

Children's Worlds National Report

Russia



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1. Introduction

1.1 Context and population¹

Russia or the Russian Federation - is a state in Eastern Europe and Northern Asia. It ranks first in the world in terms of territory, sixth in terms of GDP by PPP and ninth in terms of population.

Population: The population of Russia is **145 557 576** people (2022). The base for the study was the Urals Federal District – the West Siberia, the survey was held in Tyumen region. The population of Tyumen region – **3 806 505** people (2022). The population density is 2.6 people / km² (2022). Urban population - 79.97% (2022).

The number of 12 years old children is about 44560

Geography: Russia is on the first place in terms of area among all countries of the world (**17 125 191** square km), it occupies 1/9 of all the land of the globe. By area, the Tyumen region (with the autonomous okrugs) is the largest region and occupies the 3rd place among all the constituent entities of the Russian Federation. The area of Tyumen Region is **1 435 000** square km. The Tyumen region includes three subjects: Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Area – Ugra and Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District (North of the Tyumen region), South of Tyumen region. The region is located in the natural zones of the Arctic deserts, tundra, forest-tundra, taiga, mixed forests and forest-steppe. The region is characterized by severe climatic conditions, 90% of the territory is assigned to the Far North regions or equated to them. The climate is arctic, subarctic in the north and temperate in the center and south. The average January temperature ranges from –25 ° C in the Tyumen region to –47 ° C in the north. The frosty period lasts from 130 in Tyumen to 210 days a year or more in the tundra region.

Religion: Almost all world religions are represented in the religious field of the Tyumen region - Christianity, Islam, Judaism. The Russian Orthodox Church is the largest and most influential religious organization in the region.

Ethnicity and ethnic/cultural groups: More than 20 nationalities live in the region. The most numerous are Russians - about 70%, Tatars - 7%, Ukrainians - about 5%. The remaining nationalities are less than 1% each. Indigenous peoples (aboriginal) - Nenets (in the okrugs), Khanty, Mansi (in the okrugs), Selkups (in the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug) (2065 people), Siberian Tatars.

Economic context: The main oil and gas region of Russia and one of the largest oil producing regions in the world is the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug - Ugra, which also occupies the 3rd place in the "ranking of the socio-economic situation of the regions of Russia" and the 2nd largest economy in Russia. In terms of industrial output, the region ranks first in Russia. The main industry is the fuel industry, which accounts for 86.4% of the region's industrial production. A significant part of the country's oil (64%) and gas (91%) is produced in the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug-Ugra and the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug.

Any other important information: The capital of the region, the administrative center - the city of Tyumen for the third year is in a row ranks first in the ranking of quality of life. However, the city holds only eighth place in the country in terms of living standards. 85% of the population are satisfied with their life, 98% of the population consider their city ideal.

Context of COVID-19 in individual country contexts

On March 2, 2020, the first case of COVID-19 was detected in Russia. From March 30 to May 11, 2020, a non-working day regime was in Russia.

There was a strict lockdown and isolation in Russia, specifically in the Tyumen region, in March-May 2020. Russia also made a decision to transfer educational institutions to a remote (distance) work format in order to prevent the spread of coronavirus infection. The distance learning format lasted until the end of the academic year, which ends in Russia in the third decade of May.

The new 2020-2021 academic year began for Russian schoolchildren traditionally on September 1, 2020 in the usual full-time format. However, teaching in the second quarter of the academic year (November-December 2020) was again carried out in a distance format, for students from the 5th to the 11th grade.

Elementary school students continued full-time education.

Since January 2021, almost all schoolchildren have been studying off-line, in schools.

And for this reason, children aged 12 years participated in the study. They had more distance learning experience than 10-year-olds. However, in May 2021, at the time of the survey of children, the situation was no longer so relevant for them.

1.2 Sampling: Strategy and outcome²

The current survey was conducted only in educational institutions of Tyumen region. The total sample amount is **876** students at the **age of 12 years**.

Stratum 1 – geographical regions. The sample is continuous all subjects of the Tyumen region were involved in the study (Table 1).

The Tyumen region includes three subjects:

- Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District (14% of 12 years old children) - North of the Tyumen region;
- Khanty- Mansiysk Autonomous Area – Ugra (45% of 12 years old children) - North of the Tyumen region,
- Tyumen – the capital of the region and South of Tyumen region (about 40 % of 12 years old children).

