

Parenthood, Parenting, Parenting Education: The Hong Kong Context

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Economics of Parenthood

Changing relationship between parents and children

- From having children for
 - labour supply
 - contribution to family income and wealth
 - providing welfare and services against sickness and old-age

An “investment” decision

Economics of Parenthood

- To having children resulting from
 - maximizing “family utility” subject to budget constraints
 - an optimization exercise involving the parents’ “collective preferences” for children, the family income, the opportunity cost of parenthood, and the quality versus quantity of children
 - a conscious choice of lifestyle

A “consumption” decision

Parenting in Hong Kong

A Hong Kong Model of parenting?

- Domestic helpers
 - Globalized and highly-mobile labour market
 - Estimates: over 200,000 (about 140,000 Filipinos)
- Equal opportunities of education and work for women

Parenting in Hong Kong

- Predominantly a service economy

Percentage contribution to GDP (%)	1984	1994	2004
Service industries	68.2	84.2	90.0

Parenting in Hong Kong

Sectoral employment (%)	1995	2005
Service industries	77.6	86.0

Occupation	% of the employed population	
Managers and administrators	9.8	
Professionals	6.8	
Associate professionals	17.9	
Clerks	16.1	
Service workers and shop sales workers	15.3	
Craft and related workers	8.0	
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	6.9	
Elementary occupations	18.7	
Others	<u>0.3</u>	
Total	100.0	

Parenting in Hong Kong

- Labour force participation rate
 - Q4 2005 : 3.61 million – total labour force
 - 60.9% of total population aged 15 and over
 - Participation rates by age and sex

Participation rates by age and sex

Age Group	Male (%)	Female (%)
15-19	16.4	12.3
20-24	70.1	72.8
25-29	95.1	86.5
30-34	96.9	77.7
35-39	96.8	71.9
40-44	95.9	67.3
45-49	95.2	60.6
50-54	90.4	51.7
55-59	75.9	35.1
60-64	45.5	13.2
65 and over	9.4	1.8
Overall	71.1	51.8

Parenting in Hong Kong

- Internationalization of the family
 - Economic integration between Hong Kong and the Mainland
 - Cross-border flows of capital and people
 - Cross-cultural skills; multi-cultural and multi-lingual education
 - International exposure; international experience; international profile

Parenting in Hong Kong

- (as at May 2002) 61,000 households (about 3%) had household members aged 25 and below studying outside Hong Kong; about 74,100 Hong Kong students pursuing study outside Hong Kong (26.5% in Canada; 22.2% in Australia; 21.7% in UK; 17.7% in USA)

Parenting in Hong Kong

- The “internationally-extended family:
“The **internationally-extended family** has a home base (Hong Kong), but conducts its family affairs over the international (and cyber) space; its members are highly mobile and are located in various parts of the world, and yet they are well-connected through frequent gatherings and by modern means of communication.” (Fan, 1998)
- A common form of family composition in the 21st century?

Parenting Education

- Provides educational and supportive activities
- Help parents and prospective parents carry out parenting
- HKSAR Government should take the lead in
 - ❖ designing, supporting and funding parenting education
 - ❖ funding research on the Hong Kong model of parenting
 - ❖ studying policy implications

THANK YOU