

Children's Worlds National Report

SOUTH KOREA



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1. Introduction

The aim of this report is to provide the results from the descriptive analyses of the Children's Worlds survey conducted in South Korea between late 2017 and early 2018. In this report, we also provide information on the survey method used in the study. Detailed analyses of children's well-being in Korea will be completed after this initial report. Future studies will also include comparative analyses of children's well-being across the countries participating in the international project.

1.1 Context and population

Population

As of 2017, the population of the Republic of Korea (South Korea) is about 51 million.⁵

Geography

South Korea is located on the southern half of the Korean peninsula in East Asia. South Korea is bordered to North Korea by land⁶. By sea, South Korea is facing Japan across the East Sea and China across the Yellow Sea. For administrative purposes, South Korea is divided into seventeen provinces.

Children

In 2017, the number of children and youths between the ages of 0 and 18 years were about 9 million, which consists of approximately 17.6% of the South Korean population. The number of children between the ages of 8 and 12 is 2.2 million, which is about 4.3% of the total population.

Religion

The 2015 census shows that 44% of the population practices a religion. There are three dominating religions in South Korea—Protestantism, Buddhism, and Catholicism. About 19.7% of the population are Protestants, 15.5% are Buddhists, and 7.9% are Catholics.⁷

Ethnicity

The vast majority of the South Korean population are ethnic Koreans. Recently, the number of foreigners migrating to South Korea has been increasing. Especially, the number of multicultural families defined as a family that consists of a native Korean and a foreign-born spouse has increased substantially. As of 2017, approximately 2.9% of the population are estimated as being foreign-born.⁸

⁵ Statistics Korea (http://www.index.go.kr/potal/main/EachDtlPageDetail.do?idx_cd=1009)

⁶ Korea.net (<http://www.korea.net/AboutKorea/Korea-at-a-Glance/Facts-about-Korea>)

⁷ Statistics Korea (http://kosis.kr/statHtml/statHtml.do?orgId=101&tblId=DT_1PM1502&conn_path=I2)

⁸ Statistics Korea (http://kosis.kr/statHtml/statHtml.do?orgId=101&tblId=DT_1JA1610&conn_path=I2)

Economic context

South Korea's GDP per capita was \$29,744 in 2017.⁹ South Korea is known for achieving unprecedented economic success during the past half century. Even in the last 20 years, GDP per capita has increased 245% from \$12,134 in 1997 to \$29,744 in 2017.

Education

Full-time compulsory education starts at age six in primary school and ends at age 14 in middle school. Children receive primary education for 6 years and then move to middle school at age 12. They go to middle school for 3 years. Most children move to high school at age 15. High school dropout rate is very low in South Korea (1.5% in 2017). Korea is also known to have a very high entrance rate to post-secondary education. In 2017, about 70% of the high school graduates entered post-secondary education.¹⁰

Children's Rights

South Korea has been a party to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child since 1991.

1.2 Sampling strategy and outcomes

The South Korean sample was designed to achieve a nationally representative sample of children in 3rd grade (age 8), 5th grade (age 10), and 7th grade (age 12). Children in the 3rd and 5th grades are in primary schools, and those in the 7th grade are in middle schools. Each age group's total sample size was set at about 3,200 individuals.

We utilized the stratified cluster sampling method. First, a complete list of schools in Korea was stratified into 17 strata following the 17 geographical provinces of the country. Second, a target number of schools was selected for each stratum based on the estimated class size and the proportion of the general child population in that stratum. Third, within each stratum, schools were selected with uniform probability within each stratum. Fourth, within each school one class per grade level was randomly selected with uniform probability. When there were insufficient number of children with parental consent in the first class, we sampled an additional class in the same grade level for that particular school.

The survey instruments were mailed to the schools that agreed to participate in the survey. The survey was administered by homeroom teachers. After completion, the survey forms were mailed back to the data collection agency. A tool kit was provided to the teachers in order to inform them about survey administration procedures. Consent forms were given to both children and parents. Children whose consent forms were signed by themselves and their parents were included in the study. The survey was implemented between November 2017 and February 2018.

Table 1 shows the resulting sample by stratum. After the data cleaning process, 9,917 children remained in the study sample with 3,199 in the 8-year-old group, 3,252 in the 10-year-old group and 3,466 in the 12-year-old group.

⁹ OECD 「<http://stats.oecd.org/>」 2018.10.

¹⁰ Statistics Korea (http://www.index.go.kr/potal/main/EachDtlPageDetail.do?idx_cd=2939)

Table 1. Achieved sample (Numbers)

Stratum		All	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8 years		3,199	427	136	116	152	184	145	122	764	114	80	152	160	190	142	182	72	61
10 years		3,252	426	169	130	142	182	149	127	721	119	112	172	152	168	163	191	63	66
12 years		3,466	451	145	179	175	122	160	99	969	106	87	181	145	137	149	211	80	70
Total		9,917	1,304	450	425	469	488	454	348	2,454	339	279	505	457	495	454	584	215	197

We used statistical weights so that the proportion of children in each stratum in the data is equivalent to the proportion of children in that stratum in the population. Table 2 shows the result of the weighted sample.