In the survey took part **381 (43.5%) children** from Khanty- Mansiysk Autonomous Area – Ugra, **50 (6%) children** from Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District and **445 (50%) children** from Tyumen - the capital of the region and South of Tyumen region.

Stratum 2 – gender: 434 (49.5%) are boys, 442 (50.5%) are girls.

Table 1

the grades and age	total number of children	Tyumen region		
		North of the Tyumen region		Tyumen - the capital of the region and South of Tyumen region
		Khanty- Mansiysk Autonomous Area - Ugra	Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District	
12 years old 6 grade	44561 876	20482 – 45% 381 (43.5%)	6493 – 14% 50 (6%)	17586 – 40% 445 (50%)

2. Results ³

2.1 About you: Q1-2, Q5-10

Q1-2. The total sample amount is **876** students, at the age of 12 year. Among them 434 (49.5%) are boys, 442 (50.5%) are girls.

2. Are you?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Girl	442	50,5	50,5	50,5
Boy	434	49,5	49,5	100,0
Total	876	100,0	100,0	

Q5-10

Q6. Please describe what your situation was (or still is) during the Coronavirus pandemic.

	Yes	No	Not Sure
6.1. Everybody in my city/town/village was in lockdown for many days	66% - 578	18.2% - 159	15.9% - 139
6.2. Me or somebody in my home got infected with Coronavirus	30.7% - 269	62.4% - 547	6.8% - 60
6.3. Somebody in my family (not living with me) got infected with Coronavirus	32% - 280	57% - 499	11.1% - 97
6.4. Somebody I know got infected with Coronavirus (e.g.: from my neighbourhood or in a friend's family)	43.3% - 379	39% - 342	17.7% - 155
6.5. At home we had to be very careful because somebody was considered at high risk of getting very ill if they got infected with the Coronavirus	29.3% - 257	60.7% - 532	9.9% - 87
6.6. I had to stay at home for many days	70% - 613	24.1% - 211	5.9% - 52
6.7. I could not attend school for many days	76.8% - 673	17.7% - 155	5.5% - 48

70% of children reported they had to stay at home for many days and about 77% could not attend school for many days. 66% of them inform that everybody in the city/town/village was in lockdown for many days. About 30% of children said that somebody in their home/family got infected with Coronavirus.

Q7. Do the following statements describe your situation during the Coronavirus?

	Yes	No	Not Sure
7.1. My family had to move to another home	4.7% - 41	92.8% - 813	2.5% - 22
7.2. I had to be in quarantine once	21.6% - 189	72.1% - 632	6.3% - 55
7.3. I had to be in quarantine more than once	32.8% - 287	56.6% - 496	10.6% - 93
7.4. At least one of my parents was forced/had to stop working and receive money from the government	19.7% - 173	60.3% - 528	20% - 175
7.5. At least one of my parents was forced to stop working and did not receive money from the government	12.4% - 109	66.6% - 583	21% - 184
7.6. My school was closed during lockdown	87.1% - 763	6.6% - 58	6.3% - 55

7.7. There were times where I had to be in my home all day (including the garden, yard or balcony, if you have) because of the Coronavirus	75.6% - 662	18.2% - 159	6.3% - 55
7.8. There were times where I was only allowed to leave my home for a few hours during the day because of the Coronavirus	56.1% - 491	33.9% - 297	10% - 88

Most of the children interviewed (92.8%) reported that during the epidemic they stayed in their usual home. And only 4.7% of families had to move to another home. It is worth noting that during the pandemic in the Tyumen region there was a great increase in interest in suburban real estate. A large number of families decide to build a country house and live not in a city apartment, but in their private house outside the city.

72% of children reported they had to be in quarantine once, and about 57% - had to be in quarantine more than once. Most of the children (87%) said that their school was closed during lockdown and they had to be in the home all day (75/6%).

Not more than 19% of parents had to stop working during the Coronavirus. About 20% of children are not sure whether their parents had to stop working.

2.2 Your life during the Coronavirus: Q11-14

Q 11. How much do you agree with each of the following sentences?

