

Spiritual State of the World's Children

Ghana





Spiritual State of the World's Children A Quantitative Study

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR MINISTRY

Ghana

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ONEHOPE

OneHope is a non-profit organization with a mission to *affect destiny by providing God's eternal Word to all the children and youth of the world.* With programs in over 125 nations OneHope has reached over 500 million children and young people with a special presentation of the life of Jesus. Committed to presenting God's Word in a format that is relevant and dynamic, research is a critical step in the development of country and age specific products and programs.



The Metadigm Group is a non-profit research organization with the goal of equipping other organizations to conduct research and improve their efficacy. Processes necessary to achieve organizational priorities and embed research skills into day-to-day organizational operations are developed through seamless processes offered in data collection, strategic planning, market profiles, and outcomes development. For more information, visit www.metadigmgroup.com or email us at info@metadigmgroup.com.

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Section I: Key Issues Analysis

Key Issues

- Family composition
 - 62% - two parent family
 - 14% - one parent has died
 - 21% - parents are divorced or separated
 - 2% - both of their parents have died
 - 7% - live with a grandparent
 - 2% - do not live with an adult

- Perception of Family
 - Definition of family
 - 85% define family as those related by birth, adoption or marriage
 - 8% define family as people who share the same set of values and goals
 - Function of family
 - Place for children –
 - 45% consider unmarried men and women with children a family
 - 43% consider a single women with children a family
 - Relationship –
 - 12% consider unmarried man and women a family
 - 13% consider cohabiting divorced women a family

- Relationship with parents
 - 32% spend more than 60 minutes a week talking with their father about things that really matter
 - 50% spend more than 60 minutes a week talking with their mothers about things that really matter

- Safety and Security of home
 - 39% feel their home is a place where they feel safe and loved
 - 9% are uncomfortable and rather be elsewhere

- Marriage
 - 90% feel that they will be happy in their marriage
 - 89% believe God intended marriage to last a life time
 - 53% feel the traditional family does not play a significant role in the stability of society
 - 38% report there is too much pressure to get married
 - 38% would rather live together without marriage
 - 22% approve of divorce even when children are involved
 - 20% indicate that anyone who gets married should anticipate divorce

- Sexuality
 - 23% have had sexual intercourse
 - Most likely to learn about sex from television or movies, then sex-related magazines/books, textbooks (school) and friends
 - They are least likely to learn about sex from their parents

- Satisfaction with Life
 - 35% of respondents indicate they are very satisfied and 34% somewhat satisfied with their lives
 - Over the past three months
 - 44% indicate they have lied to older people in their lives and 53% to their peers
 - Boys are significantly more likely to have watched pornography or read pornographic magazines
 - Girls are more likely to have lied or watched MTV

- Influences
 - 71% Bible
 - 66% Christian Faith
 - 66% Parents
 - 63% Teachers
 - 62% Text books

- Moral behavior
 - About 60% are pragmatic indicating in several ways that moral behavior is relative and justified by whether or not it “works”
 - 65% feel lying is sometimes a necessity
 - 58% feel bending the rules is okay
 - 30% feel that breaking the law is okay if it does not hurt anyone

- Factors providing future satisfaction
 - 84% relationship with God
 - 82% having a degree
 - 80% good physical health
 - 79% comfortable lifestyle

- Religious Practice
 - 95% religion is somewhat or very important to them
 - 60% report weekly or daily prayer
 - 46% read scriptures, including the Bible or Koran, weekly or daily
 - Over 30% participate in weekly or daily religious activities

Strengths & Opportunities

- Most students enrolled in secondary school and technical school perceive their performance to be generally good or excellent
- A high percentage of students reported that their parents are married and they live in two-parent households, which can enhance the family system and society
- A very high percentage believe they will be happy in their marriage which may mean they have confidence in the marriage system
- Strong values place on traditional family relationships as opposed to alternative relationships, such as homosexuality and unmarried couples living together
- Data shows a very high interaction with mothers and a fairly high interaction with fathers
- Students report very high percentage of satisfaction with their lives
- Students aspire to have relationship with God, which may mean they would embrace a strong ministry program
- Education is seen as a necessity in achieving future goals

Weaknesses & Threats

- Considerable amount of students reported engaging in intense sexual activity which can lead to HIV/AIDS and pregnancy
- Sexual knowledge is reported to be learned more from TV, internet, pornography, friends than through parents and teachers
- Divorce rates for parents of students in this study seem to be high and may effect students general well-being
- Moral behavior is relative and justified by whether or not it “works”

Research Recommendations

- Prepare to take advantage of the growing interest in electronic media
- Highlight moral role models for the youth to emulate
- Establish family and education programs that will build upon existing family values, lower rates of divorce and enhance purity
- Strengthen programs that encourage agreement of beliefs and practice in students

Section II: Project Description

Acknowledgments

This project was made possible in part by funding from the Maclellan Foundation and Global Ministries - Book of Hope International.

