

Children's Worlds National Report

SRI LANKA



Subhashinie Wijesundera¹

Nicole Schuck²

Prasad Sethunga¹

University of Peradeniya

¹Department of Education, University of Peradeniya

²Formerly Department of Psychology, University of Peradeniya

1. Introduction

The International Survey of Children's Well-Being (ISCWeB) is an international collaborative research study on children's subjective well-being. ISCWeB recognizes the importance of children's rights for ensuring children a good childhood and future life chances. It emphasises the need to provide children with an environment in which they can fully grow and attain their highest potential. The aim of the project is to generate findings which are not only of research interest but also can be valuable to key stakeholders who are concerned with the quality of children's lives and have the desire to improve children's well-being. The findings of the survey will be useful to children themselves; parents and other family members; professionals who work with children; and local, national and international policymakers. The project started in June 2009 and a pilot survey was conducted in 2010. Based on the lessons learnt from the pilot survey a second wave of survey was completed in 2016. Sri Lanka is participating in the Third Wave of the Survey and collected data from 12 year and 10 year old age groups. Current report is based on the preliminary analysis of data collected in 2018 from 10 year and 12 year old children in government schools in the Central Province of Sri Lanka.

1.1 Context and population:

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka is an island in the Indian Ocean situated close to southern tip of the Indian subcontinent. The country is divided into nine provinces and 25 administrative districts. The survey was carried out in the Central province. The Central Province is located in the central hills of Sri Lanka comprising three administrative districts: Kandy, Matale and Nuwara-Eliya. The land area of the province is 5,575 km² which is 8.6% of the total land area of Sri Lanka.

The latest Census of population and housing carried out in 2012 in Sri Lanka records a total population of 20.5 million and a population density of 325/km². Sri Lanka has a multicultural society comprising diverse ethnic and religious groups. Ethnic composition of the country includes Sinhalese 74.9%, Sri Lankan Tamil 11.2%, Sri Lankan Moors 9.2%, Indian Tamil 4.2% and others 0.5% (2012 est.). The majority of Sri Lankans are Buddhists (70.1%). The remaining population consists of Hindus (12.6%), Muslims (9.7%), Roman Catholics (6.2%) and others (1.4%). The majority of the population in Sri Lanka belongs to the rural sector (77.4%). 18.2 percent of the population is based in urban areas while 4.4 percent of the population are located in the estate district.

The Central Province has a broad ethnic diversity that includes Sinhalese, Indian Tamils, Sri Lankan Moors, Sri Lankan Tamils, and Burgers. The ethnic composition comprises 66.2% Sinhalese, 23.8% Tamils, 9.9% Muslims and 0.3% others. Religious composition of the population in the Central province reflects a similar pattern to that of Sri Lanka and includes Buddhists (65.0%), Hindus (21.0%), Muslims (10.3%), Roman Catholics (2.5%) and others (1.2%).

Population growth rates show very clear decline since 1953 and remains at an average annual growth rate of 1.1% during 1981-2012. The total child population in Sri Lanka in 2012 was 4,451,229 of which 50.7% are males.

Geography

Sri Lanka is a tropical country situated between 5° 55' to 9° 51' North latitude and between 79° 42' to 81° 53' East longitude, Total land area is about 65,610 square kilometers. The island is 435km in length and 240km in breadth. Beautiful tropical beaches, lush vegetation and ancient monuments are major attractions for tourists.

Education

There are 4.4 million children in the 5-17 year age group in Sri Lanka (2012) and 91.0% are attending school. The percentage of those who are currently not involved in educational activity is as low as 4.5%. This achievement is exemplarity by international standards.

As a result of the free education policy (1947) and the introduction of Sinhala and Tamil languages as the mediums of instruction, Sri Lanka achieved universal primary education by 1964 (Liyanage, 2016). The net enrollment rate (NER) is 99 percent in primary education and 84 percent in junior secondary. There is gender parity in levels of education in relation to enrolment. In senior secondary education, NER is 70 percent, which is relatively high for middle-income countries. On average, Sri Lankan students attend school for 10 years compared to six years in South Asia. It has also achieved the third Millennium Development Goal of eliminating disparities in enrolment in education. The literacy rate is 92%, and 33% of children in the 5-17 year old age group are computer literate. Language literacy rates for children in 10-17 year old age group are almost 100%.

The success in achieving coverage, gender parity and literacy is a result of sustained government commitment to provide free education from Grade 1 to the first degree level; the provision of free textbooks and uniforms; scholarships; and adequate numbers of schools and teachers (World Bank, 2017).

Sri Lanka faces many challenges in both the general and higher education sectors. Major challenges include improving quality and relevance of education; addressing the issues of disparities in learning outcomes in primary and secondary education, the mismatch between employment and education, skills shortages, and limited access to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Higher Education. These areas are considered the main priorities for the Sri Lankan educational sector (World Bank 2017).