Table 2. Weighted sample (Numbers)

Stratum		All	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8 years		3,199	513	180	147	187	103	101	80	884	88	100	140	115	110	153	226	46	26
10 years		3,251	529	182	152	188	109	104	79	892	92	101	141	118	114	154	224	48	24
12 years		3,467	569	200	169	197	117	113	83	933	103	109	147	132	123	163	236	49	24
Total		9,917	1,611	562	468	572	329	318	242	2,709	283	310	428	365	347	470	686	143	74

1.3 Note on statistical analysis

All differences referred to in the document are based on bivariate analyses. A p-value below 0.05 was noted as significant.

2. Results

2.1 The participants

Age and gender

Following the research protocol of Children's Worlds, the proportion of children by age and gender are presented in Table 3. Approximately 52% of children were female, and 48% were male.

Table 3. Age by gender (Numbers, (%))

	8 year-old	10 year-old	12 year-old	Total
Boy	1503(47.4)	1536(48.0)	1669(48.6)	4708(48.0)
Girl	1667(52.6)	1667(52.0)	1763(51.4)	5097(52.0)
Total	3170(100.0)	3203(100.0)	3432(100.0)	9805(100.0)

2.2 Your home and the people you live with

Most South Korean children live in the same home every day. Thus, we did not include the question that asked whether the child lives in the same home or in different homes.

The vast majority of children (99.7%) lived with their family while 0.3% of children lived in other types of home (Table 4).

Table 4. Home type (10- & 12- year-old) (%)¹¹

I live with my family	99.7
I live in a foster home	.1
I live in a children's home	.1
I live in another type of home	.1
Total	100.0

Tables 5 and 6 show the level of satisfaction with the people you live with (0-4 points for 8-year-olds and 0 to 10 points for 10- and 12-year-olds). Approximately, 73.1% of 8-year-olds ($m=3.67$) and 55.9% of 10- and 12-year-olds reported the highest level of satisfaction. 12-year-olds ($m=8.89$) showed lower satisfaction than 10-year-olds ($m=9.1$; $p<.01$).

¹¹ Missing 17(0.2%)

Table 5. Satisfaction with the people you live with (8-year-olds) (%)






Satisfaction with ...					
The people you live with ¹²	.2	.8	3.8	22.2	73.1

Table 6. Satisfaction with the people you live with (10- & 12-year-olds) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The people you live with ¹³	.0	.1	.1	.7	1.1	2.8	2.4	7.0	13.0	16.9	55.9

Among the six questions about children's views of their home and family, children agreed the most with the statement "If I have a problem, people in my family will help me." ($m = 3.72$) and agreed the least with, "My parents and I make decisions about my life together." ($m = 3.21$). When compared across age groups, the level of agreement showed a tendency to decrease for older children (Table 7).

Table 7. Variations in questions about home and family (All age groups; means)

	Family care	Family help problem	Good time together	Feel safe	Parents listen	Make joint decision
8 year-old	3.69	3.73	3.48	3.43	3.32	-
10 year-old	3.64	3.73	3.47	3.59	3.37	3.22
12 year-old	3.60	3.69	3.36	3.59	3.32	3.20
Total	3.64	3.72	3.44	3.54	3.34	3.21

2.3 The home where children live

We asked children, "How satisfied are you with the home that you live in?" On a scale of 0-4, 70.2% of 8-year-old children answered 4 points. On the other hand, 53.6% of 10- and 12-year-old children scored 10 points on a 0-10 scale (Table 8 and 9). When compared across age groups, 12-year-olds ($m = 8.79$) showed lower satisfaction than 10-year-olds ($m = 8.99$; $p < .001$).

¹² Missing 7(0.1%)

¹³ Missing 105(1.1%)

Table 8. Satisfaction with the house or flat where you live (8-year-olds) (%)






Satisfaction with ...					
The house or flat where you live ¹⁴	.5	1.0	5.0	23.4	70.2

Table 9. Satisfaction with the house or flat where you live (10- & 12-year-olds) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The house or flat where you live ¹⁵	.1	.1	.3	.6	1.3	3.1	3.7	7.4	13.0	16.9	53.6

When 10 and 12-year-old children were asked if they had their own room or a place to study, 62.8% of children had their own room and 95.5% of children had a place to study (Table 10). Particularly, a greater proportion of 12-year-olds had their own room (69.7%) than that of 10-year-olds (55.3%) ($p < .001$).