We acknowledge the cooperation of the Ghanaian Ministry of Education, the headmasters and staff of the schools included in the sample, the cooperation of students, volunteers and the Book of Hope Ghana Staff.

The instrument administered in this study was made available by Josh McDowell Ministries.

Overview

OneHope seeks to understand what children and youth deal with in their day-to-day realities. We know that children and youth face a variety of social challenges and experience psycho-social needs to which they are often left without effective responses. We do know that the needs of children vary from country to country and even regionally within countries. However, without reliable information we are unable to tailor our products and distribution programs to address needs specific to particular contexts.

While the issues and challenges facing children and youth in developed countries are researched and documented, those in developing countries are not. Without an accurate analysis of their contexts these populations are treated as though they share a common reality. An awareness of the immediate reality of children is often discovered only after ministry has begun and resources have been committed to a project.

As part of OneHope's *Spiritual State of the World's Children* study, the Attitudes and Behaviors of the Youth (ABY) project will capture the following information about children in Ghana:

- Typical family situations, relationships and parental contact
- Behaviors and moral values guiding relationships with peers of the opposite sex
- Daily occupations and pastimes
- Worldviews, influences, beliefs, future goals, and religious affiliation
- Theological perspectives and commitment

Research Methodology

The ABY survey is a stratified random survey of secondary school children. The survey was stratified by degree of urbanization and gender for Ghana. Additional strata that permit analysis are: family composition, ethnicity, and religious affiliation.

The core survey was constructed using the Survey of Juveniles designed by Chris Sleath of Josh McDowell Ministries. The survey was administered in secondary schools in English. Surveys were administered in randomly selected accessible¹ schools segregated by population density (proportional to national population distribution of urban-rural residents) to students in the schools randomized by gender (proportional to the national ratio of male-female).

¹ Schools considered inaccessible are those that are in conflict zones, areas of extremely low population or that cannot be reached by public transportation.

Project Overview

The time frame for data collection was October 2007 through January 2008. Lucy Armah served as the local Research Coordinator for the Ghana research project. Oversight was provided by Kimberly Morrison and Dr. Allen Reesor of Pompano Beach, Florida. The research followed project design instructions (see below under Logistics).

Data was entered into a web-based database which was hosted by Philip Issa of Elite Survey and assessed by Rene Paulson, Ph.D. The final report employs Dr. Paulson's analysis of the data and is supplemented with secondary data when applicable and primary qualitative data.

The final report will be made available to ministry partners who promote ministry to children and youth through collaborative research.

Logistics

Review

National leaders reviewed the survey and recommended minor edits.

Randomization

Reliability of the survey results depends upon consistent randomization of the participants. Two strata of randomization that govern participant selection employed in this project were gender and population density distributions.

Ghana Education Service provided a list of schools segregated by population density.

Population density was interpreted as either urban or rural. Additionally, the study population was further segregated into one of two classes: less than one hundred thousand or between one hundred thousand and one million. This list was used to select randomly identified schools at Book of Hope Headquarters. The list of randomized schools was returned to the local Research Coordinator for review. Schools that were inaccessible (see footnote on inaccessibility above) were replaced by following randomization procedures.

To ensure that gender participation reflects the male/female ratio of the national population, randomization by gender was finalized when students were selected for participation.

Verifying Access

Contact was made with the Heads of Schools, or their associates, prior to dates of interviews in order to prepare them to discuss the administration of survey instruments. Research Assistants then met with the administration of each school to explain the survey and obtain school consent for participation.

Survey Printing

A master copy of the survey response form was forwarded electronically to the local Research Coordinator who received bids for the printing of 5,000 collated and stapled copies.

