

# **Family Survey 2017**

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## **Final Report**

**Submitted by**  
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# Executive Summary

## Objectives

1. With a view to gathering updated and empirical information on families in Hong Kong, the Family Council has decided to carry out similar surveys on a biennial basis to keep track of changes and development of Hong Kong families in terms of family structures, attitudes and values, etc.
2. The primary purpose of the Family Survey 2017 (the Survey) is to gather relevant information and data on the existing situation of families in Hong Kong with the following objectives:
  - (a) to ascertain the attitude of respondents on family in terms of:
    - (i) importance of family
    - (ii) parenthood
    - (iii) family functioning
    - (iv) satisfaction with family life
    - (v) work-family balance
    - (vi) availability of social support network
    - (vii) awareness and participation of family-related programmes;
  - (b) to ascertain whether the respondents are aware of any family-related promotion from the Government and / or other organisations;
  - (c) to conduct correlation analysis between (a) and (b) (for comparison and analysis purposes, reference is made to relevant studies and relevant socio-demographic factors);
  - (d) to construct relevant indices on item (a), with breakdown by age group and / or other demographic groups as required, and (b) to conduct trend analysis;
  - (e) to compare the survey results in (a) with Family Survey 2011, 2013 and 2015 as well as similar survey(s) in overseas countries for benchmarking purpose; and
  - (f) to make recommendations based on the results of the Survey for the promotion of family core values among the public.

## Research Methodology

3. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were adopted in the Survey, including focus group discussions and a territory-wide household survey. Prior to the Survey, literature research was also conducted with a view to gathering more relevant information in Hong Kong and other countries. Experience in other countries as well as views gathered from the focus group discussions provided the theoretical framework on design of the questionnaire for the territory-wide household survey.
4. Regarding the main survey, a representative sample of 3000 persons aged 15 or above was successfully enumerated during the period from September 2017 to August 2018, with a response rate of 57%.

## Main Survey

### *Demographic Characteristics*

5. The target respondents of the main survey were Hong Kong residents (excluding foreign domestic helpers) aged 15 or above.
6. On educational level, 26% of them had attained post-secondary education or above. 42% of the respondents attained secondary educational level, and 21% had primary or below education. Concerning employment status, 48% of the respondents were employed. 46% were economically inactive such as retirees, homemakers or students, and another 5% were neither at work nor at school.

### *Importance of Family*

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

8. Results of the Survey indicated that ***most traditional family values were still quite prevalent, but not strong. Around half of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the values in 2017.*** With the findings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 compared, the trend observed was quite stable. For traditional views of keeping family disgrace within the family, there was a significant drop to 44% of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed in 2017 when compared to that in 2011, 2013 and 2015.
9. Regarding the attitudes towards living with parents, ***majority of the respondents were willing to live with their parents (67%) and support their living even though they did not live with them (85%).*** With the findings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 compared, agreement on the attitudes towards willingness to live with parents and support parents' living was fairly steady. On the other hand, ***increasing percentage (from 43% to 55%) of people agreed that newly-wed couple should live away from their parents over the past seven years.***
10. ***Most respondents agreed that marriage is a necessary step in life, despite a slight drop of agreement from previous rounds.*** In 2017, 55% and 48% of the respondents agreed that "marriage is a necessary step in life" and "child bearing is important in marriage" respectively. 40% of the respondents also agreed that "my whole life without having a child is empty". With the findings in 2011, 2013 and 2015 compared, the trend observed was quite stable.
11. On involving grandparents in family matters, ***less than half of respondents valued the contribution and help of grandparents, meanwhile, the number of respondents showing agreement decreased since 2015.*** In 2017, 47% and 39% of the respondents agreed that "many parents today appreciated the help that grandparents give" and "people today valued the roles played by grandparents in family life" respectively. With the findings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 compared, the percentage of agreements on the attitudes decreased by about 19% and 20% respectively in 2017 from 2013.
12. ***Attitudes towards singlehood varied.*** 47% of the respondents accepted the view of "being single and not having any plan to get married". At the same time, 30% of the respondents found it acceptable for a woman to give birth to a child if she had no intention of getting married. With the findings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 compared, the trend observed was quite stable.

