



Happiness in a traumatized Country- The Children's Worlds Study in Rwanda

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ISCI-Conference 2015

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1. The Children's Worlds Study in Rwanda



- „In Rwanda you have the house and the fence and the cows they are sleeping in the yard. In the morning when you take the cows to the field the girls have to clean the yard. There is a place behind the yard where they put all the cow-poo. And of course you can imagine, that there it is very stinking and you can imagine, that this is not the best place to have your children. But: This is the place where the pumpkin, the banana and the flowers grow the best. And that's what we try to learn from our story in Rwanda: That this is a stinking story what happened. Let us at least try to grow something flourishing.“

Esther Mujawajo-Keiner 2014

1. The Children's Worlds Study in Rwanda



The Genocide

Starting on the 7th of April, Rwanda experienced a Genocide where –because of different ethnicity- about 1 Million people got murdered.

Children were victims in many ways:

-Children witnessed the murder of their families and got murdered themselves

-many children grew up without parents, with older siblings who replaced them in so called Childfamilies.

-Children were born as „Enfant non-Desirés“ because their mothers were victims of rape.

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„Vision 2020“

Alphabetization increased from 50-70%.

Economy grows about 7% per year.

More than 90% of children go to school.

Child-mortality is around 7,6% and the government focusses on the Millenium goal of the UN, to reach less than 5% within the next years.

But still, 60% of the Rwandan children live under absolute poverty measure.

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- International Survey on Child-Well-Being
- 34.500 Children in their mid-childhood where asked about different aspects of their subjective Child-Well-Being
- 10 Domains containing different kind of scales (satisfaction-and agreement-scales)
- Rwanda was part of the first wave that took place in 14 countries
- One aim of the study was to make the universal questionnaire fit in the ethnical framework of participating countries

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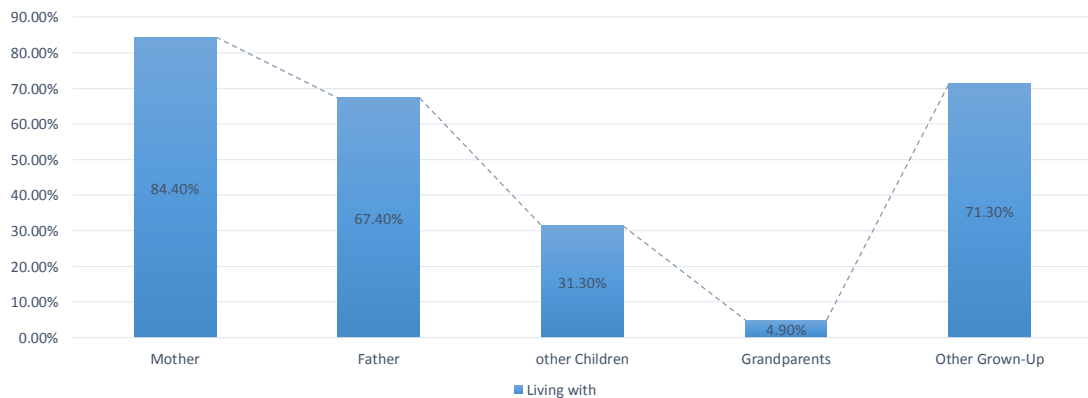


Which traces of the Genocide can be found in the data (within the system, within the structure and within subjective well-being)

