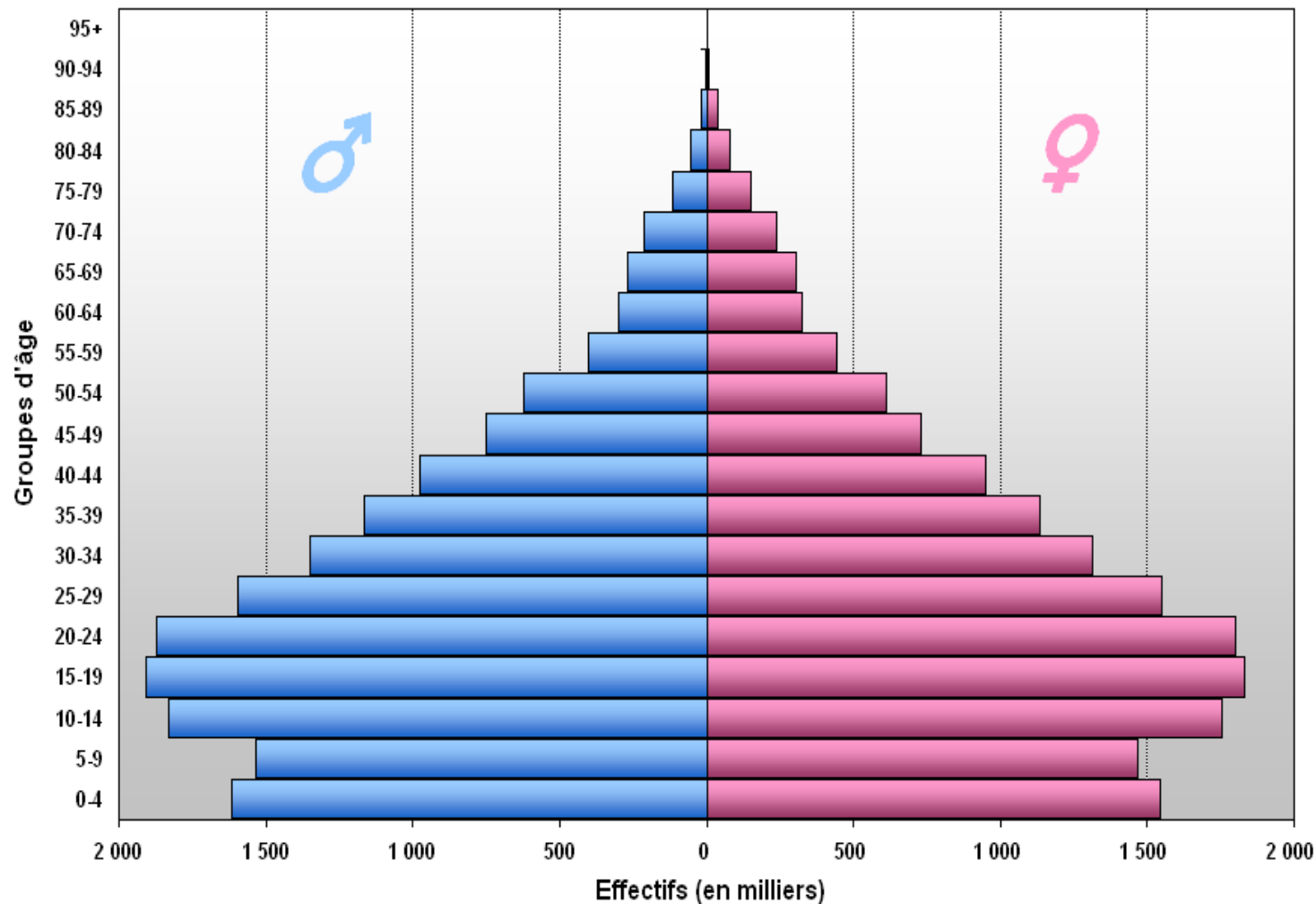


# THE COUNTRY OF ALGERIA

- North African Country
- 10th largest in the world and largest in Africa (more than 2 million sq. klms)
- 37.9 million inhabitants (Jan., 2013)
- Mostly Arab and Muslim country
- Painful shift from a single party system of governance to political pluralism in 1989 –10 years civil war, ended in 2002-
- Since 1976, education is free at all levels (University included) and compulsory until the age of 16.

# ABOUT 70% ARE LESS THAN 35 YEARS OLD

Pyramide des âges, Algérie, 2005



Source: Organisation des Nations Unies (World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision)

## Some achievements...

❖ Between 1980 and 2011, Algeria's mean years of schooling and also expected years of schooling increased by 5.3 years. The population with at least secondary school level for females was 36.3 %, and its equivalent for males 39 was 49.3 % in 2011.

❖ About 9 million people are at schools and universities, i.e., about **one fourth** of the total Algerian population. This size puts a lot of pressure on the country's budget

❖ Between 1980 and 2012 Algeria's HDI rose by 2.0% annually from 0.461 to 0.713 today, which gives the country a rank of 93 out of 187 countries with comparable data.



## SOME WELL-BEING THEORY ...

- Well-being is defined as *perceptions, evaluations and aspirations* of the people (Campbell, Converse and Rodgers, 1976)
- It represents better the subjective components of Quality of Life and could be considered as an important social indicator
- Well-Being of adults as well as youth inform us on the Quality of Life of the people
- Studying Well-being allows us to understand the social dynamics and social changes taking place in any social context, to reinforce wise governance and well founded social policies
- ...**YET**, the study with youth remains itself young and its social and political relevance is often missing, mainly in developing societies.

# OUR WELL-BEING RESEARCH ....

- Started in **2003** studying the concept with **adults** in large surveys on an 18-month interval basis (up to 2012, 7 surveys completed, N>18,300 studied subjects)
- In 2011 started work on children's well-being
- **Main aims with children:**
  - Understand the concept of well-being of youth compared to adults
  - Test the usefulness of some international measures in the Algerian context
  - Explore variations in well-being
  - Monitor changes in children's well-being over time



# THREE WELL-BEING SURVEYS WITH YOUTH...

- 2011: Compared students of successful and less successful secondary schools
- 2012: Compared Spanish and Algerian Middle and Secondary school students
- 2013: A large pilot study as part of Children's Worlds International Study of Children Well-Being (ISCWB)