13. ***Attitudes towards cohabitation varied, but less people opposed cohabitation over the past seven years.*** Results of the Survey in 2017 show that 44% of the respondents accepted “cohabitation without intention of getting married”. 45% accepted that “cohabitation before marriage is a good idea”.
14. Concerning the attitudes on divorce, results of the Survey indicated that ***over half of people agreed that “divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple without child who cannot live together harmoniously”*** (58%), only 19% disagreed. However, for those couple who already have children, 53% of the couple agreed or strongly agreed with the attitudes. Besides, 40% of the respondents accepted marrying a divorced person, while 16% did not accept. With the findings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 compared, the trend observed on the attitudes that “divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously even though they already have children” (33.6% in 2017) and “divorce affects woman more than man” was quite stable (39.7% in 2017) (around one-third and two-fifth of the respondents agreed/strongly agreed over the seven years respectively).
15. ***In general, quite a proportion of people practiced filial piety to their parents.*** The respondents were asked about how often they had engaged in each of the six filial piety practices (caring, respecting, greeting, pleasing, obeying and providing financial support) during the previous three months. Results of the Survey in 2017 show that, among the respondents (excluding students), about half (51%) had practised filial piety rather a lot or very much to their parents such as “respecting” (51%), while less than half of them practiced “greeting” (41%), “caring” (46%), and “pleasing” (38%) during the previous three months.

### ***Parenthood***

16. Concerning parenthood, a number of questions covering the following dimensions were asked:
  - (a) attitudes towards parenthood;
  - (b) impact on raising children;
  - (c) role models;
  - (d) intention to have children;
  - (e) desire to have more children;
  - (f) parenting methods;
  - (g) parental stress; and
  - (h) attitudes towards tri-parenting.

17. ***Raising children was stressful for 47% of the parents.*** In 2017, 47% of the parents agreed that they often found the stress of raising their children overwhelming, indicating that majority of them were not confident of their ability in both raising children and handling the associated stress. With the findings in 2011 (62%), 2013 (64%), 2015 (52%) and 2017 (47%) compared, decreasing percentage of parents who often found the stress of raising their children overwhelming was observed in 2017.
18. ***Views on raising children by grandparents were diversified.*** In 2017, views were diversified where 32% agreed to let their parents help raise their children, while 48% disagreed.. On the other hand, 52% of the parents agreed that “I am willing to raise my grandchildren in the future” and “having children was better for me personally than I thought it would be” (58%). With the findings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 compared, the trend observed was quite stable. It is worth noting that 7% of the parents would prefer not to have children if they had to do over again.
19. ***90% of respondents considered that parents were the most suitable persons to teach their children the right values.*** 60% and 20% believed that teachers in schools and their grandparents shouldered such duty respectively in 2017. With the findings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 compared, decreasing percentage of parents considered that other parties such as grandparents were the most suitable persons to teach their children the right values, dropping from 39% in 2013 to 20% in 2017.
20. ***Slightly more than half (57%) of those non-parents aged 35-54 had no intention to have children in the future. In 2017, 57% of those non-parents aged 35-54 and those male respondents (52%) who were married/cohabiting without child were not at all likely or not very likely to have children in the future.*** It is noticeable that non-parents aged 15-34 (57%) and those female respondents who had never married (42%) were very likely or somewhat likely to have children in the future in 2017.
21. ***Weak desire to have more children among those parents aged 18-54.*** In 2017, 6% of the parents aged 18-54 had desire to have more children in the future, 75% did not have desire to have more children in the future and 19% did not make the decision yet. The major reasons for not having more children in the future were “we are satisfied with the number of children we have” (43%), “we are too old” (41%) and “the financial burden of raising children is heavy” (29%). Analysed by two age groups of parents, 63% of the parents aged 18-34 and 88% of the parents aged 35-54 had no desire to have more children in the future whereas 7% of the parents aged 18-34 and only 3% of the parents aged 35-54 had desire to have more children. It is noticeable that the desire became weaker within the past five years for both age groups of parents.