Table 10. Things you have (10- & 12-year-old) (%)

Whether you have ...	10 & 12 year-old
Own room ¹⁶	62.8
Place to study ¹⁷	95.5

2.4 Friends

When we asked children about their satisfaction with friends, 50.5% of 8-year-olds responded with 4 points (0-4 scale) indicating that they are very satisfied. On the other hand, 42.9% of 10- and 12-year-olds responded 10 points (0-10) indicating the highest level of satisfaction (Table 11 and 12). We did not find differences in level of satisfaction among 10- and 12-year-olds at the level of statistical significance.

¹⁴ Missing 6(0.1%)

¹⁵ Missing 102(1.0%)

¹⁶ Missing 29(0.3%)

¹⁷ Missing 14(0.1%)

Table 11. Satisfaction with your friends (8- year-olds) (%)






Satisfaction with ...					
Your friends ¹⁸	.8	1.7	10.1	36.9	50.5

Table 12. Satisfaction with your friends (10- & 12-year-olds) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Your friends ¹⁹	.2	.1	.4	.6	1.2	3.6	4.5	9.3	17.2	19.9	42.9

Children in all age groups were asked about their views on friends based on four statements. With the exception of “My friends are usually nice to me,” more than half of the children responded “totally agree” (Table 13). Particularly, children had the highest level agreement on the item “Me and my friends get along well together” ($m = 3.38$) whereas the item “My friends are usually nice to me” ($m = 3.20$) had the lowest level of agreement. Older children had a tendency to agree less on the item “I have enough friends,” but agree more on other items.

Table 13. Friends (All age groups) (%)

	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
I have enough friends ²⁰	1.3	3.8	12.8	28.7	53.4
My friends are usually nice to me ²¹	1.1	4.5	14.5	33.2	46.7
Me and my friends get along well together ²²	.9	3.5	9.8	28.0	57.7
If I have a problem, I have a friend who will support me ²³	1.9	4.6	12.2	27.6	53.6

2.5 School

Children’s views about school were very positive. On a scale of 0 to 4, more than half of 8-year-olds were responded 4 points (very satisfied) regarding their school life (Table 14). For 10- and 12-year-olds, 37 to 41% of children responded 10 points on a scale of 0 to 10 indicating that they are very satisfied with school life (Table 15).

¹⁸ Missing 5(0.0%)

¹⁹ Missing 45(0.5%)

²⁰ Don’t Know 116(1.2%), Missing 19(0.2%)

²¹ Don’t Know 132(1.3%), Missing 36(1.7%)

²² Don’t Know 99(1.0%), Missing 44(0.4%)

²³ Don’t Know 426(4.3%), Missing 48(4.8%)

Table 14. Satisfaction with school life (8- year-olds) (%)






Satisfaction with ...					
Life as a student ²⁴	.9	2.1	9.7	35.7	51.7
Things you have learned ²⁵	.5	1.6	8.7	29.7	59.5
Other children in your class ²⁶	.8	2.1	10.3	28.8	58.0

Table 15. Satisfaction with school life (10- & 12-year-olds)(%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Life as a student ²⁷	.7	.3	.6	1.2	1.9	5.6	6.0	11.1	17.8	17.8	37.1
Things you have learned ²⁸	.5	.4	.5	1.3	1.8	6.0	6.5	10.9	16.5	19.1	36.4
Other children in your class ²⁹	.6	.5	.8	1.3	1.9	4.8	4.7	9.3	15.6	19.3	41.0

In relation to children's views about schools, more than 40% of children totally agreed with items "My teachers care about me," "If I have a problem at school, my teachers will help me," "My teachers listen to me and take what I say into account," and "I feel safe at school." However, only 34% of children responded "totally agree" to the item "At school I have opportunities to make decisions about things that are important to me" (Table 16).

²⁴ Missing 14(0.1%)

²⁵ Missing 26(0.3%)

²⁶ Missing 24(0.2%)

²⁷ Missing 26(0.3%)

²⁸ Missing 23(0.2%)

²⁹ Missing 33(0.3%)

Table 16. Views about school (All age groups) (%)

	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
My teachers care about me ³⁰	2.9	9.3	24.8	22.2	40.9
If I have a problem at school, my teachers will help me ³¹	2.4	6.3	18.7	19.7	52.9
If I have a problem at school, other children will help me ³²	3.2	7.9	21.4	21.9	45.5
There are a lot of arguments between children in my class ³³	19.8	26.0	24.9	13.6	15.7
My teachers listen to me and take what I say into account ³⁴	3.0	9.8	23.5	20.8	42.9
At school I have opportunities to make decisions about things that are important to me ³⁵	6.4	14.9	29.7	15.0	34.1
I feel safe at school ³⁶	5.1	11.6	24.1	18.9	40.3

Being bullied (hit and being left out by other children)

In terms of bullying, 8.8% of children had experienced being hit, 26.5% of children were called unkind names, and 4.4% of children had experienced being left out more than once by other children (Table 17).

