

Panel Presentation
Significant Predictors for Children and Adolescents Well-being from Inequitable Countries: A Comparison Between Brazil, Chile, and South Africa.

A recent study by Gross-Manos and Bradshaw (2021), using data from 35 countries worldwide based on the third wave of the Children's Worlds data project, found an association between material deprivation and some measures of subjective well-being at the individual and country levels. In particular, the relationship between subjective well-being and deprivation was significant at the country-level analysis, indicating that if countries support and reduce child deprivation, we can expect improvement for subjective well-being. These results indicate that well-being can vary across countries according to different variables, which indicates the importance of countries comparison.

Brazil, Chile, and South Africa were part of the sample of that study. Moreover, these three countries also face significant economic and political challenges, such as safety, poverty, and inequality, which can also impact children and adolescents' well-being.

Therefore, the purpose of the panel is to discuss and present studies from Brazil, Chile, and South Africa that explore significant predictors of children and adolescent well-being, considering the sharing attributes from these countries.

Abstract 1

Life Satisfaction, Bullying, and Feeling Safe as a Protective Factor for Chilean and Brazilian Adolescents

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Introduction: Life satisfaction has been defined as a cognitive and stable construct that composes subjective well-being considered as an accurate indicator for the evaluation of adolescents' perception of their life circumstances. Evidence has associated life satisfaction with different adolescent developmental outcomes and positive psychological variables and protection for risk factors, such as becoming a victim of bullying behavior. In Latin America, like around the world, bullying behavior is negative for adolescents' life satisfaction which has become a public concern. Yet, even though feeling safe and well being have been examined, little is known if it can also become a protective factor for bullying behavior on life satisfaction. **Method:** We examined a sample of 1,955 and 1,789 adolescents from Chile and Brazil, respectively as part of the International Survey of Children's Well-Being (ISCWeB) 3rd Wave in Latin America. **Results:** Based on multiple regression and moderation analyses we found that interaction victim \times feeling safety predicts adolescents life satisfaction ($B = 0.38, t = 5.34, p < .001$). It shows that adolescents who report high victim and high safety, would report high life satisfaction ($B = -0.01, t = -0.18, p = .86$), compared with adolescents who report high victim and low safety, will report less life satisfaction ($B = -0.58, t = -10.34, p < .001$), showing a protector role of feeling safety. **Discussion:** Our results highlight the importance of feeling safe for adolescents' life satisfaction. In particular, our study provides evidence for the importance of promoting a more safe environment at the school, within families, and in our communities in Latin America.

Keywords: Life satisfaction, victim, feeling safe, adolescents.

Abstract 2

Factors in predicting children's subjective well-being: peer relationships, school context and neighborhood

