Family Council

Family Survey 2013

Submitted by

Policy 21 Limited

July 2014

Table of Content

List of Tables

Executive Summary

Objectives

1.   In view of the useful observations gained in the Family Survey 2011, the Family Council has decided to carry out similar surveys on a biennial basis to keep track of changes and development of Hong Kong families in terms of family structures, attitudes and values, etc.

2.   The primary purpose of the Family Survey 2013 (the Survey) is to gather relevant information and data on the existing situation of families in Hong Kong with the following objectives-

   (a) to ascertain the attitude of respondents on family in terms of:

   (i)   importance of family;

   (ii)   parenthood;

   (iii)   family functioning;

   (iv)   satisfaction with family life;

   (v)   work-family balance;

   (vi)   availability of social support network; and

   (vii)   awareness and participation of family-related programmes.

   (b) to ascertain whether the respondents are aware of any family-related promotion from the Government and / or other organisations;

   (c) to conduct correlation analysis between (a) and (b) (for comparison and analysis purposes, reference should be made to relevant studies and relevant socio-demographic factors);

   (d) to construct relevant indices on item (a), with breakdown by age group and / or other groups as required, and (b) to conduct trend analysis;

   (e) to compare the survey results (a) with similar survey(s) in overseas countries and the Family Survey 2011 for benchmarking purpose; and

   (f) to make recommendations based on the results of the Survey for the promotion of family core values among the public.

Research Methodology

3.	Both qualitative and quantitative methods were adopted in the study, including focus group discussions and a territory-wide household survey. Prior to the Survey, literature research was also conducted with a view to gathering more relevant information in Hong Kong and other countries. Experience in other countries as well as views gathered from the focus group discussions provided the theoretical framework on design of the questionnaire for the territory-wide household survey which was conducted through face-to-face interviews. A representative sample of 2,000 persons aged 15 or above was successfully enumerated during the period from May to September 2013, with a response rate of 67%.

Demographic Characteristics

4.	The target respondents of this household survey were Hong Kong residents (excluding foreign domestic helpers) aged 15 or above. Among the 2,000 respondents, 46% were males (59% were either married or co-habiting) and 54% were females (54% were either married or co-habiting), with age distribution as follows: 15-34 (30%), 35-54 (38%) and 55 or above (32%).

5.	On educational level, 23% of them had attained post-secondary education or above. 54% of the respondents attained secondary educational level, and 22% had primary or below education. Concerning employment status, 48% of the respondents were employed. 45% were economically inactive such as retirees, homemakers or students, and another 7% were neither at work nor at school.

Importance of Family

6.	During the interview, a number of questions covering the following dimensions were asked to ascertain their attitudes on importance of family:
    a)	traditional family values;
    b)	living with parents;
    c)	marriage and having child;
    d)	involvement of grandparents in family issues;
    e)	singlehood;
    f)	cohabitation;
    g)	divorce; and
    h)	practice of filial piety.

7.   Results of the Survey indicated that ***most traditional family values were still quite prevalent, but not strong.*** Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreement on the attitudes towards traditional family values (including "having son to continue family name", "having a son is better than having a daughter", "family disgrace should be kept within the family" and "work hard to bring honor to the family") decreased in 2013 ranged from 3% to 8%.

8.   Regarding the attitudes towards living with parents*, **majority of the respondents were willing to live with their parents (65%) and support their living even though they did not live with them (87%).*** Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreement on the attitude towards willingness to live with parents decreased by 4% in 2013. Simultaneously, more respondents agreed/strongly agreed that newly-wed couple should live away from their parents. On the other hand, the agreement on the attitude towards willingness to live with their adult children decreased from 73% in 2011 to 67% in 2013. Amongst all age groups, younger people (aged 15-34) showed more readiness to live with parents and support their parents' living even though they did not live with them.

9.   ***Most respondents agreed that marriage is a necessary step in life, however, the agreement decreased within the past two years.*** 60% and 53% of the respondents agreed that "marriage is a necessary step in life" and "child bearing is important in marriage" respectively. Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreements on the attitudes that "marriage is a necessary step in life", "child bearing is important in marriage" and "married people are usually happier than people who have not yet married" decreased by 6 to 8% in 2013. On the other hand, the agreement on the view that life without having a child is empty was more or less the same in 2013.

10.   ***Attitudes towards cohabitation varied, but more people accepted the view in the past two years.*** 49% accepted "cohabitation without intention of getting married", while 31% disagreed. At the same time, 48% accepted "cohabitation before marriage", while another 26% disagreed. Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreements on the attitudes towards cohabitation increased significantly by 8 to 9% in 2013. Besides, results of the Survey also indicated that younger people aged 15-34 were more likely to accept cohabitation

11.   Regarding singlehood, ***attitudes of respondents also varied, but more people accepted the views on being single and giving birth to a child without intention***

of getting married in the past two years. 47% accepted the view that "being single and not having any plan to get married", while 29% disagreed and 21% remained neutral. At the same time, 39% of the respondents did not accept a woman to give birth to a child if she had no intention of getting married, and only 37% agreed. Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreements on the attitudes towards singlehood increased significantly by 7 to 8% in 2013. Besides, results of the Survey also indicated that younger people aged 15-54 were more likely to accept singlehood.

12. Concerning the attitudes on divorce, results of the Survey indicated that *majority of the respondents accepted "divorce being the best solution for a married couple who could not live together harmoniously provided that they do not have children"* (63%), only 16% disagreed. Besides, 54% of the respondents accepted marrying a divorced person, while 16% did not accept. In the past two years, *increasing number of people agreed that divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously provided that they do not have children.* Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreements on the attitudes that "divorce being the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously provided that they do not have children" and "it is acceptable for me to marry a divorced person increased significantly by 6 to 7% in 2013.

13. On involving grandparents in family matters, *increasing number of people valued the contribution and help of grandparents within the past two years.* 65% of the respondents agreed that "many parents today appreciated the help that grandparents give". At the same time, 58% of the respondents also agreed that "people today valued the roles played by grandparents in family life". Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreements on "many parents today appreciate the help that grandparents give" and "people today valued in the roles played by grandparents in family life" increased significantly by 7% in 2013.

14. *In general, most people practiced filial piety to their parents.* The respondents were asked about how often they had engaged in each of the six filial piety practices (caring, respecting, greeting, pleasing, obeying and providing financial support) during the previous three months. Results of the Survey in 2013 show that more than half of the respondents (excluding students) had practised filial piety rather a lot or very much to their parents such as "respecting" (71%), "greeting" (64%), "caring" (62%), and "pleasing" (59%) during the previous three months.

Parenthood

15.   Concerning parenthood, a number of questions covering the following dimensions were asked:

    a)   attitudes towards parenthood;

    b)   impact on having and raising children;

    c)   intention to have children;

    d)   role models;

    e)   parenting methods;

    f)   parental stress;

    g)   taking care of grandchildren; and

    h)   attitudes towards tri-parenting.

16.   ***Raising children was stressful for some parents.***   64% of the parents agreed that they often found the stress of raising their children overwhelming, indicating that most were not confident of their ability in both raising children and handling the associated stress.   Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreement on "the stress of raising my children overwhelming". "relationship with my children had gotten worse when they grew up" and "I often felt inadequate as parent" increased by 2 to 5% in 2013.

17.   ***Views on raising children by grandparents were diversified.***   We have solicited views of the respondents as to whether their parents render assistance in taking care of their grandchildren.   Views were diversified (44% agreed, whereas 32% disagreed). On the other hand, 68% of the parents agreed that "I am willing to raise my grandchildren in the future".

18.   ***Most parents agreed to set role models for their children.***   Majority of the parents agreed to set good examples to their children (88%), to admit fault when doing wrong (84%), to explain to their children when they do something wrong (90%) and to set good examples to children so that they would respect and take care of their grandparents (82%) in 2013.

19.   ***Nearly half of those non-parents aged 35-54 had no intention to have children in the future.***   Compared with the findings in 2011, the intention to have children in the future of those non-parent respondents was more or less the same in 2013.   The major reasons for non-parents to not having children were "I did not have a partner/not married" (37%), "I was too old" (17%) and "wanted to

enjoy my life" (16%).

20. ***Weak desire to have more children among those parents aged 18-54.***   9% of the parents aged 18-54 had desire to have more children in the future, 80% did not have desire to have more children in the future and 8% did not make the decision yet.   The major reasons for not having more children in the future were "we are satisfied with the number of children we have" (43%), "we are too old" (35%) and "the financial burden of raising children is heavy" (33%).

21. At the same time, ***nearly half of the parents aged 18-34 had no desire to have more children in the future.***   In 2013, 50% of the parents aged 18-34 had no desire to have more children in the future whereas 26% had desire to have more children.

22. ***Most parents cared about children's needs and behaviour.***   Over 90% of parents with children aged 18 or below indicated that they often or sometimes adopted positive approaches in teaching their children such as "care for my children's needs when they are small" (93%), "point out and rectify my children's mistakes immediately" (93%), "explain the reason with my children" (93%) and "play with my children" (90%).

23. Considering the attitudes towards tri-parenting, more than half of parents agreed or strongly agreed with "care of domestic helpers weaken the self-care ability of children" (63%) and "grandparents have the responsibility to discipline their grandchildren" (54%).   On the other hand, 43% disagreed or strongly disagreed with "inter-generational parenting has a negative impact on children".

Family Functioning

24. Family functioning comprises two components: family interaction and parenting. To assess the family functioning in Hong Kong, the Chinese Family Assessment Instrument (CFAI)[1] was adopted in this Survey.   It is a 33-item instrument which can be classified in the following five dimensions to assess family functioning: (1) Mutuality, (2) Communication and Cohesiveness, (3) Conflict and Harmony, (4) Parental Concern, and (5) Parental Control.

---

1 "Psychometric Properties of the Chinese Family Assessment Instrument in Chinese Adolescents in Hong Kong" by Andrew M.H. Siu and Daniel T.L. Shek, 2005

25. Result of the Survey indicated that *families functioned very well in general (72%)*.   Respondents considered that (a) there was mutual trust and concern among family members, (b) a very good parent-child relationship was maintained and (c) parent showed concern about their children.   In addition, respondents also considered that they (d) communicated quite well and their families were cohesive in general.

Satisfaction with Family Life

26. Concerning satisfaction with family life, questions focusing on the following main areas were asked:
    a) relationship with family members;
    b) dependence of the family members; and
    c) satisfaction with family life.

27. *On the whole, respondents were quite satisfied with the relationship with their family members and their family life.*   76% of the respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with their family life whereas only 3% were not satisfied with their family life.   Compared with the findings in 2011, the proportion of respondents who were satisfied or very satisfied with their family life decreased from 81% in 2011 to 76% in 2013.

28. Besides, *relationship with family members was fairly close in general.* 80% of the respondents considered their relationship close (fairly close and very close) with their fathers and 88% with their mothers.   91% had close relationship with their partners and 92% with their children.   Compared with the findings in 2011, similar patterns of the relationship with family members were observed in 2013.

29. Nevertheless, the Survey results showed that *time spent with parents was limited, but with improvement in the past two years.*   About one-third of the respondents talked to their parents for less than 30 minutes a week and 17% had not talked to their fathers, while 12% had not talked to their mothers at all in the week prior to enumeration.   When compared with communication with parents, *partners communicated with each other more frequently,* with only 8% did not speak to each other; 39% talked to each other for more than 4 hours, 9% for 2 to 4 hours, 12% for 1 to 2 hours, and 19% for less than half hour a week.   26% chatted with their children for less than 30 minutes a week and 16% did not talk to each other at all.   Compared with the findings in 2011, the proportions of the respondents talking with their partners and children increased significantly in

2013.

30. ***About one-third of people frequently or sometimes used modern technologies (e.g. SMS, WhatsApp) in communication with family members.*** About one-third of the respondents frequently or sometimes used modern technologies in communication with children (31%), mothers (30%) and fathers (30%). The proportion of respondents who frequently or sometimes used modern technologies in communication with partners (47%) was higher than that of other family members in 2013.

Balancing Work and Family

31. Work-life balance continues to remain a challenge in Hong Kong. ***One quarter of those at work found it difficult to strike a balance between work and family in view of competing priorities.*** The respondents who were currently at work shared the views that "I often felt guilty about the amount of time I spent at work and not with my family" (25%) and "I want to spend more time with my family but am afraid that it would have negative impact on career advancement" (21%). Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreement on the views on balancing work and family were more or less the same in 2013.

32. ***Nearly half of those at work reported stress in balancing work and family.*** On the whole, 45% of the respondents who were currently at work reported that the need of striking a balance of work and family caused them a great deal of stress or some stress, 39% did not have very much stress and 13% did not have stress at all. Compared with the findings in 2011, the proportion of the respondents at work reported that they did not have stress at all dropped from 19% in 2011 to 13% in 2013.

33. The major problems encountered from poor work-life balance of those respondents at work were "I often felt tired, sleepy and exhausted" (43%), "I did not have personal time to enjoy leisure activities or sports at all" (23%), "I did not have enough time to get together with my partner and family" (18%) and "My work affected my relationships with friends" (17%). On the other hand, 38% of the respondents at work reported that they have not encountered the problems from poor work-life balance.

Social Support Network

34. Social support network refers to a social structure which made up of individuals such as family members, friends and peers or organisations. Views on social support network were asked to collect opinions on:
     a) help seeking behaviour; and
     b) availability of assistance from social support network.

35. ***Majority of the respondents indicated that they would seek help or advice from their "close friends" and "spouses" when they encountered difficulties.*** When financial problems were encountered, 40% of the respondents would seek help from spouse, 25% from parents, 24% from children, 23% from brothers/sisters and 22% from close friends.   When emotional problems were encountered, 51% and 47% of the respondents sought help from spouse and close friends respectively

36. ***When problems encountered, family members were helpful and supportive.*** The respondents considered their family members supportive (slightly supportive or very supportive) when they were sick (87%), when they wanted to share the happiness with their family members (88%), when they needed to make an important decision (85%), when they had financial problems (77%), when they were depressed and upset (79%) and when they were unemployed and could not get a job (61%).

Awareness and Participation of Family-related Programmes

37. Information on the level of awareness and the reasons for not participating in family-related activities/programmes was also collected in the Survey.

38. ***Nearly half of the respondents were not aware of any family-related promotional activities or programmes organized by the Government and/or other non-government organisations (NGOs)***.   47% of the respondents were not aware of such programmes and 41% had heard of such programmes but had not participated.   11% participated in programmes organised by the Government and/or NGOs.   Compared with the findings in 2011, the proportion of the respondents participating in programmes organised by the Government and/or NGOs increased from 8% in 2011 to 11% in 2013.

Recommendations

Importance of family

39. The greater variety of family forms and continued changes in attitudes on family values raise important issues for family support services. In view of the increasing number of divorce cases and the potential adverse impact on children of divorced families, as well as declining fertility rate in Hong Kong, such ready acceptance of divorce and singlehood warrants closer attention. Educational workshops on parenting skills, marriage enrichment and marriage counselling are desired. It is recommended that steps be taken to strengthen pre-marriage education, counselling services and couple communication programmes, especially for youth and young adults.

40. Family life education in child care, child rearing and parental and in-law relationships is valuable for young adults. To alleviate adverse on the divorced couples and their children, it is also recommended to strengthen pre- and post-divorce counselling to those couples contemplating separation and divorce. Apart from the services developed for married couples already placed in problem situations, more preventive programs is recommended to be developed and promoted.

41. Some grandparents may experience a diminishing of their grand parenting role. Consideration also needs to be given to grandparents as vulnerable adults. Support services should continue to raise awareness among grandparents of the range of support available to them. Support services for grandparents may help the grandparents understand their roles in the families, establish their value and maintaining and prolonging a good quality of life. It is also recommended to promote and encourage intergenerational activities to strengthen family structures and intergenerational harmony.

Parenthood

42. Parents, especially working mothers and fathers, are very busy and often find that unpredictability of parenting leads to additional stress. In view of the stress faced by parents in raising children which will inevitably affect the quality of parenting and wellbeing of children, it is recommended to promote the stress management techniques among parents as taking a proactive stance on stress management is quite important.

43. Even small amounts of stress can affect one's health. One can prevent a significant amount of stress from occurring. It is recommended to develop and promote the stress relief programmes among parents so as to help those in need to learn more about the effects of stress and find some effective stress management techniques to incorporate into their lives.

44. In light of more parents reported the stress of raising their children overwhelming, it is suggested that more research be conducted to probe into the sources of and factors affecting parental stress, and ways and means to help parents in bringing up their children. This may help remove barriers to having children and help improve family life satisfaction.

Family functioning and family life satisfaction

45. Communication is critical in ensuring good family functioning and maintaining harmonious family relationship. Effective communications among family members require patience and understanding and it help individual better understand the situation, solve problems, build trust and respect and affection. It is recognized that communication takes many forms, especially nowadays with communication through electronic means becoming increasingly popular. It is recommended to encourage people especially the youth to adopt a positive communication style among family members including minimizing distractions, listening actively, showing respect, controlling emotions and increasing interactions.

46. In addition, even though the percentage of respondents who were satisfied with family life and family functioning is not low, there is no room for complacency. Family life education including the skills and knowledge for healthy family functioning, strong communication skills, positive self-esteem, good decision-making skills as well as health interpersonal relationships should be strengthened and promoted. The ultimate goal of family life education is to foster these knowledge and skills to enable individuals and families to function optimally.

Balancing work and family

47. Time management is vital for the individual, organisation and society. The employers or the top managements of the organisaions have to understand the tradeoffs between various important activities occurring simultaneously and prioritise and allocate proper resources to avoid unnecessary tensions and work

pressure. Then, the individuals will have more time to tackle with work and family issues effectively. Furthermore, apart from the monetary benefits, a conducive and friendly working environment and job assurance is crucial for creating balance. It is recommended that apart from salary packages, employment structure including employee friendly policies, providing conducive work environment, flexibility and work scheduling technique's should be focused and strengthen. Adopting open door policy to build employee relationship should be promoted among organisations and employers.

48. It is believed that long working hours is an important factor contributing to work and family life imbalance. Stress felt by most respondents in balancing work and family life would in turn have an adverse impact on family life satisfaction and is likely to be closely related to stress in raising children. It is recommended that additional research should be conducted to explore factors affecting work-life balance, including job insecurity, and measures to alleviate work pressure on family life.

The future of family survey

49. The findings of the Family Survey 2011 and 2013 provide useful information based on which changes over time in people's attitude and behaviour related to family can be monitored and studied. Given that wide span of subject areas covered in the survey, it is practically not feasible to probe further into individual subject areas without affecting response rate and data quality of the survey. It is thus recommended, as discussed above, that additional in-depth studies be conducted on topics considered to be of greater interest and relevance to the work of the Family Council.

50. To facilitate continued monitoring of people's changing attitude and behaviour, it is recommended that the Family Survey should be conducted periodically. Considerations should also be given to conducting a longitudinal survey, so that changes over time could be more precisely monitored and analyzed. In due course, an inventory of questions could be developed, based on findings of successive rounds of the Family Surveys, that tailored to specific circumstances of Hong Kong families, to help monitoring family well-being, addressing response issue like social desirability bias and throwing light on apparently contradicting family related attitudes and behaviour of Hong Kong people.

Chapter 1 | Introduction

1.1 Background

Family Council

1.1.1   The Family Council, set up in December 2007, is an advisory body to the Government, advocates cherishing the family and promotes family core values as a main driver for social harmony, so as to forge a closer and harmonious relationship amongst family members.   The objective of the family policy is to enhance family harmony with a view to building a harmonious community and alleviating social problems, promoting family core values, engendering a culture of loving families and creating/supporting a general pro-family environment.

1.1.2   The Family Council now actively promotes family core values of Love and Care (愛與關懷), Respect and Responsibility (責任與尊重), and Communication and Harmony (溝通與和諧).

Family Survey 2011

1.1.3   With a view to gathering updated and empirically-based information on families in Hong Kong, the Family Council conducted the first territory-wide family survey in 2011 to collect information and data on the existing situation of families in Hong Kong, so that the Family Council would have a better understanding of the current state of Hong Kong families. The fieldwork of the 2011 Family Survey was completed in September 2011, covering a sample size of about 2,000 respondents. The Family Survey 2011 has provided useful information to facilitate the tracking of families in Hong Kong, and also an insight into the changes in Hong Kong families, the challenges they face and the kind of support required.

1.2 Objectives

1.2.1   In view of the useful observations gained in the Family Survey 2011, the Family Council has decided to carry out similar surveys on a biennial basis to keep track of changes and development of Hong Kong families in terms of family structures, attitudes and values, etc.   The primary purpose of the Family Survey 2013 is to gather relevant information and data on the existing situation of families in Hong Kong.   Policy 21 Ltd was engaged to conduct the "Family Survey 2013" (the Survey).

1.2.2   More specifically, the objectives of the Survey are as follows:

(a) to ascertain the attitude of the respondents on family in terms of:

    (i)   importance of family;

    (ii)   parenthood;

    (iii)   family functioning;

    (iv)   satisfaction with family life;

    (v)   work-family balance;

    (vi)   availability of social support network; and

    (vii)   awareness and participation of family-related programmes.

(b) to ascertain whether the respondents are aware of any family-related promotion from the Government and / or other organisations;

(c) to conduct correlation analysis between (a) and (b) (for comparison and analysis purposes, and reference should be made to relevant studies and relevant socio-demographic factors);

(d) to construct relevant indices on item (a), with breakdown by age group and / or other groups as required, and (b) to conduct trend analysis;

(e) to compare the survey results (a) with similar survey(s) in overseas countries and the Family Survey 2011 for benchmarking purpose; and

(f) to make recommendations based on the results of the Survey for the promotion of family core values among the public.

Chapter 2 | Methodology

2.1 Method of Data Collection

2.1.1   This Survey collected both qualitative and quantitative data.   While quantitative data were collected through a household survey, qualitative information was collected through focus group discussions and interviews.   Prior to conducting the Survey, literature research to gather more relevant information in Hong Kong and other countries was also conducted.   Information collected through overseas research and views obtained through focus group discussions provided the basis for the design of the questionnaire and the household survey.

2.1.2   A pilot survey was conducted to pre-test the operation of the household survey. Based on feedback of the pilot survey, the questionnaire was further enhanced. It is composed of two components: the "Household Questionnaire" (household characteristics and demographic characteristics of individual household members) (**Annex 1)**, and the "Personal Questionnaire" (personal views on existing situation of families in Hong Kong) (**Annex 2**).

2.1.3   Four sessions of focus group discussions were organised in 2013, with two research staff acting as facilitators.   Participants in the focus group discussions were drawn from different age-gender and socio-economic groups.   Information obtained from the focus group discussions had facilitated the design of the questionnaire for the household survey and permitted an insight into views of general public covered in the study.

Table 2.1.1: Focus groups conducted

Focus Group	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Target respondents	Youths	Working parents	Non-working parents	Grandparents
Date conducted	25 October 2013	6 February 2013	6 February 2013	18 February 2013
No. of participants	8	4	4	8

Enumeration results

2.1.4   A total of 3,600 living quarters (LQs) were randomly sampled from the Frame of Quarters maintained by the Census & Statistics Department.[2]   A total of 2,000 quarters (with eligible respondents aged 15 or above) were successfully enumerated, representing a response rate of 67%.   The sample size and enumeration results are shown in the table below:

Table 1.1.2: Sample size and enumeration results

	Number	%
Total no. of living quarters (LQs) sampled	3,600	100.0
No. of invalid LQs excluded	597	16.6
No. of eligible LQs	3,003	83.4
Total no. of valid LQs	3,003	100.0
No. of LQs refused to be interviewed	324	10.8
No. of non-contact LQs	679	22.6
No. of LQs successfully enumerated	2,000	66.6
No. of respondents successfully interviewed	2,000	

Scope of the Survey

2.1.5   The Survey aims at assessing the current situation in respect to the importance of family and satisfaction of family life. The Survey covered the following aspects:

      a)   Importance of family;

      b)   Parenthood;

      c)   Family functioning;

      d)   Satisfaction with family life;

      e)   Work-family balance ;

      f)   Social support network; and

      g)   Awareness and participation of family-related programmes.

2.1.6   Question items developed in the Family Survey 2011 are likely to be very stable and can be replicated over time.   As a result, the indices compiled from these question items would more precisely measure changes in people's perception of the issues under study.   Most of the questions asked in the previous round of survey were adopted while some questions/aspects would be asked in alternate

---

2   A two-stage stratified sample design was adopted. The frame of living quarters (LQs) maintained by Census & Statistics Department (C&SD) was first stratified by geographical area and type of quarter. In the second stage, a household member aged 15 or above in the household sampled was randomly selected for interview. The selection method was based on "Last birthday method".

round of survey to avoid long questionnaire design.

2.2 Statistical Analyses

2.2.1   The survey results were weighted (i.e. grossed-up) to infer the population in Hong Kong.[3]   On the basis of the ratio between the data collected from the survey and the data on the 2013 mid-year population released by the Census & Statistics Department, the total population aged 15 or above was estimated using the ratio estimation method.   The survey data were adjusted proportionally to account for gender, age, and location of residence of the respondents.   The resulting estimation of total population aged 15 or above was reconciled with the mid-year population in 2013 (i.e. 6,393,400 for those aged 15 and over).   The estimated number of households was 2,420,800.

2.2.2   Descriptive statistics were used to summarise findings of the Survey.   This report focuses on (a) the holistic picture of existing situation of families in Hong Kong, and (b) its associations with selected social demographic variables such as sex, age, marital status and district, where appropriate.

2.2.3   Attention is drawn to the fact that some figures may not add up to the total or 100% due to rounding.   Likewise, summation of percentages may exceed 100% since more than one answer(s) were allowed to be selected for some questions. In most cases, "agree" includes "agree" and "strongly agree" and "disagree" includes "disagree" and "strongly disagree", unless otherwise specified. The same applies to "satisfy" and "dissatisfy".

2.2.4   With an effective sample size of 2,000, based on simple random sampling for the Survey, the precision level of the estimates is within the range of ±2.2 percentage points at 95% confidence level.

---

3   The grossed-up population aged 15 or above reconciled with the mid-year population in 2013 (i.e. 6,393,400 for those aged 15 and over). The grossed-up number of households was 2,420,800.

Chapter 3 | Demographic Characteristics

3.1 Household Characteristics

3.1.1 Information on the household characteristics, including household size, tenure accommodation and household income was collected.

Household Size

3.1.2 Small households predominated: 28% were 2-person households, 27% were 3-person households and 21% were 4-person households.   Households with one person and with 5 or more persons accounted for 17% and 6% respectively.

Chart 2.1.1: Household size (%)
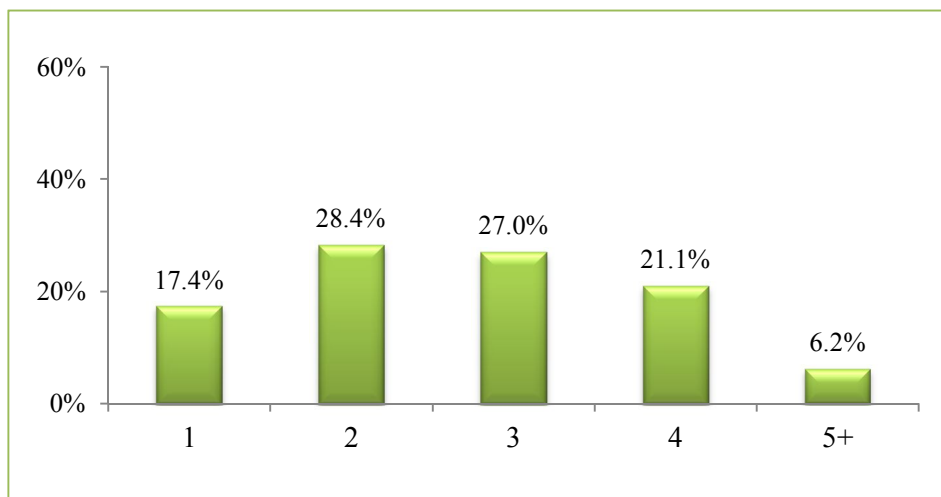
Tenure of Accommodation

3.1.3   59% of the households were sole tenants and 39% were owner-occupiers.   Only 1% of the households shared living quarters with other households, i.e. they were either main tenants, sub-tenants or co-tenants.

Chart 3.1.2: Tenure of accommodation (%)

Category	Percentage
Owner-occupier	39.0%
Sole tenant	59.4%
Co-tenant/Main tenant/Sub-tenant	1.0%
Refuse to answer	0.6%
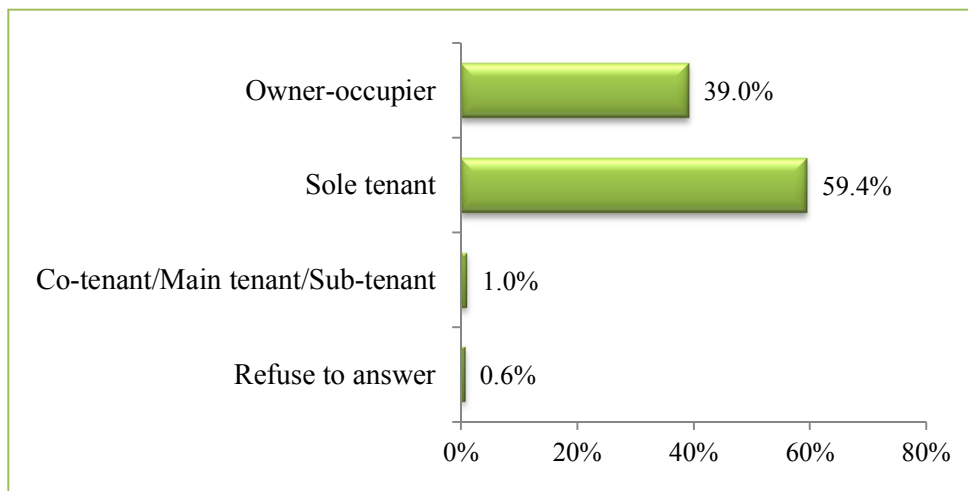
Type of quarters

3.1.4   57% of the households were living in public rental housing flats while 43% were living in private residential flats or subsidised sale flats.

Chart 3.1.3: Type of quarters (%)

Category	Percentage
Public rental housing flats	56.5%
Private residential flats & Subsidised sale flats	43.5%
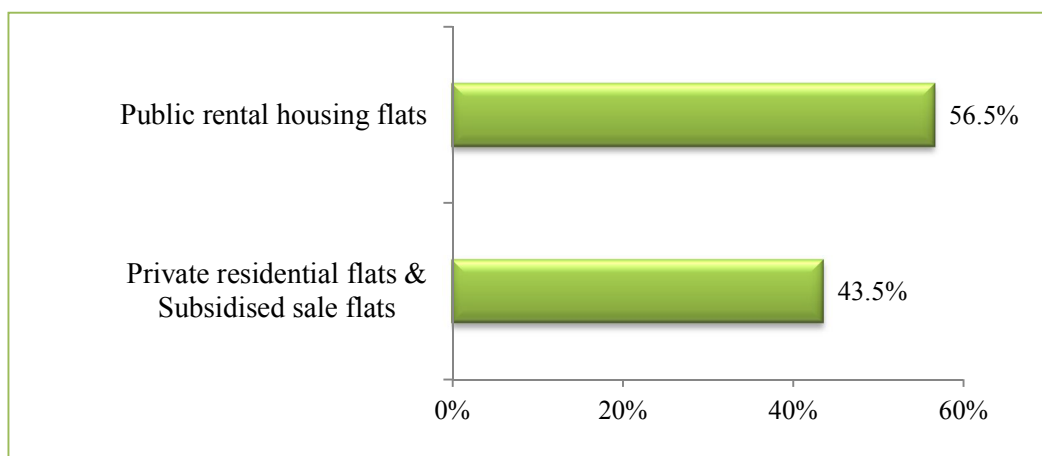
Household composition

3.1.5   About 17% of households were composed of a couple only.   Besides, the proportion of one-person households was 17%.   The proportion of households composed of a couple and unmarried children was around 41%.

3.1.6   On the other hand, about 6% of all types of households were living with at least one of their parents (i.e. 2% of households were composed of couple and living with at least one of their parents, 3% were composed of couple, unmarried children and at least one of their parents and 1% were composed of lone parent, unmarried children and at least one of their parents).

Chart 3.1.4: Household Composition (%)

	%
Composed of couple only	16.8%
Composed of couple and living with at least one of their parents	1.5%
Composed of couple and unmarried children	41.3%
Living with at least one of their parents	*3.1%*
Not living with at least one of their parents	*38.2%*
Composed of lone parent and unmarried children	15.4%
Living with at least one of their parents	*1.2%*
Not living with at least one of their parents	*14.2%*
Relative households	7.0%
One-person households	17.4%
Non-relative households	0.6%

Couples aged 25 to 44

3.1.7   Among the couples both aged 25 to 44, around 48% of them lived together with their unmarried children only.   Another 14% of couples lived together with at least one of their parents (i.e. 2% of households lived with at least one of their parents only and 12% lived with at least one of their parents and their unmarried children).   On the other hand, 25% of the couples both aged 25 to 44 lived with other relationship combination.

Chart 3.1.5: Household composition of couples both aged 25 to 44

	%
Couple only	13.1%
Living with unmarried children only	47.9%
Living with at least one of their parents only	2.3%
Living with at least one of their parents and their unmarried children	11.5%
Composed of other relationship combination	25.2%

Monthly Household Income

3.1.8   14% of the households had an average monthly household income[4] of $9,999 or below, 21% had monthly household income of $10,000 to $19,999, 12% had monthly household income of $20,000 to $29,999 and 14% had monthly household income at $30,000 or more a month.   The Survey results also indicated that 17% of the households had no income at all (e.g. the retired couples).   It was worth noting that 22% of the respondents refused to provide household income information.   In view of the high refusal rate, care should be taken in interpreting the findings on income.

Chart 3.1.6: Average monthly household income (%)

Category	Percentage
No income	16.7%
$5,000 or below	4.7%
$5,000 - $9,999	9.2%
$10,000 - $14,999	11.6%
$15,000 - $19,999	9.7%
$20,000 - $24,999	8.4%
$25,000 - $29,999	3.9%
$30,000 or above	14.2%
Refused to answer	21.5%

---
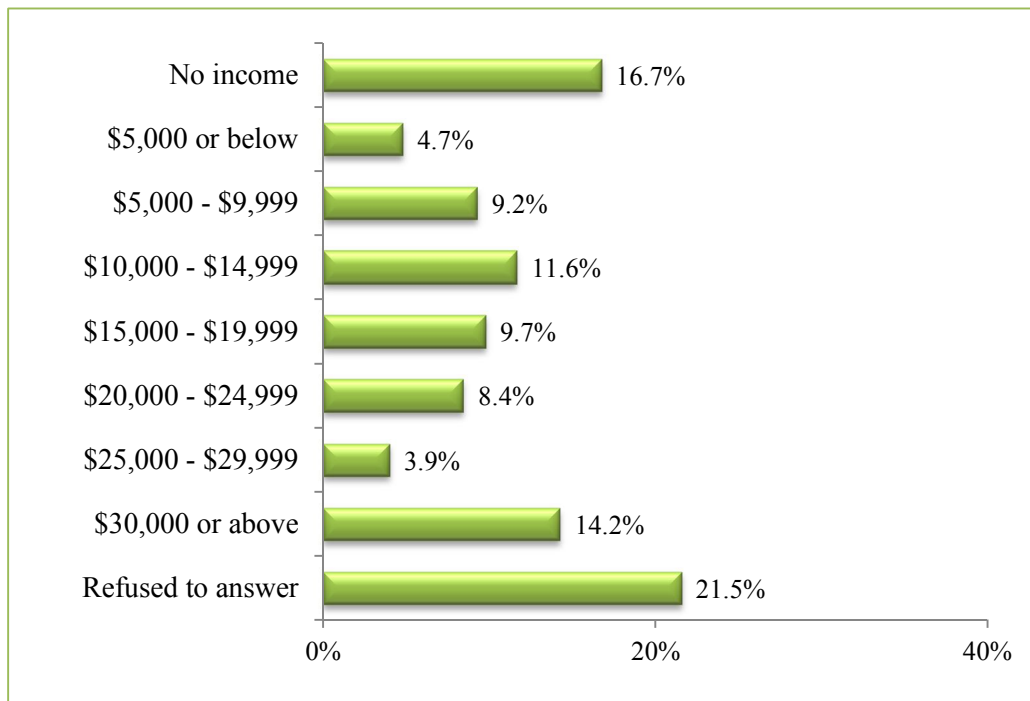
4   Monthly household income refers to the total cash income (including earnings from all jobs and other cash incomes and not including CSSA or other assistance) received in the month before enumeration by all members of the household.

