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Consolidation of Findings of Family Surveys Conducted since 2011

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THE HONG KONG
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
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Consolidation of Findings of Family Surveys Conducted since 2011

Final Report

Submitted by

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Executive Summary

Background

1. The Family Council ('the Council'), established in December 2007, is an advisory body to the Government, aiming to promote a culture of loving families in the community. The Council now actively promotes core family 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).

2. The Council has been engaging tertiary institutions and research organisations to collect updated and evidence-based data on families in Hong Kong. One of the surveys is the Family Survey (hereafter, the Survey). The Survey was carried out on a biennial basis, in 2011,[1] 2013,[2] 2015,[3] and 2017.[4] The Survey aims to track the changes and development among Hong Kong families, covering seven themes: the importance of family, parenthood, family functioning, satisfaction with family life, work-family balance, the availability of social support networks, and the awareness of and participation in family-related programmes.[5]

Objectives

3. As recommended in the Final Report of the 2017 Survey, future Surveys could be conducted separately and periodically in order to gather in-depth views on specific topics. This would shorten both the question items and the interviewing time.

4. The objectives of the 'Consolidation of Findings of Family Surveys Conducted Since 2011' ('the Consolidation Exercise') are as follows:

    (1) To conduct a comprehensive and critical review of the results and data of the four Surveys conducted in 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017, in order to ascertain the attitudes of respondents toward various aspects of family over the years;

    (2) To conduct more in-depth comparisons and analyses of the data collected from the Surveys;

    (3) To identify and consolidate the trends, observations, findings, and recommendations; and

    (4) To strategically review the need for and the sustainability and methodology of the Surveys in order to provide clear and practical recommendations on how future Surveys should be positioned and conducted.

Consolidation and Analysis of Survey Data

5. The survey database of the four Surveys was consolidated according to four procedures (data preparation, data consolidation, data checking, and documentation). There are over 200 question items in previous Surveys, measuring different family issues. To identify complex interrelationships among items and group items that are part of unified concepts, exploratory factor analysis (EFA) and reliability analysis were performed. Cronbach's alphas were also compiled to assess the consistency of the results across question items. This is to determine the latent factors that create commonality and to reduce the set of variables in the consolidated database.[6,7]

6. To identify any trends and conduct in-depth comparisons, different statistical methods, including chi-square tests, t-tests, ANOVA tests, and a general linear model (GLM), were performed according to the data fields and the fulfilment of the assumptions. Regarding in-depth analyses, seven research areas were identified to explore the correlations between the respondents' attitudes toward the family and their backgrounds (e.g., age, sex, educational attainment, marital status, household size, etc.). Correlation analysis, multiple regression, and logistic regression models were performed to assess the associations of all explanatory variables with the dependent variable.

Trend Analyses

7. Three major limitations to the trend analyses that should be noted included changes in question items across years, inconsistent views collected and non-explainable trends. The results of the trend analyses are summarised as follows.

   (1) *The importance of family*

   Across the years, respondents began to hold more positive views toward singlehood, whereas respondents' attitudes toward marriage and having children and the involvement of grandparents in family issues weakened over time. There was no particular trend regarding attitudes toward cohabitation and divorce.

   (2) *Parenthood*

   There were decreasing trends in the intention to have children among non-parent respondents and the desire to have more children among parent respondents. Besides, parent respondents held more positive views toward acting as role models and adopted positive parenting methods with their children. Parent respondents reported an average level of parental stress.

   (3) *Family functioning*

   Though respondents exhibited mutual support and love among family members and parents exercised fewer controlling acts on their children, the communication between family members worsened. Hence, the perceived overall family functioning weakened across the years.

(4) *Satisfaction with family life*

Respondents were generally satisfied with family life and relationships between family members and inter-generations; however, respondents reported talking about personal issues less frequently with their parents, spouse/partner, family members, and inter-generations. Besides, a significant surge in the use of modern technologies in communication with family members and inter-generations in 2017 was observed.

(5) *Work-family balance*

Respondents encountered difficulties and stress in balancing work and family in general. However, they were satisfied with the amount of time spent at work and with family. No particular trends across the years were observed.

(6) *Social support network*

Though respondents reported helpful and supportive assistance available from family members, a gradual decreasing trend was observed across the years.

(7) *Awareness of and participation in family-related programmes*

There has been a significant drop in respondents' awareness of family-related programmes; however, based on the data obtained in previous rounds of the Family Survey, the factors or reasons for this significant drop are inexplicable.

In-depth Analyses

8. Seven research areas were identified and regression analyses were performed to examine the associations between the dependent variables and explanatory variables.   The regression models were found to be significant, with good fits. The results of the in-depth analyses are summarised as follows.

(1) *Factors affecting family functioning*

Better perceived family functioning was associated with supportive assistance from social support networks and higher levels of satisfaction with the relationships between family members and inter-generations.

(2) *Factors affecting family satisfaction*

Respondents with higher levels of satisfaction with family life were associated with supportive assistance from social support networks and higher levels of satisfaction with the relationships between family members and inter-generations.

(3) *Associations between spousal relationship and parental stress*

Of those respondents who were working and had children, predicted factors of parental stress included higher levels of stress of raising children and feeling inadequate as a parent, and worse parent-child relationships after the children grow up.   Supportive assistance from

social support networks and better spousal relationships after having children lowered the levels of parental stress.

(4) *Contributing factors affecting relationships with family members and inter-generations*

Better relationships with family members were associated with mutuality (mutual support, love, and concern among family members), communication, conflict and harmony (less conflicting and more harmonious behaviour in the family), supportive assistance from social support networks, and better communication with family members and inter-generations about personal issues.

(5) *Factors contributing to work-life balance stress*

Of those who were working, the key factor predicting higher levels of stress from work-life balance was an imbalance in the amount of time spent at work and with family, and lower levels of satisfaction with family life.

(6) *Family planning among young people*

Non-parent respondents who perceived better overall family functioning and had positive attitudes toward marriage and having children, but with more disagreement about singlehood and divorce, were more likely to have children in the future.

(7) *Factors affecting attitudes toward divorce*

Predicted factors of positive attitudes toward divorce included more agreement with singlehood and cohabitation, but low overall family functioning.

Summary of Data Analyses

9. After reviewing the results of the trend and in-depth analyses, some phenomena are identified.

(1) Emergence of singlehood

In recent years, there has been an increasing tendency toward marriage postponement or non-marriage in both genders and, in contrast to the increasing proportion of the never-married population, the standardised percentages of married men and women dropped continuously from 1991 to 2016.[8]

In previous rounds of the Family Survey, a mild increasing trend was observed in regard to attitudes toward singlehood. More people are choosing to embrace their singlehood, resulting in lower levels of motivation to get married and have children. This trans-cultural trend spans across generations. The emergence of non-conventional lifestyles and family compositions may affect the structure and ethos of the nuclear family and socio-economic demographic structures in the long run.

4

(2)   Decreasing trend in communication among family members

Though an increasing number of people use modern technologies (e.g., SMS, WhatsApp) to communicate with family members, a notable decreasing trend was observed in regard to communication with parents, spouses/partners, family members, and inter-generations about personal issues in previous rounds of the Family Survey.

Communication is a key component in a successful working family. Less frequent communication can lead to worse relationships with family members and inter-generations, and family problems such as family conflict, a lack of intimacy, weak emotional bonding, and ineffective problem solving, which in turn result in poorer family functioning.[9,10]

(3)   Dual-career parents encountering multiple role stress

According to the results of the regression model, among respondents who were working and had children, predicted factors of parental stress included higher levels of stress related to raising the children and feeling inadequate as a parent, and worse parent-child relationships after the children grow up.   Supportive assistance from social support networks and better spousal relationships after having children lowered parental stress.

The dual-career family lifestyle is becoming more common in our society and has created a unique set of challenges, including work-family imbalance, family role conflicts, and parental stress.

(4)   Supportive assistance from social support networks

According to the results of the regression models, supportive assistance from social support networks was one of the major explanatory variables of better perceived family functioning, higher levels of satisfaction with family life, lower levels of parental stress, and better relationships with family members.

Methodology of Future Family Surveys

10. The objectives of the future Family Surveys in the coming decade are as follows:

 (1) to ascertain the attitude and situation of the respondents on family in terms of:

  (a) family structure

  (b) parenthood

  (c) family functioning

  (d) satisfaction with family life

  (e) work-family balance

  (f) social support network

  (g) family hierarchy

  (h) quality of life

  (i) household and personal characteristics

 (2) to construct relevant indices and compare with other similar surveys in overseas cities for benchmarking purpose;

 (3) to conduct trend analysis with the survey results with previous round of Family Surveys and identify patterns and family changes;

 (4) to provide policy implications and recommendations; and

 (5) to provide research contributions

11. The reviewed family surveys and discussions of the pros and cons of key areas of the surveys' methodologies drive the proposed components of future Family Surveys. A mixed-method is recommended in future Family Surveys. It is recommended that a population trend survey is conducted as an interim approach for future Family Surveys until the issues related to longitudinal panel surveys have been settled. The population trend survey design could provide trend analyses of the patterns of family issues across the years and it is feasible to implement it within a short period of time. A cross-sectional survey design is recommended for the thematic survey, as it could provide a snapshot of views at one point in time.

12. Considering the needs and resources involved, it is recommended that future Family Surveys are conducted on a biennial basis, starting from 2021. Regarding data collection method, it is recommended that two ways of responding to the survey are provided: personal interviews with smartphone-assisted personal interviewing (SAPI) and tablet-assisted personal interviewing (TAPI) by interviewers, and self-completion with computer-assisted web interviewing (CAWI) by respondents. The proposed data collection method will be implemented for the longitudinal panel survey, the population trend survey, and the thematic survey.

13. To align with the previous rounds of the Survey and enable consistent comparisons, it is recommended that the target respondents of the future Family Surveys are individuals aged 15 years or above in all three surveys.

14. For the longitudinal panel survey (baseline, Wave 1) and the population trend survey, a two-stage stratified random sampling design is proposed. For the follow-up surveys (Wave 2 onward) in the longitudinal panel survey, respondents who completed the Wave 1 survey will be invited to participate. Noting that attrition rate may vary across time periods, data sources, and outcomes, new samples from Wave 2 onward will be drawn according to the two-stage stratified random sampling design. For the thematic survey of future Family Surveys, similarly, a two-stage stratified random sampling design is proposed.

15. For the longitudinal panel survey (baseline, Wave 1), an effective sample size of 5,000 is proposed for the baseline survey and new samples of 2,000 from Wave 2 onward should be randomly drawn. For the population trend survey, an effective sample size of 2,000 is proposed. For the thematic survey of future Family Surveys, an effective sample size of 1,000 is proposed.

16. By adopting a multi-modal data collection approach and shortening the length of the questionnaire to significantly reduce the interviewing time required, response rates in future Family Surveys of over 60% are anticipated in normal situations. However, during the pandemic and other unexpected circumstances, there will be difficulties in conducting face-to-face interviews; a lower response rate of around 55% is thus instead anticipated.

17. After conducting the questionnaire survey, qualitative views through focus group discussions with the respondents and in-depth interviews with relevant stakeholders are proposed to be collected for the triangulation of the quantitative and qualitative data. At least four focus group discussions and about six to eight in-depth interviews are proposed to be conducted after the questionnaire survey for each round of the Family Survey.

Proposed Methodology for Future Family Surveys

	Proposed methodology for future Family Surveys
Research method	Mixed-method
Quantitative views	
Research design	General survey and thematic survey
Survey design	General survey: longitudinal panel survey (as a long-term approach) and population trend survey (as an interim approach) Thematic survey: cross-sectional survey
Data collection method	Multi-modal approach by personal interview with SAPI/TAPI and self-completion with CAWI
Target respondents	Individuals aged 15 years or above
Sampling method	Two-stage stratified random sampling
Frequency	Biennial basis
Year	2021 onward
Effective sample size	General survey: longitudinal panel survey (Wave 1: 5,000 individuals; Wave 2 onward: 3,000 follow-ups and 2,000 new samples) and population trend survey (2,000 individuals) Thematic survey: 1,000 individuals
Response rate	Over 60% expected in normal situations Around 55% expected during pandemics
Qualitative views	
Focus group discussions	At least four focus group discussions with the respondents Six to eight in-depth interviews with relevant stakeholders

Questionnaire for Future Family Surveys

The General Survey of Future Family Surveys

18. The reviewed Family Surveys and a thorough examination of the seven themes of previous rounds of the Family Survey drive the proposed themes and dimensions for future Family Surveys.

19. There are nine parts to the questionnaire in the general survey of future Family Surveys.   The first part includes nine question items related to household and personal characteristics.   The second part include eight themes with 30 dimensions, there are a total of 130 question items.

> Theme 1   Family Structure consists of a total of 10 question items with three constructed indexes to explore respondents' attitudes toward singlehood, cohabitation and divorce, and current family structures.
>
> Theme 2   Parenthood consists of a total of 22 question items with two constructed indexes to assess parenting stress, parenting methods, respondents' intention to have children, and their desire to have more children.
>
> Theme 3   Family Functioning consists of a total of 36 question items with one constructed index to identify family functioning and family conflicts.
>
> Theme 4   Satisfaction with Family Life consists of five question items to examine respondents' satisfaction with family life, and the relationships and communication among family members and inter-generations.
>
> Theme 5   Work-Family Balance consists of a total of 11 questions with one constructed index to explore respondents' attitudes toward work-family balance, satisfaction with work life, and current flexible work arrangements.
>
> Theme 6   Social Support Network consists of a total of 13 question items with one constructed index to assess respondents' level of perceived social support from family, friends, and others, and their awareness of and participation in family-related programmes.
>
> Theme 7   Family Hierarchy consists of a total of seven question items to explore household roles, household decision making, and the extent of respondents' participation in household activities.
>
> Theme 8   Quality of Life consists of 14 question items with three constructed indexes to evaluate respondents' physical health, mental health, level of happiness, and life satisfaction.

20. On the basis of the results of the trend and in-depth analyses, and the reviewed family surveys, a conceptual and hypothetical framework for future Family Surveys is drafted. Ongoing data collection in future Family Surveys could help refine and finalise the framework through which better interpretation of findings and a more comprehensive understanding of trends can be attained.

Proposed Themes and Dimensions of the General Survey of Future Family Surveys
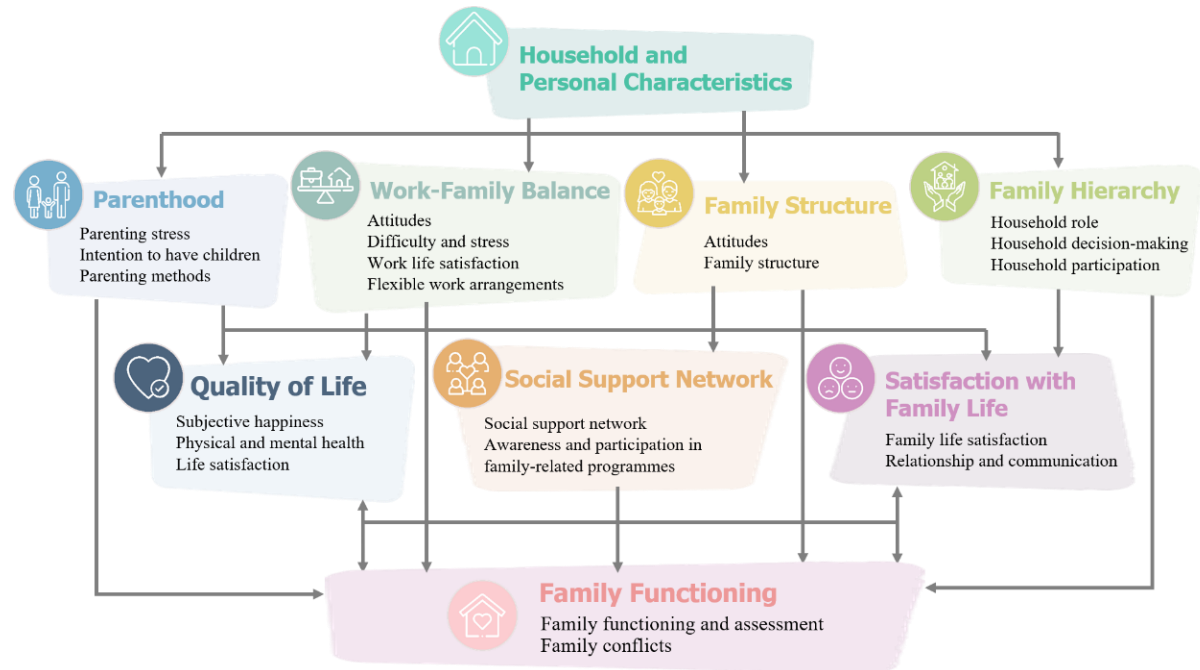
Proposed Topics in the Thematic Survey of Future Family Surveys

21. A thematic survey is proposed to be conducted separately in each round of future Family Surveys. Topics could be introduced according to current social and economic situations. Seven topics with preliminary observations are proposed:

   (1) Preventing and resolving family disputes;

   (2) Multiplicity of family violence;

   (3) Family caring;

   (4) Impacts of modern technologies in communication with family members;

   (5) Parental stress;

   (6) Social support network; and

   (7) Work-family balance.

Section I
Introduction

1. Background

1.1 The Family Council ('the Council'), established in December 2007, is an advisory body to the Government, aiming to promote a culture of loving families in the community. The work of the Council includes advocating for families to be cherished, promoting family core values as a main driver for social harmony, advising relevant Government bureaus and departments (B/Ds) in the application of family perspectives in the policy formulation process, and conducting research and surveys to foster a better understanding of issues relating to the family. The Council now actively promotes core family 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).

1.2 In April 2013, a mandatory assessment of family implications was introduced to the policy-making process among B/Ds. The impact of the relevant policies on families is now assessed on the basis of three sets of family core values, alongside the impact of family structures and functions.[11] The 'Family Impact Assessment' (FIA) framework and checklist were developed and adopted to assess family implications for public policies in August 2018. The four dimensions of FIA[12] are as follows:

(a) Family responsibility, which affects families' capacity to fulfil their functions;

(b) Family stability, which affects families' capacity to maintain a stable structure and fulfil their marital, parental, and family commitments;

(c) Family relationships, which affect work and family balance, and family communication amongst members; and

(d) Family engagement, which affects families' connections with their community, their participation in social development, and support for vulnerable families.

1.3 The Council has been engaging tertiary institutions and research organisations to collect updated and evidence-based data on families in Hong Kong.   One of the surveys is the Family Survey (hereafter, the Survey).   The Survey was carried out on a biennial basis in 2011,[13] 2013,[14] 2015,[15] and 2017.[16]   The Survey aims to track the changes and development among Hong Kong families, covering seven themes: the importance of family, parenthood, family functioning, satisfaction with family life, work-family balance, the availability of social support networks, and the awareness of and participation in family-related programmes.[17]

2.   Objectives

2.1 As recommended in the Final Report of the 2017 Survey, future Surveys could be conducted separately and periodically in order to gather in-depth views on specific topics.   This would shorten both the question items and the interviewing time.

2.2 The objectives of the 'Consolidation of Findings of Family Surveys Conducted Since 2011' ('the Consolidation Exercise') are as follows:

(1) To conduct a comprehensive and critical review of the results and data of the four Surveys conducted in 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017, in order to ascertain the attitudes of respondents toward various aspects of family over the years;

(2) To conduct more in-depth comparisons and analyses of the data collected from the Surveys;

(3) To identify and consolidate the trends, observations, findings, and recommendations; and

(4) To strategically review the need for and the sustainability and methodology of the Surveys in order to provide clear and practical recommendations on how future Surveys should be positioned and conducted.

3. Scope of the Consolidation Exercise

3.1 A four-phased approach is set out in order to accomplish all of the tasks and meet the objectives of the Consolidation Exercise.   The key scopes, tasks, and aims are presented in Table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1 Scope of the Consolidation Exercise

Phase I		Consolidation and Analysis of Survey Data
Scope (a)	Task	Critically review the results and data of the four Surveys.
	Aim	Ascertain the attitudes of the respondents in regard to various aspects of family over the years and identify/consolidate any trends, observations, findings, and recommendations.
Scope (b)	Task	Conduct more in-depth comparisons and analyses regarding the data collected from the four Surveys.
	Aim	Present the in-depth analyses of the significant results.

Phase II		Methodological Review
Scope (c)	Task	Review the positioning, scope, coverage, and methodology of the four Surveys.
	Aim	Identify any strengths and weaknesses, key limitations, and gaps of the four Surveys.
Scope (d)	Task	Review the data collection methodology of the four Surveys.
	Aim	Suggest ways to improve the survey administration procedures and prevent respondent fatigue, with the aim of achieving better response rates in future Family Surveys.

Phase III		Questionnaire Review
Scope (e)	Task	Critically review the questionnaires adopted in previous Surveys.
	Aim	Refine the structure (avoiding redundancy) and sharpen and enhance the questionnaire from a statistical angle, as well as divide the survey into core and optional parts, for adoption in future Family Surveys.
Scope (f)	Task	Conduct a review of similar family surveys in Hong Kong and overseas.
	Aim	Review and enhance the questionnaire in future Family Surveys.

Phase IV Recommendations		
Scope (g)	Task	Consolidate all the findings and analyses in Phases I, II, and III.
	Aim	Set out key considerations in regard to commissioning a new Survey amidst the changing environment and recommend a suitable methodology for the new Survey.

Section II
Consolidation and Analysis of Survey Data

4. Approach

Consolidation of Survey Data

4.1   To consolidate the survey database of the four Surveys, the following procedures were followed:

(1)   Data preparation: A list of data fields for each Survey was drawn up and all the question numbers and coding were checked.   The length and type of each data field and the sequence of the data fields were fixed.   This is to ensure that the format of each data field would be the same across four Surveys;

(2)   Data consolidation: After checking the data fields of each Survey, four databases were consolidated into one combined database covering all the responses;

(3)   Data checking: After the consolidation into one combined database, each data field was thoroughly checked.   The descriptive statistics of each data field were compiled and data checking was conducted with the published reports of four Surveys; and

(4)   Documentation: A codebook with which to record all the data fields was compiled.

4.2   The four Surveys cover the following seven themes, to ascertain the respondents' attitudes toward:

(1)   The importance of family;

(2)   Parenthood;

(3)   Family functioning;

(4)   Satisfaction with family life;

(5)   Work-family balance;

(6)   Social support network; and

(7)   Awareness of and participation in family-related programmes.

Analysis and Reporting

4.3   There are over 200 question items in previous Surveys, measuring different family issues. Most of these question items are designed for local use after literature reviews and reviews from experts/practitioners in the field in the four Surveys. To identify complex interrelationships among items and group items that are part of unified concepts, exploratory factor analysis (EFA) and reliability analysis were performed. Cronbach's alphas were also compiled to assess the consistency of the results across question items. This is to determine the latent factors that create commonality and to reduce the set of variables in the consolidated database.[18,19]

4.4   Criteria are set to assess whether or not the question items could be constructed as an index. An index could be compiled for data across three years or more, meeting the criteria for the EFA (i.e., Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) for measuring the sampling adequacy, acceptable total variance explained by all question items, and acceptable factor loadings), and a satisfactory Cronbach's alpha, which would be larger than 0.7.[20] A brief checklist is shown in the table below.

Table 4.1 Checklist for Index Construction

✅ **Index**	⭕ **Single item**
• Data across three years or more;	• Data across three years or more;
• Total variance explained by all question items > 50%;	• Variables not acceptably explained by all question items;
• Acceptable factor loadings;	• Lacking acceptable factor loadings;
• For a set of question items in an underlying aspect with a Cronbach's alpha > 0.7;	• For a set of question items in an underlying aspect with a Cronbach's alpha < 0.7;
	• For questions with a single item.

4.5 After consolidating a combined database, the changes between years were estimated. To identify any trends and conduct in-depth comparisons, different statistical methods, including chi-square tests, t-tests, ANOVA tests, and a general linear model (GLM), were performed according to the data fields and the fulfilment of the assumptions. For example, a GLM was used to determine the differences in mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents. With the results of the GLM, trends across the four Surveys could be identified after controlling the demographics of the respondents. A monotonic upward (downward) trend means that the variable consistently increases (decreases) over time.

4.6 Regarding in-depth analyses, seven research areas were identified to explore the correlations between the respondents' attitudes toward the family and their backgrounds (e.g., age, sex, educational attainment, marital status, household size, etc.). Correlation analysis, multiple regression, and logistic regression models were performed to assess the associations of all explanatory variables with the dependent variable.

4.7 In these analyses, p-values were calculated in order to evaluate the statistical significance of the results; a p-value of less than .05 ($p < .05$) is statistically significant. Statistical analyses were conducted using SPSS version 26.0 (IBM SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA).

4.8 Attention is here drawn to the fact that, because of rounding off, in some cases, the breakdown of a figure may not add up to exactly the given total, and some percentage breakdowns may not sum to exactly 100%.

Challenges of the Trend Analyses

4.9   There are several limitations to the trend analyses that should be noted.

(1)   Changes in question items across years

Though the key objectives of each round of the Survey are the same, the scope of the Survey has varied across years. The question items and dimensions have been changed to meet the scopes of each round of the Survey. These unstandardised measures hinder the trend analyses.

(2)   Inconsistent views collected

With the comprehensive scope of the Survey, respondents might be overloaded by the long questionnaire design, resulting in inconsistent views, particularly in the 2017 Survey.

(3)   Non-explainable trends

Each trend suggests many lines of enquiry. Combining several trends and considering the questions raised by each can generate a more holistic picture. However, some large fluctuations across years or trends were inexplicable. This may be an empirical issue, due to data handling issues, or resulting from different interpretations by respondents in different years and a lack of explanatory factors. The possible factors for the emergence of this phenomenon were not explained comprehensively based on the data obtained.

5. The Importance of Family

Overview

5.1 Family attitudes refer to the attitudes of individuals toward a wide range of family issues, including the role of men and women, cohabitation, marriage, divorce, parenthood, and childbearing.[21]   In previous rounds of Surveys, nine dimensions, with a total of 39 question items, were adopted to ascertain respondents' attitudes toward family issues.   The nine dimensions are attitudes toward: traditional family values, the ideal family, living with parents, marriage and having children, the involvement of grandparents in family issues, singlehood, cohabitation, divorce, and the importance of core values.

5.2 Scholars have been debating whether or not filial piety still provides behavioural and orientation guidelines for societies sharing the same Confucian tradition.[22,23]   Six items regarding the practice of filial piety toward parents have been adopted since 2013; the same sets of items but relating to grandparents were added in the 2017 Survey.[24]   More precisely, the filial piety practice questions asked the respondents how often they had engaged in each of the six practices during the previous three months.

5.3 Role conflict is a key factor related to stress and family satisfaction. Considering the aim of enhancing gender equality, together with role changes for women and men, a dimension measuring attitudes toward family roles with three items was introduced in the 2017 Survey.[25]

5.4 In summary, a total of 12 dimensions have been adopted in previous rounds of the Survey.   EFA and reliability analyses (presented as α) are compiled to construct the indexes for trend and in-depth analyses.   According to the criteria discussed in Table 4.1, six indexes could be constructed.   For the seven items regarding attitudes toward traditional family values and the four items regarding attitudes toward living with parents, the results of the EFA are not satisfactory and have considerably low alphas, suggesting that only single items could be presented (see *Annex 1.1* and *Annex 1.2*).

5.5   Table 5.1 presents the dimensions and the details of the importance of family.

Table 5.1 The Importance of Family

Theme	Dimensions	Year				No. of items	α	Index construct?	Single item?
		2011	2013	2015	2017				
A1	Attitudes toward traditional family values	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	< 0.7	-	✓
A2	Importance of core values	✓	-	-	-	8	-	-	-
A3	Attitudes toward ideal family	✓	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
A4	Attitudes toward living with parents	✓	✓	✓	✓	4	< 0.7	-	✓
A5	Attitudes toward marriage and having children	✓	✓	✓	✓	4	> 0.7	✓	-
A6	Attitudes toward the involvement of grandparents in family issues	✓	✓	✓	✓	4	> 0.7	✓	-
A7	Attitudes toward singlehood	✓	✓	✓	✓	2	> 0.7	✓	-
A8	Attitudes toward cohabitation	✓	✓	✓	✓	2	> 0.7	✓	-
A9	Attitudes toward divorce	✓	✓	✓	✓	4	> 0.7	✓	-
A10	Attitudes toward family roles	-	-	-	✓	3	-	-	-
A11	Practice of filial piety (parents)	-	✓	✓	✓	6	> 0.7	✓	-
A12	Practice of filial piety (grandparents)	-	-	-	✓	6	-	-	-

Attitudes toward Marriage and Having Children

5.6   The index regarding attitudes toward marriage and having children consisted of four question items ($\alpha > .07$): 'marriage is a necessary step in life', 'married people are usually happier than people who have not yet married', 'life without children is empty', and 'child bearing is important in marriage'. Respondents were asked for their level of agreement with the four question items, rated on a five-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree). A higher score indicates more positive views toward marriage and having children.

5.7   Though a drop was observed in 2017, at 3.26, a decreasing trend was not apparently observed. Analysed by demographics, monotonic decreasing trends were observed among male participants and those who had never been married ($ps < .001$).

Chart 5.2 Attitudes toward Marriage and Having Children
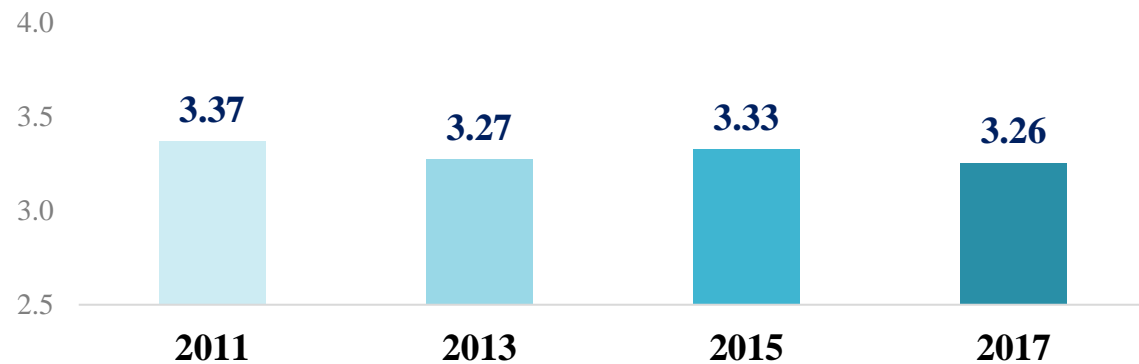
		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male[2]	3.40	3.32	3.32	3.25	< .001
	Female	3.34	3.23	3.33	3.26	.001
Age groups (years)	15-24	3.28	3.12	3.25	2.96	< .001
	25-34	3.18	3.14	3.23	3.17	.364
	35-54	3.34	3.24	3.33	3.20	.002
	55 or above	3.56	3.45	3.41	3.45	.001
Marital status	Never married[2]	3.13	2.99	3.07	2.87	< .001
	Married/cohabiting	3.49	3.43	3.50	3.47	.331
	Divorced/separated/widowed	3.43	3.26	3.29	3.34	.022
Economic status	Economically active	3.27	3.21	3.29	3.16	< .001
	Economically inactive	3.48	3.32	3.35	3.36	< .001

[Note 1] GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents. [Note 2] A monotonic decreasing trend.

Attitudes toward the Involvement of Grandparents in Family Issues

5.8 The index regarding attitudes toward the involvement of grandparents in family issues consisted of four question items ($\alpha > .07$): 'many parents today appreciate the help that grandparents give', 'people today place enough value on the part grandparents play in family life', 'in most families, grandparents should be closely involved in deciding how their grandchildren are brought up', and 'with so many working mothers, families need grandparents to help more and more'.   Respondents were asked for their level of agreement with the four question items on a five-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree).   A higher score indicates more positive views toward the involvement of grandparents in family issues.

5.9 The mean scores were stable at about 3.45 in 2011, 2013, and 2015, whereas a significant drop was observed in 2017 (at 3.19) ($p < .001$), after controlling for the demographics of the respondents.   Analysed by demographics, significant drops were observed from 2015 to 2017 among various demographic groups ($ps < .001$).

Chart 5.3 Attitudes toward the Involvement of Grandparents in Family Issues
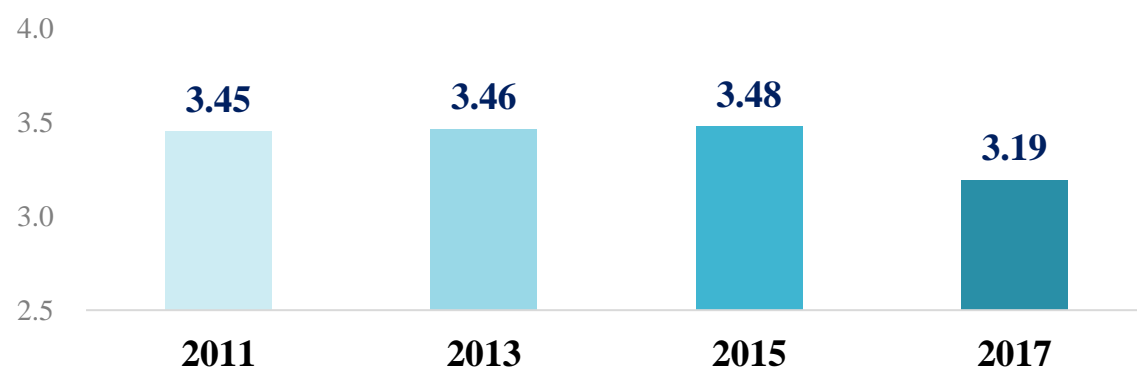
		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	3.46	3.49	3.53	3.19	< .001
	Female	3.44	3.44	3.44	3.19	< .001
Age groups (years)	15-24	3.49	3.46	3.48	3.26	< .001
	25-34	3.44	3.46	3.50	3.14	< .001
	35-54	3.41	3.45	3.50	3.14	< .001
	55 or above[2]	3.50	3.48	3.44	3.24	< .001
Marital status	Never married	3.45	3.44	3.46	3.17	< .001
	Married/cohabiting	3.46	3.48	3.51	3.21	< .001
	Divorced/separated/widowed	3.43	3.47	3.39	3.18	< .001
Economic status	Economically active	3.44	3.48	3.51	3.17	< .001
	Economically inactive	3.46	3.45	3.45	3.22	< .001

Note 1 GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents. Note 2 A monotonic decreasing trend.

Attitudes toward Singlehood

5.10   The index regarding attitudes toward singlehood consisted of two question items ($\alpha > .07$): 'I accept myself as being single and as not having any plans to get married' and 'it is acceptable for a woman to give birth to a child if she has no intention of getting married'.   Respondents were asked for their level of agreement with the two question items, rated on a five-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree).   A higher score indicates more positive views toward singlehood.