Item	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
11.1. I have enough information about the Coronavirus	14.2	22.0	24.0	18.0	21.8
11.2. We speak together about the Coronavirus in my home	36.2	26.3	15.6	9.4	12.6
11.3. My opinions about the Coronavirus are taken seriously in my home	24.5	24.8	19.3	14.2	17.2
11.4. I received a lot of information about the Coronavirus from my family members or caregivers	18.6	19.1	16.3	20.3	25.7
11.5. I received a lot of information about the Coronavirus from other children	38.8	24.8	17.8	9.0	9.6
11.6. I received a lot of information about Coronavirus from teachers	26.4	26.1	18.9	13.1	15.4
11.7. I received a lot of information about Coronavirus through social media (Instagram, WhatsApp, Facebook, etc.)	19.7	17.7	15.0	15.8	31.8
11.9. I received a lot of information about the Coronavirus through the news	13.9	17.7	14.2	16.4	37.8
11.10. I think that a lot of the news about the Coronavirus are unreliable	21.0	26.3	22.7	12.1	17.9

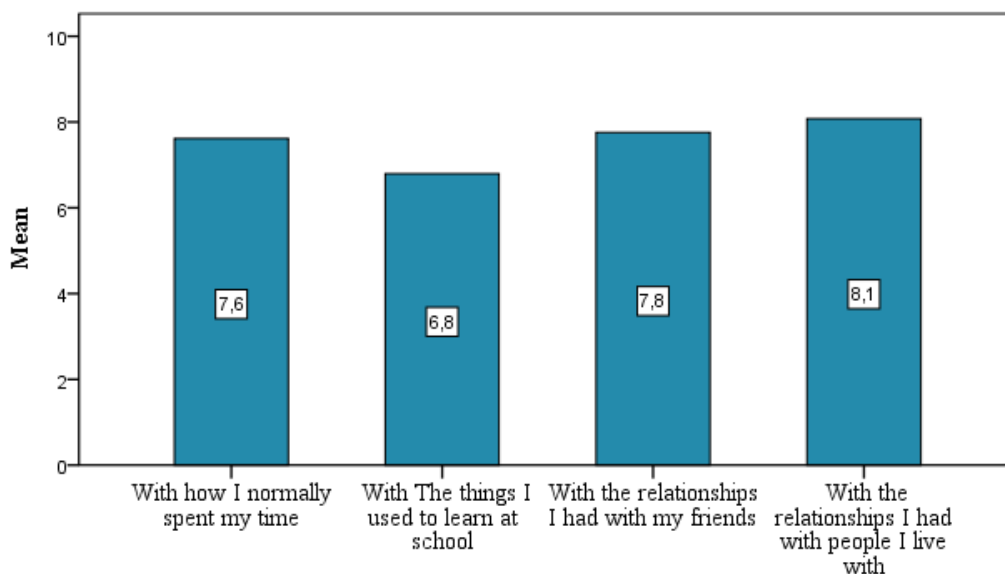
Only about 40% of children are agree/totally agree that they have enough information about the Coronavirus. At the same time most of the children received a lot of information about the

Coronavirus through the news (54.2%) and through social media (Instagram, WhatsApp, Facebook, etc.) – 47.6%. About 46% of children trust the information received.

Only about 20% of children said they speak together about the Coronavirus in home (agree/totally agree). At the same time 46 % received a lot of information about the Coronavirus from my family members or caregivers. Children do not or seldom speak about the Coronavirus with other children.

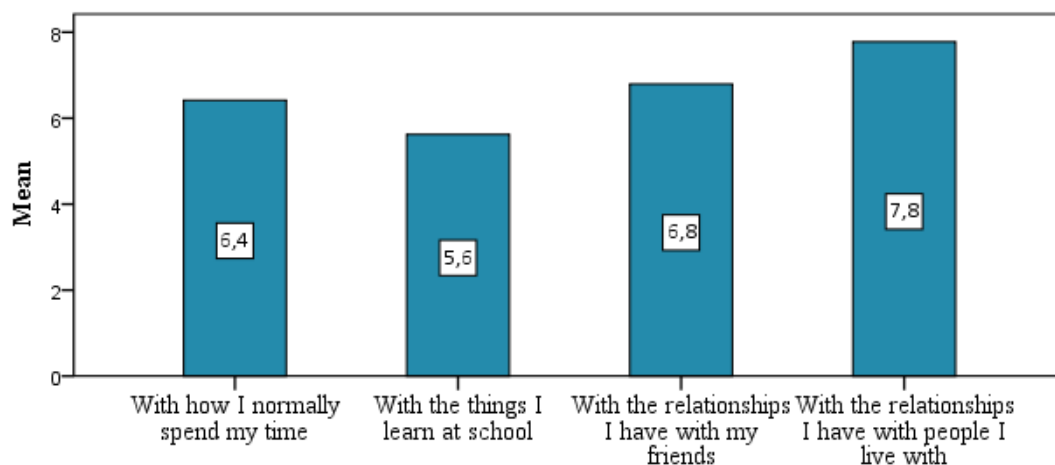
Younger teens were asked several questions regarding satisfaction with various aspects of their lives BEFORE and DURING the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q 12. How satisfied were you with each of the following things in your life BEFORE the Coronavirus?



