



COUNTRY REPORTS



General Introduction

Children's Worlds, the International Survey of Children's Well-Being (ISCWeB), is a worldwide research survey of children's subjective well-being aiming to improve children's lives. This kind of exploration is essential to support cross-national comparative work, which is currently largely lacking in this field of inquiry.

This second wave of the survey was conducted during winter of 2013 and spring of 2014 with representative samples of children aged 8 to 12 in a diverse range of 15 countries around the globe – Algeria, Colombia, England, Estonia, Ethiopia, Germany, Israel, Nepal, Norway, Poland, Romania, South Africa, South Korea, Spain and Turkey. Each participating country surveyed a representative sample of at least 1,000 children in each of three school year groups – around the ages of 8, 10 and 12.

Methods

In each country a representative sample of children in mainstream schools in the whole country or a specific region was obtained. The sampling strategy varied from country to country subject to the characteristics of each country. More detailed information about this can be found in each of the country's reports.

Some cases were excluded from each country's data set based on systematic guidelines (e.g. the child's age is more than two years younger or older than the target age group for the survey; there are more than 30/25/20 missing values - respectively for each age group - in a case; all time use questions are answered with the same value or are missing).

The original English questionnaire was translated into the language spoken by children in each of the countries and the questionnaires were pre-tested to ensure children's understanding beforehand using six focus groups of children (two for each of the age groups).

The questionnaire includes a wide range of domains in 10 parts:



Three versions of the questionnaire are been used, one for each age group. Questionnaires differ in length; the questionnaire for age 12 is the longest. Three types of scales are used:

1. Agreement (5-point unipolar scale 'I do not agree' – 'Totally agree')
2. Satisfaction (11-point unipolar scale 'not at all satisfied' – 'Totally satisfied'),
3. Frequency

Additionally, in the 8-years-old version, a scale of five emoticons is used for the satisfaction items and these items were phrased in term of happiness ('How happy you feel with...').

In addition, several well-known psychometric scales are used in the questionnaire to measure the children's overall subjective well-being:

Satisfaction domain free	Satisfaction domain specific	Positive affect
<p>The Student Life Satisfaction Scale</p> <p>(SLSS, Huebner, 1991) – A modified four positive items versions, in addition to one item from Diener et al (1985) SWLS scale ('The things in my life are excellent').</p>	<p>The Personal Well-being Index - School Children</p> <p>(PWI-SC, Cummins & Lau, 2005). PWI-SC7 – 7 items version (satisfaction with: 'All the things you have', 'Health', 'The things you want to be good at', 'Your relationships with people in general', 'How safe you feel', 'Doing things away from your home, and 'What may happen to you later in your life')</p> <p>PWI-SC9 - two additional items relating to time use (Casas et al., 2012) and life as a student (Casas, Baltatescu et al., 2013).</p>	<p>Positive Affect</p> <p>Short version of six positive affects derived from Russell's (2003, 2009) concept of Core Affect.</p> <p>Children were asked how often in the last two weeks they had felt satisfied, happy, relaxed, active, calm, and full of energy.</p>
<p>8 years-old: a five-point agreement scale</p> <p>10 and 12 years-old: 11-point agreement scale (0-10)</p>	<p>10 and 12 years-old: 11-point satisfaction scale (0-10)</p>	<p>10 and 12 years-old: 11-point scale (0-10)</p>
<p>Overall Life Satisfaction (OLS) –</p> <p>One single item about life as a whole</p>	<p>The Brief Multidimensional Student Life Satisfaction Scale</p> <p>(BMSLSS) originally proposed by Seligson, Huebner and Valois, 2003. An adapted version was used with the questions about satisfaction with family life, friends, school experience, local area and body.</p>	
<p>8 years-old: a five-point emoticons scale</p> <p>10 and 12 years-old: 11-point satisfaction scale (0-10)</p>	<p>8 years-old: a five-point emoticons scale</p> <p>10 and 12 years-old: 11-point satisfaction scale (0-10)</p>	

All scales were transformed into 0-100 scale to allow comparison between scales.

The survey meets the legal and ethical framework and received approval from an appropriate ethics board within each participating country. In every participating country all children gave their informed consent to participate in the research before filling out the questionnaire. Active or passive parental consent was granted if required.

More information about the Methods and the survey can be found in the comparative report ([Rees and Main, 2015](#)).

The current report

This report consists of 15 country reports, each describing the findings from a participating country. Every report is divided into three parts; the first part starts with a brief introduction of the country's context and characteristics and then details the sampling strategy. In the second part the 10 sections of the questionnaire are explored and the findings are presented. The final part moves on to discuss country-specific conclusions.

References

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