5.11   The mean scores grew steadily from 2011 to 2015, then a slight drop was observed in 2017 (at 3.01).   In general, a mild increasing trend was observed from 2011 to 2015, after controlling for the demographics of the respondents ($p < .001$).   Analysed by demographics, though significant differences were found in some mean scores across the years, no monotonic trend was observed.

Chart 5.4 Attitudes toward Singlehood
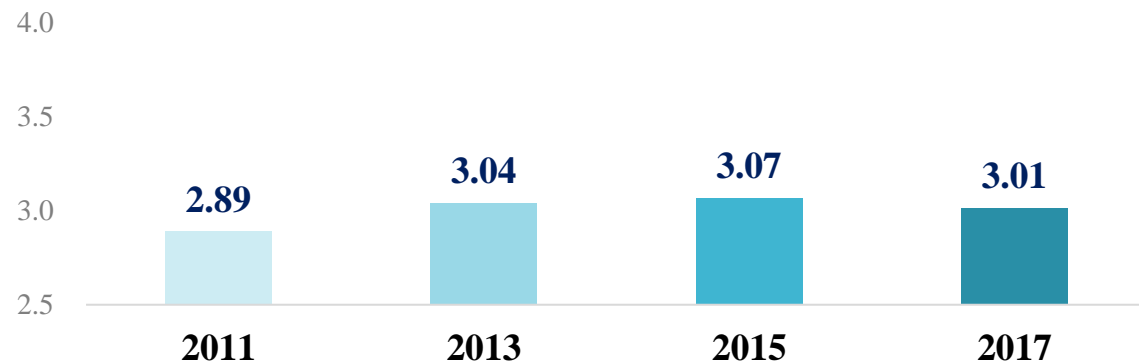
		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	2.90	3.07	3.11	3.03	< .001
	Female	2.88	3.02	3.04	3.01	< .001
Age groups (years)	15-24	3.01	3.22	3.11	3.07	.104
	25-34	3.08	3.14	3.17	3.14	.262
	35-54	2.93	3.12	3.13	3.09	< .001
	55 or above	2.66	2.81	2.93	2.86	< .001
Marital status	Never married	3.17	3.29	3.32	3.26	< .001
	Married/cohabiting	2.72	2.91	2.89	2.86	< .001
	Divorced/separated/widowed	2.92	3.03	3.15	3.03	< .001
Economic status	Economically active	2.95	3.09	3.14	3.12	< .001
	Economically inactive	2.82	3.00	3.00	2.90	< .001

Note [1] GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents.

Attitudes toward Cohabitation

5.12   The index regarding attitudes toward cohabitation consisted of two question items ($\alpha > .07$): 'cohabitation without the intention of getting married is acceptable to me' and 'cohabitation before marriage is a good idea'. Respondents were asked for their level of agreement with the two question items, rated on a five-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree). A higher score indicates more positive views toward cohabitation.

5.13   The mean scores grew from 3.03 in 2011 to 3.18 in 2013, then flattened at about 3.15. There was no particular trend in attitudes toward cohabitation. Analysed by demographics, a monotonic increasing trend was observed among those aged 55 years or above ($p < .001$).

Chart 5.5 Attitudes toward Cohabitation
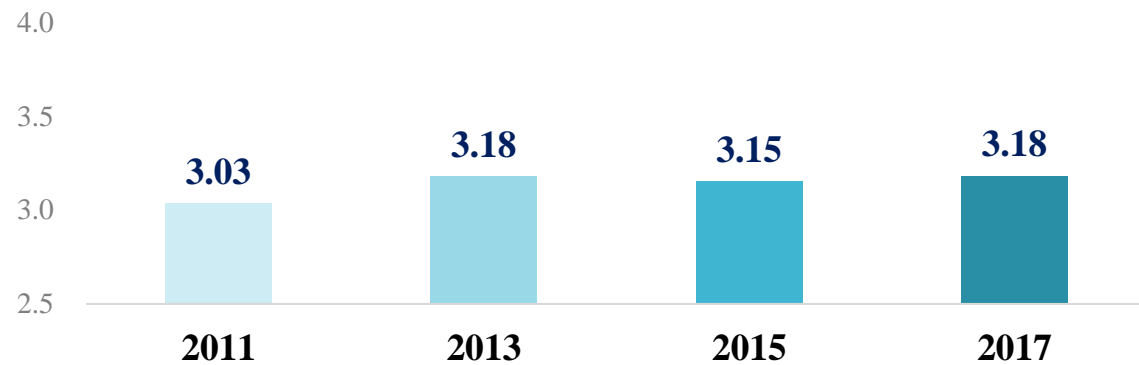
		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	3.16	3.30	3.24	3.30	< .001
	Female	2.93	3.07	3.08	3.08	< .001
Age groups (years)	15-24	3.23	3.26	3.33	3.30	.122
	25-34	3.33	3.36	3.35	3.35	.981
	35-54	3.06	3.29	3.20	3.27	< .001
	55 or above[2]	2.74	2.90	2.92	2.97	< .001
Marital status	Never married	3.31	3.34	3.37	3.34	.373
	Married/cohabiting	2.91	3.12	3.04	3.12	< .001
	Divorced/separated/widowed	2.89	3.05	3.04	3.04	.013
Economic status	Economically active	3.15	3.30	3.26	3.30	< .001
	Economically inactive	2.91	3.06	3.06	3.05	< .001

Note [1] GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents. Note [2] A monotonic increasing trend.

Attitudes toward Divorce

5.14   The index regarding attitudes toward divorce consisted of four question items ($\alpha > .07$): 'divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously, provided that they do not have children', 'divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously, even if they already have children', 'divorce affects women more than men', and 'it is acceptable for me to marry a divorced person'. Respondents were asked for their level of agreement with the four question items, rated on a five-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree).   A higher score indicates more positive views toward divorce.

5.15   The mean scores fluctuated between 3.20 and 3.27 across the years; hence, no particular trend was observed.   Analysed by demographics, though significant differences were found in some mean scores across the years, no particular trend was observed.

Chart 5.6 Attitudes toward Divorce
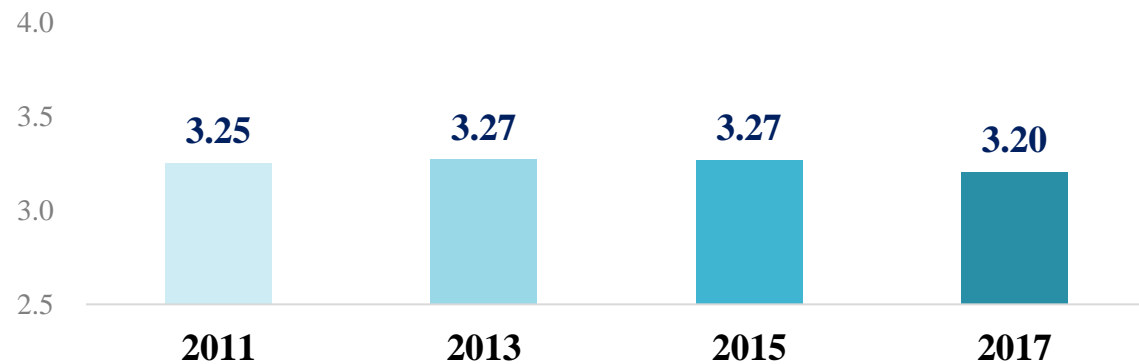
		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	3.23	3.24	3.29	3.17	< .001
	Female	3.27	3.30	3.25	3.23	.003
Age groups (years)	15-24	3.23	3.11	3.20	3.18	.096
	25-34	3.27	3.28	3.27	3.19	.224
	35-54	3.28	3.36	3.31	3.23	< .001
	55 or above	3.21	3.22	3.24	3.19	.066
Marital status	Never married	3.29	3.21	3.29	3.20	< .001
	Married/cohabiting	3.21	3.29	3.23	3.19	.002
	Divorced/separated/widowed	3.32	3.33	3.34	3.27	.261
Economic status	Economically active	3.26	3.29	3.31	3.24	.026
	Economically inactive	3.24	3.25	3.23	3.17	< .001

Note 1 GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents.

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Practice of Filial Piety: Parents

5.16   Respondents (excluding students, who were assumed to provide no financial support to their parents) were asked about how often they had engaged in six filial piety practices (caring, respecting, greeting, pleasing, obeying, and providing financial support) in the past three months, rated on a five-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = very little to 5 = very much).   The filial piety scores were compiled as a composite of these practices (α > .07), using a scale ranging from 0 (very little) to 100 (very much).   A higher score indicates more frequent filial piety.

5.17   This filial piety measure has been adopted since 2013.   Though the mean scores dropped gradually from 65.94 in 2013 to 64.84 in 2017, a decreasing trend was not apparently demonstrated after controlling for the demographics of the respondents.   Analysed by demographics, though significant differences were found in some mean scores across the years, no particular trend was observed.

Chart 5.7 Practice of Filial Piety: Parents
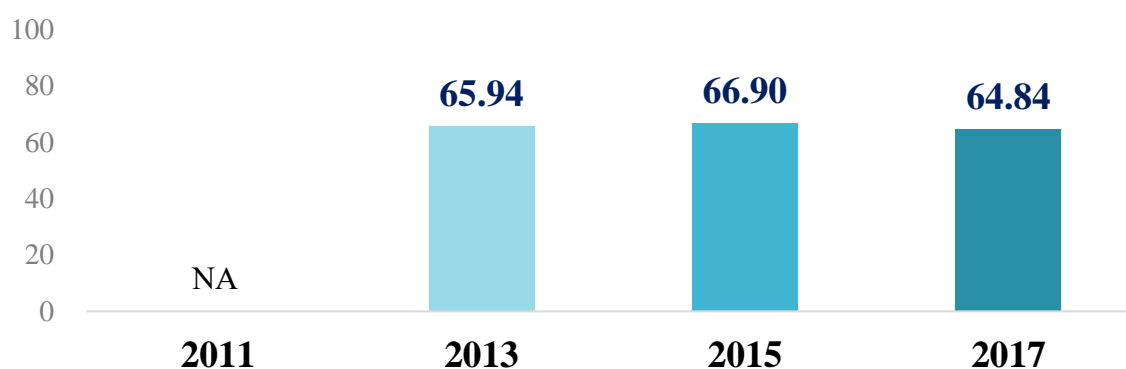
		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	-	64.61	66.46	63.30	.045
	Female	-	67.02	67.25	66.09	.044
Age groups (years)	15-24	-	64.23	63.09	60.60	.115
	25-34	-	66.88	68.74	66.94	.516
	35-54	-	65.52	66.91	64.40	.005
	55 or above	-	66.51	65.31	64.54	.934
Marital status	Never married	-	65.66	68.37	65.71	.123
	Married/cohabiting	-	66.43	66.48	64.77	.076
	Divorced/separated/widowed	-	63.80	64.05	61.00	.132
Economic status	Economically active	-	66.68	67.33	65.86	.071
	Economically inactive	-	64.47	66.07	62.12	.056

Note [1] GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents.

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6.   Parenthood

Overview

6.1   Parenting is the process of promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood. Different parenting styles have different impacts on children.   With reference to questions from a Canadian family survey,[26] the International Social Survey Programme,[27] and the results of discussions, attitudes toward parenthood, the impact of these attitudes on having and raising children, attitudes toward role models for children, and attitudes toward tri-parenting were solicited.   Views on parenting methods and parental stress were also solicited.[28]

6.2   In order to explore the factors leading to the decline of childbirth in Hong Kong, questions about the respondents' intention to have children and their desire to have more children were included in four rounds of the Survey.[29]

6.3   In summary, a total of eight dimensions have been adopted in previous rounds of the Survey.   According to the criteria discussed in Table 4.1, three indexes could be constructed.   For the four items regarding attitudes toward parenthood, the four items regarding the impact of these attitudes on having and raising children, and the three items for attitudes toward tri-parenting, the results of EFA are not satisfactory, with considerably low alphas, suggesting that only single items could be presented (see *Annex 1.3*, *Annex 1.4*, and *Annex 1.5*).   Table 6.1 presents the dimensions and details regarding parenthood.

Table 6.1 Parenthood

Theme	Dimensions	Year				No. of items	α	Index construct?	Single item?
		2011	2013	2015	2017				
B1	Attitudes toward parenthood	✓	✓	✓	✓	4	< 0.7	-	✓
B2	Impact of attitudes on having and raising children	✓	✓	✓	✓	4	< 0.7	-	✓
B3	Intention to have children	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	-	-	✓
B4	Desire to have more children	-	✓	✓	✓	1	-	-	✓
B5	Role models	✓	✓	✓	-	4	> 0.7	✓	-
B6	Parenting method	✓	✓	✓	✓	11	> 0.7	✓	-
B7	Attitudes toward tri-parenting	-	✓	✓	✓	3	< 0.7	-	✓
B8	Parental stress	-	✓	✓	✓	10	> 0.7	✓	-

Intention to Have Children

6.4   The intention to have children among non-parent respondents was investigated. They were asked about their intention to have children, rated on a four-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = not at all likely to 4 = very likely).

6.5   The intention to have children dropped from 58.0% in 2011 to 45.0% in 2017. A notable decreasing trend was observed, suggesting the intention to have children was weakening.

6.6   Analysed by demographics, monotonic decreasing trends were also observed among male respondents, those who had never been married, and those who were economically active ($ps < .05$).

Chart 6.2 Intention to Have Children
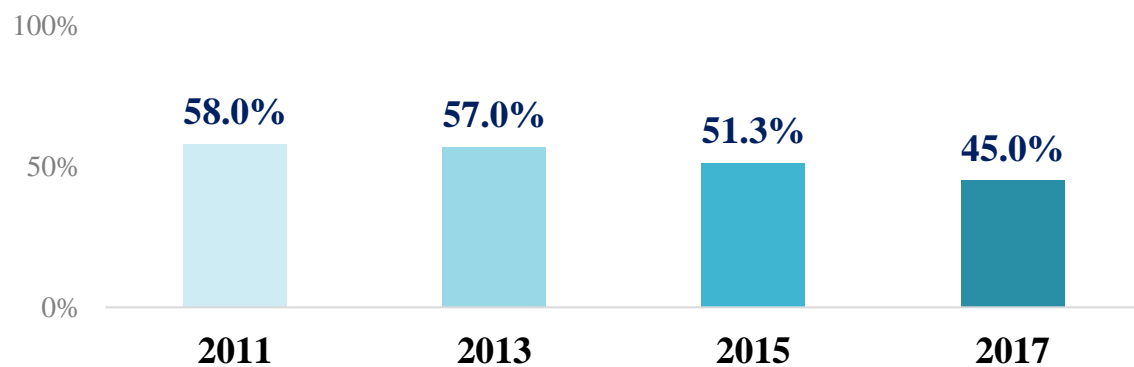
		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male[2]	.60	.54	.48	.45	< .001
	Female	.56	.60	.54	.45	.197
Age groups (years)	15-24	.81	.73	.83	.64	< .001
	25-34	.71	.72	.58	.61	.019
	35-54	.35	.35	.35	.29	.130
	55 or above	.03	.19	.01	.07	.638
Marital status	Never married[2]	.63	.60	.56	.47	< .001
	Married/cohabiting	.48	.51	.42	.45	.279
	Divorced/separated/widowed	.17	.13	.08	.13	.881
Economic status	Economically active[2]	.59	.54	.48	.44	< .001
	Economically inactive	.57	.61	.55	.46	.119

Note 1 GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents. Note 2 A monotonic decreasing trend.

Desire to Have More Children

6.7　The desire to have more children among parent respondents aged 18 to 54 years was investigated.　They were asked about their intention to have children, rated on a four-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = not at all likely to 4 = very likely).

6.8　The desire to have more children dropped from 9.1% in 2013 to 5.6% in 2015 and 2017.　A decreasing proportion was observed, suggesting the desire to have more children was weakening.

6.9　Analysed by demographics, monotonic decreasing trends were also observed among female respondents, respondents aged 25 to 34 years, those who had never been married or divorced/separated/widowed, and those who were economically active (*ps* < .05).

Chart 6.3 Desire to Have More Children
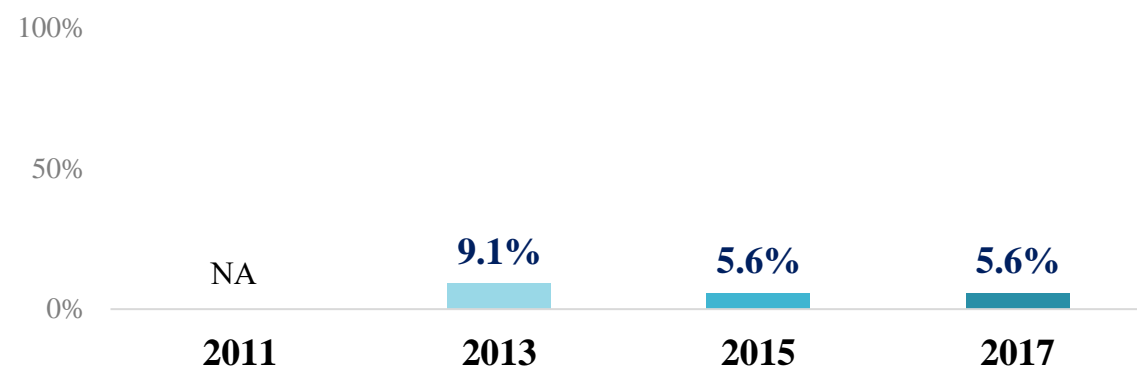
		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	-	.10	.06	.08	< .001
	Female[2]	-	.08	.06	.05	< .001
Age groups (years)	18-24	-	.82	-	.00	.745
	25-34[2]	-	.24	.21	.13	.003
	35-54	-	.06	.03	.05	< .001
	55 or above	-	-	-	-	-
Marital status	Never married[2]	-	-	.00	.00	< .001
	Married/cohabiting	-	.10	.06	.06	.320
	Divorced/separated/widowed[2]	-	.05	.02	.04	< .001
Economic status	Economically active[2]	-	.09	.06	.06	.017
	Economically inactive	-	.09	.05	.05	< .001

Note[1] GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents. Note[2] A monotonic decreasing trend.

Role Models

6.10 An index of attitudes toward role models consisted of four question items (α > .07): 'I set good examples for my children', 'I admit when I am wrong or have made mistakes', 'I would explain the issue at hand to my children when they do something wrong', and 'I set a good example to my children so that they will respect and care for their grandparents'. Parent respondents were asked for their level of agreement with the four question items, rated on a five-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree). A higher score indicates more positive views toward role models.

6.11 Though the mean scores dropped from 3.96 in 2011 to 3.87 in 2015, the high scores across the years indicated that parent respondents hold more positive views toward role models. Analysed by demographics, though significant differences were found in some mean scores across the years, no particular trend was observed.

Chart 6.4 Role Models
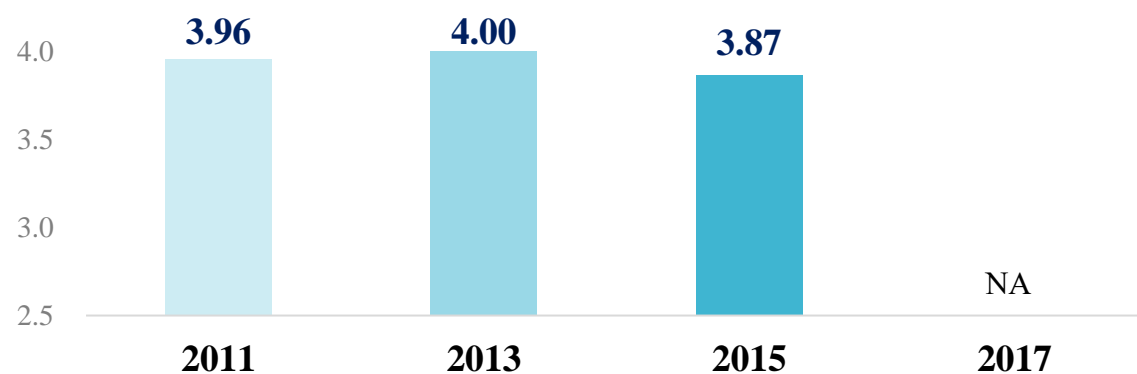
		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	3.94	3.97	3.85	-	< .001
	Female	3.97	4.03	3.88	-	< .001
Age groups (years)	15-24	4.06	4.00	-	-	.017
	25-34	3.95	4.17	4.06	-	.021
	35-54	4.00	4.05	3.89	-	< .001
	55 or above	3.91	3.93	3.82	-	< .001
Marital status	Never married	3.89	-	3.75	-	.673
	Married/cohabiting	3.97	4.02	3.89	-	< .001
	Divorced/separated/widowed	3.89	3.94	3.78	-	.004
Economic status	Economically active	3.99	4.04	3.89	-	< .001
	Economically inactive	3.93	3.98	3.85	-	< .001

Note [1] GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents.

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Parenting Methods

6.12 Parent respondents with children aged 18 years or under were asked to indicate the frequency with which they adopted 11 parenting methods in regard to their children, such as caring for their children's needs, pointing out and rectifying their children's mistakes immediately, and teaching their children to try their best. Their responses were rated on a four-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = never to 4 = often). A higher score indicates more positive ways of teaching children.

6.13 Across the years, a mild increasing trend was observed, in that the mean scores increased from 3.39 in 2013 to 3.46 in 2017. The results indicate that parent respondents tended to adopt positive parenting methods in regard to their children.

6.14 Analysed by demographics, the increasing trends were also observed among female respondents, respondents aged 35 to 54 years, those who were married/cohabiting, and those who were economically active ($ps < .05$).

Chart 6.5 Parenting Methods

		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	-	3.33	3.35	3.36	.263
	Female[2]	-	3.44	3.44	3.51	.001
Age groups (years)	15-24	-	3.33	-	3.37	.575
	25-34	-	3.46	3.41	3.48	.557
	35-54[2]	-	3.39	3.41	3.47	.001
	55 or above	-	3.17	3.27	3.26	.391
Marital status	Never married	-	-	2.82	3.26	.419
	Married/cohabiting[2]	-	3.40	3.40	3.46	.004
	Divorced/separated/widowed	-	3.33	3.41	3.46	.231
Economic status	Economically active[2]	-	3.36	3.36	3.44	.014
	Economically inactive[2]	-	3.43	3.46	3.49	.111

Note [1] GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents. Note [2] A monotonic increasing trend.

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Parental Stress

6.15 The index regarding attitudes toward parental stress consisted of 10 items (α > .07).   Examples include: 'more tired than before', 'had no private time', 'no one provides help when I am in need', and 'my family encounters financial difficulties'.   Parent respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with these items on a five-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree).   A higher score indicates higher levels of stress.

6.16 Parent respondents reported an average level of parental stress and no particular trend was observed across the years.   Analysed by demographics, though significant differences were found in regard to some mean scores across the years, no particular trend was observed.

Chart 6.6 Parental Stress
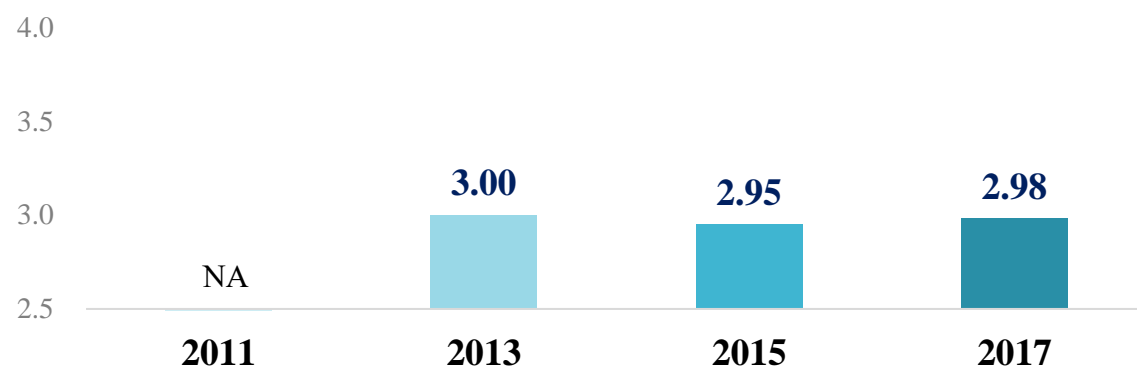
		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	-	2.90	2.85	2.89	.505
	Female	-	3.07	3.01	3.04	.017
Age groups (years)	15-24	-	3.14	-	3.10	.359
	25-34	-	3.05	3.07	3.07	.310
	35-54	-	3.01	2.97	3.05	.001
	55 or above	-	2.98	2.91	2.91	.011
Marital status	Never married	-	-	3.20	3.26	.523
	Married/cohabiting	-	2.95	2.93	2.95	.259
	Divorced/separated/widowed	-	3.17	3.03	3.08	.004
Economic status	Economically active	-	2.97	2.89	2.97	.033
	Economically inactive	-	3.02	2.99	3.00	.141

Note [1] GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents.

7. Family Functioning

Overview

7.1   Family functioning comprises two major constructs: the Chinese Family Assessment Instrument (CFAI) and perceived overall family functioning.[30,31] The CFAI, which is a 33-item instrument, was adopted.   There are five subscales used to assess family functioning: mutuality, communication, conflict and harmony, parental concern, and parental control.

7.2   In the 2017 Survey, new question items were adopted to explore different means of communication used by families with different socio-economic and demographic backgrounds, taking into account the development of information technology and the impact of the increasing trend of using modern communication methods on the relationships among family members. Question items related to ICT and family functioning were designed to cover the social motivation of using ICT, the usage and impact of ICT, and ICT literacy.   In addition, factors affecting family functioning, such as support from grandparents and members of the family, and household decision making, were adopted to examine a wider sphere of family support in regard to family functioning.

7.3   In summary, a total of five dimensions have been adopted in previous rounds of the Survey.   According to the criteria discussed in Table 4.1, one index with five subscales could be constructed.   Table 7.1 presents the dimensions and the details of family functioning.

Table 7.1 Family Functioning

Theme	Dimensions	Year				No. of items	α	Index construct?	Single item?
		2011	2013	2015	2017				
C1	Chinese Family Assessment Instrument (CFAI)	✓	✓	✓	✓	33	> 0.7	✓	-
C2	Perceived overall family functioning	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	-	-	✓
C3	Support of family	-	-	-	✓	1	-	-	-
C4	Use of technology for communication	-	-	-	✓	1	-	-	-
C5	Household decision making	-	-	-	✓	7	-	-	-

CFAI Mutuality

7.4 A subscale, mutuality of CFAI, refers to mutual support, love, and concern among family members. It consists of 12 question items (α > .07), including 'family members support each other', 'family members love each other', 'family members tolerate each other', and 'good family relationships'. Respondents were asked to assess their family situations on a five-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = does not fit our family to 5 = very much fits our family). A higher score indicates better mutual support among family members.

7.5 The mean scores fluctuated between 4.03 and 4.13 across the years; hence, no particular trend was observed. The results indicate that respondents had mutual support and love among family members. Analysed by demographics, though significant differences were found in some mean scores across the years, no particular trend was observed.

Chart 7.2 CFAI Mutuality
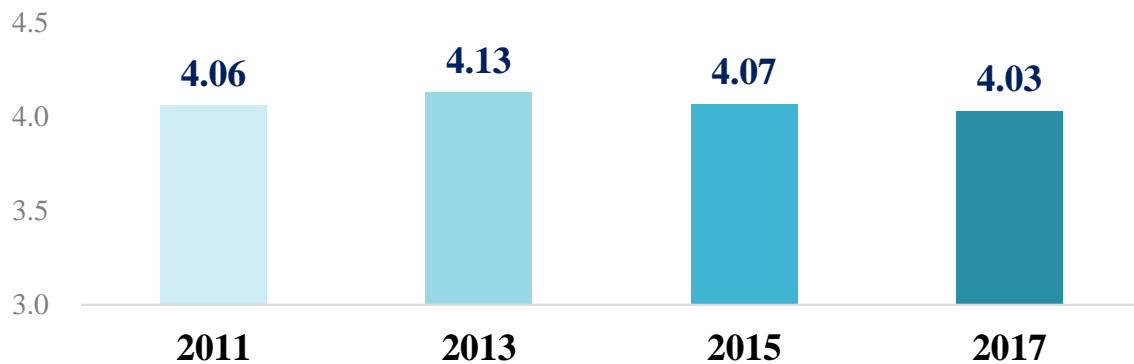
		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	4.03	4.10	4.05	4.00	.001
	Female	4.09	4.16	4.09	4.05	< .001
Age groups (years)	15-24	4.10	4.04	3.97	3.92	< .001
	25-34	4.06	4.11	4.13	4.13	.187
	35-54	4.08	4.17	4.12	4.08	.008
	55 or above	4.02	4.13	4.01	3.97	< .001
Marital status	Never married	4.01	3.99	3.96	3.95	.209
	Married/cohabiting	4.14	4.24	4.18	4.13	< .001
	Divorced/separated/widowed	3.84	3.99	3.89	3.85	.045
Economic status	Economically active	4.06	4.15	4.10	4.08	.001
	Economically inactive	4.07	4.11	4.03	3.98	< .001

Note [1] GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents.

CFAI Communication

7.6 A subscale, communication of CFAI, refers to the frequency and nature of interactions among family members. It consists of nine question items ($\alpha > .07$), such as 'family members talk to each other', 'family members enjoy getting together', 'there are not many barriers among family members', and 'parents share their children's concerns'. Respondents were asked to assess their family situations on a five-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = does not fit our family to 5 = very much fits our family). A higher score indicates better communication among family members.

7.7 The mean scores dropped from 3.75 in 2013 to 3.53 in 2017, and this decreasing trend indicates that the communication between family members has been worsening over time. Analysed by demographics, monotonic decreasing trends were observed among male respondents, those who had never been married, and those who were economically inactive (*ps* < .001).

Chart 7.3 CFAI Communication

		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male[2]	3.69	3.67	3.67	3.47	< .001
	Female	3.77	3.81	3.73	3.59	< .001
Age groups (years)	15-24	3.79	3.63	3.68	3.49	< .001
	25-34	3.73	3.74	3.73	3.71	.474
	35-54	3.78	3.85	3.78	3.66	< .001
	55 or above	3.63	3.69	3.60	3.35	< .001
Marital status	Never married[2]	3.63	3.57	3.56	3.39	< .001
	Married/cohabiting	3.84	3.89	3.85	3.71	< .001
	Divorced/separated/widowed	3.53	3.58	3.51	3.21	< .001
Economic status	Economically active	3.71	3.78	3.73	3.59	< .001
	Economically inactive[2]	3.74	3.72	3.68	3.47	< .001

Note [1] GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents. Note [2] A monotonic decreasing trend.

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CFAI Conflict and Harmony

7.8 A subscale, conflict of CFAI, refers to conflicting and harmonious behaviour in the family. It consists of six question items ($\alpha > .07$), such as 'a great deal of friction among family members', 'not many quarrels among family members', 'lack of harmony among family members', and 'parents' poor marital relationship'. Respondents were asked to assess their family situations on a five-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = does not fit our family to 5 = very much fits our family). Some items were coded reversely. A higher score indicates less conflicting behaviour in the family.

7.9 The mean scores fluctuated between 3.99 and 4.04 across the years; hence, no particular trend was observed. The results indicate that respondents did not experience conflict, such as fighting and quarrelling, frequently. Analysed by demographics, though significant differences were found in some mean scores across the years, no particular trend was observed.

Chart 7.4 CFAI Conflict and Harmony
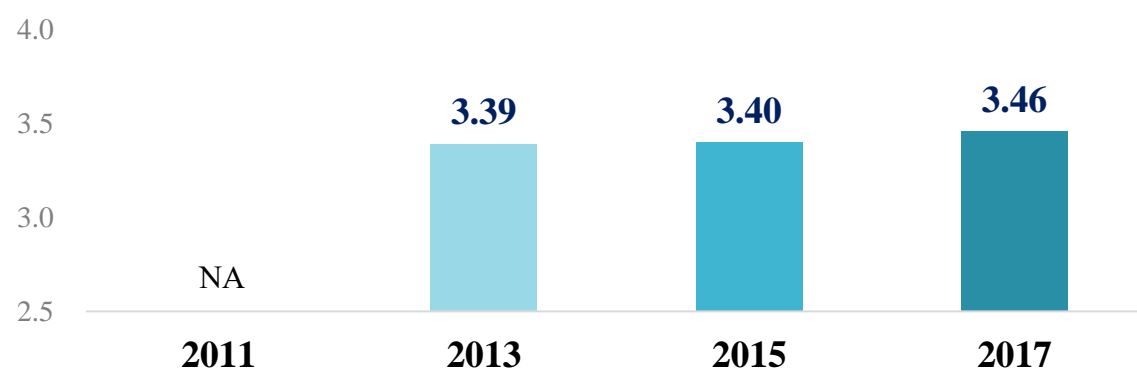

		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	3.98	4.00	4.02	4.01	.109
	Female	4.00	4.03	4.06	4.01	.004
Age groups (years)	15-24	3.93	3.97	3.89	3.88	.483
	25-34	4.00	4.00	4.07	4.04	.149
	35-54	4.02	4.03	4.07	4.04	.148
	55 or above	3.97	4.04	4.06	4.01	.002
Marital status	Never married	3.94	3.92	3.97	3.95	.586
	Married/cohabiting	4.07	4.11	4.13	4.09	.010
	Divorced/separated/widowed	3.79	3.87	3.92	3.84	.002
Economic status	Economically active	4.00	4.00	4.06	4.04	.009
	Economically inactive	3.98	4.03	4.03	3.98	.023

Note 1 GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents.

CFAI Parental Concern

7.10 A subscale, parental concern of CFAI, refers to parental support behaviour among family members. It consists of three items ($\alpha > .07$): 'parents are not concerned with their children', 'parents love their children', and 'parents take care of their children'. Respondents were asked to assess their family situations on a five-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = does not fit our family to 5 = very much fits our family). Some items were coded reversely. A higher score indicates better support among family members.

7.11 The mean scores fluctuated between 4.07 and 4.22 across the years; hence, no particular trend was observed. The results indicate that respondents exhibited supportive behaviour among family members. Analysed by demographics, though significant differences were found in some mean scores across the years, no particular trend was observed.