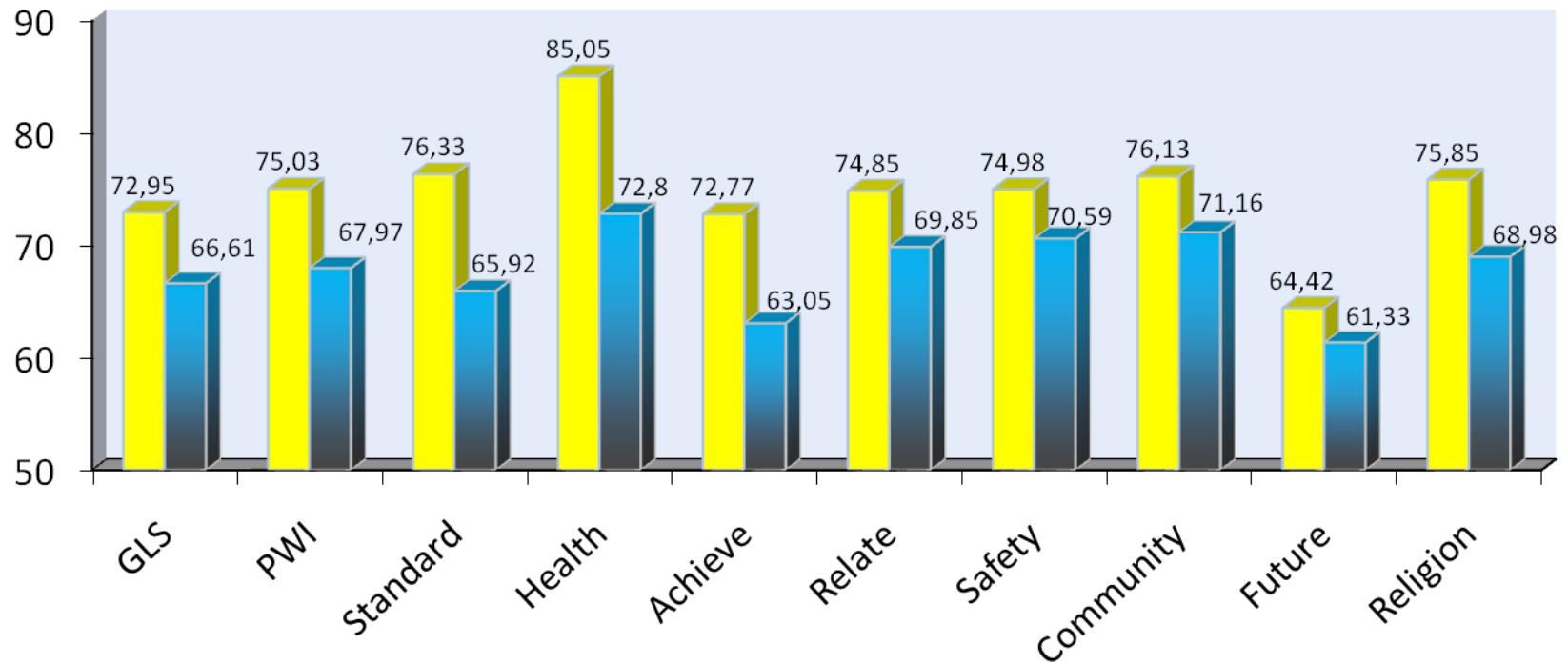


## 2011 SURVEY: COMPARING SUCCESSFUL AND LESS SUCCESSFUL SEC. SCHOOLS

- **Period:** May 2011, the region of Oran, a Mediterranean coastal area.
- **Sample:** 638 students (266 males from less successful schools. One to two classes were randomly selected from the schools' samples. Gender is equally represented in both groups. Mean Age in the successful one was 18.61 (SD 0.96) and 18.77 (SD 1.01) in the less successful ( $p = 0.04$ ).
- **Methodology:** Questionnaire with PWI at the top. The schools' sample ( $N = 24$ ) was chosen on the basis of the rate of success in the National baccalaureate exam ( $>70\%$  Versus  $<50\%$ ) from the years 2005 to 2011. All subjects of study variably represented.
- The questionnaires *administered* during normal teaching hours.
- **Personal Wellbeing Index:** Cronbach alpha=(0.78). all item-total correlations and domain intercorrelations were significant at a high level- FA one factor solution with high loadings
- Standard of living, then achievements in life and religiosity are the main contributors in the general satisfaction with life in young students in their final sec. sch. Year.



# IN COMPARISON WITH ADULTS: 2011 SURVEY



**PWI and Domains Means in students (N=638) and General population (N=11,147)**

Students rate higher all aspects of PWI compared to adult population. Youth's SWB is strong compared to older adults. In congruence with previous research (Casas et al., 2012, Tomyn & Cummins, 2010). This universal trend of SWB maybe attributed to better health not yet facing problems of employment and adults' life pressures. BUT the results failed to detect differences between Successful and less successful sec. schools in their WB scores.



# CONCLUSIONS FROM 2011 SURVEY ...

- ✓ Good PWI psychometrics
- ✓ All WB comparisons are in favour of young students compared to adults
- ✓ Decline in well-being with age
- ✓ Slightly higher satisfaction with Future security ( $p=.03$ ) in favour of females
- ✓ Rating of satisfaction with Spirituality and Islamic Religiosity is strong
- ✓ **But**, no variations in WB when successful and less successful schools are compared using PWI, but objective measures did.