Quality Control

Hard copies of the survey response form were randomly assessed to evaluate survey validity. Hard copy survey response forms will be retained by the local coordinator in Ghana for one year to verify the accuracy of data entry if needed and as a back up to electronic data files. The surveys are kept confidential and will be turned over to a designated OneHope headquarters representative on or about 12 months following the close of data collection. After 12 months, a OneHope representative will oversee the destruction of all hard copy surveys.

Implementation & Survey Administration

Data Collection

The survey was administered in the schools identified by randomization and previously contacted. The research agent identified the number of classes in session on the day of the survey.

- If the average class size at a school was less than 30 students, 15 classes were randomly selected for inclusion in the study. 15 students from each class were randomly selected proportional to the male/female ratio for Ghana.
- If the average class size at a school was more than 30 students, 10 classes were randomly selected for inclusion in the study. 22 students from each class were randomly selected proportional to the male/female ratio for Ghana.

Students were asked to voluntarily participate. Participants were administered the survey in groups that could be accommodated in a classroom. Approximately 200 students were surveyed at each school.

The surveys were conducted by two people. A brief scripted introduction was read aloud and students were given the opportunity to ask questions. Administrators took turns reading each question aloud to students.

Data Entry

The local Research Coordinator was responsible for accurate input of the data into the web-based survey database.

Section III: Profile of Youth in Ghana

Demographic Profile

This survey is under-represented in the 13-15 year old age group. Additionally, most of the participants surveyed attend either a senior secondary school or a technical school. Most students (54%) report that their school performance is good, with 26% reporting their performance as excellent and 17% reporting an average performance. 14% of students in areas of high population density identify themselves as average in their school performance. While youth in areas of low or high population density are statistically similar in their reporting of an excellent school performance, youth in mid-density areas were significantly less likely to report having an excellent school performance.

Approximately 50% of participants indicated that their fathers' profession is in agriculture. Males were 9% more likely than females to select this category. After agriculture, youth selected professional (18%) as their father's profession. 45% of respondents identified their mothers' profession as agriculture. Males again were more likely (at 11%) than females to select this category. The second most often selected category for mother's profession at 22% was service industry; girls were 8% more likely to select this category than boys.

Approximately 60% of youth reported that their parents are married. 21% reported having parents who are divorced while 3% indicated that their parents are divorced but remarried. 16% report that one or both parents have died. Students in the medium population density category are over 10% more likely to have parents who are divorced. 66% report that they live with two parents; however, approximately 12% more students from mid-density areas indicate living with a step parent than those from a low or high population density area. 9% of all youth report that they live with a grandparent or no parent

Family Relationships

85% of participants define a family as being those related to each other by means of birth, adoption or marriage. Regardless of levels of urbanization or gender, a clear majority of youth selected this definition of family over other choices. While in most cases, youth indicated an unwillingness to define alternative relationships as a family, approximately 40-45% of respondents were willing to define an unmarried couple with children or a single woman with children as a family. Approximately 90% of youth indicated that homosexual relationships do not constitute a family.

While 39% of youth feel that their home is a safe place where they are loved, 9% indicated feeling uncomfortable in their homes.

14% of participants reported that their father is not alive. Over 60% indicate having a fairly close or very close relationship with their father. Males are slightly more likely than females to do something special with their fathers. There appears to be some correlation between population density and expressions of love between a child and his/her parent. Students in less populated areas indicated expressing love or experiencing their father's love more than youth in areas of high population density. 32% indicated spending one or more hours a week talking with their fathers. Of the 24% reporting no time in conversation, we can assume that this includes the 14% whose fathers are deceased. The level of interaction with fathers significantly decreases with increased population density. Yet overall, the data shows a high level of paternal interaction with youth

Over 80% of students reported that they are fairly or very close to their mothers and overall, the data shows a very high level of maternal interaction with youth. Females are slightly more likely than males

to do something special with their mothers. About 50% spend one or more hours a week talking with their mothers. Of the 9% reporting no time in conversation, we can assume that this includes the 5% whose mothers are deceased. Females are more likely to talk with their mothers an hour or more than males. Youth from a mid-density area were somewhat less likely (at 41%) to spend 1 or more hours talking with their mothers than youth from less or more densely populated areas (approximately 50%).

Overall, participants indicated that they believe their parents set good examples, demonstrate genuine love for their spouse, are interested in who they are, and spend time with them; however, students also responded that their parents expect more from them than what they believe is fair and that their parents do not always trust them. Females are slightly more likely to indicate that they are not trusted by their parents and that their parents are too strict.