Chart 7.5 CFAI Parental Concern
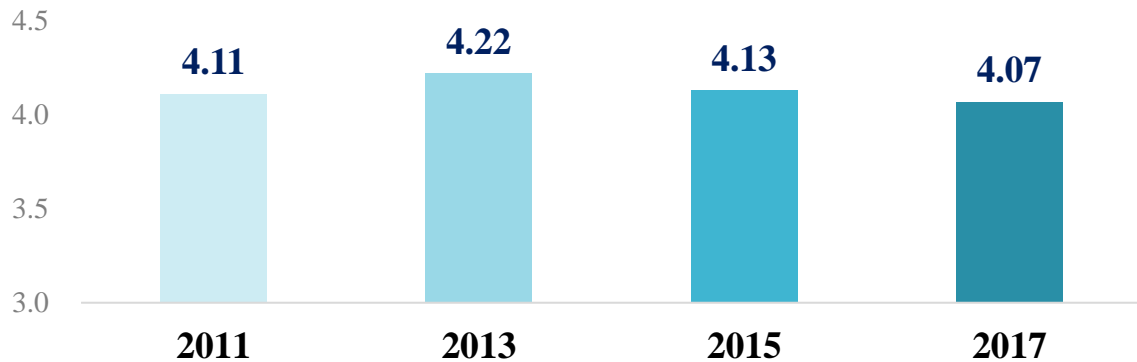
		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	4.07	4.16	4.12	4.03	< .001
	Female	4.14	4.27	4.14	4.11	< .001
Age groups (years)	15-24	4.14	4.23	4.08	3.95	< .001
	25-34	4.15	4.24	4.12	4.17	.235
	35-54	4.11	4.26	4.22	4.13	< .001
	55 or above	4.05	4.17	4.06	4.01	< .001
Marital status	Never married	4.06	4.13	4.04	3.98	< .001
	Married/cohabiting	4.15	4.29	4.21	4.16	< .001
	Divorced/separated/widowed	4.02	4.14	4.04	3.99	.019
Economic status	Economically active	4.09	4.20	4.16	4.09	< .001
	Economically inactive	4.12	4.24	4.10	4.06	< .001

Note [1] GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents.

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CFAI Parental Control

7.12   A subscale, parental control of CFAI, refers to parental support behaviour among family members.   It consists of three items ($\alpha > .07$): 'parents scold and beat their children', 'parents force their children to do things', and 'parents' control is too harsh'.   Respondents were asked to assess their family situation on a five-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = does not fit our family to 5 = very much fits our family).   All items were coded reversely.   A higher score indicates that the parenting behaviour toward the children is less harsh.

7.13   The mean scores increased from 3.99 in 2011 to 4.20 in 2017; this increasing trend indicates that parents exercised fewer controlling acts on their children over time.   Analysed by demographics, monotonic increasing trends were observed among both genders, all age groups, those who were married/cohabiting, those who were divorced/separated/widowed, and those who were economically active and inactive (*ps* < .001).

Chart 7.6 CFAI Parental Control
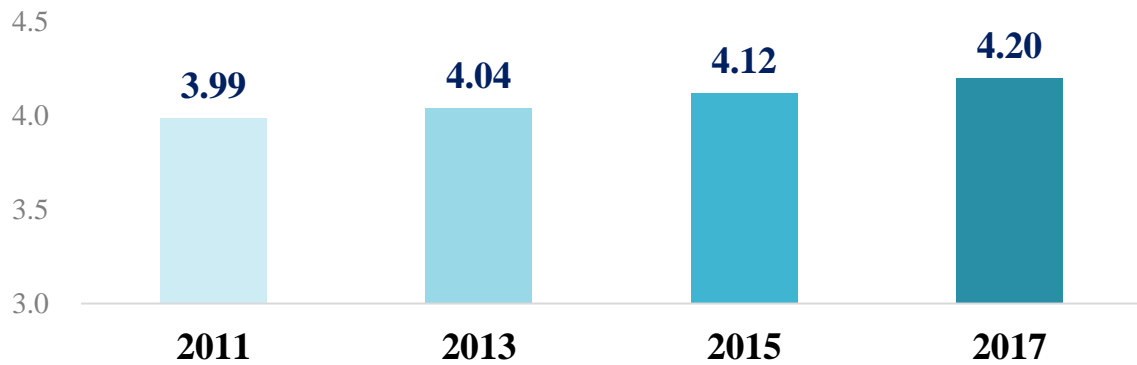
		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male[2]	3.99	4.03	4.06	4.22	< .001
	Female[2]	4.00	4.04	4.18	4.19	< .001
Age groups (years)	15-24[2]	3.96	3.98	3.99	4.12	.034
	25-34[2]	3.97	3.97	4.13	4.14	.011
	35-54[2]	3.96	3.99	4.11	4.13	< .001
	55 or above[2]	4.07	4.15	4.20	4.32	< .001
Marital status	Never married	4.00	3.93	4.06	4.20	< .001
	Married/cohabiting[2]	3.99	4.09	4.16	4.17	< .001
	Divorced/separated/widowed[2]	4.00	4.07	4.16	4.32	< .001
Economic status	Economically active[2]	3.99	4.01	4.11	4.19	< .001
	Economically inactive[2]	4.01	4.06	4.14	4.21	< .001

[Note 1] GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents. [Note 2] A monotonic increasing trend.

Perceived Overall Family Functioning

7.14   Respondents were asked to rate their family functioning on a five-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = family does not function very well together at all and we really need help, to 5 = family functions very well together).   A higher score indicates better perceived family functioning.

7.15   The mean scores fluctuated between 3.90 and 4.06 across the years; hence, no particular trend was observed.   Analysed by demographics, monotonic decreasing trends were observed among both genders, those who were aged 15 to 24 years and 35 to 54 years, and those who were married/cohabiting ($ps < .001$).

Chart 7.7 Perceived Overall Family Functioning
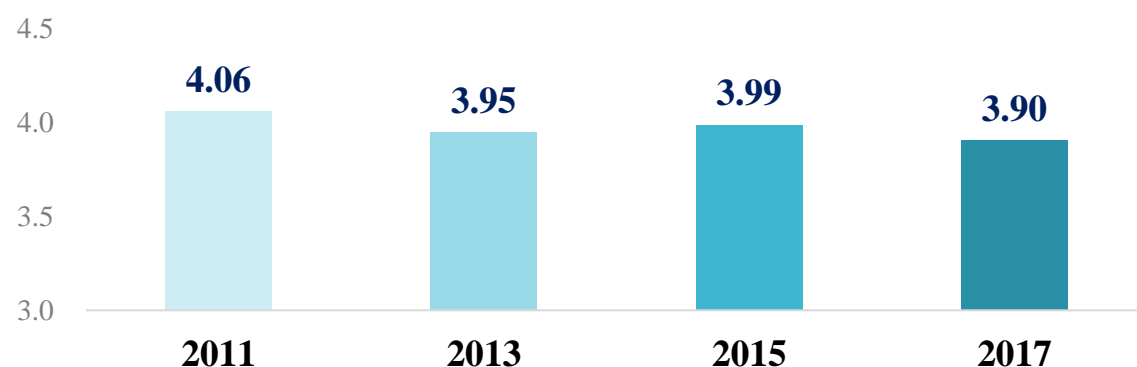
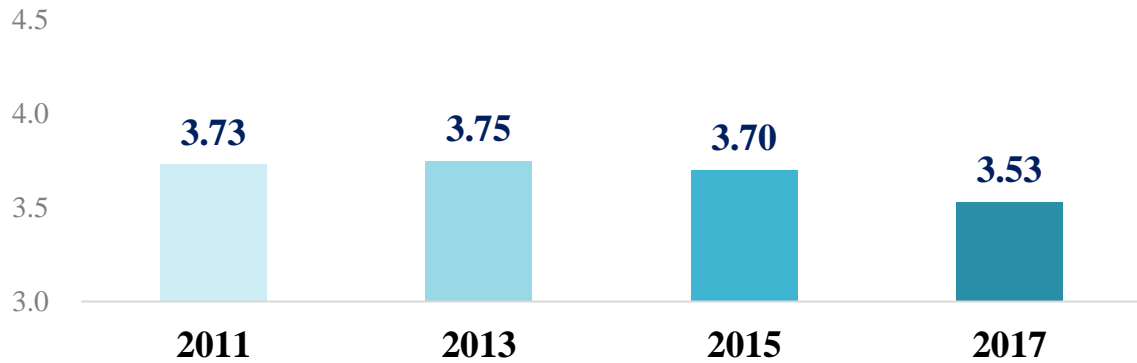|		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male[2]	4.04	3.91	3.95	3.88	< .001
	Female[2]	4.08	3.97	4.01	3.92	< .001
Age groups (years)	15-24[2]	4.09	4.01	4.02	3.92	.023
	25-34	4.13	4.00	4.00	4.03	.789
	35-54[2]	4.07	3.94	3.98	3.91	< .001
	55 or above	3.98	3.89	3.97	3.84	< .001
Marital status	Never married	4.01	3.95	3.95	3.88	.174
	Married/cohabiting[2]	4.15	4.03	4.05	3.99	< .001
	Divorced/separated/widowed	3.80	3.59	3.82	3.65	.001
Economic status	Economically active[2]	4.09	4.01	4.01	3.94	.004
	Economically inactive[2]	4.03	3.89	3.96	3.87	< .001

Note 1 GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents. Note 2 A monotonic decreasing trend.

8. Satisfaction with Family Life

Overview

8.1 Communication between members of a household is also crucial to harmonious family relationships. The Surveys collected information on time spent and communication with family members (such as talking about personal concerns, seeking advice, and feeling proud of family members), as well as engaging in different activities with family members (such as dining at home and outside, spending time on entertainment such as TV programmes or playing games at home, shopping for household goods, and participating in family gatherings). In addition, the past three rounds of the Survey collected the frequency of participants' use of modern technologies, such as mobile forms of communication and computers, to communicate with family members. [32] Further, new question items were adopted in the 2017 Survey to assess the subjective happiness of the respondents. Table 8.1 presents the dimensions of satisfaction with family life.

Table 8.1 Satisfaction with Family Life

Theme	Dimensions	Year				No. of items	α	Index construct?	Single item?
		2011	2013	2015	2017				
D1	Satisfaction with family life	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	-	-	✓
D2	Satisfaction with the relationships between family members and inter-generations	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	-	-	✓
D3	Whether or not spending time with parents and spouse/partner	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	-	-	✓
D4	Communication with family members and inter-generations	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	-	-	✓
D5	Frequency of use of modern technologies to communicate with family members and inter-generations	-	✓	✓	✓	1	-	-	✓
D6	Quality of communication	-	-	-	✓	1	-	-	-
D7	Preferred methods of communication	-	-	-	✓	1	-	-	-
D8	Perception of home	✓	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
D9	Subjective happiness	-	-	-	✓	4	-	-	-

Satisfaction with Family Life

8.2   Respondents were asked to indicate their satisfaction with family life on a five-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = very dissatisfied to 5 = very satisfied).   A higher score indicates more satisfaction with family life.

8.3   Though respondents were generally satisfied with family life, a mild decreasing trend was observed across the years.   Analysed by demographics, monotonic decreasing trends were also observed among female participants, those aged 35 to 54 years, those who were married/cohabiting, and those who were economically active ($ps < .05$).

8.4   There was a significant positive correlation between CFAI communication and satisfaction with family life (r = .436, $p < .001$).   The results indicate that the respondents reported better communication among family members, more satisfaction with their family life.

Chart 8.2 Satisfaction with Family Life

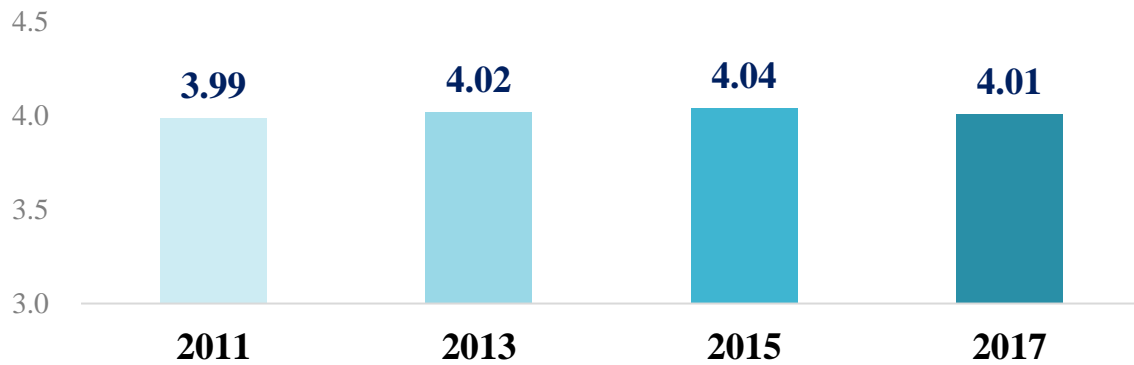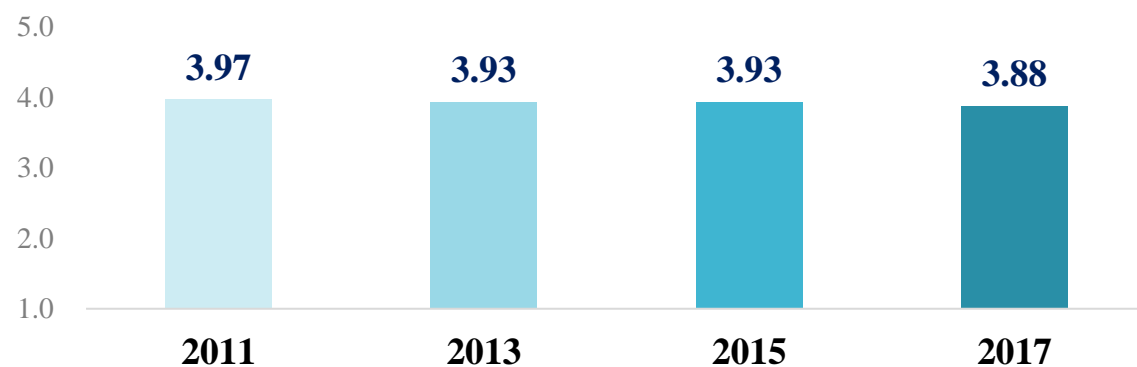|		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	3.95	3.89	3.91	3.87	.181
	Female[2]	3.99	3.96	3.94	3.88	.019
Age groups (years)	15-24	4.04	4.10	3.96	3.93	.048
	25-34	3.90	3.98	3.99	3.99	.295
	35-54[2]	4.02	3.90	3.91	3.85	.001
	55 or above	3.91	3.86	3.90	3.84	.087
Marital status	Never married	3.90	3.97	3.90	3.88	.766
	Married/cohabiting[2]	4.07	3.96	3.99	3.95	.003
	Divorced/separated/widowed	3.70	3.71	3.76	3.61	.034
Economic status	Economically active[2]	3.99	3.94	3.94	3.90	.031
	Economically inactive	3.95	3.91	3.91	3.85	.120

Note 1 GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents. Note 2 A monotonic decreasing trend.

Satisfaction with the Relationships between Family Members and Inter-generations

8.5 Respondents were asked to indicate their satisfaction with the relationships between family members and inter-generations on a five-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = very dissatisfied to 5 = very satisfied). Average scores among the family members and inter-generations were compiled. A higher score indicates more satisfaction with the relationships.

8.6 In general, respondents were satisfied with their relationships with family members and inter-generations, and the mean scores were quite stable across the years. Analysed by demographics, no particular trend was observed.

Chart 8.3 Satisfaction with the Relationship between Family Members and Inter-generations
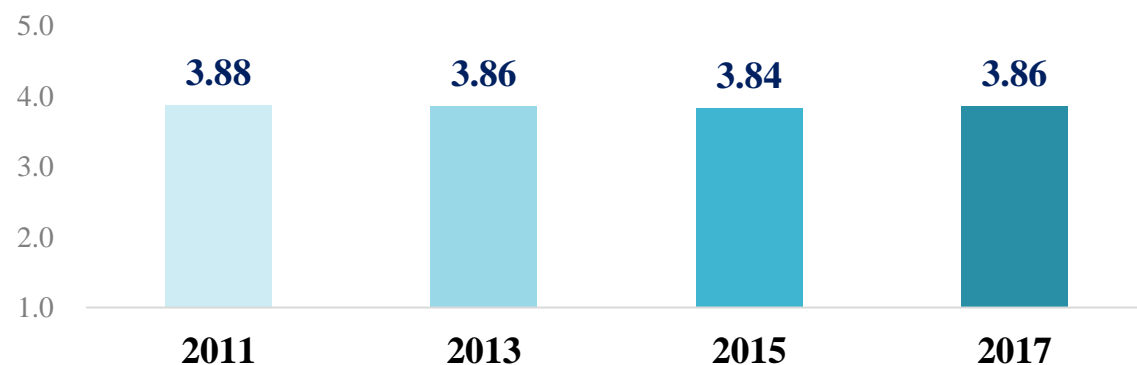
		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	3.87	3.81	3.81	3.84	.132
	Female	3.90	3.91	3.87	3.88	.634
Age groups (years)	15-24	3.98	3.94	3.89	3.86	.119
	25-34	3.96	3.94	3.89	3.95	.582
	35-54	3.88	3.85	3.82	3.87	.177
	55 or above	3.80	3.80	3.82	3.82	.373
Marital status	Never married	3.88	3.91	3.85	3.85	.640
	Married/cohabiting	3.95	3.88	3.84	3.91	< .001
	Divorced/separated/widowed	3.62	3.70	3.83	3.72	.001
Economic status	Economically active	3.89	3.88	3.83	3.88	.321
	Economically inactive	3.88	3.85	3.85	3.84	.779

Note [1] GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents.

Spending Time with Parents and Spouse/Partner

8.7   Respondents were asked to indicate whether or not they spent time with their parents and spouses/partners (if any) discussing important personal issues in a normal week and the corresponding amount of time spent doing so.

8.8   Over two-thirds of respondents would discuss important personal issues with their fathers (ranging from 70.7% to 83.1%), mothers (ranging from 76.1% to 88.1%), and spouses/partners (ranging from 85.1% to 91.6%).   However, these proportions dropped significantly in 2017.   Analysed by demographics, monotonic decreasing trends for spending time with spouses/partners discussing important personal issues were observed among those aged 35 to 54 years and those who had never been married ($ps < .05$).

Chart 8.4 Proportions of Respondents who Spent Time with Parents and Spouse/Partner Discussing Important Personal Issues
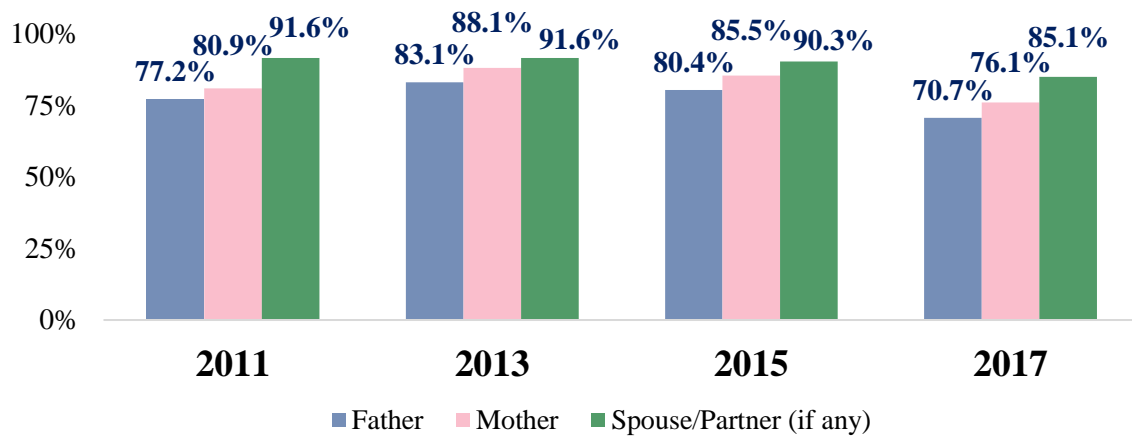
Father		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	.77	.84	.84	.72	.072
	Female	.78	.82	.78	.70	.008
Age groups (years)	15-24	.82	.86	.78	.82	.767
	25-34	.79	.82	.74	.73	.075
	35-54	.75	.82	.82	.65	.002
	55 or above	.64	.78	.83	.56	.735
Marital status	Never married	.82	.85	.80	.76	.026
	Married/cohabiting	.73	.83	.80	.64	.007
	Divorced/separated/widowed	.78	.68	.82	.80	.421
Economic status	Economically active	.77	.83	.82	.70	< .001
	Economically inactive	.77	.83	.79	.73	.303

Note 1 GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents.

Mother		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	.79	.88	.86	.77	.125
	Female	.83	.88	.85	.75	.004
Age groups (years)	15-24	.91	.94	.85	.88	.034
	25-34	.86	.90	.84	.81	.095
	35-54	.76	.86	.85	.72	.053
	55 or above	.66	.82	.87	.61	.350
Marital status	Never married	.88	.92	.88	.83	.015
	Married/cohabiting	.76	.86	.84	.69	.004
	Divorced/separated/widowed	.74	.78	.84	.77	.287
Economic status	Economically active	.80	.89	.86	.77	.012
	Economically inactive	.82	.88	.85	.76	.040

Note 1 GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents.

Spouse/Partner (if any)		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	.91	.92	.88	.86	.001
	Female	.92	.91	.92	.85	< .001
Age groups (years)	15-24	.92	1.00	.96	.93	.604
	25-34	.93	.97	.89	.94	.857
	35-54[2]	.94	.93	.89	.88	< .001
	55 or above	.87	.88	.91	.78	< .001
Marital status	Never married[2]	1.00	1.00	.92	.78	< .001
	Married/cohabiting	.92	.93	.89	.85	< .001
	Divorced/separated/widowed	.72	.28	.89	.72	.002
Economic status	Economically active	.93	.94	.89	.88	< .001
	Economically inactive	.90	.90	.92	.82	< .001

Note 1 GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents. Note 2 A monotonic decreasing trend.

Communication with Family Members and Inter-generations

8.9 Respondents were asked how frequently they talked about personal issues with their family members and inter-generations, rated on a four-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = almost never to 4 = frequently). Average scores among family members and inter-generations were compiled. A higher score indicates that a respondent communicated more frequently with their family members and inter-generations.

8.10 Respondents reported that they talked about personal issues with their family members and inter-generations less frequently and a notable decreasing trend was observed from 2011 to 2017. This echoes the communication aspect of CFAI, in that communication between family members worsened across the years. Analysed by demographics, decreasing trends were also observed among female respondents, those aged 15 to 54 years, those who had never been married, those who were married/cohabiting, and those who were economically active and inactive ($ps < .001$).

Chart 8.5 Communication with Family Members and Inter-generations in regard to Talking about Personal Issues
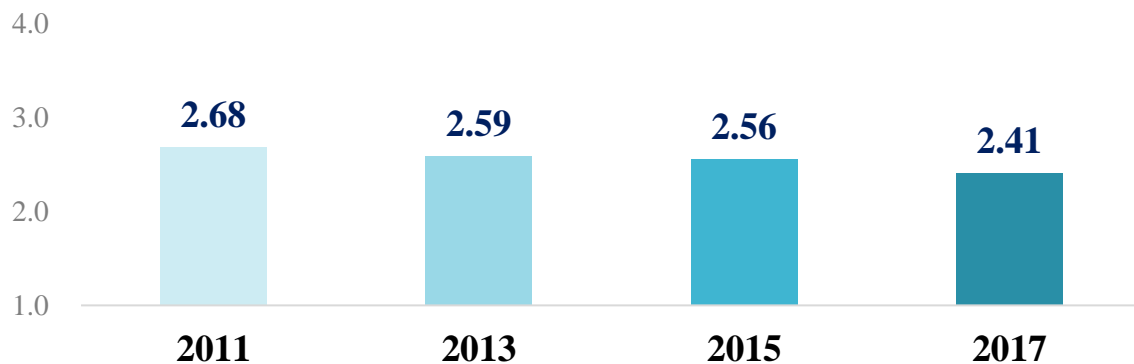
		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	2.59	2.52	2.54	2.38	< .001
	Female[2]	2.76	2.65	2.58	2.43	< .001
Age groups (years)	15-24[2]	2.95	2.71	2.51	2.40	< .001
	25-34[2]	2.85	2.69	2.62	2.44	< .001
	35-54[2]	2.67	2.61	2.54	2.42	< .001
	55 or above	2.47	2.46	2.57	2.38	< .001
Marital status	Never married[2]	2.79	2.62	2.55	2.38	< .001
	Married/cohabiting[2]	2.74	2.63	2.54	2.42	< .001
	Divorced/separated/widowed	2.14	2.34	2.65	2.42	< .001
Economic status	Economically active[2]	2.71	2.59	2.53	2.42	< .001
	Economically inactive[2]	2.66	2.59	2.59	2.39	< .001

[Note 1] GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents. [Note 2] A monotonic decreasing trend.

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Frequency of Use of Modern Technologies to Communicate with Family Members and Inter-generations

8.11   Respondents were asked for the frequency with which they used modern technologies to communicate with family members and inter-generations, rated on a four-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = almost never to 4 = frequently). Average scores among the family members and inter-generations were compiled.   A higher score indicates modern technologies were used for communication more frequently.

8.12   With the rapid development of mobile devices, an increasing number of respondents used modern technologies (e.g., SMS, WhatsApp) to communicate with family members and inter-generations, and a significant surge in 2017 was observed.   Simultaneously, with the use of modern technologies, the frequency of face-to-face communication between family members dropped. Analysed by demographics, monotonic increasing trends were observed among those who were divorced/separated/widowed, and those who were economically inactive ($ps < .001$).

Chart 8.6 Frequency of Use of Modern Technologies to Communicate with Family Members and Inter-generations
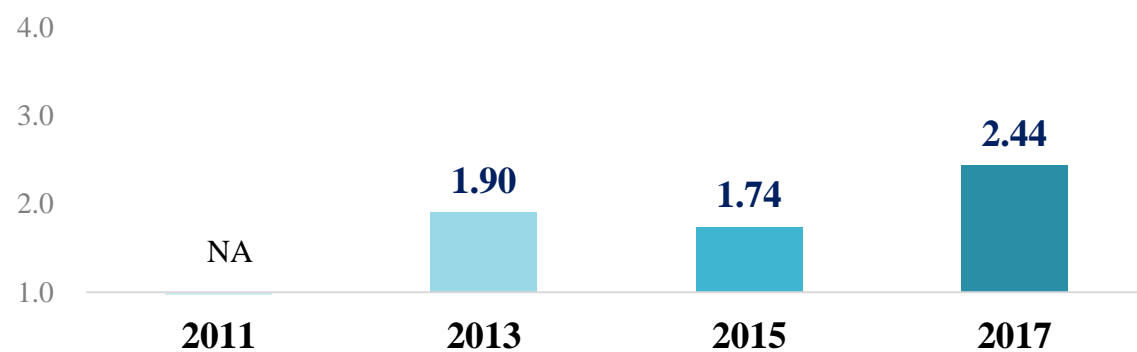
		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	-	1.87	1.71	2.39	< .001
	Female	-	1.92	1.76	2.47	< .001
Age groups (years)	15-24	-	2.24	1.84	2.76	< .001
	25-34	-	2.30	1.78	2.79	< .001
	35-54	-	2.01	1.74	2.56	< .001
	55 or above	-	1.41	1.67	2.04	< .001
Marital status	Never married	-	2.12	1.82	2.59	< .001
	Married/cohabiting	-	1.87	1.71	2.46	< .001
	Divorced/separated/widowed[2]	-	1.55	1.63	2.00	< .001
Economic status	Economically active	-	2.08	1.72	2.62	< .001
	Economically inactive[2]	-	1.74	1.76	2.23	< .001

Note 1 GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents. Note 2 A monotonic increasing trend.

9.　Balancing Work and Family

Overview

9.1　The previous rounds of the Survey showed that nearly half of those at work reported stress in balancing work and family life.　Apart from attitudes toward work-family balance, the Surveys asked about respondents' problems resulting from poor work-life balance,[33] the levels of difficulty and stress resulting from efforts to meet the competing demands of work,[34] and satisfaction with the amount of time spent with family.　In the 2017 Survey, new question items were adopted to assess the respondents' satisfaction with their work life and to solicit their views on family-friendly policy.

9.2　In summary, a total of six dimensions were adopted in previous rounds of the Survey.　According to the criteria discussed in Table 4.1, one index could be constructed.　Table 9.1 presents the dimensions and details in regard to balancing work and family life.

Table 9.1 Balancing Work and Family Life

Theme	Dimensions	Year				No. of items	α	Index construct?	Single item?
		2011	2013	2015	2017				
E1	Attitudes toward work-family balance	✓	✓	✓	-	6	> 0.7	✓	-
E2	The level of difficulty resulting from efforts to meet the competing demands of work and family life	-	✓	✓	✓	1	-	-	✓
E3	The level of stress resulting from efforts to meet the competing demands of work and family life	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	-	-	✓
E4	Satisfaction with the amount of time spent at work and with family	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	-	-	✓
E5	Family-friendly policy	-	-	-	✓	10	-	-	-
E6	Satisfaction with work life	-	-	-	✓	1	-	-	-

Attitudes toward Work-Family Balance

9.3 The index regarding attitudes toward balancing work and family life consisted of six question items ($\alpha > .07$), including 'reducing the number of hours I spend at work is simply not an option', 'I want to work more, but am afraid it would hurt my family life', 'at this stage in my career, my job has to be my first priority', and 'I enjoy going to work because it gets me away from my family'. Respondents were asked for their level of agreement with a list of statements, rated on a five-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree).   A higher score indicates more difficulty and stress in regard to balancing work and family life.

9.4 The mean scores climbed from 3.13 in 2011 to 3.29 in 2013, and rebounded back to 3.14 in 2015; hence, no particular trend was observed.   The results indicate that respondents encountered some difficulties and stress in regard to balancing work and family in general.   Analysed by demographics, though significant differences were found in some mean scores across the years, no particular trend was observed.

Chart 9.2 Attitudes toward Work-Family Balance
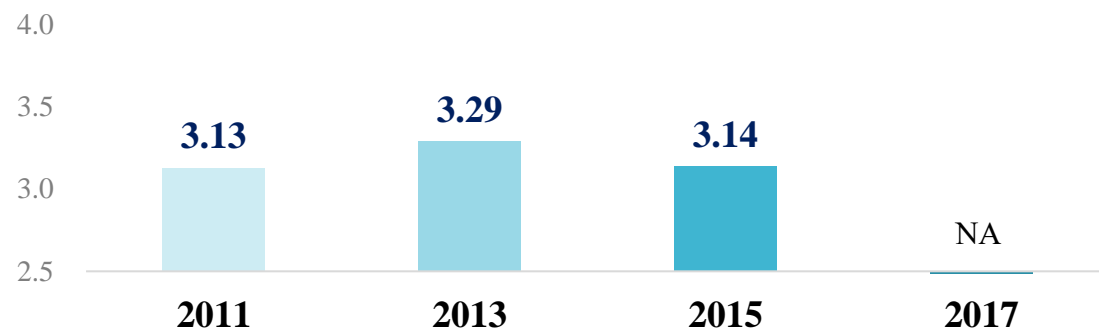
		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	3.08	3.20	3.03	-	< .001
	Female	3.19	3.40	3.27	-	< .001
Age groups (years)	15-24	2.96	3.23	3.23	-	.191
	25-34	3.02	3.27	2.95	-	< .001
	35-54	3.14	3.26	3.17	-	< .001
	55 or above	3.41	3.43	3.31	-	.012
Marital status	Never married	3.02	3.23	3.03	-	< .001
	Married/cohabiting	3.18	3.31	3.20	-	< .001
	Divorced/separated/widowed	3.24	3.38	3.21	-	.129
Economic status	Economically active	3.13	3.29	3.14	-	< .001
	Economically inactive	2.83	-	-	-	.251

Note [1] GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents.

The Level of Difficulty resulting from Efforts to meet the Competing Demands of Work and Family Life

9.5   Respondents were asked about the level of difficulty resulting from efforts to meet the competing demands of work and family life, rated on a four-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = very easy to 4 = very difficult).   A higher score indicates more difficulty experienced in regard to balancing work and family life.

9.6   The mean scores fluctuated between 2.69 and 2.76 across the years; hence, no particular trend was observed.   In general, respondents encountered some difficulties in balancing work and family life.   Analysed by demographics, though significant differences were found in some mean scores across the years, no particular trend was observed.

Chart 9.3 The Level of Difficulty resulting from Efforts to Meet the Competing Demands of Work and Family Life
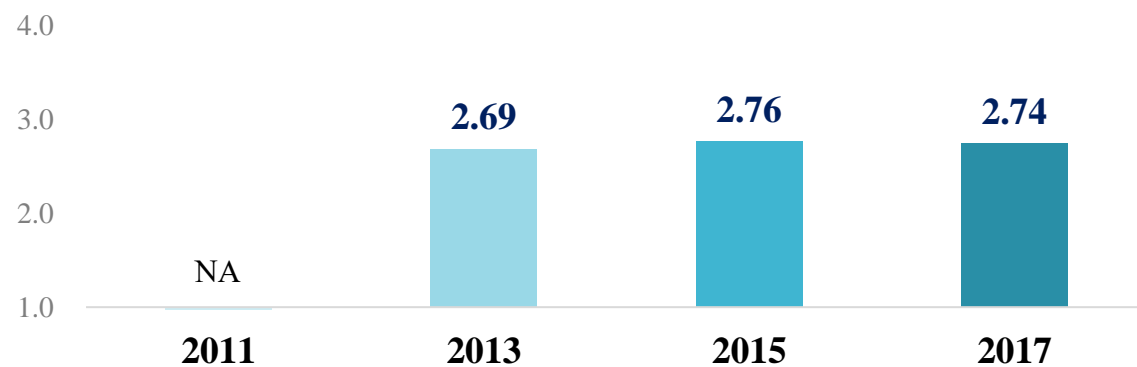
		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	-	2.66	2.71	2.75	.469
	Female	-	2.72	2.83	2.73	.003
Age groups (years)	15-24	-	2.92	3.11	2.85	.333
	25-34	-	2.72	2.59	2.83	.121
	35-54	-	2.63	2.76	2.65	.002
	55 or above	-	2.74	2.93	2.83	.186
Marital status	Never married	-	2.78	2.72	2.87	.291
	Married/cohabiting	-	2.61	2.77	2.68	.015
	Divorced/separated/widowed	-	2.81	2.86	2.51	< .001
Economic status	Economically active	-	2.69	2.76	2.74	.013
	Economically inactive	-	-	-	2.52	-

[Note 1] GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents. [Note 2] A monotonic increasing trend.

The Level of Stress resulting from Efforts to meet the Competing Demands of Work and Family Life

9.7   Respondents were asked about their level of stress resulting from efforts to meet the competing demands of work and family life, rated on a four-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = no stress at all to 4 = a great deal of stress).   A higher score indicates higher levels of stress in regard to balancing work and family life.

9.8   The mean scores fluctuated between 2.62 and 2.70 across the years; hence, no particular trend was observed.   In general, respondents suffered from stress in regard to balancing work and family life.   Analysed by demographics, though significant differences were found in some mean scores across the years, no particular trend was observed.

Chart 9.4 The Level of Stress resulting from Efforts to Meet the Competing Demands of Work and Family Life

		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	2.66	2.58	2.62	2.70	.295
	Female	2.71	2.66	2.78	2.70	.022
Age groups (years)	15-24	2.70	2.87	2.86	2.83	.600
	25-34	2.65	2.60	2.55	2.84	< .001
	35-54	2.61	2.57	2.67	2.58	.025
	55 or above	3.03	2.72	2.90	2.78	.020
Marital status	Never married	2.80	2.74	2.68	2.84	.122
	Married/cohabiting	2.59	2.51	2.68	2.62	.055
	Divorced/separated/widowed	2.84	2.83	2.82	2.55	.005
Economic status	Economically active	2.68	2.62	2.69	2.70	.044
	Economically inactive	-	-	-	2.52	-

Note [1] GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents.

