

Survey “Character growth features of 12th grade students in Latvia”

Dear student!

We are requesting your voluntary informed consent to participate in a study about secondary education students’ moral identity development. This questionnaire is anonymous. You may choose not to answer any questions you do not want to answer. Your answers will be processed anonymously and only the joint results will be published.

If you agree, please, answer the following questions and share your thoughts! Please feel free to contact us by email if you have any question: (author’s email). Thank you for your willingness to help in this research!

The research team

Your understanding of character development process

Beliefs about character growth

Consider how much you agree or disagree with the following opposite statements, and position yourself in the grid (one choice in each row). There are no right or wrong answers, so just answer honestly how do you think.

You CAN improve your character during all your life	○—○—○—○—○—○—○	You CANNOT improve your character during all your life
When your character grows, your inner freedom ALSO GROWS	○—○—○—○—○—○—○	When your character grows, your inner freedom DIMINISHES
Educating moral emotions IS part of character building	○—○—○—○—○—○—○	Educating moral emotions IS NOT part of character building
Improving moral reasoning IS part of character building	○—○—○—○—○—○—○	Improving moral reasoning IS part of character building
Character development IMPLIES repetition of good moral behaviour	○—○—○—○—○—○—○	Character development DOES NOT IMPLY repetition of good moral behaviour
Character growth IS about acquiring good moral habits and dispositions	○—○—○—○—○—○—○	Character growth IS NOT about acquiring good moral habits and dispositions
Character growth HAPPENS spontaneously WITHOUT effort	○—○—○—○—○—○—○	Character growth DOES NOT HAPPEN spontaneously, it REQUIRES effort
Inner joy and pleasure FACILITATES the character development process	○—○—○—○—○—○—○	Inner joy and pleasure IMPEDES the character development process

Character growth mindset

Please, read the three sentences below and mark the choice that shows how much you agree with each one of them. There are no right or wrong answers. Please, tick one choice in each row.

(Scale: 1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Somewhat disagree; 4 = Somewhat agree; 5 = Agree; 6 = Strongly agree)

	1	2	3	4	5	6
You can do things better, but you can't really change your basic character						
Your character is something about you that you can't change very much						
You have a certain kind of character and you really can't do much to change it						

Please, comment shortly on your answer:

Your personal dispositions about developing your character

Decision of growing in virtue

Please, tick the statement (only one) that reflects better your inner disposition:

- I have made the decision to develop my moral life since I was very young and never doubted about it
 - I have decided to change my way of life and to strive for virtue after a moral conversion.
 - I am definitively not concerned about developing my moral virtues
 - I have never thought before about developing my moral virtues
 - I did not decide yet to involve in virtue growth, because I have some doubts about it
- Please, tick the reasons that make you doubt about involving in character growth:
- I don't know how to do it
 - I don't know why to do it
 - I don't know what I should improve
 - I don't know if I can change myself
 - Other (specify): _____

Please, comment shortly on your answer:

Your involvement in character development activities

Character growth grit scale

Here are a number of statements that may or may not apply to you. Please respond to each item by marking one box per row. There are no right or wrong answers, so just answer honestly, considering how you compare to most people.

(Scale: 1 = Not like me at all; 2 = Not much like me; 3 = Somewhat like me; 4 = Mostly like me; 5 = Very much like me)

	1	2	3	4	5
New ideas and projects sometimes distract me from focussing on virtue growth					
Moral setbacks don't discourage me. I don't give up easily in my fight for growing in virtue					
When I set moral goals to myself, often I fail to really go for them					
I work hard to acquire virtues					
I have difficulty maintaining my focus on improving aspects of my character which take more than a few months to improve					
When I decide to acquire a good habit, I never give up till I acquire it					
My interest in virtue growth changes from year to year					
I am demanding to myself to improve my character. I never give up					
I have been obsessed with improving a certain trait of my character for a short time but later I lost interest					
I have overcome setbacks to conquer a virtuous character					

Character growth resilience scale

Please respond to each item by marking one box per row

(Scale: 1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neutral; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree).

	1	2	3	4	5
I tend to bounce back quickly after a moral failure					
I have a hard time to start fighting again after a moral failure.					
It does not take me long to recover from a moral failure and continue striving for virtue.					
It is hard for me to snap back when I have a moral failure.					
I usually come through difficulties for developing virtues with little trouble.					
I tend to take a long time to get over moral failures in my life.					

Strategic involvement in virtue growth

Consider what you are doing concretely for developing your character, marking one box per row.

