

CYCLES



Young Lives in Seven Cities.



Dhaka
BANGLADESH

The project.

Children and Youth in Cities: Lifestyles Evaluation and Sustainability (CYCLES) is an international research project based in seven cities that span six continents: Christchurch, NZ; Dhaka, BD; Makhandha, SA; London, UK; New Delhi, IN; São Paulo, BR; Yokohama, JP. It seeks to understand the urban experiences and ideas for living well within environmental limits of young people aged 12-24 living in these diverse cities.

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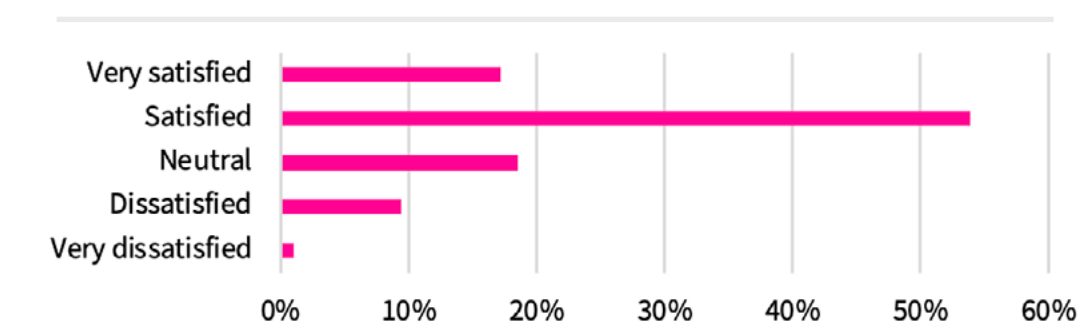
The city.

With over half of Dhaka's population estimated to be under the age of 25, young people are pivotal to the rapid urban growth and mass migration into the city. Dhaka is one of the fastest expanding cities in the world, doubling in size between 1990 and 2005. For young people, the consequences of inequality and insecurity associated with rapid and dense urbanisation are significant. Dhaka provides vibrant educational, employment and recreation opportunities not available elsewhere in Bangladesh. Yet the city is also increasingly characterized by poor housing, excessively high land and food prices, poor sanitation and drainage, irregular electric supply, unplanned construction, and increasing air pollution.



What is important for living well

Life satisfaction



- Having good relationships with family and friends, being healthy, having a good education, and being able to give help and support to others were the most important things for a good life across all age groups.
- Unfortunately, few respondents reported they have a clean environment and enough safe water (35%) and about a third of survey participants reported feeling safe on the streets (33%). 58 per cent of all survey participants reported they had access to good education or opportunities to build skills.
- Nearly 50% per cent of participants believed they could individually effect change in the city and even more (63%) felt that together people could make a difference.
- Positive aspects of the city included services and facilities and environment, with about 59 per cent of participants reporting that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their access to shopping and markets.

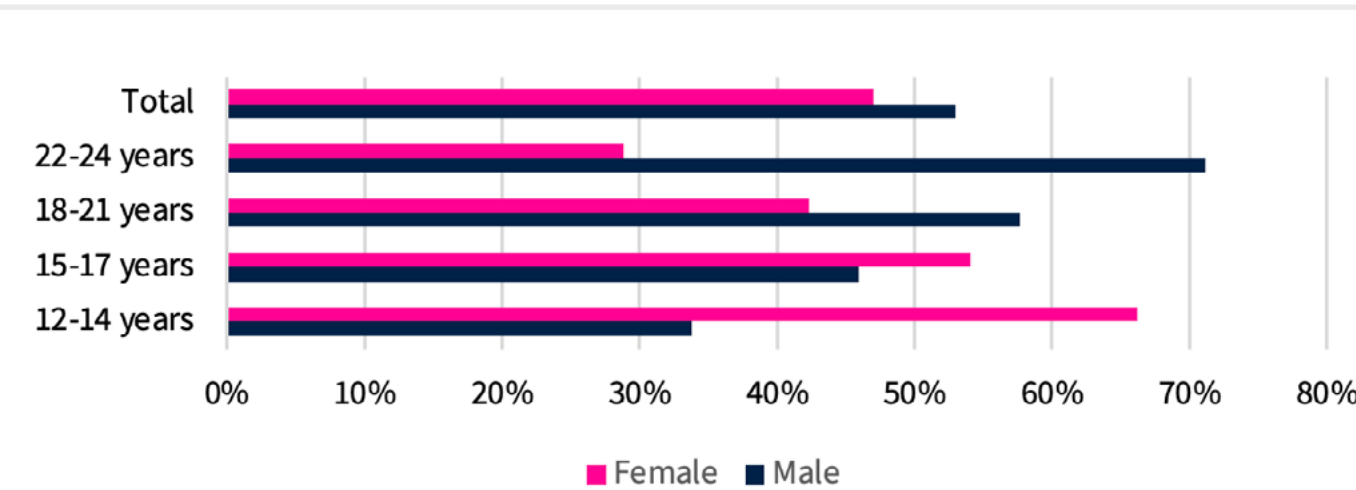
The survey.