3.2 Demographic Characteristics

3.2.1 Information on the demographic characteristics of individual household members including gender, age, marital status, educational attainment, economic activity status, occupation, average working hours per week and length of residence in Hong Kong was collected. An analysis of their socio-economic characteristics is set out in the following paragraphs.

Age and Gender

3.2.2 54% of the respondents were female and 46% were male. 30% were between the age of 15 and 34, 38% aged 35-54 and the remaining 32% were aged 55 or above.

Chart 3.2.1: Age group (%)
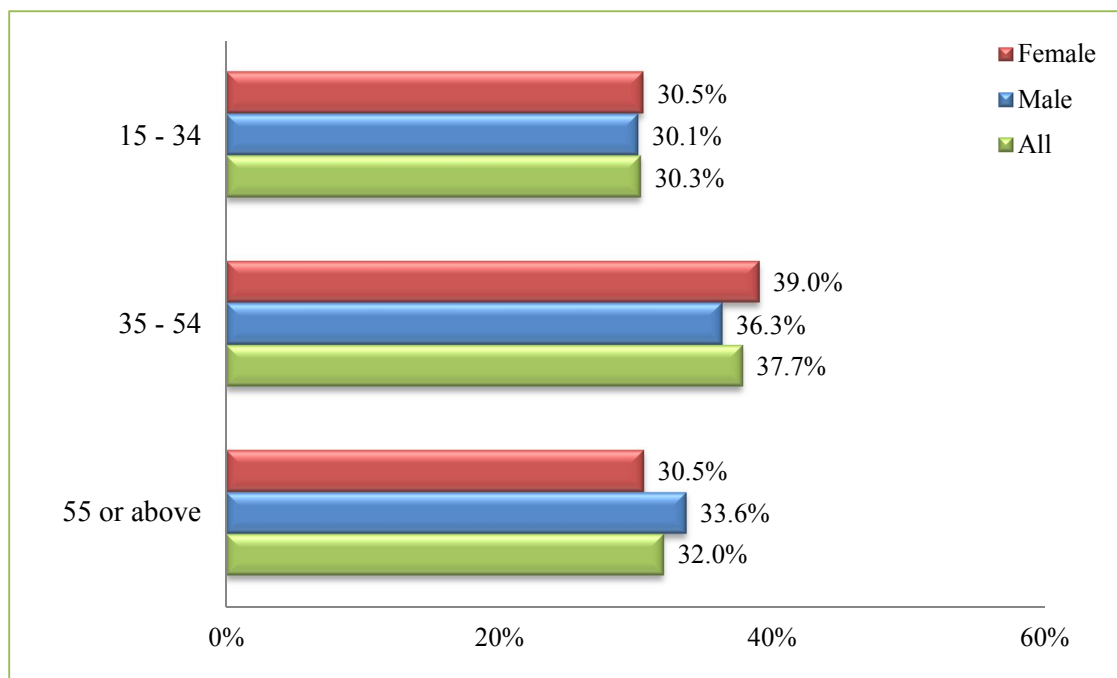
Length of Residence in Hong Kong

3.2.3   92% of the respondents lived in Hong Kong for more than 7 years and 6% of
        them were new arrivals who have lived in Hong Kong for less than 7 years.
        There was a higher proportion of female new arrivals (8%), as compared to the
        corresponding figure of 2% for male new arrivals as the majority of new arrivals
        were One-way Permit Holders who came from the mainland of China to join
        their husbands in Hong Kong.

Chart 3.2.2: Length of residence in Hong Kong (%)
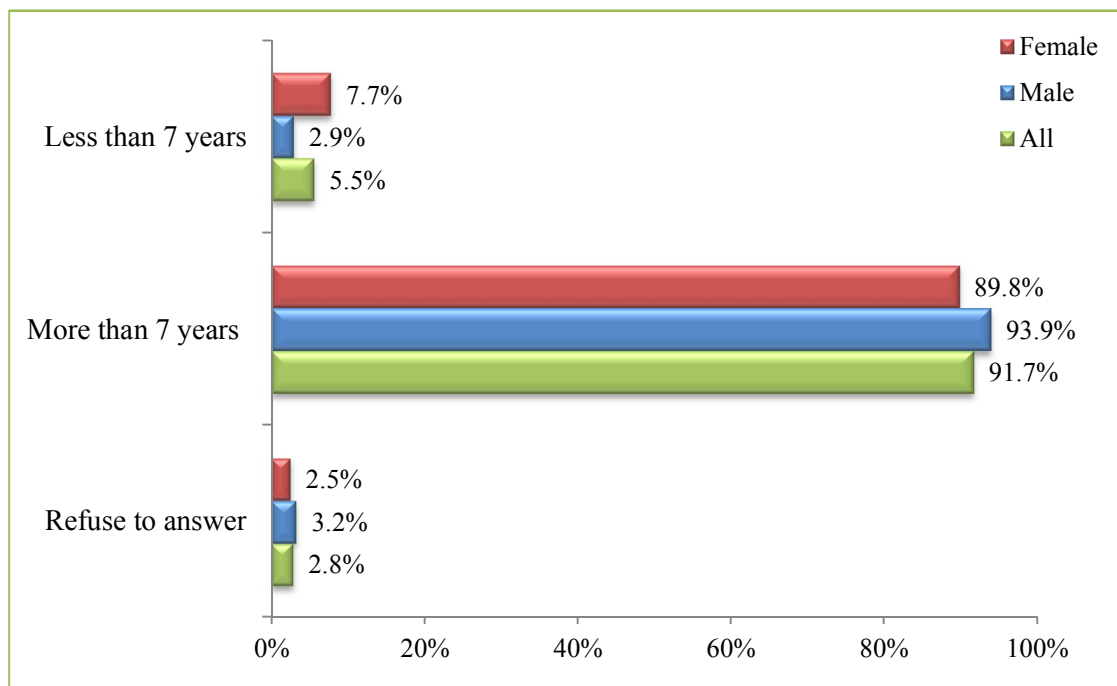
Marital Status

3.2.4 56% of the respondents were either married or cohabiting and 30% were not yet married. Divorced/separated and widowed constituted the remaining 14%. It was also noticeable that the number of female respondents who were either divorced or separated was about two times more than that of male respondents.

Chart 3.2.3: Marital status (%)
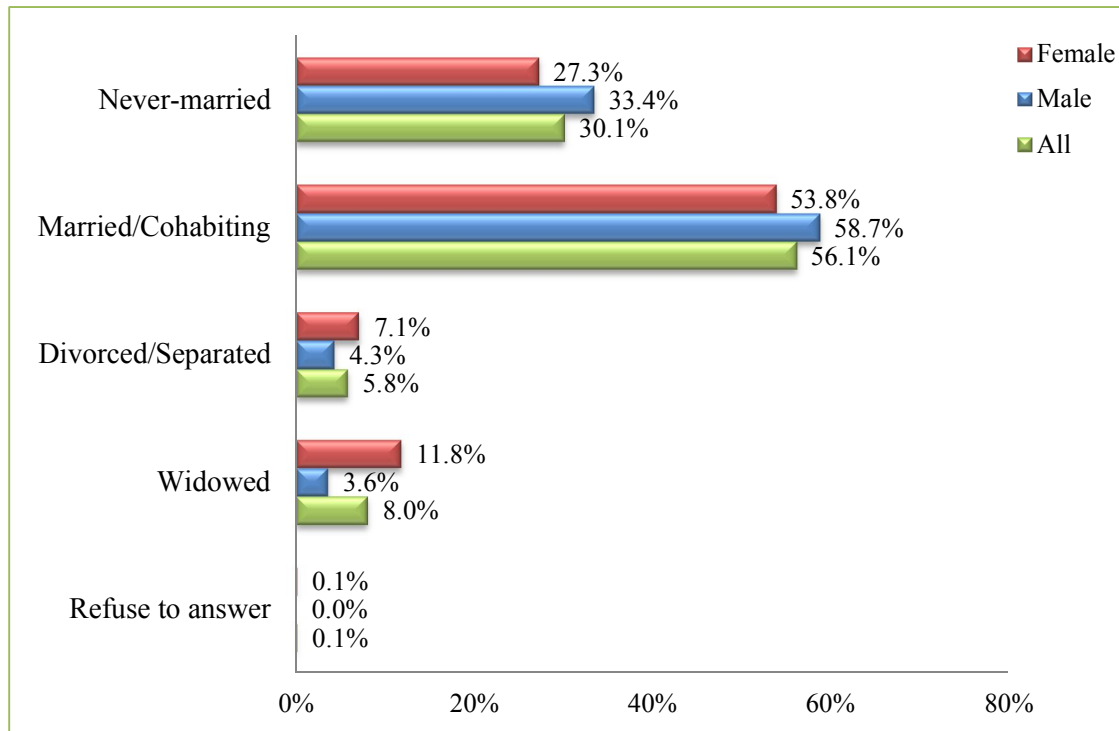
Educational Level

3.2.5 23% of them had post-secondary education or above, 54% of the respondents attained secondary educational level and 22% had primary education or below. The educational level of male respondents was higher than that of female respondents in general.

Chart 3.2.4: Educational level (%)
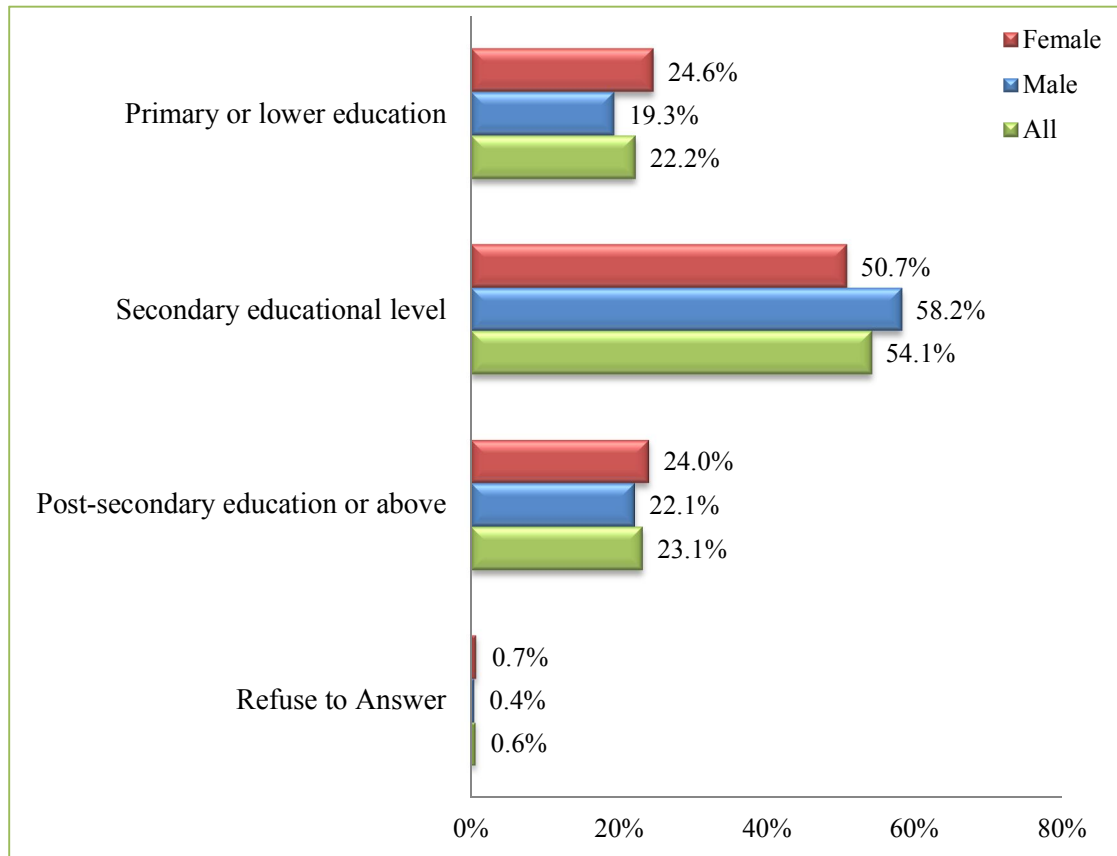
Economic Activity Status

3.2.6   48% of the respondents were employed. 45% were economically inactive, such as retired, home-makers or students, and another 7% were neither at work nor at school.

3.2.7   60% of the male respondents were employed, and about 1% was home-makers. Regarding the female respondents, 37% of them were employed, 57% were economically inactive who were homemakers (33%), retired (15%) or students (9%).   Another 6% were neither at work nor at school.

Chart 3.2.5: Economic activity status (%)
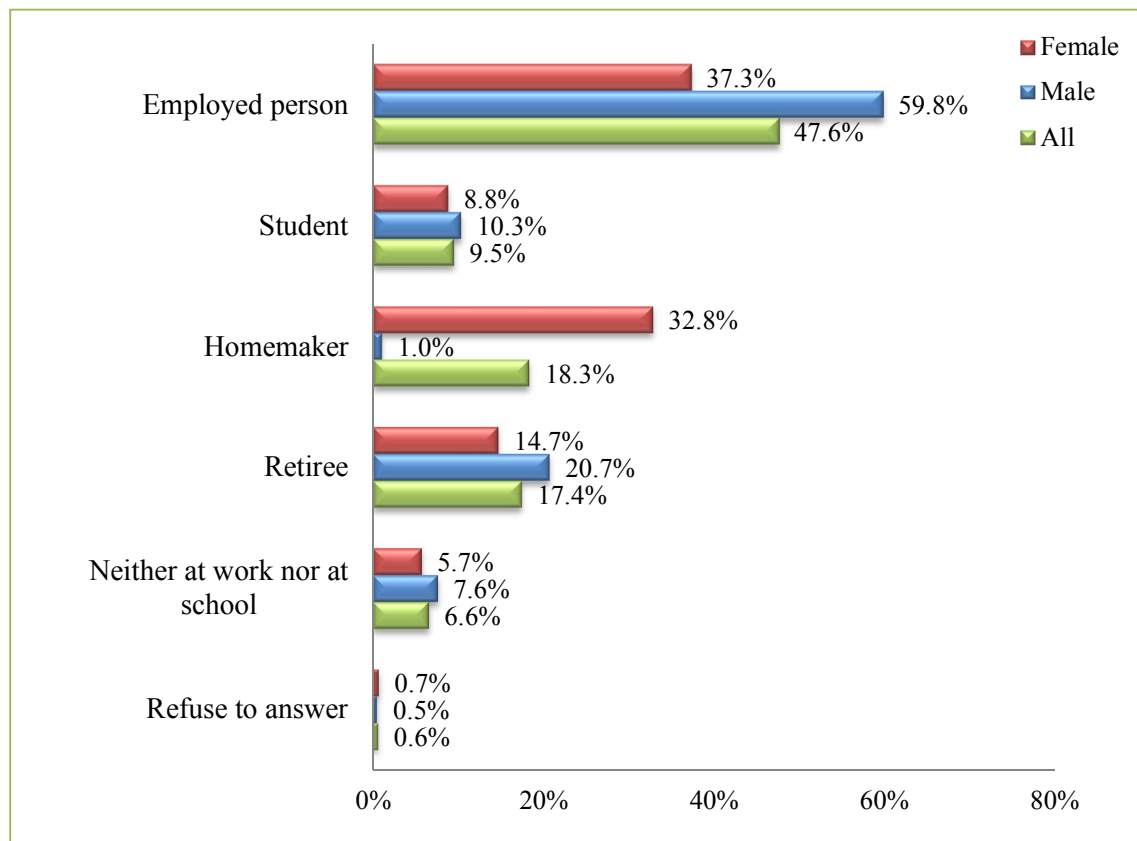
Occupation

3.2.8   Of the employed persons, 20% of the male respondents and 31% of the female respondents were service and shop sales workers.   21% of the male respondents and 17% of the female respondents were managers and administrator/professionals, 12% of the male respondents and 29% of female respondents were clerks.   Survey results showed that females worked fewer hours per week than males.   On average, the male respondents worked 48.1 hours, while the female respondents worked 43.3 hours a week.

Chart 3.2.6: Distribution of employed persons by occupation (%)

---
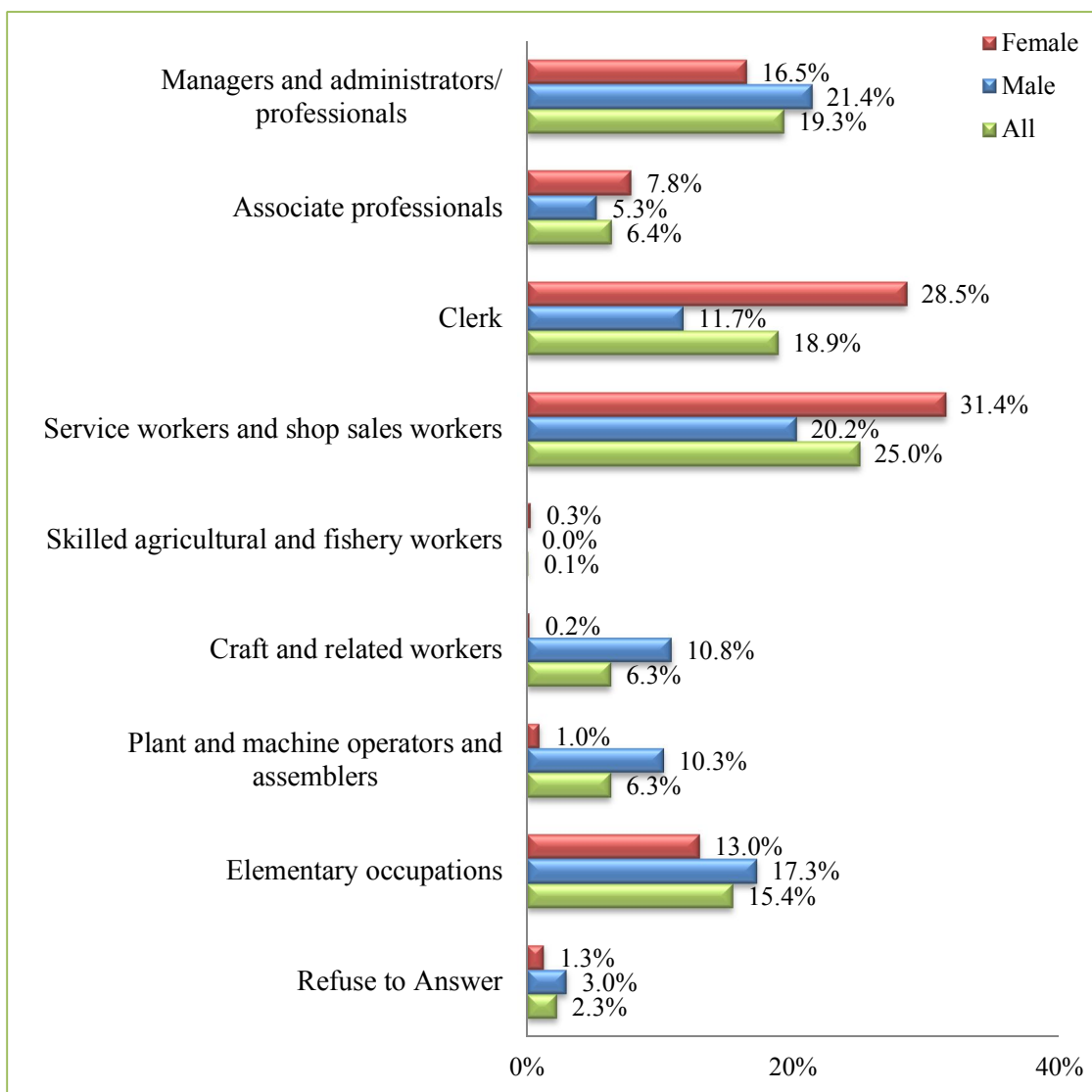
5   Elementary occupations – including street vendors; domestic helpers and cleaners; messengers; private security guards; watchmen; freight handlers; lift operators; construction labourers; hand packers; agricultural and fishery labourers. (According to classification by Census and Statistics Department)

Monthly Personal Income

3.2.9   On the whole, 43% of the respondents had no monthly personal income.[6] Monthly personal income of male respondents was higher than that of the female respondents.   Overall, 16% of the respondents earned less than $10,000, 20% earned $10,000 to $19,999. Only 3% of the respondents earned $35,000 or above. This notwithstanding, care should be taken in interpreting the figures as 11% of the respondents refused to provide information on monthly personal income.

Chart 3.2.7: Monthly personal income distribution (%)

---
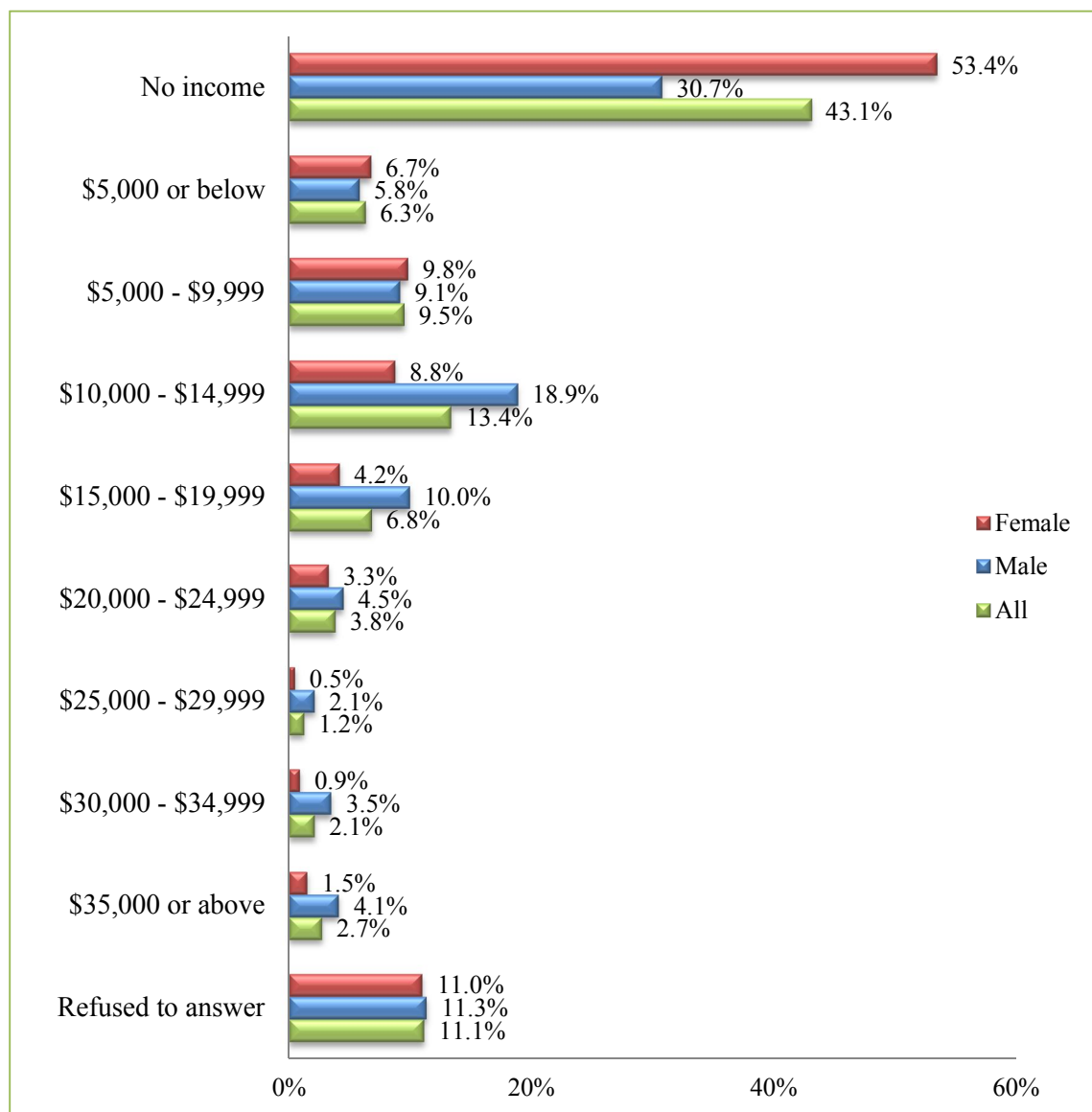
6   Personal income included earnings from employment and other cash income such as rent, dividend, cash gift received and other capital gains.

Chapter 4 | Importance of Family

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Family is the basic unit of a community, while individual is the basic element within this unit. Thus, behaviour and attitudes of individuals towards family affect harmonious relationship among family members, which in turn may lead to many social problems, and affect harmony of the community.

4.1.2 Family attitudes refer to attitudes of individuals towards a wide range of family issues, including the role of men and women, cohabitation, marriage, divorce, parenthood, childlessness, premarital and extramarital sex, childbearing as well as filial piety.[7] [8] Questions covering the following dimensions were asked to ascertain their family attitudes:

    i)   traditional family values;

    j)   living with parents;

    k)   marriage and having child;

    l)   involvement of grandparents in family issues;

    m)   singlehood;

    n)   cohabitation;

    o)   divorce; and

    p)   practice of filial piety.

---

7   Excerpt of "Trend in family attitudes and values in Hong Kong" by Professor Nelson Chow and Dr Terry Lum, University of Hong Kong, August 2008.

8   Excerpt of "The erosion of filial piety by modernisation in Chinese cities" by Cheung, C. & Kwan, A.Y.H. 2009, Ageing & Society 29(2):179-198.

4.2 Attitudes towards Traditional Family Values

4.2.1 ***Most traditional family values were still quite prevalent, but not strong.*** For various traditional views about family (including having son to continue family name, "having a son is better than having a daughter", "family disgrace should be kept within the family" and "work hard to bring honor to the family"), the percentage of those agreed/strongly agreed ranged from 34% to 50% in 2013, with the exception on "having a son is better than having a daughter". Only 13% of the respondents showed agreement in 2013.

4.2.2 Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreement on the attitudes towards tradition family values decreased in 2013.

Chart 4.2.1: Attitudes towards traditional family values in 2011 and 2013 (%)

Having son to continue family name

	2013	2011
Agree / Strongly Agree	40.4%	45.6%
Neutral	28.5%	27.7%
Disagree / Strongly Disagree	30.6%	25.4%

Having a son is better than having a daughter

	2013	2011
Agree / Strongly Agree	12.5%	15.6%
Neutral	37.1%	35.8%
Disagree / Strongly Disagree	50.0%	48.3%

Family disgrace should be kept within the family

	2013	2011
Agree / Strongly Agree	50.2%	54.8%
Neutral	26.2%	28.6%
Disagree / Strongly Disagree	23.1%	15.4%

Work hard to bring honor to the family

	2013	2011
Agree / Strongly Agree	34.3%	42.6%
Neutral	30.9%	33.8%
Disagree / Strongly Disagree	34.4%	22.3%

4.2.3   For various traditional views about advice seeking within the family (including "seek elder's help to resolve family conflict", "consult parents for major decision" and "difficult to live with mother-in-law even it is nice to meet up"), the percentage of those agreed/strongly agreed ranged from 41% to 51% in 2013.

4.2.4   Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreement on the attitudes towards advice seeking within the family were more or less the same in 2013.

Chart 4.2.2: Attitudes towards advice seeking within the family in 2011 and 2013 (%)

Seek elder's help to resolve family conflict

Agree / Strongly Agree	2013: 41.3% 2011: 41.2%
Neutral	2013: 24.6% 2011: 34.0%
Disagree / Strongly Disagree	2013: 32.3% 2011: 23.1%

■2013 ■2011

0%   20%   40%   60%

Difficult to live with mother-in-law even it is nice to meet up

Agree / Strongly Agree	2013: 51.0% 2011: 52.5%
Neutral	2013: 29.1% 2011: 31.7%
Disagree / Strongly Disagree	2013: 17.8% 2011: 14.2%

■2013 ■2011

0%   20%   40%   60%

Consult parents for major decision

Agree / Strongly Agree	2013: 49.1% 2011: 50.7%
Neutral	2013: 22.1% 2011: 26.2%
Disagree / Strongly Disagree	2013: 27.6% 2011: 21.9%

■2013 ■2011

0%   20%   40%   60%

4.2.5   Analysed by age group, older people aged 55 or above were more likely to agree with the traditional family values, such as "family disgrace should be kept within the family" (51% in 2013; 61% in 2011) and "having son to continue family name" (48% in 2013; 54% in 2011).

4.2.6   On the other hand, only about one-tenth of younger people (15-34) and middle-aged (35-54) agreed that "having a son is better than having a daughter" in 2013.

Table 4.2.3: Agreement on attitudes towards traditional family values by age group in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Having son to continue family name	2013	36.5	37.1	**48.0**
	2011	42.3	41.9	**54.0**
Having a son is better than having a daughter	2013	**9.8**	**9.5**	18.7
	2011	12.5	14.5	20.3
Family disgrace should be kept within the family	2013	53.0	47.5	**50.6**
	2011	49.0	54.7	**61.3**
Work hard to bring honor to the family	2013	35.2	29.2	39.4
	2011	43.3	37.7	48.3
Seek elder's help to resolve family conflict	2013	43.3	40.2	40.7
	2011	44.7	37.4	42.7
Difficult to live with Mother-in-law even it is nice to meet up	2013	43.0	53.9	55.0
	2011	44.7	58.4	53.0
Consult parents for major decision	2013	55.2	47.0	46.0
	2011	53.7	48.9	49.7

4.2.7 Analysed by marital status, female respondents who were married/cohabiting without child were more likely to agree that "difficult to live with mother-in-law even it is nice to meet up" (64% in 2013; 62% in 2011). Besides, male respondents who were married/cohabiting with child (19% in 2013; 18% in 2011) and respondents who were widowed (19% and 23% of male and female respondents respectively in 2013) were more likely to agree that "having a son is better than having a daughter".

Table 4.2.4: Agreement on attitudes towards traditional family values by marital status and gender in 2011 and 2013 (%)

		Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	Year	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Having son to continue family name	2013	44.4	26.3	33.6	11.9	52.0	40.7	33.3	30.3	48.5	48.3
	2011	43.3	38.4	35.3	30.9	56.3	43.2	67.0	53.0	43.7	45.8
Having a son is better than having a daughter	2013	13.8	7.1	8.9	0.9	**19.0**	9.1	12.0	9.0	**18.9**	**22.9**
	2011	18.3	10.8	16.4	15.4	**17.5**	13.8	40.4	20.2	4.6	11.9
Family disgrace should be kept within the family	2013	53.3	50.6	49.5	38.0	56.2	45.8	19.3	46.6	48.6	57.2
	2011	52.0	47.0	57.6	50.2	62.0	54.2	74.8	57.6	64.7	47.9
Work hard to bring honor to the family	2013	39.3	32.3	28.5	23.5	38.0	30.1	25.8	27.1	47.4	44.0
	2011	47.5	41.4	43.4	27.1	44.7	39.2	48.0	51.8	39.1	38.2
Seek elder's help to resolve family conflict	2013	50.4	41.6	47.9	18.0	42.5	38.3	40.0	42.7	30.7	38.2
	2011	43.8	44.8	37.5	41.4	40.4	38.8	49.5	41.9	43.2	36.0
Difficult to live with mother-in-law even it is nice to meet up	2013	41.7	44.7	44.3	**63.5**	53.2	57.2	44.5	58.9	39.4	51.2
	2011	44.9	44.3	57.9	**62.4**	55.4	55.2	46.4	56.3	63.6	57.0
Consult parents for major decision	2013	52.3	58.3	35.1	42.2	42.0	51.8	43.9	52.1	36.9	51.0
	2011	47.1	57.1	36.6	49.4	49.3	53.3	52.6	52.5	51.5	43.5

4.3 Attitudes towards Living with Parents

4.3.1 *Majority of the respondents were willing to live with their parents and support their living even though they did not live with them.* In 2013, 65% of the respondents were willing to live with their parents and 87% agreed to support their parents' living even though they did not live with them. 67% agreed "to live with their adult children". At the same time, 47% of the respondents agreed that "newly-wed couple should live away from their parents".

4.3.2 Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreement on the attitude towards willingness to live with parents decreased in 2013, simultaneously, more respondents agreed/strongly agreed that newly-wed couple should live away from their parents. On the other hand, the agreement on the attitude towards willingness to live with their adult children decreased from 73% in 2011 to 67% in 2013.

Chart 4.3.1: Attitudes towards living with parents in 2011 and 2013 (%)
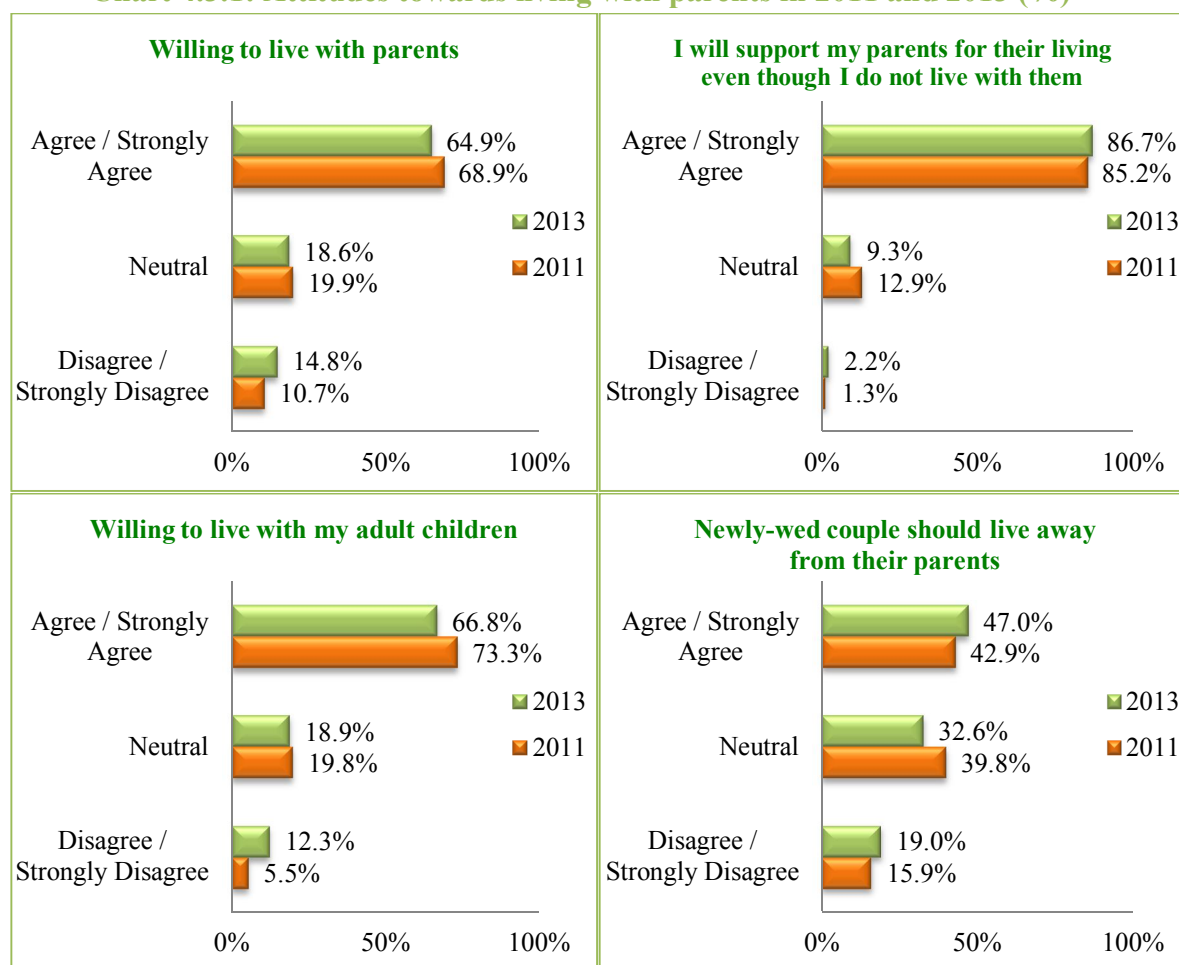
4.3.3 Similar views were held by the respondents across all age groups. However, younger people aged 15-34 were more likely to be willing to live with their parents (73% in 2013; 74% in 2011) than those in the older age groups. Majority of the respondents were willing to support their parents' living even though they did not live with them, especially the younger people aged 15-34 (95% in 2013 and 90% in 2011 of them sharing such a view).