Before the Coronavirus most of all children were satisfied with the relationships they had with people they live with (8.1 from 10) and with their friends (7.8 from 10). Least of all (6.8) children were satisfied with the things they used to learn at school.

Q 13. How satisfied are you with each of the following things in your life now DURING the Coronavirus?



During the Coronavirus children's satisfaction with all spheres of life decreased significantly. Teenagers were very upset by the violation of their usual time use and the relationship with friends.

The average indicators fell from 7.6 to 6.4 (time use) and from 7.8 to 6.8 (friends). Such data can be explained by the existing restrictions on movement on the street, the closure of schools and institutions of additional education. The children were also worried about the changes in school life, their satisfaction with things they learn at school decreased from 6.8 to 5.6.

Analyzing the results, we can conclude that the relationship with relatives and family members suffered least of all during the pandemic. The average values on a 10-point scale BEFORE the Coronavirus were 8.1, DURING the Coronavirus – 7.8.

Q 14. During the last month, how worried have you been about the following things in your life?

Item	Total
14.1. During the last month, how worried have you been about the following things in your life? By the Coronavirus situation	3,7 (3.3)
14.2. During the last month, how worried have you been about the following things in your life? That I may get infected by the Coronavirus	3,6 (3.4)
14.3. During the last month, how worried have you been about the following things in your life? That people I know may get infected by the Coronavirus	5,2 (3.6)
14.4. During the last month, how worried have you been about the following things in your life? That I may infect other people with the Coronavirus	3,8 (3.5)
14.5. During the last month, how worried have you been about the following things in your life? That I may get bad school marks because of the Coronavirus situation	4,2 (3.8)
14.6. During the last month, how worried have you been about the following things in your life? The money my family has during the Coronavirus period	4,0 (3.6)
14.7. During the last month, how worried have you been about the following things in your life? The changes in my life as a student because of the Coronavirus situation	4,1 (3.5)

The teens were then asked to answer what caused them the most anxiety.

Most of all, during the last month, children have been worried that people they know and are close to - relatives and family members, friends - can get infected by the Coronavirus (mean 5.2), which is the evidence of the emotional responsiveness of teens. The children were also worried about the changes in school life (mean 4.1) and worried that they could get bad marks (4.2) because of the Coronavirus situation. The children also thought about the financial situation of the family (4.0). Fear that they may infect other people with the Coronavirus (3.8) it is an indicator of high social responsibility of adolescents. The least of all the children were worried that they may get infected by the Coronavirus (3.6).

2.3 School and relationships: Q16-19, Q22-23

Q16. During the Coronavirus, when schools were closed, how did you learn at home?

Online classes with teachers M=1

All the children reported, when schools were closed, they had online classes with teachers.

Q17. How much do you agree with the following sentence?

Item	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
17. During the Coronavirus, when schools were closed, I managed to continue with my learning from home	5,9	11,4	14,6	20,5	45,1

During the Coronavirus 65.6% of children managed to continue with learning from home (Totally agree/ Agree a lot). 5.9% answered « I do not agree».

Q18. Please, answer the following questions.**During Coronavirus...**

Item	Never	Sometimes	Often	Always
18.1. During the Coronavirus, How often did you have access to the Internet?	1,9	4,3	16,7	77,1
18.2. During the Coronavirus, How often did it happen that you could not access the Internet for an entire day?	49,5	39,5	6,3	4,7
18.3. During the Coronavirus, How often did you have problems with the Internet connection while having a class over web?	35,5	46,2	13,2	5,0
18.4. During the Coronavirus, How often did you miss your teacher's advice?	37,2	45,3	13,1	4,3
18.6. During the Coronavirus, How often did you wish that you could go back to school?	25,9	31,5	27,1	15,5
18.7. During the Coronavirus, How often did your parent or a sister/brother help you with schoolwork?	15,9	33,2	30,8	20,1

77% of children reported they always had access to the Internet during the Coronavirus, 16.7% - often. Thus, the vast majority of younger teenagers almost constantly have access to the Internet. Only 1.9% answered «never». 35.5% of children said they have never and 46.2% - sometimes - problems with the Internet connection while having a class over web.

