

## World Database of Happiness



### Correlational Findings on Happiness and CHILDREN: WANT FOR (Parental aspirations) Subject Code: C2

© on data collection: [Ruut Veenhoven](#),  
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#### Classification of Findings

<i>Subject Code</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Nr of Studies on this Subject</i>
C2	CHILDREN: WANT FOR (Parental aspirations)	0
C2.1	Intentional career	0
C2.1.1	Earlier want for children	1
C2.1.2	Change in want for children	0
C2.1.4	Later want for children	0
C2.2	Current want for children	2
C2.2.1	Childlessness voluntary or not	2
C2.2.2	Ideal number of children	1
C2.2.3	Unwanted pregnancy	0
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 Erasmus University Rotterdam, 2009, Netherlands

## Correlational finding on Happiness and Earlier want for children

Subject code: C2.1.1

### Study SEARS 1977A

*Reported in:* Sears, P.S.; Barbee, A.H.  
Career and Life Satisfaction among Terman Gifted Women.  
Stanley, J.C.; George, W.C.; Eds.: "The Gifted and the Creative", J. Hopkins University  
Press, 1977, Baltimore, USA, 28 - 72  
Page in Report: 40-62/4

*Population:* "Gifted women" (IQ >135), followed 50 years, California, USA, 1921-72

*Sample:* Non-probability purposive sample

*Non-Response:* Attrition in 1972: 25%

*N:* 671

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### Correlate

*Authors label:* Wanted children (2)

*Our classification:* Earlier want for children, code C2.1.1

*Measurement:* Direct questions:

- a. 'Did you want children?'  
Assessed in 1940
- b. If life lived over how many  
children?  
Assessed in 1950

*Remarks:* Earlier wants (1940, 1950) by present happiness (1972).

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### Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Measure</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Elaboration/Remarks</i>
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<a href="#">C-ASG/h/mq/v/5/a</a>	<u>AoV= ns</u>	a.
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C-ASG/h/mq/v/5/a    AoV= ns    b.

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## Correlational finding on Happiness and Current want for children Subject code: C2.2

### Study                      CALLA 1986

*Reported in:* Callan, V.J.  
Single Women, Voluntary Childlessness and Perception about Life and Marriage.  
Journal of Biosocial Science, 1986, Vol. 18, 479 - 487  
Page in Report: 482

*Population:* ± 20 aged single women Australia, 1986

*Sample:*

*Non-Response:*

*N:* 102

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### Correlate

*Authors label:* Wanting children (1)

*Our classification:* Current want for children, code C2.2

*Measurement:* 1: no child wanted            N = 42  
2: one child wanted            N = 18  
3: two children wanted        N = 42

All subjects were "very certain" about their intentions. They were located through screening of 1500 students in university social science classes, through contacts with a voluntary sterilisation clinic and newspapers announcement articles about the research in university and statewide newspapers.                      All subjects completed a series of commitment indices.

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### Observed Relation with Happiness

*Happiness Measure**Statistics Elaboration/Remarks*A-BB/cw/mq/v/5/aAoV= ns

Positive affect (0-20)

Negative affect (0-20)

1: M = 15.4

1: M = 9.9

2: M = 15.4

2: M = 10.0

3: M = 15.5

3: M = 10.0

Full ABS not computed.

O-SLW/u/sq/?/9/aAoV=

1: M = 5.86

Mt' = 6.5

p<.05

2: M = 6.72

Mt' = 7.5

3: M = 6.64

Mt' = 7.4

The only significant difference is between 1 and 2.