22. ***Most parents adopted positive parenting.*** Over 90% of parents with children aged 18 or below indicated that they often or sometimes adopted positive approaches in teaching their children such as “care for my children’s needs when they are small” (97% in 2017; 91% in 2015; 93% in 2013), “point out and rectify my children’s mistakes immediately” (96% in 2017; 90% in 2015; 93% in 2013), “explain the reason with my children” (94% in 2017; 90% in 2015; 93% in 2013) and “able to perceive the unhappiness of my children” (96% in 2017; 88% in 2015; 88% in 2013).
23. ***Though 45% of the parent respondents claimed that they had no private time, about two-thirds were happier than before.*** Regarding parental stress after the birth of child, such as being more tired than before (68%), large part of their life is controlled by the needs of children (48%) and had no private time (45%), about two-thirds of the parents reported that they were happier than before.
24. ***About 46% of parents disagreed that grandparents have the responsibility to discipline their grandchildren, while about 59% of parents stated that grandparents should not intervene in their parenting method.*** Considering the attitudes towards tri-parenting, about half of parents agreed or strongly agreed with “care of domestic helpers weaken the self-care ability of children” (52%) and about half of them agreed that “grandparents have the responsibility to discipline their grandchildren” (26%). On the other hand, parent respondents’ agreement towards “inter-generational parenting has a negative impact on children” decreased from 30% in 2013 to 19% in 2017 while more respondents reported neutral (25% in 2013 to 37% in 2017).

### ***Family Functioning***

25. Family functioning comprises two components: family interaction and parenting. To assess the family functioning in Hong Kong, the Chinese Family Assessment Instrument (CFAI)<sup>1</sup> was adopted in this Survey. It is a 33-item instrument which can be classified in the following five dimensions to assess family functioning: (1) Mutuality, (2) Communication and Cohesiveness (Communication), (3) Conflict and Harmony (Conflict), (4) Parental Concern (Concern), and (5) Parental Control (Control). The higher score reflects better self-rated performance in their families in each of the dimensions.

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

26. The results of family functioning over past seven years were stable. The mean scores of “Mutuality”, “Communication”, “Conflict”, “Concern” and “Control” were 4.0, 3.6, 4.0, 4.1 and 4.2 respectively.
27. **About 76% of the families functioned very well.** In 2017, 76% of the respondents considered that their family functioned very well together. Only 3% of the respondents indicated that their family did not function very well together at all and they needed help.

### *Family Life and Communication*

28. Concerning satisfaction with family life, questions focusing on the following main areas were asked -
- (a) satisfaction with family life;
  - (b) time spent with family members;
  - (c) communication with family members; and
  - (d) frequency in use of modern technologies in communication with family members.
29. **Around three-quarter (76%) of the respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with their family life).** Only 3% were not satisfied or very dissatisfied with their family life.
30. Besides, **relationship with family members was close in general.** 87% of the respondents considered their relationship close (fairly close and very close) with their fathers and 92% with their mothers. 95% had close relationship with their partners and 96% with their children. With the findings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 compared, the trend observed was quite stable.
31. Nevertheless, the Survey results showed that **time spent with parents was limited.** About two-third of the respondents talked to their parents for less than 30 minutes a week and 22% had not talked to their fathers, while 20% had not talked to their mothers at all in the week prior to enumeration. People aged 15 to 34 were less likely to talk with their parents, 67% and 60% of them talked to their father and mother for less than 30 minutes a week or did not talk at all respectively in 2017. **Partners communicated with each other slightly more frequently,** with only 14% did not speak to each other; 6% talked to each other for more than 4 hours, 5% for 2 to 4 hours, 15% for 1 to 2 hours, and 44% for less than half hour a week. 50% chatted with their children for less than 30 minutes a week and 23% did not talk to each other at all. With the findings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 compared, **increasing percentage of respondents spent more time to talk with their partner and children.**



32. ***Increasing percentage of people frequently or sometimes used modern technologies (e.g. SMS, WhatsApp) in communication with family members.*** In 2017, about half of the respondents frequently or sometimes used modern technologies in communication with children (57%), mothers (54%) and fathers (45%). With the findings in 2015 compared, percentage of respondents frequently or sometimes used modern technologies in communication with mothers, fathers and partners increased by 9%, 19% and 6% respectively in 2017.

### ***Balancing Work and Family***

33. ***Around one-third of those at work reported stress in balancing work and family.*** On the whole, 38% of the respondents who were currently at work reported that the need of striking a balance of work and family caused them a great deal of stress or some stress, 48% did not have very much stress and 13% did not have stress at all. With the findings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 compared, the trend observed was quite stable.
34. The major problems associated with poor work-life balance of those respondents at work were “I often felt tired, sleepy and exhausted” (25%), “I did not have private time to enjoy leisure activities or sports at all” (12%) and “I did not have enough time to get together with my partner and family” (10%). On the other hand, 61% of the respondents at work reported that they have not encountered any problems associated with poor work-life balance.