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Living with



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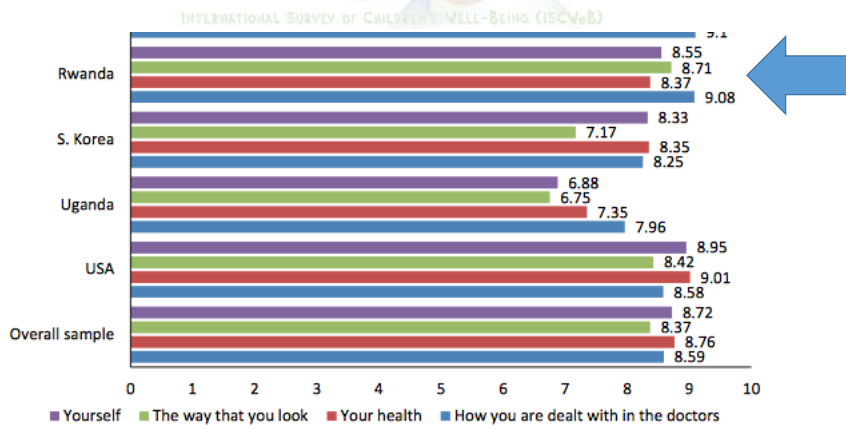
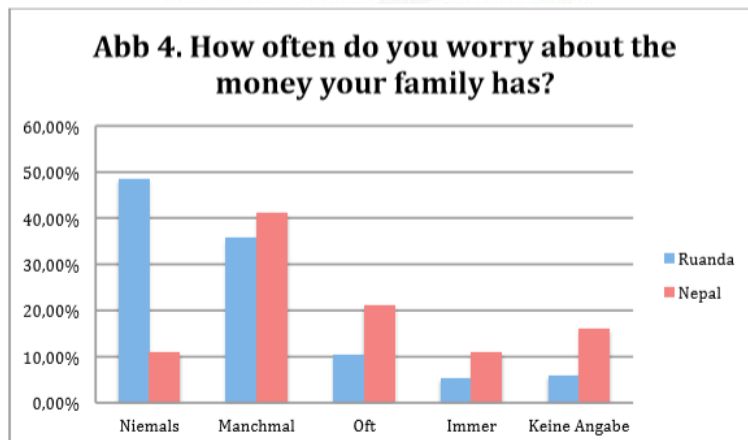
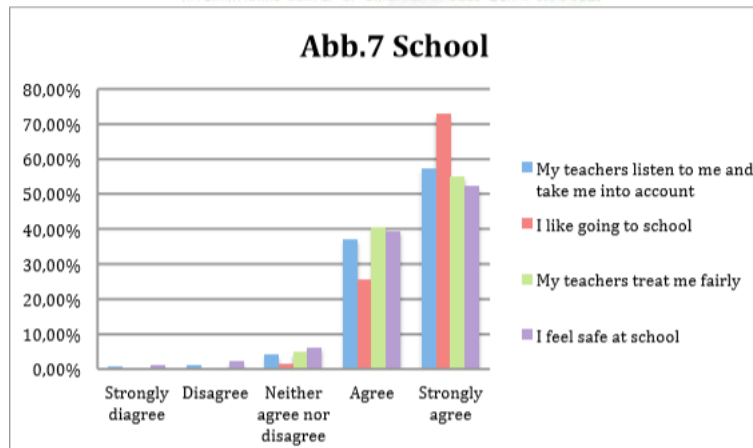


Figure 3.14: Satisfaction with health appearance and themselves

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1. The Children's Worlds Study in Rwanda



Table 3.9: Aspired values

	Friendliness	Relationships with people	Money	Power	Family	Personality	Kindness	Image
Algeria	9.35	9.28	6.91	8.19	9.27	9.26	9.31	8.58
Canada	8.85	9.08	7.72	7.90	9.34	9.13	9.19	8.70
Chile	8.62	8.54	7.32	6.97	9.26	8.95	8.94	8.70
Israel	9.15	9.20	8.28	8.69	9.64	9.43	9.47	9.10
Nepal	8.49	7.92	7.11	7.99	9.05	8.17	8.71	8.35
Romania	9.40	9.25	7.16	8.25	9.45	9.41	9.47	8.90
Rwanda	9.33	9.38	8.33	8.92	8.36	9.20	9.55	9.06
S. Korea	7.08	8.08	7.45	7.36	8.70	7.95	7.83	7.83
Uganda	8.52	8.36	8.49	8.59	8.53	8.61	8.76	8.64
USA	8.39	8.72	7.48	7.41	9.19	9.05	8.95	8.54
Overall*	8.72	8.77	7.61	8.00	9.16	8.90	9.01	8.62

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Comparing children in a Protectory to children that live with their families.