Economic context

Sri Lanka is a developing economy based on agriculture, services and light industry. The total size of the Sri Lankan economy was estimated at US dollars 88.9 billion, while the per capita GDP was recorded at US dollars 4,102 in 2018, which was marginally lower than in the previous year. After the 30 year long conflict ended in 2009, during the period from 2010-2013, the economy recorded an average annual growth rate of 7.5 percent. Since then there has been a gradual decline and in 2017 the economy grew by only 3.1%. This was well below the expectation of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and was a result of drought, floods and policy tightening. Human development indicators are impressive by regional standards and lower middle income standards. Sri Lanka outperformed its neighbors in reaching most of the Millennium Development Goals, especially in relation to health and education.

Maternal and infant mortality rates are very low and life expectancy is currently 74 years (World Bank, 2017).

1.2 Sampling: Strategy and outcome

A stratified random sampling strategy was used in the ISC-WeB study in Sri Lanka. Only one province was selected for the study due to the constraints on time, money and other resources available for the study.

The study was conducted in the Central province of Sri Lanka which consists of three districts, namely, Kandy, Matale and Nuwara Eliya.



The target population included all children in Grades 6 (10 year olds) and Grade 8 (12 year olds) in the Government schools of the province. Since the total sample was 40 schools - 1000 students each from the 10 and 12 year old age groups - it was decided to limit the number of strata to 9. The children in private schools and international schools in the province were excluded from the sample. The number of children in these schools was less than 1 percent of the student population in government schools.

Stratified random sampling was used for data collection. The Grade type of the school and the Ethnic type of the school were the basis for stratification. Grade type is based on the organization characteristics of the schools as follows:

Type 1AB- Schools with Grades 1-13 or 6-13 with a Science stream in the GCE (A/L)

Type 1C- Schools with Grades 1-13 or 6-13 with Arts and/or Commerce stream in the GCE (A/L)

Type 2 - School with Grades 1-11

Type 3 - Schools with Grades 1-5 only

Type 2 and 3 schools were taken as one stratum because there were no Grade 6 (Age 12) students in the Type 3 schools.

The Ethnic type of the school is based on the ethnicity of the majority of students in the school. There are three such types, namely Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim. Because there is a variation in the numbers of children in each school, the schools were selected for the sample with probabilities proportional to the size of the relevant student population in the

school. For schools with more than one class per Grade, one class was selected randomly. Excel spreadsheets were prepared to contain a list of schools in each of the nine strata and schools were selected randomly from each stratum. The selection of the sample was based on the latest available official School Census data (2016) provided by the Planning Division of the Central Provincial Department of Education.

Outcome

Table 1.1 sets out the actual number of questionnaires completed by children in the two age groups.

Table 1.1 Actual number of questionnaires completed by children

	Stratum									Total	Missing
	Sinhala 1AB	Sinhala 1C	Sinhala 2&3	Tamil 1AB	Tamil 1C	Tamil 2&3	Muslim 1AB	Muslim 1C	Muslim 2&3		
10 YO	563	192	35	84	124	45	18	77	98	1156	27
12 YO	594	206	35	79	102	56	74	62	13	1221	18

2. Results

2.1 The participants

Table 2.1 Age groups by gender, 10 & 12 years old (Number and %)

	10 year old	12 year old	Total ¹
Boy	608(53.8)	676(56.2)	1284
Girl	521(46.2)	527(43.8)	1048
Total	1129	1203	2332

Missing: 45

The questions 1 and 2 of the questionnaire focused on the age and the gender of the children who participated in the survey.

2.2 The home and the people children live with:

Table 2.2 The home the children live in 10 & 12 years old (%)

	10 year old	12 year old
I live with my family	93.5	94.3
I live in a foster home	2.4	2.5
I live in a children's home	0.1	-
I live in another type of home	0.4	0.3
Missing(N(%))	41(3.6)	36(2.9)

Around 3% of children in each of the two age groups live in foster homes or other homes, away from family. Moreover, about 3% of children in both age groups did not respond to the question. Approximately 94% of children in both age groups live with their families.

Table 2.3 Satisfaction with the people the children live with 10 & 12 years old (%)

Satisfaction with ...		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Missing N (%)
The people you live with ¹	10 YO	3.9	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.2	3.7	1.1	2.2	3.7	7.3	71.3	34(3.0)
	12 YO	2.6	0.7	0.9	0.5	1.5	2.6	1.9	1.6	3.9	7.5	72.2	51(4.2)

In the 10 and 12 year old age groups, 3.9% and 2.6% respectively indicate that they are not at all satisfied with the people that they live with. Moreover, 8.6% and 6.2% of the children respectively in the two age groups indicate that they are either not at all or less satisfied with (0-4) the people with whom they live. When the responses to questions 5 and 11 are taken together it may be extrapolated that a small percentage of children who live with their families also seem to be less satisfied with the people with whom they live. More positively, about 89% percent of the children in both age groups report that they are very satisfied (with a 5 or above rating) with the people they live with.

