

Spiritual State of the World's Children

South Korea





Spiritual State of the World's Children A Quantitative Study

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

South Korea

May 2011

Prepared by:



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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 620 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.



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When citing this report, please use the following reference:

OneHope, Inc. (2011). *Spiritual state of the world's children: a quantitative study. Executive summary. South Korea*. Retrieved from: <http://onehope.net/sswc/country-research/>

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Section I: Key Issues Analysis

Key Issues

- Family composition
 - 92% indicate living in a two-parent family
 - 6% indicate parents are divorced, separated, or remarried
 - 3% indicate living with their mother or stepmother only
- Perception of Family
 - Definition of family
 - 64% define family as any person or group whom you love or care about deeply
 - 25% define family as those related by birth, adoption or marriage
 - 9% define family as any group of people who live together
 - 2% define family as any group of people who shares the same set of values and goals in the life
 - Function of family
 - Place for children –
 - 73% consider a single woman with children a family
 - 70% consider an unmarried man and woman with children a family
 - Relationship –
 - 34% consider homosexual women a family
 - 33% consider homosexual men a family
 - 31% consider an unmarried man and woman a family
- Relationship with parents
 - 48% spend less than 15 minutes a week talking with their father about things that really matter
 - 22% spend more than 60 minutes a week talking with their father about things that really matter
 - 22% spend less than 15 minutes a week talking with their mother about things that really matter
 - 46% spend more than 60 minutes a week talking with their mothers about things that really matter
- Safety and Security of home
 - 55% feel their home is a place where they feel safe and loved
 - 26% feel only sometimes loved in their homes
 - 8% feel comfortable in their home, but would not consider their family close
 - 6% feel each person in their family is trying to love another
 - 5% are uncomfortable and would rather be elsewhere
- Marriage
 - 82% feel that they will be happy in their marriage
 - 61% believe marriage problems have been exaggerated
 - 53% approve of divorce even when children are involved
 - 48% feel the traditional family does not play a significant role in the stability of society
 - 40% believe God intended marriage to last a life time
 - 33% indicate that anyone who gets married should anticipate divorce
 - 18% admire single life
 - 10% report there is too much pressure to get married, would rather live together

- Sexuality
 - 4% have had sexual intercourse (8% have engaged in touching breasts and 5% in touching genitals)
 - 56% would like to be a virgin at marriage; 58% would regain their virginity if it were possible
 - 15% consider sex to be always acceptable and 35% sometimes acceptable
 - Most likely to learn about sex from the internet, classmates/friends, and TV/movies
 - They are least likely to learn about sex from parents, sex-related books/magazines, and textbooks.
- Satisfaction with life
 - 13% are very satisfied and 55% are somewhat satisfied with their lives
 - 32% are somewhat or very dissatisfied with their lives
 - Over the past three months –
 - 61% indicate they have lied to an adult
 - 53% admit having lied to their peers
 - 44% report watching MTV
 - 37% watched a pornographic movie
 - 19% indicate that they have intentionally tried to emotionally hurt someone
 - 16% have had suicidal thoughts
 - 14% have drunk enough to be considered legally drunk
 - 4% have attempted suicide
- Influences (cited as having *a lot* or *some* influence over thoughts and actions)
 - 77% Friends (31% a lot of influence)
 - 73% Parents (31% a lot of influence)
 - 66% Television (20% a lot of influence)
 - 61% Information from the Internet (19% a lot of influence)
- Moral behavior
 - 90% feel lying is sometimes a necessity
 - 72% feel bending the rules is okay
 - 65% are pragmatic indicating in several ways that moral behavior is relative and justified by whether or not it “works”
 - 27% feel that breaking the law is okay if it does not hurt anyone
- Factors providing future satisfaction (cited as having *a lot* of importance)
 - 67% having a comfortable lifestyle
 - 63% having close personal relationships
 - 59% having a clear purpose for living
 - 58% having good physical health
 - 8% having a close relationship with God
 - 4% being active in a religious group
- Religious Practice
 - 58% have no religious affiliation
 - 24% religion is very (8%) or somewhat (16%) important to them
 - 23% can recall a time when their religious beliefs affected their behavior
 - 18% participate in weekly or daily religious services
 - 16% report weekly or daily prayer
 - 9% participate in weekly or daily youth group
 - 8% report weekly or daily scripture reading