# ○ 2012 Survey

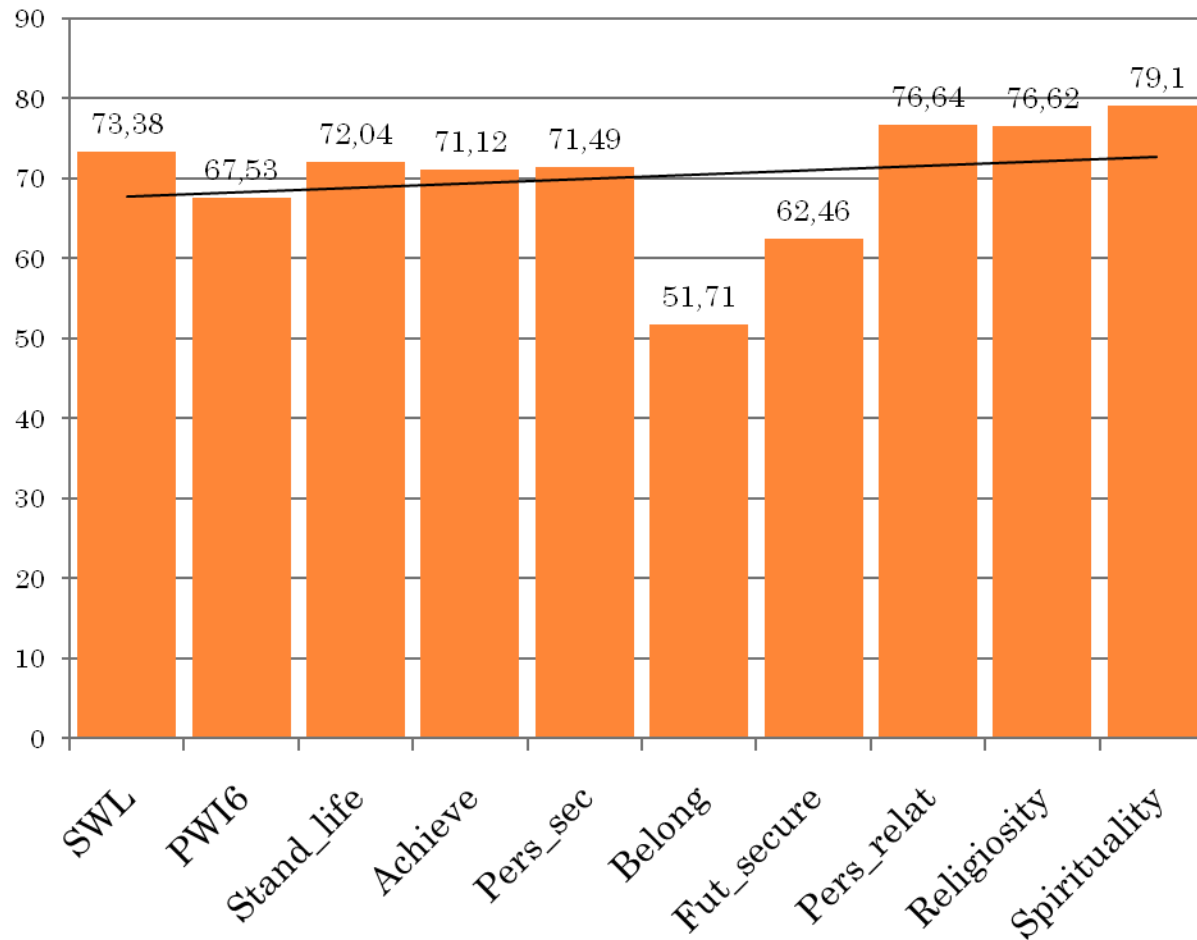


# METHOD

- **Period:** March, 2012, the region of Oran.
- **Sample:** **Eight** schools representing the whole county of Oran were recruited (N=1,216- 55.7% females, Unknown=35). **Mean Age:**16.11, SD 1,73.
- **Questionnaires:** **PWI6** (Standard, Acieve, P. sec, community, F. sec, relationship, **+21 other Sat items** (spirituality, school results, learnings, school mates, teachers, school, sentimental life, father, mother, time use, life enjoyments, preparing for the future, family relationships, physical exercise, own body, free time use, Religiosity, yourself, life as a whole, scientific knowledge, knowledge of religion, general knowledge + **6 items** of Islamic Religious Practice Scale (Tiliouine, 2009)
- The questionnaires *administered* during normal teaching hours.
- **Personal Wellbeing Index:** Cronbach alpha=(6items: 0.79). all item-total correlations and domain intercorrelations were significant at a high level- FA one factor solution with high loadings (49.23 %of the variance explained)

# MEANS OF PERSONAL WELL-BEING INDEX

Means (N=1,069)



The highest ratings are: Spirituality, Religiosity, **Pers. Relation.** and **Satisfaction with life.**

The lowest are Community **belongingness** and **Future security.**



## COMPARAISONS WITH A CATALONIAN SAMPLE (SPAIN)

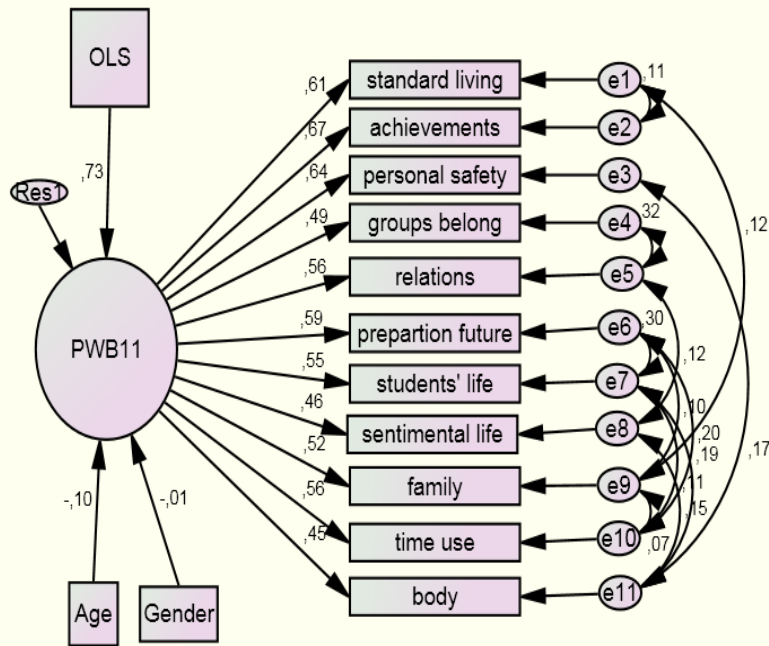
- - A final sample of **1,198** students was compared with a Catalonian sample (Spain, **N= 2,304**)
- **The objectives:**
  - To verify the results of 2011 Survey
  - To verify the cross-cultural relevance of measuring Well-being through PWI and its extended versions (PWI6- PWI8- and PWI11)
  - To check the comparability in the response patterns



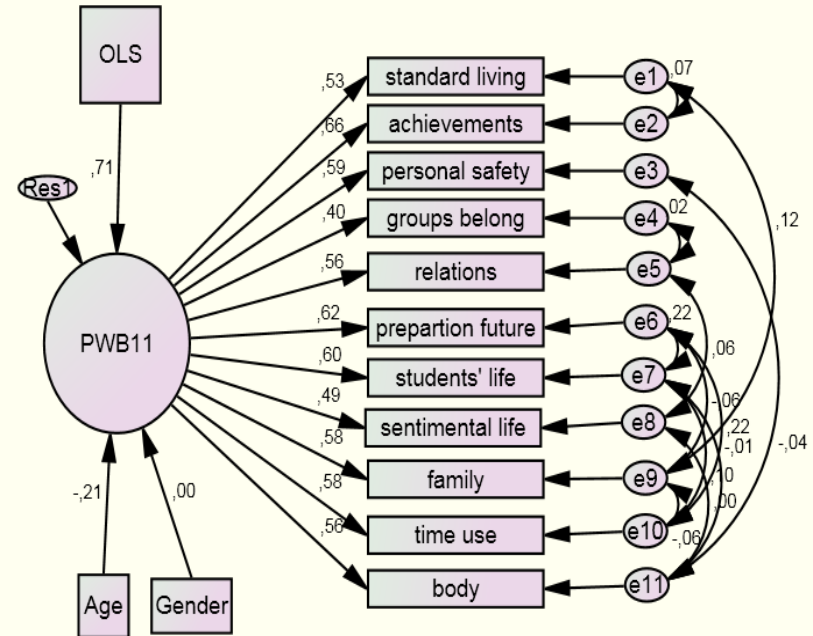
# Structural Equation Model. PWI 11 + OLS + age + gender. Multigroup Model with constrained weights. Standardized regression weights

