

Children's Worlds National Report

# MALAYSIA



Nor Sheereen Zulkefly<sup>1</sup>, Rozumah Baharudin<sup>2</sup>

**University Putra Malaysia**

---

<sup>1</sup> Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Putra Malaysia, 43400 UPM Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Faculty of Human Ecology, Universiti Putra Malaysia, 43400 UPM Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Context and population

Malaysia is a country situated in the Southeast Asia. It is a multiracial federation formed without revolution. The two parts of Malaysia (i.e., Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia) are divided by the South China Sea. Peninsular Malaysia is situated on the southernmost section of the Malay Peninsula, south of Thailand, north of Singapore, and east of the Indonesian island of Sumatra. It makes up 132,156 square kilometers which is approximately 40% of the land area and is further divided into four regions which are Northern, Southern, Central and East Coast. Each region consists of several states and a couple of these regions have territories. Overall, Peninsular Malaysia has 11 states and two territories. Meanwhile, East Malaysia comprises most of the northern part of Borneo island, with land borders shared with Brunei to the north and Indonesian Borneo to the south. East Malaysia which covers 198,447 square kilometers or 60% of the country's land area consists of two regions involving two states and 1 federal territories. For the present study, data was only collected from four states in Peninsular Malaysia, namely Penang (North), Johor (South), Kelantan (East Coast) and Selangor (Central).

The current population of Malaysia is estimated to be 32.4 million with an annual population growth rate of 1.1 percent (Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2018). Out of the total population, approximately 25.7 million Malaysian lives in the Peninsular Malaysia, while 6.7 million lives in East Malaysia. Among the states in Peninsular Malaysia, Selangor was found to have the highest population with 6.5 million Malaysians, followed by Johor (3.7 million), Kedah (2.1 million), Kelantan (1.8 million), and Penang (1.7 million). In terms of the percentage of the Malaysian population according to age, those under 14 years old was found to decrease from 7.73 million (24.1%) in 2017 to 7.71 million (23.8%) in 2018. While the percentages of those aged 15 to 64 was found to slightly increase from 69.6% in 2017 to 69.7% in 2018. Similarly, the percentage of population of those above 64 years of age increased from 6.3% in 2017 to 6.5% in 2018.

Malaysia is also a multi-racial, multi-cultural and multi-religious country. The Malaysian citizens are divided along ethnic groups, with majority (69.1%) being Malays, followed by Chinese (23%), and Indians (6.9%). Out of the total population, 66.7% practices Islam, 17.9% Buddhism, 9.0% Christianity, 5.1% Hinduism, and 1.3% traditional Chinese religion. The remainder is accounted by other faiths and belief systems.

In terms of economy context, Malaysia experienced an economic boom and underwent rapid development during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 2018, Malaysia saw its economy grow at 4.7% with a value of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) recorded at RM1.23 trillion (USD3 billion) at constant prices and MYR1.43 trillion (USD3.49 billion) at current prices.

### 1.2 Sampling: Strategy and outcome

The population for the study comprised of children from various ethnicity (i.e., Malay, Chinese, and Indian) attending primary schools in urban and rural areas across four regions of Peninsular Malaysia. The four selected states were Penang (North), Johor (South),

Kelantan (East Cost) and Selangor (Central). Participants were selected using the probability proportional to size (PPS) cluster sampling technique. In the first stage, the number of clusters selected from rural and urban areas across Malaysia were determined. Based on locality (urban and rural), a list of clusters with cumulative population size was created. A systematic sampling approach was performed, where the sample was selected from a random start using the sampling interval. The sampling interval was obtained by dividing the total cumulative population size (1,118,327) with the number of clusters (50) selected. The present study had a sampling interval of 23767 (rounded to nearest whole number) which served as a standard distance by which clusters were selected in the sample.

Next, a random number generator was used to obtain a random number between 1 and 23767. Using the cumulative population size as reference, the sampling unit which contained the random number of 20485 was the first cluster selected for the study. To determine the second cluster, the first random number (20485) and sampling interval (23767) was summed together. This procedure was repeated until 50 clusters were identified. In total, 25 clusters from urban and 25 from rural areas were selected for the study. The final stage of PPS cluster sampling was to randomly select a sample of respondents from each cluster. Due to conditions set by the Ministry of Education of Malaysia that dictates that children sitting for major national examinations were not allowed to participate in any research activities, the present study only recruited students from Standard 2 (8 years old) and Standard 4 (10 years old). Standard 6 (12 years old) students was therefore not included in the proposed study as they sat for the national exam. Based from the sampling strategy, a total of 1006 8 years old ( $n_{\text{urban}} = 497$ ,  $n_{\text{rural}} = 509$ ) and 1000 10 years old ( $n_{\text{urban}} = 512$ ,  $n_{\text{rural}} = 488$ ) participated in the study.