## Correlational finding on Happiness and Current want for children

Subject code: C2.2

**Study****WESSM 1956**

*Reported in:* Wessman, A.E.  
 A Psychological Inquiry into Satisfaction and Happiness.  
 Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation, Princeton University, 1956, USA  
 Page in Report: 210

*Population:* 21+ aged, general public, non-institutionalized, USA, 1946

*Sample:*

*Non-Response:* -

*N:* 2377

**Correlate**

*Authors label:* Unfulfilled aspirations: marriage, children, husband (1)

*Our classification:* Current want for children, code C2.2

*Measurement:* Open-ended question on unfulfilled aspirations.  
 0 Other aspirations  
 1 Aspirations mentioned

## Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Measure</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Elaboration/Remarks</i>
<u>O-HL/g/sq/v/3/c</u>	<u>G=-.27</u> <u>p&lt;.05</u>	Computed for those having unfulfilled aspirations only (N = 1646).

## Correlational finding on Happiness and Childlessness voluntary or not

Subject code: C2.2.1

### Study

**VENTE 1995**

*Reported in:* Ventegodt, S.  
Livskvalitet i Danmark. (Quality of Life in Denmark).  
Forskningscentrets Forlag (The Quality of Life Research Center), København,  
Denmark, ISBN 8790190017 <http://www.livskvalitet.org/t1/index.asp>  
Page in Report: 312,314

*Population:* 18-88 aged, general public, Denmark, 1993

*Sample:* Non-probability purposive sample

*Non-Response:* 39%

*N:* 1494

## Correlate

*Authors label:* childlessness (1)

*Our classification:* Childlessness voluntary or not, code C2.2.1

*Measurement:* Single question:  
"Do you have children ?"  
different answercategories converted to:  
1. Without children  
    a. first pregnant  
    b. chosen not to have children  
    c. involuntary childless  
2. Has children

*Measured Values:* N women: all: 778, 1(all):237, 1a:9, 1b:12, 1c:20, 2:500 N men: all:759, 1(all):259,  
1a:11, 1b:11, 1c:11, 2:467

## Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Measure</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Elaboration/Remarks</i>
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A-AOL/m/sq/v/5/a

women:  
 1: Mt=7.71  
 1a: Mt=8.61  
 1b: Mt=7.50  
 1c: Mt=7.00  
 2: Mt=7.71  
 All Mt=7.70

A-AOL/m/sq/v/5/a

men:  
 1: Mt=7.73  
 1a: Mt=7.50  
 1b: Mt=8.19  
 1c: Mt=6.36  
 2: Mt=7.86  
 All Mt=7.79

O-SLu/c/sq/v/5/e

women:  
 1: Mt=7.29  
 1a: Mt=8.89  
 1b: Mt=7.29  
 1c: Mt=7.13  
 2: Mt=7.50  
 All Mt=7.44

O-SLu/c/sq/v/5/e

men:  
 1: Mt=7.20  
 1a: Mt=7.73  
 1b: Mt=7.28  
 1c: Mt=6.59  
 2: Mt=7.55  
 All Mt=7.41

O-HL/c/sq/v/5/h

women :

1: Mt=7.11  
1a: Mt=9.45  
1b: Mt=6.46  
1c: Mt=7.00  
2: Mt=7.50  
All Mt=7.00

O-HL/c/sq/v/5/h

men :

1: Mt=6.65  
1a: Mt=7.73  
1b: Mt=6.14  
1c: Mt=7.05  
2: Mt=7.03  
All Mt=6.90

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Correlational finding on Happiness and Childlessness voluntary or not  
Subject code: C2.2.1

**Study**                      **VENTE 1996**

*Reported in:* Ventegodt, S.  
Livskvalitet hos 4500 31-33-årige. (The Quality of Life of 4500 31-33-Years-Olds).  
Forskningscenter for Livskvalitet, Forskningscentrets Forlag, København 1996, ISBN  
8790190068 <http://www.livskvalitet.org/t2/index.asp>  
Page in Report: 330,332

*Population:* 31-33 aged, Denmark 1993, born in University Hospital in Copenhagen

*Sample:* Non-probability chunk sample

*Non-Response:* 39%

*N:* 4500

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**Correlate**

*Authors label:* childlessness

*Our classification:* Childlessness voluntary or not, code C2.2.1

*Measurement:* childlessness  
 1: all with children  
 2: first pregnancies(for men: Partner's..)  
 3: all without children  
 3a: have chosen not to have children  
 3b: involuntary childless