Satisfaction with the Amount of Time Spent at Work and with Family

9.9 Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with the amount of time spent at work and with family on a five-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = very dissatisfied to 5 = very satisfied). A higher score indicates more satisfaction with time spent at work and with family.

9.10 Though respondents encountered some difficulties and stress in regard to balancing work and family life in general, they were satisfied with the amount of time spent at work and with family. The mean scores fluctuated between 3.44 and 3.52 across the years; hence, no particular trend was observed. Analysed by demographics, a monotonic increasing trend was observed among those who had never been married ($p < .01$).

Chart 9.5 Satisfaction with the Amount of Time Spent at Work and with Family

		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	3.53	3.40	3.45	3.50	.020
	Female	3.51	3.50	3.50	3.55	.302
Age groups (years)	15-24	3.41	3.60	3.66	3.56	.552
	25-34	3.49	3.46	3.42	3.56	.367
	35-54	3.54	3.39	3.46	3.48	.002
	55 or above	3.59	3.57	3.54	3.58	.968
Marital status	Never married[2]	3.47	3.49	3.51	3.63	.002
	Married/cohabiting	3.55	3.43	3.43	3.46	.026
	Divorced/separated/widowed	3.61	3.38	3.53	3.41	.197
Economic status	Economically active	3.52	3.44	3.47	3.53	.008
	Economically inactive	3.29	-	-	3.27	.815

Note [1] GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents. Note [2] A monotonic increasing trend.

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10. Social Support Networks

Overview

10.1   A social support network refers to a social structure that is made up of individuals such as family members, friends and peers, or organisations. The Surveys asked for the availability of assistance when respondents encountered difficulties. Further, the Surveys explored the perceived effectiveness of family counselling and family education services.[35]

10.2   In summary, a total of two dimensions were adopted in previous rounds of the Survey. According to the criteria discussed in Table 4.1, two indexes could be constructed. Table 10.1 presents the dimensions and the details of the respondents' social support networks

Table 10.1 Social Support Network

Theme	Dimensions	Year				No. of items	α	Index construct?	Single item?
		2011	2013	2015	2017				
F1	Availability of assistance	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	> 0.7	✓	-
F2	Perceived effectiveness of family counselling and family education services	-	✓	✓	✓	4	> 0.7	✓	-

Availability of Assistance

10.3 An index was compiled to assess respondents' social support networks in terms of the availability of assistance from family members in six scenarios: 'when you are sick', 'when you need to make an important decision', 'when you are depressed and upset', 'when you are unemployed and cannot get a job', 'when you have financial problems', and 'when you want to share your happiness with your family members'.   Respondents were asked for the level of helpfulness and support they would receive in these scenarios, rated on a six-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = not helpful/not supportive to 6 = helpful/supportive). A higher score indicates more helpful and supportive assistance from family members.

10.4 Though respondents reported helpful and supportive assistance being available from family members, a gradual decreasing trend was observed across the years and the mean scores dropped to its lowest point in 2017.   Analysed by demographics, monotonic decreasing trends were observed among female respondents, those aged 15 to 24 years, those who had never been married and those who were married/cohabiting ($ps < .01$).

Chart 10.2   Availability of Assistance
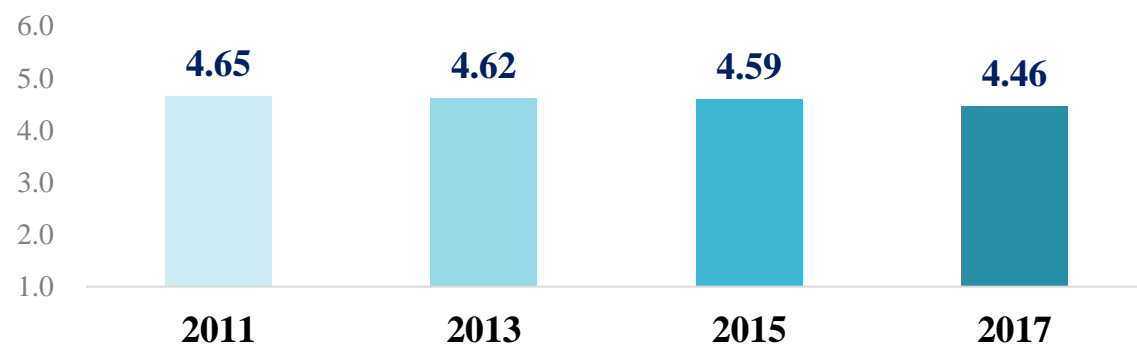
		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	4.54	4.57	4.55	4.36	< .001
	Female[2]	4.74	4.66	4.63	4.54	.021
Age groups (years)	15-24[2]	4.86	4.77	4.77	4.62	.004
	25-34	4.71	4.75	4.59	4.54	.253
	35-54	4.62	4.57	4.58	4.41	< .001
	55 or above	4.55	4.54	4.54	4.42	.325
Marital status	Never married[2]	4.55	4.50	4.50	4.28	< .001
	Married/cohabiting[2]	4.82	4.75	4.72	4.66	.005
	Divorced/separated/widowed	4.16	4.32	4.35	4.11	.053
Economic status	Economically active	4.63	4.64	4.52	4.41	< .001
	Economically inactive	4.66	4.60	4.66	4.51	.073

[Note 1] GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents. [Note 2] A monotonic decreasing trend.

Perceived Effectiveness of Family Counselling and Family Education Services

10.5   Respondents were asked about how they perceived the effectiveness of family counselling and family education services (i.e., to relieve emotional distress related to family members, to handle family problems, to enhance knowledge of societal/community resources, and to enhance understanding among family members), rated on a five-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = ineffective to 5 = effective).   A higher score indicates that respondents perceived family counselling and education services as being more effective.

10.6   A decreasing trend was observed across the years in regard to the perceived effectiveness of family counselling and family education services; it reached its lowest point in 2017.   Analysed by demographics, monotonic decreasing trends were observed among female respondents, all age groups, those who had never been married, and those who were divorced/separated/widowed ($ps < .01$).

Chart 10.3   Perceived Effectiveness of Family Counselling and Family Education Services
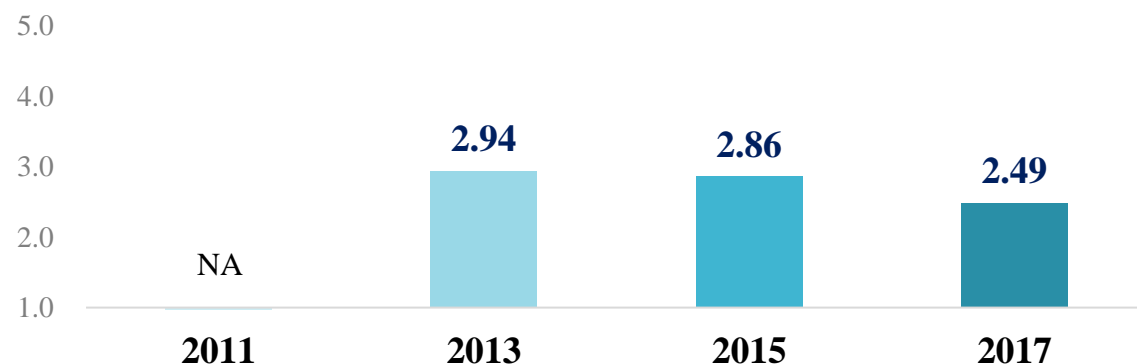
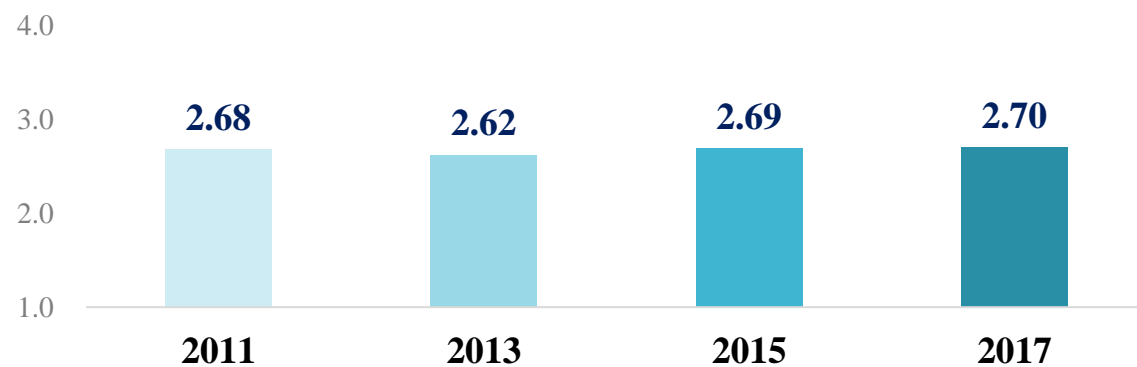|		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	-	2.82	2.91	2.49	< .001
	Female[2]	-	3.03	2.82	2.48	< .001
Age groups (years)	15-24[2]	-	3.33	3.04	2.53	< .001
	25-34[2]	-	2.90	2.83	2.46	< .001
	35-54[2]	-	2.89	2.82	2.47	< .001
	55 or above[2]	-	2.96	2.86	2.50	< .001
Marital status	Never married[2]	-	3.19	2.90	2.46	< .001
	Married/cohabiting	-	2.82	2.83	2.53	< .001
	Divorced/separated/widowed[2]	-	3.17	2.86	2.38	< .001
Economic status	Economically active[2]	-	2.89	2.88	2.50	< .001
	Economically inactive[2]	-	2.99	2.84	2.47	< .001

Note [1] GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents. Note [2] A monotonic decreasing trend.

11. Awareness of and Participation in Family-Related Programmes

Overview

11.1   Two single items were rated regarding the respondents' awareness of and participation in family-related programmes. The Government and quite a number of NGOs organise family-related activities/programmes from time to time and the Surveys collected information on the respondents' levels of awareness and the perceived effectiveness of family-related programmes.

11.2   Table 11.1 presents the dimensions and details regarding respondents' awareness of and participation in family-related programmes.

Table 11.1   Awareness of and Participation in Family-Related Programmes

Theme	Dimensions	Year				No. of items	α	Index construct?	Single item?
		2011	2013	2015	2017				
G1	Awareness of family-related programmes	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	-	-	✓
G2	Participation in family-related programmes	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	-	-	✓

Awareness of Family-Related Programmes

11.3   A question was asked about whether or not respondents were aware of the family-related promotional activities or programmes organised by the Government and/or non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

11.4   Though the proportions of respondents who were aware of family-related programmes grew steadily from 2011 to 2015, there was a significant drop in 2017. Analysed by demographics, monotonic decreasing trends were observed among those who were married/cohabiting ($p < .001$).

11.5   Readers should note that the factors or reasons underlying the significant drop in respondents' awareness of family-related programmes could not be explained based on the data obtained in previous rounds of the Family Survey.

Chart 11.2   Awareness of Family-Related Programmes

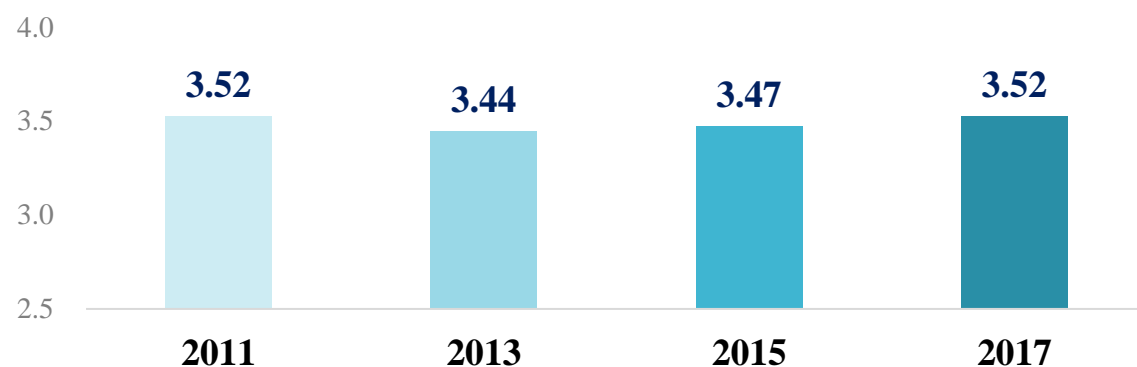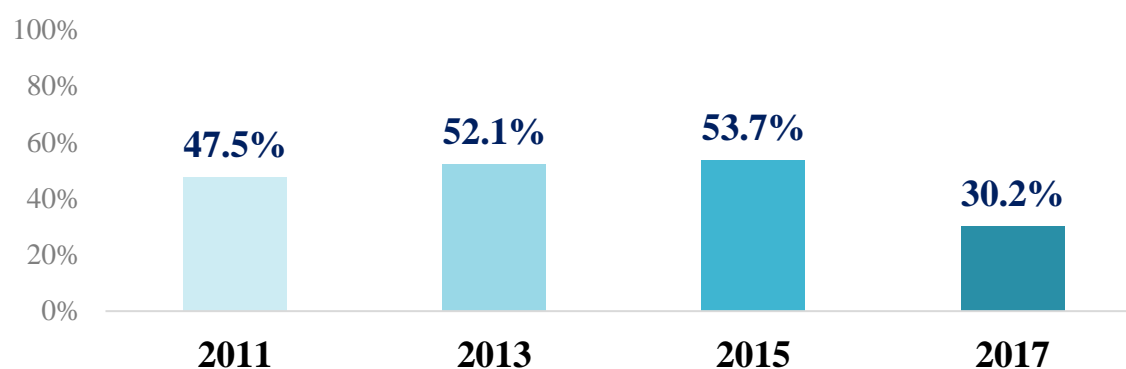|		**2011**	**2013**	**2015**	**2017**	**p-value[1]**
Gender	Male	.48	.52	.54	.32	< .001
	Female	.47	.52	.54	.29	< .001
Age groups (years)	15-24	.32	.44	.48	.29	< .001
	25-34	.47	.52	.52	.28	< .001
	35-54	.54	.58	.58	.28	< .001
	55 or above	.46	.49	.52	.34	< .001
Marital status	Never married	.41	.49	.52	.29	< .001
	Married/cohabiting[2]	.53	.53	.56	.31	< .001
	Divorced/separated/widowed	.43	.52	.49	.30	< .001
Economic status	Economically active	.52	.55	.56	.30	< .001
	Economically inactive	.44	.50	.51	.31	< .001

Note 1 GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents. Note 2 A monotonic decreasing trend.

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Participation in Family-Related Programmes

11.6   A question was asked in regard to whether or not respondents had participated in any family-related promotional activities or programmes organised by the Government and/or non-governmental organisations (NGOs).   The proportions of respondents who had participated in family-related programmes remained at around 10% and a decreasing trend since 2013 was observed.

11.7   Analysed by demographics, though significant differences were found across the years, no particular trend was observed.

Chart 11.3   Participation in Family-Related Programmes
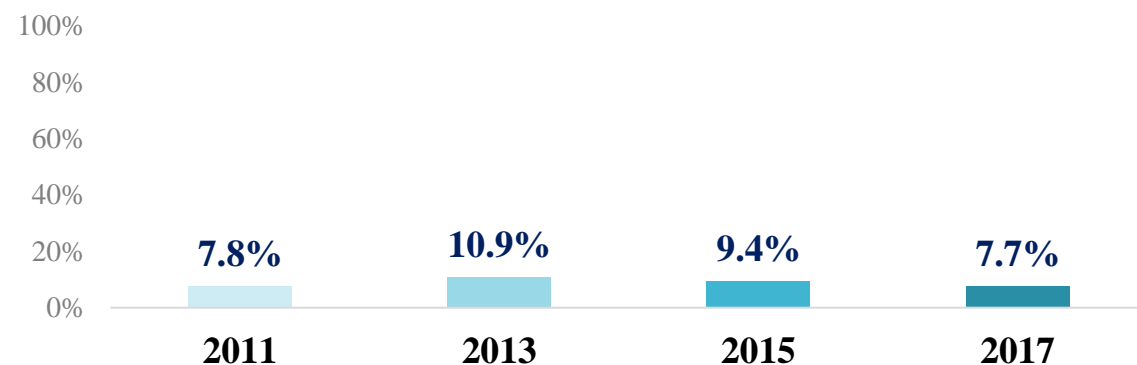
		2011	2013	2015	2017	p-value[1]
Gender	Male	.07	.10	.09	.07	.788
	Female	.09	.12	.10	.08	.041
Age groups (years)	15-24	.03	.05	.10	.08	.021
	25-34	.05	.09	.06	.06	.934
	35-54	.11	.15	.10	.07	.011
	55 or above	.08	.10	.10	.08	.397
Marital status	Never married	.04	.05	.07	.06	.092
	Married/cohabiting	.10	.13	.11	.08	.053
	Divorced/separated/widowed	.09	.14	.10	.07	.148
Economic status	Economically active	.07	.10	.09	.07	.181
	Economically inactive	.09	.11	.10	.08	.458

Note 1 GLM determines the differences in the mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents.

12. In-depth Analyses

Overview

12.1   Seven research areas were identified and regression analyses were performed to examine the associations between the dependent variables and explanatory variables.   Before regression analyses were performed, multi-collinearity analysis was performed among all independent variables to examine whether or not they were highly correlated in a multiple regression model.   All the variance inflation factor (VIF) values of the explanatory variables were lower than the common cut-off threshold of 5.0.[36]   Apart from the significance of the regression models, an adjusted R-square (R^2) is presented to provide information about the goodness of fit of the model.   Table 12.1 below summarises the details of the seven research areas.

Table 12.1   Seven Research Areas for In-depth Analyses

Research areas	Dependent variables	Explanatory variables
Factors affecting family functioning	Family functioning	- Availability of assistance - Satisfaction with the relationships between family members and inter-generations - Communication with family members and inter-generations about personal issues - Personal characteristics
Factors affecting family satisfaction	Family satisfaction	- Availability of assistance - Satisfaction with the relationships between family members and inter-generations - Communication with family members and inter-generations about personal issues - Personal characteristics
Associations between relationship with spouse and parental stress	Parental stress	- Parenting method - Availability of assistance - Attitudes toward parenthood - Levels of stress resulting from efforts to meet the competing demands of work and family - Satisfaction with the amount of time spent at work and with family - Personal characteristics
Contributing factors affecting relationships with family members and inter-generations	Relationships with family members and inter-generations	- Family functioning (CFAI) - Availability of assistance - Communication with family members and inter-generations about personal issues - Personal characteristics

Research areas	Dependent variables	Explanatory variables
Factors contributing work-life balance stress	Work-life balance stress	- Satisfaction with time spent at work and with family - Availability of assistance - Perceived overall family functioning - Satisfaction with family life - Personal characteristics
Family planning among young people	Intention to have children	- Attitudes toward marriage and having children - Attitudes toward the involvement of grandparents in family issues - Attitudes toward singlehood, cohabitation, and divorce - Perceived overall family functioning - Satisfaction with family life - Satisfaction with the relationships between family members and inter-generations - Communication with family members and inter-generations - Availability of assistance - Personal characteristics
Factors affecting attitudes toward divorce	Attitudes toward divorce	- Attitudes toward singlehood and cohabitation - Perceived overall family functioning - Satisfaction with family life - Satisfaction with the relationships between family members and inter-generations - Availability of assistance - Personal characteristics

Perceived Overall Family Functioning

12.2   Table 12.2 presents the multiple regression results regarding explanatory variables and personal characteristics predicting perceived overall family functioning.   A higher score regarding the dependent variable indicates better perceived family functioning.   A significant regression equation was found (F = 212.9, p < .001), with an adjusted R^2 of 18.7%.   Better perceived family functioning was associated with supportive assistance from respondents' social support networks and higher levels of satisfaction with the relationships between family members and inter-generations.

Table 12.2   Multiple Regression Analysis Predicting Perceived Overall Family Functioning

Variables	B	SE (B)
Personal characteristics		
Age	0.001	0.001
Gender	0.029	0.016
Educational attainment	0.023***	0.005
Marital status		
Never married	-0.066**	0.023
Divorced/separated/widowed	-0.148***	0.023
Married/cohabiting (reference)	-	-
Economic activity status	-0.049**	0.017
Explanatory variables		
Availability of assistance	0.212***	0.008
Satisfaction with the relationships between family members and inter-generations	0.285***	0.014
Communication with family members and inter-generations about personal issues	0.018	0.011
Adjusted R^2	18.7%	
F-test	212.9 ***	

N = 8,274 respondents.
B values are unstandardised regression coefficients and SE (B) values are standard errors for those coefficients.
Personal characteristics: gender (1 = male and 2 = female), educational attainment (from 1 = no schooling to 9 = post-graduate education), marital status (never married, married/cohabiting, and divorced/separated/widowed), and economic activity status (1 = economically active and 2 = economically inactive).
Explanatory variables: availability of assistance (1 = not helpful/not supportive to 6 = helpful/supportive), satisfaction with the relationships between family members and inter-generations (1 = very dissatisfied to 5 = very satisfied), and communication with family members and inter-generations about personal issues (1 = almost never to 4 = frequently).
Significance levels: * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001.

Satisfaction with Family Life

12.3   Table 12.3 presents multiple regression results for the explanatory variables and personal characteristics predicting satisfaction with family life.   A higher score in regard to the dependent variable indicates that respondents are more satisfied with their family life.   A significant regression equation was found (F = 237.714, $p < .001$), with an adjusted R^2 of 20.6%.   Higher levels of satisfaction with family life were associated with supportive assistance from respondents' social support networks and higher levels of satisfaction with the relationships between family members and inter-generations.

Table 12.3   Multiple Regression Analysis Predicting Satisfaction with Family Life

Variables	B	SE (B)
Personal characteristics		
Age	0.001	0.001
Gender	0.019	0.015
Educational attainment	0.027***	0.005
Marital status		
Never married	-0.068**	0.02
Divorced/separated/widowed	-0.120***	0.02
Married/cohabiting (reference)	-	-
Economic activity status	-0.027	0.015
Explanatory variables		
Availability of assistance	0.185***	0.007
Satisfaction with the relationships between family members and inter-generations	0.309***	0.013
Communication with family members and inter-generations about personal issues	0.010	0.01
Adjusted R^2	20.6%	
F-test	237.714***	

N = 8,236 respondents.

B values are unstandardised regression coefficients and SE (B) values are standard errors for those coefficients.

Personal characteristics: gender (1 = male and 2 = female), educational attainment (from 1 = no schooling to 9 = post-graduate education), marital status (never married, married/cohabiting, and divorced/separated/widowed), and economic activity status (1 = economically active and 2 = economically inactive).

Explanatory variables: availability of assistance (1 = not helpful/not supportive to 6 = helpful/supportive), satisfaction with the relationships between family members and inter-generations (1 = very dissatisfied to 5 = very satisfied), and communication with family members and inter-generations about personal issues (1 = almost never to 4 = frequently).

Significance levels: * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001.

Parental Stress

12.4   Table 12.4 presents the multiple regression results for the explanatory variables and personal characteristics predicting parental stress. A higher score in regard to the dependent variable indicates higher levels of stress. A significant regression equation was found (F = 44.713, $p < .001$), with an adjusted R^2 of 27.5%. Of those respondents who were working and had children, predicted factors of parental stress included higher levels of stress related to raising their children and feeling inadequate as parents, and worse parent-child relationships after the children grow up. Supportive assistance from respondents' social support networks and better relationships with their spouses after having children lowered the levels of parental stress.

Table 12.4 Multiple Regression Analysis Predicting Parental Stress

Variables	B	SE (B)
Personal characteristics		
Age	-0.002	0.001
Gender	0.086***	0.025
Educational attainment	-0.005	0.009
Marital status		
Never married	0.093	0.141
Divorced/separated/widowed	0.054	0.036
Married/cohabiting (reference)	-	-
Explanatory variables		
Availability of assistance	-0.046***	0.013
Stress of raising children is overwhelming	0.157***	0.013
Feeling inadequate as a parent	0.061***	0.014
Better relationship with spouse after having children	-0.118***	0.015
Worse parent-child relationship after children grow up	0.061***	0.013
The level of stress resulting from efforts to meet the competing demands of work and family life	0.070***	0.018
Satisfaction with the amount of time spent at work and with family	-0.029	0.019
Adjusted R^2	27.5%	
F-test	44.713***	

N = 1,381 respondents who were economically active and had children.
B values are unstandardised regression coefficients and SE (B) values are standard errors for those coefficients.
Personal characteristics: gender (1 = male and 2 = female), educational attainment (from 1 = no schooling to 9 = post-graduate education), and marital status (never married, married/cohabiting, and divorced/separated/widowed). Explanatory variables: availability of assistance (1 = not helpful/not supportive to 6 = helpful/supportive), stress of raising children is overwhelming/feeling inadequate as a parent/better relationship with spouse after having children/worse parent-child relationship after children grow up (1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree), level of stress resulting from efforts to meet the competing demands of work and family life (1 = no stress to 4 = very high stress), and satisfaction with the amount of time spent at work and with family (1 = very dissatisfied to 5 = very satisfied).
Significance levels: * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001.

Relationship with Family Members and Inter-generations

12.5　　Table 12.5 presents the multiple regression results for the explanatory variables and personal characteristics predicting relationships with family members and inter-generations.　A higher score in regard to the dependent variable indicates more satisfaction with the relationships.　A significant regression equation was found (F = 151.724, $p < .001$), with an adjusted R^2 of 20.1%. Better relationships with family members were associated with mutuality (mutual support, love, and concern among family members), communication, conflict and harmony (less conflicting and more harmonious behaviour in the family), supportive assistance from respondents' social support networks, and better communication with family members and inter-generations about personal issues.

Table 12.5　　Multiple Regression Analysis Predicting Relationships with Family Members and Inter-generations

Variables	B	SE (B)
Personal characteristics		
Age	-0.001	0.000
Gender	0.016	0.013
Educational attainment	0.005	0.004
Marital status		
Never married	0.02	0.018
Divorced/separated/widowed	-0.03	0.018
Married/cohabiting (reference)	-	-
Economic activity status	0.001	0.013
Explanatory variables		
CFAI mutuality	0.143***	0.017
CFAI communication	0.065***	0.013
CFAI conflict and harmony	0.122***	0.014
CFAI parental concern	-0.04	0.012
CFAI parental control	-0.002	0.01
Availability of assistance	0.046***	0.007
Communication with family members and inter-generations about personal issues	0.182***	0.008
Adjusted R^2	20.10%	
F-test	151.724***	

N = 7,775 respondents.
B values are unstandardised regression coefficients and SE (B) values are standard errors for those coefficients.
Personal characteristics: gender (1 = male and 2 = female), educational attainment (from 1 = no schooling to 9 = post-graduate education), marital status (never married, married/cohabiting, and divorced/separated/widowed), and economic activity status (1 = economically active and 2 = economically inactive).

Explanatory variables: five subscales (mutuality, communication, conflict and harmony, parental concern, and parental control) of CFAI (1 = does not fit our family to 5 = very much fits our family), availability of assistance (1 = not helpful/not supportive to 6 = helpful/supportive), and communication with family members and inter-generations about personal issues (1 = almost never to 4 = frequently).
Significance levels: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$.

Level of Stress from Work-Life Balance

12.6   Table 12.6 presents the multiple regression results for the explanatory variables and personal characteristics predicting respondents' levels of stress resulting from their work-life balance.   A higher score in regard to the dependent variable indicates higher levels of stress in regard to balancing work and family life.   A significant regression equation was found (F = 87.657, $p < .001$), with an adjusted R^2 of 19.4%.   Of those who were working, the key factor predicting higher levels of stress resulting from their work-life balance was an imbalance in the amount of time spent at work and with family, and lower levels of satisfaction with family life.

Table 12.6   Multiple Regression Analysis Predicting Stress from Work-Life Balance

Variables	B	SE (B)
Personal characteristics		
Age	-0.007***	0.001
Gender	-0.034	0.024
Educational attainment	0.006	0.008
Marital status		
Never married	-0.282***	0.031
Divorced/separated/widowed	-0.111	0.042
Married/cohabiting (reference)	-	-
Explanatory variables		
Satisfaction with the amount of time spent at work and with family	-0.426***	0.018
Availability of assistance	-0.008	0.013
Perceived overall family functioning	-0.007	0.02
Satisfaction with family life	-0.081***	0.022
Adjusted R^2	19.40%	
F-test	87.657***	

N = 3,233 respondents who were economically active.
B values are unstandardised regression coefficients and SE (B) values are standard errors for those coefficients.
Personal characteristics: gender (1 = male and 2 = female), educational attainment (from 1 = no schooling to 9 = post-graduate education), and marital status (never married, married/cohabiting, and divorced/separated/widowed).
Explanatory variables: satisfaction with the amount of time spent at work and with family (1 = very dissatisfied to 5 = very satisfied), availability of assistance (1 = not helpful/not supportive to 6 = helpful/supportive), and perceived overall family functioning (1 = family does not function very well together at all and we really need help to 5 = family functions very well together).
Significance levels: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$.

Intention to Have Children

12.7   Table 12.7 presents the multiple logistic regression results for the explanatory variables and personal characteristics predicting the intention to have children. A significant logistic regression equation was found (F = 14.6, $p < .001$), with an adjusted R^2 of 55.5%. Non-parent respondents who perceived better overall family functioning and had positive attitudes toward marriage and having children, but with more disagreement about singlehood and divorce, were more likely to have children in the future.

Table 12.7   Multiple Regression Analysis Predicting Respondents' Intention to Have Children

Variables	Odds ratio	(95% C.I.)
Personal characteristics		
Age	0.9***	(0.89, 0.91)
Gender	1.192	(0.942, 1.508)
Educational attainment	1.068	(0.998, 1.143)
Marital status (married/cohabiting)	0.753	(0.353, 1.606)
Marital status (divorced/separated/widowed)	0.803	(0.374, 1.726)
Economic activity status	1.244	(0.97, 1.596)
Explanatory variables		
Attitudes toward marriage and having children	1.974***	(1.64, 2.376)
Attitudes toward the involvement of grandparents in family issues	1.146	(0.954, 1.376)
Attitudes toward singlehood	0.68***	(0.567, 0.815)
Attitudes toward cohabitation	1.131	(0.96, 1.332)
Attitudes toward divorce	0.902	(0.716, 1.136)
Perceived overall family functioning	1.257*	(1.038, 1.522)
Satisfaction with family life	0.97	(0.789, 1.194)
Satisfaction with the relationships between family members and inter-generations	1.064	(0.851, 1.33)
Communication with family members and inter-generations	1.163	(0.985, 1.373)
Availability of assistance	1.07	(0.94, 1.217)
Pseudo R^2	55.5%	
F-test	14.6***	

N = 2,288 non-parent respondents.
Dependent variable: 0 = no intention to have children; 1 = intention to have children.
Personal characteristics: age, gender (1 = male and 2 = female), educational attainment (from 1 = no schooling to 9 = post-graduate education), marital status (1 = never married, 2 = married/cohabiting, and 3 = divorced/separated/widowed), and economic activity status (1 = economically active and 2 = economically inactive).

Explanatory variables: attitudes toward marriage and having children; involvement of grandparents in family issues; singlehood, cohabitation, and divorce (1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree); perceived overall family functioning (1 = family does not function very well together at all and we really need help to 5 = family functions very well together); satisfaction with family life, relationships with family members and inter-generations, and amount of time spent at work and with family (1 = very dissatisfied to 5 = very satisfied); communication with family members and inter-generations about personal issues (1 = almost never to 4 = frequently); and availability of assistance (1 = not helpful/not supportive to 6 = helpful/supportive).
Significance levels: * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001.

Attitudes toward Divorce

12.8   Table 12.8 presents the multiple regression results for the explanatory variables and personal characteristics predicting levels of agreement about divorce.   A higher score in regard to the dependent variable indicates more positive views toward divorce.   A significant regression equation was found (F = 98.146, *p* < .001), with an adjusted R^2 of 12.6%.   Predicted factors of positive attitudes toward divorce included more agreement with singlehood and cohabitation, but low levels of overall family functioning.

Table 12.8   Multiple Regression Analysis Predicting Level of Agreement with Divorce

Variables	B	SE (B)
Personal characteristics		
Age	0.001**	0
Gender	0.067***	0.012
Educational attainment	0.007	0.004
Marital status		
Never married	-0.059***	0.017
Divorced/separated/widowed	0.043**	0.017
Married/cohabiting (reference)	-	-
Economic activity status	-0.035**	0.012
Explanatory variables		
Attitudes toward singlehood	0.088***	0.008
Attitudes toward cohabitation	0.160***	0.007
Perceived overall family functioning	-0.020*	0.009
Satisfaction with family life	-0.002	0.01
Satisfaction with the relationships between family members and inter-generations	-0.013	0.011
Availability of assistance	-0.003	0.006
Adjusted R^2	12.60%	
F-test	98.146***	

N = 8,119 respondents.
B values are unstandardised regression coefficients and SE (B) values are standard errors for those coefficients.
Personal characteristics: gender (1 = male and 2 = female), educational attainment (from 1 = no schooling to 9 = post-graduate education), marital status (never married, married/cohabiting, and divorced/separated/widowed), and economic activity status (1 = economically active and 2 = economically inactive).
Explanatory variables: attitudes toward singlehood and cohabitation (1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree); perceived overall family functioning (1 = family does not function very well together at all and we really need help to 5 = family functions very well together); satisfaction with family life and relationships with family members and inter-generations (1 = very dissatisfied to 5 = very satisfied); and availability of assistance (1 = not helpful/not supportive to 6 = helpful/supportive).
Significance levels: * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001.

Section III
Methodological Review

13. Reviews of Related Studies

Overview

13.1   This section presents a methodological review of related family surveys in Hong Kong and from overseas surveys that are useful for consideration in regard to how future Surveys should be conducted.   The methodological review concentrates on research methods rather than research outcomes.[37] Upon reviewing related family surveys across regions, a total of two local surveys, one survey in mainland China, and 13 surveys from 10 other locations (Canada, Germany, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and the United States) have been included for a more in-depth review.

13.2   To identify the existing practices for conducting family-related surveys, a selection of local and overseas experience that could offer informative lessons for Hong Kong has been assessed based on five evaluative criteria:

(1)   Related objectives and scopes of the Survey;

(2)   Related question items of the Survey;

(3)   Comprehensiveness of research framework, methodology, and data structure;

(4)   Large scale with a considerably large sample size; and

(5)   Longer series.

