

Life events and subjective well-being of Romanian school children

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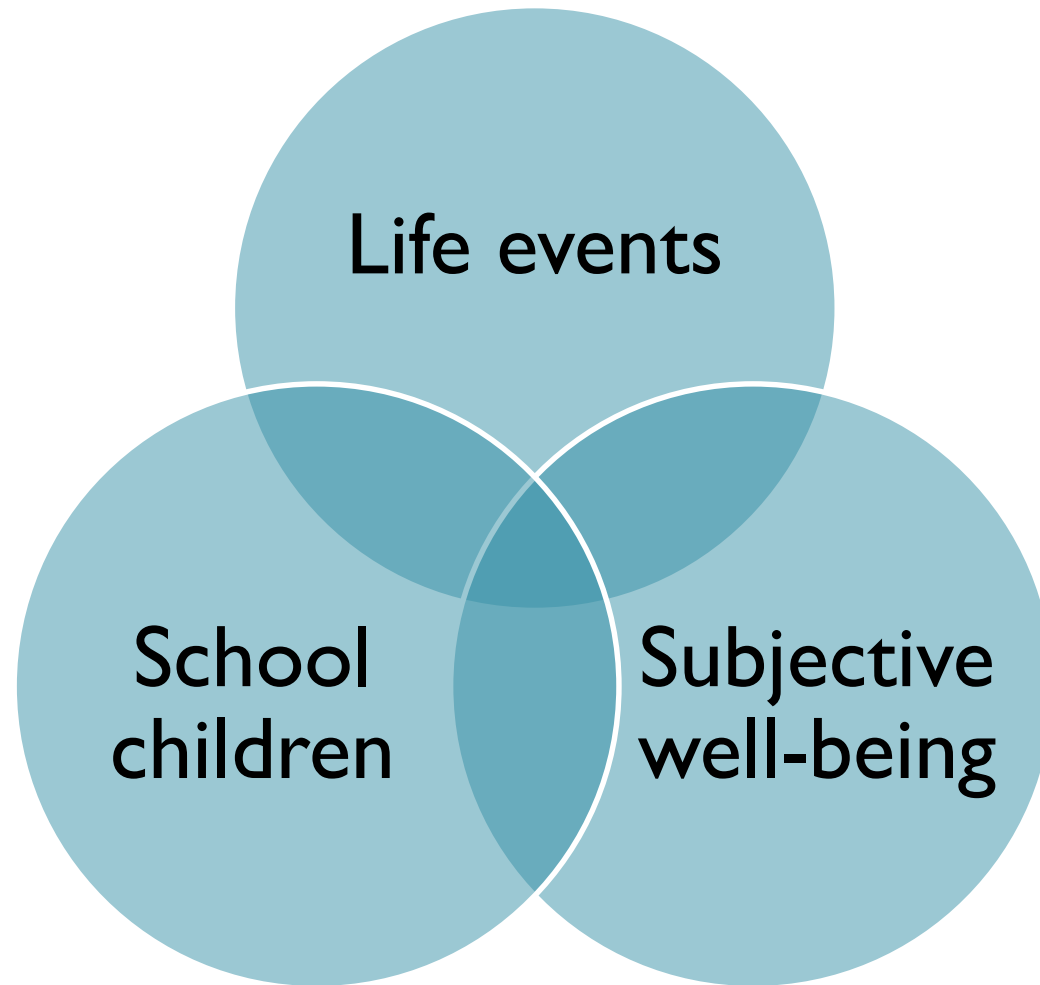
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Themes