While 90% feel that they will be happy in their marriage, 74% believe that it is difficult to have a successful marriage in the present day. 53% indicated wanting a marriage like their parents. Overall, females expressed a more optimistic outlook on marriage. Additionally, females were 12% more likely to want to be a virgin at marriage than males. As urbanization increases, students indicate less belief in the idea that it is difficult to have successful marriages in the present day. In somewhat of a contradiction, youth in more urban areas tend to believe that people getting married in the present day should expect to get divorced. Youth in highly populated areas were also more likely to express admiration for singleness.

Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex

Overall, sexual activity decreases as it becomes more intense and intimate.

23% of participants indicated having had sexual intercourse. Males, older youth and rural youth were more likely to have engaged in sexual intercourse than their counterparts. Less than 10% of those surveyed feel that more intense and intimate activities are always acceptable for unmarried persons who love each other and are willing. This finding varies only slightly by gender and population density. The most likely reason to justify sexual intercourse is the intent to marry another person. Males are more likely to be influenced by friends in regards to their personal decision to have sex than females. Overall youth are more likely to learn about sex through TV and movies, followed by sex-related magazines and books, classmates or friends, and textbooks. Students indicated having learned the least about sex from their parents.

Beliefs and Perspectives on Daily Life

Approximately 70% indicate that they are satisfied or very satisfied with their lives. Good physical health, a close relationship with God and obtaining a degree were the three areas that students indicated the strongest desire to have in their futures. Of least importance to students for their future is the ability to influence the lives of other people.

Most participants indicated reading or studying as the activities (from those queried) that garner most of their time each week. Youth from a mid-density area indicated spending more time reading the Bible than their peers in less or more highly populated areas. Additionally, this same group of students report spending slightly more time than the overall population in reading the Bible. Rural youth are more likely to listen to music and search for information on the web than those living in densely populated communities. The most significant new cultural products that students prefer were electronic devices such as cell phones, laptop computers and MP3 players.

Students indicated that the Christian faith and the Bible significantly influence their thoughts and actions. Parents, teachers, and textbooks are also important influences. Other religious faiths are least likely to be an influence. Rural children reported that the Bible, parents, teachers, the Christian faith, textbooks, siblings and community religions leaders also have some influence over their thoughts and actions. Those living in highly populated areas reported being significantly less influenced than their peers by the Bible, Christianity and their teachers.

About 60% indicated several ways that moral behavior is relative and justified by whether or not it “works.” Over the past three months, 21% of youth queried reporting watching a pornographic movie and gambling. . Boys are significantly more likely to have watched or read pornographic materials than girls; however, more girls watching MTV in the past three months than boys. Over 40% of all students indicated lying to adults in their lives and 53% reported lying to their peers. While boys reported lying more to adults, girls indicated lying more to their peers. Rural participants are more likely than urban students to have lied to a peer (by 20%), watched MTV (by 17%), lied to an adult (by 9%), watched a pornographic movie (by 7%), intentionally try to emotionally hurt someone (by 5%) and urban participants are more likely than rural participants to have cheated on an exam (by 5%), stole (by 5%), and have had suicidal thoughts (by 5%). Sub-urban youth track more closely to rural youth than to those in major urban centers.

Religious Background and Practice

There was little difference by gender on religious background.

38% of participants are Roman Catholic, 30% Protestant, 10% Islamic, 13% other religions, and 9% indicated having no religious affiliation. Youth in medium density areas were more likely to be Catholic while rural youth were more likely to be Protestant. 94% of youth indicated hearing about Jesus or the Bible from a Church; however, 84% indicated having heard about these things from their family and friends as well. Males are slightly more likely to indicate Western literature as a source of information about Jesus and the Bible. 78% also believe that all people pray to the same God. Overwhelmingly, students indicated (at 85%) a belief in God as the omnipotent creator and ruler of the world over all other choices as to the nature of God.

More Urban youth indicated a belief that a good life and right action are more important than a belief in Jesus Christ. Additionally, urban youth were more likely than their rural peers to believe that Jesus Christ committed sin like other people.