13.3   In Hong Kong, two surveys – 'Family Cohort: A Population-Based Household Survey' and 'Study on Family Wellbeing Index in Hong Kong' – are reviewed, as the former is a large cohort study, whereas the objectives of the latter are related to the Survey in Hong Kong.   Both have been conducted recently. Figure 13.1 below presents the family-related surveys in different locations. It is noted that the family-related surveys highlighted are not meant to be exhaustive, but are set out to provide an illustration of the types of family-related surveys that are known to exist in each region.

Figure 13.1   Reviewed Family Surveys

Canada
General Social Survey (GSS)
1985 - 2019

United Kingdom
British Household Panel Survey (BHPS)
1991-2008
United Kingdom Household
Longitudinal Study (UKHLS)
2009 - 2019

China
China Family Panel Studies (CFPS)
2010 - 2016

Germany
The German Family Panel
(GFP) 2008 – 2016

Korea
Korean Longitudinal Survey of
Women and Families (KLoWF)
2007 - 2018

United States
American Family Survey (AFS)
2015 – 2020

Hong Kong
Family Survey 2011 – 2017
FAMILY Cohort: A Population-based Household
Survey (FAMILY Project)   2009 – 2014
Study on Family Wellbeing Index
in Hong Kong (HKFWI)   2019

Japan
National Family Research of Japan
(NFRJ) 2009 - 2013
National Survey on Family in Japan
(NSFJ) 1993 - 2018

Taiwan
Panel Study of Family Dynamics
(PSFD) 1999 - 2018

Malaysia
Family Well-Being Index of Malaysia
(FWBI) 2016

Singapore
Study on the Singapore Family (SSF) 1999
Marriage and Parenthood Survey (M&P)2004 - 2016

New Zealand
General Social Survey
(NZGSS) 2008 - 2018

13.4   For a survey to yield desired results, it is necessary to pay attention to the survey planning and methodology.   Hence, for the present methodological review of each survey, the following areas are examined and presented in this chapter:

(1)   Objectives: Having clearly stated objectives is the first step in forming the basis of what question items are to be asked in the family-related surveys;

(2)   Data collection method: Common methods are telephone and personal interviews;

(3)   Survey design: Cross-sectional or longitudinal surveys;

(4)   Target respondents: The scope and coverage of the respondents, which can be household- or individual-based;

(5)   Sampling method: A random sampling or non-random sampling method;

(6)   Frequency: Conducted across a regular time period (e.g., on an annual or a biennial basis) or across an irregular time period;

(7)   Year: The years covered by the surveys conducted;

(8)   Effective sample size: The number of successful interviews; and

(9)   Response rate: The response rates of each round of surveys.

Hong Kong – Family Survey (HKFS)

13.5   The Hong Kong Family Survey (the Survey) aimed to collect updated and evidence-based data, and keep track of the changes in and the development of Hong Kong families.   Four cross-sectional surveys, which were funded by the Council, were conducted on a biennial basis in 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017. The target respondents were those aged 15 years or above residing in Hong Kong, who were fluent in either Cantonese, Putonghua, or English.

13.6   A two-stage stratified random sampling design was adopted.   Sample lists were obtained from the Census & Statistics Department (C&SD), which included the Register of Quarters and the Register of Segments.   For the first stage, a list of quarters was randomly selected by geographical area and type of quarter.   For the second stage, a household member aged 15 years or above in each household was randomly selected for interview using the last birthday method.

13.7   A personal interview household survey was adopted.   In the first three surveys, paper-and-pencil interviews (PAPI) were adopted.   From 2017, a computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) method, an interviewing technique in which the interviewer uses an electronic device to collect views from the respondents, was adopted.   Personal interviewing with CAPI allows for interviews of a longer duration and with built-in range checking and validation functions, to increase the accuracy of the collected data.

13.8   An effective sample size of 2,000 interviews with the target respondents was obtained in 2011, 2013, and 2015.   An effective sample size of about 3,000 interviews was obtained in 2017.   The response rate of the 2017 Survey was the lowest, at 57%, among the four Surveys (response rates for the 2011, 2013, and 2015 Surveys were 66%, 67%, and 64%, respectively).   The crucial reason for the decrease in response rate in 2017 was the long questionnaire design covering a wide range of topics, which resulted in lengthy interviews and posed difficulties in the fieldwork.

Table 13.2   Methodologies in the Hong Kong Family Survey

Objectives	To keep track of the changes in and the development of Hong Kong families
Data collection method	Personal interview household survey Started to adopt the CAPI method in 2017
Survey design	Cross-sectional survey
Target respondents	Individuals aged 15 years or above
Sampling method	Two-stage stratified random sampling
Frequency	Biennial basis
Years	2011, 2013, 2015, 2017
Effective sample size	2,000 in 2011, 2013, and 2015; 3,000 in 2017
Response rate	From 66% (2011) to 57% (2017)

13.9   Based on the positioning, scope, coverage, survey design, and methodology, a review of the SWOT (strengths (S), weaknesses (W), opportunities (O), and threats (T)) of the previous rounds of the Family Survey was conducted.   The strengths of the Family Surveys included providing multiple outcomes and findings from various scopes related to family issues, and implementing a detailed sampling plan.   The data collected were found to be representative.

13.10   Regarding weaknesses, the previous rounds of the Family Survey were cross-sectional studies and it isn't possible to make causal inferences and investigate the relationships between outcomes and risk factors.   The associations identified might therefore be difficult to interpret.

13.11   The evidence-based findings could serve as a foundation for future research opportunities and facilitate discussions between policy makers, service providers, and other parties related to family issues.   Based on the groundwork established in previous rounds of the Family Survey, a better framework could be constructed to collect updated and empirically-based information on families in Hong Kong

13.12   The response rates for the 2011, 2013, and 2015 Surveys were 66%, 67%, and 64%, respectively, whereas the response to the 2017 Survey was the lowest, at 57%, among the four Surveys.   A major factor affecting the response rate was the length of the questionnaire, which resulted in long interview times and posed difficulties in the fieldwork.   It is worth retaining most of the question items to track trends across years; however, no indicators apart from the CFAI method were adopted to monitor the changes in specific areas arising from structural changes and new developments in society.

Figure 13.3   SWOT Analysis

Strengths
- Multiple outcomes and findings from various scopes related to family issues
- A solid sampling plan and the data collected were representative

Opportunities
- A foundation for future research opportunities
- Facilitate discussions between policy markers, service providers, and other parties related to family issues

Weaknesses
- Unable to make a causal inference and investigate the relationship between outcomes and risk factors
- Associations identified might be difficult to interpret

Threats
- A sharp drop in the response rate of the 2017 Survey
- Lack of indicators to monitor the changes in specific areas arising from structural changes and new development in society

Hong Kong – FAMILY Cohort: A Population-Based Household Survey (FAMILY Project)

13.13 The Family Cohort: A Population-Based Household Survey (FAMILY Project) aimed to investigate the health, happiness, and harmony (3Hs) of individuals, their households, and the neighbourhoods in which they live, in a society that is undergoing rapid social and economic change. The FAMILY Project also aimed to identify factors that are amendable through social actions and policy interventions in Hong Kong by recording the changing 3Hs levels of the same group of subjects over time.[38] This longitudinal panel survey with a multi-cohort approach was funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and conducted by the School of Public Health of the University of Hong Kong from March 2009 to April 2011 (Wave 1) and August 2011 to March 2014 (Wave 2). The target respondents were families with members who were aged 15 years or above and able to understand Cantonese.

13.14 Sampling was based on a random selection of residential addresses provided by the Census & Statistics Department (C&SD). The random core sample included residents from all 18 districts in Hong Kong, with over-sampling of three new towns, including Tung Chung, Tin Shui Wai, and Tseung Kwan O.[39]

13.15 Mixed data collection methods were adopted. In the baseline household survey (Wave 1), the CAPI method was used, so that all respondents were interviewed by trained interviewers who entered their responses using tablets during household visits. In the follow-up household survey (Wave 2), household visits were also made, complemented by computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) and computer-assisted web interviewing (CAWI) methods. CATI is an interviewing technique in which the interviewer uses an electronic device to collect the views from the respondents through telephone interviews. CAWI is an internet surveying technique in which the respondent follows the instructions and self-administers the questionnaire.

13.16 Regarding the effective sample size, 20,279 families with 46,001 individuals, or just under 1% of Hong Kong's 2,368,796 population, were interviewed in the baseline household survey. Of the interviewed families, 8,115 families (19,553 individuals) were randomly selected from the general population. Purposive sampling was applied in regard to special groups, including 10,305 families undergoing significant social adjustments, encompassing newly married couples, families with members recently diagnosed with critical illnesses, families with children in Primary One, new towns with a high proportion of new immigrants, first-degree relatives of participants in the random core sample, and single-member households.

13.17   The FAMILY Project was conducted over a six-year period, from 2007 to 2014. Data were collected at seven time points.   Five web-based and telephone follow-up questionnaires were administered three, nine, and 15 months after Wave 1, and four and eight months after Wave 2.   The average follow-up rate for Wave 2 was about 70%.

Table 13.4   Methodologies in FAMILY Cohort: A Population-Based Household Survey

Objectives	To investigate the health, happiness, and harmony (3Hs) of individuals, their households, and the neighbourhoods in which they live, in a society that is undergoing rapid social and economic change To identify factors that are amendable through social actions and policy interventions in Hong Kong by recording the changing 3Hs levels of the same group of subjects over time
Data collection method	Personal interview household survey CAPI in Wave 1 CAPI, CATI, and CAWI Wave 2
Survey design	Longitudinal panel survey with a multi-cohort approach
Target respondents	Individuals aged 15 years or above
Sampling method	Random sampling of the general population Purposive sampling of special groups
Frequency	Two waves with seven data collection time points
Year	2009-2011 (Wave 1) and 2011-2014 (Wave 2)
Effective sample size	20,279 households with 46,001 individuals in Wave 1 22,775 individuals in Wave 2
Response rate	Not available in Wave 1 The overall follow-up rate for Wave 2 was 69.6%

Hong Kong – Study on the Family Wellbeing Index in Hong Kong (HKFWI)

13.18 The Study on Family Wellbeing Index (HKFWI) in Hong Kong aimed to develop a socially relevant and culturally appropriate measurement tool with sound psychometric properties in terms of reliability and validity, and then to use that tool to assess the well-being of Hong Kong families.[40]   The HKFWI was a cross-sectional survey funded by Hong Kong Family Welfare Society (HKFWS).   The target respondents were Hong Kong residents aged 18 years or above who lived with at least one family member and were capable of speaking Cantonese or Mandarin.   Random Digit Dialling (RDD) was used.

13.19 An RDD method, which is a sampling method used to generate telephone numbers at random, was adopted.   A dual-frame process, including landline and mobile numbers, was followed.   Telephone interviews were conducted. It was considered that the results of a telephone survey would be more representative of the general population's views than those of an online survey, particularly taking into account the views of the elderly.

13.20 An effective sample size of 2,008 interviews with target respondents were conducted in 2019.   The response rate was 41.0% for the landline survey and 42.4% for the mobile phone survey.

Table 13.5   Methodologies in the Study on Family Wellbeing Index in Hong Kong

Objectives	To develop a socially relevant and culturally appropriate measurement tool with sound psychometric properties in terms of reliability and validity, and then to use that tool to assess the well-being of Hong Kong families
Data collection method	Telephone survey
Survey design	Cross-sectional survey
Target respondents	Individuals aged 18 years or above
Sampling method	Random digit dialling (RDD) with a dual frame (landline and mobile)
Frequency	Once in 2019
Year	2019
Effective sample size	2,000 individuals in 2019
Response rate	41.0% for the landline survey 42.4% for the mobile phone survey

Canada – General Social Survey (GSS)

13.21 The General Social Survey (GSS) in Canada aimed to collect data on social trends in order to keep track of the changes in living conditions and well-being of people in Canada, as well as policy issues in specific areas.[41] Cross-sectional surveys were conducted.

13.22 The GSS covers seven core themes, including families, caregiving and care-receiving; giving, volunteering, and participating; victimisation; social identity; and time use. In 2016, the theme 'life at work and home' was added to expand the research scope. Different topics are covered every year, so that each of the above themes has been explored approximately every five to seven years over time.[42]

13.23 The target respondents were those aged 15 years or above residing in the 10 provinces of Canada. Full-time residents of institutions were excluded. The theme of victimisation was used in 2009 and 2014.[43]

13.24 Before 2013, the frame of quarters was randomly sampled using the RDD method. From 2013 to 2019, the sampling frame was carried out based on a mixed sample frame of a common telephone frame and a common dwelling frame. This process stores landline and mobile telephone numbers from different resources, such as the Address Register and the Census of Population. Groups of telephone numbers associated with one address were organised to form the random samples.[44]

13.25 Before 2013, interviews were conducted using CATI. From 2013 to 2019, a combination of CTAI and CAWI was adopted to facilitate the data collection process.[45]

13.26 The targeted sample size of the GSS has changed over time. It was approximately 10,000 respondents between 1985 and 1998, and increased to 25,000 respondents between 1999 and 2014. The effective sample size dropped to 22,000 in 2015 and was further reduced to 20,000 in 2016.[46]

13.27 The response rate has varied over the years. It was at its lowest, at 38.2%, in 2015. The crucial reason for this decrease was the emergence of cell-only households and the increasing use of call display features, which enable respondents to screen calls. This thus increased the possibility of refusal.[47]

Table 13.6 Methodologies in the General Social Survey in Canada

Objectives	To collect information on social trends in living conditions, well-being, and other specific areas
Data collection method	Telephone surveys using CATI before 2013 A combination of CATI and CAWI from 2013 to 2019
Survey design	Cross-sectional survey
Target respondents	Individuals aged 15 years or above
Sampling method	Random digit dialling (RDD) before 2013 Random sampling of landline and mobile telephone numbers and addresses from 2013 to 2019
Frequency	Conducted every year for one theme Irregular time period for special topics
Year	Family – 2017 Caregiving and Care-receiving – 2018 Giving, Volunteering, and Participating – 2018 Victimisation – 2014 and 2019 Life at Work and Home – 2016 Time Use – 2015 Social Identity – 2013
Effective sample size	10,000 individuals between 1985 and 1998 25,000 individuals between 1999 and 2014 22,000 individuals in 2015 20,000 individuals since 2016
Response rate	2018/2019: not available 2017: 52.4% 2016: 50.8% 2015: 38.2% 2014: 52.9% 2013: 48.1%

China – China Family Panel Studies (CFPS)

13.28 China Family Panel Studies (CFPS) aimed to collect individual-, family-, and community-level longitudinal data in contemporary China. Five longitudinal panel surveys, which were funded by the Chinese government through Peking University, were conducted on a biennial basis in 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018. The target respondents were those aged 15 years or above in sampled households residing in 25 provinces, cities, or autonomous regions in China.[48]

13.29 A three-stage stratified random sampling design was adopted. For the first stage, the household samples were generated from five large provinces (including Shanghai, Liaoning, Henan, Gansu, and Guangdong) and 20 other small provinces, to make up the overall sampling frame representative of the national population. The sample frame of the second stage consisted of administrative villages or neighbourhood communities. One household member aged 15 years or above was randomly selected from each household from a street list for interview in the third stage.[49]

13.30 A personal interview household survey method has been adopted, using CAPI, since 2010. Interviews have been conducted using both CAPI and CATI since 2012. Starting from a 2012 follow-up survey, a proxy questionnaire was designed to collect information about family members who were not in the household during the interview process. As a baseline survey in 2010, a total of 19,986 household interviews with the target respondents were conducted. Around 13,000 household interviews for the follow-up survey were conducted. The response rate was 74% in the baseline survey and the follow-up response rates of the surveys in 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018 were around 75%.[50]

Table 13.7   Methodologies in China Family Panel Studies

Objectives	To collect individual-, family-, and community-level longitudinal data in contemporary China
Data collection method	Personal interview household survey CAPI in 2010, CAPI and CATI since 2012
Survey design	Longitudinal panel survey
Target respondents	Individuals aged 15 years or above
Sampling method	Three-stage stratified random sampling
Frequency	Biennial basis
Year	2010 (baseline), 2012 (first-wave follow-up), 2014 (second-wave follow-up), 2016 (third-wave follow-up), 2018 (fourth-wave follow-up), 2020 (conducting)
Effective sample size	19,986 households in 2010 Around 13,000 households for follow-up surveys
Response rate	74% in 2010; Follow-up rates at about 75%

Germany – The German Family Panel (GFP)

13.31 The German Family Panel (GFP) aimed to collect rich information about the formation and development of intimate relationships and families in Germany. Eleven longitudinal surveys funded by the German Research Foundation were conducted on an annual basis, from 2008 to 2019. The target respondents were those aged 15-17, 25-27, or 35-37 years, who were German-speaking and living in private households in Germany.[51]

13.32 A longitudinal panel survey with a multi-cohort approach was adopted. During the first wave of the study, the respondents of the three age cohorts (aged 15-17, 25-27, or 35-37 years) were randomly selected from the population registers. From the second wave onward, those respondents were referred to as 'anchors' and their partners, parents, and children aged between eight and 15 years and living in the same household were included. The survey was thus designed with a panel approach, with yearly repeated interviews with the anchors and their household members.[52]

13.33 A personal interview household survey was conducted using CAPI for the respondents and their children. In addition, a mail survey with a PAPI method, completed by respondents' partners and parents, was also adopted. An effective sample size of more than 12,000 interviews of the target respondents were conducted in 2008, including three birth cohorts and their household members. In Wave 11, the new birth cohort, 2001-2003, was added and over 5,000 new respondents were interviewed. However, the parents of the anchors were only interviewed up to Wave 8 and were substituted with a parenting questionnaire for the anchors who had children aged over 16 years after that point. The reason for discontinuing this element of survey was that the response rate of the parents' survey was consistently low, at only 30% to 35%.[53]

Table 13.8   Methodologies in the German Family Panel

Objectives	To collect information about the formation and development of intimate relationships and families
Data collection method	Personal interview household survey CAPI for respondents and their children, PAPI completed by respondents' partners and parents via a mail survey
Survey design	Random sampling
Target respondents	Individuals aged 15-17, 25-27, or 35-37 years
Sampling method	Longitudinal panel survey with a multi-cohort approach
Frequency	Annual basis
Year	2008 to 2019
Effective sample size	Over 12,000 individuals from three birth cohorts and household members in 2008
Response rate	Not available

Japan – National Family Research of Japan (NFRJ)

13.34 The National Family Research of Japan (NFRJ), conducted by the Japan Society of Family Sociology, aimed to accurately capture trends in families in modern Japan.[54] Although there are different national panel studies collecting family-related data in Japan, no significant results were found in those panel studies. To make up for the incompleteness of the family research results, the NFRJ recruited respondents for the panel in 2008. The baseline survey was conducted in 2009. Four longitudinal panel surveys, which were funded by the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research programme from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, were conducted in 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013. The target respondents were Japanese citizens aged 28 to 73 years residing in Japan.[55]

13.35 A two-stage stratified random sampling method was adopted. Sample lists were obtained from the Statistics Bureau of Japan, which included the Enumeration Districts (EDs) used in the Population Census. In the first stage, a list of randomly selected locations was compiled by size of the EDs. In the second stage, based on the Basic Resident Registration of the selected EDs, individuals aged 28 to 73 years were systematically selected, such that the proportion of individuals selected in each ED was similar.[56]

13.36 In 2009 and 2013, interviewers visited the sampled households to deliver hard copies of the questionnaires and collect the completed questionnaires after the respondents had filled them in, to ensure a higher response rate. Mail surveys using PAPI and completed by respondents were adopted from 2010 to 2012, for the sake of easy administration and lower costs.[57]

13.37 A total of 1,879 interviews were conducted in the baseline survey in 2009. Response rates for the 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 surveys were 86.3%, 82.7%, 80.6%, and 84.8%, respectively.[58]

Table 13.9   Methodologies in the National Family Research of Japan

Objectives	To accurately capture the trends of families in modern Japan
Data collection method	In-person delivery and collection with PAPI by respondents in 2009 and 2013 Mail survey with PAPI by respondents from 2010 to 2012
Survey design	Longitudinal panel survey
Target respondents	Individuals aged 28 to 73 years residing in Japan
Sampling method	Two-stage stratified random sampling
Frequency	Annual basis
Year	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013
Effective sample size	1,879 individuals in 2009; 1,622 individuals in 2010 1,515 individuals in 2011; 1,555 individuals in 2012 1,594 individuals in 2013
Response rate	2010: 86.3%; 2011: 82.7%; 2012: 80.6%; 2013: 84.8%

Japan – National Survey on Family in Japan (NSFJ)

13.38   The National Survey on Family in Japan (NSFJ), conducted by the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, aimed to understand the functions of the family, relationships among family members, and attitudes toward the family in Japan.   Six cross-sectional surveys, which were funded by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, were conducted every five years, in 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013, and 2018.   Trend analyses across the years were conducted.   The target respondents were women who were or who had ever been married in any households residing in Japan.[59]

13.39   A two-stage stratified random sampling method was adopted.   Sample lists were obtained from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, which included the census tracts used in the Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions of People on Health and Welfare conducted in each survey year. In the first stage, about 1,100 census tracts were systematically selected by location.   In the second stage, 300 census tracts were randomly selected. Women meeting the above criteria in households in selected census tracts were invited for interview.   If there were more than two women meeting the criteria in a household, the youngest woman was selected; if there were no subjects, the head of the household was selected.[60]

13.40   Interviewers visited the sampled households to deliver hard copies of the questionnaires and collect the completed questionnaires, to ensure a higher response rate.

13.41   An effective sample size of about 6,000 to 8,000 interviews with the target respondents was achieved in the surveys, depending on the number of married women sampled in the survey year.   Response rates for the six surveys were 80.6%, 87.7%, 76.9%, 78.1%, 78.4%, and 77%, respectively.

Table 13.10   Methodologies in the National Survey on Family in Japan

Objectives	To understand the functions of the family, relationships among family members, and attitudes toward the family
Data collection method	In-person delivery and collection with PAPI by respondents
Survey design	Population trend survey
Target respondents	Ever-married women of all households in 300 census tracts
Sampling method	Two-stage stratified random sampling
Frequency	Every five years
Year	1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013, 2018
Effective sample size	6,083 married women in 1993 8,186 in 1998; 7,771 in 2003; 6,870 in 2008; 6,409 in 2013; 6,142 in 2018;
Response rate	1993: 80.6%; 1998: 87.7%; 2003: 76.9% 2008: 78.1%; 2013: 78.4%; 2018: 77%

South Korea – Korean Longitudinal Survey of Women and Families (KLoWF)

13.42 The Korean Longitudinal Survey of Women and Families (KLoWF), conducted by the Korean Women's Development Institute, aimed to investigate changes in women's lives by lifecycle, family structure, life course and daily living, family relations and values, and jobs. Seven waves of longitudinal panel surveys were conducted. Wave 1 and 2 surveys were conducted every year; subsequent surveys were conducted every other year. The target respondents were women aged 19 to 64 years in households nationwide.[61]

13.43 A two-stage stratified sampling method was adopted. Sample lists were obtained from Statistics Korea, which included the Enumeration Districts (EDs) used in the 2005 Population and Housing Census. For the first stage, a list of EDs was compiled based on degree of urbanisation and proportion of households by housing type for the EDs, etc. For the second stage, households were selected systematically, such that about five households were selected from one sampling ED to examine female members within those households.[62]

13.44 A personal interview household survey was adopted, with CAPI. A total of 12,285 eligible female household members in 9,711 households were surveyed from Waves 1 to 6. New samples were added to secure the representation of the 2017 KLoWF and to take into account the dropout level in future surveys. Response rates of the Waves 2 to 7 surveys were 85.3%, 80.1%, 75.2%, 72.6%, 70.1%, and >70%, respectively.[63]

Table 13.11   Methodologies in the Korean Longitudinal Survey of Women and Families

Objectives	To investigate changes in women's lives by lifecycle, family structure, life course and daily living, family relations and values, and jobs
Data collection method	Personal interview household survey with CAPI
Survey design	Longitudinal panel survey
Target respondents	Women aged 19 to 64 year
Sampling method	Two-stage stratified random sampling
Frequency	Every year in Waves 1 and 2 Every other year in Waves 3 to 7
Year	2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018
Effective sample size	12,285 female eligible household members in 9,711 households from Waves 1 to 6
Response rate	Wave 2: 85.3%; Wave 3: 80.1%; Wave 4: 75.2% Wave 5: 72.6%; Wave 6: 70.1%; Wave 7: >70%

Malaysia – Family Well-Being Index of Malaysia (FWBI)

13.45   The Family Well-Being Index of Malaysia (FWBI) aimed to measure the level of family well-being in terms of family relationships, family economy, family health, family safety, family and community involvement, religious and spiritual practices, housing and the environment, and family and communication technologies.   A cross-sectional survey, which was funded by National Population and Family Development Board of Malaysia, was conducted in 2016.   The target respondents were parents with children aged between three and 24 years living in Malaysia.

13.46   A two-stage stratified random sampling method was adopted.   A sampling frame was based on the listed enumeration block (EB) from a sample frame of living quarters during the 2010 Malaysian Population and Housing Censes.   In the first stage, sample selection was conducted at EB level.   In the second stage, living quarters were sampled using a systematic random sampling method.

13.47   A personal interview household survey was adopted, with PAPI by interviewers.   A total of 3,878 interviews (2,008 fathers and 1,870 mothers) were conducted in 2016.

Table 13.12   Methodologies in Family Well-Being Index of Malaysia

Objectives	To collect information on family and individual well-being
Data collection method	Personal interview household survey, with PAPI by interviewers
Survey design	Cross-sectional survey
Target respondents	Parents with children aged between three and 24 years
Sampling method	Two-stage stratified random sampling
Frequency	Once
Year	2016
Effective sample size	3,878 individuals (2,008 fathers and 1,870 mothers)
Response rate	Not available

New Zealand – General Social Survey (NZGSS)

13.48 The New Zealand General Social Survey (NZGSS) aimed to collect information on the well-being of New Zealanders and their families. Six cross-sectional surveys, which were funded by Statistics New Zealand, were conducted on a biennial basis, in 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018. Trend analyses across the years were conducted. The target respondents were those aged 15 years or above residing in New Zealand.[64]

13.49 A three-stage stratified random sampling method was adopted. In the first stage, a total of 1,200 primary sampling units (PSUs) were selected from the Household Survey Frame (HSF). Eligible households were selected from the PSUs in the second stage. In the third stage, a household member aged 15 years or above was randomly selected from each previously selected household.[65]

13.50 A personal interview household survey was adopted, with CAPI. General and contextual information regarding other household members was collected from the randomly selected household member. The economic situations of the households were collected if the respondents were aged 18 years or above.[66]

13.51 A total of 8,000 interviews with the target respondents were conducted in 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2014 separately, whereas 12,000 interviews were conducted in 2016. The crucial reason for the increase in sample size in 2016 was that the survey was modified by adding questions about the acceptance of diverse groups with different backgrounds, such as religious minorities and new migrants. The response rate in 2012 was the lowest, at 78%, among the five surveys. Response rates in 2008, 2010, 2014, and 2016 were 83%, 81%, 80%, and 84%, respectively.[67]

Table 13.13   Methodologies in the New Zealand General Social Survey

Objectives	To collect information on family and individual well-being
Data collection method	Personal interview household survey, with CAPI
Survey design	Population trend survey
Target respondents	Individuals aged 15 years or above
Sampling method	Three-stage stratified random sampling
Frequency	Biennial basis
Year	2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 2016 and supplementary module 2018 and supplementary module
Effective sample size	Over 8,000 individuals
Response rate	2008: 83%; 2010: 81%; 2012: 78%; 2014: 80%; 2016: 84%

Singapore – Study on the Singapore Family (SSF)

13.52   The Study on the Singapore Family (SSF) aimed to understand the needs of families in Singapore.   The specific objectives were to examine (1) the characteristics of spousal relations, parenting approaches, and interactions between parents and children; (2) sources of stress and pressure faced by families, their coping strategies, and the availability and use of support networks; (3) the impact of work pressure on the family and the situation of dual-career families and divorced families; (4) the impact of various socio-economic and structural factors; and (5) the public's knowledge and perception of family-related policies.   The cross-sectional survey, which was funded by the Ministry of Community Development (now known as Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth for now), was conducted in 1999.   The target respondents were citizens who were or had ever been married and who resided in Singapore.[68]

13.53   Stratified random sampling was adopted with four strata (Chinese, Malay, Indian, and others ethnic groups), in which Chinese was a larger stratum.[69]

13.54   A personal interview household survey was adopted.   The questionnaires were translated into Malay, Mandarin, and Tamil to facilitate the interviews.   PAPI by interviewers was adopted.   A total of 1,652 interviews with 452 Chinese, 484 Malay, 448 Indian, and 268 individuals from other ethnic groups were conducted.[70]   The overall response rate was about 61%.   The response rate among individuals from other ethnic groups was the lowest compared with the rest of the strata.

Table 13.14   Methodologies in the Study on the Singapore Family

Objectives	To understand the needs of families in Singapore
Data collection method	Personal interview household survey
Survey design	Cross-sectional survey
Target respondents	Individuals who were or who had ever been married
Sampling method	Stratified random sampling
Frequency	Once
Year	1999
Effective sample size	1,652 individuals (452 Chinese, 484 Malay, 448 Indian, 268 other ethnic groups)
Response rate	61%

Singapore – Marriage and Parenthood Survey (M&P)

13.55 The Marriage and Parenthood (M&P) Survey aimed to understand public attitudes and perceptions toward marriage and parenthood. Four cross-sectional surveys were conducted in 2004, 2007, 2012, and 2016. The surveys in 2012 and 2016 were funded by the National Population and Talent Division of The Strategy Group in Prime Minister's Office. The surveys in 2004 and 2007 were funded by the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports. Trend analyses across the years were conducted. The target respondents were individuals aged 21-45 years, including those who were single, had never married, and who were married residents in Singapore.[71]

13.56 An effective sample size of 5,801 respondents aged 21 to 45 years was successfully enumerated, with 2,940 single and never-married respondents and 2,861 married respondents in 2016.[72] A total of 4,646 and 6,021 interviews with the target respondents were conducted in 2012 and 2007, respectively.[73] [74]

Table 13.15   Methodologies in the Marriage and Parenthood Survey

Objectives	To understand public attitudes and perceptions toward marriage and parenthood.
Data collection method	Not available
Survey design	Population trend survey
Target respondents	Individuals aged 21-45 years
Sampling method	Not available
Frequency	Every three-to-four years
Year	2004, 2007, 2012, and 2016
Effective sample size	5,801 individuals (2,940 single/never married and 2,861 married) in 2016 4,646 individuals in 2012 6,021 individuals in 2007 Not available in 2004
Response rate	Not available

Taiwan – Panel Study of Family Dynamics (PSFD)

13.57   The Panel Study of Family Dynamics (PSFD), conducted by the Research Center for Humanities and Social Sciences, aimed to explore economic, social, psychological, and institutional factors in Chinese families.   A total of 18 waves of longitudinal panel surveys with multi-cohorts, which were funded by the National Science Council and the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, were conducted on an annual basis from 1999 to 2011, and have been conducted on a biennial basis since 2012.   The target respondents were Taiwanese adults aged 36-46 years, using 1999 as the baseline, with new samples of individuals aged 46-65 years added in 2000, aged 27-39 years added in 2003, aged 26-32 years added in 2009, and aged 25-32 years added in 2016.[75]

13.58   Random sampling was adopted.   A list of living quarters was randomly selected for interviews.   Considering the dropout level in future surveys, new quarters were randomly selected as replacement samples.   From 1999 to 2011, a personal interview household survey was adopted.   From 2012, a personal interview household survey with CAPI was adopted.   Starting from 2018, a mixed method with either CAPI or CAWI was adopted.   Using CAPI or CAWI allowed built-in range validation functions to increase the accuracy of the collected data.   An effective sample size of 2,959 interviews was achieved in 1999 and 2000 as the panel for the baseline survey.   Over 4,000 households were surveyed in follow-up surveys.   Response rates for follow-up surveys were about 80%.[76]

Table 13.16   Methodologies in the Panel Study of Family Dynamics

Objectives	To explore economic, social, psychological, and institutional factors of Chinese families
Data collection method	Personal interview household survey, with PAPI by interviewers from 1999 to 2011 Personal interview household survey, with CAPI from 2012 to 2016, and with CAPI or CAWI in 2018
Survey design	Longitudinal panel survey with a multi-cohort approach
Target respondents	Individuals aged 36-46 years in 1999 New samples of individuals aged 46-65 years added in 2000, aged 27-39 years in 2003, aged 26-32 years in 2009, and aged 25-32 years in 2016
Sampling method	Random sampling
Frequency	Annual basis from 1999-2011; Biennial basis since 2012
Year	Once from 1999 to 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2020
Effective sample size	1,000 households in 1999 and 1,959 in 2000 as a sample baseline; Over 4,000 households in follow-up surveys
Response rate	Follow-up rates at about 80%

United Kingdom – British Household Panel Survey (BHPS)

13.59   The British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) aimed to understand the social and economic changes among families and individuals in Britain.   A total of 18 longitudinal surveys with multi-cohorts, which were funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, were conducted on an annual basis from 1991 to 2008.   The target respondents were those aged 16 years or above residing in United Kingdom.   Children aged 11-15 years were also interviewed from 1994 onward.[77]

13.60   A three-stage stratified random sampling method was adopted.   For the first stage, the Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) were randomly selected from the Postcode Address File (PAF).   For the second stage, a list of addresses were drawn from the delivery points of 250 sectors.   For the third stage, the selection of household members was carried out by interviewers using all sample addresses, with up to three household members.[78]

13.61   From 1991 to 1998, personal interview household surveys were adopted, with PAPI by interviewers.   From 1999, personal interview household surveys were adopted, with CAPI.   From 1993, some interviews were conducted by telephone for respondents who could not participate in face-to-face interviews. Proxy interviews with other members of the household were conducted when the selected household members were absent or found it difficult to complete the interviews by themselves.[79]

13.62   An effective sample size of over 9,000 interviews with the target respondents were conducted in 1991 and around 8,000 respondents had continuous interview records for the follow-up surveys.   The response rate for the 1991 survey was 74%.