▪ **Religious Beliefs**

- 84% believe people can define truth in contradictory ways and still be correct
- 76% believe that truth can mean different things to different people and no one can be sure that they know the truth
- 62% believe that spiritual development is not necessary for leading a satisfying life
- 49% do not know what happens after death
- 29% believe and are certain (41% uncertain) in the eternal nature of the human soul
- 22% believe and are certain (39% uncertain) of the existence of Heaven and Hell
- 19% believe that God created the universe and rules the world today
- 10% believe that only confession of sins and faith in Jesus Christ can gain access to Heaven
- 4% believe that if a person is generally good, or does enough good things for others during their life, they will earn a place in Heaven

Strengths & Opportunities

- To be completed by the OneHope Asia team

Weaknesses & Threats

- To be completed by the OneHope Asia team

Recommendations

- To be completed by the OneHope Asia team

Section II: Project Description

Acknowledgments

This project was made possible in part by funding from the Maclellan Foundation and Global Ministries - OneHope.

We acknowledge the cooperation of Ajou University, the headmasters and staff of the schools included in the sample, the cooperation of students, and volunteers.

The Attitudes & Behaviors of Youth (ABY) instrument administered in this study was made available by Josh McDowell Ministries. This survey was developed for global application. As such, query areas are not specialized for South Korea.

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.

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 South Korea:

- 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 Attitudes and Behavior of the Youth project utilizes the ABY survey, which is a stratified random survey of secondary school children. The survey was stratified by degree of urbanization and gender for South Korea. 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 Korean. 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 through September 2010-January 2011. Dr. Jang Lee of Ajou University served as the local Research Coordinator for the South Korea research project. Oversight was provided by Dr. Allen Reesor and Mindy Chandler 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 Research. The final report includes Metadigm's analysis of the data, which has been reviewed by Rene Paulson, PhD. Secondary data is provided as applicable. This report is available for use by partners supporting the utilization of collaborative research in conducting ministry to children and youth.

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

Logistics

Review

Educational 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.

A list of secondary schools was provided through the annual educational statistical yearbook published by the Ministry of Education. Population density was interpreted as either urban or rural. Sixty schools (20 schools plus 2 alternatives for each) were selected by Ajou University researchers using three-tiered stratified random sampling. 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

Research Assistants 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 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 Ajou University in South Korea 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 South Korea.
- 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 South Korea.

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.

The following assisted with data collection:

- Mr. Kwak, Ju-Cheol, Ajou University
- Miss Kim, Young Soo, Ajou University
- Ms. Lee, Jong Yoon, Ajou University
- Ms. Chung, Sun Kyoung, Ajou University
- Mr. Kim, Seok Ku, Ajou University

Data Entry

The local Research Coordinator was responsible for accurate input of the data into the web-based survey database. The following assisted with data entry:

- Mr. Kim, Taek Jin of OMR SCAN

Section III: Profile of Youth in South Korea

Data Qualifications

Four thousand two hundred and thirty-nine surveys completed by secondary school participants were analyzed. Of these 50% were male and 50% female with 89% urban and 11% rural, with 5% of the sample being between the ages of 13-15. Therefore the population density and age analysis have not been included as the samples for younger and rural participant responses are too small.

Demographic

The total sample includes 4,239 participants of which 50% are male and 50% female. Ninety-one percent of participants are 16-18 years old, 5% younger than 16 years old and 4% older than 18 years of age. Female participants are somewhat more likely than male participants to be 18 years old and in a higher grade at school. The grade levels of participants are: 10th grade - 37%, 11th grade - 52% and 12th grade - 11%. In reporting their overall school performance, 47% of participants report that they are *average*, 36% *poor* or *very poor* and 17% *good* or *excellent* with female participants more likely to report *average* school performance and male participants slightly more likely to report both better and poorer grades.

In reporting parents' employment the category of *other* which may mean self employed, working at home or unemployed is most frequent with 56% for participants' mothers and 32% fathers. Fathers are reported as *professionals* by 25% of participants and mothers 10%. Service industry employs 22% of participants' mothers and 19% of fathers, with public sector for 15% of fathers and 8% of mothers.

Nearly all participants' parents, 92% are reported as being married with 6% divorced, separated or remarried. Similarly, 91% of participants report that they live with their natural mother and father with less than 5% in a single parent situation.

Family Relationships

Family is more likely defined by emotional attachment: 64% define family as *any person or group whom you love or care about deeply* and another 11% as *those living together or sharing goals* rather than relationship by *birth, adoption or marriage* which is the definition used by 25%. Female participants are more likely to use the relational definition of family than males. Similarly, about 70% consider either single women or unmarried couples with children to be family compared with about 30% that accept either an unmarried couple, either homosexual or heterosexual to be family. While male participants are more likely than female to define an unmarried man and woman without children as family, female participants are more likely to define parents with children and homosexual couples as family.