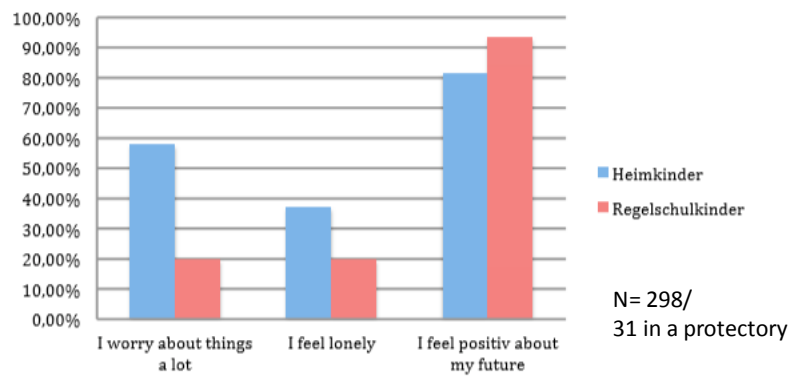
- Protectory belonged to a NGO from Italy
- Only 4 Children to share one room
- 10 children per class
- A room to wash, 3 meals per day, pets, a basketball-court aso.

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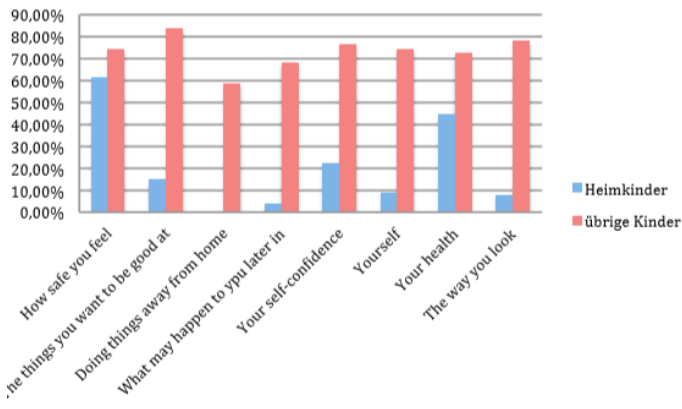
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1. The Children's Worlds Study in Rwanda



Abb. 20 Selbstwirksamkeit/ Zufriedenheit mit...



1. The Children's Worlds Study in Rwanda



	Heimkinder		Übrige Kinder		Ges.	Ges.
	Agree	Strongly agree	Agree	Strongly agree		
My life is going well	63,0%	14,8%	41,4%	42,5%	77,8%	84,0%
My life is just right	40,7%	22,2%	44,3%	40%	63,0%	84,3%
I would like to change many things in my life	51,9%	14,8%	36,4%	46,8%	66,6%	83,2%
I wish I had a different kind of life	63,0%	18,9%	36,8%	44,6%	81,5%	81,4%
I have a good life	40,7%	22,2%	46,4%	36,1%	62,5%	82,5%
I have what I want in life	62,9%	00,0%	33,6%	22,5%	62,9%	56,1%
My life is better than most kids	63,0%	00,0%	29,6%	24,3%	63,0%	54,0%

1. The Children's Worlds Study in Rwanda



Traumatization can be shown:

- The comparison shows, that children, that live with their families are more “happy” and content with their future (even under material deprivation)
- Some results don't explain themselves and leave room for interpretation.
- Some other results differ from the average (even with comparable countries) and show the very special situation in Rwanda
- Some traces of the genocide and the following traumatising may be structural, some within the system and others can be seen in subjective well-being

Conclusion:

Even though the children, that were asked, did not experience the genocide themselves, they are still victims of it and they are traumatized

Further research needs to be done, to make sure that the questionnaire fits to that special situation and is more cultural sensitive. Also it's necessary to find out more about the traumatization in Rwanda

2. Vulnerability within Well-Being



„Subjective well-being is an umbrella term for different valuations that people make regarding their lives, the events happening to them, their bodies and minds and the circumstances.“ (Diener 2006: 400)

2. Vulnerability within Child-Well-Being



Well-being is affected in 3 ways:

1. Because the country and the parents experienced a civil war
2. Because children can be construct vulnerable (systematically, structural and subjectively)
3. Children are vulnerable because they ARE vulnerable as human beings itself

2. Vulnerability within Well-Being



Well-being can not only tell us something about how happy children are and how happy they should be. Well-being can also tell us about how vulnerability is constructed. It makes it also possible to find a concept about vulnerability within the concept of Well-being.

Thank you for your attention!

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