Source: Ferran, C., Tiliouine, H. & Figuer, C. (2013). The Subjective Well-being of Adolescents from Two Different Cultures: Applying Three Versions of the PWI in Algeria and Spain. Social Indicators Research, DOI 10.1007/s11205-012-0229-z

## Catalonia (Spain)



## Oran (Algeria)

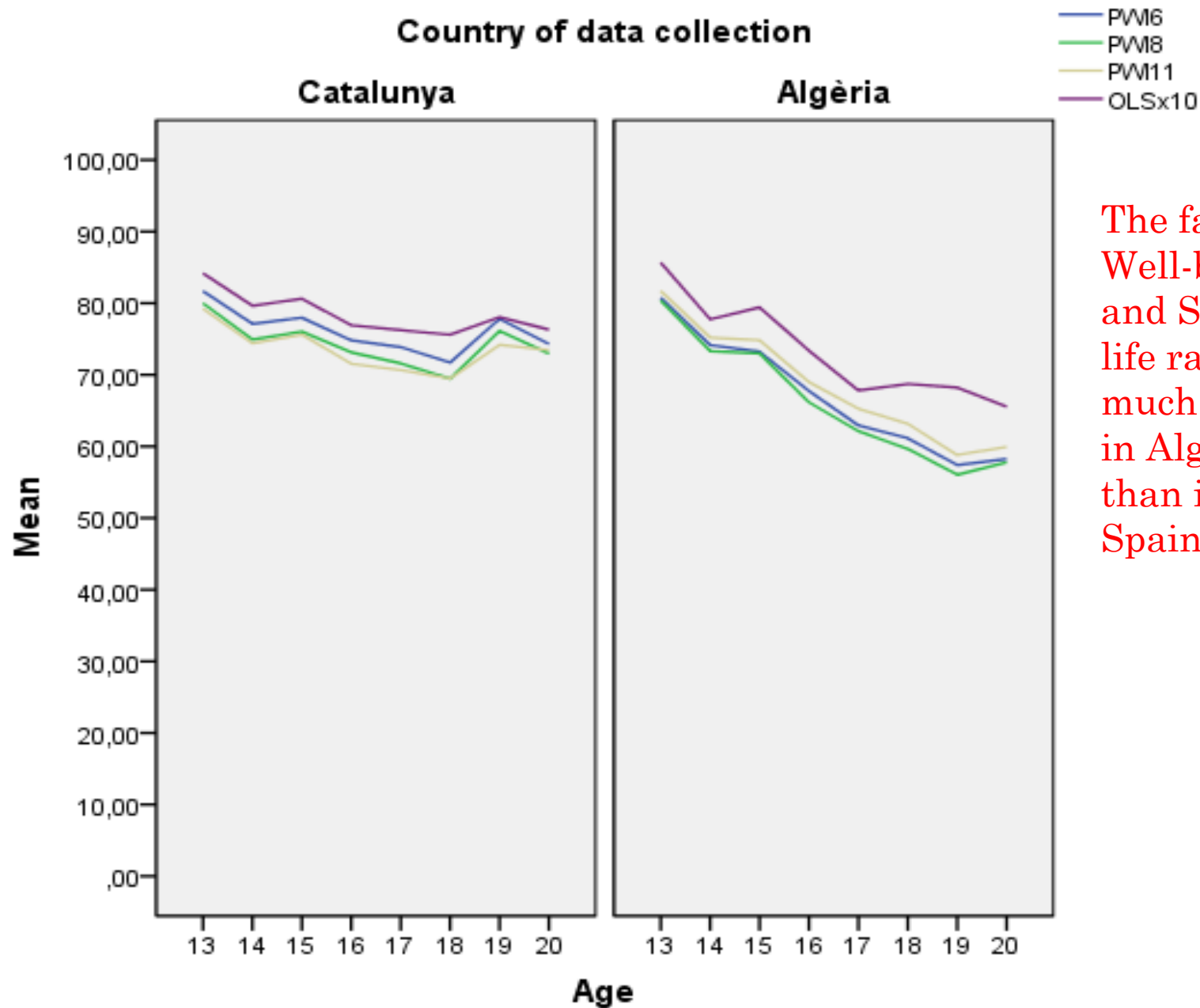


The contribution of the latent variable PWI11 to GLS is only slightly higher in Catalonia than in Oran. The life domain most related to latent variable PWI11 is the same in both countries: *satisfaction with life achievements*. The 2<sup>nd</sup> most related : *satisfaction with personal safety* in Catalonia and *satisfaction with the future* in Oran. The lowest contribution is also different: *with your body* in Catalonia and *with groups of people you belong to* in Algeria. When age and gender added to the model, age has a negative relationship with the PWI11 in the **two countries**, while gender does not show any significant relationship in **both**. Initial testing did not show significant error covariance between age and gender was not sig. So, was not included in the model.

# COMPARISONS BETWEEN CATALONIA (SPAIN) AND ORAN (ALGERIA)- DESCRIPTIVES-

		Catalonia (Spain)- N= 2,304			Oran (Algeria)- N=1,156			
		Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	
<i>Satisfaction with....</i>								Differ.
Standard of living	Mean	8,09	7,99	<b>8,03</b>	7,17	7,26	<b>7,22</b>	0,81
	SD	1,66	1,82	1,75	2,91	2,62	2,75	
Achievements in life	Mean	7,48	7,50	<b>7,49</b>	7,02	7,14	<b>7,09</b>	0,4
	SD	1,85	1,89	1,87	2,71	2,45	2,57	
Personal safety	Mean	7,38	6,74	<b>7,02</b>	7,06	7,18	<b>7,13</b>	
	SD	1,98	2,39	2,24	2,98	2,77	2,87	
Groups of people you belong to	Mean	8,23	8,34	<b>8,29</b>	5,32	5,11	<b>5,20</b>	3,09
	SD	1,85	2,01	1,94	3,38	3,20	3,28	
Preparation for future	Mean	6,93	6,97	<b>6,95</b>	6,71	6,92	<b>6,82</b>	
	SD	2,12	2,01	2,06	2,81	2,68	2,74	
Relations with other people	Mean	7,83	7,96	<b>7,90</b>	7,70	7,66	<b>7,68</b>	
	SD	1,91	1,90	1,90	2,51	2,57	2,54	
How you use your time	Mean	7,06	6,96	<b>7,00</b>	6,22	5,92	<b>6,05</b>	0,95
	SD	2,15	2,07	2,11	2,84	2,66	2,75	
Your students' life	Mean	6,56	6,60	<b>6,58</b>	6,47	6,83	<b>6,67</b>	
	SD	2,21	2,14	2,17	2,78	2,65	2,71	
Your body	Mean	7,32	6,06	<b>6,62</b>	8,08	7,79	<b>7,92</b>	-1,3
	SD	2,27	2,68	2,58	2,42	2,62	2,54	
Your family	Mean	7,84	7,78	<b>7,81</b>	8,14	8,27	<b>8,21</b>	-0,4
	SD	2,00	2,16	2,09	2,57	2,36	2,45	
Your sentimental life	Mean	6,79	6,81	<b>6,80</b>	6,99	6,51	<b>6,72</b>	
	SD	2,79	2,82	2,80	3,24	3,44	3,36	





The fall of Well-being and Sat. with life ratings is much steeper in Algeria than it is in Spain ?