Table 17. Bullying (All age groups) (%)

How often:	Never	Once	Two or 3 times	More than three times
Hit by other children in your school ³⁷	91.2	4.5	2.5	1.8
Called unkind names by other children in your school ³⁸	73.5	13.1	5.4	8.0
Left out by other children in your class ³⁹	95.6	2.5	1.2	.7

³⁰ Don't Know 454(4.6%), Missing 21(0.2%)

³¹ Don't Know 242(2.5%), Missing 27(0.3%)

³² Don't Know 282(2.9%), Missing 81(0.8%)

³³ Don't Know 368(3.8%), Missing 63(0.6%)

³⁴ Don't Know 331(3.4%), Missing 68(0.7%)

³⁵ (10 & 12-years-old only) Don't Know 335(3.4%), Missing 47(0.5%)

³⁶ Don't Know 240(2.4%), Missing 74(0.8%)

³⁷ Don't Know 456(4.7%), Missing 44(0.4%)

³⁸ Don't Know 378(3.9%), Missing 68(0.7%)

³⁹ Don't Know 308(3.1%), Missing 65(0.7%)

2.6 The area where children live

The next three questions covered children's satisfaction with their local area. On a scale of 0-4, 60.2% of children rated the highest level of satisfaction with their local area. On the other hand, 37.8% of 10 and 12-year-old children rated the highest level of satisfaction (scores: 0-10). When compared between the two age groups, 12-year-old children ($m=8.15$) significantly rated lower level of satisfaction than their 10-year-old counterparts ($m=8.46$) (Table 18 and 19).

Table 18. Satisfaction with local area (8- year-olds) (%)






Satisfaction with ...					
The area where you live ⁴⁰	.8	1.7	7.1	30.1	60.2

Table 19. Satisfaction with local area (10- & 12-year-olds) (%)

Satisfaction with:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The area where you live ⁴¹	.5	.3	.5	1.4	2.4	4.7	6.2	11.1	16.5	18.5	37.8

Children's views of their local area are presented in Table 20 for all age groups. Relatively lower levels of agreement were reported for these items. For example, approximately 35% of children responded "totally agree" for items "There are enough places to play or to have a good time," "If I have a problem there are people who will help me," and "Adults are kind to children." Even fewer proportion of children totally agreed with items like "I feel safe when I walk," (25.6%) "I have opportunities to participate in decisions about things that are important to me," (19.5%), and "Adults listen children and take them seriously" (23.5%) Moreover, items such as "Adults are kind to children", "I have opportunities to participate in decisions about things that are important to me", and "Adults listen to children and take them seriously" have higher proportions of missing values and "don't know".

⁴⁰ Missing 11(0.1%)

⁴¹ Missing 20(0.2%)

Table 20. Views about local area (All age groups) (%)

In my area, I live in...	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
I feel safe when I walk ⁴²	3.8	10.5	26.2	33.9	25.6
There are enough places to play or to have a good time ⁴³	5.7	11.9	20.5	26.9	34.9
If I have a problem there are people who will help me ⁴⁴	4.8	11.4	20.8	27.3	35.7
Adults are kind to children ⁴⁵	3.4	10.5	22.6	29.0	34.5
I have opportunities to participate in decisions about things that are important to me ⁴⁶	17.6	17.1	26.0	19.8	19.5
Adults listen to children and take them seriously ⁴⁷	10.0	16.3	24.9	25.3	23.5

2.7 Money and the things children have⁴⁸

High proportions of South Korean children were found to have sufficient amount of material possessions. For example, all children lived in a home with at least one bathroom, and more than 60% of children lived in homes with two or more bathrooms. In addition, 62.8% of children sleep in a room on their own, and 95% of the children's family owns at least one car.

In addition, more than 90% of children travel away on holiday with their family once a year. Moreover, 98.6% of the children's family own at least one computer, and almost 100% of children have a washing machine in their home (Table 21).

When children were asked, "How often do you worry about how much money your family has?" 47.5% of children (all ages) responded, "never." However, we found that as children grow older larger proportion of children have some concerns about their financial situation (Table 22).

Table 21. Descriptive statistics on material possessions (10 & 12 years-old) (%)

How many bathrooms are in your home? ⁴⁹	
None	0.0
One	36.9
Two	61.4
More than two	1.7

⁴² Don't Know 235(2.4%), Missing 46(0.5%)

⁴³ Don't Know 174(1.8%), Missing 52(0.5%)

⁴⁴ Don't Know 680(6.9%), Missing 88(0.9%)

⁴⁵ Don't Know 861(8.8%), Missing 79(0.8%)

⁴⁶ Don't Know 1077(11.0%), Missing 75(0.8%)

⁴⁷ Don't Know 1566(16.0%), Missing 98(1.0%)

⁴⁸ South Korea used Scale B to measure material and economic circumstances.