(Scale: 1 = No, never; 2= Rarely; 3= From time to time; 4= Often; 5= Yes, very often)

<i>Strategic possibilities for character development</i>	1	2	3	4	5
I have a clear list of priorities, a schedule and a plan for using my free time					
I make practical resolutions for growing in virtue					
I use reminders for sticking to my resolutions for character development					
I avoid places, persons and events that incite to bad moral behaviour					
I avoid websites, social networks, etc. that incite to bad moral behaviour					
I read or watch character development materials (books, blogs, videos...)					
I meet with friends who push me to develop virtues with their example					
I talk about my character with close friends who can give good advice					
I ask for advice about character growth (to parents, teachers, priest...)					
<i>Do you use the following activities for developing your character (among other reasons)?</i>					
I do my homework with order and intensity					
I work hard at school					
I involve in family tasks actively					
I involve in humanitarian or social work activities					
I involve in sport or open-air activities					
I involve in artistic or cultural activities					
I involve in religious or spiritual activities					
<i>Add below other things you do for developing your character (specify and rate them also)</i>					

Satisfaction and received feedback about your character development process

Personal recognition and motivation

Consider if you are really satisfied by the way your character growth process is taking place, answering to the following questions

(Scale: 1 = Absolutely not; 2 = Rather not; 3 = I am not sure; 4 = Rather yes; 5= Absolutely yes)

	1	2	3	4	5
Are you really making all you can to improve your character?					
Are your efforts really helping you to behave better more often?					
Is this repeated good behaviour really helping to improve your character deep down?					
Is your character improvement really having a positive impact on your own happiness?					

Please, make some brief comments about how do you feel about growing in virtue
 Do you feel motivated, energised, happy and satisfied about it, or rather demotivated, tired, sad and deceived?

Social recognition

Express your opinion about how concerned and supportive is people around you about your progresses in character development during the last months, and how do they evaluate it, answering to these questions. Choose two options in each row, one in each side of the table (concern/support and assessment).

Your perception of their concern and support about your progress in character development					Your perception of their opinion about your progress in character development					
(Scale: 1 = They are not at all concerned; 2 = They have little concern; 3 = They have some concern; 4 = They are quite supportive; 5 = very supportive)					(Scale: 1= Don't see any progress; 2 = See little progress; 3 = Think I made average progress; 4 = Believe that I made quite a lot of progress; 5= Think I am making big progress)					
<i>In your family (parents and siblings)</i>										
1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5
<i>At school (teachers and school leaders)</i>										
1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5
<i>Among your close friends</i>										
1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5

Please give some brief reasons for your answers (for example, “a teacher praises my efforts” as a comment of a score 5 in right side of the table; or “my friends make cynic comments about my efforts” as a comment on a score 1 in left side of the table, etc).

Process refinement

Indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Scale: 1 = clear deterioration; 2 = some deterioration; 3 = no changes; 4 = some improvement; 5 = clear improvement

During the last few months I have perceived changes regarding...:	1	2	3	4	5
...my beliefs about how character develops					
...my beliefs about the possibility of changing my character					
...my disposition to develop my virtues and acquiring new ones					
...my grit for character development					
...my resilience regarding character growth					
...my strategy for developing my character					
...my involvement in character building activities					
...my personal satisfaction about how my character growth process is happening					
...the concern and support of people close to me					
...the opinions of people close to me about my character development process					

Short life story interview about your character development

In this last section we would like you to share freely some memories and projects about the development of your character. We have outlined three main chapters (past, present and future), but feel free to include other related topics as you wish. Please, do not make formal statements, make this story as personal as you can.

Memories: Please, comment some past *critical events* in your character development

-How committed are you to character development? How this disposition was formed? Was there a turning point in your character development process? Is there someone you admire and who inspired you to grow in virtue? Have you been in close contact with others' suffering? Did you need to help others in regular basis?

-What is your "peak experience" in this field? Can you tell a short personal story related to your efforts to grow in virtue (virtue grit)?

-What was your lowest point in your character development process? Can you tell a short personal story related to how did you overcome a moral set back in your life?

Realities: Please, comment on your current experiences about character development

-What do you do regularly for developing your character?

- What helps you to grow in virtue? Who are the persons who are helping you most in character development?

-What are the bigger obstacles you are confronted to for developing your character and virtues?

Dreams: Imagine the ideal “future script” and the impact of your character development

-Do you consider that you should still improve your character? What are the goals you would like to reach in this field in the future?

-Do you tend to inspire others to develop their own character? What would you like people to say about your character the day you will be buried?

Your profile:

To finish, please give some information about yourself:

Age: ____; Sex: ____; Grade: ____;

Thank you very much for your cooperation!