

香港特別行政區政府教育統籌局

家庭與學校合作事宜委員會

< 家長工作時間與親子關係調查 >

顧問報告

(行政摘要)



香港理工大學 應用社會科學系

社會政策研究中心

策劃及執行

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2. Executive Summary

Research Background

- 2.1 The Committee on Home-School Cooperation of the Education and Manpower Bureau, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region commissioned the Hong Kong Polytechnic Technology & Consultancy Company Limited, executed by the Centre for Social Policy Studies, to conduct the Survey on Parent's Working Hour and Parent-Child Relationship in February 2005.
- 2.2 The survey objectives are to gauge the opinions of parents with primary school age children on:
- their working pattern,
 - how they spend time with their children,
 - how they use their holidays,
 - the methods they used to protect the parent-child relationship,
 - their self-evaluation on parent-child relationship, and
 - their expectations on school and employers to do something about their working hours to promote parent-child relationship.
- 2.3 The survey was conducted from 21 to 24 February 2005 by the method of telephone interview. It covered those households with residential telephone line in Hong Kong, and those with primary school age children. 511 effective cases were collected with 66.0% cooperation rate, the margin of error was +/- 4.34% (with 95% confidence level).

Demographic Background

- 2.4 64.0% of the respondents were females and 36.0% were males. Among them, 32.3% were working mothers, 32.3% were non-working mothers, 31.5% were working fathers, and 3.8% were non-working fathers.
- 2.5 46.5% of the respondents had 4 household members (including the respondents), 23.1% had 3 members. 77.4% had only one primary school age children, and 20.2% of the primary school age child were primary 2 students.
- 2.6 40.6% of the respondents aged 31-40, 45.7% aged 41-50. Besides, 97.1% of the respondents were married.

- 2.7 42.2% of the respondents had secondary (F4-5) education attainment, and the education level of husbands of female respondents (mothers) was slightly higher, and which was significant, at the tertiary level.
- 2.8 52.3% of the respondents said that they were belonging to middle class, 41.3% said that they were belonging to low-income family. 38.3% of the respondents said that they were living in the self-owned private flat and 33.0% in rented public housing. Among those working respondents, 53.0% were working in clerical, service and shop sales occupations (male 17.4%, female 35.6%).

Survey Result

Parents' Working Hour

- 2.9 On the aspect of parents' working hour, for those working respondents, 43.8% said that they worked for 41-50 hours per week in average, 20.0% said 51-60 hours. Among them, fathers were more likely to work over 50 hours per week in average, mothers were more likely to work less than 40 hours per week in average. 77.6% of the respondents said that their jobs were full time, 22.4% said that their jobs were temporary in nature, but most of them (86.2%) said that they did not need to work on shift duty.

Length of time spent with children on an average day

- 2.10 On the aspect of how the parents spent time with their children on an average day, fathers spent 3.42 hours per day in average with their youngest primary school age children, and mothers spent 8.37 hours per day in average. Survey found that those working and with higher education level mothers were more likely to spend less than 4 hours with their youngest primary school age children; On the other hand, those non-working and with lower education level mothers were more likely to spend over 5 hours with their children per day.

Parent-child activities

- 2.11 On the aspect of parent-child activities, in average week days, respondents spent most of the time with their youngest primary school age children on "doing/checking homework together", followed by "watching TV together". For those working fathers, apart from sleeping, they spent most of the time on "watching TV/ reading newspaper" and "personal entertainment/ leisure activities" after work; working mothers spent most of the time on "taking care of the children" and "doing housework" after work.

Holidays with children

- 2.12 On the aspect of how the parents spent their holidays, among those working parents, 38.9% said that they sometime could take vacation to stay with their youngest school age children during the long school vacations (such as summer holiday, Christmas, etc.), and 23.8% of the working respondents chose “most of the time can”. Those with higher education and those working in managerial, administrative, professional and associate professional occupations were more likely to answer “most of the time can”, while those with lower education level and those working in low-skill and manual occupations were more likely to answer “absolutely cannot”. Besides, 80.4% of those working respondents said that they spent most of the time on “family entertainment/ leisure activities (including all kinds of parent-child or extra-curricular activities) with their children during their own holidays.

Parent-child relationship

- 2.13 On the aspect of how to protect the parent-child relationship, 75.1% of the respondents said that they would use face-to-face dialogue as the method for parent-child communication, and most of these parents were aged over 30. For those aged 26-30, they would prefer to use telephone/ email/ ICQ/ SMS as the communication method. Besides, 50.5% of the respondents said that they did not know who or what kinds of organizations could help them to improve their current parent-child relationship, but 18.8% of the respondents said that they could help by their own self.

Parents' self-evaluation

- 2.14 On the aspect of self-evaluation of parents, respondents gave 73.02 marks in average on the relationship with their children, and only 3.2% gave marks under the passing grade.

Things schools / employers could do

- 2.15 On the aspects of what the schools and employers could do to promote parent-child relationship, most respondents expected the schools to organize more parent-child activities such as travel tour and seminar on Saturday or Sunday. For the employers, respondents said that they preferred to perform less over-time work on Saturday or Sunday. The respondents also hoped that their employers could offer more holidays to them or provide flexibility on holidays arrangement, so that they could take leave to help their children to prepare school tests or to have vacation with their children during school=holidays.