Table 4.3.2: Agreement on attitudes towards living with parents by age group in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Willing to live with parents	2013	**73.2**	62.7	59.6
	2011	**74.4**	66.7	66.0
I will support my parents for their living even I do not live with them	2013	**95.0**	87.3	78.1
	2011	**89.5**	86.3	79.0
Willing to live with adult children	2013	69.9	65.4	65.6
	2011	73.5	77.3	67.8
Newly-wed couple living away from their parents	2013	41.7	45.1	54.5
	2011	39.5	43.3	46.0

4.3.4 Analysed by marital status, female respondents who were never married were more likely to be willing to live with their parents (76% in 2013; 80% in 2011) and support their parents' living even though they did not live with them (97% in 2013; 90% in 2011).

Table 4.3.3: Agreement on attitudes towards living with parents by marital status and gender in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Willing to live with parents	2013	73.3	**76.1**	58.0	45.4	63.5	59.3	61.2	61.2	55.8	67.5
	2011	71.8	**79.8**	66.4	60.7	67.1	67.0	60.2	60.8	62.7	66.8
I will support my parents for their living even I do not live with them	2013	88.4	**96.7**	90.5	89.2	83.4	86.9	74.8	84.2	62.2	77.6
	2011	86.3	**90.4**	82.7	87.6	82.4	88.7	73.5	73.5	74.8	85.1
Willing to live with adult children	2013	62.0	65.2	57.4	48.8	69.2	73.6	47.4	65.1	61.3	71.8
	2011	69.6	71.9	53.9	70.9	78.0	80.9	66.9	65.5	51.7	69.7
Newly-wed couple living away from their parents	2013	39.8	41.5	42.7	63.4	53.7	48.8	43.8	36.6	36.2	49.9
	2011	40.2	38.5	44.4	45.0	42.3	48.2	55.3	38.0	36.0	46.5

4.4 Attitudes towards Marriage and Having Child

4.4.1 ***Most people agreed that marriage is a necessary step in life, however, the agreement decreased within the past two years.*** In 2013, 60% and 53% of the respondents agreed that "marriage is a necessary step in life" and "child bearing is important in marriage" respectively. 44% of the respondents also agreed that "my whole life without having a child is empty". The view that "married people are usually happier than those who have not married" was diversified.

4.4.2 Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreements on the attitudes that "marriage is a necessary step in life", "child bearing is important in marriage" and "married people are usually happier than people who have not yet married" decreased in 2013. On the other hand, the agreement on the view that life without having a child is empty was more or less the same in 2013.

Chart 4.4.1: Attitudes towards marriage and having child in 2011 and 2013 (%)
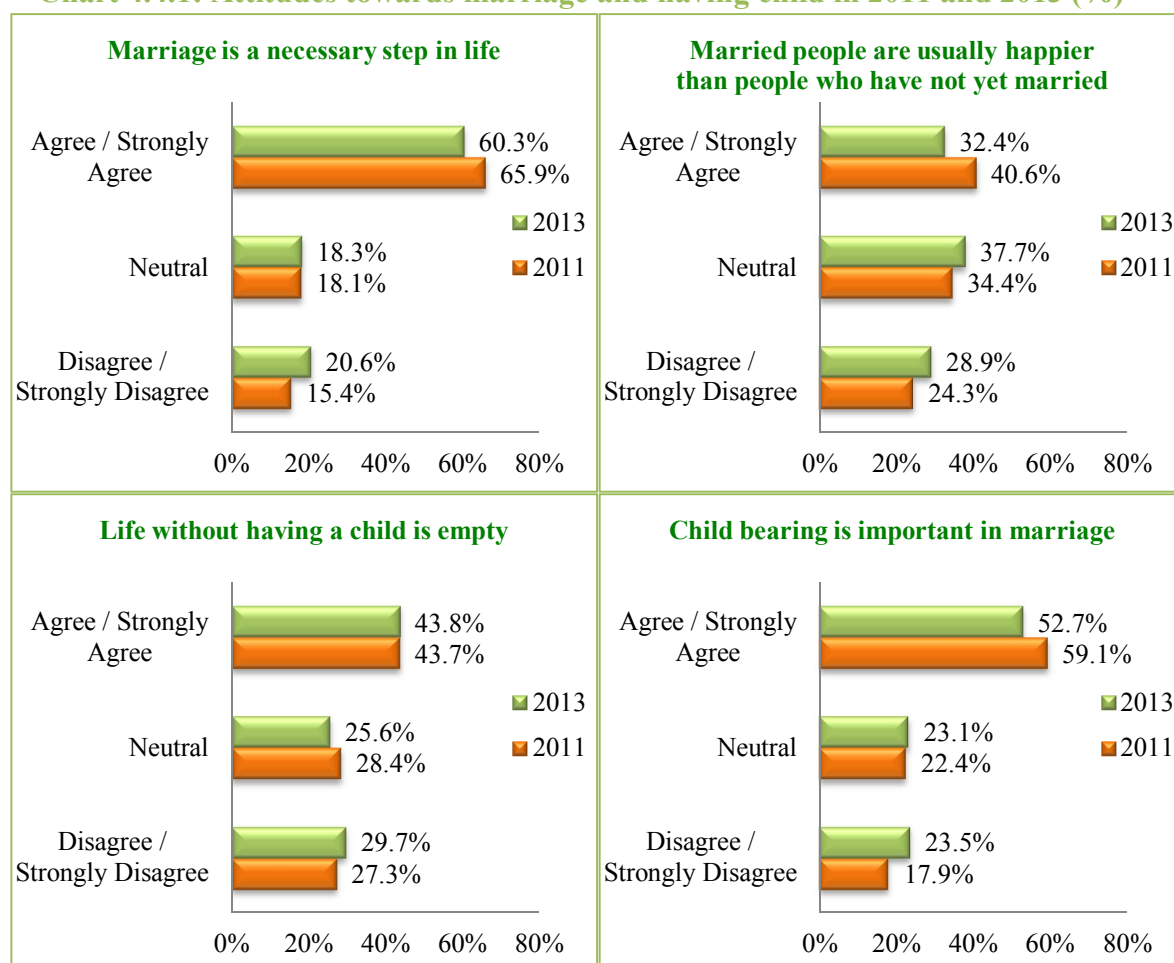
4.4.3 Older people aged 55 or above were more likely to agree that "marriage is a necessary step in life" (65% in 2013; 71% in 2011), "child bearing is important in marriage" (62% in 2013; 69% in 2011), "life without having a child is empty" (61% in 2013; 59% in 2011) and "married people are usually happier than people who have not yet married" (39% in 2013; 49% in 2011).

Table 4.4.2: Agreement on attitudes towards marriage and having child by age group in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Marriage is a necessary step in life	2013	59.9	57.0	**64.6**
	2011	64.9	63.0	**70.9**
Married people are usually happier than people who have not yet married	2013	25.6	32.7	**38.6**
	2011	32.7	40.4	**49.1**
Life without having a child is empty	2013	27.1	42.9	**60.8**
	2011	31.6	41.4	**59.2**
Child bearing is important in marriage	2013	44.2	52.1	**61.5**
	2011	49.8	59.0	**69.0**

Table 4.4.3: Agreement on attitudes towards marriage and having child by marital status and gender in 2011 and 2013 (%)

		Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	Year	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Marriage is a necessary step in life	2013	47.9	48.7	56.8	55.0	76.6	64.7	38.6	43.9	75.3	59.7
	2011	57.6	52.4	51.0	58.2	75.6	72.8	84.1	74.3	67.6	57.2
Married people are usually happier than people who have not yet married	2013	19.8	23.6	23.4	20.0	64.3	57.0	18.8	31.3	62.3	61.0
	2011	33.0	25.5	46.6	35.0	47.8	48.6	42.5	46.2	30.8	29.4
Life without having a child is empty	2013	34.6	33.4	37.2	36.4	69.2	64.4	47.9	42.9	78.9	56.4
	2011	29.4	24.1	27.9	27.8	53.3	55.4	59.2	59.2	40.2	53.4
Child bearing is important in marriage	2013	21.1	19.5	35.9	36.6	48.5	35.1	17.6	12.2	39.4	31.7
	2011	48.8	40.2	50.5	39.8	70.5	69.5	72.8	64.3	61.4	57.3

4.5 Attitudes towards Involvement of Grandparents in Family Matters

4.5.1 ***Increasing number of people valued the contribution and help of grandparents within the past two years.*** In 2013, 65% and 62% of the respondents agreed that "many parents today appreciated the help that grandparents give" and "with so many working mothers, families needed grandparents to help more" respectively. At the same time, 58% of the respondents also agreed that "people today valued the roles played by grandparents in family life". 46% agreed that "grandparents should be closely involved in deciding how their grand-children are brought up".

4.5.2 Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreements on the attitudes towards involvement of grandparents in family matters such as "many parents today appreciate the help that grandparents give" and "people today valued in the roles played by grandparents in family life" increased significantly in 2013.

Chart 4.5.1: Attitudes towards involvement of grandparents in family matters in 2011 and 2013 (%)
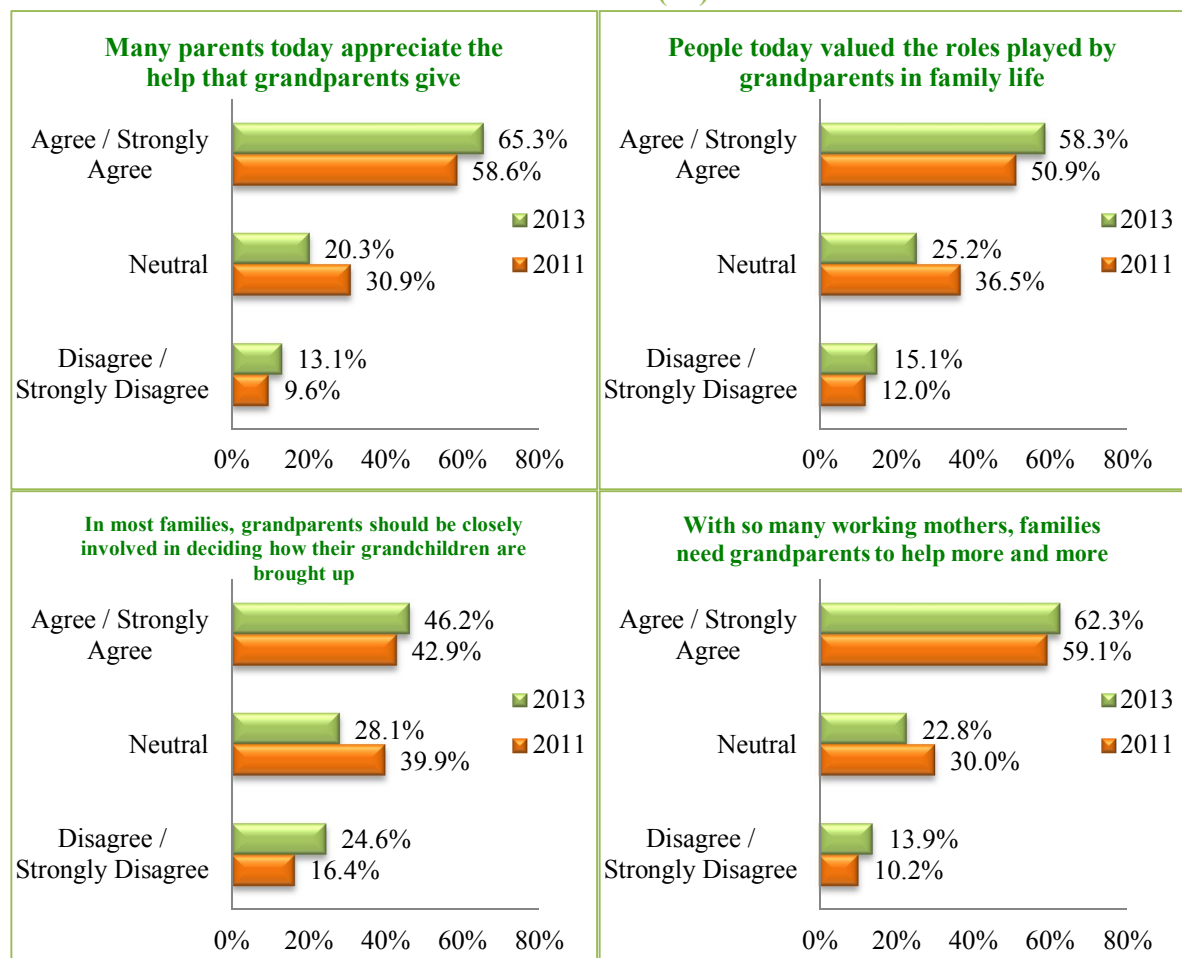
4.5.3   On the other hand, more people disagreed that grandparents should be closely involved in deciding how their grandchildren are brought up in most families from 16% in 2011 to 25% in 2013.

4.5.4   In general, older people aged 55 or above were more likely to agree that "with so many working mothers, families need grandparents to help more" (64% in 2013; 65% in 2011) and "in most families, grandparents should be closely involved in deciding how their grandchildren are brought up" (52% in 2013; 48% in 2011).

Table 4.5.2: Agreement on attitudes towards involvement of grandparents in family matters by age group in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Many parents today appreciate the help that grandparents give	2013	66.9	65.8	63.2
	2011	59.2	55.9	61.6
People today place enough value on the part grandparents play in family life	2013	59.4	59.1	56.3
	2011	53.5	46.2	54.3
In most families, grandparents should be closely involved in deciding how their grandchildren are brought up	2013	41.9	44.9	**51.7**
	2011	42.6	39.1	**48.0**
With so many working mothers, families need grandparents to help more and more	2013	60.4	62.2	**64.2**
	2011	54.9	58.1	**64.8**

4.5.5　It is not surprising that people who were married/cohabiting with child were in general showed positive views on the involvement of grandparents in family matters.

Table 4.5.3: Agreement on attitudes towards involvement of grandparents in family matters by marital status and gender in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Many parents today appreciate the help that grandparents give	2013	57.9	68.2	66.3	50.3	70.4	66.9	47.4	66.9	69.0	62.9
	2011	57.4	57.3	39.7	45.7	65.7	59.8	56.9	60.6	52.7	58.3
People today place enough value on the part grandparents play in family life	2013	56.8	56.5	61.5	44.4	64.6	59.4	44.8	51.8	61.8	52.0
	2011	49.6	49.8	34.5	48.7	53.3	54.5	40.5	54.4	47.5	44.7
In most families, grandparents should be closely involved in deciding how their grandchildren are brought up	2013	43.7	42.0	60.0	17.3	52.2	44.3	25.6	47.2	62.0	57.2
	2011	39.4	42.9	28.4	34.1	47.7	42.2	33.3	54	42.5	47.2
With so many working mothers, families need grandparents to help more and more	2013	54.0	56.1	66.6	51.3	66.5	66.8	65.2	66.1	61.7	63.8
	2011	52.6	54.9	54.1	53.3	63.9	64.8	51.6	62.9	54.3	52.1

4.6 Attitudes towards Singlehood

4.6.1 ***Attitudes towards singlehood varied, but more people accepted the views on being single and giving birth to a child without intention of getting married in the past two years.*** In 2013, 47% of the respondents accepted the view of "being single and not having any plan to get married". At the same time, 37% of the respondents found it acceptable for a woman to give birth to a child if she had no intention of getting married.

4.6.2 Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreements on the attitudes towards singlehood increased significantly in 2013.

Chart 4.6.1: Attitudes towards singlehood in 2011 and 2013 (%)
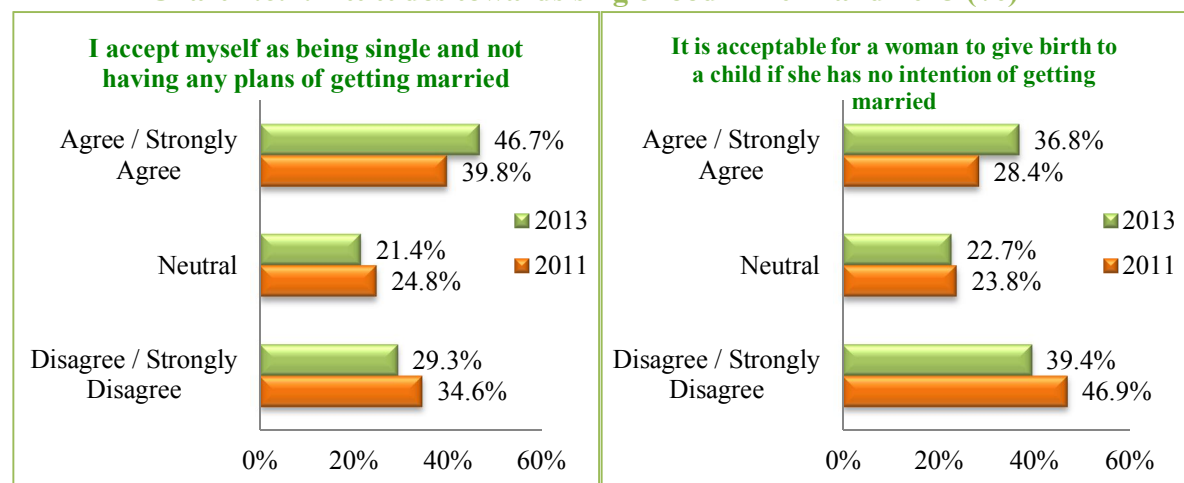
4.6.3 Analysed by age group, younger people aged 15-34 were more likely to agree that "being single and not having any plan to get married" (51% in 2013; 46% in 2011) and "woman to give birth to a child if she has no intention of getting married" (44% in 2013; 33% in 2011).

Table 4.6.2: Agreement on attitudes towards singlehood by age group in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
I accept myself as being single and not having any plans of getting married	2013	**51.0**	51.5	37.0
	2011	**45.7**	43.0	29.3
It is acceptable for a woman to give birth to a child if she has no intention of getting	2013	**44.4**	38.8	27.3
	2011	**32.5**	31.2	20.6

4.6.4   Analysed by marital status, respondents who were divorced/separated were more likely to accept themselves as "being single and not having any plan to get married" (77% and 69% of male and female respondents respectively shared such view) and accept "a woman to give birth to a child if she had no plan to get married" (45% and 51% for male and female respondents respectively).

Table 4.6.3: Agreement on attitudes towards singlehood by marital status and gender in 2011 and 2013 (%)

		Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	Year	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
I accept myself as being single and not having any plans of getting married	2013	60.6	56.7	50.6	50.3	35.8	38.7	**77.2**	**69.4**	34.8	36.3
	2011	50.8	60.6	31.2	45.1	31.4	27.1	31.7	28.1	67.8	62.1
It is acceptable for a woman to give birth to a child if she has no intention of getting married	2013	45.7	45.8	45.2	45.5	29.0	32.7	**45.2**	**51.0**	23.0	20.5
	2011	32.2	36.5	27.1	28.1	25.5	22.8	22.1	19.0	55.7	46.5

4.7 Attitudes towards Cohabitation

4.7.1 ***Attitudes towards cohabitation varied, but more people accepted the view in the past two years.*** Results of the Survey in 2013 show that 49% of the respondents accepted "cohabitation without intention of getting married". 48% accepted that "cohabitation before marriage is a good idea".

4.7.2 Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreements on the attitudes towards cohabitation increased significantly in 2013.

Chart 4.7.1: Attitudes towards cohabiting in 2011 and 2013 (%)

"Cohabitation without the intention of getting married" is acceptable to me

	2013	2011
Agree / Strongly Agree	49.0%	41.1%
Neutral	19.1%	26.9%
Disagree / Strongly Disagree	31.3%	31.3%

"Cohabitation before marriage" is a good idea

	2013	2011
Agree / Strongly Agree	48.2%	39.7%
Neutral	24.6%	23.7%
Disagree / Strongly Disagree	26.2%	36.1%
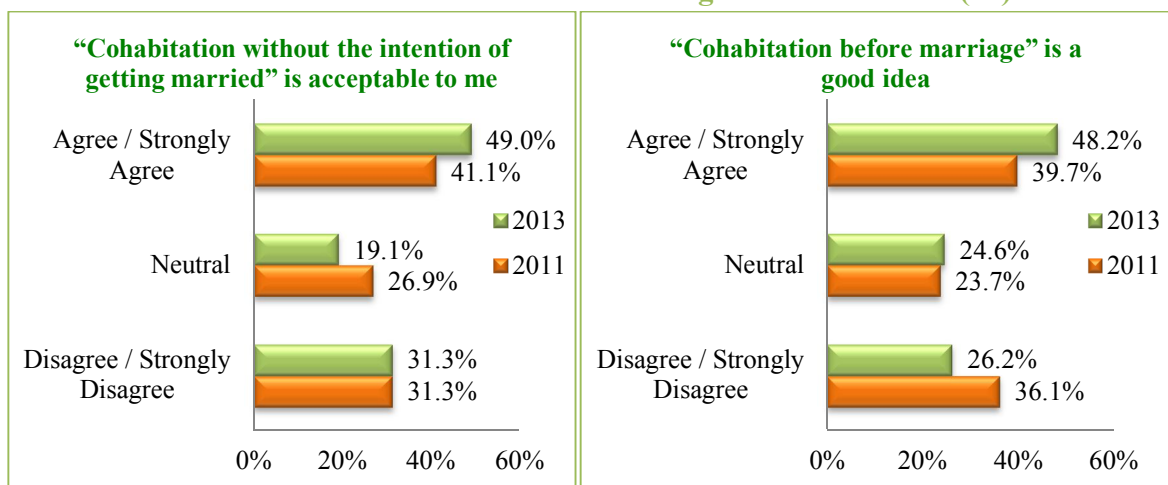
4.7.3 Even though quite a high proportion of the respondents accepted "cohabitation without intention of getting married" and "cohabitation before marriage is a good idea", at the same time, there are still 31% showed disagreement to "cohabitation without intention of getting married" and 26% disagreed that "cohabitation before marriage" is a good idea in 2013.

4.7.4 Analysed by age group, younger people aged 15-34 were more likely to accept "cohabitation without intention of getting married" (55% in 2013; 49% in 2011) and "cohabitation before marriage" (54% in 2013; 50% in 2011).

Table 4.7.2: Agreement on attitudes towards cohabitation by age group in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
"Cohabitation without the intention of getting married" is acceptable to me	2013	**54.5**	55.2	36.3
	2011	**49.4**	42.4	25.8
"Cohabitation before marriage" is a good idea	2013	**53.8**	53.6	36.4
	2011	**49.5**	42.5	30.3

4.7.5 Irrespective of marital status, male respondents who were never married were more likely to accept "cohabitation without the intention of getting married" and "cohabitation before marriage".

Table 4.7.3: Agreement on attitudes towards cohabitation by marital status and gender in 2011 and 2013 (%)

		Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	Year	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
"Cohabitation without the intention of getting married" is acceptable to me	2013	**65.1**	45.2	56.9	66.9	47.2	41.4	57.3	66.6	37.0	30.1
	2011	57.7	43.6	51.8	46.7	33.4	32.4	30.9	16.3	62.4	42.2
"Cohabitation before marriage" is a good idea	2013	63.3	43.8	49.5	56.8	47.7	42.5	45.4	65.3	26.1	37.0
	2011	54.5	46.3	53.3	48.1	35.2	34.8	44.4	23.8	55.5	36.5

4.8 Attitudes towards Divorce

4.8.1 ***Increasing number of people agreed that divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple without child who cannot live together harmoniously.*** In 2013, majority of respondents accepted "divorce being the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously provided that they do not have children" (63%). However, there was no consensus when the couple already had children. About 33% of the respondents indicated agreement on "divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously even though they already have children". At the same time, 54% accepted marrying a divorced person. 45% agreed that divorce affected women more than men.

4.8.2 Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreements on the attitudes that "divorce being the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously provided that they do not have children" and "it is acceptable for me to marry a divorced person increased significantly in 2013.

Chart 4.8.1: Attitudes towards divorce in 2011 and 2013 (%)
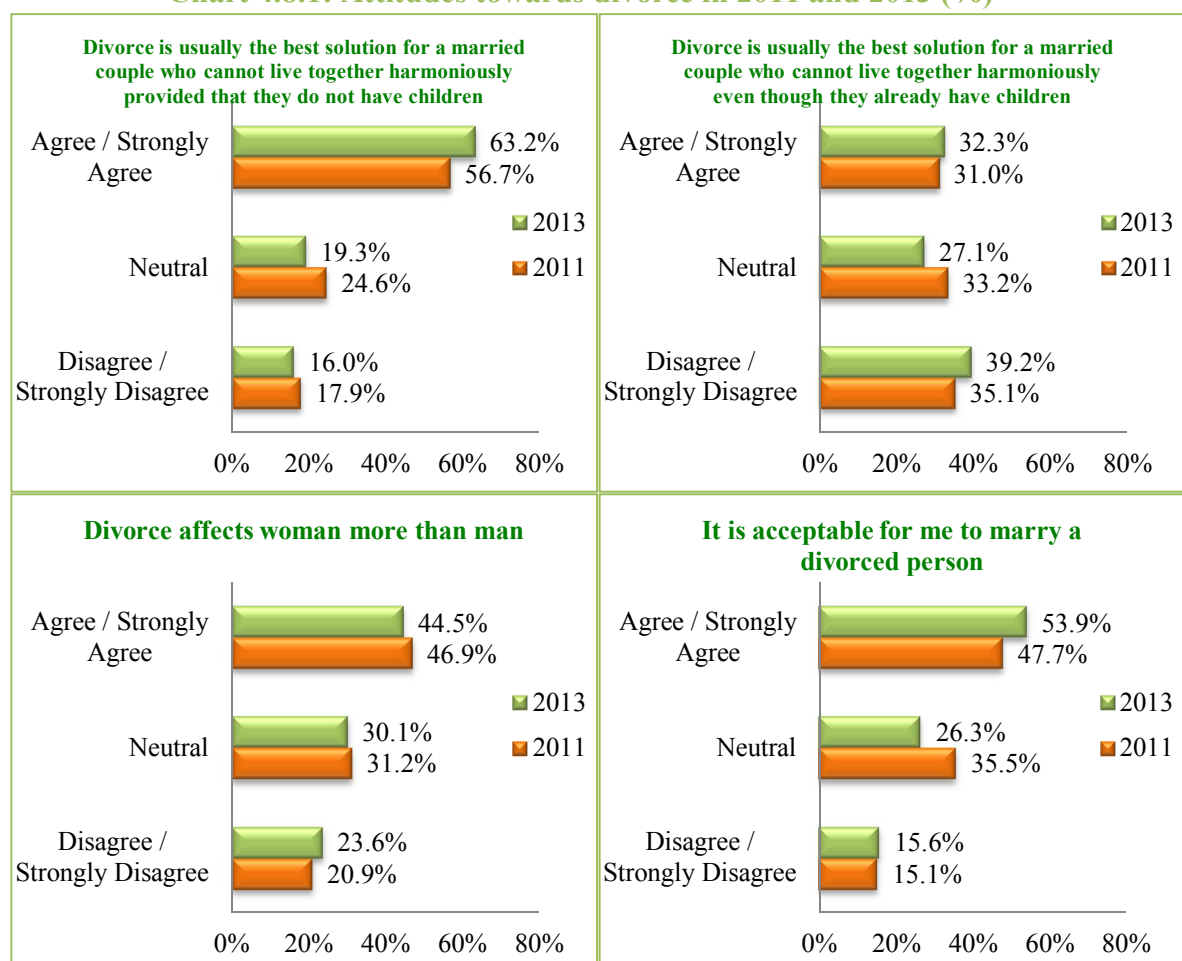
4.8.3   Compared with other age groups, middle-aged respondents (35 – 54) were more likely to support divorce as the best solution for a couple who could not get along well with each other if the couple had no child (70% in 2013; 61% in 2011) and they were also likely to accept marrying a divorced person (61% in 2013; 53% in 2011).

Table 4.8.2: Agreement on attitudes towards divorce by age group in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously provided that they do not have children	2013	58.6	**69.8**	59.6
	2011	54.6	**60.8**	53.8
Divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously even though they already have children	2013	27.4	36.5	32.0
	2011	28.9	32.9	30.8
Divorce affects woman more than man	2013	40.9	46.6	45.4
	2011	49.9	46.0	45.2
It is acceptable for me to marry a divorced person	2013	51.8	**60.7**	47.7
	2011	49.7	**53.4**	38.1

4.8.4 Analysed by marital status, female respondents who were divorced/separated were more likely to agree that "divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot get along well with each other if the couple had no child" (82% in 2013) or "with child" (57% in 2013)". Likewise, they were more likely to accept marrying a divorced person.

Table 4.8.3: Agreement on attitudes towards divorce by marital status and gender in 2011 and 2013 (%)

		Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	Year	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously provided that they do not have children	2013	57.3	65.5	54.7	54.2	66.5	67.6	53.2	**81.9**	35.5	51.5
	2011	54.4	59.7	47.0	64.6	56.8	54.5	39.4	51.7	86.2	76.8
Divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously even though they already have children	2013	30.6	36.4	25.8	21.9	34.7	29.0	43.5	**56.5**	23.3	26.3
	2011	31.4	32.6	23.2	33.4	27.1	29.1	32.7	26.1	65.4	58.2
Divorce affects woman more than man	2013	32.5	36.0	37.0	36.6	45.8	54.8	17.3	69.8	21.9	55.2
	2011	43.3	47.3	48.0	56.0	41.7	54.0	39.6	44.9	31.5	50.6
It is acceptable for me to marry a divorced person	2013	48.7	56.0	58.3	67.8	53.2	54.8	70.3	**63.7**	54.7	38.0
	2011	53.6	49.1	48.0	55.8	44.3	45.9	43.0	29.5	76.0	61.6

4.9 Practice of filial piety

4.9.1 ***In general, most people practiced filial piety to their parents.*** The respondents were asked about how often they had engaged in the six filial piety practices, namely caring, respecting, greeting, pleasing, obeying and providing financial support in three months[9] prior to enumeration. These six practices referred to various aspects of interactions between parents and children for useful and reliable reference[10]

4.9.2 Results showed that more than half of the respondents (excluding students[11]) had practised filial piety rather a lot or very much to their parents such as "respecting" (71%), "greeting" (64%), "caring" (62%), and "pleasing" (59%) in three months prior to enumeration. Less than half of the respondents (excluding students) had practised "obeying" (46%) and "providing financial support" (43%) rather a lot or very much to their parents.

4.9.3 It was worth noting that 21% of the respondents (excluding students) provided very little or rather little financial support to their parents in the three months prior to enumeration.

Chart 4.9.1: Practice of filial piety (excluding students) in 2013 (%)

Practice	Rather a lot/ Very much	Average	Very little/ rather little
Respecting	70.9	24.2	3.0
Greeting	63.6	29.4	5.0
Caring	62.2	30.7	5.4
Pleasing	59.2	32.8	6.0
Obeying	45.8	39.4	12.0
Providing financial support	43.3	33.9	20.7

---
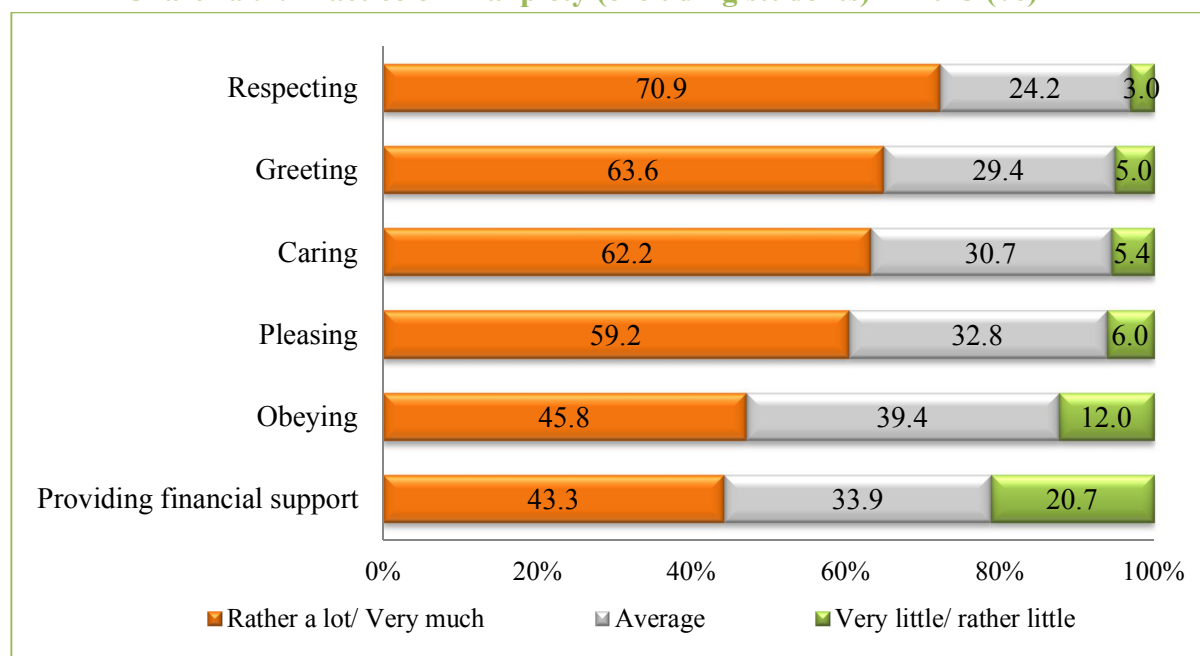
9 Cheung, C. & Kwan, A.Y.H. 2009. "The erosion of filial piety by modernisation in Chinese cities." Ageing & Society 29(2):179-198.

10 Ng, S. H. 2002. Will families support their elders ? Answers from across cultures. In Nelson, T. D. (ed.), Stereotyping and Prejudice against Older Persons. MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 295 – 310.

11 Students were assumed to provide no financial support to their parents.

4.9.4   For those respondents who were students, half or more than half of them had practised filial piety rather a lot or very much to their parents such as "respecting" (64%), "caring" (56%) and "obeying" (50%) in three months prior to enumeration.   Less than half of them had practised "greeting" (45%) and "pleasing" (47%) rather a lot or very much to their parents during the previous three months.