Table 2.4 Views about home and family life 10 & 12 years old (%)

	Age group	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree	Don't know	Missing N (%)
There are people in my family who care about me ¹	10 YO	1.3	2.3	2.4	7.2	84.7	1.0	12(1.1)
	12 YO	1.1	1.2	2.5	6.6	87.5	0.7	13(1.1)
If I have a problem, people in my family will help me ²	10 YO	1.3	2.1	2.2	7.5	84.9	0.9	13(1.1)
	12 YO	0.4	1.0	3.4	8.0	86.1	0.5	7(0.6)
We have a good time together in my family ³	10 YO	1.3	3.2	4.6	9.2	79.9	0.5	15(1.3)
	12 YO	1.1	1.6	5.8	10.8	79.4	0.4	9(0.7)
I feel safe at home ⁴	10 YO	1.9	2.5	2.9	8.9	81.4	1.1	28(2.4)
	12 YO	0.8	1.0	1.5	6.7	88.3	1.0	9(0.7)
My parents listen to me and take what I say into account ⁵	10 YO	2.2	2.8	4.5	10.4	77.0	1.7	16(1.4)
	12 YO	1.6	1.6	5.3	10.6	78.5	1.7	10(0.8)
My parents and I make decisions about my life together ⁶	10 YO	2.9	3.3	2.7	9.0	75.0	5.7	16(1.4)
	12 YO	1.8	2.1	2.9	9.8	78.6	3.3	18(1.5)

Close to 90% of children in both age groups either agree a lot or totally agree that there are people in their families who care about them, while approximately 1 percent in each age group disagree. Similarly, more than 92% of children in each age group either agree a lot or totally agree that people in their families will help them if they have a problem. Moreover, more than 90% of respondents in each group report that they felt safe in their homes and have a good time with their families in their homes. More than 87% of children report that their parents care or listen to them and take them into account, while approximately 2% totally disagree. Only 84-88% in both groups agree that they and their parents make decisions together about their lives. Approximately 3% of 10 year olds and 2% of 12 year olds totally disagree in response to this item.

2.3 The home in which children live

Table 2.5 Satisfaction with the house or flat in which children live 10 & 12 years old (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Missing N (%)	
The home that you live in	10 YO	0.2	7.2	1.5	1.6	1.9	2.9	1.6	3.3	4.8	8.7	63.8	29(2.5)
	12 YO	0.5	2.9	0.7	1.5	1.3	3.0	2.2	3.4	5.3	7.3	69.9	23(1.9)

About 12% children in the ten year old group are not at all satisfied or less satisfied (0- 4) with the house in which they live, while only 6.9% of the 12 year olds were of the same view. About 75% and 80% of the students in the respective age groups were highly satisfied with their home. It would appear, that to some children, the physical environment in which they live is less satisfactory than their social environment.

Table 2.6 Living conditions 10 & 12 years old (%)

Whether you have ...	10 year old	12 year old	Missing (10 YO, 12 YO) N (%)
Own room	27.2	35.7	19(1.7), 10(0.8)
Own bed	27.2	45.9	13(1.1), 8(0.7)
Place to study	88.7	89.4	5(0.4), 4(0.3)

The majority of children in both age groups do not have their own room in which to sleep.

The majority of 10 year olds share a bed and about 2% do not have a bed.

Nearly half of the 12 year olds have their own bed and about 7% do not have a bed at all.

Nearly 90% of children in both age groups had a place to study in their homes.

2.4 Friends

Table 2.7 Satisfaction with the friends 10 & 12 years old (%)

Satisfaction with ...		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Missing N (%)
Your friends	10 YO	0.3	7.2	8.2	2.8	1.2	4.7	3.3	4.0	6.4	18.1	43.0	10(0.9)
	12 YO	0.9	4.0	1.6	1.5	2.4	5.2	4.2	4.7	8.4	12.4	53.3	18(1.5)

The majority of 10 year olds (78.5%) and 12 year olds (78.2%) are satisfied with their friends.

Table 2.8 Views about friends and friendship 10 & 12 years old (%)

	Age group	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree	Don't know	Missing N (%)
I have enough friends ¹	10 YO	3.2	4.6	8.1	11.3	70.1	2.0	7(0.6)
	12 YO	3.1	4.9	7.7	12.5	69.6	1.9	3(0.2)
My friends are usually nice to me ²	10 YO	4.1	6.5	11.1	14.0	61.4	1.9	11(0.9)
	12 YO	3.8	6.7	11.5	16.5	57.8	3.1	5(0.4)
Me and my friends get along well together ³	10 YO	4.5	4.6	8.7	13.1	63.9	3.4	22(1.9)
	12 YO	3.1	5.6	9.7	16.3	60.7	3.8	10(0.8)
If I have a problem, I have a friend who will support me ⁴	10 YO	3.5	3.3	5.7	10.6	73.6	2.0	39(3.3)
	12 YO	2.3	4.3	4.6	11.5	74.6	2.2	6(0.5)

Approximately 10 % of children in both age groups report that they do not agree or agree a little bit to the statements that: they have enough friends; their friends are nice to them and they usually get on well with their friends. A very small percentage of children in both age groups (6.8 and 6.6% respectively) indicate that they do not agree or agree a little bit to the statement “If I have a problem, I have a friend who will support me”.

