

Youth Conceptions of Happiness: A Phenomenological Inquiry into Emotional Well-Being

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R e v i e w e r s

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the introduction (p.3, first paragraph), happiness is described as a “multidimensional construct.” Consider integrating a more formal definition from positive psychology (e.g., hedonic vs. eudaimonic well-being) to situate the concept theoretically.

In “Study Design and Participants” (p.5), purposive sampling is described. However, recruitment through “community organizations, university networks, and social media platforms” may bias toward educated, urban youth. Please discuss this limitation earlier in the methods.

The Discussion (p.18) briefly mentions interventions, but more direct implications for Colombian educational and community policy should be elaborated. For example, how might schools integrate mindfulness, or how might policymakers address socioeconomic disparities in happiness?

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

Paragraph 2 (p.3) highlights determinants of adolescent happiness such as parental attitudes and economic pressures. However, it underemphasizes cross-cultural variability in collectivist versus individualist societies. Adding references from Latin American scholarship would enhance contextual depth.

On p.4, last paragraph, you state: “there is limited knowledge of how adolescents themselves define and narrate their own happiness, especially in under-researched contexts such as Latin America.” Strengthen this by citing the lack of Latin American phenomenological studies specifically, rather than making a general claim.

In “Participants” (p.5), youth are defined as 18–25 years old. Please clarify why younger adolescents (12–17) were excluded despite the journal’s adolescent focus.

In Theme 1 (p.9–10), only one or two quotes are provided per subtheme. Expanding to include multiple voices or noting divergent perspectives would enhance credibility.

The ambivalent role of digital media (p.17) is well observed. However, the argument would benefit from linking these findings to current debates on social media’s psychological effects, especially in Global South contexts.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.