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Introduction: The hedonic theoretical perspective on subjective well-being defines it as a function of internal and external contextual factors and opens up an ecological-systemic understanding of these relationships. In this sense, the surrounding community, including school and neighborhood as social-relational environments, can be considered with peer relationships as contextual factors. This present work analyzes the relationship and the quality of these contextual factors as predictors of children's subjective well-being controlled by sex, age, and type of school. **Method:** 325 Brazilian children aged 10-12 years enrolled in public (83.4%) and private (16.6%) schools in the region of Rio de Janeiro participated in this study. The participants answered the "Children's Worlds" Survey, 3rd Wave. Life satisfaction as a cognitive dimension of children's subjective well-being was measured using the Children's Worlds Subjective Well-Being Scale (CW-SWBS). Each contextual factor and CW-SWBS were defined as latent variables and measured by survey-related items using confirmatory factor analysis with good fit index measures for all (CFI>0.95; TLI>0.95; RMSEA <0.10, Omega>0.70). A hierarchical multiple regression model using those factorial scores was proposed to explain how CW-SWBS depends on the external contextual factors controlled by age and sex as internal factors. **Results:** The first regression modeling step included gender, age, and type of school as predictors explaining 10% of CW-SWBS total variance ($R^2 = 0.11$; $R^2_{Adjusted} = 0.10$; $F = 13.41$; $p < 0.001$). The next step was to include victimization as a kind of negative peer relationship variable which predicted lower levels of CW-SWBS ($B = -0.33$, $p < 0.001$) and explained additional 10% of the variance in well-being ($R^2 = 0.21$; $R^2_{Adjusted} = 0.21$; $F = 21.57$; $p < 0.001$). After this, each positive contextual factors variable was added to the model step by step to check their protective effects on CW-SWBS, and additional variance explanation. "Friends" as a positive peer relationship measure predicted higher levels of CW-SWBS ($B = 0.32$, $p < 0.001$) and was able to explain additional 27% of the variance in well-being ($R^2 = 0.48$; $R^2_{Adjusted} = 0.47$; $F = 58.57$; $p < 0.001$); following the same positive direction "school context" ($B = 0.29$, $p < 0.001$) explained additional 4% ($R^2 = 0.55$; $R^2_{Adjusted} = 0.54$; $F = 63.65$; $p < 0.001$). At the final step, the quality of the "neighborhood" measure predicted higher CW-SWBS levels with the final model explaining 55% of the total variance ($R^2 = 0.56$; $R^2_{Adjusted} = 0.55$; $F = 57.42$; $p < 0.001$). After including all positive

contextual factors at this final step, the negative relationship of "victimization" with well-being was not statistically significant anymore ($B= 0.18$, $p=0.002$). Therefore, the overall results point out the relevance of positive contextual factors acting together as a protective environment in the face of peer victimization. **Conclusion:** Supportive friendships, positive experiences at school, and neighborhood satisfaction can act as protective factors reducing negative impacts of peer's victimization on well-being.

Keywords: Subjective well-being; friendships, victim; school; neighborhood

Abstract 3

Community Level Predictors of Children's Subjective Well-Being: A Comparative Analysis across South Africa, Chile and Brazil.

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Research on children's quality of life and subjective well-being (SWB) has advanced over the past decade largely as a result of developments in childhood theory, children's rights legislation, and the shift toward positive social science. Recent empirical initiatives in children's SWB have focused on various micro and macro-level factors that influence children's well-being. In the current presentation, we explore the relation between community-level factors of children's SWB. The contribution of community-level or neighbourhood factors to variations in children's well-being is well-established in the empirical literature. Generally, studies have conceptualised the community as either a physical place or space, or as a social space. However, these relations have not been subjected to cross-country analyses, nor have studies explored the differential predictive influence of various community factors on children's well-being. In this paper we envisage addressing this gap in the empirical literature. The aim of this study is to explore the influence of community-level factors on children's SWB. Within this process we conduct a cross-country comparison wherein we explore the differential influence of community-level factors on children's SWB across South Africa, Chile and Brazil. **Method:** We use data from the third Wave of the Children's Worlds Survey. The data includes a sample of 10 830 participants selected from the three countries in two age groups (10- and 12-years-old). For the analysis we used confirmatory factor analysis, structural equation modelling, and multi-group analysis to ascertain the influence of five community-level predictors on children's SWB (measured using the Children's Worlds: Subjective Well-Being Scale). **Results:** For the overall model, we found that the community-level factors significantly predicted children's SWB, contributing a 16% to the variation in children's SWB. Across country, the community-level factors contributed 13%, 17% and 18% in South Africa, Chile and Brazil respectively. Our cross-country analysis also revealed different permutations of the community-level factors' predictive capacity. **Conclusion and implications:** The findings of the current study provide evidence of the important role that the community plays in contributing to children's well-being. Given the various permutations and the differential impact across the different contexts we recommend that social policies and programmes be guided by specific community contexts. We further recommend that both physical and social aspects of the community be considered when developing appropriate policy and programme responses.

Keywords: Children's subjective well-being, community factors, cross-country analysis