⁴⁹ Missing 26(0.3%)

Do you sleep in your own room or do you share a room? ⁵⁰	
I sleep in a room on my own	62.8
I sleep in a room that I share with other people	37.2
Does your family own a car, van or truck? ⁵¹	
No	5.0
One	47.5
Two	40.8
Three or more	6.6
In the last 12 months, how many times did you travel away on holiday with your family? ⁵²	
Not at all	8.3
Once	12.3
Twice	20.2
More than twice	59.1
How many computers do your family own? ⁵³	
None	1.4
One	23.2
Two	33.1
More than two	42.3
Does your home have a washing machine? ⁵⁴	
No	.1
Yes	99.9
Total	100.0

Table 22. How often do you worry about how much money your family has? (%)⁵⁵

	8 year-old	10 year-old	12 year-old	Total
Never	58.0	45.1	39.7	47.5
Sometimes	33.6	44.4	45.9	41.3
Often	5.8	8.5	11.5	8.6
Always	2.6	2.0	2.9	2.5

⁵⁰ Missing 29(0.3%)⁵¹ Missing 31(0.3%)⁵² Missing 47(0.5%)⁵³ Missing 23(0.2%)⁵⁴ Missing 21(0.2%)⁵⁵ Missing 68(0.7%)

Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
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Children were asked to rate the level of satisfaction they felt with things they have. Eight-year-old children were asked to respond on a 5-point Likert scale, whereas older children were asked to respond on an 11-point scale. The mean scores of happiness were 3.56 for 8-year-old children and 8.48 for older aged groups of children. 66.4% of 8 year-olds were happy with things they had at the highest level, while 42.1% of 10 and 12 year-olds felt the most satisfaction with things they had. Moreover, 10 year-olds ($m=8.74$) were more satisfied with their possessions than 12 year-olds ($m=8.25$) (Table 23 and 24).

Table 23. Satisfaction with all the things you have (8- year-olds) (%)






Satisfaction with ...					
All the things you have ⁵⁶	.5	1.2	6.0	25.9	66.4

Table 24. Satisfaction with all the things you have (10- & 12-year-olds) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All the things you have ⁵⁷	.3	.2	.4	1	2	4.3	5.6	10.3	15.7	18	42.1

When children were asked do you have enough food to eat each day, less than 1% of South Korean children responded that they never have enough food (Table 25).

⁵⁶ Missing 23(0.2%)

⁵⁷ Missing 88(0.9%)

Table 25. Do you have enough food to eat each day? (%) ⁵⁸

	8 year-old	10 year-old	12 year-old	Total
Never	.9	.3	.2	.5
Sometimes	3.4	3.8	4.1	3.7
Often	12.0	18.7	19.7	16.9
Always	83.7	77.2	76.1	78.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Children were asked whether they have certain types of material possessions. With the exception of a mobile phone, more than 90% of children possessed the specific material goods. Specifically, more than 95% of 10-year-olds and 12-year-olds possessed all the material goods with the exception of a mobile phone. The findings indicate that most South Korean children are affluent in relation to their material possessions (Table 26).

Table 26. The things children have (%)

Which of the following do you have	8 year-old		10 year-old		12 year-old		Total	
	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Clothes in good condition ⁵⁹	1.2	98.8	.5	99.5	.5	99.5	.7	99.3
Enough money for school trips and activities ⁶⁰	8.2	91.8	2.6	97.4	1.2	98.8	3.9	96.1
Access to the Internet at home ⁶¹	9.6	90.4	2.8	97.2	1.2	98.8	4.4	95.6
The equipment/things you need for sports and hobbies ⁶²	7.8	92.2	4.4	95.6	4.9	95.1	5.7	94.3
Pocket money/ money to spend on yourself ⁶³	8.1	91.9	4.7	95.3	3.5	96.5	5.4	94.6
Two pairs of shoes ⁶⁴	2.8	97.2	2.2	97.8	2.6	97.4	2.6	97.4
A mobile phone ⁶⁵	21.5	78.5	8.2	91.8	3.3	96.7	10.8	89.2
The equipment/things you need for school ⁶⁶	2.0	98.0	.7	99.3	.8	99.2	1.2	98.8

⁵⁸ Don't know 175(1.8%), Missing 57(0.6%)

⁵⁹ Missing 52(0.5%)

⁶⁰ Missing 63(0.6%)

⁶¹ Missing 59(0.6%)

⁶² Missing 69(0.7%)

⁶³ Missing 60(0.6%)

⁶⁴ Missing 70(0.7%)

⁶⁵ Missing 60(0.6%)

⁶⁶ Missing 63(0.6%)

2.8 Time use

When children were asked about their level of satisfaction with their use of time and free time, 46% of 8 year-olds reported the maximum score on satisfaction with their use of time (Table 27). For 10- and 12-year-olds, the average level of satisfaction were 7.8 for time use and 7.67 for their free time. However, 32.8% of children were completely satisfied (score=10) with their free time and 28.7% of children satisfied with time use (Table 28). When 10- and 12-year-olds were compared with each other, 10 year-olds were much more satisfied with their time use (i.e., m (10-year-olds) = 8.20 vs. m (12-year-olds)= 7.43) and their free time (i.e., m (10-year-olds) = 7.95 vs. m (12-year-olds)= 7.41) than 12 year-olds.

