CYCLES
Young Lives in Seven Cities.

SWECHHA
EDUCATION. ENVIRONMENT. ENTERPRISE

New Delhi
INDIA

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; Makhanda, 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.

New Delhi has experienced the fastest growth in India, and some estimates suggest as many as half of its 7 million children and adolescents live in slums and unauthorized resettlement colonies. Recent research into the attitudes and experiences of India's young people highlights the overall importance of income, education and location—in rural or urban areas. Within cities, rapid population and economic growth has brought its own challenges, including considerable pressure on infrastructure.
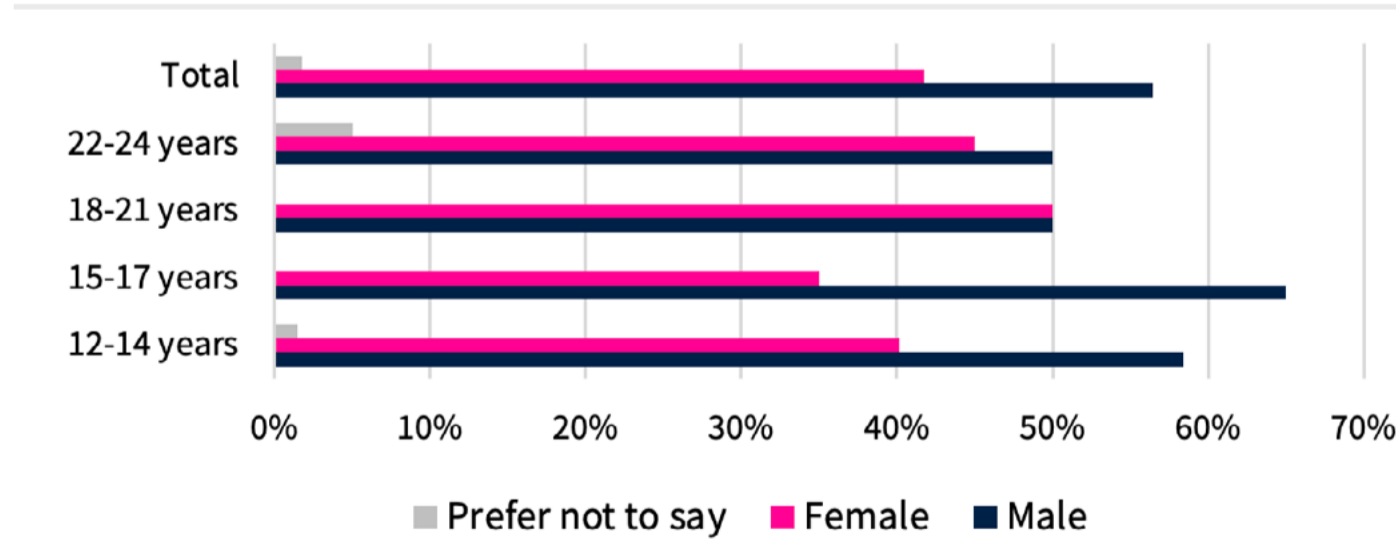
The survey.

