

Spiritual State of the World’s Children: Summary Table, India – Northeast



Notes: Surveys were administered in randomly selected accessible schools in Assam, Nagaland, and Meghalaya. Inaccessible schools are those in conflict zones or areas of extremely low population, and those that cannot be reached by public transportation. Schools noted for fundamentalist ideology and practices and for efforts to convert students through education were excluded from the sample pool. Reported respondents are those who participated in the survey and answered the question. Not all participants answered all questions. Students under age 13 were only included when a school did not have enough older students. Additional questions and minor edits suggested by national leaders were added to the standard survey. Composition of the sample set—about 75% were aged 13 to 16 years—indicates a skew towards younger respondents. SSWC was completed in December 2009 for OneHope by the Metadigm Group.

India, AP

	Positive Aspects	Negative Aspects	Key Notes
Family Relationships and Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 86% of respondents live with their natural parents. 81% report that their parents are married. Only 3% report their parents divorced. 66% report that they are very close to their mothers. 43% report that they are very close to their fathers. 64% feel that mothers frequently show love for them. 54% feel that fathers frequently show love for them. 65% said home is where they feel safe and loved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 61% sometimes or frequently wonder if their mothers and 55% if their fathers love them. 26% spend less than 15 minutes per week talking to fathers and 14% to mothers about things that really matter to them. 10% report that their father is not alive or that they do not know him. 11% report that one or both parents have died. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While the presence of children increases acceptance, the idea that unmarried or homosexual couples are a family is overwhelmingly rejected. Reported time spent talking to fathers and mothers and reports that home is where the respondent feels safe and loved all decrease sharply as population density decreases and (less so) as respondent age increases.
Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 77% of respondents indicate that premarital sex for a couple in love is never acceptable. 76% want a marriage like their parents’. 64% of respondents indicate that divorce is not an option where children are involved. 64% believe marriage was meant to last a lifetime. 59% would like to be a virgin when they marry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65% agree that it is very hard to have a successful marriage these days. 22% of rural students, 17% of males and older students, and 14% overall report that they have had intercourse. 18% would rather live with someone than marry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As population density decreases, students report less value for virginity and more sexual experience than their peers. The greatest difference in reported sexual experience is between rural (22%) and urban (6%) youth. Classmates and friends are the most often reported source of knowledge about sex.
Behaviors and Beliefs in Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 94% report that they did not use an illegal drug in the three months before the survey was administered. 91% did not gamble. 87% did not steal money or another material possession. 21% spent 4 or more hours weekly reading the Bible. Studying from school materials occupies the most time for students in a given week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 57% lied to a friend or peer and 55% to an adult in the three months prior to the survey. 24% spent 4 or more hours weekly reading scriptures other than the Bible. 19% tried to physically hurt someone. 18% used a tobacco product. 16% cheated on an exam or evaluation. 11% drank enough alcohol to be legally drunk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Males (28%) report more often than females (9%) that they viewed pornography. Males self report more undesirable behavior of every type. The gap (male to female) ranges from 3% (trying to hurt someone emotionally) to 18% (tobacco use and viewing pornography). Urban youth report less undesirable behavior of all types than their rural and semi-urban peers.
Religious Background and Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 88% report that faith is very important in their lives. 65% believe the universe was created by God or a god. 65% can recall a time when their beliefs changed their behavior. 63% pray daily. 59% agree that the Bible provides absolute moral truths that are the same for all people in all situations, without exception. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% believe all religions teach equally valid truths. 71% of respondents agree that you have to bend the rules to get by these days. 69% believe no one can be absolutely positive that they have the truth about morals or ethics. 44% (61% in urban areas) believe they will be born again because they followed the Geeta. 10% indicate that they are atheistic or agnostic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban students reported about 1/4 as often as those in less densely populated areas that the Bible provides clear moral truth. 38% of respondents identify themselves as Hindu, 28% as Protestant, and 15% as Roman Catholic. Only 8% of respondents indicate that they will go to Heaven because they confessed sins and accepted Jesus Christ as savior.
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 83% of respondents report that they are somewhat or very satisfied with their lives. Respondents are most heavily influenced by their parents, teachers, and textbooks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12% of respondents report suicidal thoughts in the three months before the survey. 5.3% report that they are not at all satisfied with their lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 51% report that living with a high degree of integrity is very important for their future. 80% said the same about having good physical health and 77% about getting a degree.