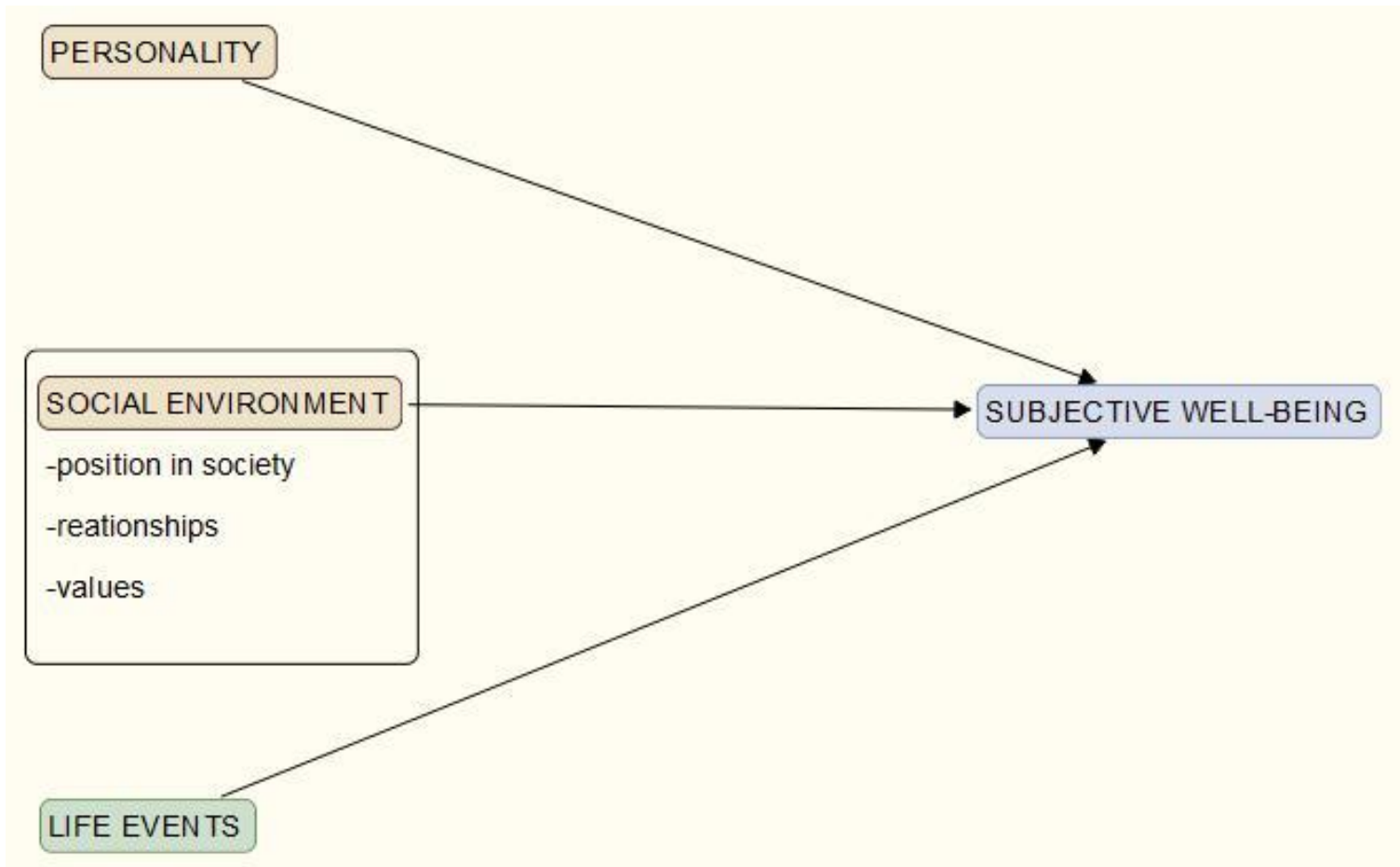
Subjective well-being

- It is accepted scientific term for happiness.
- Defined as an overall assessment, cognitive and affective life of the individual
- It is usually measured through questions construct simple and straightforward - scales with 3-11 items.
- Standard questions:
 - "How satisfied are you with your life as a whole"
 - "How happy you feel"
- Social indicators that show the positive or negative social conditions and policies

Life Events

- Significant events in his own/family life
- Have a significant effect on children's life
- Ex: moving to other house, to other region, school or country, illness or death in the family

A general model of predictors of subjective well-being



Two paradigms

- Psychological: *personality* matters most to individual happiness
- Sociological: *social context* (Environment, life events) matters more