The New Delhi CYCLES survey was carried out in November 2019 to March 2020. It surveyed 229 young people aged 12-24 about what it was like to live in New Delhi, their wellbeing, and their lifestyles.
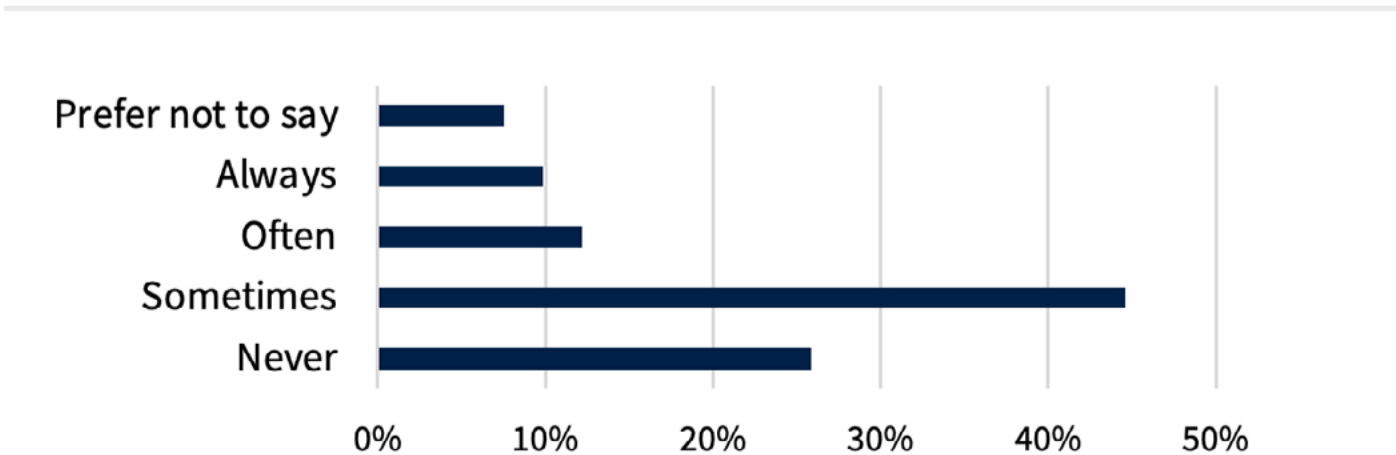
Survey participants reflected a diverse group of young people from different social income groups that reside in Delhi.

The survey was carefully facilitated to ensure wide representation of young people studying in private schools as well as government schools in New Delhi. Young people living in low-income areas were also recruited through non-governmental organizations.

Survey participants age and gender

Total, 22-24 years, 18-21 years, 15-17 years, 12-14 years
(X-axis: 0% to 70%)
Legend: Prefer not to say (grey), Female (pink), Male (dark blue)

Worry about money

Prefer not to say, Always, Often, Sometimes, Never
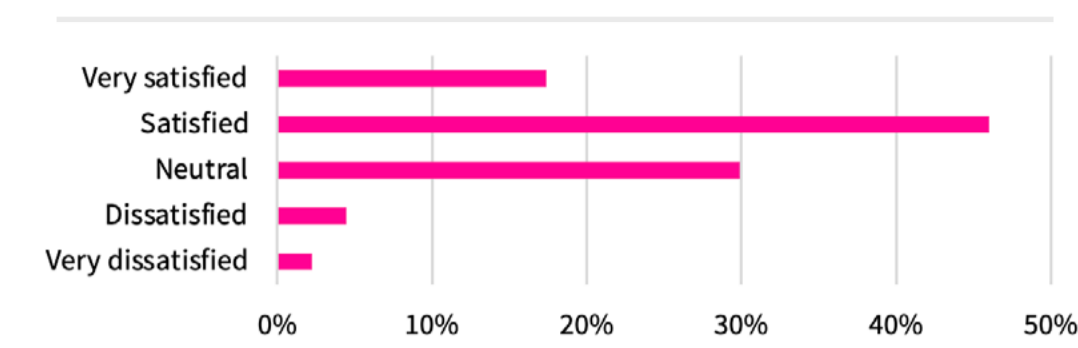(X-axis: 0% to 50%)

Young people's wellbeing in New Delhi.