*Measured Values:* N WOMEN All:2714; %:1:75,1; 2:1,7; 3:24,7; 3a:2,2; 3b:5,5 N MEN All:

## Observed Relation with Happiness

*Happiness Measure*

*Statistics Elaboration/Remarks*

A-AOL/m/sq/v/5/a

WOMEN:	MEN:
1: Mt=7.73	1: Mt=7.93
2: Mt=8.58	2: Mt=8.83
3: Mt=7.69	3: Mt=7.54
3a: Mt=7.91	3a:Ms=6.63
3b: Mt=7.86	3b:Ms=7.98

O-SLu/c/sq/v/5/e

WOMEN:	MEN:
1: Mt=7.51	1: Mt=7.54
2: Mt=8.34	2: Mt=8.64
3: Mt=7.28	3: Mt=7.15
3a: Mt=7.73	3a:Ms=6.63
3b: Mt=7.69	3b:Ms=7.55

O-HL/c/sq/v/5/h

WOMEN:	MEN:
1: Mt=7.18	1: Mt=7.15
2: Mt=8.58	2: Mt=8.43
3: Mt=6.81	3: Mt=6.65
3a: Mt=7.14	3a:Ms=6.39
3b: Mt=7.01	3b:Ms=7.16

Correlational finding on Happiness and Ideal number of children  
 Subject code: C2.2.2

Study

BACHM 1977

*Reported in:* Bachman, J. G.; O'Malley, P. M.; Johnston, J.  
 Youth in Transition, Vol. VI: Adolescence to Adulthood, Change and Stability in the  
 Lives of Young Men.  
 Institute for Social Research, 1970, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA  
 Page in Report:

*Population:* Public highschool boys followed 8 years from grade 10, USA, 1966-74

*Sample:*

*Non-Response:* 2.8% at T1, 17.2% at T2, 21.0% at T3, 28.9% at T4, 28.5% at T5

*N:* 1628

## Correlate

*Authors label:* Ideal number of children (1)

*Our classification:* Ideal number of children, code C2.2.2

*Measurement:* Simple direct question at T4 and T5:  
 'All things considered, if you could have exactly the  
 number of children you want, what number would that be?'.  
 Actual number coded (8 = 8 or more).  
 Scale: 0 to 8

## Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Measure</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Elaboration/Remarks</i>
<u>O-HP/g/mq/v/5/a</u>	<u>tau=+</u>	Ideal number of children
		Happiness
		T4
		T5
		T1
		tau = +.08 (05)
		+ .04 (ns)
		T2
		tau = +.02 (ns)
		+ .03 (ns)
		T3
		tau = +.05 (ns)
		+ .06 (ns)
		T4
		tau = +.03 (ns)
		+ .02 (ns)
		T1:1966, T2:1968, T3:1969, T4:1970, T5:1974

## Appendix 1: Happiness Items used

<i>Happiness Item Code</i>	<i>Full Text</i>
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A-AOL/m/sq/v/5/a Single direct question:

How are you feeling now....?

5 very good

4 good

3 neither good nor poor

2 poor

1 very poor

A-BB/cw/mq/v/5/a Selfreport on 10 questions:

"During the past weeks did you ever feel...?"

A Particularly exited, or interested in something?

B So restless that you could not sit long in a chair?

C Proud because someone complimented you on something you had done?

D Very lonely or remote from people?

E Pleased about having accomplished something?

F Bored?

G On top of the world?

H Depressed?

I That things were going your way?

J Upset because someone criticized you?

Response options: yes/no

If yes: "How often during the past week did you feel so?"

5 all the time

4 mostly

3 often

2 rarely

1 never

0 no

Summation:

Positive Affect Score (PAS): summed scores on A, C, E, G, I

Negative Affect Score (NAS): summed scores on B, D, F, H, J

Affect Balance Score (ABS): PAS minus NAS

Possible range -50 to +50

Name: Bradburn's 'Affect Balance Scale' (modified version)

C-ASG/h/mq/v/5/a Selfreport on 2 questions:

A. "How important was each of the following goals in life in the plans you made for yourself in early adulthood?"

- occupational success
- family life
- friendships
- richness of cultural life
- total service to society.