Life events and subjective well-being

- Headey & Wearing, 1989: *Set-point theory*.
 - Happiness varies around a fixed point, specific to each person.
 - After the events of life follows the adaptation
- Suh, Diener,& Fujita, 1996:
 - Only recent life events count
 - Life events correlate to each other
- Lucas, 2007:

Major events such as disability or death of a family member have long lasting influence

 - 'Happiness levels change, adaptation is not unavoidable "

Previous results (Bălțătescu, 2008)

Regression model with subjective well-being as the dependent variable

	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta	B	Std. Error
(Constant)	6.17	0.24		25.45	0.00
endowment of the household goods	0.24	0.04	0.14	5.32	0.00
male	0.39	0.10	0.10	3.97	0.00
family member hospitalized for a serious illness, accident	-0.37	0.15	-0.07	-2.51	0.01
went in a student in camp or abroad	0.33	0.10	0.09	3.29	0.00
broke up with boyfriend / girlfriend	0.26	0.10	-0.07	-2.58	0.01

N=1811, Representative sample, Oradea HighSchools, Classes 10-12,

Hypothesis

- Family changes have in general adverse effects on school children's subjective well-being

Methodology

- International Survey for Children's Wellbeing pretest sample for Romania
- 10-11 & 12-13 years questionnaire collected in Bihor, Arad, Salaj & Cluj counties (NW of Romania)
- Date: 2012
- n=2314