## 2. Results

### 2.1 The participants

Data was collected from 2006 respondents, however only 1959 were useable. Descriptive analysis indicated that a total of 967 8-year-old ( $n_{\text{boy}} = 410$ ,  $n_{\text{girl}}=557$ ) and 993 10-year-old ( $n_{\text{boy}} = 443$ ,  $n_{\text{girl}}=549$ ) participated in the study (Please see Table 1).

Table 1. Gender and age distribution

	8 year-old	10 year-old	Total
Boy	410	443	853
Girl	557	549	1106
Total	<b>967</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>1959</b>

## 2.2 The home and the people children live with

Question 5: Which of the following best describes the home you live in?

As presented in Table 2, a majority (98.6%) of the 10 year old children reported living with their family. Only a small portion of the children lived in foster homes (.6%), children's home (.1%), and another type of home (.7%).

Table 2. The home you live in (Numbers (%))




	n(%)
I live with my family	977 (98.6)
I live in a foster home	6 (.6)
I live in a children's home	1 (.1)
I live in another type of home	7 (.7)

Missing: 1 (0.1%)

Question 11: How satisfied are you with the people you live with?

Nearly 80% of the 8 year old children reported of feeling very happy with the people they live with (please see Table 3a). Meanwhile, a large number (70.1%) of 10 years old reported feeling totally satisfied with the people they with (please see Table 3b).

Table 3a. Satisfaction with people you live with (8 year old) (Numbers (%))

Satisfaction with ...					
The people you live with	13 (1.3)	23 (2.4)	16 (1.7)	142 (14.7)	771 (79.9)

Missing: 2 (.2%)

Table 3b. Satisfaction with people you live with (10 year old) (Numbers (%))

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The people you live with	2 (.2)	2 (.2)	5 (.5)	5 (.5)	6 (.6)	43 (4.3)	30 (3.0)	16 (1.6)	69 (7.0)	118 (11.9)	695 (70.1)

Missing: 2 (.2%)

Question 12: How much do you agree with each of these sentences?

As presented in Table 4, both the 8-year-olds (64%) and 10-year-olds (65.3%) reported almost similar percentage in terms of having people in the family that care about them. However, the 8-year-olds (70%) reported higher tendency of their family to help during problems compared to the 10-year-olds (60%). Additionally, the younger aged children (67.1%) reported higher frequency of having a good time together with the family than the older aged children (52.4%). The younger aged children (72.8%) reported slightly higher tendency of feeling safe at home compared to the older age group 69%. Furthermore, the 8-year-olds (53.1%) reported higher frequency of their parents listening and taking what they say into account in contrast to the 10-year-olds (36.5%). A large number (65%) of the older children reported higher tendency of making life decisions together with parents. No

comparison could be made to the younger age group as this question was not applied to them.

Table 4. Family Related Questions (Numbers (%))


	I do not agree n (%)	Agree a little bit n (%)	Agree somewhat n (%)	Agree a lot n (%)	Totally agree n (%)	Missing n (%)
<b>8 year old</b>						
There are people in my family who care about me	86 (9.2)	61 (6.5)	70 (7.5)	104 (11.1)	617 (63.8)	29 (3.0)
If I have a problem, people in my family will help me	33 (3.5)	48 (5.0)	72 (7.5)	135 (14.1)	667 (69.8)	12 (1.2)
We have a good time together in my family	39 (4.1)	51 (5.4)	92 (9.7)	132 (13.9)	639 (67.1)	14 (1.4)
I feel safe at home	28 (2.9)	37 (3.9)	63 (6.6)	131 (13.8)	693 (72.8)	15 (1.6)
My parents listen to me and consider what I have to say	145 (15.6)	82 (8.8)	79 (8.5)	130 (14.0)	494 (53.1)	37 (3.8)
<b>10 year old</b>						
There are people in my family who care about me	25 (2.6)	60 (6.2)	106 (11.0)	142 (14.8)	628 (65.3)	31 (3.1)
If I have a problem, people in my family will help me	31 (3.2)	65 (6.6)	111 (11.3)	183 (18.7)	590 (60.2)	12 (1.2)
We have a good time together in my family	37 (3.8)	116 (11.9)	125 (12.8)	185 (19.0)	510 (52.4)	19 (1.9)
I feel safe at home	27 (2.8)	41 (4.2)	88 (9.1)	146 (15.0)	669 (68.9)	21 (2.1)
My parents listen to me and consider what I have to say	109 (11.5)	160 (16.9)	168 (17.8)	163 (17.2)	345 (36.5)	47 (4.7)
My parents and I make decisions about my life together	55 (6.0)	53 (5.7)	89 (9.6)	129 (14.0)	597 (64.7)	69 (7.0)

### 2.3 The home where children live

Question 16: How satisfied are you with the home you live in

As presented in Table 5a and 5b, a large number of the 8 year old (74.36%) and 10 year old (71.7%) children reported being happy and totally satisfied with their homes.