### ***Social Support Network***

35. Social support network refers to a social structure which made up of individuals such as family members, friends and peers or organisations. Views on social support network were asked to collect opinions on -
- (a) help seeking behaviour; and
  - (b) availability of assistance from social support network.
36. ***When problems encountered, family members were helpful and supportive.*** The respondents considered their family members supportive (slightly supportive or very supportive) when they were sick (93%), when they wanted to share the happiness with their family members (87%), when they needed to make an important decision (86%), when they had financial problems (80%), when they were depressed and upset (74%) and when they were unemployed and could not get a job (52%).

### *Awareness and Participation of Family-related Programmes*

37. Information on the level of awareness and the reasons for not participating in family-related activities/programmes was also collected in the Survey.
38. ***Nearly half of the respondents were not aware of any family-related promotional activities or programmes organized by the Government and/or non-government organisations (NGOs).*** In 2017, 64% of the respondents were not aware of such programmes and 23% had heard of such programmes but had not participated. 8% participated in programmes organised by the Government and/or NGOs. With the findings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 compared, the trend observed was quite stable.

# Chapter 1 | Introduction

## 1.1 Background

### *Family Council*

1.1.1 The Family Council (the Council), set up in December 2007, is an advisory body to the Government. The Council advocates cherishing the family and promotes family core values as a main driver and the cornerstone for social harmony, so as to build a closer and harmonious relationship amongst family members. It also provides a cross-sector and cross-bureau platform to study and address family-related problems with a view to providing high-level steer and advice, and fostering effective coordination and collaboration to maximize efforts and achieve synergy. To foster loving family relationship in the community, the Council now actively promotes family core values of Love and Care (愛與關懷), Respect and Responsibility (責任與尊重), and Communication and Harmony (溝通與和諧).

### *Family Surveys 2011, 2013 and 2015*

1.1.2 With a view to gathering updated and empirical information on families in Hong Kong, the Council conducted the first territory-wide family survey in 2011 to collect information and data on the existing situation of families in Hong Kong, so as to have a better understanding of the current situation of Hong Kong families. In view of the useful data gathered, the Council agreed that the Family Survey should be conducted on a biannual basis. The fieldwork of the Family Surveys 2011, 2013 and 2015 were completed in September 2011, November 2013 and September 2015 respectively, with a sample size of about 2 000 respondents. These Surveys provided useful information to keep track of families in Hong Kong, as well as insight into the changes in Hong Kong families including the challenges they face and the types of support required.

## 1.2 Objectives

1.2.1 The primary purpose of the Family Survey 2017 is to gather and update relevant information and data of the existing situation of families in Hong Kong. Policy 21 Ltd was engaged to conduct the “Family Survey 2017” (the Survey).

1.2.2 The objectives of the Survey are as follows:

- (a) to ascertain the attitude of the respondents on family in terms of:
  - (i) importance of family
  - (ii) parenthood
  - (iii) family functioning
  - (iv) family life and communication
  - (v) balancing work and family
  - (vi) social support network
  - (vii) awareness of family-related programmes
- (b) to ascertain whether the respondents are aware of any family-related promotion from the Government and / or other organisations;
- (c) to conduct correlation analysis between (a) and (b) (for comparison and analysis purposes, and reference should be made to relevant studies and relevant socio-demographic factors);
- (d) to construct relevant indices on item (a), with breakdown by age group and / or other groups as required, and (b) to conduct trend analysis;
- (e) to compare the survey results in (a) with Family Survey 2011, 2013 and 2015 as well as similar survey(s) in overseas countries for benchmarking purpose; and
- (f) to make recommendations based on the results of the Survey for the promotion of family core values among the public.