# MAIN RESULTS OF 2012 SURVEY

- Good news with regard of the usefulness of comparing Well-being using international measures, though different cultural and linguistic contexts
  - More abrupt fall with age of Well-being in Algeria. **Any relationship with underdevelopment?**
  - Strong ratings of religiosity-Spirituality and family relationships. **Is this to do with strong Islamic values?**
  - No sig. differences in Algeria attributable to gender (except in learnings, teachers, physical actv., sch. Life and sch. mates in favour of females and marginal difs. in favour of males in Sentimental life, and life enjoyments. **Any relationship with differences in gender socialization?**
- 
- **Need to further investigate different approaches to measuring subjective well-being**



**The large pilot study:**

**Children's Worlds International  
Study of Children Well-Being  
(ISCWB) -February, 2013-**



# CHILDREN'S WORLDS: INTERNATIONAL STUDY OF CHILDREN WELL-BEING (ISCWB )

RESULTS OF THE ALGERIAN LARGE PILOT STUDY, FEB.

2013

- **Scope:** The study is called Children's Worlds – International Study of Children's Well-being (ISCWeB). The survey was developed by the International Society of Child Indicators (ISCI) a group of international child researchers who proposed the study and designed the survey questionnaire. The process was supported and facilitated by experts from OECD, UNICEF and World Vision <http://www.childrensworlds.org>
- **Period:** February, 2013
- **Region:** Senia- Oran in the West of Algeria on the Mediterranean Coast
- **Primary Schools:** 08, **Medium:** 03
- **Researchers:** Trained psychology students in Labo-PECS
- **Sample:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Primary= 622, 5<sup>th</sup> year=487, 1<sup>st</sup> Medium=479
- Girls=788, Boys=788, Missing=8
- **Measures:** ISCWB Pilot study questionnaires- (Translated into Arabic)
- **Questionnaires:** Demographics+ information on house and family+ Money and property+ Friends and other people+ Area where you live+ School + Time use+ Personal aspects of life+ Self + Future life + Huebner –short SWLS + Additional items.

Satisfaction with:	N	Mean	SD	RANK
Your family life	936	9,28	1,93	1
The school you go to	927	8,86	2,35	2
Yourself	912	8,86	2,14	2
Your self-confidence	944	8,84	2,28	4
Your relationships with people	935	8,84	2,11	4
The way that you look	930	8,73	2,22	6
Your health	926	8,72	2,30	7
Your life as a whole	943	8,70	2,33	8
The things you want to be good at	926	8,68	2,27	9
The house or flat where you live	945	8,65	2,60	10
The people you live with	935	8,64	2,57	11
Your school experience	939	8,64	2,37	11
How safe you feel	935	8,52	2,58	13
How you are listened to by adults	930	8,49	2,42	14
How you are dealt with at the doctors	953	8,44	2,74	15
Your friends	940	8,35	2,51	16
All the things you have	933	8,27	2,69	17
What you do in your free time	926	8,25	2,51	18
Your school marks	927	8,19	2,42	19
All the other people in your family	904	8,11	3,12	20
How you use your time	922	8,11	2,74	20
Other children in your class	925	8,04	2,61	22
The area you live in general	950	8,00	2,95	23
The freedom you have	924	7,72	2,95	24
The people in your area	939	7,61	3,00	25
The local police in your area	469	6,42	3,96	26
The school you go to	927	8,86	2,35	2