2.5 School

Table 2.9 Satisfaction with school life 10 & 12 years old (%)

Satisfaction with ...		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Missing N(%)
Your life as a student	10 YO	4.6	1.0	1.3	0.7	1.3	2.4	2.9	3.4	6.4	7.6	67.2	16(1.3)
	12 YO	2.4	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.0	2.0	3.5	2.3	3.8	9.8	72.0	11(0.9)
The things you have learned at school	10 YO	4.0	0.6	0.4	0.5	1.4	2.2	1.9	3.0	1.9	10.0	69.4	18(1.6)
	12 YO	2.5	0.2	0.8	0.7	0.9	2.1	2.0	2.9	7.5	14.3	65.4	9(0.7)
The other children in your class	10 YO	6.2	1.8	1.2	1.4	2.5	3.4	4.9	4.4	10.6	13.6	47.8	24(2.1)
	12 YO	4.0	1.6	1.7	2.0	4.1	6.7	6.5	7.2	12.5	16.2	36.5	11(0.9)

The majority of children in both age groups indicate that they are generally satisfied with the school, with the things that they have learned and with other children in their school. Around 90% of children in both age groups are satisfied (with ratings 5 -10) with the school and with the things they have learned.

Table 2.10 Views about school 10 & 12 years old (%)

	Age group	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree	Don't know	Missing N (%)
My teacher care about me	10 YO	1.1	2.7	3.8	11.2	76.8	3.2	13(1.1)
	12 YO	1.0	2.5	7.0	14.8	71.8	2.7	2(0.2)
If I have a problem at school my teacher will help me	10 YO	0.4	2.7	4.2	9.8	80.0	1.5	16(1.4)
	12 YO	1.4	2.6	6.7	11.5	76.0	1.2	6(0.5)
If I have a problem at school other children will help me	10 YO	3.1	4.1	9.0	14.9	66.0	1.5	17(1.4)
	12 YO	1.8	4.4	10.6	17.2	63.5	2.0	5(0.4)
There are a lot of arguments between children in my class	10 YO	18.7	11.1	16.6	11.6	34.6	5.4	24(2.1)
	12 YO	11.5	13.2	20.6	17.2	31.6	4.7	15(1.2)
My teacher listens to me and take what I say into account	10 YO	3.4	4.1	6.5	11.6	69.2	3.3	22(1.9)
	12 YO	3.4	4.8	9.5	15.2	62.2	4.0	11(0.9)
At school I have opportunities to make decisions about things that are important to me	10 YO	6.2	6.0	7.7	13.1	56.8	7.6	30(2.6)
	12 YO	4.9	5.8	9.6	17.6	55.9	5.2	11(0.9)
I feel safe at school	10 YO	1.8	3.3	5.1	8.8	78.0	1.5	35(3.0)
	12 YO	0.9	2.2	4.3	10.2	79.8	2.1	5(0.4)

Around 90% of children in both age groups agree a lot or totally agree that their teachers care about them and help them if they have a problem in school. Around 80% of children in each age group report that they agree a lot or totally agree that other children in their school help them if they have a problem. Nearly 80% of children agree a lot or totally agree that they feel safe in school. Around 70% of children in both age groups report that they agree a lot or totally agree that they have opportunities to make decisions about things that are important to them.

Table 2.11 Frequency of being bullied 10 & 12 years old (%)

	Age group	Never	Once	Two or 3 times	More than 3 times	Don't know	Missing N(%)
Hit by other children in your school	10 YO	62.4	13.6	8.3	7.5	6.5	19(1.6)
	12 YO	67.7	13.3	7.9	5.9	4.1	13(1.1)
Called unkind names or insulted by other children in your school	10 YO	48.4	14.8	9.6	19.6	5.7	21(1.9)
	12 YO	50.8	15.2	11.5	18.8	2.3	16(1.3)
Left out by other children in your class	10 YO	66.9	10.4	6.3	7.0	6.1	39(3.4)
	12 YO	73.8	9.5	4.2	5.7	4.4	30(2.5)

Children in both age groups indicate that being called unkind names by other children is more prevalent than hitting and being ignored/left out. Around 50% of students indicate that being called an unkind name occurred more than once during the previous month. Nearly 70% of children in both age groups find other children peaceful or nonviolent.

2.6 The area in which the children live

Table 2.12 Satisfaction with the area in which the children live 10 & 12 years old (%)

Satisfaction with ...		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Missing N(%)
The area where you live	10 YO	0.9	7.9	8.6	1.2	1.8	2.9	3.3	3.5	6.9	19.2	41.4	26(2.3)
	12 YO	0.7	4.2	5.7	1.7	3.0	2.1	4.3	4.9	8.0	20.1	43.5	22(1.8)

Nearly 80% of children in both age groups are satisfied with the area in which they live (a rating of 5 or above).

