

# **Monitoring and Measuring the State of Children – Beyond Survival**

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## **Monitoring and Measuring the State of Children – Beyond Survival**

One of the conclusions of the European Centre's project on "Childhood as a Social Phenomenon" as well as other initiatives, both on the national and international levels, was that there is a dearth of information on the condition of childhood in modern society.

In particular statistical information as well as social indicators concerning childhood and children are usually adult-centred or household-/family-oriented and not focused on children. Data compiled by international organizations at the global level are not particularly instrumental in assessing the situation of children in industrialized countries.

In view of these facts, the Israeli National Council for the Child and the European Centre sounded out possibilities of organizing a workshop on this topic. The principal purpose of the workshop should be to start with a wide-ranging discussion of possible indicators that are revealing of progress or problems for children in industrialized countries. Moreover, the workshop should address the difficult task of finding or setting up the mechanisms to regularly collect data on a limited number of indicators – on an internationally comparable basis.

The workshop was held in Jerusalem in early 1996. It was attended by some 40 experts from all over the world, and approximately 25 papers were presented and discussed during seven sessions. The present volume mainly contains revised versions of the papers presented. The Jerusalem workshop has been followed up by other activities.

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## Table of Contents

	page
Preface	8
<b>Introduction: Measuring and Monitoring the State of Children</b> <i>Asher Ben-Arieh</i>	9
<b>PART I: THE RATIONALE FOR MEASURING AND MONITORING THE STATE OF CHILDREN AND WHAT IS BEING DONE</b>	27
<b>Why Bother? The Rationale for Measuring the State of Children</b> <i>Asher Ben-Arieh</i>	29
<b>Social Impact Assessment's Contribution to the Development of Child Indicators Measuring Well-being Beyond Survival</b> <i>Kathleen Wilson</i>	39
<b>The International Effort to Monitor Children's Rights</b> <i>Per Miljeteig</i>	55
<b>PART II: CHILDHOOD AND CHILD WELFARE INDICATORS: WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO KNOW?</b>	63
<b>A Conceptual Framework for Developing Indicators</b> <i>Talal Dolev and Jack Habib</i>	65
<b>Monitoring of Children's Rights</b> <i>Gary B. Melton and Natalie Hevener Kaufman</i>	81
<b>Objective vs. Subjective Indicators or Both? Whose Perspective Counts?</b> <i>Alan Prout</i>	89
<b>Indicators of Childhood and the Intergenerational Dimension</b> <i>Jens Qvortrup</i>	101
<b>PART III: CHILDREN IN FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES</b>	113
<b>Children in Modern Families: A Scandinavian Perspective</b> <i>Ivar Frønes</i>	115

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<b>Assessing Neighbourhood and Community Factors that Influence Children's Well-Being</b>	127
<i>Arlene Bowers Andrews</i>	
<b>Indicators of the Family Environment in the U.S.: Existing Data, Gaps, and Plans for the Future</b>	143
<i>Brett V. Brown</i>	
<b>Child Participation: A Formative Right</b>	159
<i>Veronica Zambrano, Dolores Padilla, Soledad Moscoso</i>	
<b>PART IV: CHILDREN AND SOCIETY</b>	167
<b>Children and Society: Connecting Principles to Reality</b>	169
<i>Angelo Saporiti</i>	
<b>Monitoring the Living Conditions of Children in Germany</b>	177
<i>Bernhard Nauck and Magdalena Joos</i>	
<b>Family-State Relations and the Well-Being of Children</b>	187
<i>Frank F. Furstenberg, Jr.</i>	
<b>Measuring Child Poverty for Use in Comparative Policy Analysis</b>	193
<i>J. Lawrence Aber</i>	
<b>The Human Rights of Children Growing Up in Extreme Poverty; What Lacks of Basic Securities?</b>	209
<i>Bruno Tardieu</i>	
<b>PART V: MAKING THE MOST OF CHILDREN'S POTENTIALS</b>	227
<b>Self-Fulfilment of Children</b>	229
<i>Peter McDonald and Helen Moyle</i>	
<b>Promoting Investment in Life Skills for Youth: Beyond Indicators for Survival and Problem Prevention</b>	239
<i>Karen Pittman and Merita Irby</i>	
<b>Obey Thy Parents, Love Thy Country</b>	247
<i>David Y. H. Wu</i>	

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<b>Living a Healthy Life: A Holistic Approach to Child Health</b> <i>Denise Avard and Jenni Tipper</i>	255
<b>Children: Costs and Benefits</b> <i>Helmut Wintersberger</i>	265
<b>PART VI: DATA SOURCES AND MEASUREMENT ISSUES</b>	275
<b>The Use of Administrative Data in Measuring the State of Children</b> <i>Robert M. Goerge</i>	277
<b>Using Databases for Monitoring the Socioeconomic State of Children</b> <i>Hannele Sauli</i>	287
<b>The Use of Census and Surveys: Implications for Developing Childhood Social Indicator Models</b> <i>Bong Joo Lee</i>	301
<b>Possible Sources for Knowing the State of the Child: The South African Experience</b> <i>Rose L. September</i>	309
Annex: List of Participants	323
Abstracts: English / French / German	327