1 less important to me than to most people

2

3

4

5 of prime importance to me

B. "How successful have you been in the pursuit of these goals?"

1 little satisfaction in this area

2

3

4

5 had excellent fortune in this respect

Computation: General Satisfaction 5 is the quotient obtained by multiplying the planned goal (early adulthood) by the reported success in attaining that goal, adding the five of these multiplied areas and dividing them by the sum of the planned goals for each of the areas.

$Pa.Sa + Pb.Sb + Pc.Sc + Pd.Sd + Pe.Se$

-----

$Pa + Pb + Pc + Pd + Pe$

Pa = planned goal a (1-5)

Sa = success goal a (1-5)

O-HL/c/sq/v/5/h Selfreport on single question

'How happy are you now?'

5 very happy

4 happy

3 neither happy nor unhappy

2 unhappy

1 very unhappy

Original text in Danish:

'Hvor lykkelig er du for tiden?'

5 meget lykkelig

4 lykkelig

3 hverken eller

2 ullykkelig

1 meget ullykkelig

O-HL/g/sq/v/3/c

Selfreport on single question:

"In general, how happy would you say you are.....?"

3 very happy

2 fairly happy

1 not too happy

O-HP/g/mq/v/5/a

Selfreport on 6 questions:

" Describe the kind of person you are. Please read each sentence, then mark how often it is true for you"

1 I feel like smiling

2 I generally feel in good spirits

3 I feel happy

4 I am very satisfied with life

5 I find a good deal of happiness in life

6 I feel sad

Response options:

5 almost always true

4 often true

3 sometimes true

2 seldom true

1 never true

Summation: average

Possible range: 1 to 5

O-SLu/c/sq/v/5/e

Selfreport on single question:

'How satisfied are you with your life now?'

5 very satisfied

2 satisfied

3 neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

2 dissatisfied

1 very dissatisfied

Original text in Danish:

'Hvor tilfreds er du med dit liv for tiden?'

5 meget tilfreds

4 tilfreds

3 hverken tilfreds eller utilfreds

2 utilfreds

1 meget utilfreds

O-SLW/u/sq/?/9/a Selfreport on single question:

"How do you feel about your life as a whole?"