Table 27. Satisfaction with time use (8- year-olds) (%)






Satisfaction with ...					
How you use your time ⁶⁷	1.2	2.3	13.4	36.2	46.9

Table 28. Satisfaction with time use (10- & 12-year-olds) (%)

Satisfaction with:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
How you use your time ⁶⁸	.8	.4	.8	2.4	3.1	7.4	8.5	14.0	18.7	15.1	28.7
How much free time you have ⁶⁹	1.4	1.0	1.8	3.4	4.2	7.2	8.1	11.7	14.2	14.2	32.8

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

The Children's Worlds survey includes a variety of different measures asking about overall subjective well-being.

Overall life satisfaction (OLS)

Children who are 8 year-olds are asked to use a 5-point scale, and children who are 10- and 12-year-olds are asked to rate their overall life satisfaction using an 11-point scale. On life as a whole, 65.6% of 8-year-olds responded with a maximum score on the overall life satisfaction scale and 44.8% of 10- and 12-year-olds were completely satisfied with their life. When 10- and 12-year-olds were compared with each other, 10-year-olds ($m=87.58$) were more likely to be satisfied with their life than their 12-year-old ($m=81.69$) counterparts (Table 29 and 30).

⁶⁷ Missing 54(0.5%)

⁶⁸ Missing 30(0.3%)

⁶⁹ Missing 40(0.4%)

Table 29. Overall life satisfaction (8- year-olds) (%)





Satisfaction with ...					
Your life as a whole ⁷⁰	1.2	1.8	8.4	23.0	65.6

Table 30. Overall life satisfaction (10- & 12-year-olds) (%)

Satisfaction with:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Your life as a whole ⁷¹	.6	.4	.8	1.1	2.1	5.6	4.4	9.2	13.9	17.0	44.8

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

CW-SWBS scale is a reduced version of Student's Life Satisfaction Scale, developed by Huebner (1991). This scale is based on six statements about children's overall life satisfaction, and children are asked to indicate how far they agree with each statement. In the Children's Worlds survey, children aged 10 and 12 were asked to respond using an 11-point scale ranging from "do not agree" to "totally agree" (Table 31). The questions used in this analysis comprised of:

- I enjoy my life.
- My life is going well.
- I have a good life.
- The things that happen in my life are excellent.
- I like my life.
- I am happy with my life.

⁷⁰ Missing 28(0.3%)

⁷¹ Missing 62(0.6%)

Table 31. CW-SWBS items (10- & 12- year-old) (%)

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I enjoy my life.⁷²	.8	.5	.7	1.8	2.6	6.2	6.1	11.0	15.9	14.5	39.9
My life is going well.⁷³	.6	.7	.9	2.1	3.0	7.4	7.1	10.8	15.4	15.3	36.8
I have a good life.⁷⁴	.6	.6	.8	1.5	2.8	6.5	5.9	9.0	14.6	14.8	43.0
The things that happen in my life are excellent.⁷⁵	.7	.8	1.3	2.1	3.2	8.0	7.2	10.6	14.7	16.6	34.9
I like my life.⁷⁶	1.0	.8	.9	1.6	3.0	6.3	4.6	8.7	12.7	15.1	45.2
I am happy with my life.⁷⁷	1.0	.5	1.2	1.7	2.5	6.6	5.0	9.2	12.7	15.7	44.0

The six items that were found to form a single factor of subjective well-being were utilized. The distribution of each individual items are provided in Table 31. The scale was formed by summing all of the items and transforming the scale from 0 to 100. The distribution of responses on this scale is shown in Table 32. Approximately 26% of children scored highest possible levels of satisfaction. In general, just 8.19% of children reported low levels of satisfaction, scoring the mid-point or below of the CW-SWBS. When CW-SWBS were compared by age groups, 10-year-old children ($m=84.5$) had higher levels of satisfaction than 12-year-olds ($m=79.2$).

Table 32. The distribution of CW-SWBS (Transform into 100 scale) (10 & 12 year-old) (%)

	%
0 to less than 10	.5
10 to less than 20	.6
20 to less than 30	1.2
30 to less than 40	1.9
40 to less than 50	4.0
50 to less than 60	6.5
60 to less than 70	7.4
70 to less than 80	12.1
80 to less than 90	16.5
90 to less than 100	23.0
100	26.2
Total	100.0

⁷² Missing 20(0.2%)

⁷³ Missing 15(0.1%)

⁷⁴ Missing 23(0.2%)

⁷⁵ Missing 22(0.2%)

⁷⁶ Missing 27(0.3%)

⁷⁷ Missing 22(0.2%)

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

Children's Worlds Domain Based Subjective Well-Being Scale, originally proposed by Seligson, Huebner and Valois, consists of five domains – family, friends, school, living environment and self. An adapted version of this scale was calculated using the questions about satisfaction with family life, friends, school experience, local area and body. The total score was calculated by summing these five items and transforming it so that the score ranges from zero to 100. The distribution of the scores for individual items are presented in Table 33. The item with the lowest level of satisfaction was “the way that you look.” The distribution of scores is shown in Table 34. In general, 2.8% of children reported low levels of satisfaction, scoring 50 points or below of the CW-SWBS.