Chart 4.9.2: Practice of filial piety among students in 2013 (%)
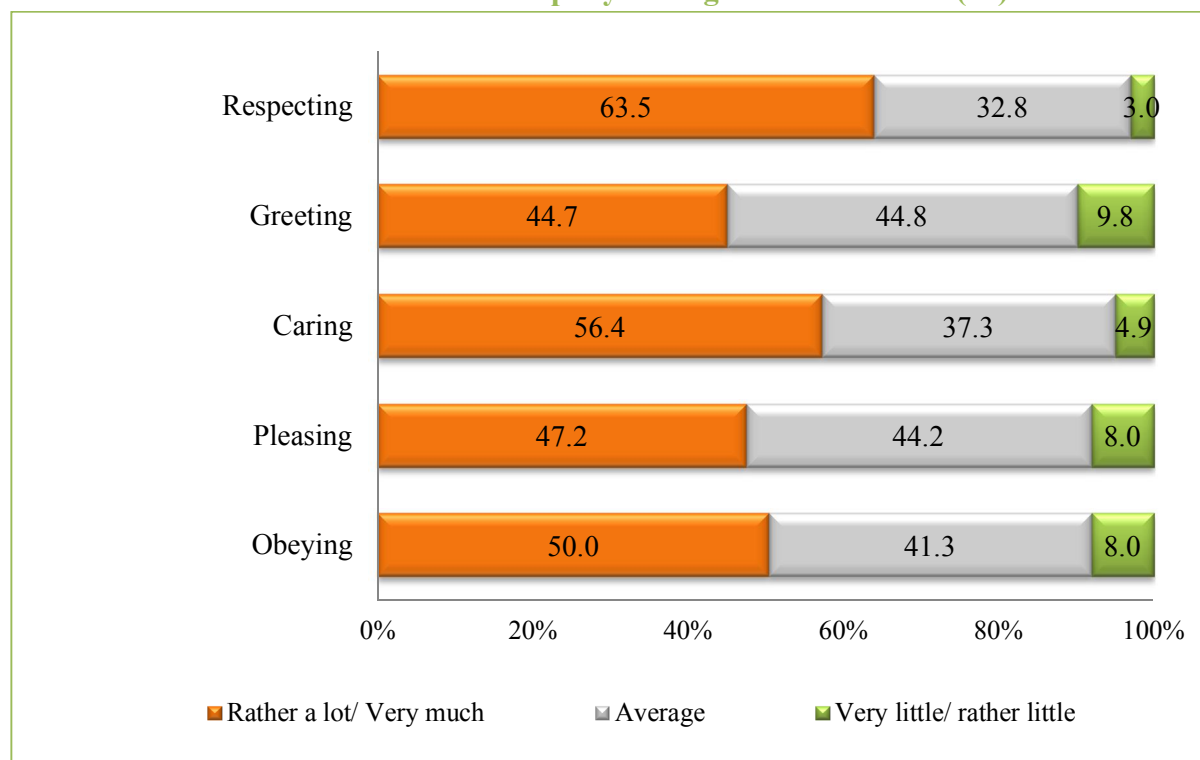
Filial Piety Score

4.9.5   To evaluate the observance of the six filial piety practices of all respondents (excluding students), the filial piety scores were compiled as a composite of these practises[12].   The average filial piety score was 66 out of 100 (male: 64.6; female: 67.1) in 2013 which was above average as 100 was the possible maximum.

---

12 Each of the filial piety practice were rated in five categories that were allocated to a scale from '0' to '100' (0 for "very little", 25 for "rather little", 50 for "average", 75 for "rather a lot", and 100 for "very much"). The measure of filial piety exhibited a reliability (α) coefficient of 0.86 in this Survey.

Chart 4.9.3: Filial piety score (excluding students) by gender and age group in 2013
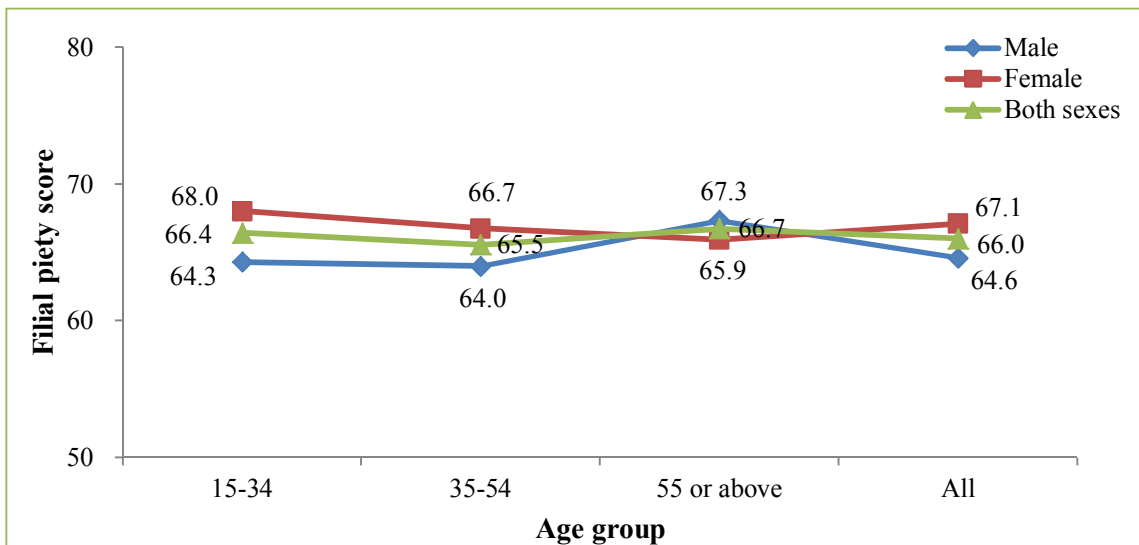
4.9.6   Analysed by marital status, female respondents who were widowed were more likely to practise filial piety to their parents   Filial piety score was also lower among people who were divorced/separated.

Chart 4.9.4: Filial piety score (excluding students) by gender and marital status in 2013
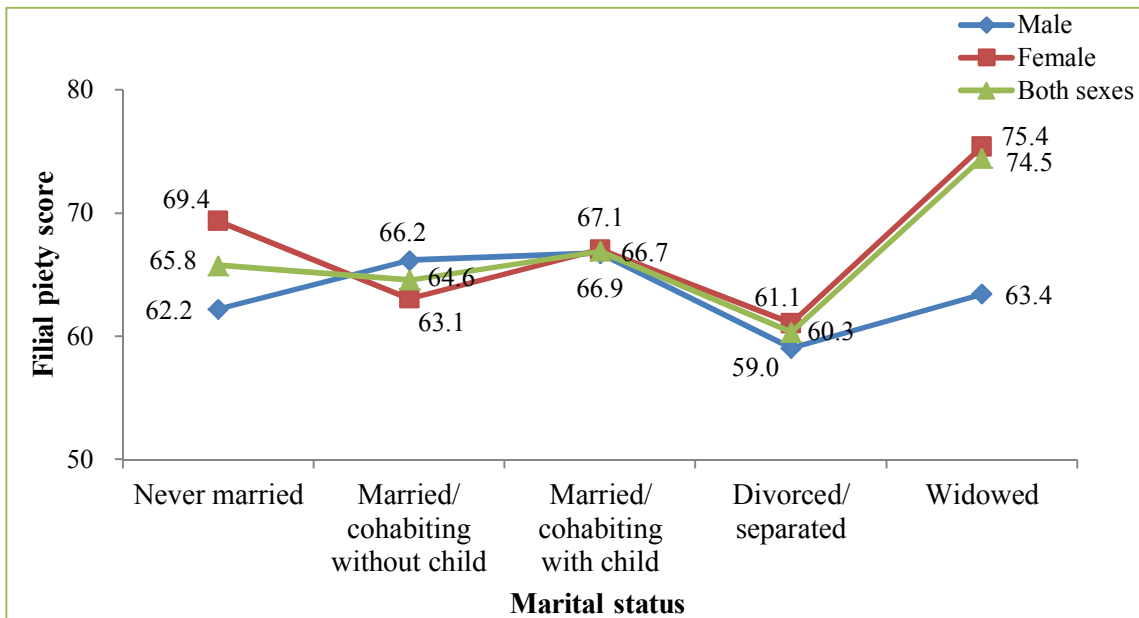
Chapter 5 | Parenthood

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Parenting is the process of promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood. Different parenting style has different impact on children. The questions from the Canadian family survey[13] are adopted in our focus group discussions and public survey. Main areas of concern are:

    a)   attitudes towards parenthood;

    b)   impact on having and raising children;

    c)   role models; and

    d)   parenting method

5.1.2 There is no single or definitive model of parenting. What may be right for one child may not be suitable for another. Parenting strategies also play a significant role in a child's development. Information on parenting, including the types of approaches adopted in disciplining children such as a verbal reprimand, withdrawing privileges, sending the child to his/her room and a "time out" and spanking, was gathered in the Survey.

5.1.3 It was worth noting that family size decreased in recent years. More and more couples indicated no intention to have children. Views on the likelihood of having children for those non-parents, the desire to have more children for those parents and the respective reasons were solicited from the respondents in the Survey.

5.1.4 In view of the stress faced by parents in raising children which will inevitably affect the quality of parenting and wellbeing of children, factors affecting parental stress, childcare arrangements as well as the attitudes towards tri-parenting were gathered in the Survey.

---

13 Canadian Attitudes on the Family: The Complete Report 2002, Focus on the Family Canada Association

5.2 Attitudes towards Parenthood

5.2.1 **Raising children was stressful for some parents.** In 2013, 64% of the parents[14] agreed that they often found the stress of raising their children overwhelming, indicating that most of them were not confident of their ability in both raising children and handling the associated stress. At the same time, there was 26% agreed that they often felt inadequate as a parent and 15% of them agreed that their relationship with their children had gotten worse when they grew up.

5.2.2 Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreement on the views "the stress of raising their children overwhelming". "their relationship with their children had gotten worse when they grew up" and "I often felt inadequate as parent" increased in 2013.

Chart 5.2.1: Attitudes towards parenthood in 2011 and 2013 (%)

----
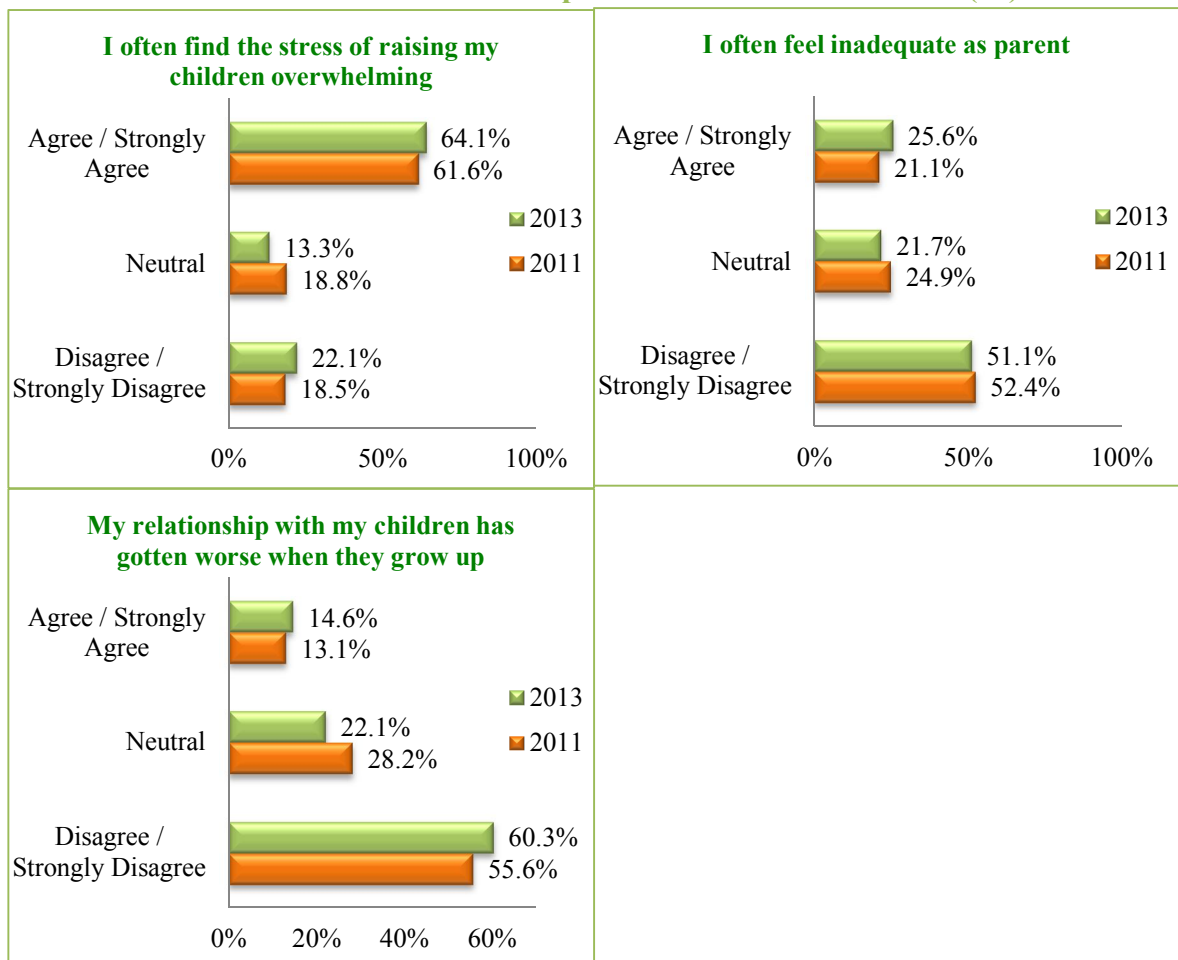
14 Questions in the section 5.2 -5.4 were asked to the respondents who had children (parents).   Total number of respondents for those who have children = 1 370.

5.2.3   In 2013, 90% of the parents indicated that they would be willing to spend time with their children and 44% considered that their relationship with their partner got better after they had children.   On the contrary, there was 16% of the parents expressed that their relationship with partners got worse since they had children.

5.2.4   Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreement on the view that the parents are willing to spend time with their children was more or less the same in 2013. However, more parents reported that their relationship with partners got worse since they had children in 2013.

Chart 5.2.2: Attitudes towards parenthood in 2011 and 2013 (%)

I am willing to spend time with my children

Agree / Strongly Agree — 89.8% (2013), 87.2% (2011)
Neutral — 6.7% (2013), 9.7% (2011)
Disagree / Strongly Disagree — 2.7% (2013), 1.2% (2011)

■ 2013 ■ 2011

0%   50%   100%

My relationship with my partner has gotten better since we had children

Agree / Strongly Agree — 44.2% (2013), 54.6% (2011)
Neutral — 37.5% (2013), 34.0% (2011)
Disagree / Strongly Disagree — 16.1% (2013), 9.9% (2011)

■ 2013 ■ 2011

0%   50%   100%

5.2.5   Analysed by age group, younger parents (aged 15-34) were more likely to agree that they often found the stress of raising their children overwhelming (70%) and they often felt inadequate as parent (38%) in 2013.   The majority of the parents were willing to spend time with their children, especially the younger parents (96%).

Table 5.2.3: Agreement on attitudes towards parenthood by age group in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
I often find the stress of raising my children overwhelming	2013	**69.2**	63.1	64.1
	2011	53.0	64.0	60.8
I often feel inadequate as parent	2013	**38.6**	26.4	22.3
	2011	22.7	22.2	19.4
My relationship with my children has gotten worse when they grow up	2013	13.7	14.2	15.2
	2011	9.3	11.4	15.8
I would be willing to spend time with my children	2013	**96.4**	93.6	84.7
	2011	88.5	93.7	79.9
My relationship with my partner has gotten better since we had children	2013	45.5	41.3	46.8
	2011	54.5	52.8	56.6

5.2.6 Mothers who were divorced/separated were more likely to agree that they often found the stress of raising children overwhelming (76%) and they often felt inadequate as parent (42%).   For those parents who were widowed, the fathers (68%) and the mothers (70%) were more likely to consider that they often found the stress of raising children overwhelming.

Table 5.2.4: Agreement on attitudes towards parenthood by marital status and gender in 2011 and 2013 (%)

		Never married		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	Year	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
I often find the stress of raising my children overwhelming	2013	-	-	63.0	62.8	43.4	**75.8**	**68.0**	**70.0**
	2011	88.4	40.1	56.3	63.7	47.4	69.8	60.7	73.6
I often feel inadequate as parent	2013	-	-	20.0	27.7	34.7	**42.1**	19.9	26.4
	2011	25.3	19.9	18.0	20.9	16.7	23.3	30.6	36.9
My relationship with my children has gotten worse when they grow up	2013	-	-	15.3	13.0	25.4	18.3	14.4	14.5
	2011	44.7	11.0	14.3	10.5	6.3	12.4	24.1	21.6
I would be willing to spend time with my children	2013	-	-	87.3	93.0	76.5	93.2	89.0	86.1
	2011	78.9	89.8	85.6	91.3	60.9	85.6	82.1	85.1
My relationship with my partner has gotten better since we had children	2013	-	-	53.8	43.3	4.9	13.8	47.7	39.3
	2011	74.3	100.0	58.5	56.6	56.3	50.4	26.5	27.5

5.3 Impact of Raising Children

5.3.1 **The views on raising children by grandparents were diversified.** In 2013, we have solicited views of the respondents as to whether their parents rendered assistance in taking care of their children (44% agreed, whereas 32% disagreed). On the other hand, 68% of the parents agreed that "I am willing to raise my grandchildren in the future" and "having children was better for me personally than I thought it would be" (60%). It is also interesting to note that 17% of the parents would prefer not to have children if they had to do over again.

5.3.2 Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreement on the views on raising children was more or less than same in 2013. It was worth noting that more parents would prefer not to have children if they had to do over again, the corresponding proportion increased gradually from 13% in 2011 to 17% in 2013.

Chart 5.3.1: Impact on having and raising children in 2011 and 2013 (%)

Having children was better for me personally than I thought it would be

- Agree / Strongly Agree: 2013: 59.5%, 2011: 63.9%
- Neutral: 2013: 26.0%, 2011: 23.4%
- Disagree / Strongly Disagree: 2013: 13.6%, 2011: 11.1%

My parents help me raise my children

- Agree / Strongly Agree: 2013: 43.9%, 2011: 43.8%
- Neutral: 2013: 13.2%, 2011: 20.2%
- Disagree / Strongly Disagree: 2013: 32.3%, 2011: 34.1%

If I had to do over again, I would prefer not to have children

- Agree / Strongly Agree: 2013: 17.2%, 2011: 12.7%
- Neutral: 2013: 12.0%, 2011: 15.8%
- Disagree / Strongly Disagree: 2013: 69.1%, 2011: 69.6%

I am willing to raise my grandchild in the future

- Agree / Strongly Agree: 2013: 67.9%, 2011: 66.4%
- Neutral: 2013: 18.6%, 2011: 22.2%
- Disagree / Strongly Disagree: 2013: 11.6%, 2011: 10.2%

5.3.3 Analysed by age group, younger parents (15-34) were more likely to agree that their parents helped them raise their children (73% in 2013).

Table 5.3.2: Agreement on impact on having and raising children by age group in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Having children was better for me personally than I thought it would be	2013	58.4	55.0	64.1
	2011	67.4	62.3	64.9
My parents help me raise my children	2013	**73.1**	42.2	39.8
	2011	47.1	44.6	42.0
If I had to do over again, I would prefer not to have children	2013	16.6	15.4	19.0
	2011	14.9	12.5	12.4
I am willing to raise my grandchild in the future	2013	61.7	71.5	65.6
	2011	59.2	65.9	68.6

5.3.4 Analysed by marital status, for both fathers and mothers who were divorced/separated, they were more likely to agree that if they had to do over again, they would prefer not having children, as compared to other groups.

Table 5.3.3: Agreement on impact on having and raising children by marital status and gender in 2013 and 2013 (%)

	Year	Never married		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Having children was better for me personally than I thought it would be	2013	-	-	62.8	58.9	38.5	47.4	64.5	61.2
	2011	74.3	29.9	66.3	66.5	46.2	59.0	61.0	49.0
My parents help me raise my children	2013	-	-	48.8	41.9	12.2	52.1	33.9	38.5
	2011	65.7	37.0	47.9	42.6	22.7	38.6	32.9	46.2
If I had to do over again, I would prefer not to have children	2013	-	-	14.3	16.7	**30.0**	**35.9**	10.8	17.1
	2011	9.5	11.0	9.4	12.7	10.8	14.6	31.7	24.3
I am willing to raise my grandchild in the future	2013	-	-	69.7	70.5	28.0	64.4	60.5	62.9
	2011	37.5	47.0	72.3	64.8	38.9	61.4	51.1	72.7

5.4 Role models

5.4.1 ***Most parents agreed to set role models for their children.*** Majority of the parents agreed to set good examples to their children (88%), to admit fault when doing wrong (84%), to explain to their children when they do something wrong (90%) and to set good examples to children so that they would respect and take care of their grandparents (82%) in 2013.

Chart 5.4.1: Attitudes towards role models in 2011 and 2013 (%)

I set good examples for my children

	2013	2011
Agree / Strongly Agree	88.0%	88.4%
Neutral	8.6%	9.2%
Disagree / Strongly Disagree	2.5%	1.2%

I admit when I am wrong or have mistakes

	2013	2011
Agree / Strongly Agree	83.7%	83.0%
Neutral	9.9%	12.2%
Disagree / Strongly Disagree	5.3%	3.2%

I would explain to my children when they do something wrong

	2013	2011
Agree / Strongly Agree	90.3%	79.5%
Neutral	6.3%	16.5%
Disagree / Strongly Disagree	2.0%	2.3%

I set a good example to my children so that they would respect and care for their grandparents

	2013	2011
Agree / Strongly Agree	82.4%	79.2%
Neutral	8.8%	16.8%
Disagree / Strongly Disagree	0.7%	1.3%

5.4.2   Consensus of views was found in all groups, irrespective of age, gender and marital status.   Most of the parents agreed to set good examples, to admit wrong, to tell them when they did something wrong and to set good examples to children so that they would respect and take care of their grandparents.

Table 5.4.2: Agreement on attitudes towards role models by age group in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
I set good examples for my children	2013	88.0	89.9	86.2
	2011	87.1	92.7	83.9
I admit when I am wrong or have mistakes	2013	93.9	87.5	78.1
	2011	88.0	85.8	78.8
I would explain to my children when they do something wrong	2013	96.6	93.0	86.5
	2011	79.0	82.7	76.2
I set a good example to my children so that they would respect and care for their grandparents	2013	97.0	88.6	73.6
	2011	75.7	81.5	77.4

Table 5.4.3: Agreement on attitudes towards role models by marital status and gender in 2011 and 2013 (%)

		Never married		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	Year	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
I set good examples for my children	2013	-	-	87.4	90.2	78.0	89.4	90.4	82.5
	2011	76.8	65.2	89.9	89.2	69.2	86.7	85.3	90.3
I admit when I am wrong or have mistakes	2013	-	-	82.1	88.1	71.7	93.7	66.9	71.3
	2011	78.9	89.8	80.2	87.3	54.9	78.3	85.1	88.5
I would explain to my children when they do something wrong	2013	-	-	90.6	91.6	78.8	92.3	82.3	87.2
	2011	78.9	100.0	80.9	79.8	57.2	81.3	74.7	76.0
I set a good example to my children so that they would respect and care for their grandparents	2013	-	-	83.8	85.7	68.2	88.6	70.5	65.4
	2011	40.4	100.0	80.0	81.3	64.9	78.7	64.0	74.6

5.4.3 86% of the parents considered that parents were the most suitable persons to teach their children the right values. 70% and 39% believed that teachers in schools and their grandparents shouldered such duty respectively. This notwithstanding, 22% of the respondents shared the view that the government and the mass media played a role in imparting right values to their children.

Table 5.4.4: Teaching right values in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	2013	2011
Their parents	86.1%	85.4%
Their teachers in schools	69.6%	61.8%
Their grandparents	39.2%	24.5%
Religious communities	27.0%	18.9%
Their friends	25.1%	28.9%
Governmental efforts	22.1%	13.4%
The mass media	22.0%	24.4%
Maids in the home	5.9%	2.9%
Others	2.9%	0.8%
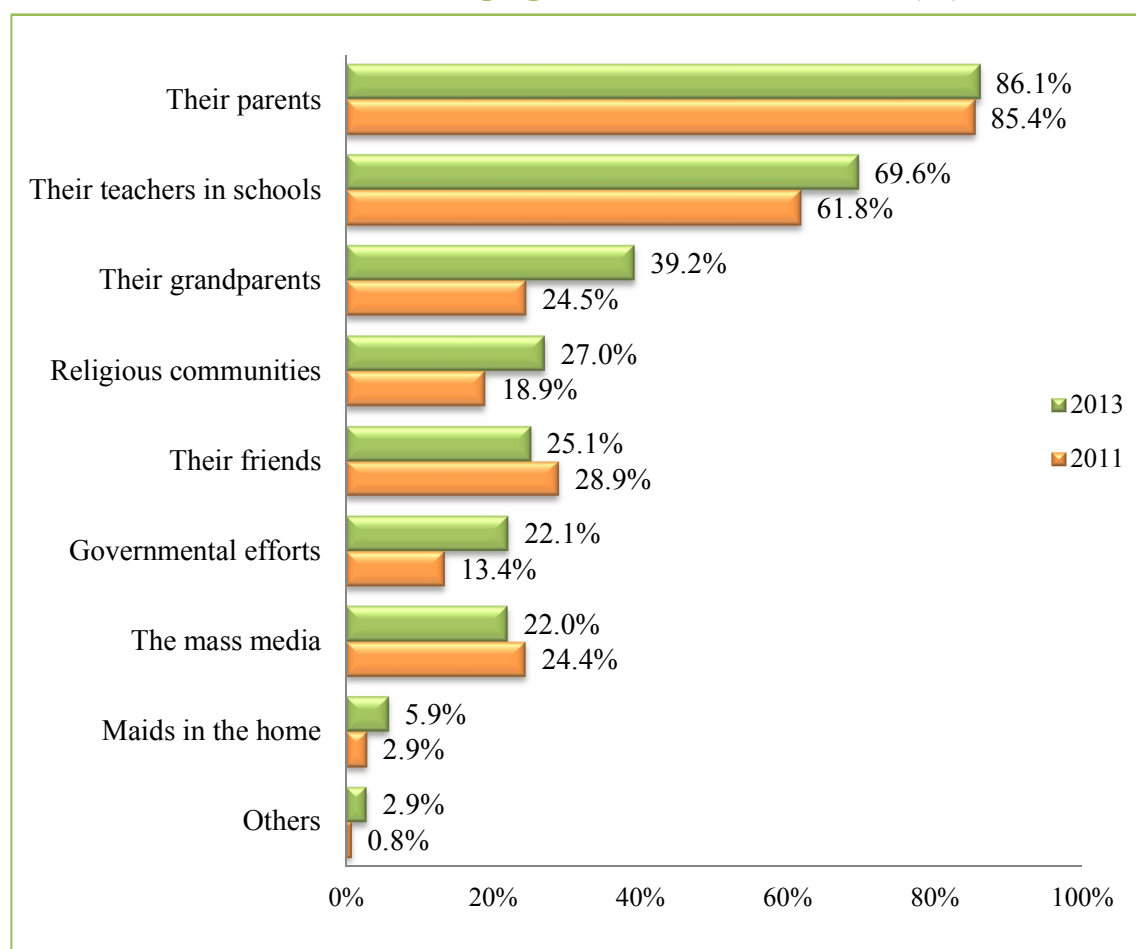
Note: Respondents were allowed to give more than one choice.

5.5 Intention to have children

5.5.1   Attitude towards non-parent respondents on their intention to **have children in the future varied.**   In 2013, 57% of the non-parent respondents[15] indicated that they were very likely or somewhat likely to have children in the future.   At the same time, 31% of the non-parent respondents indicated that they were not very likely or not at all likely to have children in the future.

5.5.2   Compared with the findings in 2011, the intention to have children in the future of those non-parent respondents was more or less the same in 2013.

Chart 5.5.1: Intention to have children in the future in 2011 and 2013 (%)

---
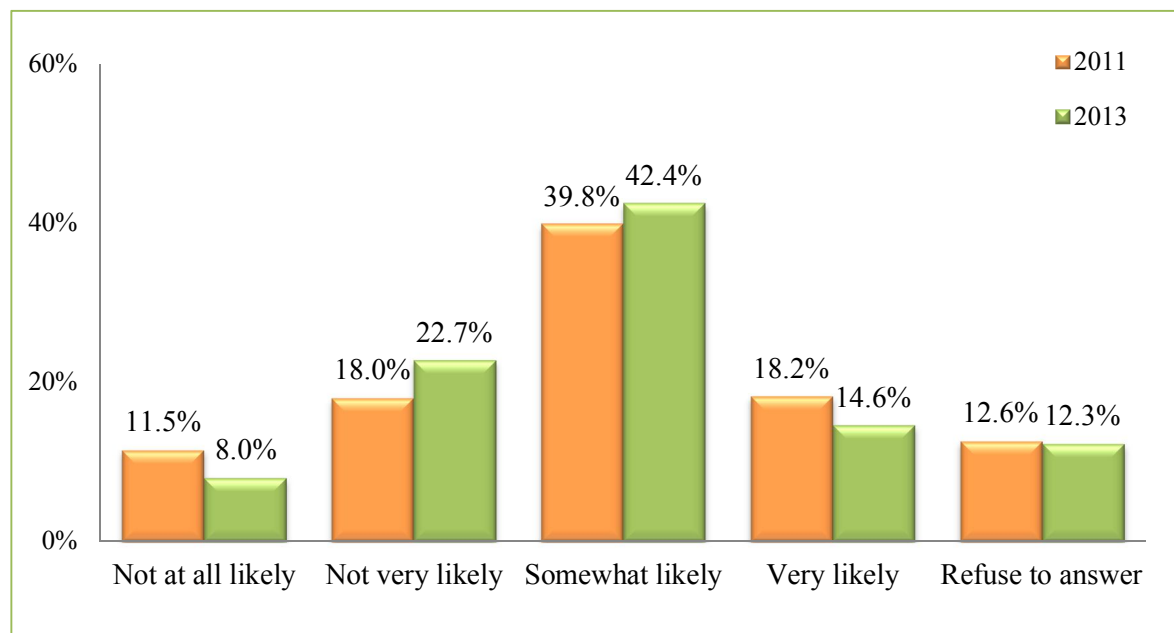
15 Questions in the section 5.5 were asked to the respondents who had no children (non-parents). Number of respondents for those who did not have children = 630.

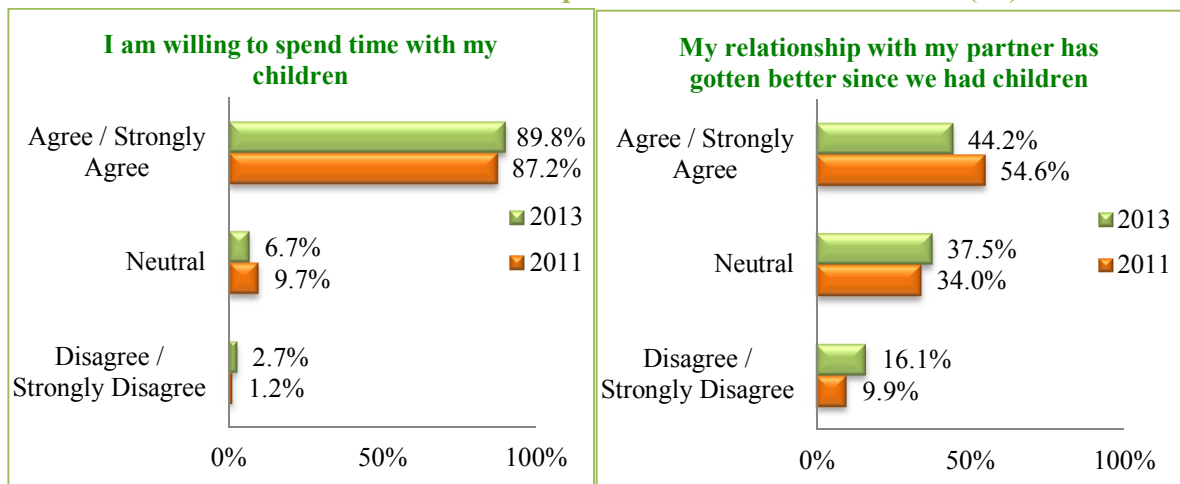5.5.3 *Nearly half of those non-parents aged 35-54 had no intention to have children in the future.* In 2013, 52% of those non-parent respondents aged 35-54 had no intention to have children in the future, whilst 35% still had intention to have children in the future. It is noticeable that younger people aged 15-34 (73%) and those male respondents who had never married (59%) were very likely or somewhat likely to have children in the future.

Table 5.5.2: Intention to have children in the future by age group in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Not at all likely	2013	2.4	**11.4**	34.3
	2011	2.2	15.7	60.6
Not very likely	2013	14.7	**40.7**	25.1
	2011	9.7	34.9	24.4
Somewhat likely	2013	**54.0**	27.0	9.9
	2011	50.2	28.8	2.5
Very likely	2013	**18.5**	7.6	9.0
	2011	25.8	6.6	0.0

Table 5.5.3: Intention to have children in the future by marital status and gender in 2011 and 2013 (%)

		Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	Year	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Not at all likely	2013	4.4	8.2	13.6	9.4	10.5	0.0	40.9	49.0
	2011	7.0	9.4	15.0	21.4	66.9	40.9	26.4	65.9
Not very likely	2013	27.2	16.7	26.0	23.2	35.3	100.0	0.0	28.4
	2011	18.4	15.3	19.1	21.1	16.9	23.3	34.0	34.1
Somewhat likely	2013	**47.2**	43.2	33.4	39.6	6.5	0.0	10.6	22.6
	2011	44.1	43.9	37.6	18.8	0.0	21.0	25.9	0.0
Very likely	2013	**11.7**	18.5	12.8	17.4	0.0	0.0	8.1	0.0
	2011	19.9	17.7	16.7	21.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

5.5.4 Major reasons for non-parent respondents for not having children were "I did not have a partner/not married" (37%), "I was too old" (17%) and "wanted to enjoy my life" (16%) in 2013.

Table 5.5.4: Reasons for non-parents not to have children in the future (%)

Reason	2013	2011
I did not have a partner/not married	37.1%	32.0%
I was too old	17.2%	30.5%
Wanted to enjoy my life	16.0%	10.8%
I did not want any/did not like children	12.5%	16.9%
Wanted to be financially stable	10.4%	8.8%
Would not have time/Too busy	9.3%	9.1%
Wanted to have house first	6.1%	5.1%
Wanted to get established in career	5.8%	2.4%
No one to take care of the children	2.5%	0.9%
My spouse/partner was not ready	2.3%	2.6%
Wanted to but were unable to conceive	0.6%	1.9%
Others	6.6%	6.4%

Note: Respondents were allowed to give more than one choice.

75
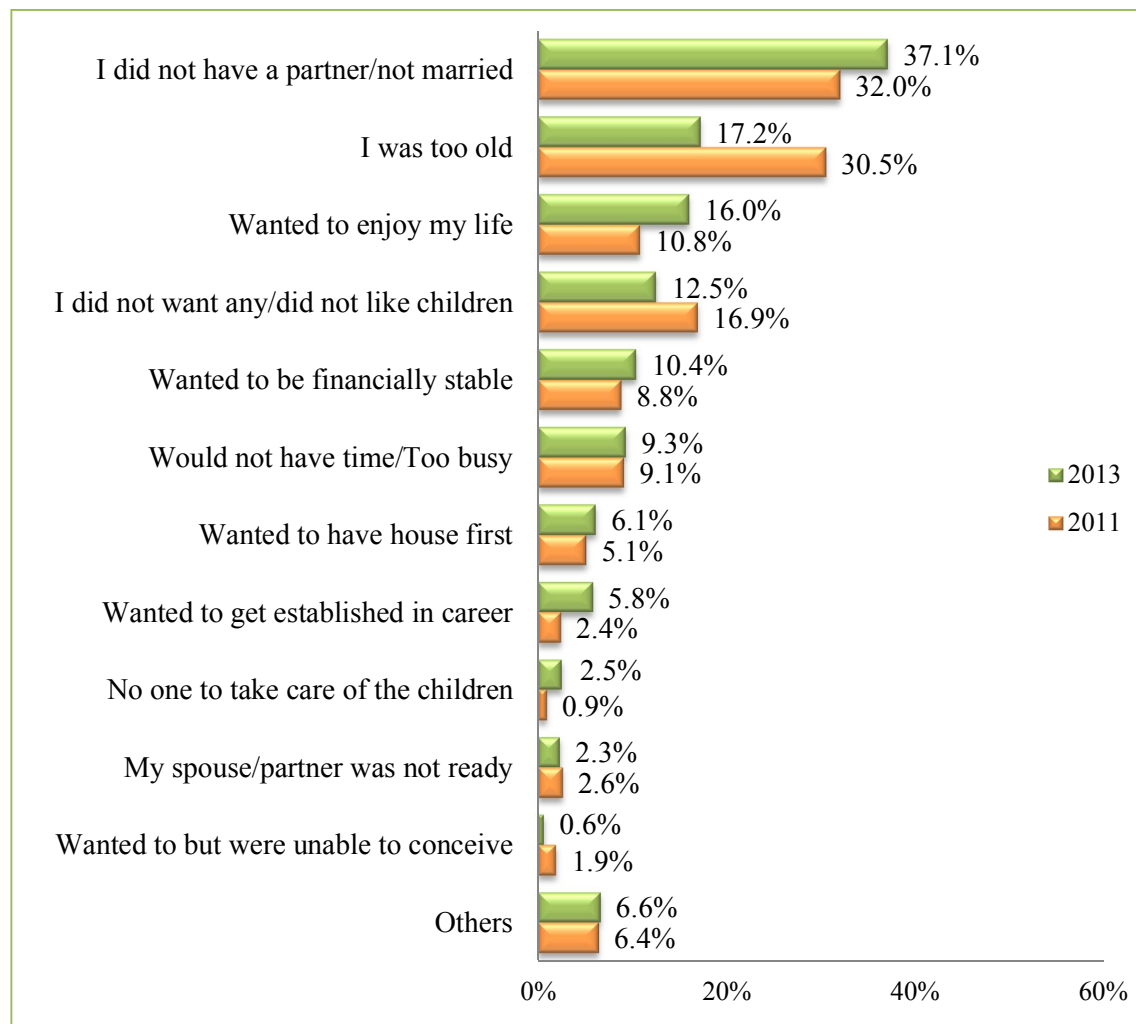
5.6 Desire to have more children

5.6.1 ***Weak desire to have more children among those parents aged 18-54.*** In 2013, 9% of the parents aged 18-54 had desire to have more children in the future, 80% did not have desire to have more children in the future and 8% did not make the decision yet.

