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PII: S0190-7409(17)30532-7

DOI: doi: 10.1016/j.childyouth.2017.06.065

Reference: CYSR 3403

To appear in: Children and Youth Services Review

Received date: 28 March 2016 Revised date: 11 August 2016 Accepted date: 27 June 2017

Please cite this article as: Bong Joo Lee, Min Sang Yoo , What accounts for the variations in children's subjective well-being across nations?: A decomposition method study, *Children and Youth Services Review* (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.childyouth.2017.06.065

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What Accounts for the Variations in Children's Subjective Well-Being across Nations? : A Decomposition Method Study

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Abstract

Studies have shown that there are important differences in children's subjective well-being across nations. However, it has been difficult to explain why this level is lower or higher in certain countries. Using data from the International Survey of Children's Well-Being project, this study examines how much of the country-level children's subjective well-being can be explained by various social and cultural contextual factors. More specifically, we decompose the levels of children's overall subjective well-being to seven factors that are known to be important for children's well-being including leisure, environment, learning, money, relationship, freedom to choose, and self. After the decomposition, the unexplained part (intercept and residual) for each country is considered to represent cultural reporting bias. We found that cultural reporting bias cannot

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