A quarter of the children surveyed never wished that they could go back to school during the Coronavirus, 31% - sometimes wanted to go back to school. 27% responded they often would like to return to school, and 15% - always.

Most of the children reported that they closely followed the online lessons and tried not to miss teacher's advice (82.5%).

Family members help with schoolwork always 20% of children, often 30% of children and sometimes 33% of schoolchildren.

Q22. How much do you agree with the following sentences?**During the Coronavirus, I felt well-supported by...**

Item	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
22.1. During the Coronavirus, I felt well-supported by some of my friends	14.0	19.9	19.1	21.6	25.5

22.2. During the Coronavirus, I felt well-supported by some of my teachers	30.4	25.3	20.7	13.9	9.7
22.3. During the Coronavirus, I felt well-supported by some people I live with	7.1	8.0	12.1	18.5	54.3

Nice to note, that most children felt well-supported by people they live with: 54% reported - Totally agree, 18.5% - Agree a lot. About half of the children surveyed (47.1%) answered they felt supported by friends. Least of all, the children felt the support of their teachers.

Q23. How much do you agree with each of the following sentences?

Item	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
23.1. During the coronavirus, I became closer to some members of my family	17,8	14,8	18,0	18,3	31,1
23.2. My relationships with my friends was affected during the Coronavirus	49,9	20,1	11,2	10,6	8,2
23.3. I made new friends with other children online during the Coronavirus	32,8	20,4	14,3	11,6	20,9

About half of the children (49.4%) noted they became closer to some members of my family during the Coronavirus: 31.1% answered Totally agree, 18.3% - Agree a lot, 18% - Agree somewhat . 70% reported that the Coronavirus did not affect their relationship with friends. 30% of the study participants said that they even made new friends during the pandemic: 20.9% - Totally agree, 11.6% - Agree a lot, 14.3% - Agree somewhat.

2.4 How do you feel about life: Q24-28

Q24. How much do you agree with each of the following sentences about your life as a whole?

Item	Total
24.1. I enjoy my life	7.5 (2.9)
24.2. My life is going well	7.5 (2.9)
24.3. I have a good life	7.6 (2.9)
24.4. The things that happen in my life are excellent	6.5 (3.1)
24.5. I am happy with my life	7.3 (3.1)
24.6. I like being the way I am	6.8 (3.4)

Children reported that they have a good life (mean 7.6), enjoy their life (mean 7.5) and «My life is going well» (mean 7.5). Less children are happy with what they are – 6.8.

Q25. Below is a list of words that describe different feelings. Please read each word and then tick a box to say how much you have felt this way during the last two weeks.

Item	Total
25.1. Last two weeks: How often feeling Happy	6,8 (3.0)
25.2. Last two weeks: How often feeling Sad	4,3 (3.2)
25.3. Last two weeks: How often feeling Calm	6,7 (3.1)
25.4. Last two weeks: How often feeling Stressed	4,0 (3.3)