Table 2.13 Views about the local area 10 & 12 years old (%)

	Age group	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree	Don't know	Missing N(%)
I feel safe when I walk in the area I live in	10 YO	9.5	6.8	12.3	15.9	49.7	4.7	13(1.2)
	12 YO	5.3	6.6	14.7	19.4	51.4	2.0	7(0.6)
In my area there are enough places to play or to have a good time	10 YO	7.2	6.3	8.0	11.7	63.2	2.5	13(1.1)
	12 YO	6.6	7.0	8.4	13.6	62.3	1.2	9(0.7)
If I have a problem there are people in my local area who will help me	10 YO	8.0	7.1	11.0	13.3	55.1	4.2	15(1.3)
	12 YO	6.7	8.1	10.2	17.2	53.6	3.4	10(0.8)
Adults in my local area are kind to children	10 YO	5.4	4.7	10.5	14.5	59.3	3.8	22(1.9)
	12 YO	3.8	6.1	9.1	15.1	61.8	3.1	12(1.0)
In my local area I have opportunities to participate in decisions about things that are important to me	10 YO	19.6	6.1	12.0	13.0	35.5	11.9	21(1.8)
	12 YO	13.9	8.8	11.7	18.1	35.9	9.8	21(1.7)
Adults in my area listen to children and take them seriously	10 YO	7.0	4.8	10.6	14.9	51.2	9.9	17(1.4)
	12 YO	6.4	7.9	12.7	17.1	48.0	6.7	15(1.2)

The majority of 10 year olds (75%) and 12 year olds (70%) agree a lot or totally agree that they feel safe when they walk in the area in which they live. Similarly, approximately 75% of 10 year olds and 12 year olds totally agree or agree a lot that they have enough places to play or have a good time in their neighborhood. About 70% of both age groups trust that the people in their local area would help them if they have a problem. The majority in each age group (73% and 76%) agree a lot or totally agree that the adults in their local area were kind. However, only 66% and 65% of the children in both age groups agree a lot or totally agree that the adults listen to them and take seriously what they have to say. This percentage dropped to 48% and 54% in relation to the statement asking whether they have opportunities to participate in decision making about things that are important to them. Overall, about 25% to 30% children in each age group have some issues with the local area in which they live.

2.7 Money and the things children have

Table 2.14 Satisfaction about how much money the family has 10 & 12 years old (%)

	Age group	Never	Sometimes	Often	Always	Don't Know	Missing N (%)
Worrying about how much money your family has	10 YO	33.5	35.0	10.4	6.4	12.7	23(2.0)
	12 YO	35.1	37.4	9.5	8.3	8.4	16(1.3)

The 10 year olds seem to be less aware of the money that their families have than the 12 year olds.

About 17% and 18% of 10 year olds and 12 year olds respectively indicate that they are often or always worried about the amount of money their families have. This is in contrast to the 33% who indicate they are never worried about the amount of money their families have.

Table 2.15 Satisfaction with all the things the children have 10 & 12 years old (%)

Satisfaction with ...		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Missing N(%)
All the things you have	10 YO	5.1	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.9	6.1	4.2	6.8	10.2	9.1	50.7	21(1.8)
	12 YO	3.5	1.4	1.5	1.9	2.0	4.2	2.9	6.0	9.3	14.5	51.4	17(1.4)

More than 85% of the children in both age groups indicate that they are satisfied with (a rating of 5 or more) all the things that they have while approximately 6% of both age groups indicate that they are not satisfied.

Table 2.16 Having enough food to eat each day 10 and 12 years old (%)

	Age group	Never	Sometimes	Often	Always	Don't Know	MissingN(%)
Having enough food to eat each day	10 YO	1.1	8.2	19.2	66.0	3.7	22(1.9)
	12 YO	0.5	7.1	15.5	73.2	2.2	18(1.5)

The majority of children (85% and 89%) from both age groups have enough food often or always. Only 1% of 10 year olds and 0.5% of 12 year olds indicate that they never have enough food to eat each day.

Table 2.17 Things that the children have 10 & 12 years old (%)

	Age group	No	Yes	Missing N (%)
Clothes in good condition	10 YO	4.0	94.5	17(1.5)
	12 YO	3.1	95.9	12(1.0)
Enough money for school trips and activities	10 YO	18.5	78.8	32(2.7)
	12 YO	17.8	81.0	15(1.2)
Access to the Internet at home	10 YO	44.3	51.0	54(4.7)
	12 YO	46.3	52.0	21(1.7)
The equipment/things you need for sports and hobbies	10 YO	20.9	76.5	30(2.6)
	12 YO	24.5	74.3	15(1.2)
Pocket money / money to spend on your self	10 YO	37.7	58.1	48(4.2)
	12 YO	38.1	60.5	17(1.4)
Two pairs of shoes in good condition	10 YO	10.7	87.1	26(2.2)
	12 YO	10.5	88.3	15(1.2)
A mobile phone	10 YO	64.3	30.1	65(5.6)
	12 YO	74.2	24.2	20(1.6)
The equipment/things you need for school	10 YO	7.0	90.8	25(2.2)
	12 YO	5.3	93.4	16(1.3)

Nearly 95% and 96% of children in each age groups agree that they have clothes in good condition in which to go to school. In Sri Lanka, all government schoolchildren are provided with vouchers to buy one school uniform annually. This practice may have had an impact on the children's high rate of positive response to this particular question. Nearly 90% of children in each age group also had two pairs of shoes in good condition. Nearly 20% of children responded that they do not have enough money for school trips and activities. A similarly negative response rate was reported for the availability of equipment and items for sports and hobbies.