Table 5a. Satisfied with the home you live in (8 year old) (Numbers (%))

Satisfaction with ...					
the home you live in	51 (5.3)	36 (3.7)	36 (3.7)	132 (13.7)	710 (73.6)

Missing: 2 (.2%)

Table 5b. Satisfied with the home you live in (10 year old) (Numbers (%))

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>the home you live in</b>	-	3	5	8	9	32	18	39	55	111	711
		(.3)	(.5)	(.8)	(.9)	(3.2)	(1.8)	(3.9)	(5.5)	(11.2)	(71.7)

Missing: 1 (.1%)

Question 21. Do you have your own bed?

Nearly half (47.1%) of the 10 year old children reported of having their own bed. However, 41.1% of them reported sharing a bed. A small portion (12%) reported of having no bed at all.

Question 22: Is there a place in your home where you can study?

A large proportion of the 10 year old children reported of having a place to study (85.1%) in comparison to their peers without any space to study (11.9%).

Table 6. Things you have (10 year old) (Numbers (%))

Whether you have ...	10 year-old
<b>Own bed</b>	467 (47.1)
<b>Place to study<sup>1</sup></b>	843 (85.1)






<sup>1</sup>missing: 1 (.1%)

## 2.4 Friends

Questions 25: How satisfied are you with your friends?

A large number (63.3%) of the 8 year old reported being very happy with their friends. Meanwhile, less than half (42.8%) of the 10 year old were totally satisfied with their friends.

Table 7a. Satisfied with friends (8 year old) (Numbers (%))

Satisfaction with ...					
<b>Your friends</b>	33 (3.4)	30 (3.1)	70 (7.3)	221 (22.9)	611 (63.3)

Missing: 2 (.2%)

Table 7b. Satisfied with friends (10 year old) (Numbers (%))

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Your friends</b>	33	15	13	24	37	83	56	67	108	131	425
	(3.3)	(1.5)	(1.3)	(2.4)	(3.7)	(8.4)	(5.6)	(33.1)	(10.9)	(13.2)	(42.8)

Question 26: How much do you agree with each of these sentences?

As presented in Table 8, the 8 year old children (68.2%) reported higher tendency of having enough friends compared to the 10 year old (55.9%). Similarly, the 8 year old children (60%) reported having more friends that are nice to them than the 10 year old (31.8%). Additionally, the younger children (60.6%) reported higher tendency to get along well together with their friends in contrast to the older children (37.9%). Likewise, the younger

children (67.7%) reported higher tendency to having friends to support them in times of trouble compared to the older children (51.1%).

Table 8. Questions related to friends (Numbers (%))

	I do not agree		Agree a little bit		Agree somewhat		Agree a lot		Totally agree		Missing	
	8 YO	10 YO	8 YO	10 YO	8 YO	10 YO	8 YO	10 YO	8 YO	10 YO	8 YO	10 YO
<b>I have enough friends</b>	61 (6.4)	52 (5.4)	49 (5.2)	108 (11.1)	78 (8.2)	147 (15.2)	114 (12.0)	120 (12.4)	647 (68.2)	542 (55.9)	18 (1.9)	23 (2.3)
<b>My friends are usually nice to me</b>	87 (9.1)	127 (13.0)	77 (8.0)	193 (19.8)	82 (8.5)	175 (17.9)	138 (14.4)	171 (17.5)	576 (60.0)	310 (31.8)	6 (.6)	16 (1.6)
<b>Me and my friends get along well together</b>	65 (6.8)	100 (10.2)	72 (7.5)	173 (17.6)	84 (8.8)	178 (18.1)	156 (16.3)	159 (16.2)	580 (60.6)	372 (37.9)	10 (1.0)	9 (.9)
<b>If I have a problem, I have a friend who will support me</b>	91 (9.6)	144 (14.9)	39 (4.1)	105 (10.9)	55 (5.8)	90 (9.3)	120 (12.7)	134 (13.9)	640 (67.7)	492 (51.0)	22 (2.3)	27 (2.7)

Note. 8YO = 8 Year Old; 10YO = 10 Year Old

## 2.5 School

Question 28: How satisfied are you with your life as a student?

As presented in Table 9a, a majority (73.5%) of the younger age children reported being very happy with their student life whereas only 57.6% of the older age children reported being totally satisfied with theirs (please see Table 9b).






Question 29: How satisfied are you with things that you have learned at school?

A large proportion (72.1%) of the 8 year old reported being very happy with things that they learned at school. On the other hand, only 59.2% of the 10 year old children reported being totally satisfied with what they learned at school.

Question 30: How satisfied are you with other children in your class?

Based on Table 9a, nearly 62% of the younger age children reported being very happy with their other children in class. On the other hand, only about 40% of the older children reported feeling totally satisfied with their classroom peers (Table 9b).