Chart 5.6.1: Desire to have more children among those parents aged 18-54 in the future in 2013 (%)
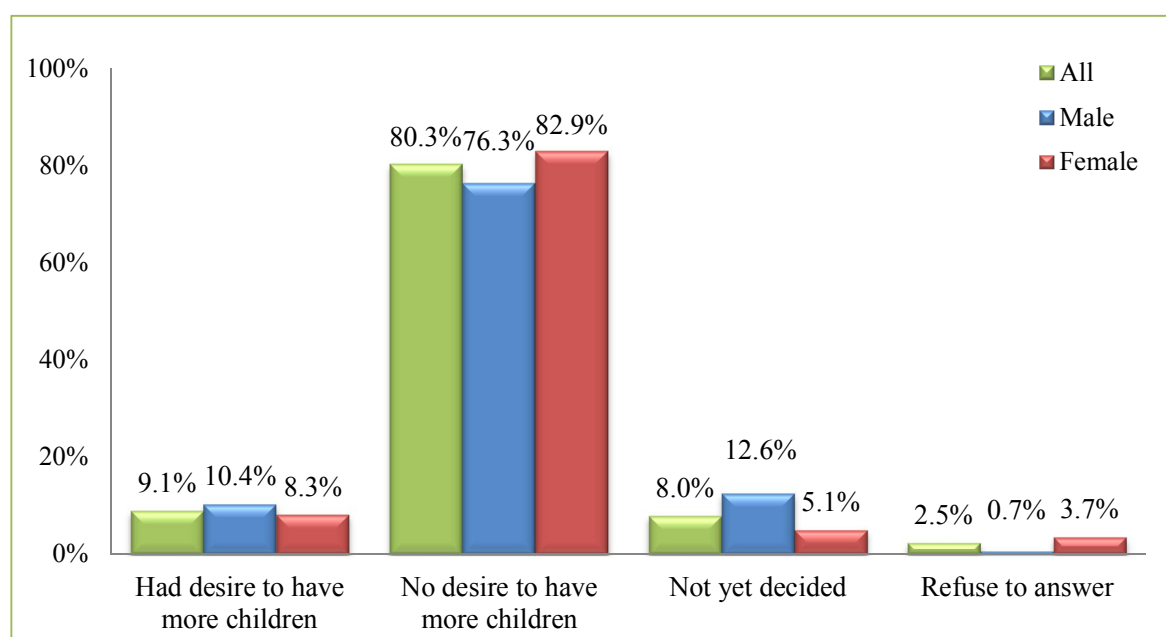
5.6.2 ***Nearly half of the parents aged 18-34 had no desire to have more children in the future.*** In 2013, 50% of the parents aged 18-34 had no desire to have more children in the future whereas 26% had desire to have more children.

Table 5.6.2: Desire to have more children among those parents aged 18-54 in the future by age group in 2013 (%)

	18-34	35-54	Total
Had desire to have more children	**26.4**	5.6	9.1
No desire to have more children	**50.4**	86.5	80.3
Not yet decided	21.1	5.3	8.0

5.6.3   Among the parents aged 18-54, the major reasons for not having more children in the future were "we are satisfied with the present number of children we have" (43%), "we are too old" (35%) and "the financial burden of raising children is heavy" (33%).

Table 5.6.3: Reasons for not to have more children among parents aged 18-54 in the future in 2013 (%)

Reason	Percentage
We are satisfied with the number of children we have	43.2%
We are too old	34.6%
The financial burden of raising children is heavy	33.4%
We wish to try our best to provide excellent education for every child	7.4%
We worry about the economic recession of Hong Kong	6.5%
Nobody looks after the children	4.8%
Others	5.4%
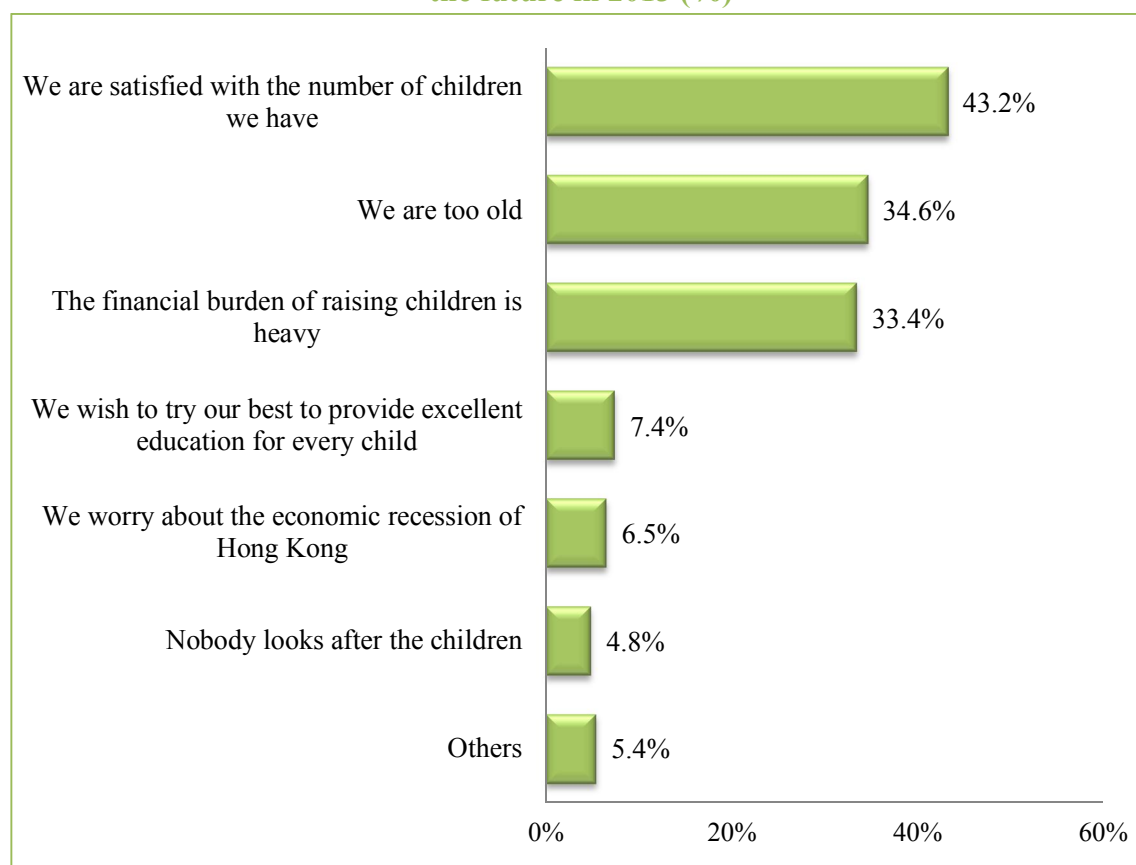
Note: Respondents were allowed to give more than one choice.

5.7 Childcare arrangements

5.7.1 Among the parents with children aged under 18, the majority of them needed to look after their children.

Chart 5.7.1: Whether the parents with children aged under 18 needed to look after their children in 2013 (%)
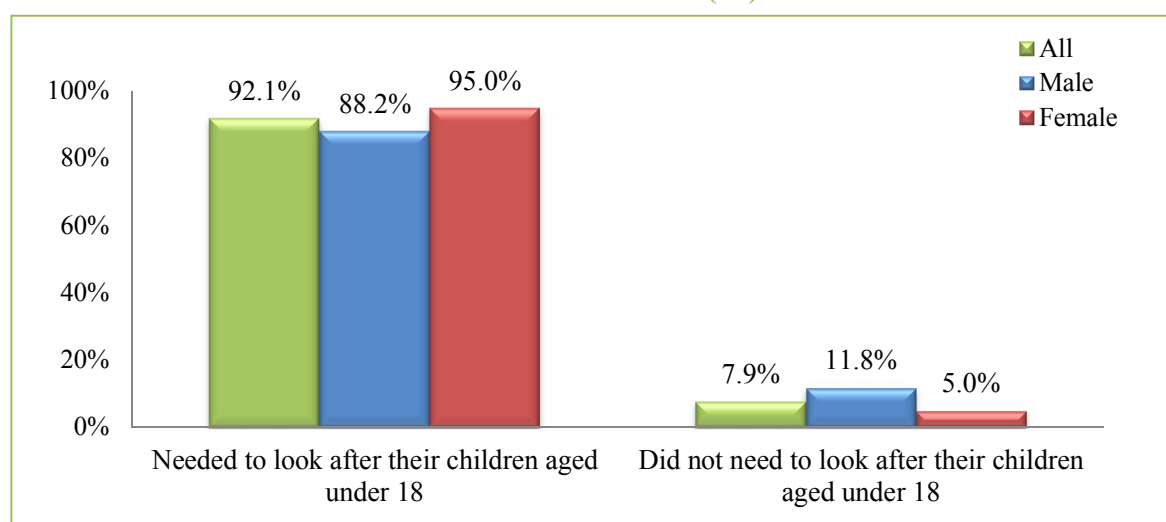
5.7.2 For those children aged under 18, the main carers were their mothers (72%), followed by fathers (6%), grandparents (6%) and domestic helpers (6%).

Table 5.7.2: Main carers of the children aged under 18 in 2013 (%)
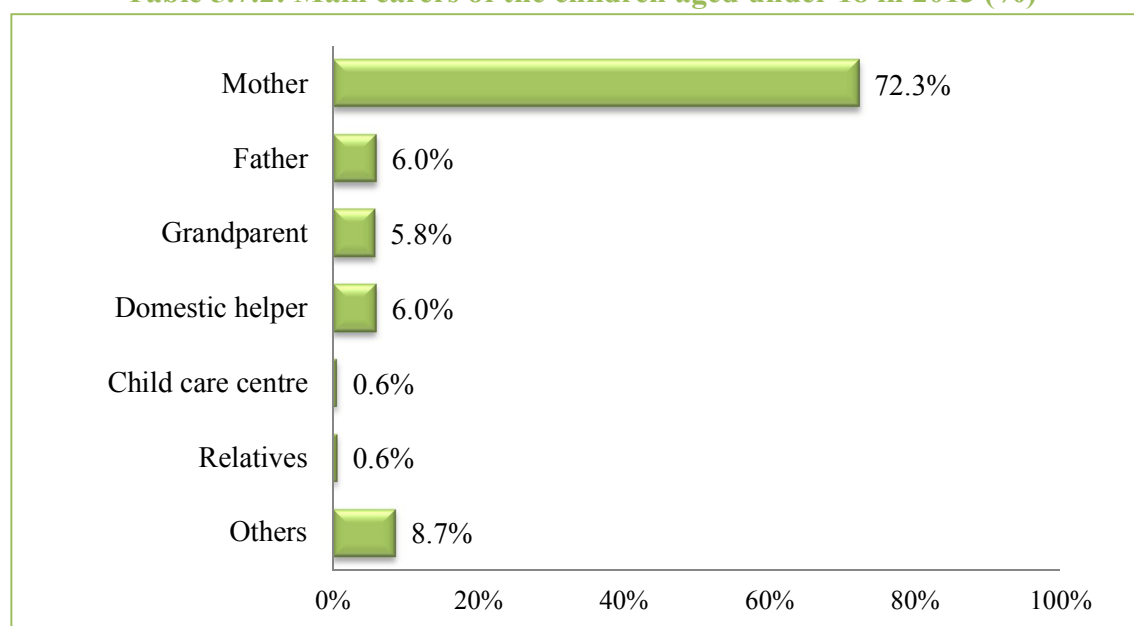
5.8   Parenting methods

5.8.1   ***Most parents cared about children's needs and behaviour.***   Over 90% of parents with children aged 18 or below[16] indicated that they often or sometimes adopted positive approaches in teaching their children such as "care for my children's needs when they are small" (93%), "point out and rectify my children's mistakes immediately" (93%), "explain the reason with my children" (93%) and "play with my children" (90%).   On the other hand, 60% expressed that they often or sometimes criticized their children

Chart 5.8.1: Parenting methods in 2013 (%)

	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never	Refuse to answer
Care for my children's needs when they are small	**69.5**	**23.8**	2.2	0.0	4.4
Point out and rectify my children's mistakes immediately	**67.1**	**25.6**	2.4	0.2	4.7
Explain the reason with my children	**67.6**	**25.0**	2.5	0.4	4.5
Able to perceive the unhappiness of my children	54.3	33.8	6.9	0.5	4.5
Express my love to my children through languages and actions	53.1	35.2	6.8	0.0	4.8
Teach my children to be self-disciplined when they are small	61.0	26.4	4.9	1.2	6.5
Teach my children to try their best to do everything	46.6	34.0	9.9	4.0	5.5
Endeavour to educate my children when they are small	56.3	29.4	6.2	2.8	5.3
Play with my children	**59.9**	**30.2**	5.5	0.3	4.1
Acclaim my children in front of my friends	27.5	48.9	16.2	2.3	5.1
Criticize my children	**14.6**	**45.3**	29.2	6.4	4.5

16 Questions in the section 5.8 were for those respondents who had children aged 18 or below.   Number of the respondents who had children aged 18 or below = 429.

5.8.2 Ratings on observance of respective parenting methods were expressed in a Likert scale of 4, with "1" denoting "never" and "4" denoting "often". Mean scores are computed for each item. A higher total score indicated a more positive way in teaching their children.

5.8.3 Analysed by age group, the results showed that younger parents aged 15-34 were more attentive to children's feelings than the other two age groups. More younger parents played with their children (3.82), expressed their love to their children through languages and actions (3.65) and acclaimed their children in front of friends (3.29).

Table 5.8.2: Mean scores on observance of parenting methods by age group and gender in 2013

	15-34	35-54	55 or above	Total
Care for my children's needs when they are small	3.72	3.72	3.45	3.70
Point out and rectify my children's mistakes immediately	3.77	3.68	3.32	3.68
Explain the reason with my children	3.63	3.70	3.52	3.67
Able to perceive the unhappiness of my children	3.51	3.50	3.21	3.49
Express my love to my children through languages and actions	**3.65**	3.47	3.17	3.49
Teach my children to be self-disciplined when they are small	3.54	3.62	3.18	3.57
Teach my children to try their best to do everything	3.22	3.33	3.28	3.30
Endeavour to educate my children when they are small	3.55	3.48	3.09	3.47
Play with my children	**3.82**	3.51	3.25	3.56
Acclaim my children in front of my friends	**3.29**	3.01	2.99	3.07
Criticize my children	2.31	2.27	2.35	2.29

5.8.4 Analysed by marital status, married/cohabiting females with child had higher mean scores in all parenting methods than married/cohabiting males with child.

Table 5.8.3: Mean scores on observance of parenting methods by marital status and gender in 2013

	Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated	
	M	F	M	F
Care for my children's needs when they are small	3.67	3.74	3.82	3.67
Point out and rectify my children's mistakes immediately	3.61	3.77	3.73	3.46
Reason with my children	3.59	3.73	3.73	3.76
Able to perceive the unhappiness of my children	3.43	3.57	3.44	3.29
Express my love to my children through languages and actions	3.33	3.63	3.64	3.39
Teach my children to be self-disciplined when they are small	3.56	3.60	3.55	3.55
Teach my children to try their best to do everything	3.29	3.34	3.55	3.06
Endeavour to educate my children when they are small	3.30	3.64	2.51	3.46
Play with my children	3.47	3.67	2.93	3.60
Acclaim my children in front of my friends	3.04	3.08	3.69	2.95
Criticize my children	2.24	2.33	2.26	2.30

5.9 *Parental stress*

5.9.1 Regarding parental stress after the birth of child, despite the lack of personal time, most parents were found happier than before. The majority of parents[17] agreed or strongly agreed that they were more tired than before (72%), large part of their life is controlled by the needs of children (63%) and had no private time (60%). However, about two-thirds of the parents (64%) were happier than before.

Chart 5.9.1: Parental stress in 2013 (%)

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Refuse to answer
More tired than before	2.4	14.5	9.5	**60.7**	**11.3**	1.6
Large part of my life is controlled by the needs of children	4.0	19.8	11.6	**52.4**	**10.8**	1.4
Had no personal time	3.6	23.8	10.6	**50.7**	**9.7**	1.6
I feel that my ability falls short of my wishes when handling children's problems	4.1	28.2	19.5	41.7	4.7	1.8
Have more conflicts with my partner than before	5.9	32.9	18.3	35.9	3.4	3.7
No one provides help when I am in need	6.1	39.1	16.4	32.8	3.7	2.0
My family encounters financial difficulties	6.0	37.6	17.4	32.9	4.5	1.6
The relationship with my partner is better than before	1.4	15.8	38.6	37.8	2.6	3.7
Exchange the experience of raising children with other parents more frenquently	1.5	13.2	13.8	62.8	6.9	1.7
Happier than before	1.0	6.8	26.5	**59.3**	**4.5**	2.0

---

17 Questions in section 5.9 were for those respondents who had children. Number of the respondents who had children = 1 370.

5.9.2 Ratings on parental stress were expressed in a Likert scale of 5, with "1" denoting "Strongly disagree" and "5" denoting "Strongly agree". Mean scores are computed for each item. A higher total score indicated higher parental stress.

5.9.3 Analysed by age group, parental stress reduced with increasing ages. According to the findings, older parents aged 55 or above had lower average scores in most of the negative impacts arisen after the birth of child, such as "had no personal time" (3.29), "large part of my life is controlled by the needs of children" (3.31) and "more tired than before" (3.54), as compared with the younger age groups. On the other hand, younger parents tended to hold less positive attitudes towards the impacts caused after the birth of child. They had lower scores in positives impacts such as "exchange the experience of raising children with other parents more frequently" (2.11), "happier than before" (2.25) and "the relationship with my partner is better than before" (2.64), as compared with the older age groups.

Table 5.9.2: Mean scores of parental stress by age group and gender in 2013

	15-34	35-54	55 or above	Total
More tired than before	3.87	3.73	**3.54**	3.65
Large part of my life is controlled by the needs of children	3.86	3.55	**3.31**	3.47
Had no personal time	3.63	3.46	**3.29**	3.40
I feel that my ability falls short of my wishes when handling children's problems	3.44	3.17	3.07	3.15
Have more conflicts with my partner than before	3.02	3.02	2.93	2.98
No one provides help when I am in need	2.86	2.84	2.94	2.89
My family encounters financial difficulties	2.75	2.82	3.05	2.92
The relationship with my partner is better than before	**2.64**	2.81	2.71	2.75
Exchange the experience of raising children with other parents more frequently	**2.11**	2.29	2.53	2.39
Happier than before	**2.25**	2.42	2.39	2.39

5.9.4   Analysed by marital status, divorced/separated females had more stress, as compared with other marital groups.   They had the highest scores in the negative impacts arisen after the birth of child among the marital groups.

Table 5.9.3: Mean scores of parental stress by marital status and gender in 2013

	Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
More tired than before	3.55	3.73	3.33	**4.03**	3.13	3.64
Large part of my life is controlled by the needs of children	3.32	3.56	2.83	**3.82**	3.23	3.59
Had no personal time	3.19	3.51	3.14	**3.78**	3.12	3.55
I feel that my ability falls short of my wishes when handling children's problems	3.03	3.15	3.32	**3.65**	3.00	3.26
Have more conflicts with my partner than before	2.88	2.96	3.49	3.69	-	-
No one provides help when I am in need	2.77	2.89	2.78	3.22	2.87	3.09
My family encounters financial difficulties	2.76	2.91	2.93	3.42	3.12	3.19
The relationship with my partner is better than before	2.57	2.73	3.60	3.71	-	-
Exchange the experience of raising children with other parents more frequently	2.52	2.23	2.86	2.35	2.63	2.38
Happier than before	2.34	2.39	2.44	2.72	2.54	2.36

5.10   Taking care of grandchildren

5.10.1 About half of the respondents who were grandparents[18] (51%) stated that they had taken care of their grandchildren.

Table 5.10.1: Whether the grandparents had ever taken care of their grandchildren in 2013

---
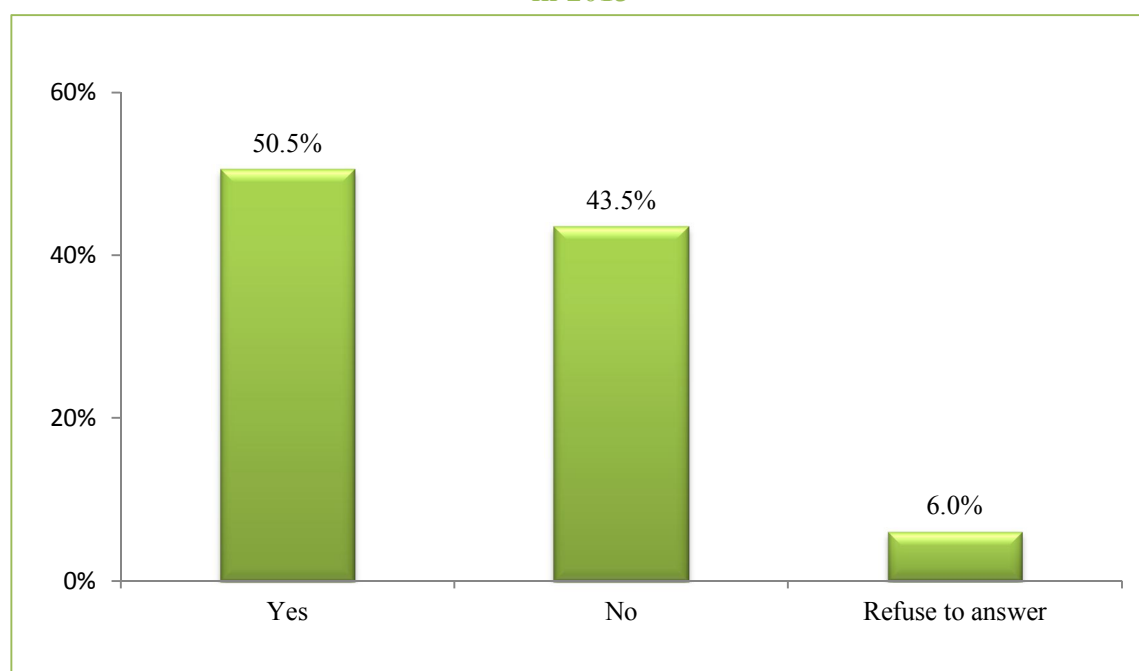
18 Questions in section 5.10 were for those respondents who were grandparents.   Number of the respondents who had grandchildren = 513.

5.10.2 Regarding the reasons for taking care of grandchildren, 59% of the grandparents indicated that they had done so because grandchildren's parent had to work and 28% considered that it was natural as they lived with grandchildren.

Table 5.10.2: Reasons for taking care their grandchildren among grandparents in 2013

Reason	Percentage
Grandchildren's parents have to work	58.7%
This is natural as we live together	27.7%
I should do that as a grandparent	19.4%
I like taking care of children	17.9%
No other places for child care service	17.3%
I am healthy so I am able to take care of my grandchildren.	17.0%
I only want to help my children and make contribution to my family	16.5%
I do not rest assured to let others take care of my grandchildren	15.0%
Cannot afford to employ a domestic helper	9.8%
This make me feel that I am still helpful	8.5%
I wish to teach culture and values to my grandchildren	5.8%
Others	11.1%

5.10.3 Regarding the reasons for not taking care of grandchildren, 45% of grandparents said that their sons/daughters had other arrangements for their children such as child care centre or had employed domestic helpers. 19% stated that their sons/daughters took care of their children by themselves.

Table 5.10.3: Reasons for not taking care their grandchildren among grandparents in 2013

Reason	Percentage
My sons/daughters have other arrangements for their children such as child care centre or had employed domestic helpers	44.6%
My sons/daughters take care of their children by themselves	18.5%
Other relatives look after my grandchilren	13.4%
My sons/daughters' home is far from my home	12.9%
My ability falls short of my wishes as I am unhealthy	6.9%
Grandchildren live outside Hong Kong so I cannot provide daily care	3.4%
I am still at work	2.9%
Raising prosperity is my sons/daughters' own responsibility	2.1%
I am not willing to bare this responsibility	1.1%
Have a poor relationship with my sons/daughters	1.0%
Avoid having conflicts with my sons/daughters due to the care of grandchildren	0.3%
Want to live my own life	0.3%
Others	6.9%

5.11   *Attitudes towards tri-parenting*

5.11.1 Considering the attitudes towards tri-parenting, more than half of parents agreed or strongly agreed with "care of domestic helpers weaken the self-care ability of children" (63%) and "grandparents have the responsibility to discipline their grandchildren" (54%).   On the other hand, 43% disagreed or strongly disagreed with "inter-generational parenting has a negative impact on children".

Chart 5.11.1: Attitudes towards tri-parenting in 2013 (%)

	Agree / Strongly Agree	Neutral	Disagree / Strongly Disagree
Grandparents should not intervene in their son/daughter's parenting of their grandchildren	43.3	24.1	31.9
Grandparents have the responsibility to discipline their grandchildren	53.6	24.9	20.4
Inter-generational parenting has a negative impact on children	30.2	25.1	43.2
Care from domestic helpers weaken the self-care ability of children	62.9	23.0	10.7

5.11.2 Analysed by age group, more parents aged 35-54 (68%) agreed or strongly agreed with "care from domestic helpers weaken the self-care ability of children", as compared with the other two age groups. More parents aged 55 or above (59%) agreed or strongly agreed with "grandparents have the responsibility to discipline their grandchildren".

Table 5.11.2: Attitudes towards tri-parenting by age group and sex in 2013 (%)

	15-34	35-54	55 or above	Total
Grandparents should not intervene in their son/daughter's parenting of their grandchildren	39.9	44.1	43.2	43.3
Grandparents have the responsibility to discipline their grandchildren	52.7	48.4	**58.8**	53.6
Inter-generational parenting has a negative impact on children	33.7	30.0	29.7	30.2
Care from domestic helpers weaken the self-care ability of children	59.7	**68.2**	58.5	62.9

Chapter 6 | Family Functioning

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1   Family functioning comprises two components: family interaction, and parenting. The Chinese Family Assessment Instrument (CFAI) was adopted in this Survey to assess family functioning.[19]   The CFAI is a 33-item instrument which can be classified into the following five dimensions to assess family functioning: (1) Mutuality, (2) Communication and Cohesiveness, (3) Conflict and Harmony, (4) Parental Concern, and (5) Parental Control. Classification of these 33 items is shown in table below.

Table 6.1.1: Classification of CFAI

Mutuality	**Communication**
Family members support each other	Family members talk to each other
Family members love each other	Arranging family activities
Family members care each other	Family members are cohesive
Mutual consideration	Family members enjoy getting together
Family members understand each other	Not much barrier among family members
Family members get along well	Parents know children's need
Good family relationship	Parents understand children's mind
Family members tolerate each other	Parents often talk to children
Family members forebear each other	Parents share children's concern
Family members accommodate each other	
Family members trust each other	**Conflict**
Children are filial	No mutual concern
	Much friction among family members
Control	Frequent fighting among family members
Parents scold and beat children	Not much quarrel among family members
Parents force children to do things	Lack of harmony among family members
Parental control too harsh	Poor marital relationship of parent
Concern	
Parents do not concern their children	
Parents love their children	
Parents take care of their children	

---

19 "Psychometric Properties of the Chinese Family Assessment Instrument in Chinese Adolescents in Hong Kong" by Andrew M.H. Siu and Daniel T.L. Shek, 2005

6.2 The Chinese Family Assessment Instrument (CFAI)

6.2.1   Ratings were expressed in a Likert scale of 5, with "1" denoting "does not fit our family" and "5" denoting "very fit our family". Mean scores are computed for the five classifications by aggregating ratings of these 33 items.   A lower total score on the subscales indicated a higher level of dysfunction in family functioning.

6.2.2   For the dimensions of "Mutuality", "Communication" and "Concern", higher mean value implied more mutual concern of family members, better relationship and better communication within the family.   For the dimensions of "Control" and "Conflict", lower mean value implied that the family has conflict such as fighting and quarrelling sometimes or even frequently, and parents' control on children is tight within the family.

6.2.3   The results in 2013 were similar to that in 2011. They showed that the mean scores of "Concern" and "Mutuality" were at 4.2 and 4.1 respectively in 2013 implying that respondents in general considered there was mutual trust and concern among family members and most of the families maintained a very good parent-child relationship.   The mean score of "Communication" was at 3.7 in 2013 implying that in general the respondents communicated quite well and their families were cohesive, and parents understood their children's need and thinking.

6.2.4   The results also showed that the mean scores of "Conflict" and "Control" were at 4.0 in 2013 which was the same as those in 2011 implying that the families were quite harmonious, without much conflict between family members.   Besides, parents did not exercise tight control on their children.

Chart 6.2.1: Mean scores of the Chinese Family Assessment Instrument in 2011 and 2013
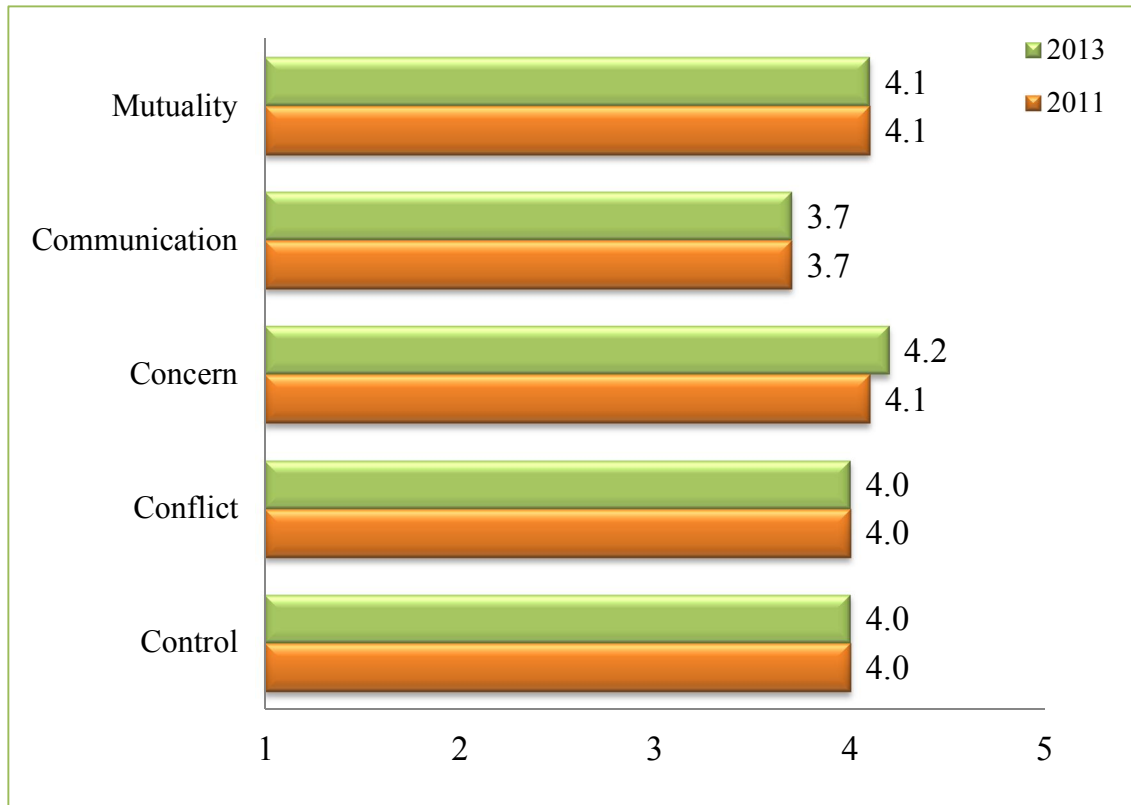
6.2.5   Tables below showed the analysis by age group as well as marital status in 2011 and 2013.

Table 6.2.2: Mean scores of the Chinese Family Assessment Instrument by age group in 2011 and 2013

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above	Total
Mutuality	2013	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.1
	2011	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.1
Communication	2013	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.7
	2011	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.7
Concern	2013	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.2
	2011	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Conflict	2013	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
	2011	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Control	2013	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.0
	2011	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.0

Table 6.2.3: Mean scores of the Chinese Family Assessment Instrument by marital status and gender in 2011 and 2013

	Year	Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Mutuality	2013	3.9	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.2	3.7	4.0	3.9	4.1
	2011	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.9
Communication	2013	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.6
	2011	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.9	3.9	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.6
Concern	2013	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	3.9	4.3	4.1	4.1
	2011	4.0	4.1	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.1	3.9	4.0
Conflict	2013	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1	3.6	3.8	4.1	4.0
	2011	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1	4	3.9	3.9	3.6	3.6
Control	2013	3.9	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.1	3.8	4.1	4.2	4.1
	2011	4.0	4.0	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9

6.3 Family Functioning

6.3.1 ***Most families functioned very well.*** At the same time, comments were collected from respondents on the functioning of their families. In 2013, 72% of the respondents considered that their family functioned very well together. Only 4% of the respondents indicated that their family did not function very well together at all and they needed help.

Chart 6.3.1: Family functioning in 2011 and 2013 (%)
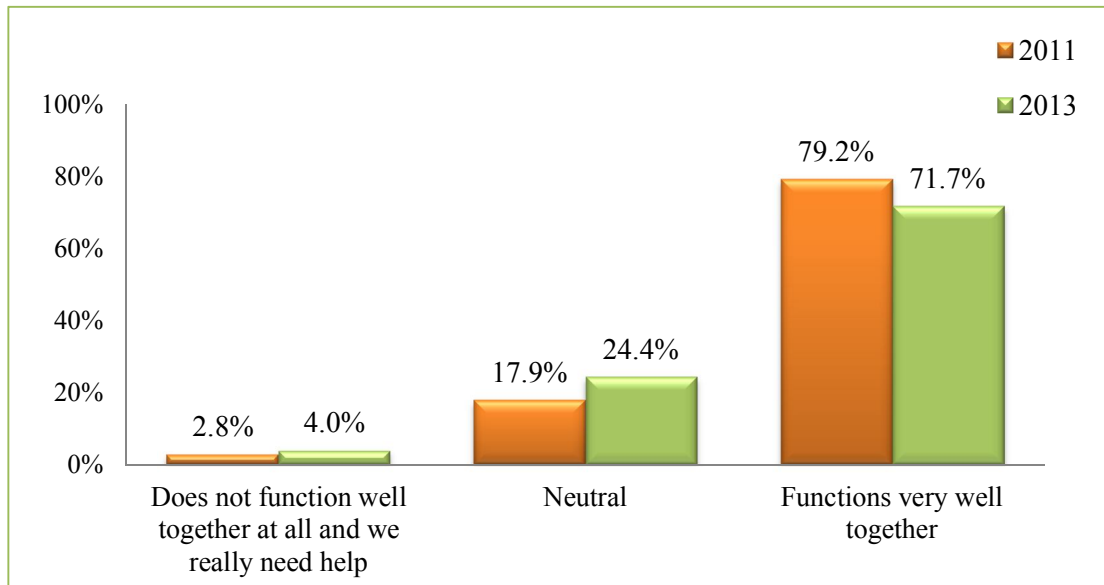
6.3.2 Analysed by age group, younger people aged 15-34 (6%) and older people aged 55 or above (4%) were more likely to report that their family did not function well together at all and they really needed help.