Table 33. CW- DBSWBS items (10 & 12 year-old) (%)

Satisfaction with	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The people you live with ⁷⁸	.0	.1	.1	.7	1.1	2.8	2.4	7.0	12.9	16.9	55.9
Your friends ⁷⁹	.2	.1	.4	.6	1.2	3.6	4.5	9.3	17.2	19.9	42.9
Your life as a student ⁸⁰	.7	.3	.6	1.2	1.9	5.6	6.0	11.1	17.8	17.8	37.1
The area where you live ⁸¹	.5	.3	.5	1.4	2.4	4.7	6.2	11.1	16.5	18.5	37.8
The way that you look ⁸²	2.2	1.5	1.7	3.3	4.6	14.1	8.2	13.1	14.3	11.5	25.4

⁷⁸ Missing 105(1.1%)⁷⁹ Missing 45(0.5%)⁸⁰ Missing 26(0.3%)⁸¹ Missing 20(0.2%)⁸² Missing 64(0.6%)

Table 34. The distribution of CW- DBSWBS (Transform into 100 scale) (10 & 12 year-old) (%)

	%
0 to less than 10	.0
10 to less than 20	.0
20 to less than 30	.2
30 to less than 40	.6
40 to less than 50	2.0
50 to less than 60	4.3
60 to less than 70	8.1
70 to less than 80	17.4
80 to less than 90	27.1
90 to less than 100	30.6
100	9.6
Total	100.0

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

Six items measuring affective subjective well-being: positive and negative affect (derived from Barrett and Russell's measures, 1998) was asked to 10- and 12-year-old children. Children were asked how often in the last two weeks they had felt happy, sad, calm, stressed, full of energy and bored. CW-PAS includes items such as happy, calm, and full of energy, which measures positive affect while CW-NAS includes items such as sad, stressed and bored, which measures negative affect. The distribution of individual items are presented in Table 35. Each item is scored on a scale of 0 to 10. The overall scale is created by summing the item scores and then transforming the scale so that it ranges from 0 to 100. The overall distribution is shown in Table 36 with 9.6% of children scoring the maximum of 100 for positive affect and 1.8% of children scoring the maximum for negative affect. When 10-year-olds were compared with 12-year-olds, older children were more likely to feel fewer positive affects (i.e., $m(12\text{-year-olds}) = 72.3$ vs. $m(10\text{-year-olds}) = 77.8$; $p < .001$) and more negative affects (i.e., $m(12\text{-year-olds}) = 49$ vs. $m(10\text{-year-olds}) = 44.4$; $p < .001$).

Table 35. CW-PNAS items (10 & 12 year-old) (%)

Last two weeks: How often feeling	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Happy ⁸³	.5	.5	.8	1.8	2.3	5.3	5.7	11.0	15.1	13.7	43.4
Calm ⁸⁴	4.1	2.3	3.8	5.8	5.8	18.5	9.9	13.4	13.3	7.9	15.0
Full of energy ⁸⁵	.9	.8	1.5	2.7	3.6	7.9	6.9	10.9	14.1	12.7	38.0
Sad ⁸⁶	14.4	9.8	12.5	12.3	8.5	12.3	7.3	8.2	6.3	3.3	4.9
Stressed ⁸⁷	12.0	7.4	7.8	8.2	7.3	11.2	8.8	10.3	10.2	7.0	9.8
Bored ⁸⁸	10.5	6.7	7.5	8.2	8.4	14.2	9.3	10.3	9.1	6.1	9.7

Table 36. The distributions of CW-PAS and CW-NAS (Transform into 100 scale) (10 & 12 year-old) (%)

	CW-PAS (%)	CW-NAS (%)
0 to less than 10	.2	6.3
10 to less than 20	.4	9.1
20 to less than 30	.9	10.7
30 to less than 40	2.1	12.0
40 to less than 50	4.0	13.2
50 to less than 60	9.4	14.9
60 to less than 70	15.5	12.9
70 to less than 80	20.8	9.5
80 to less than 90	21.0	6.8
90 to less than 100	16.0	2.9
100	9.6	1.8
Total	100.0	100.0

CW-PSWBS (Children's Worlds Psychological Subjective Well-Being Scale)

Children's Worlds psychological subjective well-being was measured using six items (based on Ryff, 1989). After transforming the scale so that it ranges from 0 to 100, the average CW-PSWBS score for South Korean 12-year-olds was 78.3. The distribution of CW-PSWBS for individual items are presented in Table 37.