Table 9a. Satisfaction with school life (8 year old) (Numbers (%))

Satisfaction with ...					
<b>Life as a student<sup>1</sup></b>	12 (1.2)	18 (1.9)	39 (4.0)	186 (19.3)	709 (73.5)
<b>Lessons at school<sup>2</sup></b>	10 (1.0)	19 (2.0)	40 (4.1)	200 (20.7)	696 (72.1)
<b>Other children in your class<sup>3</sup></b>	49 (5.1)	53 (5.5)	81 (8.4)	185 (19.2)	596 (61.8)

Missing: <sup>1</sup>3 (.3%), <sup>2</sup>2 (.2%), <sup>3</sup>3 (.3%).

Table 9b. Satisfaction with school life (10 year old) (Numbers (%))

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Life as a student<sup>1</sup></b>	13 (1.3)	7 (.7)	11 (1.1)	9 (.9)	16 (1.6)	48 (4.8)	32 (3.2)	50 (5.0)	111 (11.2)	123 (12.4)	571 (57.6)
<b>Lessons at school<sup>2</sup></b>	5 (.5)	6 (.6)	7 (.7)	10 (1.0)	12 (1.2)	37 (3.7)	32 (3.2)	49 (4.9)	73 (7.4)	173 (17.5)	587 (59.2)
<b>Other children in your class<sup>3</sup></b>	78 (7.9)	31 (3.1)	12 (1.2)	29 (2.9)	40 (4.0)	76 (7.7)	54 (5.4)	62 (6.3)	103 (10.4)	159 (16.0)	346 (34.9)

Missing: <sup>1</sup>1 (.1%), <sup>2</sup>1 (.1%), <sup>3</sup>2 (.2%).

Question 33: How much do you agree with each of these sentences?

Based on Table 10, the 8 year old children (59.8%) reported higher frequency of their teachers caring about them compared to the 10 year old children (42.4%). Additionally, the younger age children (72.8%) rated higher tendency of teachers helping them when they have a problem at school in contrast to the older age children (47.4%). Similarly, the younger age children (65%) reported higher frequency of other children helping them out at school compared to the older children (37.1%). Both 8 (37.9%) and 10 year old (31.3%) children reported small frequency of arguments between children in their class. Results also indicated that the younger children (51.4%) reported higher tendency of their teachers listening to them and taking what they say into account compared to the older age children (25.1%). Furthermore, a majority (74.9%) of the younger children reported feeling safe at school than the older age children (50.2%). A small proportion (38.6%) of the older children reported that they had the opportunities to make decisions about things that are important to them at school.



Table 10. School related questions (Numbers (%))

	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree	Missing
<b>8 year old</b>						
My teachers care about me	105 (11.3)	71 (7.6)	69 (7.4)	130 (13.9)	558 (59.8)	34 (3.5)
If I have a problem at school, my teachers will help me	32 (3.4)	48 (5.0)	66 (6.9)	113 (11.9)	693 (72.8)	15 (1.6)
If I have a problem at school, other children will help me	76 (8.0)	47 (4.9)	72 (7.5)	139 (14.6)	621 (65.0)	12 (1.2)
There are a lot of arguments between children in my class	200 (21.7)	104 (11.3)	126 (13.7)	143 (15.5)	350 (37.9)	44 (4.6)
My teachers listen to me and take what I say into account	165 (17.9)	75 (8.1)	83 (9.0)	126 (13.7)	474 (51.4)	44 (4.6)
I feel safe at school	53 (5.6)	41 (4.3)	40 (4.2)	95 (10.0)	722 (74.9)	16 (1.7)
<b>10 year old</b>						
My teachers care about me	78 (8.7)	121 (13.5)	162 (18.1)	153 (17.1)	378 (42.4)	97 (9.8)
If I have a problem at school, my teachers will help me	53 (5.6)	116 (12.3)	145 (15.4)	181 (19.2)	446 (47.4)	51 (5.1)
If I have a problem at school, other children will help me	120 (12.4)	169 (17.5)	154 (16.0)	164 (17.0)	358 (37.1)	27 (2.7)
There are a lot of arguments between children in my class	128 (14.3)	147 (16.4)	183 (20.4)	158 (17.6)	281 (31.3)	95 (9.6)
My teachers listen to me and take what I say into account	168 (18.7)	181 (20.1)	198 (22.0)	126 (14.0)	226 (25.1)	93 (9.4)
At school I have opportunities to make decisions about things that are important to me	147 (16.1)	124 (13.6)	142 (15.6)	144 (15.8)	352 (38.6)	83 (8.4)
I feel safe at school	112 (11.8)	92 (9.7)	149 (15.7)	117 (12.3)	476 (50.2)	46 (4.6)

Question 35: How often in the last month have you been

As presented in Table 11, the 10 year old children (24.3%) reported higher tendency of being hit by other children in school compared to the 8 year old (22.6%). Similarly, the older children (46.8%) reported higher tendency of being called unkind names by other children at school than their younger counterparts (25.5%). Additionally, the older children (21.7%) reported higher frequency of being left out by other children at school in contrast to the younger children (15.6%).