Over 90% believe that the Bible is accurate, that Jesus Christ was virgin born, that people will be judged by God after death, and that forgiveness of sins can only occur through faith in Jesus Christ. Most (62%) believe that accepting Christ as their Savior is the most certain access to heaven; however, 16% indicated that following the rites of any religion will place them in heaven. 10% indicated that a person cannot know what happens after death. Students from mid-density area were reported that believing in Jesus Christ as their personal savior would garner a place in heaven than youth from less or more populated areas. Across population density, however, this response was the overwhelming choice for how one can attain heaven. Rural populations were also more likely to agree that Satan is an expression of evil not a living being.

With little difference in any category, 88% of respondents indicated that their faith is very important to them. With only slight differences among the various populations, about 85% indicate they have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ².

Prayer is the most frequently practiced spiritual discipline followed by the reading of spiritual texts. 46% of respondents indicated reading some form of religious scriptures either weekly or daily. Youth in medium populated areas were most likely to read religious scripture and attend religious services or religious training classes.

Nearly 60% indicate that they attend weekly or daily religious services. Mothers were slightly more likely than fathers to regularly attend religious services. Youth in medium populations are more likely to be involved in regular religious practice than youth in less or more highly populated areas.

Of those students that indicated attending a religious youth group meetings, most reported attending groups numbering between 10-30 participants. Overall, urban youth are least likely to be involved in religious youth group meetings. For those urban youth who did indicate attending such groups, they were more likely than those in less populated areas to attend groups of 40 or more persons. With no difference between groups, 72% indicate that they are very likely to be involved in regular religious services after high school and 19% indicated that they are somewhat likely to be involved after they graduate high school.

² Only youth that indicated a Christian religious affiliation were queried on making a personal decision for Christ; as such, the 85% is not based on findings from all students that took part in this study.

Section IV: Ghana Secondary Data

**Secondary Research Profile
GHANA**



DEMOGRAPHICS & POPULATION	
Population	22,801,662
Population (under 15 yrs)	39%
Population % of children in child labor (5-14)	Not available
Internet users per capita	609,800 (2006)
Cell phones per capita	5.207 million (2006)
Radios per capita	12,500,000
Televisions per capita	86.5761 per 1,000
Personal Computers per capita	5.17 per 1 million people
Life Expectancy	59.9yrs
Birth Rate (per 1,000 people)	29.85
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	57.44
% Urban / Rural Population	38% vs 62%
Largest City / Population	Accra – 2,096,653
EDUCATION & LITERACY	
Literacy Rate (over 15 yrs)	74.8%
Primary Enrollment	64%
Primary completion by gender (rate male/female)	75.22%/68.75%
Literacy Rate – Males	82.7%
Literacy Rate – Females	68.75%
ECONOMICS	
GDP (purchasing power parity) (per capita) (2006)	\$2,700.00
GDP (official exchange rate) (per capita)	\$2.3 billion (US)
Poverty Rate (% below poverty line)	31.4%

SOCIAL			
Human Development Index ³ (out of 177)	136	Prisoners (per capita)	10,992
Divorce Rate as percent of Marriages	Not Available	Adult prevalence rate 15-49 with HIV AIDS	37 per 1,000 people
Unemployment Rate	20%	All registered NGOs	Not available
Murder (per capita) 1,000 people	Not available	Population below Poverty Line	Not available

This data is drawn from CountryWatch.com, World Health Organization, and public domain data. Statistics are generally from 2005 but may be earlier if none more recent are available.

³ Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite index that measures the level of well-being in 177 nations in the world. It uses factors such as poverty, literacy, life expectancy, education, gross domestic product, and purchasing power parity to assess the average achievements in each nation. It has been used in the UN's Human Development Report since 1993.

Governmental children’s organizations and agencies (secular)	Not available	Teen Pregnancy (15-19 yrs)	Not available
Thefts reported (2008)	Not available	Child Prostitution	Not Available
Estimated number of children (ages 0-14) living with HIV, 2007 (thousands)	Not available	Orphans, Children (aged 0–17) orphaned due to all causes, 2007, estimate (thousands)	Not available
Homelessness	Not available	Drug Usage/Alcoholism	Not available
ETHNIC GROUPS & RELIGIONS			
Moshi-Dagomba		Christian	63%
Akan		Indigenous beliefs	21%
Ewe		Muslim	16%
Ga			
Gurma			
Yoruba			
European			
English (official), indigenous African (including Asante Twi, Akuapim Twi, Fante, Ewe, Ga-Adangme, Nzema, Dagbani, Dagaari, Kasem, Frafra, Buli, Kusaal, Sisaala, Gonja)			