1 not very satisfied

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9 very satisfied

## Appendix 2: Statistics used

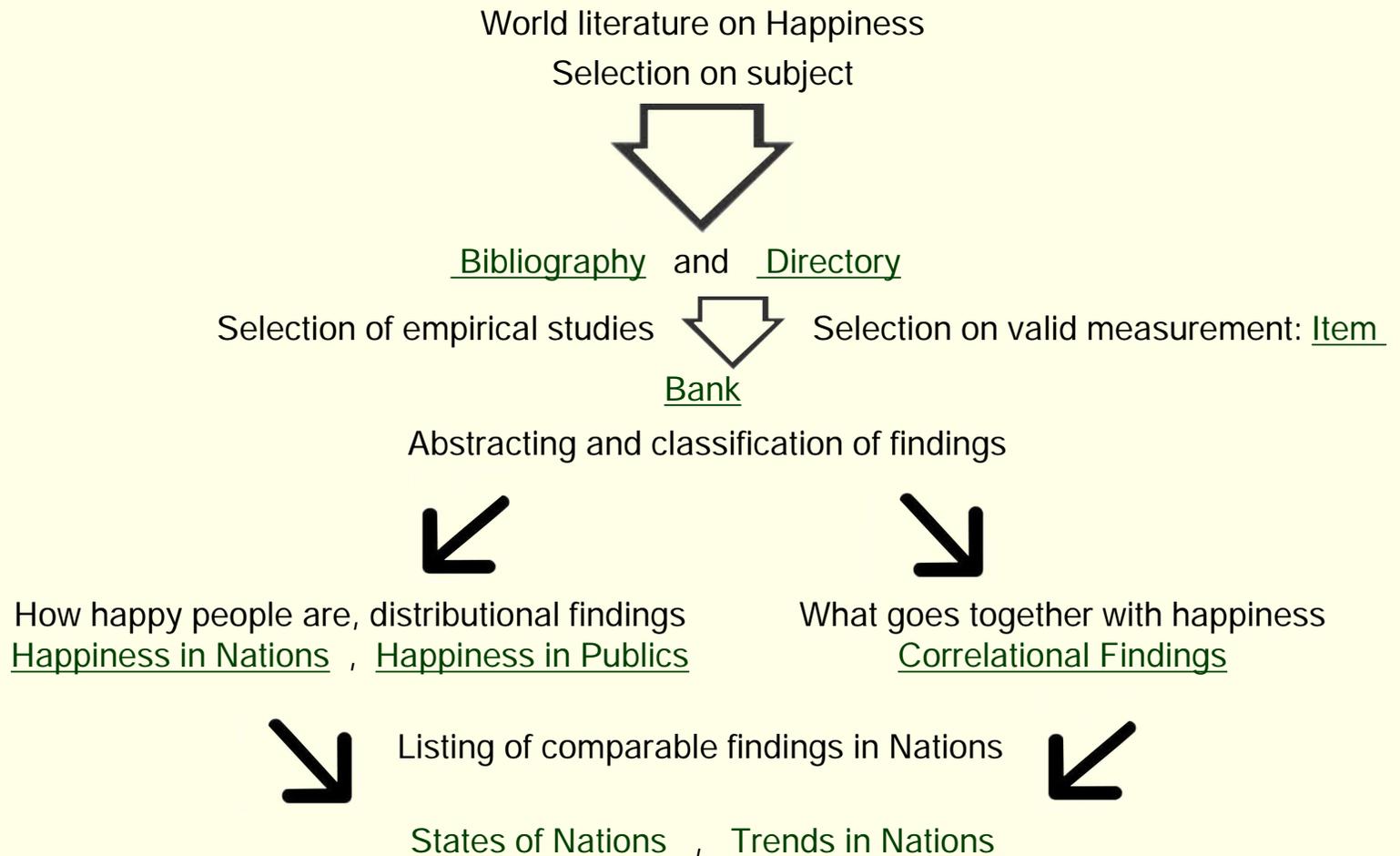
<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
AoV	<p>ANALYSIS of VARIANCE (ANOVA)            Type: statistical procedure            Measurement level: Correlate(s): nominal, Happiness: metric.            In an ANOVA, the total happiness variability, expressed as the sum of squares, is split into two or more parts, each of which is assigned to a source of variability. At least one of those sources is the variability of the correlate, in case there is only one, and always one other is the residual variability, which includes all unspecified influences on the happiness variable. Each sum of squares has its own number of degrees of freedom (df), which sum up to <math>N_e - 1</math> for the total variability. If a sum of squares (SS) is divided by its own number of df, a mean square (MS) is obtained. The ratio of two correctly selected mean squares has an F-distribution under the hypothesis that the corresponding association has a zero-value.</p> <p>NOTE: A significantly high F-value only indicates that, in case of a single correlate, the largest of the c mean values is systematically larger than the smallest one. Conclusions about the other pairs of means require the application of a Multiple Comparisons Procedure (see e.g. BONFERRONI's MULTIPLE COMPARISON TEST, DUNCAN's MULTIPLE RANGE TEST or STUDENT-NEWMAN-KEULS)</p>
G	<p>GOODMAN &amp; Kruskal's GAMMA            Type: test statistic            Measurement level: Correlate: ordinal, Happiness: ordinal            Range: [-1; +1]</p> <p>Meaning:            G = 0 « no rank correlation            G = +1 « strongest possible rank correlation, where high correlate values correspond with high happiness ratings.            G = -1 « strongest possible rank correlation, where high correlate values correspond with low happiness ratings.</p>
tau	<p>GOODMAN &amp; Kruskal's TAU            Type: descriptive statistic only.            Measurement level: Correlate: nominal, Happiness: ordinal            Range: [0; +1]</p> <p>Meaning:            tau = 0 « knowledge of the correlate value does not improve the prediction quality of the happiness rating.            tau = 1 « knowledge of the correlate value enables a perfect (error-free) prediction of the happiness rating.</p>