Table 13.17   Methodologies in the United Kingdom British Household Panel Survey

Objectives	To understand the social changes of families and individuals
Data collection method	Personal interview household survey, with PAPI by interviewers from 1991 to 1998 Personal interview household survey, with CAPI from 1999 to 2008
Survey design	Longitudinal panel survey with a multi-cohort approach
Target respondents	Individuals aged 16 years or above
Sampling method	Three-stage stratified random sampling
Frequency	Annual basis
Year	1991-2008 (BHPS Waves 1-18)
Effective sample size	9,092 individuals in 1991 Over 8,000 individuals for follow-up BHPS surveys
Response rate	74% in 1991

United Kingdom – United Kingdom Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS)

13.63 The United Kingdom Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS) was built on the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) and aimed to understand the social and economic changes among families and individuals in the United Kingdom. Nine longitudinal panel surveys with multi-cohorts, which were funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, were conducted on an annual basis from 2009 to 2019. The target respondents were those aged 16 years or above residing in United Kingdom. Children aged 10-15 years were required to complete a short self-completion youth questionnaire.[80]

13.64 A three-stage stratified random sampling method was adopted. In the first stage, a sample of postcode sectors was selected as the Primary Sampling Units (PSUs). In the second stage, a list of addresses was randomly selected within each sampled sector. In the third stage, a household member was interviewed by the interviewers at each address. In Wave 2, the sample consisted of all members from the BHPS sample who were still active in Wave 18 of the BHPS and had not refused to be respondents of the UKHLS.[81]

13.65 Multi-interview methods, including CAPI and CAWI, were adopted. The majority of the fieldwork was completed using the personal interview household method with CAPI. Some respondents could fill in the questionnaires by themselves; in these cases, CAWI was adopted.[82]

13.66 Around 40,000 households and over 100,000 individuals were covered from the 2009 survey onward. The household response rate was about 58%.[83]

Table 13.18   Methodologies in the United Kingdom Household Longitudinal Study

Objectives	To understand the social changes of families and individuals
Data collection method	Personal interview household method, with CAPI, supplemented by CAWI
Survey design	Longitudinal panel survey with a multi-cohort approach
Target respondents	Individuals aged 16 years or above
Sampling method	Three-stage stratified random sampling
Frequency	Annual basis
Year	2009-2019 (UKHLS Waves 1-9)
Effective sample size	Around 40,000 households and over 100,000 individuals since the 2009 surveys
Response rate	Household response rate of about 58%

United States – American Family Survey (AFS)

13.67 The American Family Survey (AFS) aimed to understand the situations of Americans in terms of their relationships, marriages, and families, and how their situations relate to different political and social issues. Four cross-sectional surveys were conducted on an annual basis from 2015 to 2020 by the Deseret News and the Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy at Brigham Young University.[84] Trend analyses across the years were also conducted.

13.68 The target respondents were those aged 18 years or above residing in the United States. A stratified random sampling method from the frame of the American Community Survey (ACS) was adopted. Over 3,000 interviews with the target respondents were conducted across five surveys.[85]

Table 13.19   Methodologies in the American Family Survey

Objectives	To understand the situations of Americans in terms of their relationships, marriages, and families, and how their situations relate to different political and social issues.
Data collection method	Not available
Survey design	Population trend survey
Target respondents	Individuals aged 18 years or above
Sampling method	Stratified random sampling
Frequency	Annual basis
Year	2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
Effective sample size	3,099 interviews in 2015 3,268 in 2016 3,264 in 2017 3,332 in 2018 3,244 in 2019
Response rate	Not available

14. Areas to Consider for Future Family Surveys

14.1 This section highlights areas to consider when selecting the methodologies of future Family Surveys. Key areas to be considered are classified into seven components: survey design, frequency of conducting the surveys, data collection method, target respondents, sampling method, sample size, and response rate.

14.2 The objectives of the future Family Surveys in the coming decade are as follows:

(1) to ascertain the attitude and situation of the respondents on family in terms of:

  i. family structure

  ii. parenthood

  iii. family functioning

  iv. satisfaction with family life

  v. work-family balance

  vi. social support network

  vii. family hierarchy

  viii. quality of life

  ix. household and personal characteristics

(2) to construct relevant indices and compare with other similar surveys in overseas cities for benchmarking purpose;

(3) to conduct trend analysis with the survey results with previous round of Family Surveys and identify patterns and family changes;

(4) to provide policy implications and recommendations; and

(5) to provide research contributions.

Research Methodology

14.3 In the 2011 and 2013 Family Surveys, general questionnaire surveys, each consisting of 2,000 completed interviews, were conducted. In the 2015 Family Survey, apart from the 2,000 completed interviews conducted with the use of a general questionnaire, a thematic survey was designed and 1,000 completed interviews were conducted. In the 2017 Family Survey, a general questionnaire survey with 3,000 completed interviews was conducted.

Table 14.1   Number of Completed Interviews and Discussions of Previous Family Surveys

Number of completed interviews/discussions	Family Surveys			
	2011	**2013**	**2015**	**2017**
Quantitative views				
General survey	2,000	2,000	2,000	3,000
Thematic survey	-	-	1,000	
Qualitative views				
Focus group discussion	4	4	6	4

14.4 Future Family Surveys will collect updated and empirically-based information about families in Hong Kong, in order to monitor structural changes in society and examine individuals' views on these new societal developments. With reference to the reviewed surveys above and previous rounds of the Family Survey, in order to meet the dual goals of future Family Surveys, it is recommended that a general survey is conducted using a core questionnaire, along with a thematic survey using a specific designed questionnaire for each round of further Family Surveys. For the thematic survey, different topics could be explored according to current family issues.

14.5 Further, a mixed-method is recommended for future Family Surveys. After conducting the questionnaire survey, qualitative views through focus group discussions with the respondents and in-depth interviews with relevant stakeholders (e.g. service providers, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), scholars and researchers, representatives of the associations, etc.) are proposed to be collected, to enable the triangulation of the quantitative and qualitative data. The purposes of the focus group discussions and in-depth interviews are as follows:

(1) to provide increased understanding or clarity regarding issues obtained from the questionnaire survey;

(2) to gain insight into people's behaviours and attitudes;

(3) to facilitate consensuses for the formulation of mutual goals and targets where appropriate; and

(4) to provide valuable policy implications and recommendations.

14.6   In order to gather views from different demographic groups and stakeholders, it is recommended that at least four focus group discussions with the respondents and about six to eight in-depth interviews are conducted after the questionnaire survey for each round of the Family Surveys.

Survey Design

14.7   Survey design depends greatly on the nature of the research questions.   Of the reviewed family surveys, there were three survey designs used: longitudinal panel surveys, population trend surveys, and cross-sectional surveys.   Some surveys collect data to make inferences about a population at one point in time; hence, a cross-sectional design is a snapshot of views from the respondents. Others conduct trend analysis across the years.   Besides, as some surveys focus on tracking the developments or changes in the characteristics of the target population, a longitudinal design in which the respondents are followed over time is adopted.[86]   Table 14.2 below summarises the latest survey designs of the reviewed surveys.

Table 14.2   Summary of the Survey Design of Reviewed Surveys

Surveys	Survey design		
	Longitudinal	Population trend	Cross-sectional
Family Survey			✓
FAMILY Project	✓		
HKFWI			✓
Canada – GSS			✓
China – CFPS	✓		
Germany – GFP	✓		
Japan – NFRJ	✓		
Japan – NSFJ		✓	
South Korea – KLoWF	✓		
Malaysia – FWBI			✓
New Zealand – NZGSS		✓	
Singapore – SSF			✓
Singapore – M&P		✓	
Taiwan – PSFD	✓		
UK – BHPS	✓		
UK – UKHLS	✓		
United States – AFS		✓	

14.8 The defining feature of a cross-sectional survey is that it can compare different population groups at a single point in time. The advantage of a cross-sectional survey design is that it allows researchers or policy makers to compare many different variables at the same time. However, a cross-sectional survey may not make it possible to keep track of all changes that have occurred (e.g., attitudinal or behavioural changes), as it is a snapshot of a single moment in time, not a follow-up survey across time.

14.9 Population trend surveys provide a far more reliable basis for formulating patterns and trends, updating attitudinal or behavioural changes, and providing useful insights for policy making, compared to cross-sectional surveys. Apart from stating and comparing findings collected across different years, appropriate statistical tests should be compiled to spot patterns and evaluate changes over a period of time.

14.10 In longitudinal surveys, several observations about the same group of respondents over a long period time are obtained; these sometimes last for many years. The findings of a longitudinal design could provide more insights and detailed analyses about the attitudinal or behavioural changes of the target population at both sub-group and individual levels. The lifespan of the panel could be traced and causal relationships between study variables can be explored.

14.11 Apart from the advantages mentioned above, longitudinal surveys involve a number of drawbacks that need to be considered:[87]

(1) Dropout rates: Respondents may drop out of the survey for a number of reasons, such as moving away from the area, illness, or simply losing the motivation to participate. Efforts should be made to retain the respondents in the survey. A significant drop-out rate can influence the results. If the final sample no longer reflects the original representative sample, attrition can threaten the validity of the survey.

(2) Resources: Compared with cross-sectional surveys, longitudinal panel surveys require enormous amounts of time and resources. The costs of conducting longitudinal panel surveys would be more expensive.

(3) Consent for follow-up research: Research agencies will be appointed to conduct the future Surveys by the Council through a tendering process. If longitudinal surveys are to be conducted over a long period of time, the contact information for households or respondents should be transferred from the Council to research agencies for follow-up surveys. According to the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (the PDPO), personal data should only be collected for lawful purposes directly related to a particular survey. Unless the data subjects give their express and voluntary consent prior to the follow-up survey, the transfer of their contact information to a third party (e.g., from the Council to research agencies) is not permitted.

14.12 The pros and cons of the three survey designs are summarised in the table below.

Table 14.3   Pros and Cons of the Three Survey Designs

Survey design	Pros	Cons
Longitudinal panel survey	• Provides more insights into and detailed analyses of the changes in the target population • Traces the lifespan of the panel • Explores the causal relationships between study variables	• The influence of dropout rates • Enormous amounts of time and resources needed • Difficulties in obtaining and managing consent for follow-up surveys
Population trend survey	• Provides a far more reliable basis for formulating patterns and trends • Updates attitudinal or behavioural changes	• Requires analytical work and trend analysis
Cross-sectional survey	• Provides a snapshot of views at one point in time	• Requires less time and resources

14.13   After reviewing the pros and cons of the three survey designs, the longitudinal panel design is considered to be the best long-term approach in regard to conducting future Family Surveys.   With the changing demographic profiles across the years in Hong Kong, the longitudinal panel survey design could detect the attitudinal or behavioural changes of the target population at both sub-group and individual levels, examine the causal relationships between study variables, and provide detailed analyses for policy advocacy and recommendations.   However, it takes time to tackle a number of challenges inherent within a longitudinal survey, particularly issues of consent.   The tasks in long run are to consult the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data on the personal data privacy in particular for the future Family Surveys, to explore the procedures for collecting consents from the respondents that comply with the PDPO, to sort out the rules and regulations to manage and keep the contacts of the respondents of the Family Surveys, and to formulate the procedures for conducting the next wave of the Family Surveys with the respondents who completed the previous wave.

14.14   To overcome these challenges, it is recommended that the Survey be conducted

in 2021 as a population trend survey, as an interim approach adopted in future Family Surveys until the issues of the longitudinal panel survey have been settled.   The population trend survey design could provide trend analyses of the patterns of family issues across the years and it is feasible to implement it within a short period of time.

14.15   A cross-sectional survey design is recommended for thematic surveys, as it can provide a snapshot of views at one point in time.

14.16   The rationales and proposed survey designs for future Family Surveys are summarised in the table below.

Table 14.4   Proposed Survey Design for Future Family Surveys

Survey design	Future Family Surveys	Rationales
Longitudinal panel survey	A long-term approach	• Detects the attitudinal or behavioural changes in the target population • Examines causal relationships and provides detailed analyses for policy advocacy and recommendations
Population trend survey	An interim approach to be adopted from 2021 onward	• Provides a far more reliable basis for formulating patterns and trends • Updates attitudinal or behavioural changes • Can be feasibly implemented within a short period of time
Cross-sectional survey	To be adopted for thematic surveys	• Provides a snapshot of views at one point in time

Frequency

14.17 Most of the reviewed family surveys (13 out of 16) were conducted over a regular time period; among them, six surveys were conducted on an annual basis, five surveys were conducted on a biennial basis, one survey was conducted every three-to-four years, and one survey was conducted every five years.

14.18 Table 14.5 below summarises the frequency with which the reviewed surveys were conducted.

Table 14.5   Summary of Frequency of Reviewed Surveys

Surveys	Frequency			
	Mode	Annual basis	Biennial basis	Others
Family Survey	Regular		✓	
FAMILY Project	Irregular			Seven times over a six-year period
HKFWI	Once			
Canada – GSS	Regular	✓		
China – CFPS	Regular		✓	
Germany – GFP	Regular	✓		
Japan – NFRJ	Regular	✓		
Japan – NSFJ	Regular			Every five years
South Korea – KLoWF	Regular		✓	
Malaysia – FWBI	Once			
New Zealand – NZGSS	Regular		✓	
Singapore – SSF	Once			
Singapore – M&P	Regular			Every three-to-four years
Taiwan – PSFD	Regular		✓	
UK – BHPS	Regular	✓		
UK – UKHLS	Regular	✓		
United States – AFS	Regular	✓		

14.19   One of the concerns about annual versus biennial data collection is resource allocation, including survey costs, administrative and operational costs, using the results, and policy implications.   Though more series of data will be collected on an annual basis, it is anticipated that there may not be dramatic changes in attitudes and behaviours related to family issues in normal circumstances.   There may not be urgent needs to use the results and for policy appraisal on an annual basis.   Further, the resources required for an annual survey are expected to double the resources required for a biennial survey.

14.20   In consideration of the Survey's needs and resources, it is recommended that future Surveys are conducted on a biennial basis, starting from 2021, for both longitudinal panel surveys (as a long-term approach) and population trend surveys (as an interim approach).   Similarly, the thematic survey should also be conducted on a biennial basis.

Data Collection Method

14.21   There are various data collection methods for household surveys that can be used to collect residents' views on family-related issues and respondents' socio-economic and demographic characteristics.   The most common methods are personal interviews, telephone interviews, and by self-completion.

14.22   Over half of the reviewed family surveys (11 out of 16) were conducted by adopting personal interview household surveys, four surveys were conducted via telephone interviews, and three surveys were self-completed.

14.23   Apart from the high response rate generally resulting from personal interviews, the main advantage of this method is that the trained interviewers can persuade respondents (through invitation and motivation) to participate in the survey and can explain the objectives of the survey to them.   In addition, this method allows for long and structured questionnaire designs and collects information on conceptually difficult items.[88]

14.24   Of the 11 reviewed family surveys that adopted personal interviews, nine surveys conducted personal interviews with CAPI and two surveys conducted them with PAPI.   In the past, PAPI was virtually the sole mode of data collection in household surveys.   The interviewers would ask the questions verbatim according to hard copies of the questionnaires and would jot down the responses on paper.   PAPI is a time-consuming and error-prone method of data collection and relies on the diligence with which the interviewer follows jumping patterns.   With the rapid development of technology, the introduction of CAPI, CATI, and CAWI is a huge step in alleviating the aforementioned concerns.   For CAPI, interviewers can enter the participants' responses directly into the computer during the real-time interview.   Range checks or validation checks can be built-in to obtain better data quality.   In recent years, it has been possible to replace CAPI with smartphone-assisted personal interviewing (SAPI) and tablet-assisted personal interviewing (TAPI).   There are thus now more hand-held options for interviewers.[89]

14.25   Three surveys (the FAMILY Project, Taiwan – PSFD and UK – UKHLS) adopted a multi-modal data collection approach that used both personal interviews and the self-completion method with the use of CAPI and CAWI, respectively.   This increased the response rate and facilitated the respondents in participating in the survey.   The multi-modal data collection approach refers to a combination of various data collection methods and implies that the respondents are offered options for completing the survey that works best with their own preferences.   The advantages of the multi-modal data collection approach are that it maximises the survey response rate, provides respondents with multiple ways of responding to the survey, reduces response burden, communicates with hard-to-reach respondents, and saves time in personal interviews.[90,91]

14.26   Table 14.6 below summarises the latest data collection methods of the reviewed surveys.

Table 14.6   *Summary of the Data Collection Method of the Reviewed Surveys*

Surveys	Data Collection Method			Use of Technology			
	Per-sonal	Tele-phone	Self-completed	CAPI	CATI	CAWI	PAPI
Family Survey	✓			✓			
FAMILY Project	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
HKFWI		✓					
Canada – GSS		✓	✓		✓	✓	
China – CFPS	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Germany – GFP	✓			✓			✓
Japan – NFRJ			✓				✓
Japan – NSFJ			✓				✓
South Korea – KLoWF	✓			✓			
Malaysia – FWBI	✓						✓
New Zealand – NZGSS	✓			✓			
Singapore – SSF	✓						✓
Singapore – M&P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Taiwan – PSFD	✓		✓	✓		✓	
UK – BHPS	✓			✓			
UK – UKHLS	✓		✓	✓		✓	
United States – AFS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

14.27   Regarding data collection methods, a drop in response rate was observed in the 2017 Survey, indicating that the multi-modal data collection approach is envisioned to be adopted in future Family Surveys.[92]   For future Family Surveys, it is proposed that interviewers provide two ways of responding to the survey: personal interviews with TAPI, implemented by interviewers, and self-completed CAWI, completed by respondents.

14.28   With reference to the 2021 Population Census,[93] two stages of data collection are proposed.   In the first stage, invitation letters with QR codes for the online questionnaire should be posted to the sampled households and the target respondents can then complete the questionnaires by themselves through the online survey platform.   In the second stage, interviewers should visit households that have not yet provided the required information and conduct interviews with the target respondents using mobile tablets.

14.29   The proposed data collection method can be implemented for longitudinal panel surveys, population trend surveys, and thematic surveys.

Target Respondents

14.30　Regarding the target respondents, 10 reviewed family surveys did not focus on specific age groups or demographic characteristics.　Among them, six surveys interviewed individuals aged 15 years or above, two surveys interviewed individuals aged 16 years or above, and two surveys interviewed individuals aged 18 years or above.　The remaining seven surveys focused on specific age groups (e.g., aged 21 to 48 years in Singapore – M&P) or demographic characteristics (e.g., ever-married women in Japan – NSFJ).　Table 14.7 below summarises the target respondents of the reviewed surveys.

Table 14.7　Summary of the Target Respondents of the Reviewed Surveys

Surveys	Target respondents			
	Age 15+	Age 16+	Age 18+	Other groups
Family Survey	15+			
FAMILY Project	15+			
HKFWI			18+	
Canada - GSS	15+			
China – CFPS	15+			
Germany – GFP				15-17, 25-27, and 35-37
Japan – NFRJ				28-73
Japan – NSFJ				Ever-married women
South Korea – KLoWF				Women aged 19-64
Malaysia – FWBI	15+			
New Zealand – NZGSS	15+			
Singapore – SSF				Ever-married
Singapore – M&P				21-45
Taiwan – PSFD				36-46 (baseline in 1999) New samples: 46-65 (in 2000), 27-39 (in 2003), 26-32 (in 2009), and 25-32 (in 2016)
UK – BHPS		16+		
UK – UKHLS		16+		
United States – AFS			18+	

14.31　In order to align future Family Surveys with the previous rounds of the Survey and thus enable consistent comparisons, it is proposed that the target respondents of the future Family Surveys are individuals aged 15 years or above for the longitudinal panel surveys, population trend surveys, and thematic surveys.

Sampling Method, Sample Size, and Response Rate

14.32 A total of 16 reviewed family surveys adopted a probability sampling method, such as stratified random sampling, to select addresses, and RDD to select telephone numbers. Table 14.8 below summarises the sampling methods, sample sizes, and response rates of the reviewed surveys.

Table 14.8   Summary of the Sampling Methods, Sample Sizes, and Response Rates of the Reviewed Surveys

Surveys	Sampling method		Effective sample size [Note 1]		Response rate [Note 1]
	Probability sampling	Other sampling	House-holds	Indivi-duals	
Family Survey	✓	-	-	2,000	57%
FAMILY Project	✓	Purposive sampling	20,279	22,775	70%.
HKFWI	✓	-	-	2,000	42.4%
Canada - GSS	✓		-	20,000	52.4%
China – CFPS	✓		19,986	-	75%
Germany – GFP	✓		-	4,000	35%
Japan – NFRJ	✓	-	-	1,594	84.8%
Japan – NSFJ	✓	-	-	6,142	77%
South Korea – KLoWF	✓	-	6,225	-	70%
Malaysia – FWBI	✓			3,878	-
New Zealand – NZGSS	✓	-	-	8,000	84%
Singapore – SSF	✓	-	-	1,652	61%
Singapore – M&P	-	-		5,801	-
Taiwan – PSFD	✓	-	4,000	-	80%
UK – BHPS	✓	-	-	8,000	74%
UK – UKHLS [Note 2]	✓	-	40,000	100,000	58%
United States – AFS	✓	-	-	3,244	-

Note [1] The latest round of surveys is presented.
Note [2] Around 40,000 households and over 100,000 individuals since the 2009 surveys.

14.33 For the longitudinal panel survey (baseline, Wave 1) and the population trend survey, as in previous rounds of the Surveys, a two-stage stratified random sampling design is proposed.   Sample lists will be obtained from the C&SD, which includes the Register of Quarters and the Register of Segments.   In the first stage, a list of quarters should be randomly sampled by geographical area and type of quarter.   In the second stage, a household member aged 15 years or above should be randomly selected for interview using the last birthday method.   For follow-up surveys (Wave 2 onward) of the longitudinal panel survey, respondents who completed the Wave 1 survey should be invited to participate in follow-up surveys.   Noting that attrition rate may vary across time periods, data sources, and outcomes, new samples from Wave 2 onward should be drawn according to the two-stage stratified random sampling design mentioned above.

14.34 For thematic surveys, similarly, a two-stage stratified random sampling design is proposed.

Sample Size

14.35 There are a wide range of sample sizes in the reviewed family surveys.   To determine the sample size of the future Family Surveys, both effect sizes, power, alpha errors, and response rates should be considered.   An effect size is a number measuring the strength of the relationship between two variables.

14.36 For the longitudinal panel survey (baseline, Wave 1), a large sample size is proposed.   With reference to the FAMILY Project's overall follow-up rate of 69.6% and previous rounds of the Family Survey, with average response rates of 63.5%, a conservative response rate of 60% should be adopted to determine an effective sample size.   A small effect size (f^2) of .2 and proportion of one group at .1 are proposed.   With 80% power and 5% alpha error, an effective sample size of 5,000 is proposed for the baseline survey.[94]   The precision of the estimates is expected to be within the range of plus/minus 1.4 percentage points at 95% confidence, assuming simple random sampling.   New samples of 2,000 from Wave 2 onward should be randomly drawn.   Table 14.9 below illustrates effective sample sizes from Wave 1 to Wave 4 of the longitudinal panel survey.

Table 14.9   Effective Sample Sizes for the Longitudinal Panel Survey

Effective sample size	General Survey of the Longitudinal Panel Survey			
	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4
Baseline sample	5,000	3,000	1,800	1,080
New sample	-	2,000	1,200	720
	-	-	2,000	1,200
	-	-	-	2,000
Total	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000

14.37 For the population trend survey, noting that there may not be significant changes among the family values, a small effect size (f^2) of .2 and a proportion of one group at .1 are proposed. With 80% power and 5% alpha error, an effective sample size of 2,000 is proposed.[95] The precision of the estimates is expected to be within the range of plus/minus 2.2 percentage points at 95% confidence, assuming simple random sampling.

14.38 For the thematic survey of future Surveys, a small effect size (f^2) of .2 and a proportion of one group at .3 are proposed. With 80% power and 5% alpha error, an effective sample size of 1,000 is proposed. The precision of the estimates is expected to be within the range of plus/minus 3.1 percentage points at 95% confidence, assuming simple random sampling.

Response Rate

14.39 Of the reviewed family surveys, the response rates ranged from 35% to 84.8%, depending on the survey design and data collection method adopted. In order to improve the survey administration procedures and prevent respondent fatigue, it is proposed that future Surveys adopt a multi-modal data collection approach and shorten the length of the questionnaire, to significantly reduce the time needed to complete the interviews. A response rate for future Family Surveys of over 60% is anticipated in normal situations. However, if the current pandemic continues or other unexpected circumstances occur, there will be difficulties encountered in conducting face-to-face interviews; a lower response rate in these situations of around 55% is therefore anticipated.

Section IV
Questionnaire Review

15. Review of Related Studies

Overview

15.1　This section presents a questionnaire review of related family surveys in Hong Kong and overseas, which are useful to consider alongside the areas and question items that should be included in future Family Surveys.　Upon reviewing related family surveys across regions, a total of two local surveys, one survey in mainland China, and 11 surveys from nine other locations (Canada, Germany, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and the United States) have been included for a more in-depth review.　The two surveys in Japan are not included in the questionnaire review as only questionnaires in Japanese are available.

15.2　Many efforts have been made to construct the framework of the previous four rounds of the Survey, including the views of and in-depth discussions among committee members of the Council.　The consolidated database, with data from more than 9,000 responses, provides a sound base for tracking the changes across the years in future Family Surveys.　Before drafting the framework of future Family Surveys, the themes and dimensions of related family surveys were reviewed.

Figure 15.1　Reviewed Family Surveys
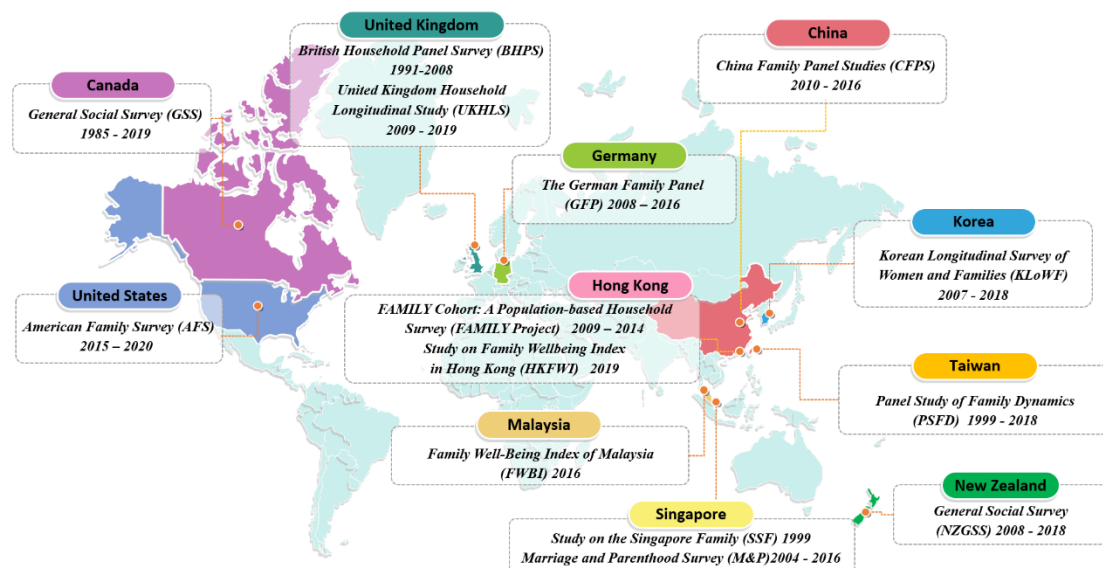
Hong Kong – FAMILY Cohort: A Population-Based Household Survey (FAMILY Project)

15.3   The FAMILY Project mainly focused on collecting data on socio-demographic characteristics and the 3Hs (health, happiness, and harmony) of the respondents.[96]

15.4   For the aspect of health, there are five areas: anthropometrics, blood pressure, self-reported health conditions, lifestyle, and health-related quality of life.

(1)   Interviewers were trained to take systematic anthropometric measures of respondents' heights, weights, and body fat percentages; respondents' body mass indexes could thus be compiled. Blood pressure was measured by the interviewers and respondents were asked whether they had been diagnosed with hypertension by a medical practitioner.

(2)   Respondents were asked whether they were experiencing any major chronic health conditions, such as obesity, hypertension, or muscular-skeletal disorders. For acute health conditions, the respondents were asked whether they had experienced any symptoms or health problems relating to acute conditions, such as lower back pain, joint pain, common colds, etc., in the past month.

(3)   Items pertaining to lifestyle, such as diet, smoking, alcohol, physical activity, gambling, and drug use were reported by the respondents.

(4)   A 12-item short-form version (SF-12 v2) was adopted to measure the physical and mental health of the respondents.

15.5   For the aspect of happiness, there are three areas: happiness scales, mental health scales, and self-reported mental health conditions.

(1)   Respondents were asked for a single-item overall happiness scale: 'All things considered, would you say you are very happy, happy, not very happy, or not happy at all?' They were also asked questions in regard to a subjective happiness scale consisting of four items.

(2)   Three scales about mental health, the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ9), Chinese Health Questionnaire (CHQ-12), and Recent Life Changes Questionnaire (RLCQ), were adopted to examine the mental health of the respondents.

(3)   Respondents were asked whether they had been diagnosed with depression, anxiety disorder, schizophrenia, and/or dementia, and about the frequency with which they experienced suicidal ideation.

15.6   For the aspect of harmony, there are four areas: harmony scales, work/family conflict, harmonious family activities, and assessment of social capital.

(1)   For the harmony scales, four aspects (family support, harmony and contentment, concord scale, and source of conflict) were included. Perceived family support was measured by 'Family APGAR', which is a five-item, three-point scale. Elements in the scale include adaptability, partnership, growth, affection, and resolve. Harmony and contentment were measured by 24 items, which were classified into five domains: identity, absence of conflicts, effective communication, forbearance, and spending time with family. A concord scale was used to measure the dyadic relationships with households. A total of 12 sources of dyadic conflicts were listed and respondents were asked whether they had experienced the various forms of conflict with any other household members.

(2)   Items about time spent at the workplace per day, time spent at home per day, time spent on household chores and/or bringing up children per day, and work/family conflict were included.

(3)   Respondents' patterns of family activity were also collected by asking them about the time they spent with their families.

(4)   Items about social capital, including neighbourhood cohesion, volunteerism, religious identification and involvement, and discrimination were included. Perceived neighbourhood cohesion was measured using Sampson's five-item scale. Respondents were asked whether or not they agreed with five statements about their neighbourhood. Regarding volunteerism, respondents were asked about their participation in voluntary services organised by different kinds of organisations, and about the amount of time they had spent volunteering in the past 12 months. Regarding religious identification and involvement, respondents were asked to identify their religious beliefs, if any, and rate their own religiosity and spirituality. Regarding discrimination, respondents who had lived in Hong Kong for 10 years or less were asked whether they had been discriminated against and treated unpleasantly due to their new immigrant status.

15.7   Compared with previous rounds of the Family Survey, perceived family support, which is a five-item scale, may be included in the area of social support network, and family conflicts may be included in the area of family functioning in the future. Further, respondents' happiness level and physical and mental health may be considered as new areas.

Hong Kong – Study on Family Wellbeing Index in Hong Kong (HKFWI)

15.8   The HKFWI was carried out with the aim of developing a measurement tool for assessing the well-being of Hong Kong families.   The tool, the Family Welling Index, was finally developed based on six domains: family solidarity, family resources, family health, social connections, social resources, and work-life balance.   Respondents were asked for their level of agreement with 26 question items, rated on a 11-point Likert scale (ranging from 0 = strongly disagree to 10 = strongly agree).[97]   The HKFWI covered the research area of parenthood within the family solidarity domain of the index.   The domain contained variables related to family responsibilities, such as warmth for children and the level of discipline in parenting, which helped explore respondents' parenting methods.

15.9   The research area of family functioning was also covered by the variables of care and support, such as financial support, the division of household labour, and the sharing of information, within the family solidarity domain.   These variables helped explore the perceived family support of the respondents. The economic lives of family and family hardship were examined within the family resources domain, in terms of categories such as income and mental capital.

15.10   The research area of satisfaction with family life, which included satisfaction with family life and relationships within families, as well as the time spent with family members, was measured using the variables of family time, family atmosphere, and family responsibilities, within the family solidarity domain. Moreover, appreciation of the family in the category of family atmosphere was used to indicate respondents' communication with family members and the quality of communication.   The items of feelings of safety at home and comfortable living environment in the index helped measure the respondents' perceptions of home.

15.11   In the work-life balance domain of the index, two variables were introduced to examine the impacts of work interrupting home and home interrupting work on the respondents.   These variables helped build an understanding of the respondents' attitudes toward their work-life balance, as well as the level of stress and difficulty perceived by the respondents in regard to meeting the demands of both work and family.

15.12   The research area of social support network was covered by two domains of the index: the social connection domain and the social resources domain. They respectively accessed an understanding of respondents' availability of assistance and the extent to which they engaged in civil society.

15.13   The family health domain of the index consisted of two variables, which indicated the physical and mental health conditions of the respondents, thus covering the research area of policy and society.

15.14   Most of the question items in the HKFWI are similar to previous rounds of the Family Survey.   Respondents' physical and mental health may be considered as new areas.

Canada – General Social Survey (GSS)

15.15　The GSS covered seven core themes, with four of them containing research areas that were family-related: family, caregiving and care-receiving, victimisation, and social identity.[98,99,100,101]

15.16　The family theme, which was covered in 2017, contributed the most to the research areas related to families.　The 2017 GSS explored respondents' attitudes toward living with their parents by asking about their reasons for moving out.　By understanding their reasons for marrying their current partners, the GSS also explored the respondents' attitudes toward marriage.

15.17　The theme also explored Canadians' parenthood experiences through asking about their intention to have children and their desire to have more children. Moreover, it covered the parenting methods of the respondents by asking about their preferred mode of childcare in terms of different combinations of childcare environments and caregivers.

15.18　To understand the research area of family functioning, respondents were asked if they have the support of their family and the kind of support they receive, as well as their satisfaction with it, which was covered in the 2018 caregiving and care-receiving theme.　The household decision making of the respondents was also examined by asking who mainly took care of daily affairs and made decisions about the development of their children.　Different from the surveys in Hong Kong, the GSS further explored the economic lives of respondents and their arrangements for co-parenting if they were separated, including decision making and financial support for their children.

15.19　Respondents' satisfaction with family life, in terms of satisfaction level, and time spent with family members, in terms of frequency of contact with children not living in their household, were measured.　Subjective happiness was measured using a 11-point Likert scale (ranging from 0 = very dissatisfied to 10 = very satisfied).　This allowed respondents to express their satisfaction level about their life.

15.20　The caregiving and care-receiving theme covered the research area of balancing work and family.　The level of difficulty experienced by respondents in meeting the demands of work and family was explored by asking about the frequency with which they encountered that kind of difficulty. Respondents were also asked about their level of satisfaction with the amount of time spent at work and with family.

15.21 The social identity theme was covered in 2013, which contributed to the research area of social support networks by establishing how frequently the respondents had contacted their relatives and how satisfied they were with the communication that took place. The theme also covered other attributes affecting social support networks, including trust in people and the extent of civil engagement in different organisations, such as sports or hobby groups, unions or political parties, etc. One of the key issues in this area, cyber bullying, was also explored under the victimisation theme in 2019, by asking if the respondents had experienced cyber bullying.

15.22 The 2017 GSS concerned whether or not the respondents had any awareness of family-related programmes by asking respondents who had separated or were divorced if they had accessed programmes such as mediation, counselling, or family law information centres in order to address issues resulting from their separation or divorce.

15.23 The prevalence of particular social issues in Canada was also one key research area in the GSS. For example, the theme of family and social identity made efforts to understand the physical and mental health conditions of the respondents. The victimisation theme focused on understanding the victimisation experienced by respondents under different circumstances, including criminal cases, intimate partner violence, and traumatic experiences in childhood.