Table 11. Bullying (Numbers (%))

How often:	Never		Once		Two or 3 times		More than three times		Missing	
	8 YO	10 YO	8 YO	10 YO	8 YO	10 YO	8 YO	10 YO	8 YO	10 YO
Hit by other children in your school	406 (42.7)	376 (38.9)	172 (18.1)	169 (17.5)	158 (16.6)	186 (19.3)	215 (22.6)	235 (24.3)	16 (1.7)	26 (2.6)
Called unkind names by other children in your school	379 (40.1)	183 (18.9)	181 (19.2)	130 (13.4)	144 (15.2)	203 (20.9)	241 (25.5)	454 (46.8)	22 (2.3)	22 (2.2)
Left out by other children in your class	502 (53.6)	389 (40.5)	206 (22.0)	213 (22.2)	82 (8.8)	150 (15.6)	146 (15.6)	209 (21.7)	31 (3.2)	31 (3.1)




Note. 8YO = 8 Year Old; 10YO = 10 Year Old

## 2.6 The area where children live

Question 36: How satisfied are you with the area where you live?

A majority (71.1%) of the 8 year old reported being very happy with the area they live in. Meanwhile, nearly 60% of the 10 year old reported being totally satisfied with the area they live in.

Table 12a. Satisfied with the area you live (8 year old) (Numbers (%))

Satisfaction with ...					
The area where you live	29 (3.0)	35 (3.6)	52 (5.4)	162 (16.8)	684 (71.1)

Missing: 5 (.5%)

Table 12b. Satisfied with the area you live (10 year old) (Numbers (%))

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The area where you live	11 (1.1)	13 (1.3)	10 (1.0)	10 (1.0)	15 (1.5)	30 (3.0)	22 (2.2)	47 (4.7)	87 (8.8)	152 (15.3)	594 (59.9)

Missing: 1 (.1%)

## 2.7 Money and the things children have

Question 51: How often do you worry about how much money your family has?

Based on Table 13, the 8 year old children (51%) reported slightly more frequency of worry about how much money their family has in comparison to the 10 year old children (44.9%).

Table 13. Worry about family's money (Numbers (%))


	8 year-old <sup>1</sup>	10 year-old <sup>2</sup>
<b>Never</b>	129 (14.4)	64 (7.1)
<b>Sometimes</b>	190 (19.6)	272 (30.3)
<b>Often</b>	83 (9.3)	159 (17.7)
<b>Always</b>	493 (51.0)	404 (44.9)

Missing: <sup>1</sup>72 (7.4%), <sup>2</sup>93 (9.4%)

Question 59: How satisfied are you with all the things that you have?

Based on Table 14a and 14b, a large number of the 8 year old children reported being satisfied with all the things that they have. Similarly, nearly 73% of the 10 year old rated that they were totally satisfied with the things that they have.

Table 14a. Satisfied with things that you have (8 year old) (Numbers (%))

Satisfaction with ...					
<b>all the things you have</b>	18 (1.9)	37 (3.9)	54 (5.6)	181 (18.9)	670 (69.8)

Missing: 7 (.7%)

Table 14b. Satisfied with things that you have (10 year old) (Numbers (%))

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>all the things you have</b>	10 (1.0)	5 (.5)	5 (.5)	10 (1.0)	10 (1.0)	17 (1.7)	15 (1.5)	24 (2.4)	61 (6.2)	113 (11.4)	721 (72.8)

Missing: 1 (.1%)

Question 63: Do you have enough food to eat each day?

As presented in Table 15, a majority of the 8 year old (74.1%) and 10 year old (73.2%) children reported on always having enough food to eat each day.

Table 15. Enough food (Numbers (%))

	8 year-old <sup>1</sup>	10 year-old <sup>2</sup>
<b>Never</b>	32 (3.4)	12 (1.2)
<b>Sometimes</b>	114 (12.2)	133 (13.7)
<b>Often</b>	97 (10.3)	114 (11.8)
<b>Always</b>	695 (74.1)	709 (73.2)

Missing: <sup>1</sup>29 (3.0%), <sup>2</sup>24 (2.4%)

Question 64: Which of the following do you have?

As presented in Table 16, a majority of the 8 (93.6%) and 10 year old (95.3%) reported of having clothes in good condition to go to school. Similarly, a large number of the 8 (79.9%) and 10 year old (76.6%) reported having enough money for school trips and activities. The older children (70.5%) were found to report having more access to the internet compared to

the younger age children (65.6%). A majority of the 8 (86.2%) and 10 year old (89.5%) children reported having sports equipment. The 10 year old (89.5%) reported having slightly more pocket money than the 8 year old (86.2%). Similarly, the older age children (91.2%) reported having slightly more shoes in good condition compared to the younger children (87.2%). The older children (57.7%) reported higher tendency to have a mobile phone compared to their younger counterpart (47.5%). A majority of the 8 (91.5%) and 10 year old (96.4%) reported having school equipment.