Over 80% of participants feel their family experience has been positive; 55% feel their home is a *place where they feel safe and loved* and 26% *a place where sometimes they feel loved and other times they do not*, with only 5% who feel *uncomfortable in their home*. Female participants are slightly more content in their home situation than male participants. When asked about their relationship with the adults in their homes, they are most likely to feel the adults in their family are interested in who they are, really love each other and set good examples for them. Although they also feel that adults expect more of them than is fair, they are equally likely to report that they spend time with them and admit when they are mistaken or wrong. Female participants have a slightly healthier relationship with adults than male participants, they tend to sense support of adults and are slightly less likely to feel restricted or poorly treated.

When asked about their relationship with their parents, 60% of participants report a very close relationship with mothers and 23% with fathers; also there are 54% who have a fairly close relationship with fathers and 33% with mothers. However 23% of participants report that their father is unknown, deceased or not close in relationship and 7% report similar circumstances for mothers. Female participants are more likely to report a close relationship with parents than male participants.

Participants are most likely to feel proud of their parents and feel parents show their love for them. However, they are far more likely to talk to their mothers about personal concerns and slightly more likely to do something special with mothers and express their love for mothers than for their fathers. Female participants are more likely to have closer relationships with mothers than male participants in all areas and with their fathers in the exchange of affection.

Despite 80% reporting fairly close relationships with parents, in a typical week 48% of participants spend less than 15 minutes talking with their fathers and 22% with their mothers about things that really matter. However, 10% of participants spend more than 2 hours in conversation about things that really matter with fathers and 28% with mothers.

Marriage Attitudes and Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex

Even though 62% of participants feel it is very hard to have a successful marriage and 58% do not want a marriage like that of their parents, only 10% would live together rather than marry, over 80% expect to be very happy in their marriage and 61% think most married couples have a healthy marriage and marriage problems have been exaggerated. However, 60% of participants do not believe that God intended marriage to last a lifetime, 53% feel that a couple who do not love each other could divorce even if children are involved and 48% do not believe that the traditional family stabilizes society. About 60% of participants want to be virgins at marriage with female participants far more likely than male participants to report they would wait to have sex until after marriage. Male participants are more likely than female participants to value marriage and to want a marriage like their parents.

Participants learned about sex mostly through the internet, classmates/friends and TV/Movies; they are least likely to learn about sex from their parents, sex-related magazines/books and textbooks (sex education). Female participants are more likely than male participants to learn about sex from textbooks (sex education), whereas, male participants are more likely to learn about sex from the internet, classmates/friends and sex-related magazines/books.

Although 50% of participants feel that sexual intercourse is sometimes or always acceptable for two people in love when there is no coercion and 77% would be quite or very likely to have sexual intercourse before marriage with someone they intended to marry, 96% have not yet had sexual intercourse, and over 90% report that they have not participated in any sexual touching beyond kissing. Male participants are somewhat more likely than female participants to report touching breasts and genitals and to be influenced to engage in sexual activities.

Beliefs and Perspectives on Daily Life

Sixty-eight percent of participants report they are somewhat or very satisfied with their lives. However, 5% are not at all satisfied with life and 27% not too satisfied. Over the previous 90 days 16% have had suicidal thoughts and during the same period 4% report they have attempted suicide, with female participants more likely to have suicidal thoughts than male participants.

Future aspirations for participants are most likely to be a comfortable lifestyle, close personal friendships, clear purpose for living, physical health, integrity and other material and social achievements. Religion is perceived by most to have no significance. Male participants are more likely than female participants to desire a fulfilled sex life within marriage and having children.

During a normal week of life participants are most likely to spend free time studying with 46% spending 8 or more hours and another 19% spending 4-8 hours in study. With 44% watching music videos every week, media is the next most likely use of free time with TV and music leading slightly over internet and SMS or internet chat; about the same amount of time is spent napping as on electronic chat. Nearly 90% spend less than one hour or no time at all reading religious text. Female participants are more likely to spend time watching TV than male participants. Media is somewhat influential with electronics like MP3, cell phone, or laptop computer most influential, followed by Hip Hop music and fashion magazines. Female participants are more likely than male participants to find these media appealing.

For participants relationships with parents and friends are the most influential factors in life, followed by television and information from the internet. To a lesser degree other media such as movies and music have influence, at about the level of siblings and teachers. For 80% or more of the participants there is no influence in their lives from religions, religious leaders and politics. Female participants are more likely to be influenced by the stronger factors than male participants.