## Appendix 3: About the World Database of Happiness

### Structure of the collections

The World Database of Happiness is an ongoing register of scientific research on the subjective enjoyment of life.

It brings together findings that are scattered throughout many studies and provides a basis for synthetic work.



### Size of the collections

1226 Happiness measures (Item Bank)  
 4258 Nations surveys in 206 Nations  
 149 Distinguished publics in 1199 studies  
 12032 Correlational findings in 1196 studies

## Appendix 4 Further Findings in the World Database of Happiness

Main Subjects	Subject Description	Number of Studies
A1	ACTIVITY: LEVEL (how much one does)	58

A2	ACTIVITY: PATTERN (what one does)	32
A3	AFFECTIVE LIFE	48
A4	AGE	400
A5	AGGRESSION	12
A6	ANOMY	32
A7	APPEARANCE (good looks)	15
A8	ATTITUDES	6
A9	AUTHORITARIANISM	4
B1	BIRTH CONTROL	1
B2	BIRTH HISTORY (own birth)	201
B3	BODY	77
C1	CHILDREN	1
C2	CHILDREN: WANT FOR (Parental aspirations)	6
C3	CHILDREN: HAVING (parental status)	195
C4	CHILDREN: CHARACTERISTICS OF ONE'S CHILDREN	25
C5	CHILDREN: RELATION WITH ONE'S CHILDREN	8
C6	CHILDREN: REARING OF ONE'S CHILDREN (parental behavior)	26
C7	COMMUNAL LIVING	9
C8	CONCERNS	18
C9	COPING	43
C10	CREATIVENESS	6
C11	CULTURE (Arts and Sciences)	8
D1	DAILY JOYS & HASSLES	5
E1	EDUCATION	302
E2	EMPLOYMENT	363
E3	ETHNICITY	98
E4	EXPRESSIVE BEHAVIOR	12
F1	FAMILY OF ORIGIN (earlier family for adults, current for young)	236
F2	FAMILY OF PROCREATION	58
F3	FAMILY OF RELATIVES	157
F4	FARMING	25
F5	FREEDOM	32
F6	FRIENDSHIP	152
G1	GENDER	370
G2	GRIEF	1
H1	HABITS	1
H2	HANDICAP	25
H3	HAPPINESS: VIEWS ON HAPPINESS	49
H4	HAPPINESS: DISPERSION OF HAPPINESS	10

H5	HAPPINESS: CAREER	191
H6	HAPPINESS: CORRESPONDENCE OF DIFFERENT MEASURES	310
H7	HAPPINESS OF OTHERS	0
H8	HAPPINESS: REPUTATION OF HAPPINESS	19
H9	HEALTH-BEHAVIOR	25
H10	HELPING	5
H11	HOPE	8
H12	HOUSEHOLD: COMPOSITION	137
H13	HOUSEHOLD: WORK	32
H14	HOUSING	106
I1	INCOME	552
I2	INSTITUTIONAL LIVING	43
I3	INTELLIGENCE	71
I4	INTERESTS	8
I5	INTERVIEW	73
I6	INTIMACY	103
L1	LANGUAGE	2
L2	LEADERSHIP	8
L3	LEISURE	206
L4	LIFE APPRAISALS: OTHER THAN HAPPINESS	368
L5	LIFE CHANGE	35
L6	LIFE EVENTS	86
L7	LIFE GOALS	75
L8	LIFE HISTORY	2
L9	LIFE STYLE	22
L10	LOCAL ENVIRONMENT	374
L11	LOTTERY	8
L12	LOVE-LIFE	31
M1	MARRIAGE: MARITAL STATUS CAREER	64
M2	MARRIAGE: CURRENT MARITAL STATUS	543
M3	MARRIAGE: RELATIONSHIP	115
M4	MARRIAGE: PARTNER	46
M5	MEANING	23
M6	MEDICAL TREATMENT	81
M7	MENTAL HEALTH	218
M8	MIGRATION: TO OTHER COUNTRY	29
M9	MIGRATION: MOVING WITHIN COUNTRY (residential mobility)	17
M10	MIGRATION: MIGRANT WORK	3
M11	MILITARY LIFE	7