Only 58% and 60% of children respectively in each group receive pocket money. Least available for children in both age groups are internet facilities and mobile phones. The internet is available for about 50% of children in each age group. Mobile phone ownership is limited to 30% or less.

2.8 Material and economic circumstances

Table 2.18 Descriptive statistics on material possessions (10 & 12 years old) (%)

How many bathrooms are in your home?	10 YO	12 YO
None	26.1	22.8
One	51.1	48.4
Two	15.4	22.3
More than two	6.3	6.0
Missing N (%)	1.1	0.6
Does your family own a car, van or truck?		
No	47.7	45.0
One	27.6	25.6
Two	8.7	11.5
Three or more	7.3	7.0
Missing N (%)	8.7	10.8
In the last 12 months, how many times did you travel away on holiday with your family?		
Not at all	18.5	15.5
Once	23.6	24.7
Twice	19.8	17.9
More than twice	36.3	41.2
Missing N (%)	1.8	0.7
How many computers do your family own?		
None	45.4	39.3
One	30.9	33.5
Two	13.4	14.3
More than two	8.7	11.6
Missing N (%)	1.6	1.2
Does your home have a washing machine?		
No	48.8	43.1
Yes	49.0	54.3
Missing N (%)	2.2	2.3

The majority of children in each age group (74% and 77%) indicate that they have at least one bathroom in their home. 43-49 % of 10 year olds report that their families own at least one vehicle/ computer and/or washing machine while 44-54% of 12 year olds report the same. Approximately 80% of 10 year olds and 84% of 12 year olds report that they traveled away on holidays with their family.

2.8 Time use

Table 2.19 Satisfaction with the time use 10 & 12 years old (%)

Satisfaction with ...		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Missing N (%)
How you use your time	10 YO	4.4	0.8	1.0	0.7	1.7	3.3	3.2	4.3	9.4	10.9	58.7	21(1.8)
	12 YO	2.6	1.3	0.5	0.9	1.7	2.8	3.2	5.3	9.3	15.2	55.7	18(1.5)
How much free time you have	10 YO	6.0	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.8	3.6	4.4	4.9	10.0	12.3	51.8	20(1.7)
	12 YO	3.0	2.5	0.7	2.0	1.8	3.7	3.8	6.3	10.7	16.8	46.9	21(1.7)

Approximately 90% of children in each age group indicate that they are satisfied with how they use their time.

About 85% and 88% of children in the respective age groups indicate that they are not satisfied with the amount of free time that they had

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

1. Overall Subjective Well-Being

Table 2.20 Satisfaction with life as a whole 10 & 12 years old (%)

Satisfaction with ...		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Missing N (%)
Your life as a whole	10 YO	4.7	1.0	0.8	0.5	2.2	2.8	2.7	4.5	7.1	14.0	58.0	19(1.7)
	12 YO	2.4	0.8	0.3	1.2	1.8	1.6	3.1	4.3	7.3	13.8	62.5	9(0.7)

88% and 92% of children in the respective age groups indicate that they are satisfied with their life as a whole. Approximately 5% and 2% of children respectively in the two age groups indicate that they are not at all satisfied with their life as a whole.

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

Table 2.21 Descriptive statistics on material possessions (10 & 12 years old) (%)

	Age Group	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Missing N (%)
I enjoy my life	10 yrs	1.4	0.6	0.7	0.2	1.3	2.8	3.1	1.9	5.5	7.3	74.2	1.0
	12 yrs	2.5	1.1	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.6	2.0	3.0	6.4	10.4	68.1	1.5
My life is going well	10 yrs	1.6	1.0	0.4	0.7	1.1	2.3	2.0	2.9	5.5	9.3	72.4	1.0
	12 yrs	1.1	0.9	0.5	1.0	1.6	2.9	2.0	2.8	6.9	10.2	69.6	0.5
I have a good life	10 yrs	1.3	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.7	2.5	2.6	5.5	8.5	73.5	1.3
	12 yrs	1.2	0.8	0.3	1.3	1.9	1.7	2.3	3.8	5.0	11.0	69.7	1.0
The things that happen in my life are excellent	10 yrs	3.2	0.6	1.0	0.9	1.4	2.1	2.7	4.0	7.9	12.5	62.3	1.4
	12 yrs	1.1	1.5	1.1	1.2	0.8	2.5	3.4	4.8	8.8	15.7	57.9	1.1
I like my life	10 yrs	1.9	0.6	1.0	0.4	0.7	2.6	2.4	3.7	3.8	8.1	73.5	1.4
	12 yrs	1.8	1.3	1.0	0.8	2.0	1.7	2.1	3.0	5.8	9.1	70.2	1.1
I am happy with my life	10 yrs	1.7	0.9	0.2	0.8	1.1	2.1	1.5	2.8	4.3	8.0	76.0	0.7
	12 yrs	1.8	0.6	0.8	1.5	1.4	1.0	1.6	2.5	5.5	9.6	73.2	0.7