Ninety percent of participants believe that these days lying is sometimes necessary and 84% believe people may define truth in contradictory ways and still be correct. Over 85% believe religious Scriptures do not provide absolute moral truth and religious Scriptures do not provide clear and indisputable description for moral truth. Eighty-three percent of participants do not feel that it is important to be a member of a religious group, though 80% do not feel that all religions teach equally valid truth and an equal percentage report their faith is not very important to their lives. Seventy-six percent of participants report when it comes to morals and ethics no one can be positive that they have absolute truth. Sixty-one percent of participants do not believe religious Scriptures provide people with practical standards for today's living and while 73% do not condone law breaking, 72% believe that to get by these days, sometimes you have to bend the rules to your own benefit. Although male participants are more likely to feel that looking to religious scripture is foolish, female participants are more likely to hold no moral absolutes and feel comfortable accepting conflicting truths than male participants.

When asked to report their behaviors over the previous three months, 61% of participants have lied to an older person, 53% lied to their friends/peers, 37% watched a pornographic movie, 19% have intentionally tried to emotionally hurt someone, 16% cheated on an exam, 14% have drunk enough alcohol to become drunk and 11% stolen something. Male participants are significantly more likely than female participants to watch pornographic movies and significantly more likely to lie, gamble, drink alcohol, smoke tobacco, steal and cheat than female participants.

Religious Background and Practice

While 58% of participants in this sample claim no religious affiliation, 16% are Protestant, 12% Buddhist and 11% Roman Catholic. Male participants are more likely than female participants to report no religious faith. Twenty-four percent of participants reported that religion is somewhat (16%) or very important (8%) to them, with female participants more likely than male participants to respond this way.

Eighty percent of participants report that they rarely or only sometimes attend religious services, with 15% attending weekly religious services. However, 26% of participants think they are somewhat or very likely to attend religious services on a regular basis after they graduate from high school or leave home. Family members attend religious services at about the same rate as participants with 19% of mothers likely to attend weekly and fathers less likely than participants to attend.

Other religious practices are rare, although 16% of participants report weekly or daily practice of prayer. Over 74% of participants do not attend any religious youth group meeting and those who do are most likely to attend groups smaller than 20 members.

Twenty-six percent of participants are not sure what they believe about God, 22% state there is no such thing as God and 19% consider God to be the omnipotent, omniscient, Creator who rules the world today. Forty-three percent do not believe other popular religious practices are helpful with 34% doubtful and 39% do not believe Heaven and Hell are real places with as many uncertain. Forty-nine percent of participants report they do not know what will happen after they die, 14% believe they will be reincarnated , 13% believe they will cease to exist and 10% indicate they will go to Heaven because they confessed their and accepted Jesus as Savior.

Section IV: South Korea Secondary Data

**Secondary Research
Profile
South Korea**



DEMOGRAPHICS & POPULATION	
Est. Population (2010)	48,595,924
Population (under 15 yrs)	15.7%
Life Expectancy	68 yrs
Birth Rate (per 1,000 people)	9
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	4.29
Estimated Urban / Rural Population	39,082,945 / 9,303,263
Largest City / Population	Seoul / 9,567,665
EDUCATION & LITERACY	
Literacy Rate (over 15 yrs)	97.9%
Primary Enrollment	100%
Literacy Rate – Males	99.2%
Literacy Rate – Females	96.6%
ECONOMICS	
GDP (purchasing power parity) (per capita)	\$20,161.88
GDP (official exchange rate)	\$986.3 billion
Poverty Rate (% below poverty line)	15%

SOCIAL			
Human Development Index ² (out of 177)	12	Murder committed by youths (per capita) 1,000	1.7
Divorce Rate as percent of Marriages	Not Available	Adult prevalence rate 15-49 with HIV AIDS	0.1
Unemployment Rate	3.5%	Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19)	3.65
Youth Unemployment	10.2%	Homelessness	Not Available
Rapes (per capita) 1,000	0.12621	Child Prostitution	Not Available
Robberies (per capita) 1,000	0.093008	Child/Teen Soldiers	Not Available
Drug offences (per capita) per 100,000 people	9.9		
ETHNIC GROUPS & RELIGIONS			
Koreans	99%	Christianity	49%
Chinese	1%	Buddhism	47%
		Confucianism	3%
		Shamanist, Chondogyo, other	3%
LANGUAGES			
Korean, English widely taught in high school			

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.

² 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.