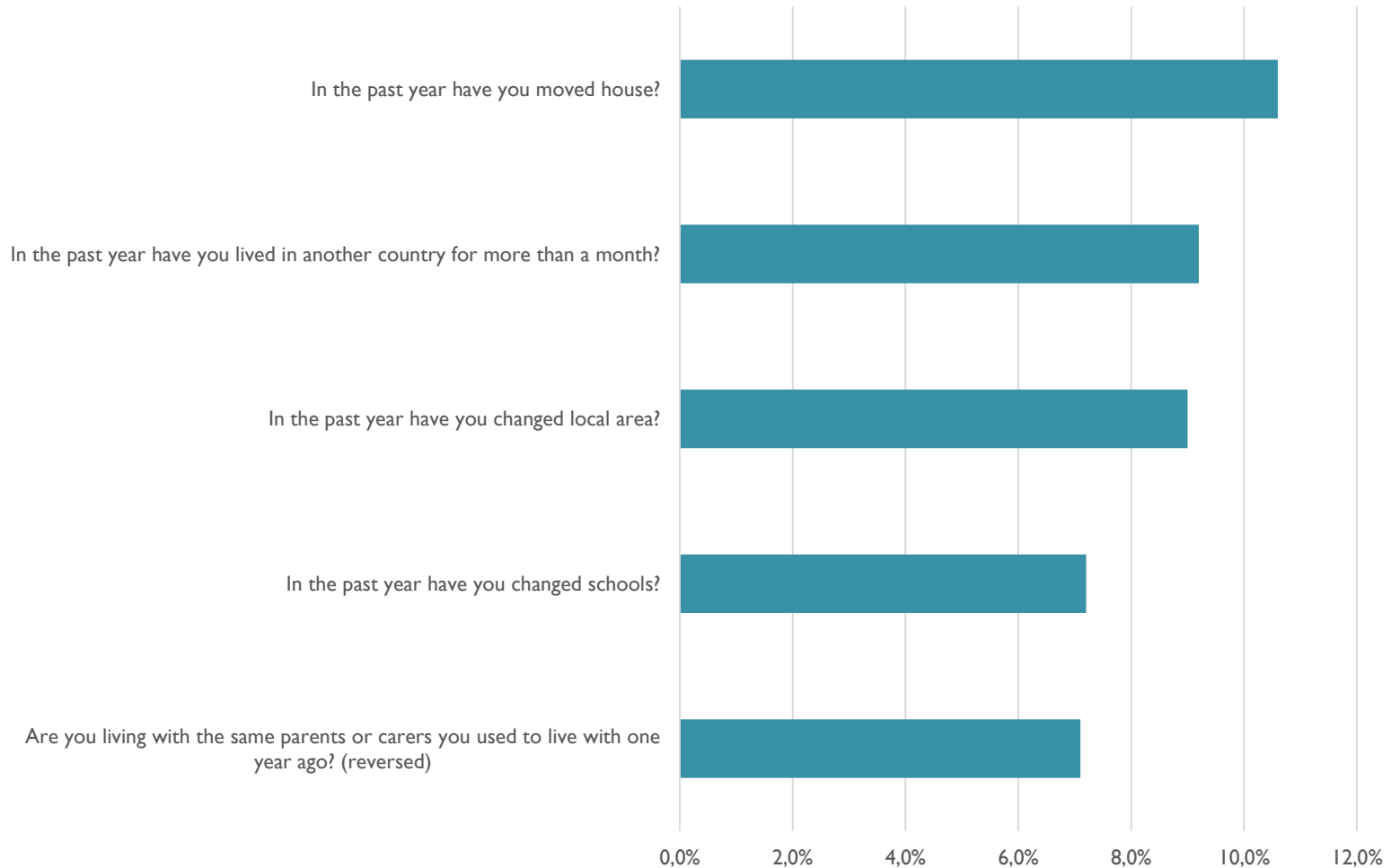
Subjective wellbeing

- Life satisfaction ('Satisfaction with your life as a whole') Scale 0-10
- Happiness ('How happy you felt in the last two weeks') Scale 0-10

Life events

- In the past year have you moved house?
- In the past year have you changed local area?
- In the past year have you changed schools?
- In the past year have you lived in another country for more than a month?
- Are you living with the same parents or carers you used to live with one year ago? (reversed)