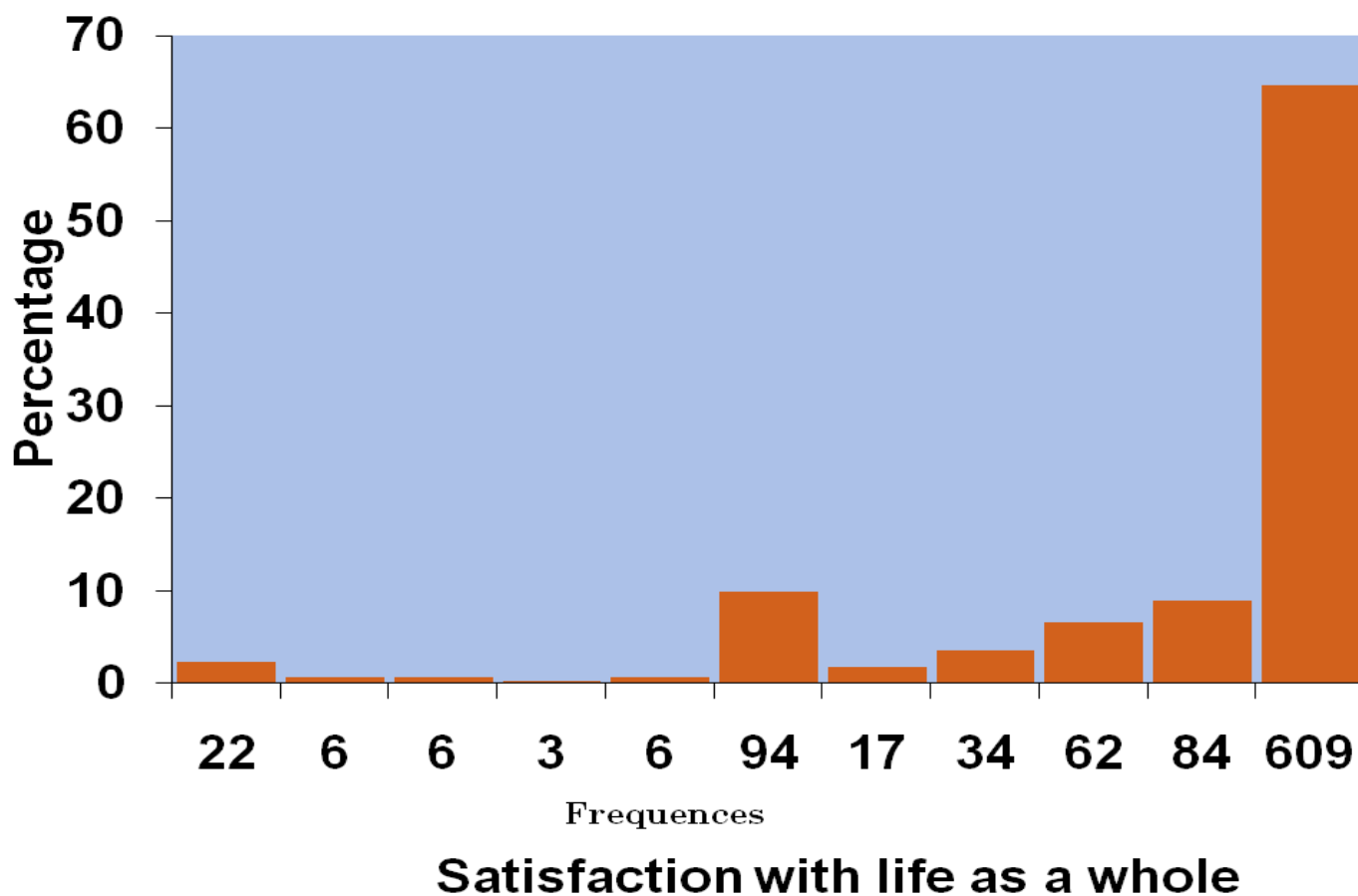
## SOME CORRELATIONS

	Satisfaction with: Your life as a whole	Overall, how happy have you been feeling during the last two weeks?
Overall, how happy have you been feeling during the last two weeks?	0,421 (N=913)	---
Sum of Six Huebner items	0,502 (N=713)	0,517 (N=706)

All sig. ( $p < .0001$ )



# OVERALL LIFE SATISFACTION (N=943, MEAN AGE: 11.13, SD1.2)



- 64,6% said extremely satisfied, 2,33% extremely not satisfied. Mostly from college, Age Mean: 12.15, SD1.5,



# OVERALL HAPPINESS (N=962, MEAN AGE: 11.13, SD1.2)

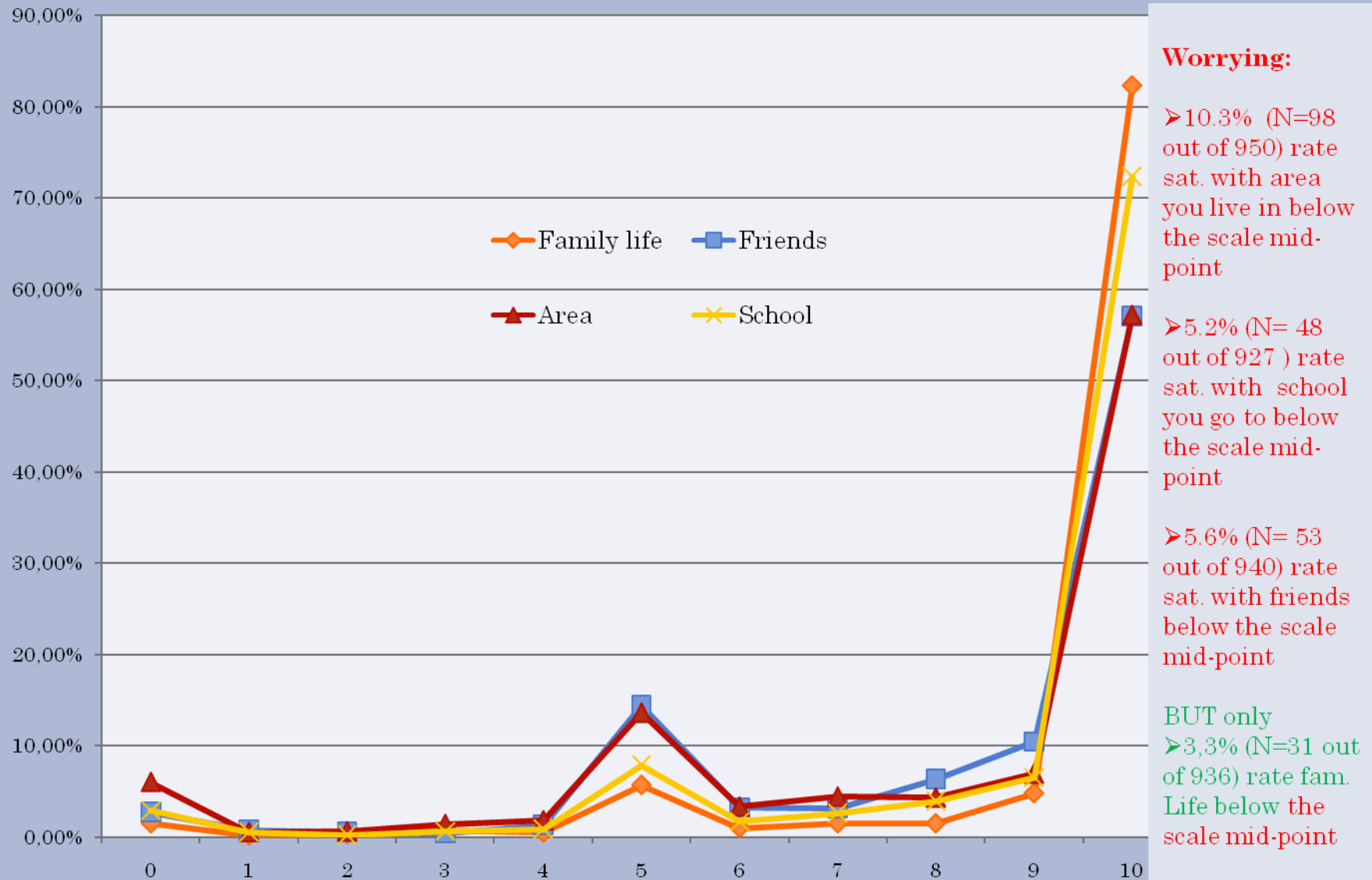


- Only 58% said extremely happy (but 64,6% extremely satisfied) , 2,9% extremely unhappy. Mostly from college, Age Mean: 12.15, SD1.5,





# SELECTED SATISFACTION DOMAINS



# LIFE SATISFACTION: HUEBNER'S SCALE (N=722)

Shortened version of Huebner's Life Satisfaction Scale.  
Six items measured on five-point Likert scale:

- My life is going well
- My life is just right
- I wish I had a different kind of life
- I have a good life
- I have what I want in life
- My life is better than most kids

Single factor. % Variance expl.= 53,95, Cronbach's alpha = 0.78, All inter-item correlations Sig. ( $p < .0001$ ).