Table 6.3.2: Family functioning by age group in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Functions very well together	2013	76.0	70.8	68.5
	2011	79.3	81.0	75.6
Neutral	2013	17.8	26.9	27.6
	2011	18.1	16.3	19.6
Does not function well together at all and we really need help	2013	**6.2**	2.3	**3.9**
	2011	2.1	2.2	4.4

6.3.3   Analysed by marital status, respondents who were divorced or separated (26% and 11% of male and female respondents in 2013), female respondents who were married/cohabiting without child (11% in 2013), and male respondents who were widowed (8% in 2013) were more likely to report that their family did not function well together at all and they really needed help.

Table 6.3.3: Family functioning by marital status and gender in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Functions very well together	2013	63.5	79.7	74.2	72.7	78.2	75.6	34.9	49.6	44.4	62.6
	2011	70.7	79.8	84.6	78.7	84.4	85.1	69.8	70.2	51.9	64.3
Neutral	2013	29.8	18.5	23.3	16.0	20.4	22.1	39.4	39.9	47.7	34.1
	2011	24.4	17.4	14.4	18.7	14.5	12.5	27.1	20.4	43.8	27.7
Does not function well together at all and we really need help	2013	6.7	1.8	2.6	**11.2**	1.5	2.2	**25.7**	**10.6**	**7.9**	3.3
	2011	4.5	1.9	1.0	0.8	1.1	2.3	3.1	8.0	4.3	7.0

Chapter 7 | Satisfaction with Family Life

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The following questions about satisfaction with family life of the respondents were asked:

d) relationship with family members;

e) dependence of the family members; and

f) satisfaction with family life.

7.1.2 Communications between members of the households were also crucial to harmonious family relationships. Information on time spent and communication with family members (such as talking about personal concern, seeking advice, feeling proud of family members, having dinner with family members and participation in family activities) were collected.

7.1.3 Furthermore, the frequency in use of modern technologies to communicate between family members and inter-generations was collected in the Survey.

7.2 Satisfaction with Family Life

Satisfaction with the relationship with family members

7.2.1 ***On the whole, respondents were quite satisfied with the relationship with their family members and their family life.*** Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction over their relationship with each of their family members. Ratings were expressed in a Likert scale of 5, with "1" denoting "very dissatisfied" and "5" denoting "very satisfied". A mean rating of 4 or above implied that the respondent was satisfied or very satisfied with the particular family member, whereas mean score below 3 did not.

7.2.2 On the whole, respondents were quite satisfied with the relationship with their family members.   The overall mean scores were 4.0 for children, 3.9 for partner, 3.9 for mother, 3.8 for father, 3.7 for grandchildren and 3.6 for grandparents in 2013.

7.2.3 Compared with the findings in 2011, the means scores of satisfaction with the relationship with family members were more or less the same in 2013.

Chart 7.2.1: Mean scores of satisfaction with the relationship with family members in 2011 and 2013
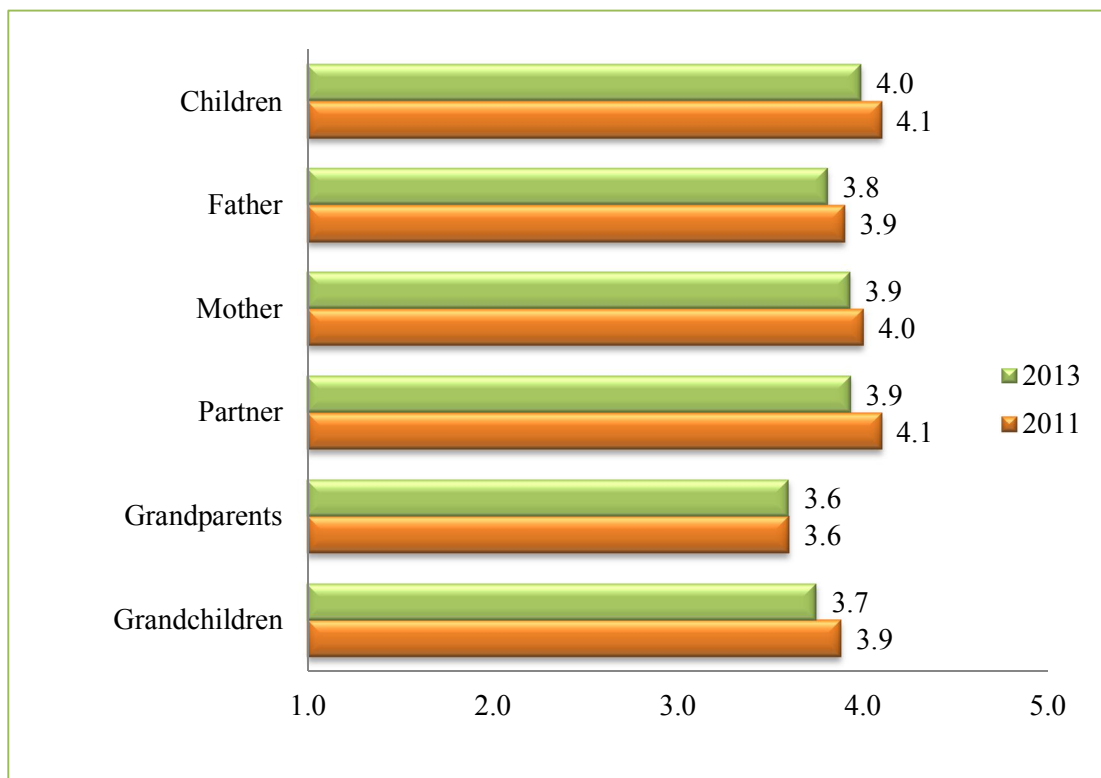
7.2.4 Analysed by age, for the younger respondents aged 15 – 34, the mean scores of satisfaction with their children (4.3) and their partners (4.2) were relatively high indicating that they were most satisfied with the relationship with their children and partner.

Table 7.2.2: Mean scores of satisfaction with the relationship with family members by age group in 2011 and 2013

	Year	Total	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Children	2013	3.99	**4.31**	4.08	3.84
	2011	4.05	4.21	4.12	3.95
Father	2013	3.81	3.81	3.78	4.02
	2011	3.87	3.87	3.87	3.88
Mother	2013	3.93	4.00	3.88	3.84
	2011	3.97	4.01	3.93	4.00
Partner	2013	3.93	**4.20**	3.93	3.84
	2011	4.08	4.17	4.09	4.04
Grandparents	2013	3.60	3.59	3.63	4.00
	2011	3.58	3.59	3.50	3.89
Grandchildren	2013	3.75	-	3.61	3.75
	2011	3.88	-	4.16	3.87

7.2.5   Analysed by marital status, for the female and male widowers, the mean scores of satisfaction with their parents were above high indicating that they were most satisfied with the relationship with their parents.   Besides, for those respondents who were married/cohabiting without child, the mean scores of satisfaction with their partners were relatively high.

Table 7.2.3: Mean scores of satisfaction with the relationship with family members by marital status and gender in 2011 and 2013

	Year	Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Child	2013	-	-	-	-	3.94	4.09	3.64	4.11	3.74	3.80
	2011	-	-	-	-	4.02	4.16	3.83	3.89	3.90	3.87
Father	2013	3.67	3.85	3.74	3.93	3.92	3.91	2.97	3.45	**4.46**	**4.29**
	2011	3.68	3.92	4.13	4.04	3.86	3.91	4.00	3.94	4.10	3.91
Mother	2013	3.85	4.04	3.97	3.97	3.88	3.96	3.64	3.73	**4.25**	**4.01**
	2011	3.88	4.04	4.15	4.16	3.93	3.99	4.00	3.74	3.70	3.96
Partner	2013	2.93	3.95	**4.14**	**4.04**	3.98	3.90	3.42	2.04	-	-
	2011	-	-	4.25	4.23	4.09	4.07	-	-	3.79	2.50
Grandparents	2013	3.53	3.70	2.73	3.94	3.74	3.59	3.00	3.74	-	3.08
	2011	3.56	3.58	3.54	3.41	3.80	3.62	-	-	-	3.45
Grandson	2013	-	-	-	-	3.80	3.80	3.05	3.83	3.69	3.66
	2011	3.59	4.00	-	-	3.93	3.91	3.80	3.79	4.35	3.62

Satisfaction with family life

7.2.6   76% of the respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with their family life whereas only 3% were not satisfied with their family life.   Compared with the findings in 2011, the proportion of respondents who were satisfied or very satisfied with their family life decreased from 81% in 2011 to 76% in 2013.

Chart 7.2.4: Satisfaction with family life in 2011 and 2013 (%)
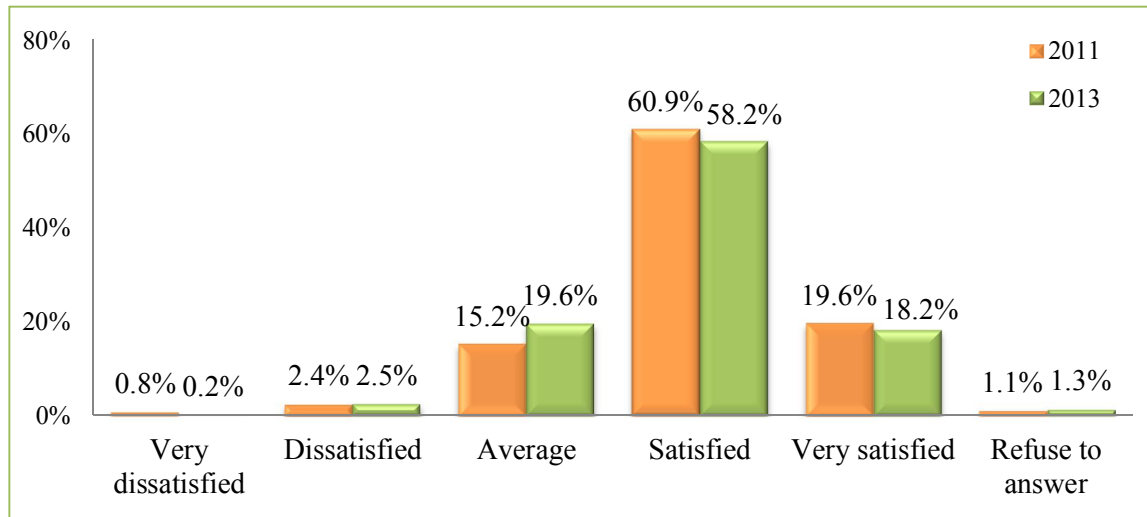
7.2.7 Analysed by age, gender, marital status and educational attainment, consensus was found in all groups. Majority of the respondents were satisfied with their family life.

Table 7.2.5: Satisfaction with family life by gender, age groups, marital status and educational attainment in 2011 and 2013 (%)

		Satisfied		Dissatisfied	
Year		2013	2011	2013	2011
Male		74.2	80.0	3.4	3.2
Female		78.2	81.0	2.2	3.2
15-34		80.8	80.6	3.4	3.5
35-54		75.6	81.8	1.8	2.3
55 or above		73.0	78.7	3.3	4.1
Never married	M	67.4	74.7	5.0	4.8
	F	84.5	80.3	0.6	3.2
Married/ cohabiting without child	M	81.0	84.7	1.8	3.9
	F	73.4	87.4	3.7	0.6
Married/ cohabiting with child	M	78.9	85.1	2.2	1.9
	F	81.3	85.9	2.2	1.9
Divorced/separated	M	59.5	73.5	9.5	1.6
	F	55.4	66.5	7.2	8.4
Widowed	M	73.6	58.5	1.1	5.3
	F	67.3	70.0	1.7	6.9
Primary or lower education	M	65.6	70.4	3.9	4.9
	F	71.8	78.1	1.8	4.7
Secondary educational level	M	71.5	83.4	3.7	2.6
	F	75.6	82.0	3.1	3.6
Post-secondary education or above	M	88.7	83.4	2.4	3.3
	F	91.4	87.7	0.7	0.0

7.2.8 Analysed by occupations, the skilled agricultural and fishery workers (100%) and manager and administrators (97%) were most satisfied with their family life, while the respondents with elementary occupations (66%) were least satisfied with their family life.

Table 7.2.6: Satisfaction with family life by occupations in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	Satisfied	Average	Dissatisfied
Managers and administrators	2013	**97.4**	2.6	0.0
	2011	92.1	5.9	2.0
Professionals	2013	88.4	7.0	1.0
	2011	84.2	15.8	0.0
Associate professionals	2013	79.7	11.6	6.9
	2011	84.2	15.8	0.0
Clerk	2013	77.7	16.6	3.9
	2011	87.0	10.9	2.2
Service workers and shop sales workers	2013	71.6	25.2	3.0
	2011	76.9	18.3	4.8
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	2013	**100.0**	0.0	0.0
	2011	57.8	42.2	0.0
Craft and related workers	2013	75.6	23.1	1.3
	2011	81.3	16.9	1.8
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	2013	80.8	10.5	4.9
	2011	86.1	12.7	1.2
Elementary occupations	2013	**65.6**	31.0	1.7
	2011	81.8	14.7	3.5

Dependence of family members

7.2.9 In 2013, most of family members were dependent on each other. 70% of the respondents indicated that their family members were dependent on each other.

Table 7.2.7: Dependence of family members by gender in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	All	Male	Female
Dependent	2013	**70.1**	67.3	72.4
	2011	78.3	75.4	80.8
Neutral	2013	25.5	28.2	23.2
	2011	17.4	19.4	15.8
Independent	2013	4.4	4.5	4.4
	2011	4.2	5.3	3.4

7.2.10 Analysed by age, gender and marital status, a remarkable proportion of older people aged 55 or above (7%) as well as the respondents who were divorced/separated (male: 20%; female: 10%) expressed that their family members were independent in 2013.

Table 7.2.8: Dependence of family members by age group in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Dependent	2013	71.3	71.5	67.2
	2011	77.1	81.0	73.8
Neutral	2013	24.4	25.9	26.1
	2011	19.6	14.6	18.4
Independent	2013	4.4	2.6	**6.7**
	2011	2.8	3.5	6.7

Table 7.2.9: Dependence of family members by marital status and gender in 2011 and 2013 (%)

		Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	Year	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Dependent	2013	59.4	72.7	69.5	70.1	76.3	78.1	36.5	54.8	47.8	60.4
	2011	64.8	78.9	85.3	78.4	83.5	85.1	64.9	69.3	52.4	70.0
Neutral	2013	34.9	23.0	26.8	21.9	21.3	19.4	43.6	35.3	47.2	32.6
	2011	27.2	16.5	14.7	17.1	12.2	12.1	31.9	21.7	30.4	23.4
Independent	2013	5.7	4.3	3.6	8.0	2.4	2.5	**19.9**	**10.0**	4.9	7.0
	2011	7.3	3.1	0.0	1.9	4.0	2.5	3.1	7.4	15.8	5.6

Relationship with Family Members

7.2.11 ***Relationships with family members was fairly close in general.***
Respondents were asked to rate their relationship with family members and
express their ratings in a Likert scale of 4, with "1" denoting "we are not close at
all" and "4" denoting "we are very close".

7.2.12 Relationships with family members were fairly close in general. 80% of the
respondents considered their relationship close (fairly close and very close) with
their fathers and 88% with their mothers. 91% had close relationship with their
partners and 92% with their children.

7.2.13 Compared with the findings in 2011, similar patterns of the relationship with
family members were observed in 2013.

Chart 7.2.10: Relationship with family members in 2011 and 2013(%)
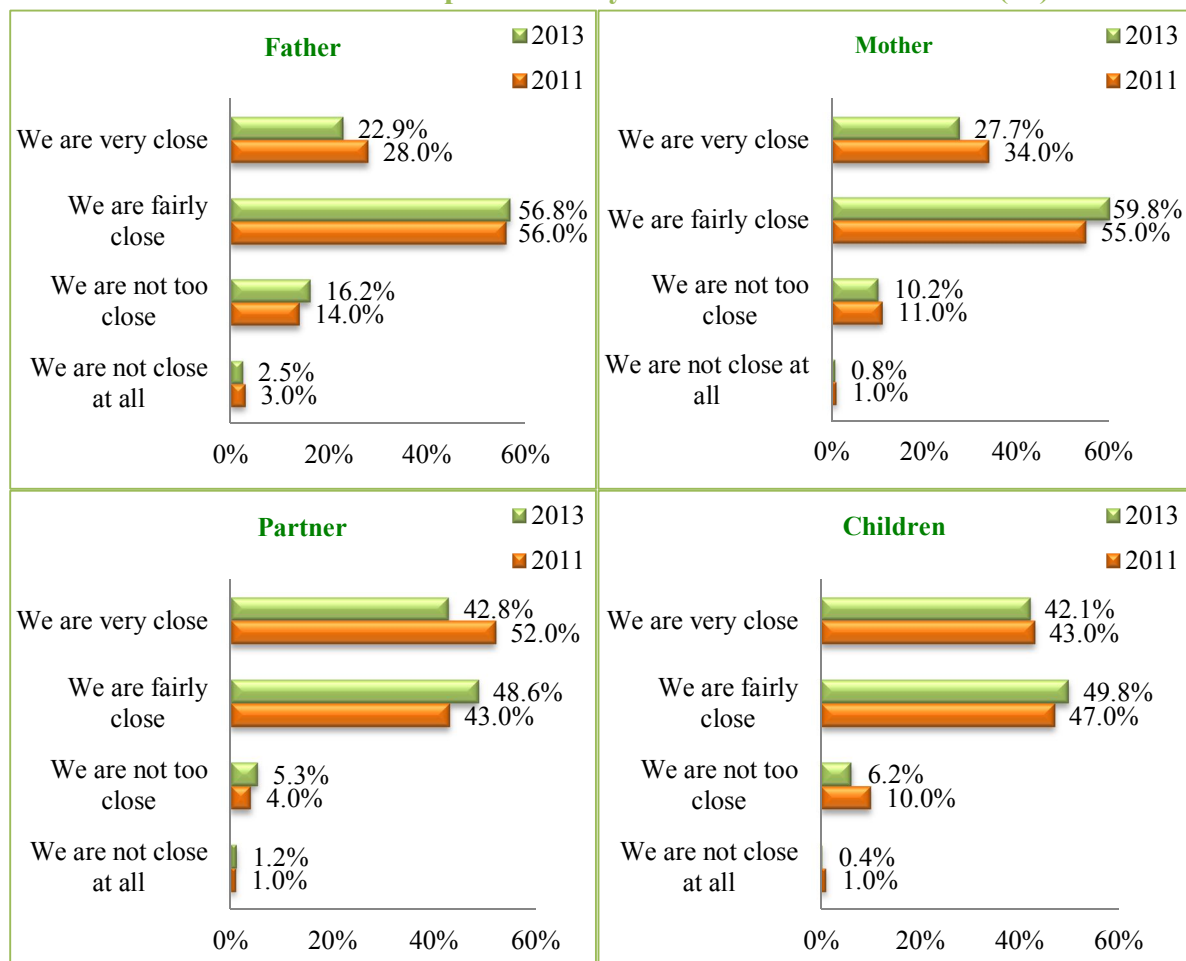
7.2.14 Analysed by age group, the overwhelming majority of the respondents aged 15-34 and aged 35-54 had a closer relationship with their partners and children.

Table 7.2.11: Relationship with family members by age group in 2011 and 2013 (%)

		Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Father	Not close	2013	19.8	18.7	3.6
	Close		77.6	80.6	96.4
	Not close	2011	16.4	14.8	29.8
	Close		83.6	85.2	70.2
Mother	Not close	2013	8.4	12.8	15.1
	Close		89.1	86.6	84.3
	Not close	2011	8.9	12.5	17.3
	Close		91.1	87.5	82.7
Partner	Not close	2013	1.8	7.7	6.8
	Close		**98.2**	**90.2**	90.4
	Not close	2011	0.5	5.5	5.4
	Close		99.5	94.5	94.6
Children	Not close	2013	2.4	4.8	9.4
	Close		**95.5**	**94.2**	88.9
	Not close	2011	3.7	3.2	13.4
	Close		96.3	96.8	86.6

7.2.15 Analysed by marital status, the overwhelming majority of the respondents who were married/cohabiting with or without child had a close relationship with their partners and children.

Table 7.2.12: Relationship with family members by marital status and gender in 2011 and 2013 (%)

		Year	Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Father	Not close	2013	21.2	15.4	19.6	29.4	12.9	18.3	41.3	27.1	53.6	0.0
	Close		75.7	81.2	80.4	70.6	87.1	81.1	58.7	72.9	46.4	100.0
	Not close	2011	21.7	16.2	12.1	13.9	13.4	13.1	0.0	16.3	42.5	11.6
	Close		78.3	83.8	87.9	86.1	86.6	86.9	100.0	83.7	57.5	88.4
Mother	Not close	2013	12.8	8.5	10.8	9.3	10.2	11.4	15.1	18.4	28.5	7.0
	Close		84.2	89.1	89.2	90.7	89.1	88.1	84.9	81.6	71.5	87.9
	Not close	2011	13.1	8.6	12.7	3.9	11.3	9.6	0.0	16.5	44.4	14.8
	Close		86.9	91.4	87.3	96.1	88.7	90.4	100.0	83.5	55.6	85.2
Partner	Not close	2013	-	-	4.8	0.9	3.1	7.8	-	-	-	-
	Close		-	-	**94.2**	**93.4**	**95.0**	**90.4**	-	-	-	-
	Not close	2011	-	-	2.3	5.3	2.1	6.0	-	-	-	-
	Close		-	-	97.7	94.7	97.9	94.0	-	-	-	-
Children	Not close	2013	-	-	-	-	5.0	4.5	34.4	5.9	19.7	13.3
	Close		-	-	-	-	**92.4**	**95.0**	64.2	94.1	80.3	84.1
	Not close	2011	-	-	-	-	6.3	4.4	24.7	17.0	15.0	15.7
	Close		-	-	-	-	93.7	95.6	75.3	83.0	85.0	84.3

7.3 Time Spent with Family Members

7.3.1 ***Time spent with parents was limited, but with improvement in the past two years.*** In 2013, about one-third of the respondents talked to their parents for less than 30 minutes a week. 17% had not talked to their fathers, while 12% had not talked to their mothers at all in the week prior to enumeration. Partners communicated with each other more frequently, with only 8% did not speak to each other; 39% talked to each other for more than 4 hours, 9% for 2 to 4 hours, 12% for 1 to 2 hours, and 19% for less than half hour a week.

7.3.2 26% chatted with their children for less than 30 minutes a week and 16% did not talk to each other at all. On the other hand, 27% talked to their children for more than 4 hours.

7.2.16 Compared with the findings in 2011, the proportions of the respondents talking with their partners and children increase significantly in 2013.

Table 7.3.1: Time spent in talking with family members per week in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	Father	Mother	Partner	Children[20]
None	2013	**16.6**	**11.7**	**8.2**	**16.2**
	2011	22.8	19.1	8.4	20.5
< 30 minutes	2013	**35.0**	**32.1**	**19.2**	**25.7**
	2011	40.1	38.8	25.5	32.0
31 – 60 minutes	2013	9.1	9.6	9.2	10.7
	2011	8.2	8.9	11.2	10.4
1 hour to < 2 hours	2013	17.1	17.0	**12.4**	11.4
	2011	11.1	11.4	14.1	10.6
2 hours to < 4 hours	2013	7.3	10.0	**9.4**	7.8
	2011	6.2	8.9	10.7	7.5
$\geqq$ 4 hours	2013	13.4	18.0	**39.2**	**26.9**
	2011	11.6	12.8	30.1	19.0
Overall		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

---

20 One child is selected randomly.

7.3.3 Analysed by age group, older people aged 55 or above were less likely to talk with their parents, 61% and 57% of them talked to their father and mother for less than 30 minutes a week or did not talk at all respectively in 2013.

Table 7.3.2: Time spent in talking with family members by age group in 2011 and 2013 (%)

		Year	15 - 34	35 - 54	55 or above
Father	None to < 30 minutes	2013	45.7	58.6	**61.3**
	31 – 60 minutes		8.2	9.8	13.6
	> 1 hour		43.8	30.9	25.1
	None to < 30 minutes	2011	56	70.5	77.2
	31 – 60 minutes		9.1	7.1	7.4
	> 1 hour		34.9	22.4	15.5
Mother	None to < 30 minutes	2013	34.1	50.8	**57.3**
	31 – 60 minutes		8.0	11.2	10.5
	> 1 hour		55.3	37.3	31.7
	None to < 30 minutes	2011	44.5	68.5	74.6
	31 – 60 minutes		10.7	7.7	5.8
	> 1 hour		44.9	23.8	19.6
Partner	None to < 30 minutes	2013	19.6	25.4	32.9
	31 – 60 minutes		11.2	8.9	8.9
	> 1 hour		69.2	63.0	55.3
	None to < 30 minutes	2011	25.8	32.3	39.6
	31 – 60 minutes		13.8	10.4	11.5
	> 1 hour		60.3	57.3	48.9
Child	None to < 30 minutes	2013	44.3	38.0	45.2
	31 – 60 minutes		7.8	8.6	13.3
	> 1 hour		47.0	52.2	40.1
	None to < 30 minutes	2011	59.3	46.8	56.5
	31 – 60 minutes		4.7	9.0	12.7
	> 1 hour		35.9	44.2	30.8

7.3.4 Analysed by marital status, respondents who were married or cohabiting and with child as well as those were divorced/separated were less likely to talk to their parents in 2013.

Table 7.3.3: Time spent in talking with family members by marital status and gender in 2011 and 2013 (%)

		Year	Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Father	None to < 30 mins	2013	41.6	46.4	45.6	58.0	**52.8**	**64.3**	**100.0**	**57.9**	100.0	42.1
	31 – 60 mins		9.1	5.0	15.4	10.4	15.9	5.9	0.0	17.7	0.0	17.1
	> 1 hour		47.8	44.8	39.0	31.6	31.2	29.0	0.0	21.1	0.0	40.8
	None to < 30 mins	2011	60.7	54.0	62.0	59.8	68.4	70.2	0.0	32.2	70.0	80.3
	31 – 60 mins		6.4	8.1	6.3	6.0	7.1	11.7	100.0	5.8	22.4	3.0
	> 1 hour		32.9	37.9	31.7	34.2	24.6	18.1	0.0	62.1	7.6	16.6
Mother	None to < 30 mins	2013	35.4	30.5	40.6	43.6	**54.0**	**54.3**	**61.2**	**49.1**	53.2	62.6
	31 – 60 mins		7.3	6.9	11.1	18.1	15.2	6.4	9.6	21.1	0.0	13.4
	> 1 hour		55.4	59.5	48.3	38.3	30.1	38.5	29.2	26.9	46.8	18.9
	None to < 30 mins	2011	52.4	38.3	69.5	53.0	68.6	67.9	100.0	50.5	83.7	61.5
	31 – 60 mins		12.2	6.2	5.5	7.8	7.5	9.5	0.0	11.5	9.9	10.8
	> 1 hour		35.4	55.5	25.0	39.2	23.9	22.6	0.0	38.1	6.4	27.6
Partner	None to < 30 mins	2013	88.3	7.6	16.6	18.6	26.9	28.3	100.0	90.4	-	-
	31 – 60 mins		11.7	0.0	5.0	6.9	9.1	10.7	0.0	0.0	-	-
	> 1 hour		0.0	83.6	77.5	68.8	62.2	58.2	0.0	9.6	-	-
	None to < 30 mins	2011	-	-	26.6	26.3	36.0	34.3	-	-	43.1	100.0
	31 – 60 mins		-	-	16.9	12.7	11.5	10.4	-	-	0.0	0.0
	> 1 hour		-	-	56.5	61.0	52.5	55.3	-	-	56.9	0.0
Children	None to < 30 mins	2013	-	-	-	-	44.1	39.4	54.4	29.9	39.9	49.5
	31 – 60 mins		-	-	-	-	9.1	10.0	25.7	14.8	27.1	10.3
	> 1 hour		-	-	-	-	45.2	49.4	18.5	55.2	30.9	39.9
	None to < 30 mins	2011	-	-	-	-	56.8	47.0	82.9	54.1	54.7	44.7
	31 – 60 mins		-	-	-	-	9.2	11.3	2.7	15.0	2.0	4.5
	> 1 hour		-	-	-	-	34.0	41.7	14.4	30.9	43.4	50.8

7.4 Communication with Family Members

7.4.1   Respondents were asked to rate the frequency of communication with family members and involvement in family functions.   Rating on frequency was expressed in a Likert scale of 4, with "1" denoting "almost never" and "4" denoting "frequently".

7.4.2   *Talk about personal concern* - Overall, talking about personal concern to partner was frequent (47% frequently and 33% sometimes, while only 7% almost never talked to partner about personal concern).   24% of the respondents talked frequently and 38% sometimes to their mothers about personal concern.   The corresponding percentages were 16% and 35% respectively for talking to fathers.   58% talked about personal concern to their child sometimes or frequently.

Table 7.4.1: Talking about personal concern in 2011 and 2013 (%)

Personal Concern	Year	Father	Mother	Partner	Children
Almost never	2013	12.1	10.1	**6.6**	17.4
	2011	14.1	12.7	5.8	16.2
Not often	2013	36.1	27.6	10.7	22.8
	2011	35.1	30.1	14.4	26.2
Sometimes	2013	**35.4**	**38.0**	**33.2**	**35.0**
	2011	34.0	35.1	33.2	34.4
Frequently	2013	**15.5**	**23.7**	**47.2**	**23.2**
	2011	16.8	22.2	46.6	23.1

7.4.3   *Seeking advice from family member* - Similar pattern was observed in respect of seeking advice.   Majority of the respondents sought advice from their partners (81%) and mothers (61%) sometimes or frequently.

Table 7.4.2: Seeking advice from family member in 2011 and 2013 (%)

Seeking Advice	Year	Father	Mother	Partner	Children
Almost never	2013	14.3	11.0	6.3	19.1
	2011	12.5	11.0	4.6	16.1
Not often	2013	31.3	27.5	10.1	23.8
	2011	34.4	33.5	12.4	26.5
Sometimes	2013	39.9	**41.0**	**37.0**	34.9
	2011	35.7	35.2	40.1	35.8
Frequently	2013	13.6	**19.6**	**43.9**	20.9
	2011	17.3	20.3	42.9	21.7

7.4.4 *Feeling proud of family member* – Majority of the respondents were proud of their parents (70% father, 71% mother). Amongst them, 29% were frequently proud of their father and 31% proud of their mothers. 73% of respondents were proud of their partners (32% frequently) and 76% proud of their children (35% frequently).

Table 7.4.3: Feeling proud of family member in 2011 and 2013 (%)

Feeling proud	Year	Father	Mother	Partner	Children
Almost never	2013	11.5	11.4	11.3	9.8
	2011	11.7	8.1	7.1	7.4
Not often	2013	14.5	13.1	9.8	10.2
	2011	24.3	23.3	15.1	14.4
Sometimes	2013	**40.4**	**40.3**	**41.1**	**40.9**
	2011	38.5	40.7	41.7	42.1
Frequently	2013	**29.2**	**31.1**	**31.9**	**34.7**
	2011	25.5	27.8	36.1	36.1

7.4.5 *Having dinner with family members* – Majority of the respondents had dinner sometimes or frequently with their partners (90%), children (87%), and parents (63%). Survey results also showed that 79% of the respondents frequently had dinner with their partners, 68% frequently with children and over one-third with parents.

Table 7.4.4: Having dinner with family member in 2011 and 2013 (%)

Having dinner	Year	Father	Mother	Partner	Children
Almost never	2013	6.2	4.0	2.0	1.6
	2011	4.7	3.1	0.9	2.1
Not often	2013	33.1	28.7	5.4	10.3
	2011	29.0	28.1	5.7	18.0
Sometimes	2013	**26.4**	**27.4**	**11.4**	**18.6**
	2011	31.9	30.3	10.5	23.6
Frequently	2013	**33.3**	**39.0**	**79.0**	**68.3**
	2011	34.4	38.5	83.0	56.3

7.4.6 *Participation in family activities* – Majority of the respondents frequently or sometimes participated in family activities with their partners (75%) and children (72%). About half frequently or sometimes participated in family activities with their parents.

Table 7.4.5: Participate in family activities in 2011 and 2013 (%)

Family activities	Year	Father	Mother	Partner	Children
Almost never	2013	12.1	8.7	5.3	5.6
	2011	8.7	7.0	2.5	4.3
Not often	2013	39.2	36.3	17.4	21.8
	2011	37.1	36.7	17.5	26.7
Sometimes	2013	**32.6**	**34.0**	**33.8**	**35.5**
	2011	36.5	35.6	27.7	31.8
Frequently	2013	**15.2**	**20.2**	**41.4**	**36.0**
	2011	17.6	20.7	52.4	37.1

7.5 Frequency in use of modern technologies in communication with family members

7.5.1 ***About one-third of people frequently or sometimes used modern technologies (e.g. SMS, WhatsApp) in communication with family members.*** In 2013, about one-third of the respondents frequently or sometimes used modern technologies in communication with children (31%), mothers (30%) and fathers (30%).

7.5.2 The proportion of respondents who frequently or sometimes used modern technologies in communication with partners (47%) was higher than that of other family members in 2013.

Chart 7.5.1: Frequency in use of modern technologies in 2013 (%)
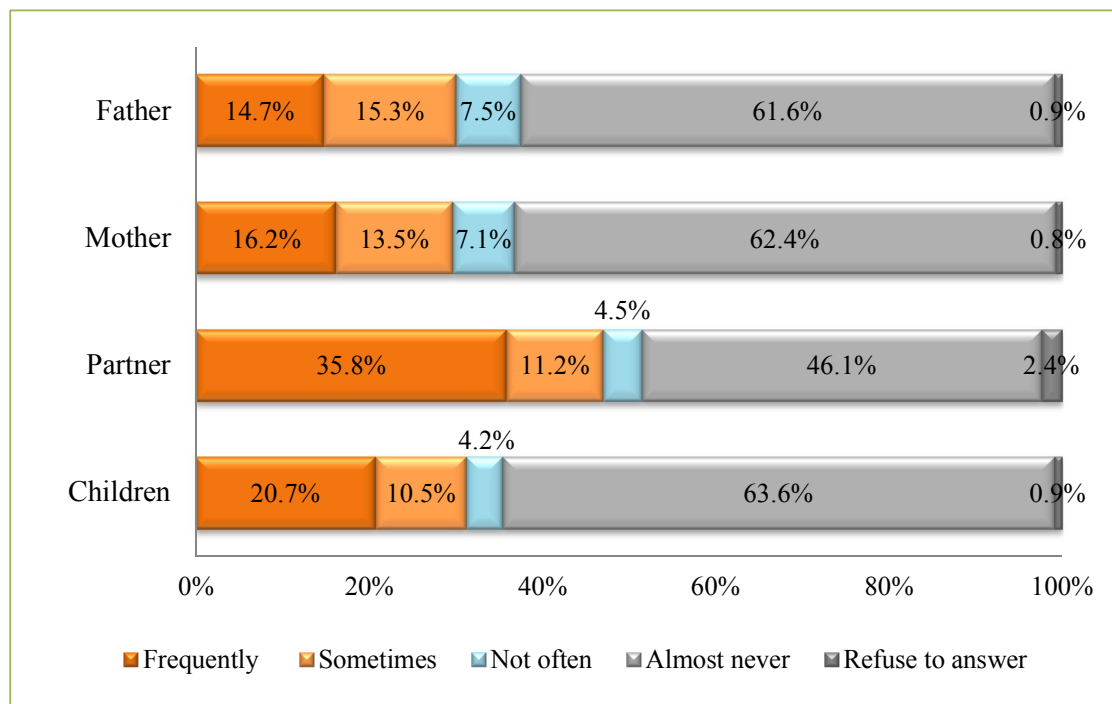
7.5.3 Analysed by age group, younger respondents aged 15-34 were more likely to use modern technologies in communication with their partners (86%), fathers (42%), mothers (46%) frequently or sometimes.