- 63 per cent of young people were satisfied or very satisfied with their lives.
- But nearly 67 per cent worried about money to some extent, with 22 per cent worrying often or always.
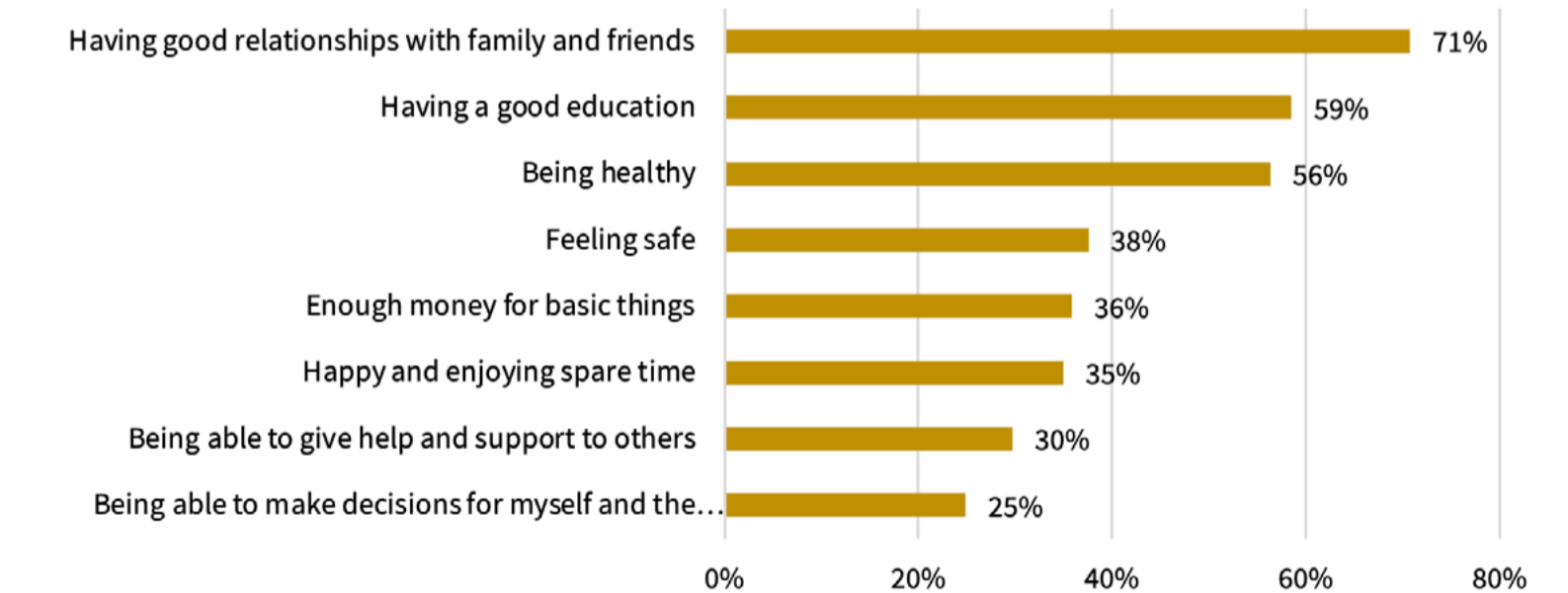
What is important for living well

Life satisfaction

Very satisfied, Satisfied, Neutral, Dissatisfied, Very dissatisfied
(X-axis: 0% to 50%)

- Having good relationships with significant others, having a good education and being healthy were the most important things for a good life across all age groups.
- Unfortunately, only half of survey participants reported being satisfied or very satisfied with feeling safe on the streets (49%). In particular, the safety of women in public spaces were an area of concern for respondents. Poor air quality and persistence of issues related to water and land pollution were other issues of concern for well-being.
- 62 per cent of participants believed they could individually effect change in the city and 50 per cent felt that together people could make a difference.
- Positive aspects of the city included a sense of belongingness, an urban space, and easy to access open and green spaces. About 79 per cent reporting they were satisfied or very satisfied with their access to educational opportunities.

Factors important for wellbeing

Factor	Percentage
Having good relationships with family and friends	71%
Having a good education	59%
Being healthy	56%
Feeling safe	38%
Enough money for basic things	36%
Happy and enjoying spare time	35%
Being able to give help and support to others	30%
Being able to make decisions for myself and the…	25%

(X-axis: 0% to 80%)

The worst things about living in New Delhi…

…and the best things.

London ○
Yokohama ●
New Delhi ●
Dhaka ●
São Paulo ●
Makhanda (formerly Grahamstown) ○
Christchurch ●

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: wwww.cusp.ac.uk/cycles

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CUSP Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity

UKRI Economic and Social Research Council