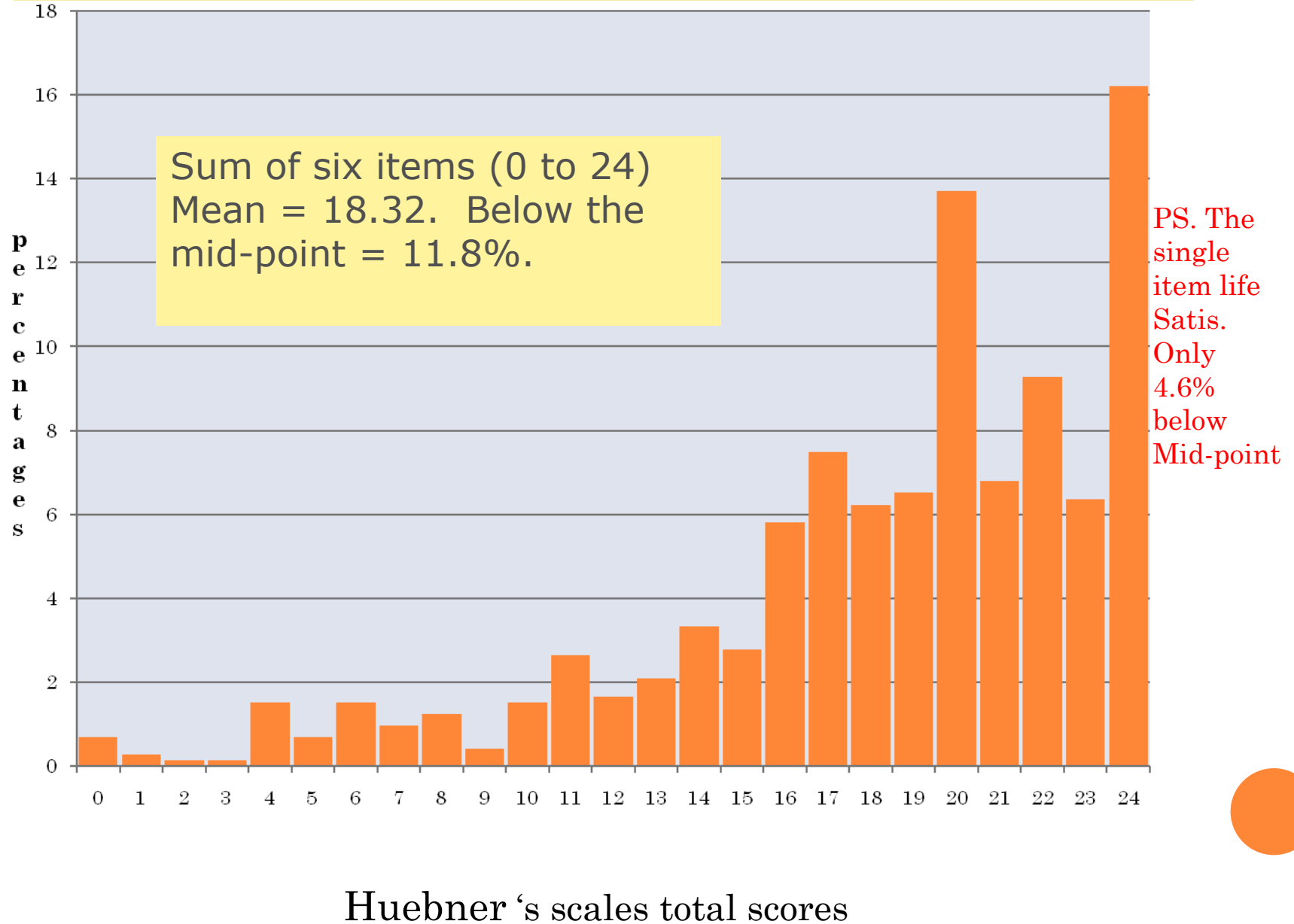
**EXCLUDED item:** I would like to change many things in my life

# PCFA OF SHORTENED VERSION OF HUEBNER'S STUDENT LIFE SATISFACTION SCALE. SIX ITEMS

My life is going well	,839
My life is just right	,759
I have a good life	,865
I have what I want in life	,755
My life is better than most kids	,650
I wish I had a different kind of life	,464
I would like to change many things in my life was excluded	