Table 16. What do I have (Numbers (%))

	8 Year Old			10 Year Old		
	No	Yes	Missing	No	Yes	Missing
<b>Clothes in good condition to go to school</b>	62 (6.4)	902 (93.6)	3 (.3)	47 (4.7)	945 (95.3)	-
<b>Enough money for school trips and activities</b>	194 (20.1)	771 (79.9)	2 (.2)	232 (23.4)	760 (76.6)	-
<b>Access to the Internet</b>	332 (34.4)	633 (65.6)	2 (.2)	292 (29.5)	699 (70.5)	1 (.1)
<b>Equipment/things for sports and hobbies</b>	170 (17.6)	795 (82.4)	2 (.2)	144 (14.5)	847 (85.5)	1 (.1)
<b>Pocket money/ money to spend on yourself</b>	133 (13.8)	829 (86.2)	5 (.5)	104 (10.5)	885 (89.5)	3 (.3)
<b>Two pairs of shoes in good condition</b>	123 (12.8)	841 (87.2)	3 (.3)	87 (8.8)	905 (91.2)	-
<b>Mobile phone</b>	506 (52.5)	457 (47.5)	4 (.4)	418 (42.3)	570 (57.7)	4 (.4)
<b>Equipment/things you need for school</b>	82 (8.5)	881 (91.5)	4 (.4)	36 (3.6)	955 (96.4)	1 (.1)

### Material and economic circumstances - Scale A

A large proportion (77.4%) of the 10 year old children reported having electricity all of the time. Furthermore, majority of them reported having running water (86.5%) and a toilet that flushes (80.6%).

Table 17. Does your home have (10 year old) (Numbers (%))

<b>Electricity<sup>1</sup></b>	
All of the time	765 (77.4)
Some of the time	209 (21.1)
Not at all	15 (1.5)
<b>Running water<sup>2</sup></b>	
Yes	851 (86.5)
No	85 (8.6)
Not sure	48 (4.9)
<b>A toilet that flushes<sup>3</sup></b>	
Yes	782 (80.6)
No	165 (17.0)
Not sure	23 (2.4)

Missing: <sup>1</sup>3 (.3%) <sup>2</sup>8 (.8%), <sup>3</sup>22 (2.2%)

Question 49: Which of the following does your family have at home?

A large number (75.4%) of the 10 year old children reported of having a computer. Nearly all of them reported having a television (98.7%), fridge (98.8%), telephone (95%), and a car (98%). More than half (56.3%) reported having a radio.






Table 18. Descriptive statistics on family's material possessions (10 year old) (Numbers (%))

<b>10 year old</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Missing</b>
<b>A computer</b>	744 (75.4)	243 (24.6)	5 (.5)
<b>A television</b>	977 (98.7)	13 (1.3)	2 (.2)
<b>A fridge/freezer</b>	978 (98.8)	12 (1.2)	2 (.2)
<b>A radio</b>	555 (56.3)	431 (43.7)	6 (.6)
<b>A telephone</b>	941 (95.0)	50 (5.0)	1 (.1)
<b>A car/van/motorbike/etc.</b>	971 (98.0)	20 (2.0)	1 (.1)

## 2.8 Time use

Results indicated that a large number (66.5%) of the 8 year old and slightly more than half (52.3%) of the 10 year old were very happy and totally satisfied with their time.

Table 19a. How satisfied are you with your time? (8 year old) (Numbers (%))

Satisfaction with ...					
How you use your time	26 (2.7)	26 (2.7)	57 (6.0)	211 (22.1)	636 (66.5)

Missing: 11 (1.1%)

Table 19b. How satisfied are you with your time? (10 year old) (Numbers (%))

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
How you use your time	18 (1.8)	7 (.7)	4 (.4)	14 (1.4)	10 (1.0)	45 (4.5)	27 (2.7)	51 (5.1)	104 (10.5)	188 (19.0)	523 (52.8)






Missing: 1 (.1%)

## 2.9 Subjective well-being: how children feel about their lives

### OLS (Overall Subjective Well-Being)

A large number (67.2%) of the 8 year old children scored a total score of 100 with mean 85.7 (Sd. = 25.6). Similarly, nearly 70% of the 10 year old scored 100 with a mean of 91.5 (Sd. = 18.3)

Table 20a. Satisfaction with life as a whole (8 year old) (%)

Satisfaction with ...					
Your life as a whole	40(4.0)	30(3.0)	57(5.7)	190(19.0)	681(68.2)

Missing: 2 (.2%)

Table 20b. Satisfaction with life as a whole (10 year old) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Your life as a whole	8(.8)	9(.9)	4(.4)	5(.5)	12(1.2)	26(2.6)	18 (1.8)	30 (3.0)	67 (6.7)	125 (12.5)	696 (69.6)

### CW-SWBS (Children's Worlds Subjective Well-Being Scale)

More than half of the 8 year old (54.8%) and 10 year old (54.2%) were found to obtain high scores between 91 to 100. The 8 year old had a mean score of 84.8 (Sd. = 18.6) while the 10 year old had a mean score of 85.6 (Sd. =18.0).