⁸³ Missing 41(0.4%)

⁸⁴ Missing 65(0.7%)

⁸⁵ Missing 58(0.6%)

⁸⁶ Missing 44(0.5%)

⁸⁷ Missing 55(0.6%)

⁸⁸ Missing 48(0.5%)

Table 37. CW- PSWBS items (12 year-old) (%)

How much you agree with	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I like being the way I am. ⁸⁹	.8	.8	1.1	2.3	3.9	9.6	7.2	14.1	15.3	12.6	32.4
I am good at managing my daily responsibilities. ⁹⁰	.7	.6	1.3	2.4	5.6	12.0	10.5	14.4	16.5	12.6	23.3
People are generally pretty friendly towards me. ⁹¹	.2	.2	.6	1.1	2.4	9.3	7.4	13.3	18.8	16.3	30.3
I have enough choice about how I spend my time. ⁹²	.7	.7	.8	1.4	3.1	10.2	7.7	12.3	17.3	14.6	31.4
I feel that I am learning a lot at the moment. ⁹³	.4	.4	.6	1.6	2.1	8.8	6.6	11.6	18.8	15.1	34.1
I feel positive about my future. ⁹⁴	1.2	.6	1.1	2.0	3.0	8.3	6.6	9.9	16.9	14.6	35.9

Table 38. The distribution of CW- PSWBS (Transform into 100 scale) (12 year-old) (%)

	%
0 to less than 10	.1
10 to less than 20	.3
20 to less than 30	.8
30 to less than 40	1.3
40 to less than 50	4.5
50 to less than 60	9.4
60 to less than 70	11.8
70 to less than 80	16.6
80 to less than 90	20.9
90 to less than 100	19.5
100	14.8
Total	100.0

2.10 Children perceptions about children's rights

When children were asked about their rights, approximately 44% of children responded "yes" to the question "I know what rights children have." On the other hand, only 12.71% responded "yes" to the question "I know about the children's rights convention." 8-year-

⁸⁹ Missing 22(0.2%)

⁹⁰ Missing 26(0.3%)

⁹¹ Missing 24(0.2%)

⁹² Missing 26(0.3%)

⁹³ Missing 31(0.3%)

⁹⁴ Missing 29(0.3%)

olds were less to know about their rights and UN Convention on the Rights of the Child than their older counterparts (Table 39).

Table 39. Children's rights (%)

		8-year-olds	10-year-olds	12-year-olds	Total
I know what rights children have⁹⁵	No	14.3	6.9	6.9	9.3
	Not sure	46.1	42.5	50.6	46.5
	Yes	39.6	50.6	42.5	44.2
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
I know about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child⁹⁶	No	62.4	49.5	43.9	51.7
	Not sure	27.9	36.7	41.6	35.6
	Yes	9.7	13.7	14.5	12.7
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

⁹⁵ Missing 58(0.6%)

⁹⁶ Missing 74(0.8%)

3. Conclusions

This report presents the findings of an initial descriptive analysis of South Korea Children's Worlds dataset. We found that most South Korean children live with both parents at their home. The vast majority of children were satisfied with the people they live and the housing where they live.

When asked about their friends, children were generally satisfied with their friends and generally agreed with the statements about their friends. However, less than 50% of children totally agreed with "My friends are usually nice to me." Similarly, South Korean children's view about their school were also generally positive. Interestingly, 10- and 12-year-olds showed lower levels of satisfaction with school life when compared with their assessment of other domains such as home, family, and friends. While bullying at school was not a problem for most children, being called unkind names were the most common form of bullying experienced by Korean children (26.5%).

Children's level of satisfaction with the area where they live were generally high for 8-year-olds. However, only 37.8% of children reported highest levels of satisfaction. When children's views about local area were analyzed, we found that fewer children participated in the decision-making process about things that were important to them in the local area.

For many Korean children, owning necessary material things was not a problem. More than 90% of children and their family owned all the items that were asked in the survey. In addition, they also reported high levels of satisfaction with the things that they have. In terms of time use, the vast majority of 8-year-olds were satisfied with how they used their time. However, fewer 10- and 12-year-olds reported highest level of satisfaction for how they use their time and how much free time they have.

Overall, children were satisfied with their lives. In addition, approximately 40% or more children reported satisfaction on the domain-based satisfaction scale. However, South Korean children showed lower levels of satisfaction on the way they look when compared with other domains. In terms of positive and negative affects, approximately 10% of children reported the maximum score for positive affect, and 2% of children reported the maximum score for negative affect. South Korean children were less likely to feel calm when compared with other domains of positive affect, and less likely to feel sad when compared with other domains of negative affect.

When we compared children's subjective well-being across age groups that for most areas older children reported lower levels of subjective well-being than their younger counterparts. However, 8-year-olds were reported to have more experiences of bullying, as measured in the survey, than other age groups. In addition, no differences in the level of satisfaction with friends were reported between 10- and 12-year-olds.