

Spiritual State of the World’s Children: Summary Table, Cambodia



Notes: Surveys were administered in randomly selected accessible schools. Inaccessible schools were those in conflict zones or areas of extremely low population, those where access was denied, and those that could not be reached by public transportation. Reported respondents are those who chose to participate and answered a particular question. Not all participants answered all questions. The composition of the sample set—3,969 students aged 13 to over 18, 58% 16 and over and 81% rural (as per population distribution)—indicates a skew towards older and an extreme skew toward rural attitudes. Data was collected from May to June 2010. SSWC was completed in September 2010 for OneHope by the Metadigm Group.

Cambodia	Positive Aspects	Negative Aspects	Key Notes
Family Relationships and Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 86% report an overall positive family experience. 85% of respondents report their parents are married. 78% feel very close to their mothers. 58% feel very close to their fathers. 72% frequently seek advice from their mothers. 69% frequently seek advice from their fathers. 47% feel that mothers frequently show love for them. 36% feel that fathers frequently show love for them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60% sometimes or frequently wonder if their mothers love them; 57% wonder the same about their fathers. 39% spend less than 5 minutes per week talking to fathers vs. 19% to mothers about things that really matter to them. 8% report that one or both parent have died. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only 35% of participants define family as people related by birth, adoption or marriage. 16 to 18% regard a cohabiting homosexual couple as a family. Males and rural participants more often do something special with their fathers; females and rural youth more often do the same with mothers. 54% report that home is where they feel safe and loved. Rural participants report this more often than their urban peers.
Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 99% report that they have not had intercourse. 99% indicated that premarital sex for a couple in love is never acceptable. 95% believe God meant marriage to last a lifetime. 95% expect to be very happy in their marriage. 95% would like to be a virgin when they marry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 53% agree that it is very hard to have a successful marriage these days. 34% admire the single life. 29% believe that divorce is acceptable where children are involved. 26% expect that their marriage will end in divorce. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 88% would like to have a marriage like their parents’. Parents were the least reported source of information about sex.
Behaviors and Beliefs in Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 98% report that they did not use an illegal drug in the three months before the survey was administered. 98% did not use tobacco. 97% did not steal money or a material possession. Reading a book (followed by studying from school materials and sleeping while on a break) occupies the most time for students in a given week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 66% lied to a friend or peer and 23% to an adult in the three months prior to the survey. 26% gambled or bet money on something. 25% tried to hurt someone physically. 12% had been legally drunk. 11% read a pornographic magazine. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 58% say it’s ok to break the law as long as it doesn’t hurt anybody. Males are more likely than females to have gambled (by 33%), been drunk (by 16%), viewed pornography (by about 15%), and tried to physically hurt someone (by 10%).
Religious Background and Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 100% have made a personal commitment to Jesus that is still relevant in their lives, that forgiveness of sins is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ, and that the Bible is totally accurate in all of its teachings. * 88% report that prayer can change what happens. 94% report that their religion is somewhat (51%) or very important (43%) to them. But only 8% indicate weekly or daily service attendance and only 4% indicate weekly or daily scripture reading. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 100% believe the Holy Spirit is only a symbol. * 69% believe all religions pray to the same God. * 63% believe good people earn a place in heaven. * 44% believe in reincarnation. 96% indicate Buddhism as their religious faith. 60% do not know what will happen after they die. 51% believe God represents a state of high consciousness that a person may reach. Only 2% believe they will go to heaven because they confessed sins and accepted Jesus as savior. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38% report “a lot” of influence by the Buddhist faith; only 4% report the same for Christianity. Though 77% acknowledge the Bible to provide a clear description of moral truth and that it provides people with practical standards for living, an equal percentage believe that truth can mean different things to different people and almost as many (74%) would consider something morally or ethically right if it works in their lives.
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% of respondents report that they are very satisfied with their lives. Respondents are most heavily influenced by parents, textbooks, and teachers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4% of respondents had suicidal thoughts in the three months before the survey. 4% report that they are not at all or not too satisfied with their lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having a comfortable lifestyle is most often reported as very important for participants’ futures.

* Only 16 subjects (.004% of participants) responded to these questions.