Table 21. CW-SWBS items (%)

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>I enjoy my life<sup>1</sup></b>	8(.8)	9(.9)	5(.5)	10 (1.0)	10 (1.0)	49 (4.9)	21 (2.1)	37 (3.7)	71 (7.1)	106 (10.6)	673 (67.4)
<b>My life is going well</b>	13 (1.3)	12 (1.2)	9 (.9)	22 (2.2)	18 (1.8)	46 (4.6)	36 (3.6)	45 (4.5)	106 (10.6)	178 (17.8)	515 (51.5)
<b>I have a good life<sup>2</sup></b>	9(.9)	18 (1.8)	10 (1.0)	17 (1.7)	20 (2.0)	35 (3.5)	30 (3.0)	53 (5.3)	79 (8.0)	153 (15.4)	568 (57.2)
<b>The things that happen in my life are excellent<sup>3</sup></b>	37 (3.7)	25 (2.5)	20 (2.0)	28 (2.8)	38 (3.8)	73 (7.3)	66 (6.6)	91 (9.1)	130 (13.0)	179 (17.9)	312 (31.2)
<b>I like my life</b>	10 (1.0)	9 (.9)	9 (.9)	17 (1.7)	18 (1.8)	41 (4.1)	26 (2.6)	42 (4.2)	65 (6.5)	139 (13.9)	624 (62.4)
<b>I am happy with my life</b>	15 (1.5)	10 (1.0)	5 (.5)	8 (.8)	23 (2.3)	28 (2.8)	24 (2.4)	32 (3.2)	62 (6.2)	115 (11.5)	678 (67.8)

Missing: <sup>1</sup>1 (.1%) <sup>2</sup>8 (.8%), <sup>3</sup>1 (.1%)

### CW-DBSWBS (Children's Worlds Domain Based Subjective Well-Being Scale)

Nearly half of the 8 year old (47.3%) and 10 year old (46.9%) scored between 91 to 100. The mean score for the 8 year old is 88.2 (Sd. = 12.6) and 10 year old is 86.7 (Sd. 13.7).

Table 22. CW- DBSWBS items (%)

Satisfaction with	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>The people you live with<sup>1</sup></b>	2 (.2)	2 (.2)	5 (.5)	5 (.5)	6 (.6)	44 (4.4)	30 (3.0)	16 (1.6)	69 (6.9)	118 (11.8)	702 (70.3)
<b>Your friends</b>	33 (3.3)	15 (1.5)	13 (1.3)	24 (2.4)	37 (3.7)	83 (8.3)	56 (5.6)	67 (6.7)	108 (10.8)	131 (13.1)	433 (43.3)
<b>Your life as a student<sup>2</sup></b>	13 (1.3)	7 (.7)	11 (1.1)	9 (.9)	16 (1.6)	48 (4.8)	32 (3.2)	50 (5.0)	111 (11.1)	123 (12.3)	579 (58.0)
<b>The area where you live<sup>3</sup></b>	11 (1.1)	13 (1.3)	10 (1.0)	10 (1.0)	15 (1.5)	30 (3.0)	22 (2.2)	47 (4.7)	87 (8.7)	152 (15.2)	602 (60.3)
<b>The way that you look<sup>4</sup></b>	20 (2.0)	9(.9)	4 (.4)	10 (1.0)	16 (1.6)	37 (3.7)	25 (2.5)	48 (4.8)	68 (6.8)	134 (13.5)	622 (62.6)

Missing: <sup>1</sup>1 (.1%) <sup>2</sup>1 (.1%), <sup>3</sup>1 (.1%), <sup>4</sup>7(.7%)

### CW-PNAS (Children's Worlds Positive and Negative Affects Scale)

A large proportion of the 8 year old children scored 75 on the Positive Affect Scale (PAS) with a mean score of 60 (Sd. = 23). Meanwhile, more than half (54.3%) of the children scored 25 on the Negative Affect Scale (NAS) with a mean score of 30.1 (Sd. = 22.8).

Approximately half (50%) of the 10 year old were found to score between 91 to 100 on the PAS scale (Mean = 86.2, Sd. = 16.7). Meanwhile, only 10.5% scored between 91 to 100 on the NAS scale with a mean score of 55.5 (Sd. = 27).