The frequency of life events



Correlations

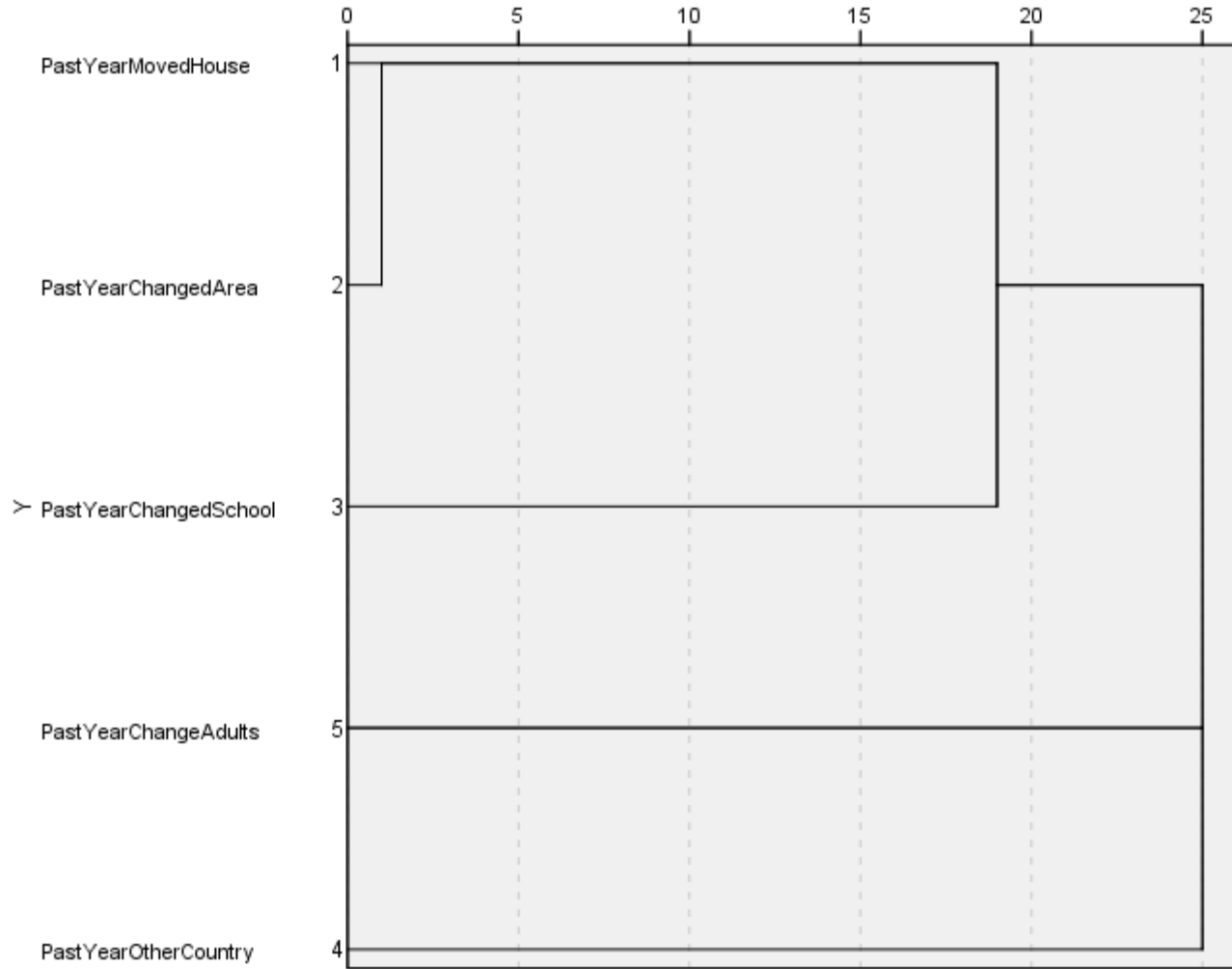
		In the past year have you moved house?	In the past year have you changed local area?	In the past year have you changed schools?	In the past year have you lived in another country for more than a month?	Are you living with the same parents or carers you used to live with one year ago? (reversed)
In the past year have you moved house?	Pearson Correlation	1	,786**	,293**	,180**	,060**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		,000	,000	,000	,004
	N	2304	2299	2292	2295	2271
In the past year have you changed local area?	Pearson Correlation	,786**	1	,274**	,170**	,038
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,000		,000	,000	,073
	N	2299	2300	2292	2294	2267
In the past year have you changed schools?	Pearson Correlation	,293**	,274**	1	,146**	,055**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,000	,000		,000	,009
	N	2292	2292	2293	2290	2260
In the past year have you lived in another country for more than a month?	Pearson Correlation	,180**	,170**	,146**	1	,046*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,000	,000	,000		,028
	N	2295	2294	2290	2296	2263
Are you living with the same parents or carers you used to live with one year ago? (reversed)	Pearson Correlation	,060**	,038	,055**	,046*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,004	,073	,009	,028	
	N	2271	2267	2260	2263	2291

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Dendrogram using Average Linkage (Between Groups)

Rescaled Distance Cluster Combine



Subjective well-being and family events

	Satisfaction with: Your life as a whole				Overall, how happy have you been feeling during the last two weeks?			
	No		Yes		No		Yes	
	Mean	Standard Error of Mean	Mean	Standard Error of Mean	Mean	Standard Error of Mean	Mean	Standard Error of Mean
In the past year have you moved house?	9,36	,03	9,40	,08	8,84	,04	8,70	,13
In the past year have you changed local area?	9,36	,03	9,38	,09	8,84	,04	8,66	,14
In the past year have you changed schools?	9,38	,03	9,21	,12	8,85	,04	8,53	,17
In the past year have you lived in another country for more than a month?	9,39	,03	9,15	,13	8,85	,04	8,63	,16
Are you living with the same parents or carers you used to live with one year ago?	9,15	,13	9,38	,03	8,35	,18	8,87	,04

Life events in last year and subjective well-being

	Subjective well-being	Std. err of mean
No life event	9,40	0,03
At least a life events	9,27	0,06

Discussion

- The events of life are interrelated
- 3 life events correlated with subjective well-being

Limitations

- Only events of the last year are taken into account
- The number of life events is very limited
- Correlational research

References

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