

Title: Comparing Israeli and Chilean Children's Subjective Well-being

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Abstract

An analysis of the subjective well-being (SWB) of 4942 children (49% girls) aged 10 and 12 from Israel and Chile will be presented, using the data of the third wave of the international Children's Worlds survey. According to the available evidence, it is the first study that analyzes, relates and compares SWB of the overall children's population between these two countries. The growing interest in the study of SWB in children has allowed researchers and professionals from various continents to have evidence-based information on how satisfied and happy children report being about themselves, their families, in their schools and in their neighborhoods. The objective of this study is to explore and compare the SWB of children from Chile and Israel and the associations between children's own views of the local neighborhood and their SWB. Research results and conceptual development have pointed out the importance of contexts in understanding children's well-being, psychosocial development and quality of life. Interpersonal relationships take on a relevant meaning in the SWB of children. Particularly relevant have been the close and everyday relationships of children in their self-reports of satisfaction with life. The neighborhood is a relevant part of the daily life of children and adolescents and evidence has shown that it affects their SWB. This study analyzes SWB and its relationship with the neighborhood, based on instruments used in the international study of Children's Worlds. It explores a mediation model, using multigroup structural equation modelling by country. Results showed an excellent fit of the model and a significant direct effect on children's SWB of having play spaces and feeling safe in the neighborhood. In turn, noticeable indirect effects were observed through satisfaction with the neighborhood on the SWB of the children. This pattern of relationship was observed in both Israeli and Chilean children. Differences were found between age groups and according to gender between countries. The results are discussed, analyzing their implications for the study of SWB in children, the possible relationships and cultural differences between both countries, as well as their implications in public policies in favor of children and adolescents.