The scale consists of items measuring cognitive subjective well-being (Based on the Student Life Satisfaction Scale by Huebner, 1991).

The majority (93% of 10 year olds and 96% of 12 year olds) of children in each age group indicate that they are satisfied (at levels 5-10) with life, consider that they have a good life, that their life is going well, they can enjoy it, that they are happy with their life and like their life. Approximately 1% of children in each group indicate that they are not at all or least satisfied with their life.

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

Table 2.22 Children's Worlds Domain Based Subjective Well-Being Scale 10 & 12 years old (%)

Satisfaction with	Age Group	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Missing N(%)
The people you live with	10 yrs	3.9	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.2	3.7	1.1	2.2	3.7	7.3	71.3	3.0
	12 yrs	2.6	0.7	0.9	0.5	1.5	2.6	1.9	1.6	3.9	7.5	72.2	4.2
Your friends	10 yrs	0.3	7.2	8.2	2.8	1.2	4.7	3.3	4.0	6.4	18.1	43.0	0.9
	12 yrs	0.9	4.0	1.6	1.5	2.4	5.2	4.2	4.7	8.4	12.4	53.3	1.5
Your life as a student	10 yrs	4.6	1.0	1.3	0.7	1.3	2.4	2.9	3.4	6.4	7.6	67.2	1.3
	12 yrs	2.4	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.0	2.0	3.5	2.3	3.8	9.8	72.0	0.9
The area where you live	10 yrs	0.9	7.9	8.6	1.2	1.8	2.9	3.3	3.5	6.9	19.2	41.4	2.3
	12 yrs	0.7	4.2	5.7	1.7	3.0	2.1	4.3	4.9	8.0	20.1	43.5	1.8
The way that you look	10 yrs	5.7	1.4	1.7	2.0	2.1	3.0	2.6	4.3	6.7	11.5	58.0	1.0
	12 yrs	3.3	1.6	0.9	1.1	2.1	3.6	3.5	4.7	10.4	13.5	54.4	0.8

The scale consists of 5 items measuring domain based cognitive subjective well-being (based on the Brief Multidimensional Student Life Satisfaction Scale by Seligson, Huebner & Valois, 2003). A majority of children in both groups (83% -93%) indicate that they are satisfied (with a rating of 5-10) with all 5 domains. Rates of satisfaction of 12 year olds are slightly higher than those of the 10 year olds in all 5 domains. The highest rate of satisfaction recorded by both age groups (approximately 93% for 12 year olds and 89% for 10 year olds) is for their life as a student. Approximately 90% of 12 year olds indicate that they are happy with their appearance while 86% of 10 year olds indicate the same.

4. CW-PNAS (Children's World's Positive and Negative Affects Scale)

Table 2.23 Children's Worlds Positive and Negative Affects Scale 10 & 12 years old (%)

Last two weeks: How often feeling	Age Group	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Missing N (%)
Happy	10 yrs	2.1	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.1	2.9	2.4	3.1	6.8	9.2	68.7	1.1
	12 yrs	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.5	1.6	2.9	3.4	4.0	9.4	11.9	60.1	1.4
Calm	10 yrs	13.4	3.1	3.0	2.6	4.0	5.3	5.0	4.2	7.3	6.7	41.8	3.7
	12 yrs	4.9	3.4	3.1	4.9	4.6	8.1	6.0	7.5	10.4	11.7	32.4	2.9
Full of energy	10 yrs	3.8	1.4	1.0	0.8	1.6	3.0	2.6	4.0	7.4	10.1	61.5	2.7
	12 yrs	2.4	1.5	1.9	1.4	2.5	3.3	4.8	5.6	11.1	12.4	50.2	2.9
Sad	10 yrs	37.1	10.0	6.4	5.6	3.8	6.4	3.6	3.2	5.2	4.9	11.9	1.9
	12 yrs	22.2	10.6	12.1	8.6	6.1	9.1	3.5	4.8	6.5	6.4	8.2	2.0
Stressed	10 yrs	35.9	5.8	4.0	3.8	4.1	4.6	3.7	4.8	5.4	6.4	17.7	3.7
	12 yrs	34.6	7.7	6.8	5.0	4.6	5.0	3.5	6.1	6.6	5.7	11.0	3.4
Bored	10 yrs	40.6	7.5	4.1	4.4	3.0	5.4	4.0	3.6	4.8	4.9	14.5	3.3
	12 yrs	35.5	9.0	7.2	5.1	4.0	6.1	4.8	4.3	5.0	5.5	10.4	3.1

There were 6 items measuring affective subjective well-being: positive and negative affect (based on Barrett & Russell, 1998). These are: Feeling happy, Feeling calm, Feeling full of energy –all representing positive affect. The items Feeling sad, Feeling stressed, and Feeling bored represent negative affect.