M12	MODERNITY	6
M13	MOOD	246
M14	MOTIVATION	7
N1	NATION: NATIONALITY	29
N2	NATION: ERA (temporal period)	41
N3	NATION: NATIONAL CHARACTER (modal personality)	29
N4	NATION: CONDITION IN ONE'S NATION	430
N5	NATION: POSITION OF ONE'S NATION	1
N6	NATION: ATTITUDES TO ONES NATION	152
N7	NATION: LIVABILITY OF ONE'S NATION	17
N8	NATION i: ATTITUDES IN	1
N9	REGION IN NATION	59
N10	NUTRITION	23
N21	ERA	0
O1	OCCUPATION	178
O2	ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION	17
P1	PERSONALITY: HISTORY	48
P2	PERSONALITY: CHANGE	10
P3	PERSONALITY: CURRENT ORGANIZATION	7
P4	PERSONALITY: CURRENT TRAITS	462
P5	PERSONALITY: LATER	23
P6	PHYSICAL HEALTH	427
P7	PLANNING	11
P8	POLITICAL BEHAVIOUR	231
P9	POPULARITY	26
P10	POSSESSIONS	60
P11	PRISON	1
P12	PROBLEMS	25
P13	PSYCHO-SOMATIC COMPLAINTS	62
P14	PETS	3
R1	RELIGION	251
R2	RESOURCES	9
R3	RETIREMENT	89
R4	ROLES	23
S1	SCHOOL	129
S2	SELF-IMAGE	237
S3	SEX-LIFE	61
S4	SLEEP	16
S5	SOCIAL MOBILITY	17

S6	SOCIAL PARTICIPATION: PERSONAL CONTACTS	69
S7	SOCIAL PARTICIPATION : VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS	131
S8	SOCIAL PARTICIPATION: TOTAL (personal + associations)	34
S9	SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS	154
S10	SOCIAL SUPPORT: RECEIVED	62
S11	SOCIAL SUPPORT: PROVIDED	6
S12	SPORTS	38
S13	STIMULANTS	49
S14	SUICIDE	8
S15	SUMMED DETERMINANTS	92
T1	TIME	53
T2	THERAPY	38
T3	TOLERANCE	37
V1	VALUES: CAREER	8
V2	VALUES: CURRENT PREFERENCES (own)	73
V3	VALUES: CLIMATE (current values in environment)	7
V4	VALUES: SIMILARITY (current fit with others)	12
V5	VICTIM	14
W1	WAR	5
W2	WISDOM	2
W3	WORK: CAREER	2
W4	WORK: CONDITIONS	68
W5	WORK: ATTITUDES	347
W6	WORK: PERFORMANCE (current)	29
W7	WORRIES	31
XX	UNCLASSIFIED	25

## Appendix 5: Related Subjects

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Related Subject(s)</i>
C2 CHILDREN: WANT FOR (Parental aspirations)	F2 FAMILY OF PROCREATION
C2 CHILDREN: WANT FOR (Parental aspirations)	B1 BIRTH CONTROL
C2.1 Intentional career	L7 LIFE GOALS
C2.2.2 Ideal number of children	C3.5.2 Satisfaction with number of children
C2.2.3 Unwanted pregnancy	B3.5.2 Pregnant
C2.2.3 Unwanted pregnancy	B1.2 Current birth control

## A report of the World Database of Happiness, Correlational Findings