

How do material conditions affect the subjective well-being of Latin American children in Brazil and Chile?

- Ana Loreto Ditzel, Universidad del Desarrollo, Facultad of Psicología, Chile, e-mail: anaditzel@udd.cl, ORCID ID: 0000-0002-0107-2378
- María Josefina Chuecas, Universidad del Desarrollo, Facultad of Psicología, Chile, e-mail: mchuecasj@udd.cl, ORCID ID: 0000-0001-8592-5026
- Livia Maria Bedin, Doctoral and Master Program in Psychology, Department of Developmental and Personality Psychology. Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, e-mail: liviabedin@gmail.com, ORCID ID: 0000-0002-7472-2255
- Javier Torres-Vallejos: Faculty of Education and Social Sciences, Universidad Andres Bello, Chile, e-mail: javier.torres@unab.cl, ORCID ID: 0000-0002-4229-7768
- Alejandra Villarroel, Universidad del Desarrollo, Facultad of Psicología, Chile, e-mail: a.villarroel@udd.cl, ORCID ID: 0000-0001-6724-1974
- Mariavictoria Benavente, Universidad del Desarrollo, Facultad of Psicología, Chile, e-mail: mbenavented@udd.cl, ORCID ID: 0000-0002-0726-0097
- Jaime Alfaro, Universidad del Desarrollo, Facultad of Psicología, Chile, e-mail: jalfaro@udd.cl, ORCID ID: 0000-0003-0397-3716
- Jorge Castellá Sarriera, Doctoral and Master Program in Psychology, and Master Program in Social Policy and Social Work. Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, e-mail: jorgesarriera@gmail.com, ORCID ID: 0000-0001-8297-4957
- Joel Juarros-Basterretxea, Departamento de Psicología y Sociología, Facultad de Educación, Universidad de Zaragoza, España, e-mail: joeljuarros@unizar.es, ORCID ID: 0000-0002-7739-5421

Corresponding author: Loreto Ditzel, Universidad del Desarrollo, Facultad de Psicología, Chile, Av. Plaza 680, Las Condes, Santiago, Chile
E-mail: anaditzel@udd.cl

Abstract

Thematic importance: the submission corresponds to a study of children's subjective well-being from the Latin American countries of Brazil and Chile and their association with their material conditions. It is located within the theme of Child-focused indicators of social trends, policies, and child well-being, in the sub-theme of subjective well-being.

Introduction and objectives: The study of children's subjective well-being has gained relevance in recent years and has allowed us to have evidence from the children's self-report measures.. The international study of Children's Worlds has collected data associated with the well-being of children in more than 30 countries, facilitating the analysis and understanding of this vital stage and factors related to their quality of life. This presentation aims to analyze the relationships between material conditions and children's subjective well-being from Chile and Brazil, which correspond to the only two Latin American countries that participated in the third wave of this international study. The relationship between poverty and subjective well-being has been poorly researched in childhood and adolescence, and evidence suggests that income measures affect the subjective well-being of adults and children differently. Considering this complexity, it has been recommended that measures of material conditions would be a better predictor of children's subjective well-being than

income-based measures. The interest of this study was to know the relationship between material conditions and their effect on the different areas of children's interpersonal relationships. In turn, the relationships between material conditions and subjective well-being according to the gender and country of the children were also analyzed.

Method: The sample was composed of 3716 boys and girls (50.5% girls) between 10 and 12 years ($M = 11.4$ years), where 1787 children lived in Brazil (48.1%) and 1929 (51.6%) in Chile. The study included some of the instruments used in the Children's Worlds international study. For the study of the material conditions of the children, an analysis of latent classes was carried out. Subsequently, the effect of material conditions on children's subjective well-being and interpersonal relationships was analyzed through a multivariate analysis of covariance.

Results: The results showed that, although the mean scores on the subjective well-being of the children were high, the class analysis showed significant differences between the results of children with better material conditions than those with lower material conditions, with the latter presenting lower levels of subjective well-being. It was observed that children who have access to better material conditions showed significantly higher levels of subjective well-being and a more positive view of their interpersonal relationships in all areas evaluated than those who reported lower material conditions.

Conclusions and implications: The results are discussed considering the high rates of material deprivation in childhood in Latin America and how these findings can contribute to the understanding of the subjective well-being of children living in Latin American countries.