Table 23. CW-PNAS items (%)

Last two weeks: How often feeling	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Happy<sup>1</sup></b>	6(.6)	4(.4)	6(.6)	8(.8)	8(.8)	39 (3.9)	32 (3.2)	45 (4.5)	85 (8.5)	109 (10.9)	656 (65.7)
<b>Calm<sup>2</sup></b>	29 (2.9)	13 (1.3)	11 (1.1)	20 (2.0)	25 (2.5)	73 (7.3)	55 (5.5)	56 (5.6)	95 (9.5)	125 (12.6)	493 (49.5)
<b>Full of energy<sup>3</sup></b>	15 (1.5)	12 (1.2)	3 (.3)	7 (.7)	14 (1.4)	41 (4.1)	46 (4.6)	54 (5.4)	93 (9.3)	116 (11.6)	597 (59.8)
<b>Sad<sup>4</sup></b>	120 (12.0)	77 (7.7)	62 (6.2)	67 (6.7)	64 (6.4)	124 (12.4)	67 (6.7)	67 (6.7)	87 (8.7)	101 (10.1)	163 (16.3)
<b>Stressed<sup>5</sup></b>	155 (15.6)	68 (6.8)	42 (4.2)	61 (6.1)	55 (5.5)	98 (9.8)	54 (5.4)	69 (6.9)	84 (8.4)	98 (9.8)	212 (21.3)
<b>Bored</b>	146 (14.6)	83 (8.3)	48 (4.8)	58 (5.8)	47 (4.7)	86 (8.6)	55 (5.5)	55 (5.5)	56 (5.6)	65 (6.5)	301 (30.1)

Missing: <sup>1</sup>2 (.2%), <sup>2</sup>5 (.5%), <sup>3</sup>2 (.2%), <sup>4</sup>1(.1%), <sup>5</sup>4(.4)

## 2.10 Children perceptions about their country

Based on Table 24, only a small number of children in Malaysia know the rights of children. Approximately 40% of both 8 and 10 year old children knew of their rights. Additionally, an even smaller number 8 year old (15.9%) and 10 year old (12.3%) children know about the UN children's right convention.

Table 24. Children perceptions about their country (Numbers, (%))

		8 year old <sup>1</sup>	10 year old <sup>2</sup>
<b>I know what rights children have</b>	<b>No</b>	262 (27.2)	491 (51.0)
	<b>Not sure</b>	317 (33.0)	318 (33.1)
	<b>Yes</b>	383 (39.8)	153 (15.9)
<b>I know about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child</b>	<b>No</b>	207 (20.9)	468 (47.3)
	<b>Not sure</b>	386 (39.0)	400 (40.4)
	<b>Yes</b>	396 (40.1)	122 (12.3)

Missing: <sup>1</sup>5 (.5%) <sup>2</sup>2 (.2%)

## 3. Conclusions

This study involved 8 and 10 year old children from various ethnicities across Malaysia. Majority of the children lived with their family and were mostly very happy and satisfied with their family. The younger age children (8 year old) were found to report higher tendency of being close to their family more than the older children (10 year old). The younger children reported enjoying more family time, feeling safer at home, and felt that



their families would be there in times of distress, as well as parents listen to them and take their words into consideration. In terms of sibling relations, the younger age children reported less likely being hit or call unkind names by their siblings within the past month compared to the older children. Additionally, the study found that majority of the children were very happy and satisfied with the house that they live in. Almost half of the older children reported having their own beds, but the other half reported sharing with others. Majority of the older children reported having their own space to study.

The study also found that the younger age children were more satisfied with their peer relationship compared to the older children. The younger children reported having more friends that were nice and helped them out in difficult times. They also reported getting along well with their peers and were satisfied with their classmates compared to the older age children. Additionally, the younger age children reported being more satisfied with their student life compared to their older counterparts. A majority of them felt satisfied with what they learn at school in comparison to the older children. The younger age children were also found to have better perception of their teachers in which they believe the teachers will help them if they have any problems, cares for them, listens to them, and take their words into consideration. The younger age children also reported higher frequency of having friends or classmates that would help them in times of difficulty at school. Furthermore, the younger children felt safer at school than the older children. The older children were found to report to have a higher tendency to being hit, called unkind names, and being left out by other children as compared to the younger children.

In terms of money, the study found that the younger children worried more about their family's money compared to the older children. Nevertheless, children from both age group were very satisfied with what they have. Similarly, children in the two age groups majority reported of having enough food, clothes, pocket money, shoes, and internet access. However, the older age children reported a higher tendency to have a mobile phone compared to their younger counterparts. In terms of material and economic circumstances, majority of children from both age groups reported having electricity, running water, and a flushing toilet. The majority of the older children further reported of having a computer, TV, fridge, telephone, and a car. In terms of satisfaction of time use, the younger children reported having more satisfaction compared to the older children.

The present study found the overall subjective well-being of the children from both age groups were high indicating high satisfaction with life. Similarly, the children were found to obtain high scores on the cognitive subjective well-being scales which tends to suggest the children have good cognitive components of subjective well-being. In terms of the affective components of well-being, the children from both age group were found to have high positive affect and low negative affect. This suggests that the children experience more pleasant feelings compared to unpleasant feelings in their lives.