25.5. Last two weeks: How often feeling Full of energy	5,6 (3.4)
25.6. Last two weeks: How often feeling Bored	5,1 (3.6)

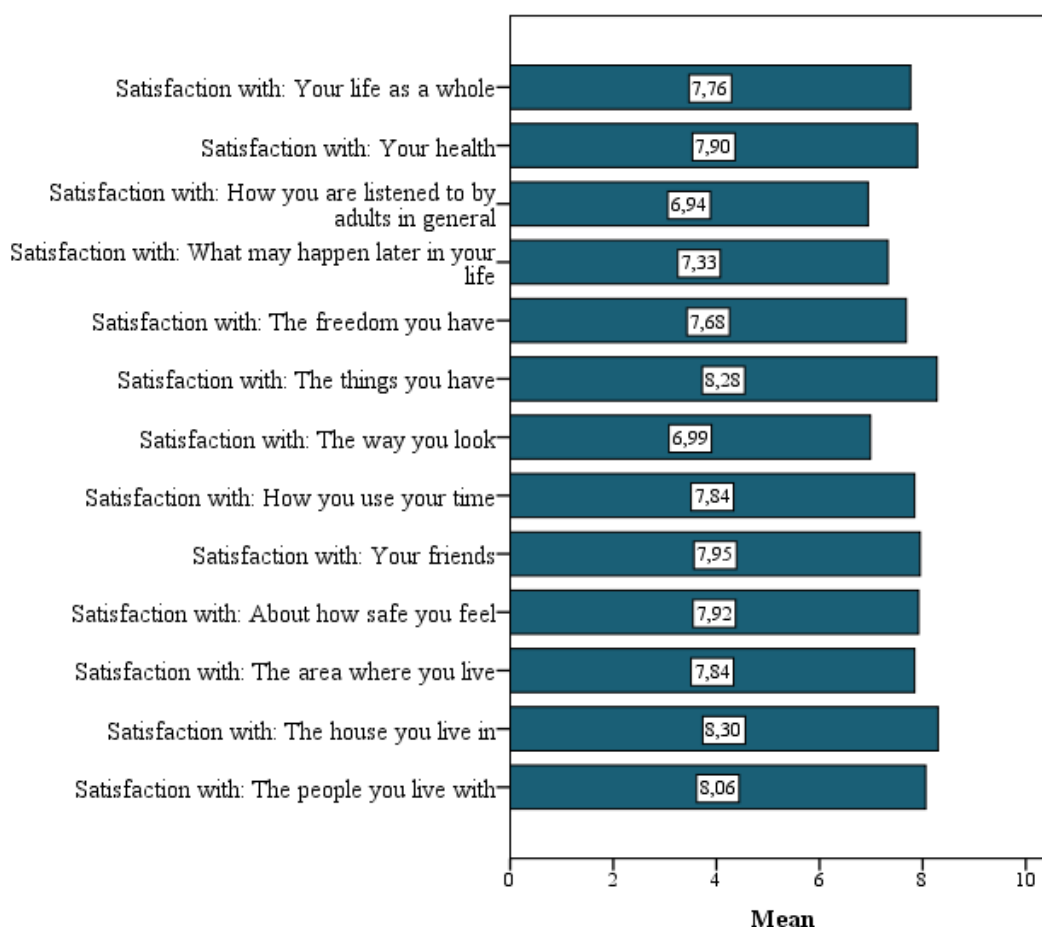
During the last two weeks children felt happy (mean 6.8) and calm (mean 6.7). The children did not experience stress (4.0) and boredom (4.3).

Q26. How much do you agree with the following sentence

Item	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
26.1. I am very afraid of the Coronavirus	49,7	20,0	15,4	7,8	7,2
26.2. It makes me uncomfortable to think about the Coronavirus	34,5	19,7	16,1	11,2	18,5
26.3. My hands become sweaty when I think about the Coronavirus	80,3	7,6	5,4	2,9	3,9
26.4. I am afraid of losing my life because of the Coronavirus	51,6	16,1	10,2	7,3	14,8
26.5. When I watch news and stories about the Coronavirus on the TV and social media, I become nervous or anxious	55,9	20,3	9,2	6,1	8,4
26.6. I cannot sleep because I'm worrying about getting the Coronavirus	80,0	8,1	5,0	3,0	3,9
26.7. My heart races (beats very fast) when I think about getting the Coronavirus	79,5	8,9	5,3	2,9	3,5

Children are not afraid of the Coronavirus. Only 7.2% of them answered «Totally agree», 7.8% - Agree a lot and 15.4% - Agree somewhat. About 30% said, It makes them uncomfortable to think about the Coronavirus. 14.5% reported when they watch news and stories about the Coronavirus on the TV and social media, they become nervous or anxious. 76% answered they do not agree and agree a little bit. About 51.6% of children noted «I do not agree» on the statement «I am afraid of losing my life because of the Coronavirus», 16.1% - «Agree a little bit», 10.2% - «Agree somewhat». 22.1% of children are not at all afraid of losing their life because of the Coronavirus. 80% reported «I do not agree» on the statements «I cannot sleep because I'm worrying about getting the Coronavirus» and «My heart races (beats very fast) when I think about getting the Coronavirus».

Q 27. How satisfied are you with each of the following things in your life?



It is possible to note the material well-being of the children studied. Most of all, the children are satisfied with their house (8.3 from 10) and the things they have (8.28). Also, the children are very happy with people they live with (8.06) and their friends (7.95). Children are also very satisfied with their health (7.9) and how safe they feel (7.92). Least of all children are happy with the way they look (6.99) and how the children are listened to by adults in general (6.94).