The survey was carried out in December 2019 to January 2020. It surveyed 304 young people aged 12-24 about what it was like to live in Dhaka, their wellbeing, and their lifestyles.

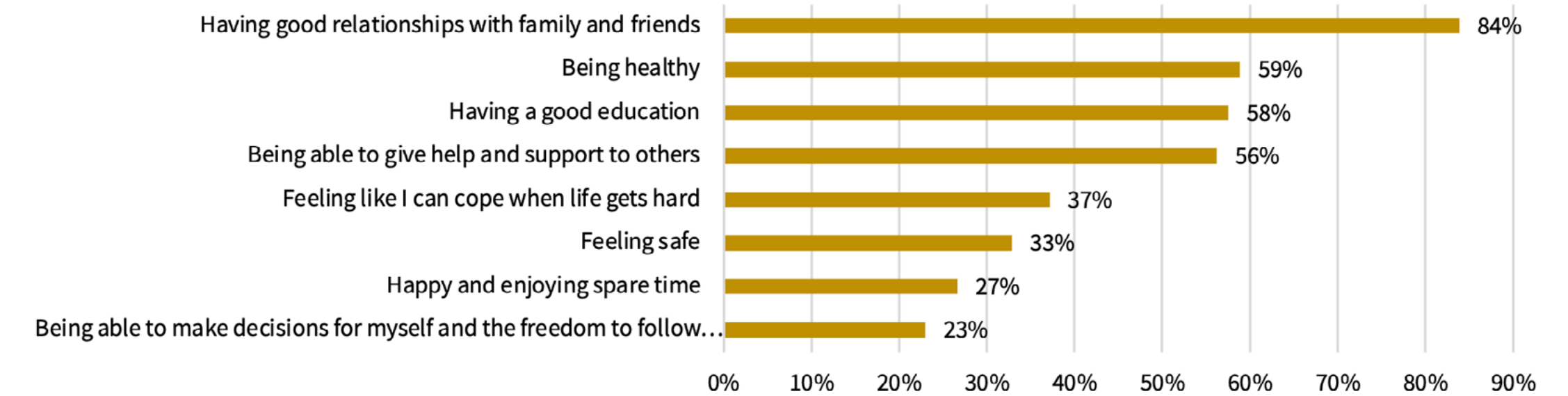
Some young people completed the survey online and others completed the survey using pen and paper.

The final Dhaka sample represented diversity across genders and economic backgrounds, with young people located in low-income (32.5%; Ward 1), mid-income (35.0%; Wards 2-16) and high-income (32.5%; Wards 33-34) areas.

Survey participants age and gender



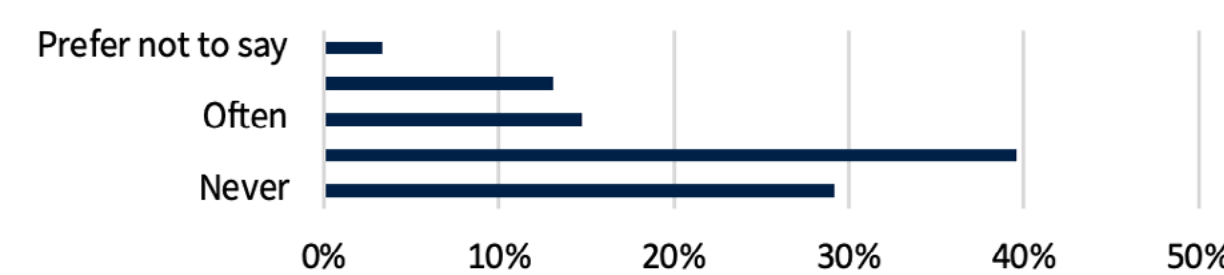
Factors important for wellbeing



Young people's wellbeing in Dhaka.

- 77 per cent of young people were satisfied or very satisfied with their lives.
- But 67 per cent worried about money to some extent, with about a quarter (28%) worrying often or always.

Worry about money



The worst things about living in Dhaka...





Prosperity Matters

What can prosperity possibly mean in a world of environmental, social and economic limits?—We work with people, policy and business to address this question, developing pragmatic steps towards a shared and lasting prosperity.

Find out more about the CYCLES project via:
www.cusp.ac.uk/cycles

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All of those pictured consented to their photo being taken and used.