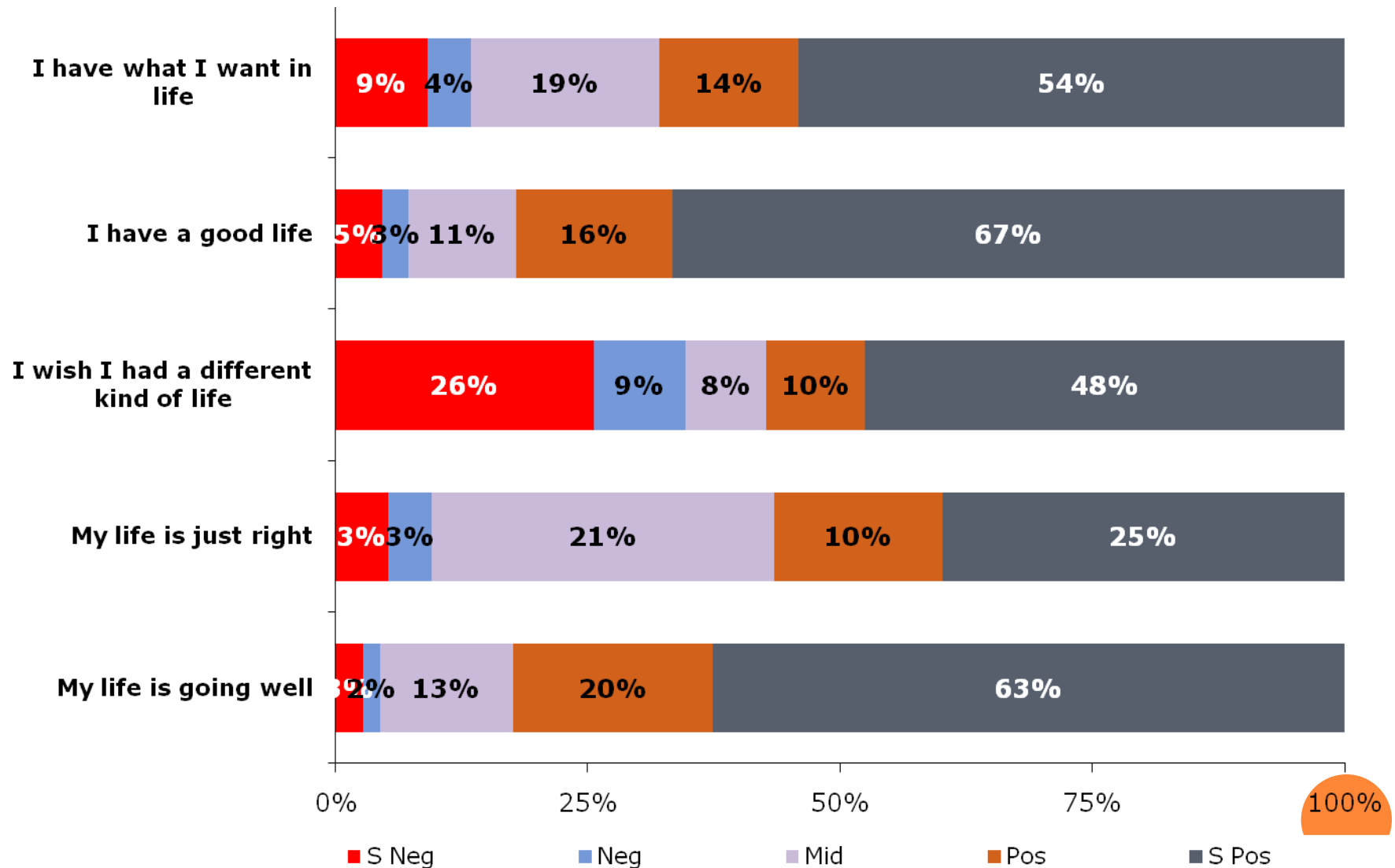


# LIFE SATISFACTION: HUEBNER

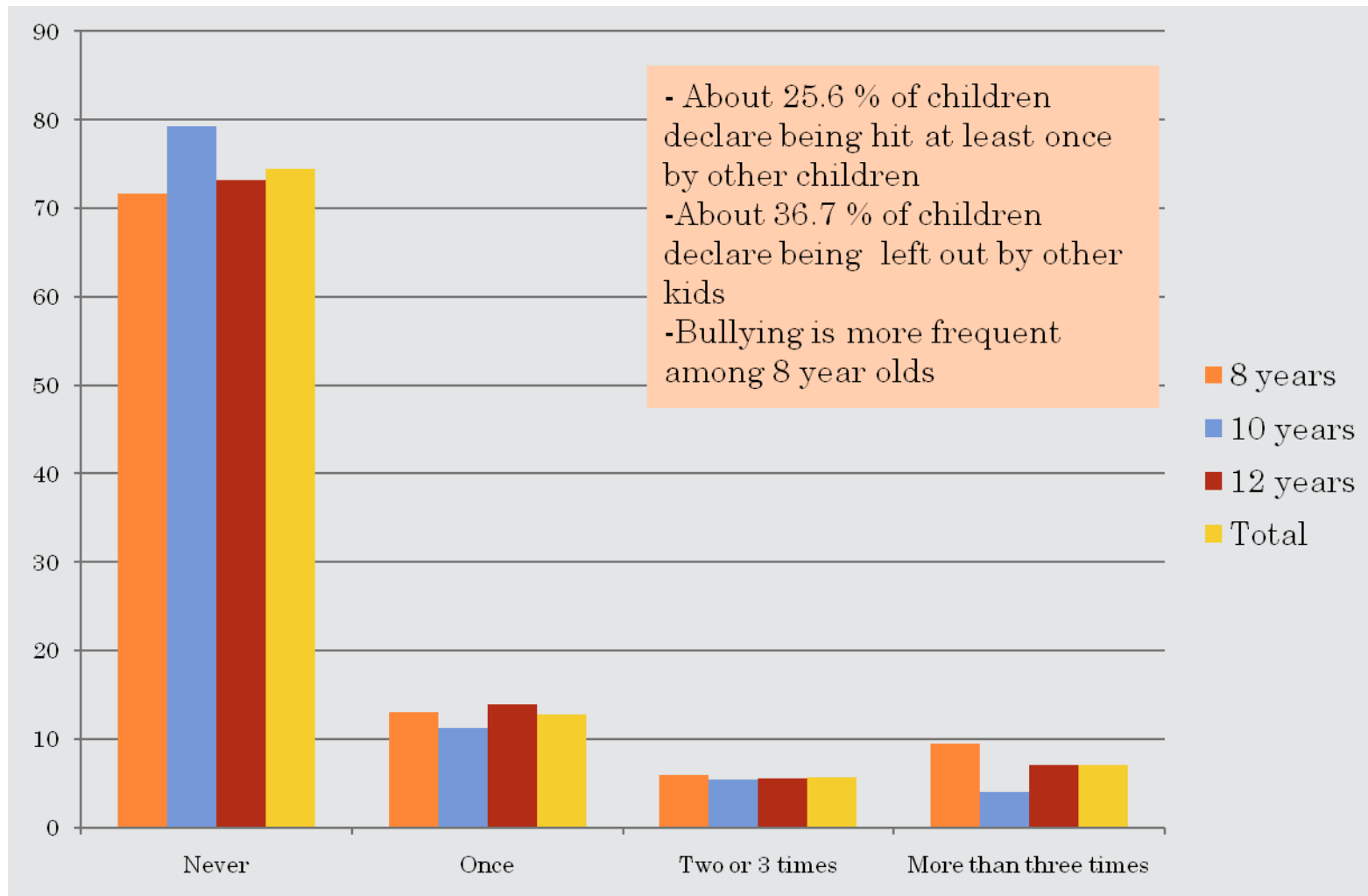


# HUEBNER'S LIFE SATISFACTION SCALE

## (6 ITEMS, N=962)



# HOW OFTEN: HIT BY OTHER CHILDREN IN YOUR SCHOOL



## SOME CONCLUSIONS

Our research with in the Algerian context confirmed the main trends observed internationally with regard to WB, such as:

- ❖ Higher ratings in youth compared to adults, decreasing trends with age and even more rapid than in Spain, little or no variations due to gender
- ❖ The conventional items used with adults do not contribute much in predicting life satisfaction
- ❖ Specific findings: The solidity of sat.with family, sat. with spirituality/religiosity
- ❖ Higher level of satis. with school in girls
- ❖ Relatively low Satisfaction with environment, with mates and with freedom of choice
- ❖ The high level of reported bullying
- ❖ However, International measure perform well in the Algerian context... Certainly, the data bank which is being currently produced within frame of **the** International Study of Children Well-Being (ISCWB ) will be a valuable contributions in the child cross-cultural literature and its questionnaire is real step forward.

# FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Youth SWB deserves to be further studied in a context where one fourth of the population are in schools
- Such a research would help concretise recent official recommendations to enhance child participation in policies related to them
- As attaining good quality education is becoming the aim of many developing countries, SWB should be developed as an outcome indicator of education.

○ **THANK YOU**

[htiliouine@yahoo.fr](mailto:htiliouine@yahoo.fr)





# SOME REFERENCES

- Casas, F., Sarriera, J. Alfaro, J., González, M. Malo, S., Bertran, I., Figuer, C., Cruz, D., Bedin, L., Paradiso, A., Weinreich, K and Valdenegro, B. (2012) Testing the personal wellbeing Index in 12-16 year-old adolescents in 3 different countries with 2 new items. *Social Indicators Research*, 105, 461-482.
- IWG (International Wellbeing Group). (2006). Personal Wellbeing Index – Adult - Manual, 4th version. Melbourne: Australian Centre on Quality of Life, Deakin University.  
[http://www.deakin.edu.au/research/acqol/instruments/well-being\\_index.htm](http://www.deakin.edu.au/research/acqol/instruments/well-being_index.htm)
- Tomy, A. J., & Cummins, R. A. (2010). The subjective wellbeing of high-school students: validating the personal wellbeing index—School Children. *Social Indicators Research*. doi:10.1007/s11205-010-9668-6.
- Tiliouine, H. (2012). [Personal Wellbeing index in Algeria](#). *Encyclopedia of Quality of Life Research*. Springer (*In press*).