Q 28. Please, answer the following questions

Item	Total
28.1. Thinking about how your life was before the Coronavirus, how happy were you with your life as whole?	7,4 (2.9)
28.2. Thinking about how your life now during the Coronavirus, how happy are you with your life as whole?	6,8 (3.0)

The average level of life satisfaction of children before the Coronavirus – 7.4, during the Coronavirus – 6.8. Thus, we can note a significant decrease in life satisfaction of children because of the Coronavirus.

3. Conclusions⁴

The epidemic of a new coronavirus infection can be clearly considered the main challenge of 2020, both for the economies of various countries and for society as a whole. According to UNESCO, as of March 26, 2020, schools and universities were closed in 165 countries of the world, which directly affected more than 1.5 billion students, or 87% of the world's student population [1].

In March 2020, Russia also made a decision to transfer educational institutions to a remote (distance) work format in order to prevent the spread of coronavirus infection. The distance learning format lasted until the end of the academic year, which ends in Russia in the third decade of May. The new 2020-2021 academic year began for Russian schoolchildren traditionally on September 1, 2020 in the usual offline format. However, teaching in the second quarter of the academic year (November-December 2021) was again carried out in a distance format, for students from the 5th to the 11th grade.

All participants of the educational process faced difficulties in organizing work remotely. During this period, a special burden fell on teachers, who were forced to transfer their usual lessons to the online environment in a short period of time. Various technical problems arose, including those related to the lack of the necessary technical equipment and Internet access for children and teachers. At the same time, not all teachers were ready to develop new models of communication with students and conducting lessons through various means for remote work.

Younger teens were asked several questions regarding satisfaction with various aspects of their lives BEFORE and DURING the COVID-19 pandemic.

876 students at the **age of 12 years** from Tyumen region of Russia took part in the survey.

During the Coronavirus children's satisfaction with all spheres of life decreased significantly.

Teenagers were very upset by the violation of their usual time use and the relationship with friends. The average indicators fell from 7.6 to 6.4 (time use) and from 7.8 to 6.8 (friends). Such data can be explained by the existing restrictions on movement on the street, the closure of schools and institutions of additional education. During the most severe lockdown period teens, which were used to an active life, were forced to spend most of their time at home. Children did not have the opportunity to attend additional classes and sports sections, walk in the yard, chat with friends, go to the cinema, do their usually daily activities etc. However, 70% of children reported that the Coronavirus did not affect their relationship with friends. 30% of the study participants said that they even made new friends during the pandemic

The children were also worried about the changes in school life, their satisfaction with things they learn at school decreased from 6.8 to 5.6.

Analyzing the results, we can conclude that the relationship with relatives and family members suffered least of all during the pandemic. The average values on a 10-point scale BEFORE the Coronavirus were 8.1, DURING the Coronavirus – 7.8. About half of the children (49.4%) noted they became closer to some members of my family during the Coronavirus. Nice to note, that most children felt well-supported by people they live with.

The teens were then asked to answer what caused them the most anxiety.

Most of all, during the last month, children have been worried that people they know and are close to - relatives and family members, friends - can get infected by the Coronavirus (mean 5.2), which is the evidence of the emotional responsiveness of teens.

The children were also worried about the changes in school life (mean 4.1) and worried that they could get bad marks (4.2) because of the Coronavirus situation.

These experiences are not unfounded. The transition to distance learning was unexpected for everyone: for teachers, and for children and their parents. It took time for everyone to equip workplaces for distance learning, to ensure the smooth operation of the Internet, to reorganize from

the usual learning at school to online home education, to learn how to organize themselves and allocate their own time. All participants of the educational process were forced to urgently improve their skills in the field of distance online learning. Children felt a deficit of habitual live emotional communication with each other and with teachers “face-to-face”, which significantly hampered their learning, understanding and assimilation of the knowledge (material). However most of the children reported that they closely followed the online lessons and tried not to miss teacher’s advice (82.5%). At the same time children are not afraid of the Coronavirus. The least of all the children were worried that they may get infected by the Coronavirus.

1. Alternative solutions to school closure in Arabian countries to ensuring that learning never stops Covid-19 education response //UNESCO. URL: <https://en.unesco.org/news/alternative-solutions-school-closure-arab-countries-ensuring-learning-never-stops> .