The majority of children (88% of 10 year olds and 82% of 12 year olds) state that they have experienced the above mentioned positive affects more than half of the time. Only 15% indicate that they experience those feelings all of the time or almost all time.

A considerable percentage (32% of the 10 year olds and 33% of 12 year olds) indicate that they experience negative affects such as feeling sad, stressed or bored half of the time.

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

Table 2.24 Children's Worlds Psychological Subjective Well-Being Scale- 12 years old (%)

How much you agree with	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Missing N (%)
I like being the way I am	2.0	1.6	1.1	0.6	0.8	1.9	2.5	3.1	5.2	10.3	69.9	1.0
I am good at managing my daily responsibilities	2.5	0.7	0.8	1.4	2.1	2.9	3.0	4.9	8.4	16.8	55.2	1.4
People are generally pretty friendly towards me	1.6	1.6	1.1	1.4	1.7	2.9	3.6	5.7	7.8	15.4	55.8	1.4
I have enough choice about how I spend my time	2.6	0.8	2.1	1.5	1.3	2.8	3.8	4.9	6.5	13.6	59.0	1.1
I feel that I am learning a lot at the moment	1.2	0.7	0.7	1.6	0.9	2.1	2.4	3.8	6.1	11.9	67.6	1.2
I feel positive about my future	2.0	0.4	1.1	1.1	0.8	2.0	2.0	2.9	6.8	10.5	69.5	1.0

There were 6 items measuring psychological subjective well-being (based on Ryff, 1989) included in the 12-year-old survey only. These items were: I like the way I am, I manage my responsibilities, People are friendly, I have enough choice over what I do with my time, I am learning a lot, I feel positive about the future. The majority of the 12 year old children (91-93%) indicated that they agree (with a rating of 5-10) with the items listed on the scale. Less than 4 % indicated that they are not at all or in least agreement with these items.

2.10 Children's perceptions about their country

Table 2.25 Children's perceptions about their country 10 & 12 years old (%)

		10-year-olds	12-year-olds
I know what rights children have	No	14.7	4.6
	Not sure	No such choice	14.1
	Yes	54.5	79.5
	Missing N(%)	356(30.8)	22(1.8)
I know about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child	No	22.5	16.5
	Not sure	No such choice	48.5
	Yes	17.2	32.7
	Missing N(%)	697(60.3)	29(2.4)

Most of the 10 year old students did not respond to the item regarding their knowledge of the UN convention of Children's Rights. Only 17.2% indicate that they know about the UN convention. There were also high levels of missing values for both items in the 12 year old group. 80% of children indicate that they know about the rights of children but only 32.7% know about the UN Convention of Children's Rights.

3. Conclusions

The analysis of data indicates that majority of children (about 80-90%) in both the 10 year old and 12 year old age groups are generally satisfied with their family, the people they live with, their school, the other children in their class, the care and support they receive from teachers, the area in which they live and the use of their time.

Approximately 3% of children live in foster homes or other types of homes. Nearly 90% of children in both age groups responded that they enjoy a happy life at home. About 85% of children in both age groups state that they are satisfied (with a rating of 5 or more) with the money and the things they have, while 90-95% of children in both age groups indicate that they have clothes in good condition to go to school and the equipment and other items that they need for school. Provision of free school text books and uniforms by the government may have contributed to the high rate of positive response for these items. However, 20-26% of children indicate that they do not have enough money for school trips and activities, nor equipment for sports and hobbies. Only about 45% of children have access to the internet while 25-30% have mobile phones. Most of the children (80%) in each age group indicate that they have electricity and a water supply. Approximately 40% of families in both age groups own a car, van or truck. Close to 45% of children in both age groups have at least one computer at home. The majority of children in both age groups (55-60%) lack modern technological facilities and equipment in their homes.

Children's ratings of their participation in making decisions relevant to themselves at school, in their local area and at a country level also returned relatively low values (70%, 66% and 52% for 10 year olds and 74%, 65% and 59% for 12 year olds respectively).

It is interesting to note that a majority of children (88% and 92% respectively) in both the 10 year old and 12 year old groups are satisfied with their life as a whole despite the fact that material deprivation is experienced by nearly 50% of children in their homes in each age group. The majority of children (about 90%) in both age groups also rate their satisfaction as high (at the rate of 5-10) on the measures of Subjective Well Being (CW-SWBS), Domain Specific Subjective Well Being (CW-DSWBS) and Psychological Well Being (CW-PWBS). We need to further investigate why 10% of the children rate themselves as having low satisfaction on the above scales.