15.24 Subjective happiness was measured using a 10-Likert scale (from 0 = very dissatisfied to 10 = very satisfied). This allowed the respondents to express their satisfaction level with their life.

15.25 Compared with previous rounds of the Family Survey, family conflicts may be included in the area of family functioning. Further, respondents' happiness level may also be considered as a new area.

China – China Family Panel Studies (CFPS)

15.26 The CFPS focused on the economic and social well-being of Chinese individuals and families. The family and individual questionnaires of this study mainly covered substantive areas, such as family relationships and dynamics, to collect information on the relationships among different members of the family, including their daily lives, social interactions, and economic activities.[102,103]

15.27 The CFPS asked different questions to analyse the respondents' attitudes toward the importance of family. A list of statements about traditional family values were provided to ask about the respondents' degree of agreement with them, such as whether or not children should practice filial piety, whether or not couples must bear a son to carry on the family name, and whether or not women should stay at home. Questions about marriage, cohabitation, and divorce were also asked in the questionnaire. Respondents' satisfaction with their current marriage or cohabitation, and the contributions of their partners were explored. Questions asking about respondents' past and current experiences of cohabitation were also available.

15.28 Questions related to parenthood were included. Questions about parents' treatment of their children and parenting methods were asked to understand the parenting methods the respondent agreed with or currently adopted. Respondents were asked about their reasons for having a child, their feelings about having a baby, and their sense of responsibility for their family.

15.29 Questions related to family functioning were covered. Respondents were asked for the frequency of the interactions between parents and their children. Further, some questions were asked about which types of support the parents would offer to their children, such as the provision of financial support. A question about household decision making was asked to identify the household members who made decisions about financial issues.

15.30 Some questions were asked about the respondents' satisfaction with the relationships among family members. The frequency of meeting or contacting their children, as well as the time spent with their children, were explored.

15.31 Besides, the CFPS covered the balance between work and family. Questions about the respondents' level of work satisfaction, including income, safety, workplace environment, and working time, were asked to evaluate respondents' satisfaction with those aspects of work.

15.32 Most of the question items in the CFPS were similar to previous rounds of the Family Survey. Respondents' happiness level may be considered as a new area.

Germany – The German Family Panel (GFP)

15.33   The GFP focused on aspects of partnership and family in Germany. The GFP included various questions related to different life domains, such as issues regarding partnership, parenthood, parenting, child development, and social embeddedness, in order to analyse intimate relationships and family dynamics.[104]

15.34   The GFP covered different questions related to the importance of family. Respondents were asked for their current status regarding marriage, singlehood, divorce, cohabitation, and having children. Examples of question items included whether or not the respondents had any plans to marry within the next 12 months and whether or not they had plans to have children with their current partner. In addition, respondents were asked about their considerations of separation or divorce, and about whether they had taken the initiative to end a partnership. Through the above questions, the respondents' current status and relationships in their families and partnerships could be comprehensively realised.[105]

15.35   Parenthood-related questions were also covered in the GFP. First, questions related to the intention of having a child and the desire to have more children were asked. For example: 'Do you intend to have another child within the next two years?' and 'How many more biological or adoptive children do you think you will have in addition to the child you are currently expecting?' Various questions about attitudes toward parenthood, parenting methods, parenting styles, and parenting roles were asked. Questions about parenting goals, such as the important elements of teaching children and feelings about their role as parents, were also explored.[106]

15.36   The GFP covered the research area of family functioning. Respondents were asked about the types of support they received from their family members.

15.37   Questions related to the respondents' satisfaction with family life were asked, such as their levels of satisfaction with family life, their relationships between family members, and the time spent with family members. Communication among household members, including different types of contact and the frequency of those types of contact, was explored.

15.38   In addition, the GFP covered the research area concerning the balance between work and family. The conditions of the respondents' current workplace and the proportion of time spent at work were explored to measure the respondents' satisfaction with the balance between work and family.

15.39   Some of the question items of the CFPS were similar to previous rounds of the Family Survey. Respondents' happiness levels may be considered as new areas.

South Korea – Korean Longitudinal Survey of Women and Families (KLoWF)

15.40   The KLoWF was conducted to identify the characteristics of women via their family structure, relationships with family members, family values, and work status, and to establish a longitudinal database such that policies on women and families in Korea could be reviewed accordingly.

15.41   Degrees of agreement with statements related to family values were explored to track the changes in respondents' attitudes toward the importance of family. Examples included 'marriage is a must', 'must have children', and 'divorce is possible even if I have children'.[107]

15.42   To understand respondents' parenting methods, questions related to the intention to have children and their usage of childcare services were asked.

15.43   Family functioning was an important area of study in the KLoWF. Housework items shared between couples, decision-making items by couples, categories of conflicts with spouses faced in daily life, perceptions of gender roles in the family, daily life and financial support from family members, etc., were studied to track changes in family functions.

15.44   Besides, questions related to respondents' satisfaction with family life were included in the survey.   The survey asked about time spent on and satisfaction with daily life, the sharing of housework and care work with respondents' spouses, the frequency and categories of activities engaged in with spouses, time spent with children, and topics covered in conversations with children.

15.45   Furthermore, the KLoWF covered questions related to the balance between work and family.   Impacts of work and family life were examined in the study. Respondents' degree of agreement with statements such as 'working makes my family life satisfactory too', 'working has a positive impact on children', and 'I work harder because family members give recognition to my work' were ascertained to understand respondents' attitudes toward their work-family balance.   The presence of gender discrimination in the workplace due to marriage/children was also explored, to gain an understanding of how family-friendly the respondents' work environments were.

15.46   In recent waves, questions related to respondents' awareness of violence and sexual violence, and their experience of verbal and physical violence were asked to check the presence of family violence.[108]

15.47   Compared with previous rounds of the Family Survey, family conflicts, including awareness and experiences of violence, may be included in the area of family functioning in future Surveys.

Malaysia – Family Well-Being Index of Malaysia (FWBI)

15.48   The FWBI was conducted to measure the Malaysian Family Well-Being Index in 2016 (FWBI 2016).   There were eight domains in the 2016 FWBI: (i) family relationships; (ii) family economy; (iii) family health; (iv) family safety; (v) family and community involvement; (vi) the role of religion and spiritual practices in the family; (vii) housing and environment; and (viii) family and communication technology.   The scores for each domain could assist policy makers and service providers in designing appropriate and holistic intervention programmes.   The instrument of the FWBI consisted of 90 items, eight domains, and 23 family well-being indicators.   The maximum score was 10 for each item.

15.49   For the family relationship domain, there were seven indicators: parental involvement, quality time with family, work-family balance, close relationships, family functioning, family coping, and family resilience.

15.50   For the family economy domain, the two indicators were financial well-being (defined as financial aspirations) and financial management (defined as the individual's attitude and behaviour toward spending).

15.51   For the family health domain, the two indicators were: family health, including exercise activities, balanced daily meals, bad habits (smoking and substance abuse), and chronic illness; and general health, including level of depression and anxiety, and social functionality.

15.52   For the family safety domain, the two indicators were family safety (defined as the awareness level of individuals in a residential area) and emergency knowledge (including the use of a fire extinguisher, as well as the safety actions taken at home).

15.53   For the family and community involvement domain, the two indicators were community cooperation and community relationship.   Relationships with neighbours, visiting neighbours, and love for the community were explored.

15.54   For the role of religion and spiritual practices in the family domain, the two indicators were the role of religion (as a basis of family well-being and understanding of life) and the role of spiritual practices based on religious beliefs.

15.55   For the housing and environment domain, the three indicators were housing area, pollution level, and recycling practices (defined as the awareness and knowledge of the use of plastics and the reuse and recycling of goods).

15.56   For the family and communication and technology domain, the three indicators were influence of communication applications, the use of smartphones, and the control of communication technology usage.

15.57   Some indicators in the FWBI were similar to previous rounds of the Family Survey.   Respondents' mental health status may be considered as a new area.

New Zealand – General Social Survey (NZGSS)

15.58 The NZGSS aimed to collect information on the well-being of New Zealanders aged 15 years or above.   The survey content covered a wide range of social and economic aspects, to show people's living conditions and well-being outcomes.   Questions related to family aspects included family functioning, satisfaction with family life, balance between work and personal life, and health aspects, in order to understand the respondents' relationships with their household members.[109]

15.59 Questions related to family functioning were included in the NZGSS.   First, social networks are important aspects of family functions, which should be available to help people make achievements and improve their well-being by reducing their feelings of isolation and loneliness.   Three aspects regarding the support of respondents' family included various kinds of support (emotional support, financial support, and practical support) from other family members, the family members who provided the support, and the helpfulness of the support.   Ways of making contact with family members and the use of technology in communication with family members were identified.[110]

15.60 Some questions about satisfaction with family life were asked; for example, in regard to how much time the respondents spent with family members and their feelings when getting along with their family.   Respondents were asked to rate their sense of purpose on a 10-point Likert scale.   Different types of contact in the last four weeks, the frequency of those types of contact, satisfaction with the amount of contact, and preferred communication methods were also explored.[111]

15.61 In addition, the study covered the research area about the balance between work and family.   A question was asked about the respondents' feelings toward their work-life balance during the last four weeks, to measure their satisfaction with their working conditions.

15.62 For health aspects, respondents were asked to rate their mental and physical condition.

15.63 Some of the question items in the NZGSS were similar to previous rounds of the Family Survey.   Respondents' happiness level may be considered as a new area.

Singapore – Study on the Singapore Family (SSF)

15.64   The SSF focused on different dimensions, such as spousal relations, parenting, the impact of stress and work pressure on family, and the public perception of family-related policies, covering all parts of the proposed research areas. [112]

15.65   Respondents' perceived importance of family was examined.   Respondents were asked to choose the three most important values that should be learned in childhood, such as filial piety, honesty, work ethic, etc., and to identify the member of their family who taught them certain values, such as their mother, father, or other family members.   Attitudes toward divorce for respondents who had been through a divorce were explored in terms of their level of satisfaction with the process of divorce.   Attitudes toward family roles were explored by asking respondents to determine their ideal division of home duties and role sharing.

15.66   In regard to understandings of Singaporeans' perceptions of parenthood, respondents were asked about the frequency of use of different parenting approaches, including constructive parenting, regulations, and punishment, etc. They were also asked to evaluate methods of getting children to obey orders and disciplining methods.   Parental stress was examined by asking them about their level of distress regarding different aspects of life.

15.67   Family functioning was examined with different dimensions of family relations, including communication, dependability, and cohesiveness.   Question items were asked to explore if the respondents agreed with these approaches and the overall level of family functioning perceived by the respondents.   Support of family was also included to understand the source and patterns of help-seeking behaviours.

15.68   Satisfaction with family life was a key research area.   Respondents were asked about how satisfied they were with their family and life on the whole. Their interactions with family members were explored in terms of the amount of time, types of activities, and quality of their marital relationships in terms of consensus and cohesion.   The SSF also explored perceptions of the work-life balance of respondents.

15.69   In regard to understandings of the social support networks of respondents, the survey kept track of the availability of assistance provided by other parties, including assistance from experts, extended family, and neighbours, etc. Understanding the perceptions of the public in regard to family-related policy was one of the main foci of the SSF.   Therefore, the survey collected the opinions of the respondents in regard to government programmes by rating their levels of support.   The exposure of the respondents to information regarding those programmes was also explored.

15.70   Question items related to dual-career couples' strategies for handling work and home duties may be included in the area of family work-life balance.

Singapore – Marriage and Parenthood Survey (M&P)

15.71 Unlike the Study on the Singapore Family, the M&P focused on studying respondents' attitudes toward and perceptions of marriage and parenthood. The target respondents were classified into two groups: respondents who had never been married and married respondents. Different research areas were studied in regard to the two groups.[113]

15.72 In the research area of the importance of family, never-married respondents were asked about their aspirations regarding marriage and whether or not they were dating seriously (i.e., dating with a view toward marriage). This was to explore their attitudes toward marriage. Married respondents were asked about the division of childcare responsibilities, such as taking care of sick children, and feeding and bathing young children. This was to facilitate an understanding of married respondents' attitudes toward family roles.

15.73 Married respondents were asked questions related to parenthood, including their ideal, intended, and actual number of children, and their reasons for not having more children. Questions related to their attitudes toward parenthood, intentions to have children, and/or desire to have more children were also included.

15.74 Attitudes toward work-life balance were explored by asking the married respondents about their ideal arrangement of work time in different stages of a child's life, in order to understand changes of attitudes toward work-life balance.

15.75 Married respondents' perceptions of policy issues were examined by asking for the extent of their agreement with statements regarding flexible work arrangements.

15.76 Question items related to agreement about flexible work arrangements may be included in the area of family work-life balance.

Taiwan – Panel Study of Family Dynamics (PSFD)

15.77   The PSFD mainly focused on economic, social, psychological, and institutional factors of Chinese families.   The core part of the main survey included questions related to interactive relationships between the main respondents and their children, and the behaviours of the respondents and their family members. In the follow-up surveys, the core contents included the demographic information of household members, work status, marital status, interactions with family members, housing and living arrangements, income and expenditure, and childbearing and rearing information.[114]

15.78   Questions were asked in regard to the attitudes of respondents toward the importance of family, measured via their agreement with statements related to traditional family values, such as 'divorce is not allowed no matter how bad the family relationship is', 'husbands should go to work while wives should be housekeepers', 'mothers should not go to work before their children have started school', and 'parents should have at least one boy'.   The respondents' views about marriage, cohabitation, and willingness to have children were also obtained.   Questions were asked about the respondents' plans regarding marriage, the arrangement of blind dates, and reasons for being single.

15.79   Questions related to parenthood were also asked.   Intention to have children and a list of statements related to activities carried out in daily life and the education of children were asked to understand respondents' parenting methods.

15.80   Family functioning was also covered in the PSFD.   Questions about the division of labour in terms of household income and expenses, the amount of housework shared between couples, financial support from family members, family members who made household decisions, etc., were asked to enable the study of marriage equality within families.

15.81   Satisfaction with family life, satisfaction with emotional life, time spent with family members, frequency of and methods used for communication with family members, and degree of agreement about feeling happy under proposed situations were studied to understand the relationships between family members and their degree of satisfaction with family life.   The subjective happiness and mental health of the respondents were also explored.

15.82   Some of the question items in the PSFD were similar to previous rounds of the Family Survey.   Respondents' subjective happiness and physical and mental health may be considered as new areas.

United Kingdom – British Household Panel Survey (BHPS)

15.83 The main objective of the BHPS was to understand the social and economic changes in families and individuals in the United Kingdom. The study content covered a broad range of social and economic aspects. Questions related to the family were included, such as respondents' history of marriage, cohabitation and fertility, children and parenting, and social networks with family members.[115]

15.84 The BHPS covered different questions related to the importance of family. Some questions were asked about the respondents' views regarding marriage, cohabitation, and divorce. Respondents' levels of agreement with statements about cohabitation and divorce were also explored; for example, 'It is alright for people to live together even if they have no interest in considering marriage' and 'It is better to divorce than continue an unhappy marriage'.

15.85 Various questions about parenthood and parenting methods were adopted, including the most important quality for a child to learn to prepare for life, strictly enforced family rules, and parenting methods. Questions related to the intention to have a child and the desire to have more children were explored.

15.86 Questions related to family functioning were covered. Respondents were asked about household decision making, especially financial decisions. These questions aimed to understand the family functioning of the respondents and their family members.

15.87 Questions related to the respondents' satisfaction with family life were included. Their level of satisfaction with family life and their relationships with family members were rated to identify the relationships between each individual in a household and the other household members. Questions were asked about how often the parents spent time playing with their children, going outside, and contacting their parents.

15.88 Furthermore, questions related to the balance between work and family were included, such as various aspects of the respondents' current jobs, the proportion of time spent working, and satisfaction with their work-life balance.

15.89 Questions related to household decision making may be included in the area of family functioning or as a new area.

United Kingdom – United Kingdom Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS)

15.90 The UKHLS was built on the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) and aimed to understand the long-term effects of social and economic factors on families and individuals in Britain. Most of the questions from the BHPS continued as part of the UKHLS questionnaire. The UKHLS provided a way to understand the interrelationships between individuals and households or families.[116]

15.91 As with the BHPS, the UKHLS designed many questions to examine the respondents' attitudes toward family and partnerships. Some questions were asked about the respondents' views regarding marriage, cohabitation, and divorce. The respondents' level of agreement with situations regarding cohabitation and divorce were explored through statements such as 'It is alright for people to live together even if they have no interest in considering marriage' and 'It is better to divorce than continue an unhappy marriage'.

15.92 Similar to the BHPS, various questions about parenthood and parenting methods were asked, including questions about the most important quality for a child to learn to prepare for life, strictly enforced family rules, and parenting methods. Questions related to the respondents' intention to have a child and desire to have more children were explored.

15.93 Questions related to family functioning were covered. Respondents were asked about their household decision making, especially in regard to financial decisions. These questions aimed to understand the family functioning of the respondents and their family members.

15.94 Questions related to the respondents' satisfaction with family life were included. The level of satisfaction with family life and the respondents' relationships with family members were rated to understand the relationships of each individual in a household with other household members. Questions were asked about how often the parents spent time playing with their children, going outside, and contacting their parents. The respondents' subjective happiness and level of depression were explored.

15.95 Regarding the balance between work and family, various questions regarding, for example, the respondents' current job status, proportion of time spent working, and satisfaction toward work life were asked.

15.96 Questions related to the respondents' social support networks and awareness of family-related programmes were included. Respondents were instructed to state the frequency with which they used types of childcare or accessed support service providers in the United Kingdom.

15.97 Respondents' subjective happiness and mental health may be considered as new areas.

United States – American Family Survey (AFS)

15.98   The AFS mainly focused on exploring Americans' attitudes toward and practices regarding marriage and families, and aimed to understand the structures of the respondents' families.   The AFS also highlighted the importance of respondents' political views and attitudes toward different policies and social issues, which were mostly family-related.[117,118,119,120,121,122]

15.99   The importance of family was one of the key research areas covered in the AFS.   Over time, respondents' attitudes toward marriage, divorce, and having children were rated.   In recent years, the survey also expanded its areas of interest to explore respondents' attitudes toward core values and family roles.   Certain pairs of conflicting values were listed for respondents to choose the one they perceived as being most important to their children.   Respondents expressed their perceptions of the importance of various family roles.   In the 2016 survey, respondents were asked about how they got along with their extended family, such as grandparents.

15.100   The respondents' perceptions of parenthood, including their attitudes toward parenthood and intention to have children, were explored.   Respondents were asked to rate their level of agreement with statements related to parenthood.   Besides, respondents were asked about how likely they were to have children, their parenting methods, role models, and level of parental stress.

15.101   Regarding family functioning, question items regarding family support, technology adopted for communication, and household decision making were explored.   Some of the surveys covered socio-economic topics to, for example, explore the impact of the costs of family healthcare in 2017 and sexual harassment in 2018.

15.102   Respondents were asked about how satisfied they were with their family and life on the whole.   They were also asked to evaluate their family relationships in the past two years.   Their interactions with family members were explored in terms of the amount of time, types of activities, use of technology, and the topics of conversation, etc., involved.

15.103   To understand the balance of work and family, respondents' attitudes toward the developments of family-friendly policies and work-family balance were included.

15.104   The availability of assistance provided by neighbours, co-workers, or friends was explored in regard to resolving relational and financial problems.   Respondents expressed their perceptions of policies related to family and other areas, such as tax cuts and immigration issues.

15.105   Questions related to household decision making may be included in the area of family functioning or as a new area.

16. Questions Items to Consider for Future Surveys

Review of Family Survey Question Items

16.1   In the 2017 Family Survey, 258 question items covered seven themes, as well as household and personal characteristics.   To avoid a long questionnaire design that would result in fieldwork difficulties, each dimension and question under the seven themes is examined.   To retain dimensions or question items that are useful for trend analyses and comparisons, five criteria are introduced for future considerations of question items to be included in the general survey part of the Family Survey, as follows:

(1)   Number of items or time required for interviews, including each dimension;

(2)   Number of times question items were adopted in previous rounds of the Family Survey;

(3)   Whether or not an index can be constructed;

(4)   Any particular trend in previous Surveys that would be useful to track in future Family Surveys; and

(5)   Question items that have been adopted in reviewed family surveys.

16.2   Table 16.1 summarises the review of question items in previous rounds of the Family Survey.   The proposed dimensions to be included in future Family Surveys are as follows:

(1)   *The importance of family*

Three dimensions (attitudes toward singlehood, cohabitation, and divorce) are proposed.   The indexes of these dimensions could be constructed to monitor the trends involved.

(2)   *Parenthood*

With observed decreasing trends in previous rounds of the Family Survey, two questions about respondents' intention to have children and desire to have more children are proposed.   The dimension of parenting method is included, however, another scale is proposed.

(3)   *Family functioning*

Though there were 33 items, the CFAI exhibits high levels of reliability and the five subscales could be constructed to look at specific aspects of family functioning in a detailed manner.   The CFAI and the perceived overall family function are proposed.

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(4)   *Satisfaction with family life*

Five dimensions (satisfaction with family life, satisfaction with the relationships between family members and inter-generations, spending time with parents and spouse/partner, communication with family members and inter-generations, and frequency of use of modern technologies to communicate with family members and inter-generations) are proposed to track the trends from previous rounds of the Family Survey.   As most of the reviewed family surveys covered the dimension of subjective happiness, it is proposed that this dimension is adopted in this scale.

(5)   *Work-family balance*

Though no particular trends were observed for dimensions related to work-family balance, it is crucial to monitor trends across the years. Five dimensions (attitudes toward work-family balance, the level of difficulty and stress resulting from efforts to meet the competing demands of work and family, satisfaction with the amount of time spent at work and with family, and satisfaction with work life) are proposed.

(6)   *Social support network*

According to the results of the regression models, supportive assistance from respondents' social support networks was one of the major explanatory variables of better perceived family functioning.   The dimension of availability of assistance is included, however, another scale to measure respondents' social support networks is proposed.

(7)   *Awareness of and participation in family-related programmes*

Respondents' awareness of and participation in family-related programmes are proposed to monitor these trends from previous rounds of the Family Survey.

Table 16.1   *Review of Question Items from Previous Rounds of the Family Survey*

	Themes/dimensions	No. of items	Year	Index	Trend	Reviewed surveys	Proposed items
Importance of Family							
A1	Attitudes toward traditional family values	7	4	-	-	▮	
A2	Importance of core values	8	1	-	-	▮	
A3	Attitudes toward ideal family	4	1	-	-	▮	
A4	Attitudes toward living with parents	4	4	-	-	▮	
A5	Attitudes toward marriage and having a child	4	4	✓	No trend	▮	
A6	Attitudes toward involvement of grandparents in family issues	4	4	✓	(declining trend)	▮	
A7	Attitudes toward singlehood	2	4	✓	(rising trend)	▮	✓
A8	Attitudes toward cohabitation	2	4	✓	No trend	▮	✓
A9	Attitudes toward divorce	4	4	✓	No trend	▮	✓
A10	Attitudes toward family role	3	1	-	-	▮	
A11	Practice of filial piety (parents)	6	3	✓	No trend	▮	
A12	Practice of filial piety (grandparents)	6	1	-	-	▮	
Parenthood							
B1	Attitudes toward parenthood	4	4	-	-	▮	
B2	Impact on having and raising children	4	4	-	-	▮	
B3	Intention to have children	1	4	-	(declining trend)	▮	✓
B4	Desire to have more children	1	3	-	(declining trend)	▮	✓
B5	Role models	4	3	✓	No trend	▮	
B6	Parenting method	11	4	✓	(rising trend)	▮	
B7	Attitudes toward tri-parenting	3	3	-	-	▮	
B8	Parental stress	10	3	✓	No trend	▮	

	Themes/dimensions	No. of items	Year	Index	Trend	Reviewed surveys	Proposed items
Family Functioning							
C1	Chinese Family Assessment Instrument (CFAI)						
	Mutuality	12	4	✓	No trend	▢▢▢	✓
	Communication	9	4	✓	↓ (declining)	▢▢▢	✓
	Conflict and harmony	6	4	✓	No trend	▢▢▢	✓
	Parental concern	3	4	✓	No trend	▢▢▢	✓
	Parental control	3	4	✓	↑ (increasing)	▢▢▢	✓
C2	Perceived overall family functioning	1	4	-	↓ (declining)	■■■	✓
C3	Support of family	1	1	-	-	■■■	
C4	Use of technology for communication	1	1	-	-	■■■	
C5	Household decision making	7	1	-	-	■■▢	
Satisfaction with Family Life							
D1	Satisfaction with family life	1	4	-	↓ (declining)	■■▢	✓
D2	Satisfaction with relationships between family members and inter-generations	1	4	-	No trend	■■■	✓
D3	Spending time with parents and spouse/partner	1	4	-	↓ (declining)	■■■	✓
D4	Communication with family members and inter-generations	1	4	-	↓ (declining)	■■■	✓
D5	Frequency of use of modern technologies to communicate with family members and inter-generations	1	3	-	↑ (increasing)	■■▢	✓
D6	Quality of communication	1	1	-	-	■▢▢	
D7	Preferred methods of communication	1	1	-	-	■▢▢	
D8	Perception of home	5	1	-	-	■▢▢	
D9	Subjective happiness	4	1	-	-	■■▢	✓

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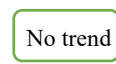|	Themes/dimensions	No. of items	Year	Index	Trend	Reviewed surveys	Proposed items
Work-Family Balance							
E1	Attitudes toward work-family balance	6	3	✓	No trend	▰▰▱	✅
E2	The level of difficulty resulting from efforts to meet the competing demands of work and family	1	3	-	No trend	▰▱	✅
E3	The level of stress resulting from efforts to meet the competing demands of work and family	1	4	-	No trend	▰▱	✅
E4	Satisfaction with the amount of time spent at work and with family	1	4	-	No trend	▰▱	✅
E5	Family-friendly policy	10	1	-	-	▰▱	
E6	Satisfaction with work life	1	1	-	-	▰▰▱	✅
Social Support Network							
F1	Availability of assistance	6	4	✓	📉	▰▰▱	
F2	Perceived effectiveness of family counselling and family education services	4	3	✓	📉	▱▱▱	
Awareness of and Participation in Family-Related Programmes							
G1	Awareness of family-related programmes	1	4	-	📉	▰▱	✅
G2	Participation in family-related programmes	1	4	-	📉	▰▱	✅

Legend for trend analyses:

📈 Increasing trend or a significant surge in 2017　　📉 Decreasing trend or a significant drop in 2017　　No trend　No particular trend

Legend for reviewed family surveys:

▰▰▰ Rather a lot　　▰▰▱ Average　　▰▱▱ Very little　　▱▱▱ 0

Questionnaire of the General Survey of Future Family Surveys

16.3   In previous rounds of the Family Survey, there were two questionnaires: one for household information and one for personal views.   The long questionnaire design posed difficulties during the fieldwork.   Therefore, it is proposed that the two questionnaires are combined into one.   The first part of the general survey includes 12 question items related to household and personal characteristics (i.e., household size, gender, age, educational attainment, marital status, length of residence in Hong Kong, economic activity status, working arrangements, monthly personal and household income, tenure of accommodation, housing type and living area).   The question wordings should be simple, understandable, cohesive, and unbiased.

16.4   It is proposed that Theme 1 is renamed as Family Structure.   Apart from the respondents' attitudes toward singlehood, cohabitation, and divorce, as in previous rounds of the Family Survey, two question items are designed to collect information about respondents' current family structures (i.e., couple only, living with unmarried children only, living with married children, etc.). This theme, Family Structure, consists of a total of 10 question items with three constructed indexes.

16.5   For Theme 2, apart from question items asking about the respondents' intention to have children and their desire to have more children, two scales are proposed. The Parent-Child Dysfunctional Interaction (PCDI) subscale of the Chinese version of Parenting Stress Index – Short Form (PSI – SF) is a self-report screening tool that can be used to assess the extent to which a parent feels that his/her child is not meeting expectations and that interactions with the child are not reinforcing.   This is a psychometrically sound and efficient abbreviated version of the PSI-SF, suitable for use among Chinese parents.   There are three subscales: parental distress, parent-child dysfunctional interactions, and difficult children.[123]   With reference of the Parent-Child Conflict Tactics Scale (CTSPC) and two positive parenting methods (e.g. explain the reason with my children and express my love to my children through languages and actions), the prevalence of positive parenting methods, child maltreatment and non-violent disciplinary behaviours are examined.[124]   Further, two questions are designed to ask the level of difficulty and stress in parenting.   This theme, Parenthood, consists of a total of 22 question items with two constructed indexes.

16.6   For Theme 3, apart from the CFAI and perceived overall family functioning, as in previous rounds of the Family Survey, the relationship and conflicts between spouse/partner, child, parents, and in-laws are solicited from respondents.   This theme, Family Functioning, consists of a total of 36 question items with one constructed index.

16.7   For Theme 4, Satisfaction with Family Life, five question items (i.e., satisfaction with family life, satisfaction with the relationships between family members and inter-generations, spending time with parents and spouse/partner, communication with family members and inter-generations, and frequency of use of modern technologies to communicate with family members and inter-generations), as in previous rounds of the Family Survey, are proposed.

16.8   Theme 5, Work-Family Balance, consists of a total of 11 questions with one constructed index.   Apart from the respondents' attitudes toward their work-family balance and five questions related to work-family balance, one question is designed to explore flexible work arrangements, with dual-career couples in mind.

16.9   In Theme 6, respondents' perceptions of social support can be captured by the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support, which is a 12-item scale with three 4-item subscales that is used to assess the level of perceived social support from family, friends, and others.[125]   Besides, question items regarding awareness of and participation in family-related programmes are reframed under this theme.   This theme, Social Support Network, consists of a total of 13 question items with one constructed index.

16.10   Family hierarchy is proposed as a new theme, as some of the reviewed family surveys covered related dimensions, such as household roles, domination, control, and power within a family.   Two questions are designed to explore the respondents' household roles (i.e., breadwinner and carer).   Four questions are designed to examine household decision making about financial, living, children, and caring arrangements.   The extent of respondents' participation in household activities is also assessed.   This theme, Family Hierarchy, consists of a total of seven question items.

16.11   Quality of life is proposed as a new theme, as most of the reviewed family surveys covered this area.   The proposed dimensions include physical health, mental health, and level of happiness.   The Subjective Happiness Scale (SHS-C) is a four-item scale used to self-rate the happiness of the respondents.[126,127]   The Patient Health Questionnaire-4 (PHQ-4) is a four-item scale used to screen for anxiety and depression.[128]   The Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS) is a five-item scale used to measure one's life satisfaction as a whole.[129]   Besides, one question item to measure respondents' overall physical health is included.   This theme, Quality of Life, consists of 14 question items with three constructed indexes.

16.12   On the basis of the results of trend and in-depth analyses, and reviewed family surveys, a conceptual and hypothetical framework for future Family Surveys is drafted.   Ongoing data collection in future Family Surveys could help refine and finalise the framework and enable better interpretations of findings and more comprehensive understandings of trends.

16.13 The questionnaire of the general survey of future Family Surveys consists of eight themes with 30 dimensions.   There are a total of 130 question items, which is about half the number of items in the 2017 Family Survey.   A pilot run with 10 respondents covering both genders and various age groups was conducted for the new questionnaire.   On average, it took about 30 minutes to 40 minutes to complete the new questionnaire.   As compared to the questionnaire adopted in the 2017 Family Survey, the length of the questionnaire is trimmed down by half, which will result in a significantly shorter interviewing time.

16.14 Diagram 16.2 and Table 16.3 present the framework and proposed dimensions of each theme in the general survey of future Family Surveys.

Diagram 16.2 Framework of the General Survey of Future Family Surveys
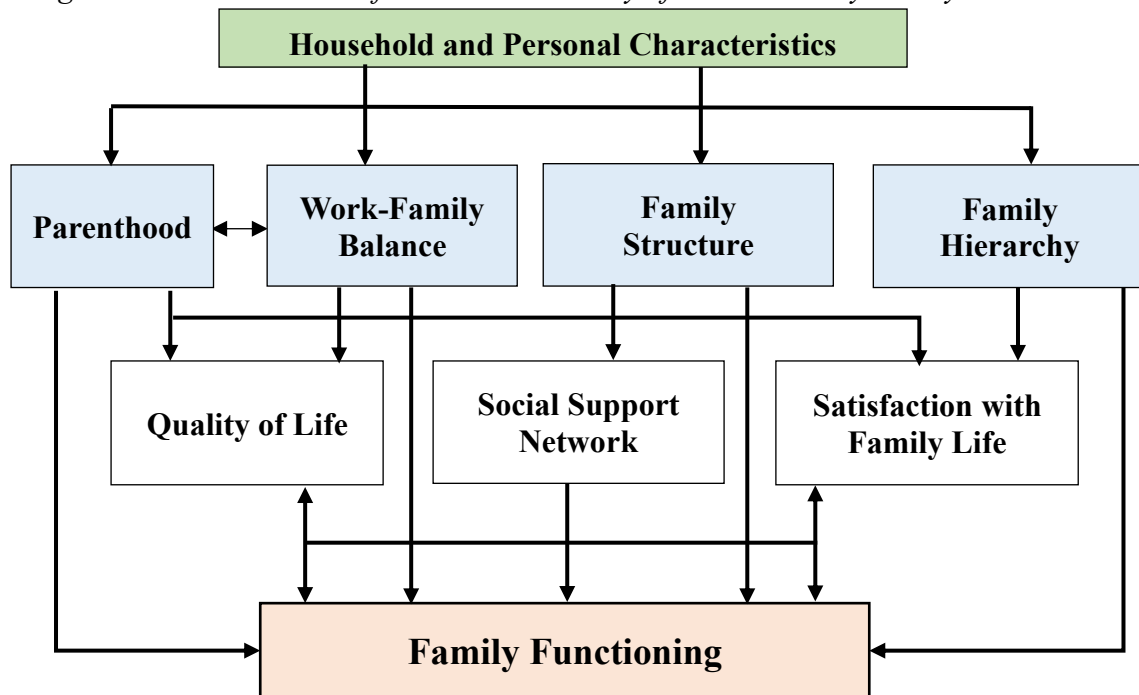
Table 16.3   Proposed Dimensions of Each Theme of the General Survey of Future Family Surveys

Themes/dimensions	No. of items	Index
Household and Personal Characteristics	12	
Household size	1	-
Gender, age, educational attainment, marital status, length of residence in Hong Kong	5	-
Economic activity status and working arrangements	1	-
Personal income and household income	2	-
Tenure of accommodation, type of housing and living area	3	-
Theme 1 Family Structure	10	
Attitudes toward singlehood	2	✓
Attitudes toward cohabitation	2	✓

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Themes/dimensions	No. of items	Index
Attitudes toward divorce	4	✓
Family structure	2	-
Theme 2 Parenthood	22	
Intention to have children/desire to have more children	2	-
Parent-Child Dysfunctional Interaction (PCDI)	12	✓
The level of difficulty in parenting and level of parental stress	2	-
Parenting methods	6	✓
Theme 3 Family Functioning	36	
Chinese Family Assessment Instrument (CFAI)	33	✓
Perceived overall family functioning	1	-
Relationship and conflicts	2	-
Theme 4 Satisfaction with Family Life	5	
Satisfaction with family life	1	-
Satisfaction with the relationships between family members and inter-generations	1	-
Spending time with parents and spouse/partner	1	-
Communication with family members and inter-generations	1	-
Frequency of use of modern technologies to communicate with family members and inter-generations	1	-
Theme 5 Work-Family Balance	11	
Attitudes toward work-family balance	6	✓
The level of difficulty and stress resulting from efforts to meet the competing demands of work and family	2	-
Satisfaction with the amount of time spent at work and with family	1	-
Satisfaction with work life	1	-
Flexible work arrangements	1	-
Theme 6 Social Support Network	13	
Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support	12	✓
Awareness of and participation in family-related programmes	1	-
Theme 7 Family Hierarchy	7	
Household role (breadwinner and carer)	2	-
Household decision making (financial, living, children, caring)	4	-
Household participation	1	-
Theme 8 Quality of Life	14	
Subjective Happiness Scale (SHS-C)	4	✓
Overall physical health	1	-
Patient Health Questionnaire-4 (PHQ-4)	4	✓
Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS)	5	✓

Proposed Topics of the Thematic Survey of Future Family Surveys

16.15   A thematic survey is proposed to be conducted separately in each round of future Family Surveys.   Topics could be introduced according to social and economic situations.   Seven topics with preliminary observations are proposed.