Table 7.5.2: Frequency in use of modern technologies by age group in 2013 (%)

		15 - 34	35 - 54	55 or above
Father	Almost never	50.1	74.3	86.1
	Not often	7.3	7.3	12.0
	Sometimes	**21.4**	8.8	0.0
	Frequently	**20.1**	8.9	1.9
Mother	Almost never	44.9	75.7	84.9
	Not often	8.2	6.1	6.4
	Sometimes	**21.6**	7.3	3.8
	Frequently	**24.3**	10.3	4.4
Partner	Almost never	10.0	35.8	73.2
	Not often	4.5	5.5	3.3
	Sometimes	**12.8**	13.1	8.0
	Frequently	**72.8**	43.1	12.5
Child	Almost never	84.7	47.9	74.7
	Not often	1.1	6.3	2.8
	Sometimes	2.6	14.5	8.1
	Frequently	10.7	31.0	12.8

7.5.4 Most of the respondents who were never married or married/cohabiting without child frequently or sometimes used modern technologies in communication with their partners.

Table 7.5.3: Frequency in use of modern technologies by marital status and gender in 2013 (%)

		Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Father	Almost never	54.8	50.6	55.1	59.9	75.4	72.4	66.9	67.2	100.0	76.9
	Not often	10.1	5.5	8.3	15.6	4.1	8.0	0.0	5.9	0.0	0.0
	Sometimes	17.0	23.9	19.1	11.2	5.5	8.6	33.1	19.6	0.0	8.8
	Frequently	16.3	18.9	15.8	13.4	15.0	10.3	0.0	7.4	0.0	14.3
Mother	Almost never	50.8	49.3	57.0	58.6	74.9	74.8	69.5	79.3	100.0	81.4
	Not often	10.2	6.2	8.3	14.1	5.8	4.3	12.6	5.1	0.0	0.0
	Sometimes	19.7	24.8	16.8	2.1	5.8	6.4	0.0	9.2	0.0	5.2
	Frequently	17.6	19.0	18.0	25.2	12.8	14.0	17.9	6.4	0.0	8.4
Partner	Almost never	0.0	15.2	32.9	13.3	52.1	47.7	-	-	-	-
	Not often	0.0	0.0	4.0	1.0	5.9	3.9	-	-	-	-
	Sometimes	88.3	0.0	6.0	10.3	9.9	12.9	-	-	-	-
	Frequently	11.7	76.0	56.2	69.7	30.3	32.9	-	-	-	-
Children	Almost never	-	-	-	-	63.8	58.5	48.2	59.4	87.8	84.8
	Not often	-	-	-	-	5.6	4.1	0.0	0.9	7.6	2.2
	Sometimes	-	-	-	-	10.9	11.2	5.6	12.2	2.9	7.4
	Frequently	-	-	-	-	17.9	25.8	44.9	26.8	1.8	4.9

Chapter 8 | Balancing Work and Family

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1   Nowadays in Hong Kong, it is getting more and more stressful to strike for work-life balance.   We attempt to gather information on views and attitudes regarding balancing work and family.   The questions were adopted from the Canadian family survey. [21]

8.1.2   Stress is prevalent in today's workplace.   Spending too much time working or being forced to deal with excessive amount of work may cause a great deal of stress.   Therefore, questions covering the following areas were asked:

   a)   the level of stress resulting from efforts to meet competing demands of work and family;
   b)   the satisfaction with the amount of time spent at work with family
   c)   the problems encountered from poor work-life balance;
   d)   the level of difficulty in balancing work and family; and
   e)   the problems the families would face.

---

21 Canadian Attitudes on the Family: The Complete Report 2002, Focus on the Family Canada Association

8.2 Views on Balancing Work and Family

8.2.1 *One quarter of those at work found it difficult to strike a balance between work and family in view of competing priorities.* In 2013, it was worth noting that about one quarter of the respondents at work shared the views that "I often felt guilty about the amount of time I spent at work and not with my family" (25%) and "I want to spend more time with my family but am afraid that it had negative impact on advancement at work" (21%). Furthermore, 31% agreed that "I want to work more but am afraid that it would affect my family life". On the other hand, 54% of them indicated that reducing the number of hours they spent at work was simply not an option in balancing work and family.

8.2.2 Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreement on the views on balancing work and family were more or less the same in 2013.

Chart 8.2.1: Views on balancing work and family in 2011 and 2013(%)
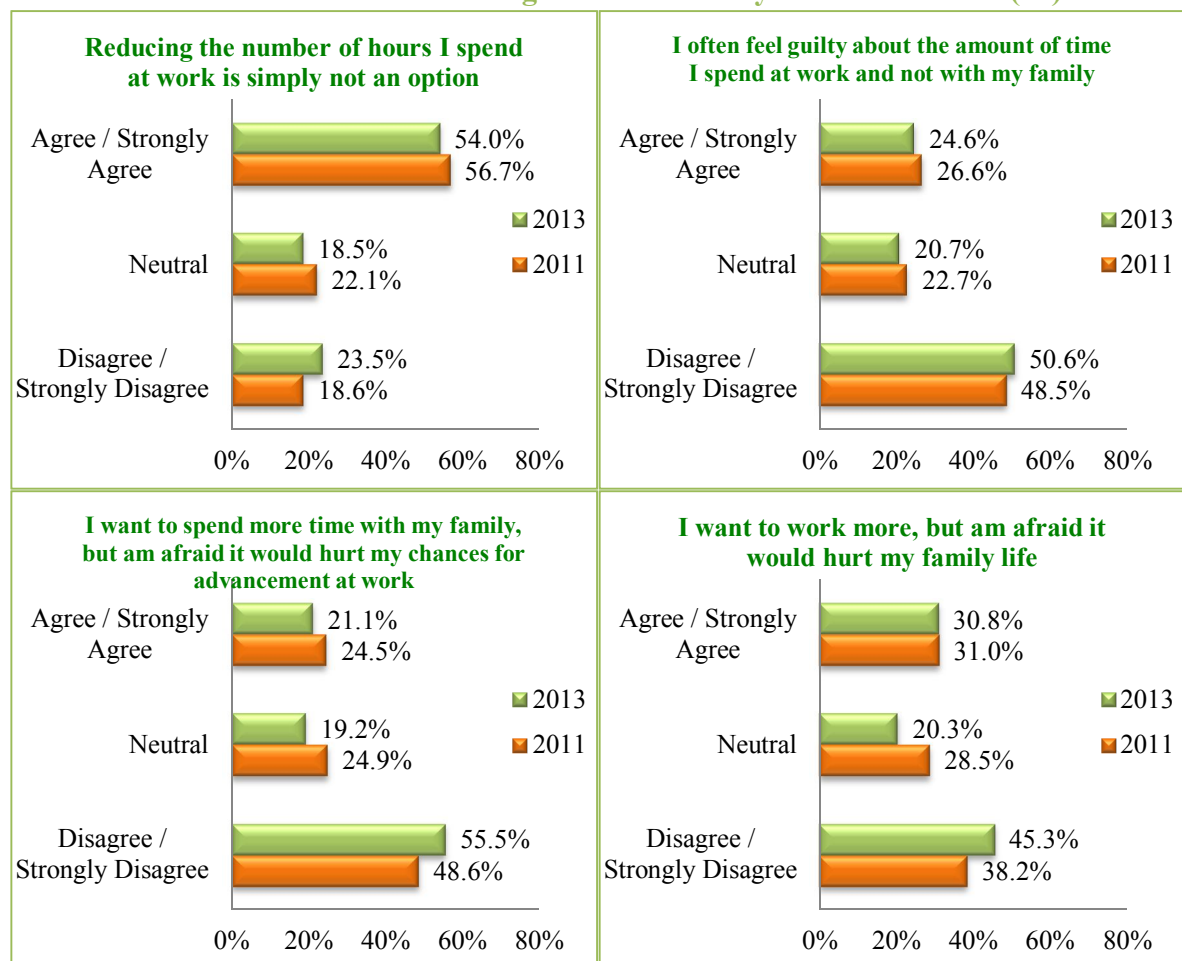
8.2.3　In 2013, the view that "At this stage of my career, my job is my first priority" varied, 36% of the respondents at work agreed whereas 41% did not agree.　In addition, 77% of the respondents at work did not agree that "I enjoy going to work because it gets me away from my family".

8.2.4　Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreement on the views that "At this stage of my career, my job is my first priority" and "I enjoy going to work because it gets me away from my family" decreased gradually in 2013.

Chart 8.2.2: Views on balancing work and family in 2011 and 2013(%)
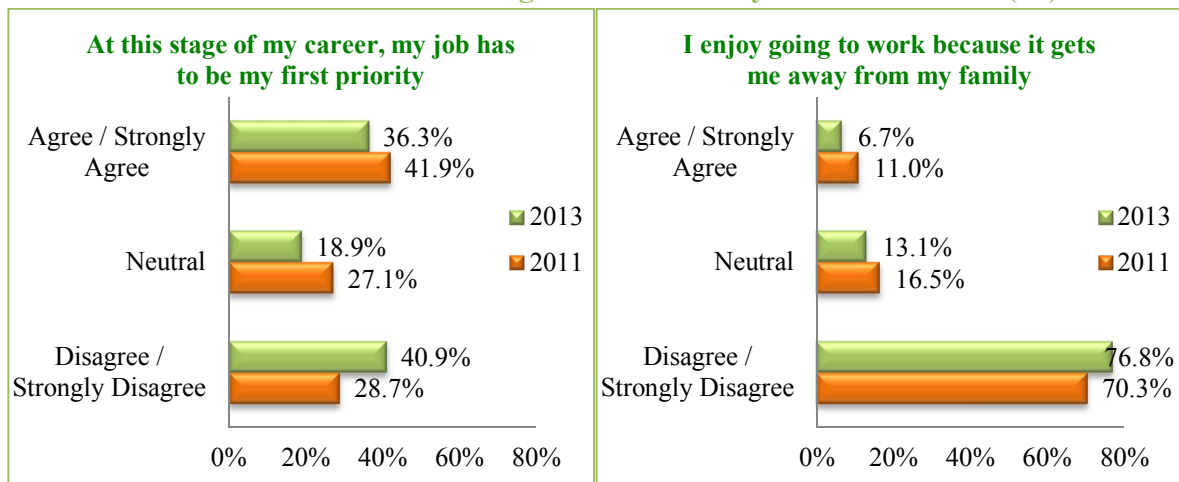
8.2.5   Across all age groups, quite a high proportion of respondents found it difficult to reduce the number of hours spent at work; and a relatively lower proportion of respondents enjoyed going to work in order to get away from their family. Younger respondents at work (15-34) were more likely to agree that their job would be their first priority at this stage of their career (41% in 2013).

Table 8.2.3: Agreement on views on balancing work and family by age group in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Reducing the number of hours I spend at work is simply not an option	2013	50.4	56.8	52.3
	2011	56.3	58.8	52.4
I often feel guilty about the amount of time I spend at work and not with my family	2013	23.6	25.9	22.2
	2011	29.9	27.1	14.5
I want to spend more time with my family, but am afraid that it had negative impact on my chances for advancement at work	2013	24.5	20.9	15.1
	2011	28.2	24.5	13.2
I want to work more, but am afraid that it would affect my family life	2013	27.2	35.2	23.2
	2011	31.7	32.9	21
At this stage of my career, my job is my first priority	2013	**41.1**	35.8	28.3
	2011	43.1	42.8	35.3
I enjoy going to work because it gets me away from my family	2013	9.0	5.5	6.1
	2011	12.6	9.4	9.2

8.2.6 Analysed by marital status, 36% of the respondents at work who were married/cohabiting with child were more likely to agree with the view that "I want to work more but am afraid that it would affect my family life" in 2013. On the other hand, the respondents at work who were never married were more likely to agree that their job would be their first priority at this stage of their career (54% and 42% for male and female respondents at work respectively in 2013).

Table 8.2.4: Agreement on views on balancing work and family by marital status and gender in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Reducing the number of hours I spend at work is simply not an option	2013	56.7	50.7	64.9	35.8	56.8	53.5	53.3	42.8	13.8	43.7
	2011	58.5	55.8	52.1	54.1	61.7	53	100	43.7	63.2	58.1
I often feel guilty about the amount of time I spend at work and not with my family	2013	17.4	21.7	23.4	32.3	31.2	21.0	20.8	25.2	0.0	40.5
	2011	25.4	26.7	20.1	33.8	29.8	24.4	0.0	11.3	30.9	27
I want to spend more time with my family, but am afraid that it had negative impact on my chances for advancement at work	2013	20.5	20.4	26.0	27.3	23.1	18.5	8.2	12.3	0.0	33.6
	2011	22	27	27.6	16.4	25.7	26.7	0	6.9	16.5	27.5
I want to work more, but am afraid that it would affect my family life	2013	27.6	23.2	26.4	36.6	**36.1**	**36.3**	18.7	22.8	0.0	40.6
	2011	25.8	28.8	33.9	32.9	36	34	0	16.1	9.3	31.6
At this stage of my career, my job is my first priority	2013	**54.0**	**41.8**	37.7	29.9	36.0	9.9	44.3	44.5	49.9	30.0
	2011	62.3	47.8	52	35.4	38.7	18.9	46.9	38.4	26.4	33.6
I enjoy going to work because it gets me away from my family	2013	11.1	10.3	5.2	0.0	5.2	2.2	19.5	3.0	0.0	0.0
	2011	14.8	11.9	13.9	19.1	7.1	5.7	0	17.9	8.6	6.2

8.3 Stress and time spent at work and family

Stress in balancing work and family

8.3.1 ***Nearly half of those at work reported stress in balancing work and family.*** On the whole, 45% of the respondents who were currently at work reported that balancing the competing demands of work and family caused them a great deal of stress or some stress in 2013. 39% did not have very much stress and 13% did not have stress at all.

8.3.2 Compared with the findings in 2011, the proportions of the respondents at work reported a great deal of stress or some stress in balancing the competing demands of work and family were more or less the same in 2013. However, the proportion of the respondents at work reported that they did not have stress at all dropped from 19% in 2011 to 13% in 2013.

Chart 8.3.1: Stress in balancing work and family in 2011 and 2013 (%)
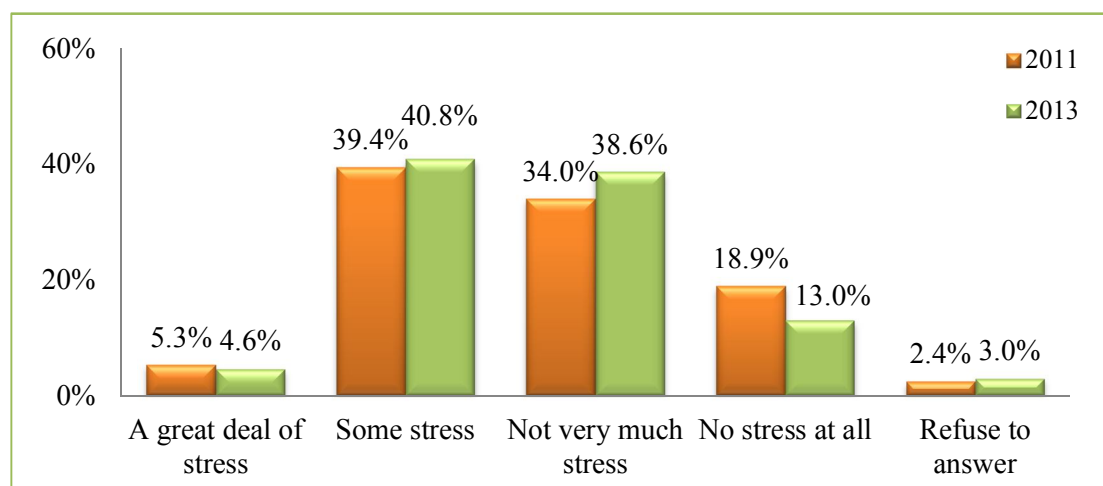
8.3.3   When compared with other age groups, middle-aged respondents at work (35-54) had the highest proportion of respondents who were more likely to have stress in balancing the demands of work and family (52% in 2013).   Similar observations were also made for respondents at work who were married/cohabiting with child (56% and 52% of male and female respondents at work respectively in 2013).

Table 8.3.2: Stress in balancing work and family by age group in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
A great deal of	2013	39.2	**51.5**	37.4
stress/some stress	2011	44.4	48.5	30.7
Not very much	2013	56.3	46.7	58.2
stress/no stress at all	2011	51.9	50.0	66.8

Table 8.3.3: Stress in balancing work and family by marital status and gender in 2011 and 2013 (%)

		Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	Year	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
A great deal of stress/some stress	2013	41.9	30.0	43.2	45.9	**55.9**	**52.3**	17.7	49.1	0.0	42.5
	2011	35.8	40.3	52.7	35.7	53.3	49.2	26.9	33.5	17.4	45.6
Not very much stress/no stress at all	2013	55.2	69.4	53.8	54.1	40.7	41.4	82.3	47.3	100	55.0
	2011	62.4	55.2	44.7	64.3	46.2	47.5	73.1	66.5	80.2	46.8

Satisfaction with time spent at work and family

8.3.4   Notwithstanding the fact that quite a number of respondents reported stress in balancing the competing demands of work and family, 57% of the respondents who were currently at work were satisfied with the amount of time spent at work and with family and only 9% were not satisfied.

8.3.5   Compared with the findings in 2011, the proportion of the respondents at work who were satisfied with the amount of time spent at work and with family decreased gradually in 2013 (57% in 2013; 62% in 2011).

Table 8.3.4: Satisfaction with time spent at work and family in 2011 and 2013 (%)
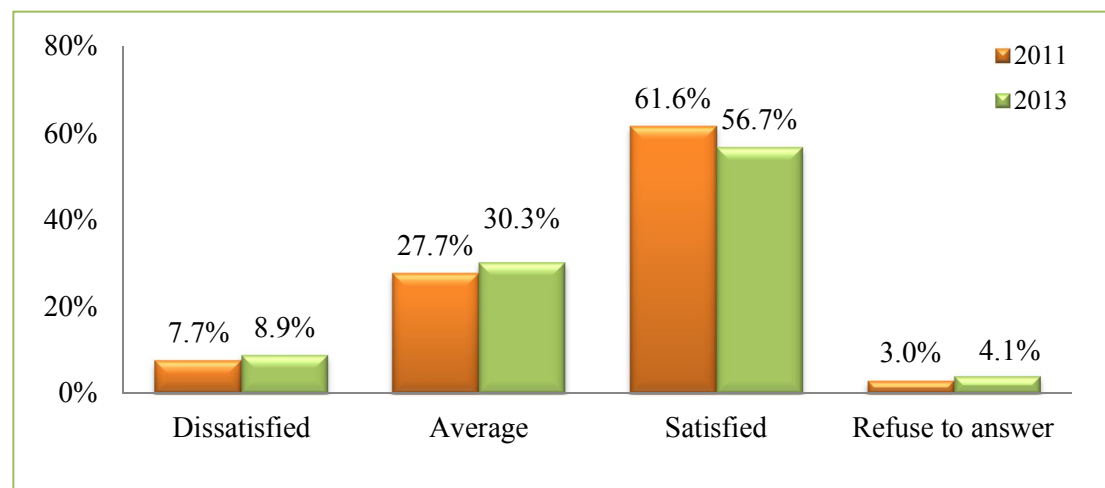
8.3.6   Analysed by gender, male respondents at work were more likely to report that they were dissatisfied with the amount of time spent at work and with family (11% and 7% for male and female respondents at work respectively in 2013).

Table 8.3.5: Satisfaction with time spent at work and family by gender in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	All	Male	Female
Dissatisfied	2013	8.9	**10.7**	**6.6**
	2011	7.7	7.1	8.6
Average	2013	30.3	30.5	30.0
	2011	27.7	29.5	25.3
Satisfied	2013	56.7	55.5	58.3
	2011	61.6	61.6	61.5
Refuse to answer	2013	4.1	3.3	5.0
	2011	3.0	1.8	4.5

8.4 Problems associated with poor work-life balance

Problems associated with poor work-life balance

8.4.1   The major problems associated with poor work-life balance of those respondents at work were "I often felt tired, sleepy and exhausted" (43%), "I did not have private time to enjoy leisure activities or sports at all" (23%), "I did not have enough time to get together with my partner and family" (18%) and "My work affected my relationships with friends" (17%) in 2013.   On the other hand, 38% of the respondents at work reported that they did not encounter any problems associated with poor work-life balance.

Table 8.4.1: Problems associated with poor work-life balance in 2013 (%)
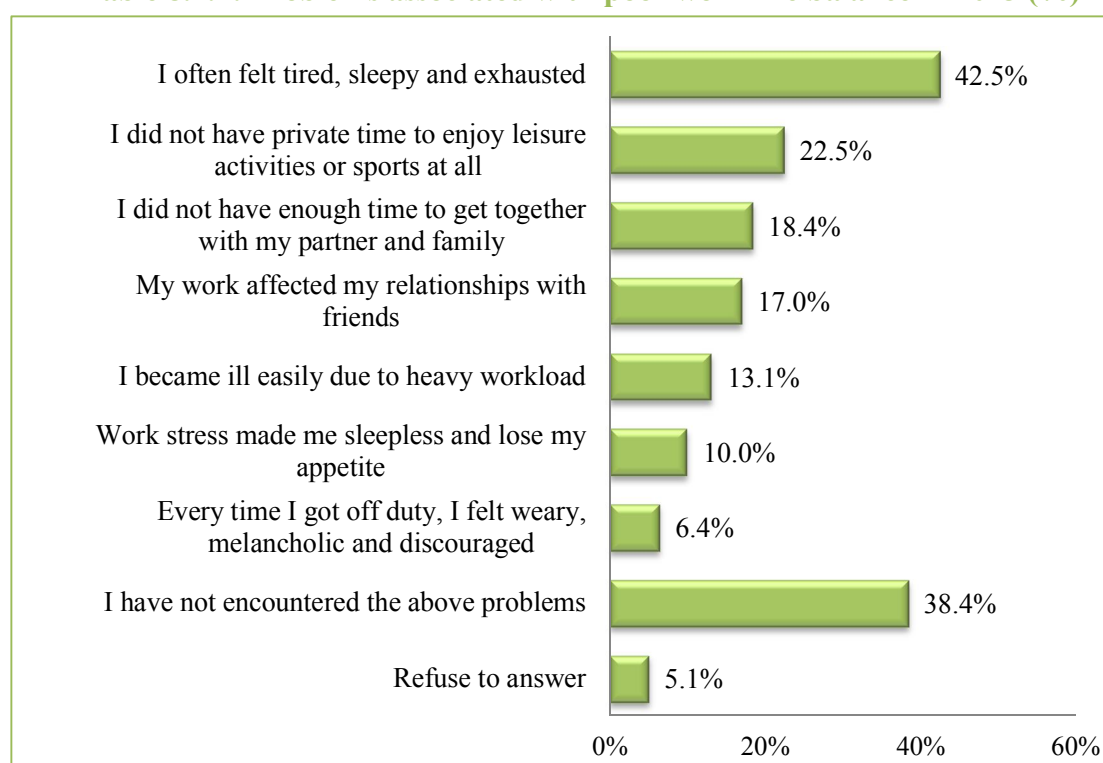
Note: Respondents were allowed to give more than one choice.

Level of difficulty in balancing work and family

8.4.2   ***Nearly one-third of those at work reported that it would be very difficult or quite difficult in balancing work and family.***   In 2013, 38% of the respondents at work reported that it would be very difficult or quite difficult in balancing the demands of work and family whereas 58% expressed that it would be quite easy or very easy in balancing work and family.

Table 8.4.2: Level of difficulty in balancing work and family in 2013 (%)
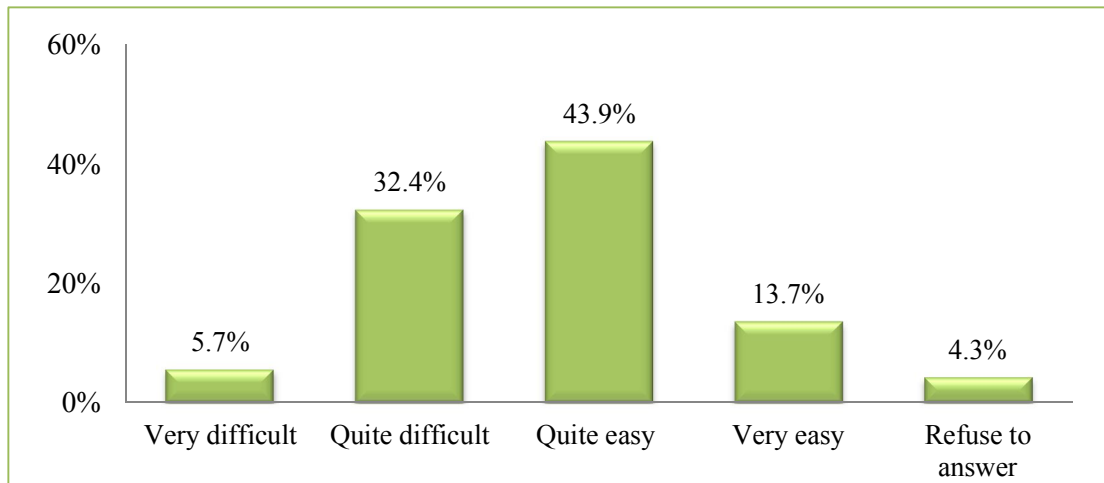
8.4.3 When compared with other age groups and marital status, middle-aged respondents at work (35-54) and male respondents at work who were married/cohabiting with child were more likely to report that it would be very difficult or quite difficult in balancing the demands of work and family.

Table 8.4.3: Level of difficulty in balancing work and family by age group in 2013 (%)

	Total	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Very difficult/quite difficult	38.1	29.3	**44.7**	33.9
Quite easy/very easy	57.6	65.4	51.9	60.7

Table 8.4.4: Level of difficulty in balancing work and family by marital status and gender (%)

	Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Very difficult/quite difficult	31.9	26.0	36.5	43.2	**48.6**	38.3	31.4	38.0	0.0	51.0
Quite easy/very easy	59.7	71.4	59.0	56.8	48.3	55.4	68.6	58.5	100.0	46.6

Problems faced by the families

8.4.4 The major problems faced by the families reported by the respondents were "Health problems of my family or myself" (22%), "Family financial problem excluding housing and raising child expenses" (16%), "Child education" (13%), "Parenting methods" (12%), "Heavy burden of housing expense" (11%), "Heavy financial burden of raising child" (10%) and "Emotional problem of my family or myself" (10%). On the other hand, 45% of the respondents indicated that their families did not encounter the problems.

Table 8.4.5: Problems faced by the families in 2013 (%)

Problem	Percentage
Health problem of my family or myself	21.6%
Family financial problem (excluding housing and raising child expenses)	15.6%
Child education	12.8%
Parenting methods	11.9%
Heavy burden of housing expense	10.5%
Heavy financial burden of raising child	10.4%
Emotional problem of my family or myself	10.2%
Arrangments of child care	7.7%
Difficulties in balancing work and family	6.8%
Unemployment problem of my family or myself	6.6%
Family relationship such as marital and parenting conflict	6.5%
Burden of looking after aged parents and relatives (not financially)	4.5%
Difficulties in the adaption of the change of family structure	4.3%
Unequal share of housework with spouse/partner	4.2%
Others	1.7%
My family has not encountered the above problems	44.9%
Refuse to answer	2.5%

Note: Respondents were allowed to give more than one choice.

126

Chapter 9 | Social Support Network

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1   A social support network refers to a social structure which is made up of individuals such as family members, friends and peers or organisations. A strong social support network can be critical in helping one through the stress of tough times. In this Chapter, we will focus on the "help seeking" behaviours of respondents when they encountered financial and emotional problems, and the persons whom they would approach for assistance or advice.

9.1.2   Information on the helpfulness or the strength of support from their family members in six scenarios, namely (i) When you are sick (ii) When you need to make an important decision (iii) When you are depressed and upset (iv) When you are unemployed and cannot get a job (v) When you have financial problems (vi) When you want to share your happiness with your family members was gathered in the Survey.

9.2 Help Seeking Behaviour

9.2.1 *Respondents indicated that they would seek help or advice from their spouses, parents, siblings, children and close friends when they encountered financial difficulties.* When financial problems were encountered, in 2013, 41% of the respondents would seek help from spouse, 25% from parents, 24% from children, 23% from brothers/sisters and 22% from close friends.

9.2.2 Compared with the findings in 2011, the pattern of help seeking behaviour when financial problems encountered was similar in the past two years except a drop in seeking help from their spouses.

Table 9.2.1: Financial problems encountered in 2011 and 2013 (%)

Category	2013	2011
Spouse (for those married)	40.4%	54.8%
Close friends	21.9%	28.3%
Parents	24.8%	27.7%
Brothers/ sisters	23.4%	24.2%
Children (for those having children)	23.6%	23.3%
Banks	10.8%	8.0%
Government departments	5.4%	4.3%
Social services organisations	3.1%	3.7%
Relatives	3.3%	2.9%
Grand children	0.3%	0.2%
Old neighbour	0.1%	0.0%
Current neighbours	0.1%	0.1%
Others	7.0%	5.0%
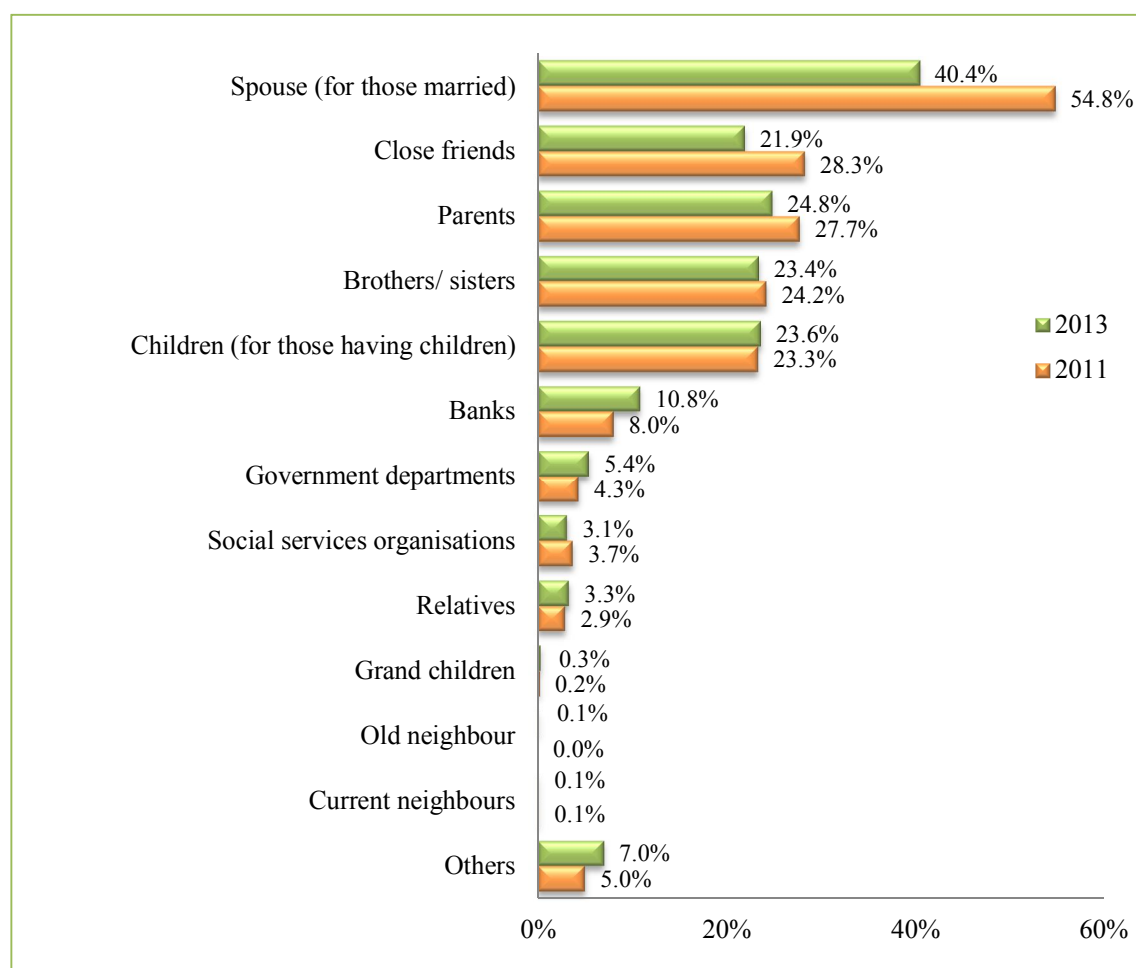
Note: Respondents were allowed to select more than one answer.

9.2.3 *Respondents indicated that they would seek help or advice from their spouses and close friends when they encountered emotional problems.* When emotional problems were encountered, in 2013, 51% and 47% of the respondents sought help from spouse and close friends respectively. 25% sought help from brothers/sisters, 21% from children and 17% from parents. Less than 7% sought help from social services organisations (4%) or government departments (3%).

9.2.4 Compared with the findings in 2011, the pattern of help seeking behaviour when emotional problems encountered was similar in the past two years.

Table 9.2.2: Emotional problems encountered in 2011 and 2013 (%)
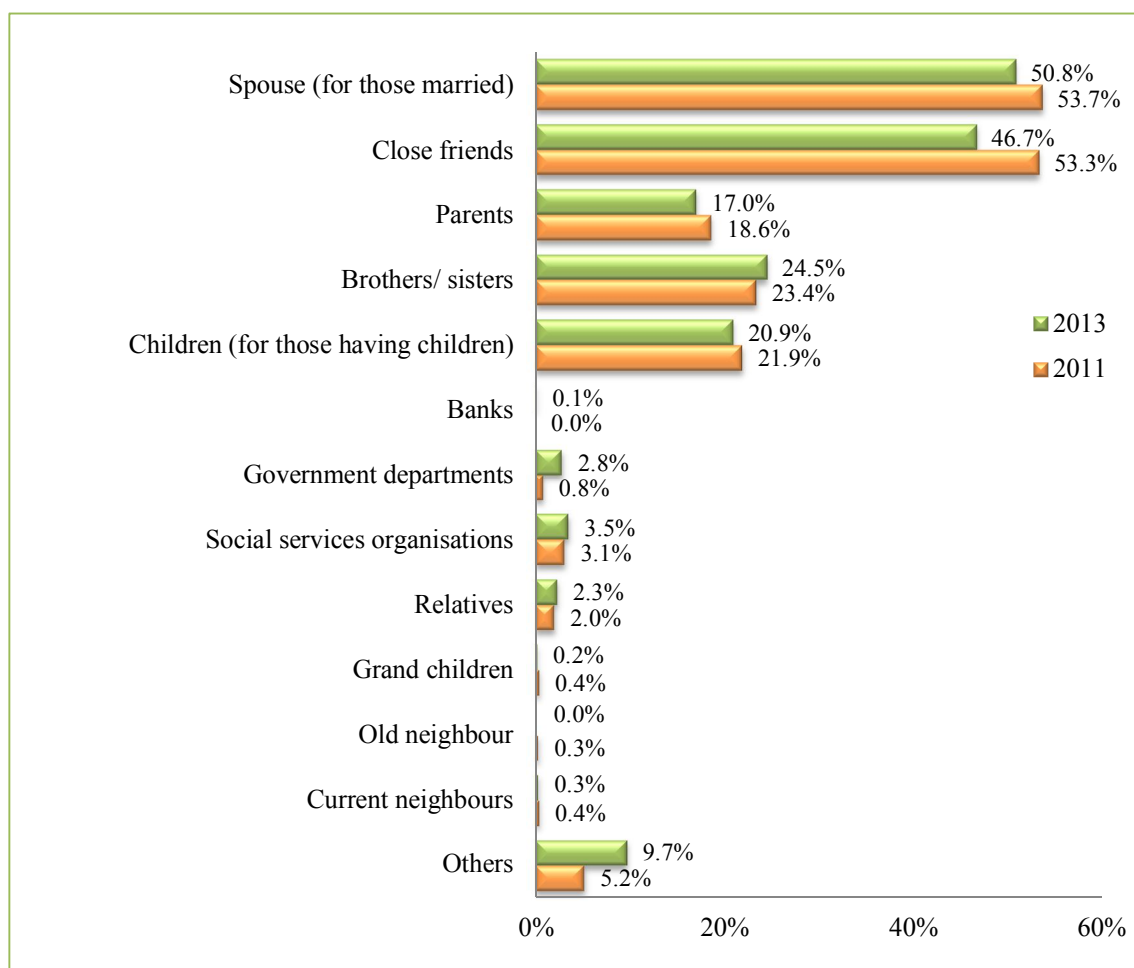
Note: Respondents were allowed to select more than one answer.