(1)   Preventing and resolving family disputes

The emergence of family disputes usually accompanies a situation in which conflict and arguments appear among family members over things like material goods (such as land ownership), decision-making rights, and social relations (such as marital relations), etc.[130]   Regarding family issues, past local studies have indicated that different family services have been developed over time to prevent and resolve family disputes arising from such issues, such as family interventions through clinical case/group work, family mediation, and family and parent education programmes, groups, and projects.[131]   However, these types of conventional family service development are challenged when political and economic situations became unpredictable – for example, as a result of social events and the COVID-19 pandemic in the past two years.   Such unprecedented and challenging times lead to new family disputes resulting from divergent political views, epidemic situations, and economic downfall. Under this 'new normal', family services need to relocate their focus to address family disputes and properly meet families' needs.   Therefore, it is proposed that a thematic survey is conducted to explore suitable approaches to preventing and resolving family disputes in these challenging times, meeting family needs, and understanding how to enhance family resilience in Hong Kong.

(2)   Multiplicity of family violence

Family violence, such as intimate partner violence (IPV) and child abuse, is one of the critical challenges encountered by families in Hong Kong, especially in the current pandemic, during which demands for anti-domestic violence services are increasing, as reported by local NGOs.[132] The Social Welfare Department (SWD) collects the statistical information of newly reported IPV cases and child abuse cases, and their impacts have been investigated extensively by past local studies.[133,134]   Concerning the divergent dynamics of families, the Department needs to be aware of the impacts of multidimensional forms of family violence, where family members who are exposed to high levels and multiple forms of victimisation are impacted in more harmful and less reversible ways.[135,136] Therefore, it is proposed that a thematic survey is conducted to offer a considerably more extensive picture of family violence in terms of its multiplicity in families in Hong Kong, to examine the prevalence rates of each form of family violence, and to explore the co-occurrence rates and associations between different types of violence, for the sake of early identification and effective preventions.

(3) Family caring

Family caring is a critical component of family functioning, which refers to the inter-relational support between family members. It could be sub-divided into different aspects, such as elderly support, parent-child relationships, and the mutual support between family members [137] Systematic reviews of past local studies have revealed that the study scope of family caring has been restricted to the support of vulnerable members of the family, such as the frail elderly, children with special care needs, and other family members with mental health conditions. Well-functioning family members remain unexplored. The problem-orientated nature of family caring in these past studies has also led to limited explorations of how families provide caring positively and preventatively.

While family caring acts as one of the determining factors in assessing family functioning, it is proposed that a thematic survey is conducted to explore the difficulties encountered by carers in Hong Kong, to assess their physical and mental health, the pressure they experience, and to identify service gaps for carers.

(4) Impacts of modern technologies on communication with family members

Over the past few decades, there has been great technological advancement, which has led to the rapid development of information and communication technologies (ICTs). By using different forms of ICTs, such as instant messaging applications, social media platforms, and email, people are able to communicate and interact with others in ways other than a face-to-face approach. [138] The emergence of these modern technologies has led to revolutionary changes in family communication. They make virtual communication accessible, feasible, and efficient, without the barriers of time, space, location, and distance, thus shaping the ways family members communicate and interact.[139]

Past local studies have explored the impacts of modern technologies on family communication dynamics. They concluded that ICTs could enable one-to-many forms of communication via group functions and break the barriers of small family sizes, as well as provide emotional support to aged family members.[140] On the other hand, ICTs may also reduce the quality of family communication. Overuse of ICTs could lead to isolation from family members and the failure to express feelings normally, thus undermining the quality of family relationships.[141] While it has been identified that ICTs play an important role in shaping the dynamics of family communication, little is known about how they have changed familial ideologies and different aspects of family life in the short and long term. This is concerning, especially since the use of ICTs has increased significantly in the past year due to the social distancing regulations in place during the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, it is proposed that a thematic survey is conducted to investigate both the positive and negative impacts of modern technologies on family communication in the short and long term.

(5)   Parental stress

The perceived parenthood of spouses is critically shaped by the level of parental stress they experience.   While stress can be classified externally and internally,[142] parental stress is regarded as an external form of stress, as it is not caused by a spouse.   However, it could lead to internal stress within the spousal relationship and lead to problems such as inter-marital conflicts.[143]   In Hong Kong, the prevalence of parental stress is high, as reported by local studies.   A recent study indicated that around 70% of the parents under study perceived themselves as being stressed about parenting, and around 20% of them thought they were greatly stressed about parenting.   Parents without jobs were found to have a greater level of stress compared with parents with jobs.[144]   Parental stress is still a critical issue in Hong Kong.   Therefore, it is proposed that a thematic survey is conducted to examine the prevalence of parental stress, to identify the underlying reasons for it, and to explore its impacts on parenthood and family relationships.

(6)   Social support network

Understanding of social support network bases on a condition that people perceive their social networks as having positive impacts, such as provision of support, information and feedback.[145].   Social support network or social connectedness is characterised by both natural support (such as family and friend networks) and formal support (such as healthcare professionals and community ties), with which the former is relatively enduring and the latter maybe more temporary.[146]   Social support network involves several types of supportive interactions including emotional, informational and instrumental support which are associated with better outcomes such as reducing distress, confusion and feelings of loss of control,[147] shaping the well-being of mental health to some extent.   Past local studies mainly focus on investigating the people's perception of their natural support networks and remain a room of exploration of how people perceive their accessibility to the formal support networks.

It comes to attention of how social support network plays its role to counterbalance the impacts brought by the family issues.   In view of that, a thematic survey is proposed to explore people's availability and perception of multi-dimensional social support network in terms of natural and formal support, such as family, friends, healthcare professionals, family-related services and community ties, etc.

(7)   Work-family balance

Work-family balance is a state that work roles and family roles of a person are mutually compatible and without conflict or interference.   In a more positive sense, work-family balance could lead to work-family facilitation, implying that work can facilitate family life and family can facilitate work life by the experiences, skills and opportunities gained in both sides.[148] In Hong Kong, long working time is well-recognised with an average duration of 52 hours per week, ranking the top longest among 77 cities in the world.[149]   With less time spent with family, work-family balance would be compromised and affect the development of family life, especially in Hong Kong.   A local study in 2015 reflected that people rated averagely 6 out of 10 in terms of the extent to which they had achieved an ideal work-life balance,[150] revealing that people still have a long way to go to achieve work-family balance in Hong Kong.

Considering the latest development of work from home arrangement and other flexible working arrangement, time spent with work and family may be overlapped or even integrated.   It may change the dynamics of work-family balance which needs more exploration in the future.   In view of that, a thematic survey is proposed to explore the attitudes toward work-family balance, examine the work-life balance situation, and identify the factors affecting the work-family balance among those who are economically active in Hong Kong.

16.16   Regarding the questionnaire for the thematic survey, to allow flexibility and accommodate societal issues, two options may be considered:

(1)   It is proposed to design about 60 to 80 question items for the selected theme and extract some major themes of the general survey which are the most relevant to the selected theme.   The number of question items should not be more than 150 or the interviewing time remains in 45 minutes to ensure the data quality and maintain an acceptable response rate.   As an illustration, for the first topic of the thematic survey – preventing and resolving family disputes, apart from the designed question items, the most relevant themes of the general survey – family functioning and social support network could be included.

(2)   It is proposed to design about 60 to 80 question items for the selected theme and include all the themes of the general survey.   The number of question items would be about 190 to 210.   For this long questionnaire design, it is proposed to provide incentives (i.e. supermarket or shop coupons) to the respondents so as to maintain an acceptable response rate.

Section V
Conclusion and Recommendations

17. Trend and In-depth Analyses

Trend Analyses

17.1 After consolidating a combined database, GLM models were performed to determine the differences in mean scores across the years, controlling for the gender, age, marital status, and economic activity status of the respondents.

The Importance of Family

17.2 Across the years, respondents began to hold more positive views toward singlehood, whereas respondents' attitudes toward marriage and having children and the involvement of grandparents in family issues weakened over time. There was no particular trend regarding attitudes toward cohabitation and divorce. The results of the trend analyses are summarised as follows.

(1) Attitudes toward marriage and having children

Though a drop was observed in 2017, a decreasing trend was not apparent.

(2) Attitudes toward the involvement of grandparents in family issues

The mean scores were stable in 2011, 2013, and 2015, whereas a significant drop was observed in 2017.

(3) Attitudes toward singlehood

The mean scores grew steadily from 2011 to 2015, then a slight drop was observed in 2017. In general, a mild increasing trend was observed from 2011 to 2015.

(4) Attitudes toward cohabitation

The mean scores grew from 2011 to 2013, then flattened out in 2015 and 2017. There was no particular trend in attitudes toward cohabitation.

(5) Attitudes toward divorce

The mean scores fluctuated slightly across the years; hence, no particular trend was observed.

(6) Practice of filial piety: Parents

Though the mean scores dropped gradually from 2013 to 2017, a decreasing trend was not apparent.

Parenthood

17.3   Across the years, there were decreasing trends in the intention to have children among non-parent respondents and the desire to have more children among parent respondents.   Besides, parent respondents held more positive views toward acting as role models and adopted positive parenting methods with their children.   Parent respondents reported an average level of parental stress. The results of the trend analyses are summarised as follows.

   (1)   Intention to have children

      The intention to have children among non-parent respondents dropped from 58.0% in 2011 to 45.0% in 2017.   A notable decreasing trend was observed, suggesting the intention to have children was weakening.

   (2)   Desire to have more children

      Among parent respondents aged 18 to 54 years, the desire to have more children dropped from 9.1% in 2013 to 5.6% in 2015 and 2017.   A decreasing proportion was observed, suggesting the desire to have more children was weakening.

   (3)   Role models

      Though the mean scores dropped from 2011 to 2015, the high scores across the years indicated that parent respondents held more positive views toward acting as role models as parents.

   (4)   Parenting methods

      Across the years, a mild increasing trend was observed; the mean scores increased from 2013 to 2017.   The results indicate that parent respondents tended to adopt positive parenting methods, such as caring for their children's needs, pointing out and rectifying their children's mistakes immediately, and teaching their children to try their best.

   (5)   Parental stress

      Parent respondents reported an average level of parental stress and no particular trend was observed across the years.

Family Functioning

17.4   Across the years, though respondents exhibited mutual support and love among family members and parents exercised fewer controlling acts on their children, the communication between family members worsened.   Hence, the perceived overall family functioning weakened across the years.   The results of the trend analyses are summarised as follows.

   (1)   CFAI mutuality

      The mean scores fluctuated slightly across the years; hence, no particular trend was observed.   The results indicate that respondents experienced mutual support and love among family members.

(2)   CFAI communication

The mean scores dropped from 2013 to 2017 and this decreasing trend indicates that the communication between family members worsened over time.

(3)   CFAI conflict and harmony

The mean scores fluctuated slightly across the years; hence, no particular trend was observed.   The results indicate that respondents did not frequently experience conflict such as fighting and quarrelling.

(4)   CFAI parental concern

The mean scores fluctuated slightly across the years; hence, no particular trend was observed.   The results indicate that respondents exhibited supportive behaviour among family members.

(5)   CFAI parental control

The mean scores increased from 2011 to 2017 and this increasing trend indicates that parents exercised fewer controlling acts on their children.

(6)   Perceived overall family functioning

The mean scores dropped from 2011 to 2017 and this decreasing trend indicates that family function weakened across the years.

Satisfaction with Family Life

17.5   Across the years, respondents were generally satisfied with family life and relationships between family members and inter-generations; however, respondents reported talking about personal issues less frequently with their parents, spouse/partner, family members, and inter-generations.   Besides, a significant surge in the use of modern technologies in communication with family members and inter-generations in 2017 was observed.   The results of the trend analyses are summarised as follows.

(1)   Satisfaction with family life

Though respondents were generally satisfied with family life, a mild decreasing trend was observed across the years.   There was a significant positive correlation between CFAI communication and satisfaction with family life.   The results indicate that the respondents reported better communication among family members, more satisfaction with their family life.

(2)   Satisfaction with the relationships between family members and inter-generations

Respondents were, in general, satisfied with their relationships with family members and inter-generations, and the mean scores were quite stable across the years.

(3) Spending time with parents and spouse/partner

Over two-thirds of respondents would discuss important personal issues with their fathers, mothers, and spouses/partners. However, the proportions dropped significantly in 2017.

(4) Communication with family members and inter-generations

Respondents reported less frequently talking about personal issues with their family members and inter-generations, and a notable decreasing trend was observed. This echoes the communication aspect of the CFAI, in that the communication between family members worsened across the years.

(5) Frequency of use of modern technologies to communicate with family members and inter-generations

With the rapid development of mobile devices, an increasing number of respondents used modern technologies (e.g., SMS, WhatsApp) to communicate with family members and inter-generations. A significant surge in 2017 was observed. Simultaneously, with the use of modern technologies, the frequency of face-to-face communication between family members dropped.

Balancing Work and Family

17.6 Across the years, respondents encountered difficulties and stress in balancing work and family in general. However, they were satisfied with the amount of time spent at work and with family. No particular trends across the years were observed. The results of the trend analyses are summarised as follows.

(1) Attitudes toward work-family balance

The mean scores climbed from 2011 to 2013 and rebounded back in 2015; hence, no particular trend was observed. The results indicated that respondents encountered some difficulties and stress in balancing work and family in general.

(2) The level of difficulty resulting from efforts to meet the competing demands of work and family

The mean scores fluctuated slightly across the years; hence, no particular trend was observed. In general, respondents encountered some difficulties in balancing work and family.

(3) The level of stress resulting from efforts to meet the competing demands of work and family

The mean scores fluctuated slightly across the years; hence, no particular trend was observed. In general, respondents suffered from stress in balancing work and family.

(4)   Satisfaction with the amount of time spent at work and with family

Though respondents encountered some difficulties and stress in balancing work and family in general, they were satisfied with the amount of time spent at work and with family.   The mean scores fluctuated slightly across the years; hence, no particular trend was observed.

Social Support Network

17.7   The results of the trend analyses are summarised as follows.

(1)   Availability of assistance

Though respondents reported helpful and supportive assistance available from family members, a gradual decreasing trend was observed across the years and the mean scores dropped to their lowest point in 2017.

(2)   Perceived effectiveness of family counselling and family education services

A decreasing trend was observed across the years in regard to the perceived effectiveness of family counselling and family education services, which reached their lowest points in 2017.

Awareness of and Participation in Family-Related Programmes

17.8   Across the years, there has been a significant drop in respondents' awareness of family-related programmes; however, based on the data obtained in previous rounds of the Family Survey, the factors or reasons for this significant drop are inexplicable.   The results of the trend analyses are summarised as follows.

(1)   Awareness of family-related programmes

Though the proportions of respondents who were aware of family-related programmes grew steadily from 2011 to 2015, there was a significant drop in 2017.

(2)   Participation in family-related programmes

The proportions of respondents who had participated in family-related programmes remained at around 10% and a decreasing trend since 2013 was observed.

In-depth Analyses

17.9   Seven research areas were identified and regression analyses were performed to examine the associations between the dependent variables and explanatory variables.   The regression models were found to be significant, with good fits. Table 17.1 summarises the regression results.

Table 17.1   Regression Results of the Seven Research Areas

Research areas	Dependent variables	Key observations
Factors affecting family functioning	Family functioning	Better perceived family functioning was associated with supportive assistance from social support networks and higher levels of satisfaction with the relationships between family members and inter-generations.
Factors affecting family satisfaction	Family satisfaction	Respondents with higher levels of satisfaction with family life were associated with supportive assistance from social support networks and higher levels of satisfaction with the relationships between family members and inter-generations.
Associations between spousal relationship and parental stress	Parental stress	Of those respondents who were working and had children, predicted factors of parental stress included higher levels of stress of raising children and feeling inadequate as a parent, and worse parent-child relationships after the children grow up. Supportive assistance from social support networks and better spousal relationships after having children lowered the levels of parental stress.
Contributing factors affecting relationships with family members and inter-generations	Relationship with family members and inter-generations	Better relationships with family members were associated with mutuality (mutual support, love, and concern among family members), communication, conflict and harmony (less conflicting and more harmonious behaviour in the family), supportive assistance from social support networks, and better communication with family members and inter-generations about personal issues.
Factors contributing to work-life balance stress	Work-life balance stress	Of those who were working, the key factor predicting higher levels of stress from work-life balance was an imbalance in the amount of time spent at work and with family, and lower levels of satisfaction with family life.

Research areas	Dependent variables	Key observations
Family planning among young people	Intention to have children	Non-parent respondents who perceived better overall family functioning and had positive attitudes toward marriage and having children, but with more disagreement about singlehood and divorce, were more likely to have children in the future.
Factors affecting attitudes toward divorce	Attitudes toward divorce	Predicted factors of positive attitudes toward divorce included more agreement with singlehood and cohabitation, but low overall family functioning.

Summary

17.10   After reviewing the results of the trend and in-depth analyses, some phenomena are identified.

(1)   Emergence of singlehood

In recent years, there has been an increasing tendency toward marriage postponement or non-marriage in both genders and, in contrast to the increasing proportion of the never-married population, the standardised percentages of married men and women dropped continuously from 1991 to 2016.[151]

In previous rounds of the Family Survey, a mild increasing trend was observed in regard to attitudes toward singlehood.   More people are choosing to embrace their singlehood, resulting in lower levels of motivation to get married and have children.   This trans-cultural trend spans across generations.   The emergence of non-conventional lifestyles and family compositions may affect the structure and ethos of the nuclear family and socio-economic demographic structures in the long run.

(2)   Decreasing trend in communication among family members

Though an increasing number of people use modern technologies (e.g., SMS, WhatsApp) to communicate with family members, a notable decreasing trend was observed in regard to communication with parents, spouses/partners, family members, and inter-generations about personal issues in previous rounds of the Family Survey.

Communication is a key component in a successful working family. Less frequent communication can lead to worse relationships with family members and inter-generations, and family problems such as family conflict, a lack of intimacy, weak emotional bonding, and ineffective problem solving, which in turn result in poorer family functioning.[152,153]

(3)   Dual-career parents encountering multiple role stress

According to the results of the regression model, among respondents who were working and had children, predicted factors of parental stress included higher levels of stress related to raising the children and feeling inadequate as a parent, and worse parent-child relationships after the children grow up.   Supportive assistance from social support networks and better spousal relationships after having children lowered parental stress.

The dual-career family lifestyle is becoming more common in our society and has created a unique set of challenges, including work-family imbalance, family role conflicts, and parental stress.

(4)   Supportive assistance from social support networks

According to the results of the regression models, supportive assistance from social support networks was one of the major explanatory variables of better perceived family functioning, higher levels of satisfaction with family life, lower levels of parental stress, and better relationships with family members.

18. Methodology of Future Family Surveys

18.1 The reviewed family surveys and discussions of the pros and cons of key areas of the surveys' methodologies drive the proposed components of future Family Surveys.

18.2 The objectives of the future Family Surveys in the coming decade are as follows:

(1) to ascertain the attitude and situation of the respondents on family in terms of:

   i. family structure

   ii. parenthood

   iii. family functioning

   iv. satisfaction with family life

   v. work-family balance

   vi. social support network

   vii. family hierarchy

   viii. quality of life

   ix. household and personal characteristics

(2) to construct relevant indices and compare with other similar surveys in overseas cities for benchmarking purpose;

(3) to conduct trend analysis with the survey results with previous round of Family Surveys and identify patterns and family changes;

(4) to provide policy implications and recommendations; and

(5) to provide research contributions.

Research Methodology

18.3   To meet the dual goals of future Family Surveys, which will collect updated and empirically-based information about families in Hong Kong, in order to monitor structural changes and examine respondents' views on new developments in society, it is recommended that a general survey using a core questionnaire and a thematic survey using a specific designed questionnaire are conducted simultaneously for each round of further Family Surveys.   For the thematic survey, different topics could be explored according to the latest family issues.

18.4   A mixed-method is also recommended in future Family Surveys.   After conducting the questionnaire survey, qualitative views through focus group discussions with the respondents and in-depth interviews with relevant stakeholders are proposed to be collected for the triangulation of the quantitative and qualitative data.   The purposes of the focus group discussions are to provide increased understanding or clarity about issues obtained from the questionnaire survey, to gain insight into people's behaviours and attitudes, to facilitate consensuses for the formulation of mutual goals and targets where appropriate; and to provide valuable policy implications and recommendations. At least four focus group discussions and about six to eight in-depth interviews are proposed to be conducted after the questionnaire survey for each round of the Family Survey.

Survey Design

18.5   After reviewing the pros and cons of the three survey designs, a longitudinal panel design is considered as a long-term approach in conducting future Family Surveys.   With the changing demographic profiles across the years in Hong Kong, a longitudinal panel survey design could detect attitudinal or behavioural changes in the target population at both sub-group and individual levels, examine the causal relationships between study variables, and provide detailed analyses for policy advocacy and recommendations.   However, it takes time to tackle a number of the challenges of conducting a longitudinal survey – in particular, issues of consent.

18.6   It is recommended that a population trend survey is conducted as an interim approach for future Family Surveys until the issues related to longitudinal panel surveys have been settled.   The population trend survey design could provide trend analyses of the patterns of family issues across the years and it is feasible to implement it within a short period of time.

18.7   A cross-sectional survey design is recommended for the thematic survey, as it could provide a snapshot of views at one point in time

Frequency

18.8   One of the concerns about annual versus biennial data collection is resource allocation, including survey costs, administrative and operational costs, and the uses of the results and policy implications.   Considering the needs and resources involved, it is recommended that future Family Surveys are conducted on a biennial basis, starting from 2021.

Data Collection Method

18.9   Regarding the data collection method, a drop in the response rate was observed in the 2017 Survey, indicating that the multi-modal data collection approach is envisioned to be adopted in future Family Surveys.[154]   It is recommended that two ways of responding to the survey are provided: personal interviews with SAPI/TAPI by interviewers and self-completion with CAWI by respondents.

18.10   With reference to the 2021 Population Census,[155] two stages of data collection are proposed.   In the first stage, invitation letters with QR codes for the online questionnaire should be posted to the sampled households, so the target respondents can complete the questionnaires by themselves through the online survey platform.   In the second stage, interviewers should visit households that have not yet provided information and conduct interviews with the target respondents using mobile tablets.

18.11   The proposed data collection method will be implemented for the longitudinal panel survey, the population trend survey, and the thematic survey.

Target Respondents

18.12   To align with the previous rounds of the Survey and enable consistent comparisons, it is recommended that the target respondents of the future Family Surveys are individuals aged 15 years or above in all three surveys.

Sampling Method

18.13 For the longitudinal panel survey (baseline, Wave 1) and the population trend survey, a two-stage stratified random sampling design is proposed. Sample lists will be obtained from the C&SD, including the Register of Quarters and the Register of Segments. In the first stage, a list of quarters will be randomly sampled by geographical area and type of quarter. In the second stage, a household member aged 15 years or above in each household will be randomly selected for interview using the last birthday method.

18.14 For the follow-up surveys (Wave 2 onward) in the longitudinal panel survey, respondents who completed the Wave 1 survey will be invited to participate. Noting that attrition rate may vary across time periods, data sources, and outcomes, new samples from Wave 2 onward will be drawn according to the two-stage stratified random sampling design described above.

18.15 For the thematic survey of future Family Surveys, similarly, a two-stage stratified random sampling design is proposed.

Sample Size

18.16 For the longitudinal panel survey (baseline, Wave 1), an effective sample size of 5,000 is proposed for the baseline survey and new samples of 2,000 from Wave 2 onward should be randomly drawn. For the population trend survey, an effective sample size of 2,000 is proposed.

18.17 For the thematic survey of future Family Surveys, an effective sample size of 1,000 is proposed.[156]

Response Rate

18.18 By adopting a multi-modal data collection approach and shortening the length of the questionnaire to significantly reduce the interviewing time required, response rates in future Family Surveys of over 60% are anticipated in normal situations. However, during the pandemic and other unexpected circumstances, there will be difficulties in conducting face-to-face interviews; a lower response rate of around 55% is thus instead anticipated.

Summary

18.19 Table 18.1 below proposes the methodology for future Family Surveys.

Table 18.1 Proposed Methodology for Future Family Surveys

|	**Previous Family Surveys**	**Proposed methodology for future Family Surveys**
Research method	Mixed-method	Mixed-method
Quantitative views		
Research design	General survey in 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017 Thematic survey in 2015 and 2017	General survey and thematic survey
Survey design	Cross-sectional survey for both the general survey and thematic survey	General survey: longitudinal panel survey (as a long-term approach) and population trend survey (as an interim approach) Thematic survey: cross-sectional survey
Data collection method	Personal interview household survey Start to adopt CAPI in 2017	Multi-modal approach by personal interview with SAPI/TAPI and self-completion with CAWI
Target respondents	Individuals aged 15 years or above	Individuals aged 15 years or above
Sampling method	Two-stage stratified random sampling	Two-stage stratified random sampling
Frequency	Biennial basis	Biennial basis
Year	2011, 2013, 2015, 2017	2021 onward
Effective sample size	2,000 individuals in 2011, 2013, and 2015 3,000 individuals in 2017	General survey: longitudinal panel survey (Wave 1: 5,000 individuals; Wave 2 onward: 3,000 follow-ups and 2,000 new samples) and population trend survey (2,000 individuals) Thematic survey: 1,000 individuals
Response rate	Drop from 66% (2011) to 57% (2017)	Over 60% expected in normal situations Around 55% expected during pandemics
Qualitative views		
Focus group discussions	Four groups in 2011, 2013, and 2017 Six groups in 2015	At least four focus group discussions with the respondents Six to eight in-depth interviews with relevant stakeholders

19. Questionnaire for Future Family Surveys

Questionnaire for the General Survey of Future Family Surveys

19.1   The reviewed Family Surveys and a thorough examination of the seven themes of previous rounds of the Family Survey drive the proposed themes and dimensions for future Family Surveys.

19.2   There are nine parts to the questionnaire in the general survey of future Family Surveys.   The first part includes 12 question items related to household and personal characteristics.   The second part include eight themes with 30 dimensions, there are a total of 130 question items.

Theme 1   Family Structure consists of a total of 10 question items with three constructed indexes to explore respondents' attitudes toward singlehood, cohabitation and divorce, and current family structures.

Theme 2   Parenthood consists of a total of 22 question items with two constructed indexes to assess parenting stress,   parenting methods, respondents' intention to have children, and their desire to have more children.

Theme 3   Family Functioning consists of a total of 36 question items with one constructed index to identify family functioning and family conflicts.

Theme 4   Satisfaction with Family Life consists of five question items to examine respondents' satisfaction with family life, and the relationships and communication among family members and inter-generations.

Theme 5   Work-Family Balance consists of a total of 11 questions with one constructed index to explore respondents' attitudes toward work-family balance, satisfaction with work life, and current flexible work arrangements.

Theme 6   Social Support Network consists of a total of 13 question items with one constructed index to assess respondents' level of perceived social support from family, friends, and others, and their awareness of and participation in family-related programmes.

Theme 7   Family Hierarchy consists of a total of seven question items to explore household roles, household decision making, and the extent of respondents' participation in household activities.

Theme 8   Quality of Life consists of 14 question items with three constructed indexes to evaluate respondents' physical health, mental health, level of happiness, and life satisfaction.

19.3   On the basis of the results of the trend and in-depth analyses, and the reviewed family surveys, a conceptual and hypothetical framework for future Family

Surveys is drafted.   Ongoing data collection in future Family Surveys could help refine and finalise the framework through which better interpretation of findings and a more comprehensive understanding of trends can be attained.

Figure 19.1 Proposed Themes and Dimensions of the General Survey of Future Family Surveys
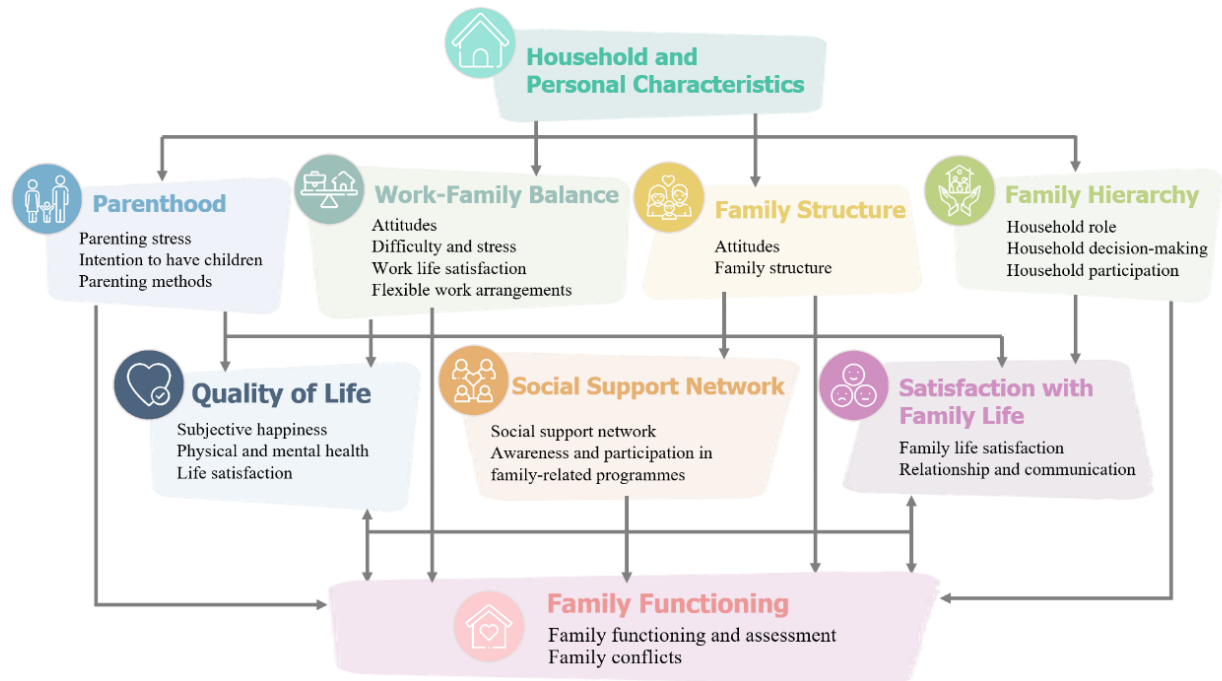
Proposed Topics in the Thematic Survey of Future Family Surveys

19.4   A thematic survey is proposed to be conducted separately in each round of future Family Surveys.   Topics could be introduced according to current social and economic situations.   Seven topics with preliminary observations are proposed:

(1)   Preventing and resolving family disputes;

(2)   Multiplicity of family violence;

(3)   Family caring;

(4)   Impacts of modern technologies in communication with family members;

(5)   Parental stress;

(6)   Social support network; and

(7)   Work-family balance.

Annex 1 Tables

Annex 1.1   Attitudes toward Traditional Family Values (mean scores)

	2011	2013	2015	2017
Agreement on "having son to continue family name"	3.28	3.10	3.14	3.23
Agreement on "having a son is better than having a daughter"	2.62	2.52	2.62	2.34
Agreement on "consult parents for major decision"	3.33	3.26	3.33	3.19
Agreement on "family disgrace should be kept within the family"	3.46	3.32	3.32	3.14
Agreement on "work hard to bring honour to the family"	3.23	3.01	3.15	3.31
Agreement on "seek elder's help to resolve family conflict"	3.20	3.10	3.25	3.29
Agreement on "difficult to live with mother-in-law even it is nice to meet up"	3.46	3.41	3.46	3.35

Note: 5-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree)

Annex 1.2   Attitudes toward Living with Parents (mean scores)

	2011	2013	2015	2017
Agreement on "willing to lie with parents"	3.67	3.62	3.66	3.60
Agreement on "I will support my parents for their living even though I do not live with them"	4.09	4.09	4.01	3.97
Agreement on "willing to live with my adult children"	3.75	3.64	3.63	3.67
Agreement on "newly-wed couple should live away from their parents"	2.68	2.67	2.63	2.51

Note: 5-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree)

Annex 1.3   Attitudes toward Parenthood (mean scores)

	2011	2013	2015	2017
Agreement on "I often find the stress of raising my children overwhelming"	3.49	3.51	3.34	3.22
Agreement on "I often feel inadequate as parent"	2.62	2.67	2.61	2.35
Agreement on "my relationship with my partner has gotten better since we had children"	3.49	3.33	3.49	3.29
Agreement on "my relationship with my children has gotten worse when they grow up"	2.45	2.41	2.47	2.34

Note: 5-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree)

Annex 1.4   Impact of Attitudes on Having and Raising Children (mean scores)

	2011	2013	2015	2017
Agreement on "having children was better for me personally than I thought it would be"	3.57	3.51	3.55	3.45
Agreement on "my parents help me raise my children"	3.06	3.11	3.10	2.77
Agreement on "If I had to do over again, I would prefer not to have children"	3.78	3.73	3.77	3.92
Agreement on "I am willing to raise my grandchild in the future"	3.68	3.69	3.60	3.35

Note: 5-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree)

Annex 1.5   Attitudes toward Tri-parenting (mean scores)

	2011	2013	2015	2017
Agreement on "grandparents should not intervene in their son/daughter's parenting of their grandchildren"	-	3.13	3.21	3.42
Agreement on "grandparents have the responsibility to discipline their grandchildren"	-	2.66	2.70	3.22
Agreement on "inter-generational parenting has a negative impact on children"	-	3.16	3.12	3.24

Note: 5-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree)

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