9.2.5 The top 5 most supportive/helpful parties identified by the respondents were parents, brothers/sisters, spouse, children and close friends.   Analysed by gender, the pattern of help seeking behaviour was similar.   Analysed by age group, 56% of younger respondents aged 15 – 34 considered their parents most

supportive and 46% of older respondents aged 55 or above considered their children most supportive when they encountered financial difficulties in 2013. Younger respondents aged 15 – 34 considered their spouse (61%) and close friends (69%) most supportive when they face emotional problems.

Table 9.2.3: Top 5 most helpful/supportive parties by gender in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	Financial problems			Emotional problems		
		Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Spouse (for those married)	2013	36.4	44.0	40.4	53.6	48.2	50.8
	2011	46.2	62.5	54.8	55.6	51.9	53.7
Close friends	2013	25.4	19.0	21.9	45.0	48.1	46.7
	2011	33.3	24.1	28.3	55.3	51.6	53.3
Parents	2013	24.5	25.1	24.8	15.3	18..5	17.0
	2011	27.9	27.6	27.7	16.2	20.6	18.6
Brothers/ sisters	2013	21.9	24.7	23.4	18.8	29.3	24.5
	2011	22.7	25.4	24.2	17.5	28.5	23.4
Children (for those having children)	2013	19.2	26.7	23.6	16.3	24.1	20.9
	2011	17.7	27.1	23.3	14.8	26.8	21.9

Table 9.2.4: Top 5 most helpful/supportive parties by age group in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	Financial problems				Emotional problems			
		15-34	35-54	55 or above	Total	15-34	35-54	55 or above	Total
Spouse (for those married)	2013	48.1	41.8	35.8	40.4	**61.0**	50.7	47.2	50.8
	2011	19.4	44.0	26.3	54.8	17.0	40.5	31.4	53.7
Close friends	2013	36.1	23.4	6.7	21.9	**69.2**	48.6	23.2	46.7
	2011	42.3	29.4	12.1	28.3	72.4	54.4	31.6	53.3
Parents	2013	**55.5**	19.7	1.8	24.8	36.6	14.4	1.6	17.0
	2011	61.5	18.6	4.0	27.7	40.8	13.0	2.4	18.6
Brothers/ sisters	2013	20.3	32.8	15.3	23.4	28.0	29.5	15.4	24.5
	2011	28.9	28.6	13.3	24.2	29.9	25.6	13.7	23.4
Children (for those having children)	2013	0.0	6.2	**45.1**	23.6	1.0	12.1	33.3	20.9
	2011	0.0	10.2	54.9	23.3	2.5	14.5	41.8	21.9

9.3 Availability of Assistance

9.3.1 **When problems encountered, family members were helpful and supportive.** The respondents considered their family members supportive (slightly supportive or very supportive) when they were sick (87%), when they wanted to share the happiness with their family members (88%), when they needed to make an important decision (85%), when they had financial problems (77%), when they were depressed and upset (79%) and when they were unemployed and could not get a job (61%).

9.3.2 Compared with the findings in 2011, more respondents expressed that family members were helpful and supportive when problems encountered in 2013.

Chart 9.3.1: Availability of assistance in 2011 and 2013 (%)

When you have financial problems

	2013	2011
Not helpful / Not supportive	17.6%	37.4%
Helpful / Supportive	76.6%	59.2%
Refuse to answer	5.7%	3.4%

When you want to share your happiness with your family members

	2013	2011
Not helpful / Not supportive	10.2%	31.8%
Helpful / Supportive	87.5%	67.0%
Refuse to answer	2.3%	1.4%
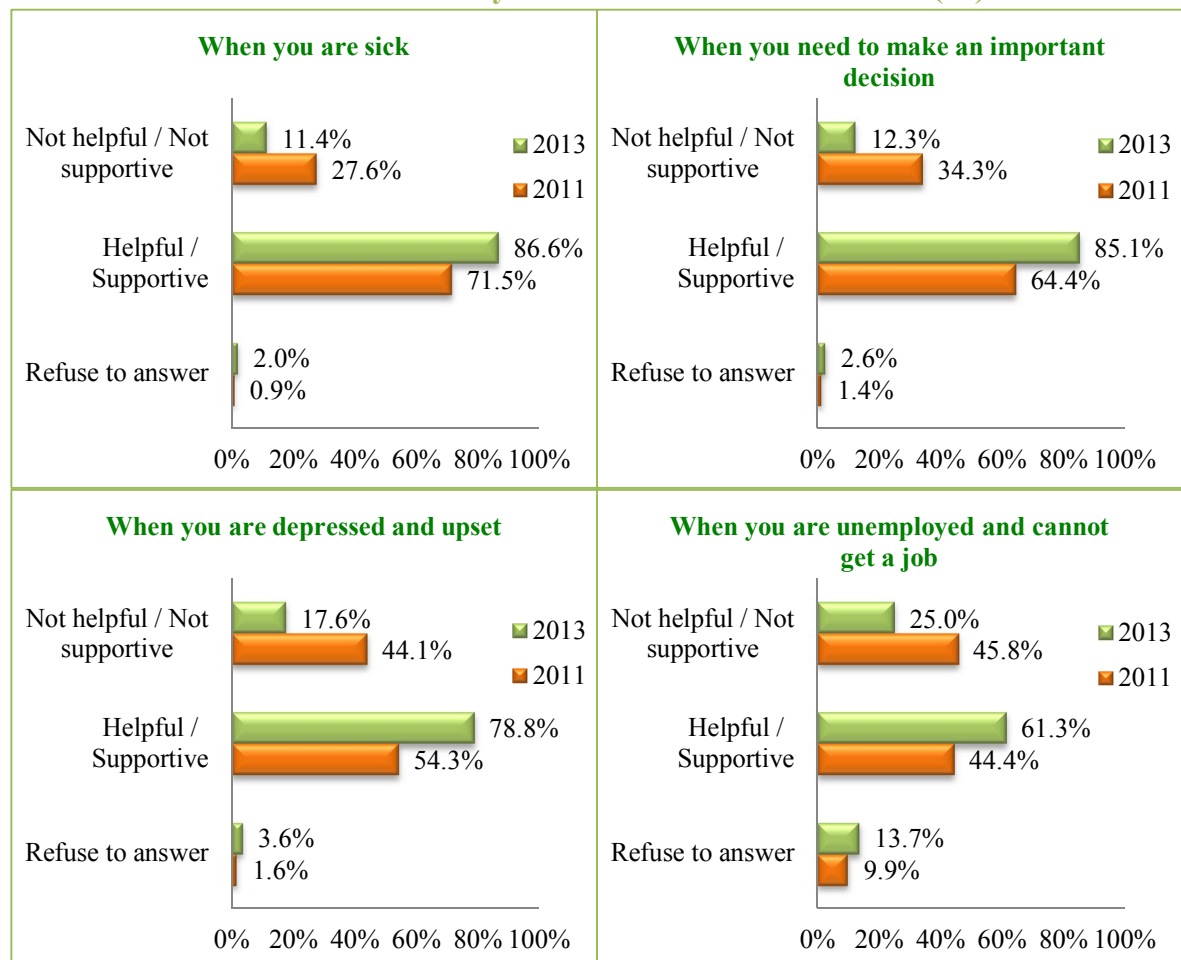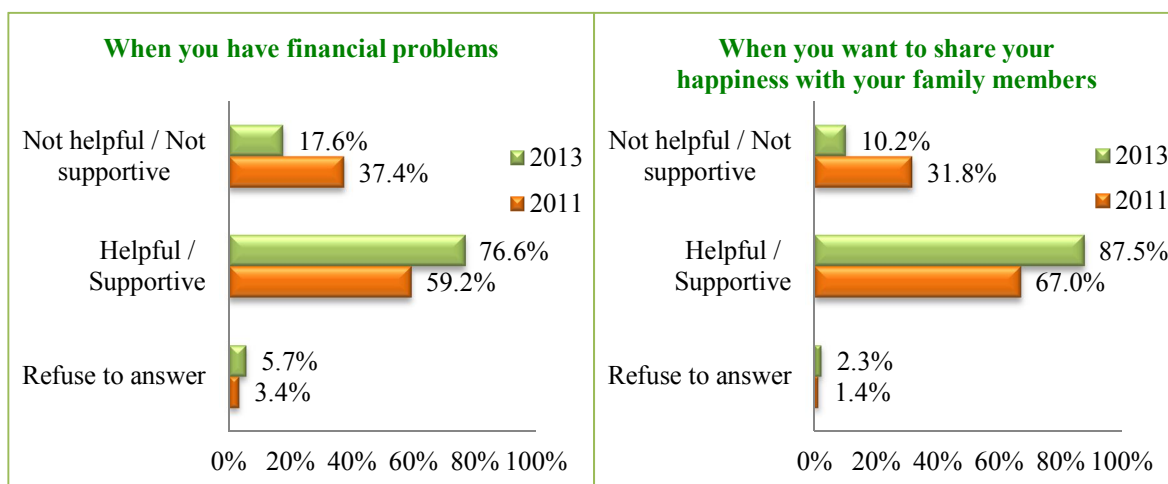
9.3.3 On the other hand, some respondents considered their family members not helpful or supportive when they were unemployed and cannot get a job (25%), when they had financial problems (18%) and when they were depressed and upset (18%).

9.3.4 Analysed by age group and marital status, consensus was found in all groups. Most of the respondents considered their family members supportive and helpful.

Table 9.3.2: Availability of assistance by age group in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
When you are sick	2013	90.6	85.1	84.5
	2011	90.6	89	81.4
When you need to make an important decision	2013	88.1	83.8	83.8
	2011	85.3	86.1	79.5
When you are depressed and upset	2013	80.3	79.8	76.1
	2011	80.7	79.1	74.4
When you are unemployed and cannot get a job	2013	67.5	63.5	53
	2011	70.1	65.5	57
When you have financial problems	2013	82.2	76.4	71.7
	2011	83.6	78.2	74.1
When you want to share your happiness with your family members	2013	88.4	88.2	85.8
	2011	87.9	87.8	79.1

Table 9.3.3: Availability of assistance by marital status and gender in 2011 and 2013 (%)

		Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	Year	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
When you are sick	2013	85.4	85.2	88.2	92.5	89.0	89.1	73.3	71.7	84.7	82.9
	2011	82.9	88.0	89.7	95.0	90.6	92.4	69.0	73.2	66.7	79.6
When you need to make an important decision	2013	82.7	82.6	86.9	93.6	88.1	87.9	61.6	74.5	81.0	83.2
	2011	75.0	81.8	85.5	91.4	88.6	91.8	75.7	72.1	68.0	71.1
When you are depressed and upset	2013	70.1	78.6	79.0	92.0	81.9	81.9	67.2	71.7	71.3	78.9
	2011	71.8	77.3	72.7	84.9	83.8	87.3	62.8	60.6	41.2	71.4
When you are unemployed and cannot get a job	2013	61.9	66.3	71.7	63.6	60.5	61.1	57.2	53.9	44.6	54.5
	2011	55.2	70.8	69.2	80.4	69.2	69.1	35.4	45.8	45.3	49.0
When you have financial problems	2013	75.1	78.4	80.3	80.8	75.6	80.4	52.7	67.3	74.4	74.0
	2011	71.9	80.8	77.0	88.9	79.4	87.0	71.0	66.9	58.3	64.0
When you want to share your happiness with your family members	2013	79.0	86.6	90.3	95.6	89.2	91.8	79.7	85.3	77.8	86.1
	2011	75.8	86.4	82.7	91.7	89.5	92.9	68.9	72.4	60.1	83.3

Chapter 10 | Awareness of Family-related Programmes

10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 The Government and quite a number of non-government organisations (NGOs) organised family-related activities/programmes from time to time. However, majority of the respondents indicated that they were not aware of any family-related promotional activities or programmes organised by the Government and/or other organisations. Apart from gathering information on the level of awareness, reasons for not participating in family-related activities/programmes were also collected in the Survey. In addition, attitudes towards family counseling and family education services were solicited from the respondents who had participated in any family-related promotional activities or programmes organised by the Government and/or other organisations.

10.1.2 In addition, the correlations between the level of awareness of any family-related promotion of the Government and / or other organisations and the existing concept of family among the public in two areas, namely importance of family and satisfaction with family life were also examined in this Chapter.

10.2 Awareness and Perceived Effectiveness of Family-related Programmes

Awareness of family-related programmes

10.2.1 ***Nearly half of the respondents were not aware of any family-related promotional activities or programmes organised by the Government and/or other NGOs.*** In 2013, 47% of the respondents were not aware of such programmes and 41% had heard of such programmes but had not participated. 11% participated in programmes organised by the Government and/or NGOs.

10.2.2 Compared with the findings in 2011, the proportion of the respondents participating in programmes organised by the Government and/or NGOs increased from 8% in 2011 to 11% in 2013.
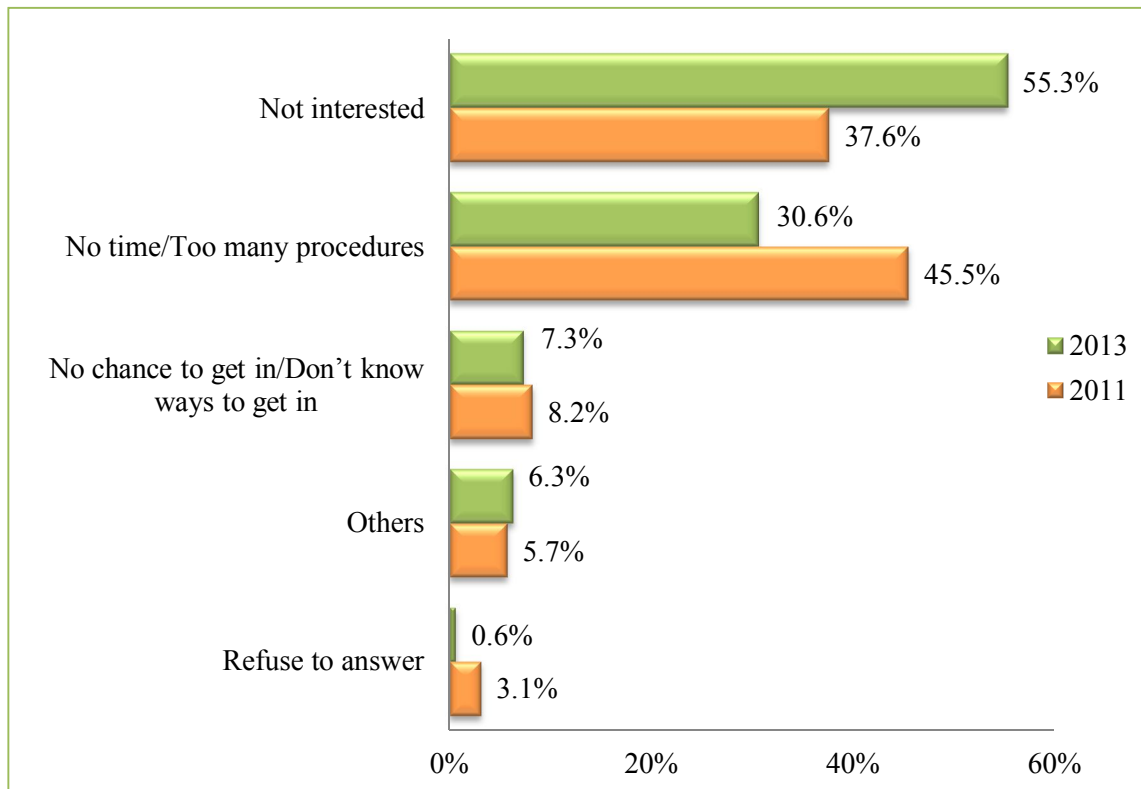
Table 10.2.1: Awareness of family-related activities in 2011 and 2013 (%)
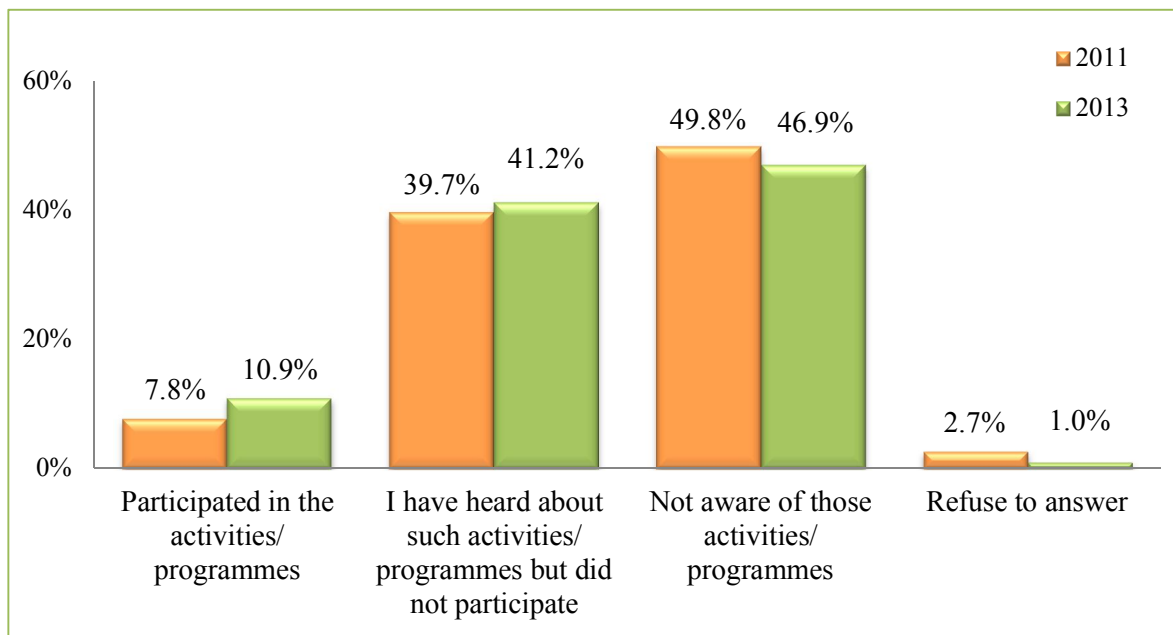
10.2.3 Among 41% of the respondents who had heard about the family-related activities/programmes but had not participated in those family-related programmes, their main reason for not participating was "not interested" (55%) in 2013. Another reason was that the respondents had no time to participate in such programmes or such programmes involved too many procedures (31%).

Table 10.2.2: Main reasons for not participating in the family-related activities in 2011 and 2013 (%)

10.2.4 Across all age groups, participation rate of those family-related programmes was relatively low (from 7% to 15%). Relatively speaking, middle-aged respondents were the most active. More than half of the respondents aged 55 or above were not aware of these activities (51% in 2013).

Table 10.2.3: Awareness of family-related activities by age group in 2011 and 2013 (%)

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above	Total
Participated in the activities / programmes	2013	7.3	**14.6**	9.9	10.9
	2011	4.1	10.5	8.2	7.8
I have heard about such activities/ programmes but did not participate	2013	41.6	43.0	38.6	41.2
	2011	36.7	43.4	37.9	39.7
Not aware of those activities/ programmes	2013	49.1	42.0	**50.7**	46.9
	2011	55.5	43.7	51.9	49.8

10.2.5 The participation rates of those family-related programmes were higher for those respondents who were married/cohabiting with child and widowed as compared to other groups.

Table 10.2.4: Awareness of family-related activities by marital status and gender in 2011 and 2013 (%)

		Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	Year	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Participated in the activities / programmes	2013	4.1	6.0	3.6	7.7	**14.9**	**14.3**	4.6	18.1	**14.6**	**13.6**
	2011	3.5	4.0	0.0	1.3	10.2	12.4	6.2	8.1	7.3	14.7
I have heard about such activities/ programmes but did not participate	2013	44.2	44.2	47.8	35.9	39.2	40.3	60.3	38.6	40.6	31.4
	2011	37.4	36.5	55.1	46.2	44.4	39.0	33.6	31.4	27.9	39.6
Not aware of those activities/ programmes	2013	50.5	46.8	44.9	56.4	45.7	44.9	35.1	43.3	43.5	54.1
	2011	55.0	56.1	44.9	48.7	44.2	46.9	58.7	54.9	55.2	44.7

Perceived effectiveness on family counseling and family education services

10.2.6 Among 11% of the respondents who had participated in programmes organised by the Government and/or NGOs, their perceived effectiveness on family counseling and family education services varied.

Table 10.2.5: Perceived effectiveness on family counseling and family education services among the participants in 2013 (%)
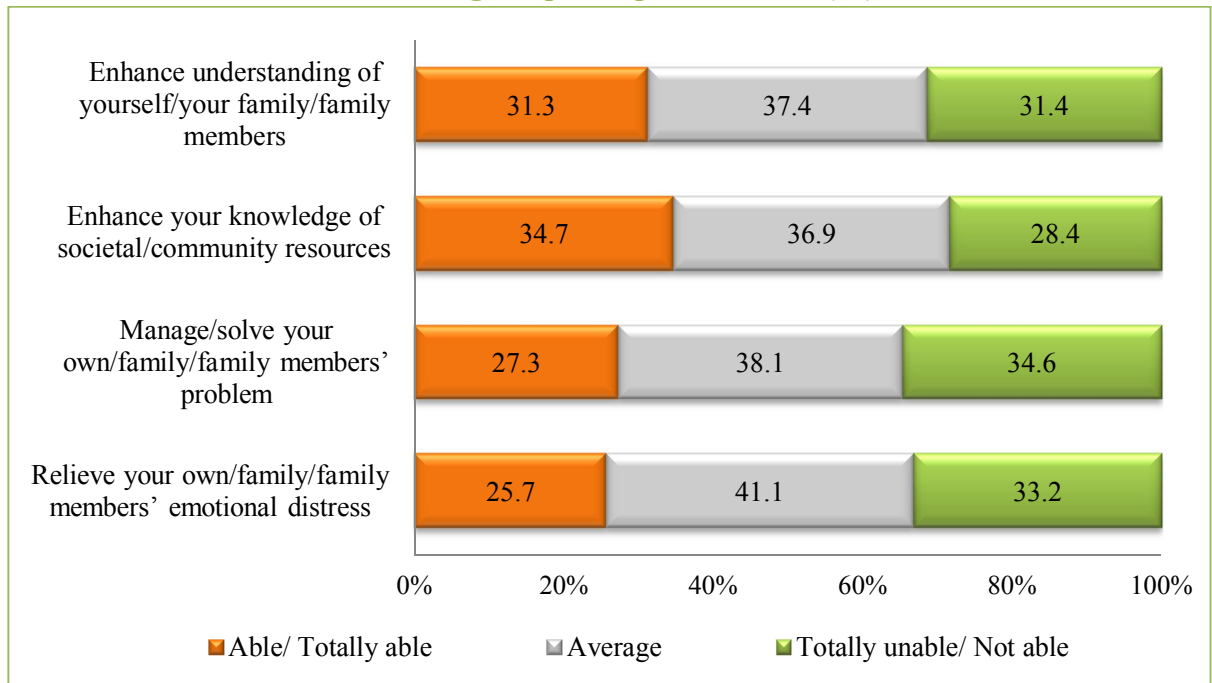
10.2.7 Correlating participation in family-related programmes and satisfaction with family life, the pattern of satisfaction with family life was similar no matter whether the respondents had participated in family-related programmes or not.

Table 10.2.6: Participation of family-related programmes by satisfaction with family life in 2013 (%)
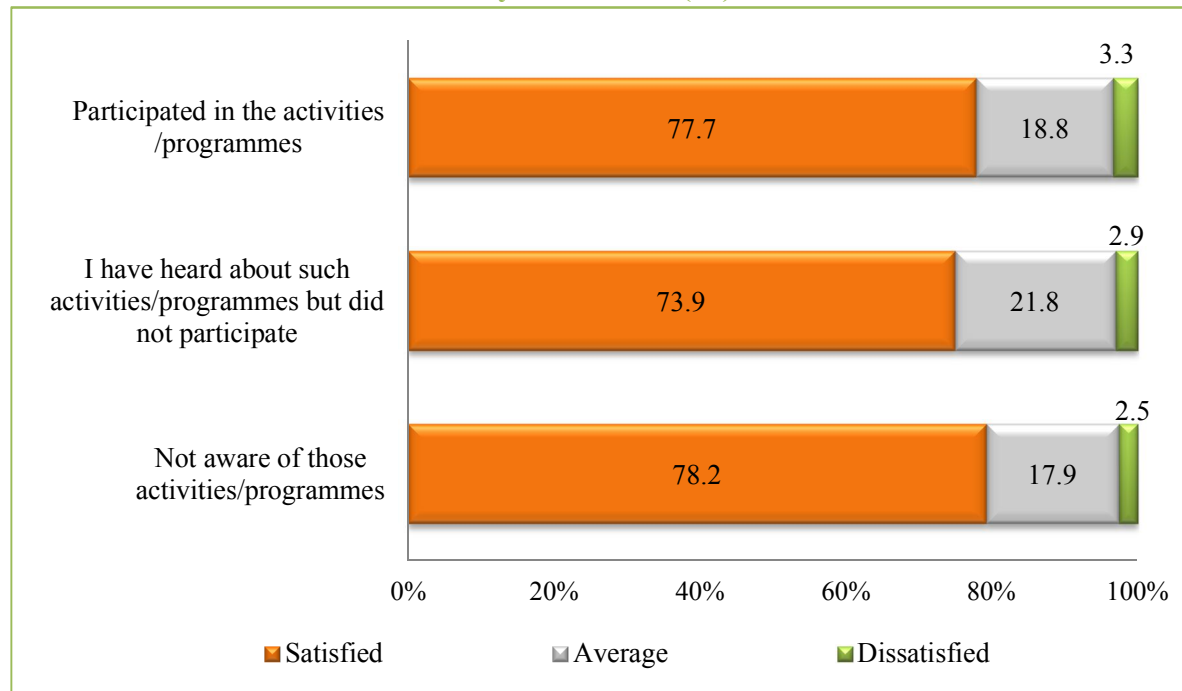
Chapter 11 | Conclusions and Recommendations

11.1 Importance of family

Observations

11.1.1 Results of the Survey indicated that most people still held to traditional family values like having a son to continue family name, having a son is better than having a daughter, family disgrace should be kept within the family and work hard to bring honor to the family, however, the agreement on these attitudes decreased gradually in 2013 compared with the findings in 2011.

11.1.2 While most people considered marriage as a necessary step in life and that child bearing was important in marriage, the corresponding agreements decreased in 2013 compared with the findings in 2011. At the same time, people had a diverse towards singlehood, but more people accepted the views on being single and giving birth to a child without intention of getting married in the past two years.

11.1.3 Despite continuing support for marriage, cohabitation is increasingly seen as an acceptable life choice as more people accepted the views that cohabitation without intention of getting married and cohabitation before marriage, and the agreement on these attitudes increased significantly by 8 to 9 percentage points in 2013. Moreover, younger people aged 15-34 were more likely to accept cohabitation.

11.1.4 Concerning the attitudes on divorce, an increasing number of people agreed that divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple without child who cannot live together harmoniously by 7 percentage points in 2013 compared with the findings in 2011.

11.1.5 Grandparents are the unsung heroes of our society. In many ways, they are the glue that helps families to tick over and holds our society together. On involving grandparents in family matters, it is heartening to note that contribution of grandparents are recognised as increasing number of people valued the contribution and help of grandparents within the past two years. Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreements that "many parents today appreciate the help that grandparents give" and "people today valued in the

roles played by grandparents in family life" increased significantly by 7 percentage points in 2013.

11.1.6   In general, most people practiced filial piety (caring, respecting, greeting, pleasing, obeying and providing financial support) to their parents. The overall filial piety, as a composite of six items, was compiled for all the respondents excluding students and the average filial piety score was 66 (male: 64.6; female: 67.1) in 2013 which was above average as 100 was the possible maximum.

Recommendations

11.1.7   The greater variety of family forms and continued changes in attitudes on family values raise important issues for family support services. In view of the increasing number of divorce cases and the potential adverse impact on children of divorced families, as well as declining fertility rate in Hong Kong, such ready acceptance of divorce and singlehood warrants closer attention. Educational workshops on parenting skills, marriage enrichment and marriage counselling are desired. It is recommended that steps be taken to strengthen pre-marriage education, counselling services and couple communication programmes, especially for youth and young adults.

11.1.8   Family life education in child care, child rearing and parental and in-law relationships is valuable for young adults. To alleviate adverse on the divorced couples and their children, it is also recommended to strengthen pre- and post-divorce counselling to those couples contemplating separation and divorce. Apart from the services developed for married couples already placed in problem situations, more preventive programs is recommended to be developed and promoted.

11.1.9   Some grandparents may experience a diminishing of their grand parenting role. Consideration also needs to be given to grandparents as vulnerable adults. Support services should continue to raise awareness among grandparents of the range of support available to them. Support services for grandparents may help the grandparents understand their roles in the families, establish their value and maintaining and prolonging a good quality of life. It is also recommended to promote and encourage intergenerational activities to strengthen family structures and intergenerational harmony.

11.2 Parenthood

Observations

11.2.1 The survey findings indicate that majority of the parents have good parenting style.   For instance, most parents interviewed in the survey would set good examples for their children, admit fault when doing wrong, explain to their children when they do something wrong and to set good examples to children so that they would respect and take care of their grandparents.   Most parents also believed that they were the most suitable persons to teach their children the right values.

11.2.2 While most parents were willing to spend time with their children, most parents often found the stress of raising children overwhelming indicating that most were not confident of their ability in both raising children and handling the associated stress.   The agreement on the views that the stress of raising their children overwhelming, their relationship with their children had gotten worse when they grew up and they often felt inadequate as a parent increased gradually by 2 to 5 percentage points in 2013 compared with the findings in 2011.   However, more parents reported that their relationship with partners got worse since they had children from 10% in 2011 to 16% in 2013.

11.2.3 Nearly half of the non-parents aged 35-54 had no intention to have children in the future and the corresponding proportion in 2013 was more or less the same in 2011.   At the same time, nearly half of the parents aged 18-34 had no desire to have more children in the future.

Recommendations

11.2.4 Parents, especially working mothers and fathers, are very busy and often find that unpredictability of parenting leads to additional stress.   In view of the stress faced by parents in raising children which will inevitably affect the quality of parenting and wellbeing of children, it is recommended to promote the stress management techniques among parents as taking a proactive stance on stress management is quite important.

11.2.5 Even small amounts of stress can affect one's health.   One can prevent a significant amount of stress from occurring.   It is recommended to develop

and promote the stress relief programmes among parents so as to help those in need to learn more about the effects of stress and find some effective stress management techniques to incorporate into their lives.

11.2.6 In light of more parents reported the stress of raising their children overwhelming, it is suggested that more research be conducted to probe into the sources of and factors affecting parental stress, and ways and means to help parents in bringing up their children. This may help remove barriers to having children and help improve family life satisfaction.

11.3 Family functioning and family life satisfaction

Observations

11.3.1 Using a sophisticated instrument to assess family functioning, it is found out that most families are functioning well. Most people were quite satisfied with the relationship with their family members. Most family members were dependent on each other and their relationship with one another was fairly close in general.

11.3.2 On the whole, people were quite satisfied with the relationship with their family members and their family life. 76% of people were satisfied or very satisfied with their family life whereas only 3% were not satisfied with their family life. Compared with the findings in 2011, the proportion of respondents who were satisfied or very satisfied with their family life decreased gradually from 81% in 2011 to 76% in 2013. However, about 24% of people did not consider the families were functioning very well and a further 4% even considered that their families did not function very well together at all and they needed help.

11.3.3 Nevertheless, the Survey results indicated that time spent with parents was limited, but with improvement in the past two years. About one-third of the respondents talked to their parents for less than 30 minutes a week and 17% had not talked to their fathers, while 12% had not talked to their mothers at all in the week prior to enumeration. When compared with communication with parents, partners communicated with each other more frequently. 26% chatted with their children for less than 30 minutes a week and 16% did not talk to each other at all. Compared with the findings in 2011, the proportions of the respondents talking with their partners and children increase significantly in

2013.

11.3.4 About one-third of the respondents frequently or sometimes used modern technologies in communication with children, mothers and fathers. The proportion of respondents who frequently or sometimes used modern technologies in communication with partners (47%) was higher than that of other family members in 2013.

Recommendations

11.3.5 Communication is critical in ensuring good family functioning and maintaining harmonious family relationship. Effective communications among family members require patience and understanding and it help individual better understand the situation, solve problems, build trust and respect and affection. It is recognized that communication takes many forms, especially nowadays with communication through electronic means becoming increasingly popular. It is recommended to encourage people especially the youth to adopt a positive communication style among family members including minimizing distractions, listening actively, showing respect, controlling emotions and increasing interactions.

11.3.6 In addition, even though the percentage of respondents who were satisfied with family life and family functioning is not low, there is no room for complacency. Family life education including the skills and knowledge for healthy family functioning, strong communication skills, positive self-esteem, good decision-making skills as well as health interpersonal relationships should be strengthened and promoted. The ultimate goal of family life education is to foster these knowledge and skills to enable individuals and families to function optimally.

11.4 *Balancing work and family*

Observations

11.4.1 Work-life balance continues to remain a challenge in Hong Kong. It is worth noting that one quarter of those at work found it difficult to strike a balance between work and family in view of competing priorities. Compared with the findings in 2011, the agreement on the views on balancing work and family

were more or less the same in 2013.

11.4.2   In addition, nearly half of those at work reported stress in balancing work and family and at the same time, one-third reported that it would be very difficult or quite difficult in balancing work and family.   On the whole, 45% of the respondents who were currently at work reported that the need of striking a balance of work and family caused them a great deal of stress or some stress, 39% did not have very much stress and 13% did not have stress at all. Compared with the findings in 2011, the proportions of people at work reported a great deal of stress or some stress in balancing the competing demands of work and family were more or less the same in 2013.   However, the proportion of the respondents at work reported that they did not have stress at all dropped from 19% in 2011 to 13% in 2013.

Recommendations

11.4.3   Time management is vital for the individual, organisation and society.   The employers or the top managements of the organisaions have to understand the tradeoffs between various important activities occurring simultaneously and prioritise and allocate proper resources to avoid unnecessary tensions and work pressure.   Then, the individuals will have more time to tackle with work and family issues effectively.   Furthermore, apart from the monetary benefits, a conducive and friendly working environment and job assurance is crucial for creating balance.   It is recommended that apart from salary packages, employment structure including employee friendly policies, providing conducive work environment, flexibility and work scheduling technique's should be focused and strengthen.   Adopting open door policy to build employee relationship should be promoted among organisations and employers.

11.4.4   It is believed that long working hours is an important factor contributing to work and family life imbalance.   Stress felt by most respondents in balancing work and family life would in turn have an adverse impact on family life satisfaction and is likely to be closely related to stress in raising children.   It is recommended that additional research should be conducted to explore factors affecting work-life balance, including job insecurity, and measures to alleviate work pressure on family life.

11.5 The future of family survey

Recommendations

11.5.1   The findings of the Family Survey 2011 and 2013 provide useful information based on which changes over time in people's attitude and behaviour related to family can be monitored and studied.   Given that wide span of subject areas covered in the survey, it is practically not feasible to probe further into individual subject areas without affecting response rate and data quality of the survey.   It is thus recommended, as discussed above, that additional in-depth studies be conducted on topics considered to be of greater interest and relevance to the work of the Family Council.

11.5.2   To facilitate continued monitoring of people's changing attitude and behaviour, it is recommended that the Family Survey should be conducted periodically. Considerations should also be given to conducting a longitudinal survey, so that changes over time could be more precisely monitored and analyzed.   In due course, an inventory of questions could be developed, based on findings of successive rounds of the Family Surveys, that tailored to specific circumstances of Hong Kong families, to help monitoring family well-being, addressing response issue like social desirability bias and throwing light on apparently contradicting family related attitudes and behaviour of Hong Kong people.