## Chapter 2 | Methodology

### 2.1 *Method of Data Collection*

- 2.1.1 This Survey collected both qualitative and quantitative data. The qualitative data was collected through focus group discussions, whereas the quantitative data were collected through a household survey. Prior to conducting the Survey, literature research was also conducted to gather relevant information in Hong Kong and other countries. Information and views collected through overseas research and focus group discussions help set the design of the questionnaire and the household survey.
- 2.1.2 The Survey covers all persons (either fluent in Cantonese or Putonghua or English) aged 15 or above residing in Hong Kong as target population. The target respondents are as follows:
- (i) persons aged 15 or above are to be successfully enumerated as main sample;
  - (ii) family member aged 65 or above and/or family member with chronic illness or disability would be oversampled.
- 2.1.3 A pilot survey was conducted to pre-test the operation of the household survey. Based on feedback of the pilot survey, the questionnaires were further enhanced. It is composed of two components: the “Household Questionnaire” (household characteristics and demographic characteristics of individual household members), and the “Personal Questionnaire” (personal views on existing situation of families in Hong Kong).
- 2.1.4 Four sessions of focus group discussions were organised with two research staff acting as facilitators. Participants in the focus group discussions were drawn from different age-gender and socio-economic groups. Besides, a few in-depth interviews were conducted to incorporate views from some stakeholders.
- 2.1.5 Information obtained from the focus group discussions had yielded an insight into views of certain groups among general public covered in the study. In addition, the reasons of some findings which showed deviation from the general trend of the previous surveys were further examined. More importantly, views from some specific stakeholders were asked.

**Table 2.1.1: Focus groups conducted**

Focus Group	Target respondents	Date conducted	No. of participants
<b>Group 1</b>	Young adults with stable partners and Newly-wed	27 <sup>th</sup> April	7
<b>Group 2</b>	Couples after married for 3	28 <sup>th</sup> April	7
<b>Group 3</b>	Parents and grandparents practicing tri-parenting	13 <sup>th</sup> April	4
<b>Group 4</b>	Single-parent and Carers	3 <sup>rd</sup> May	3

### *Enumeration results*

2.1.6 A total of 6,500 living quarters (LQs) were randomly sampled from the Frame of Quarters maintained by the Census & Statistics Department.<sup>2</sup> A total of 3,000 quarters (with eligible respondents aged 15 or above) were successfully enumerated, representing a response rate of 57%. The sample size and enumeration results are shown in the table below:

**Table 2.1.2: Sample size and enumeration results**

	Number	%
Total no. of living quarters (LQs) sampled	6,500	100.0
No. of invalid LQs excluded	1,229	18.9
No. of eligible LQs	5,271	81.1
Total no. of valid LQs	5,271	100.0
No. of LQs refused to be interviewed	1,511	28.7
No. of non-contact LQs	733	13.9
No. of LQs successfully enumerated	3,027	57.4
No. of respondents successfully interviewed	3,000	

2.1.7 Regarding the in-depth surveys, 545 households with elderly aged 65 elderly/people with chronic illness/people with disability were oversampled from the successfully enumerated households.

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

## *2.2 Scope of the Survey*

### *Main survey*

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

- (a) importance of family
- (b) parenthood
- (c) family functioning
- (d) family life and communication
- (e) balancing work and family
- (f) social support network
- (g) awareness of family-related programmes;

2.2.2 Questions developed in the Family Surveys 2011, 2013 and 2015 are likely to be very stable and can be replicated over time. As a result, the indices compiled from these question items are more able to measure changes in people's perception of the issues under study in a precise manner overtime. Most of the questions asked in the previous round of surveys were adopted, while some questions/aspects would be asked in alternate round of survey to avoid long questionnaire design.

## 2.3 *Statistical Analyses*

- 2.3.1 The survey results were weighted (i.e. grossed-up) to infer the population in Hong Kong.<sup>3</sup> On the basis of the ratio between the data collected from the survey and the data on the 2018 mid-year population released by the Census & Statistics Department, the total population aged 15 or above was estimated using the ratio estimation method. The survey data were adjusted proportionally to account for gender, age, and location of residence of the respondents.
- 2.3.2 Descriptive statistics were used to summarise findings of the Survey. This report focuses on (a) the holistic picture of existing situation of families in Hong Kong, and (b) its associations with selected social demographic variables such as sex, age, marital status and district, where appropriate.
- 2.3.3 Attention is drawn to the fact that some figures may not add up to the total or 100% due to rounding. Likewise, summation of percentages may exceed 100% since more than one answer(s) were allowed to be selected for some questions. In most cases, “agree” includes “agree” and “strongly agree” and “disagree” includes “disagree” and “strongly disagree”, unless otherwise specified. The same applies to “satisfy” and “dissatisfy”.
- 2.3.4 With an effective sample size of 3,000, based on simple random sampling for the Survey, the precision level of the estimates is within the range of  $\pm 2.2$  percentage points at 95% confidence level.

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3 The resulting estimation of total population aged 15 or above was reconciled with the mid-year population in 2018 (i.e. 6 437 000 for those aged 15 and over). The estimated number of households was 2 431 000.



## Chapter 3 | Demographic Characteristics

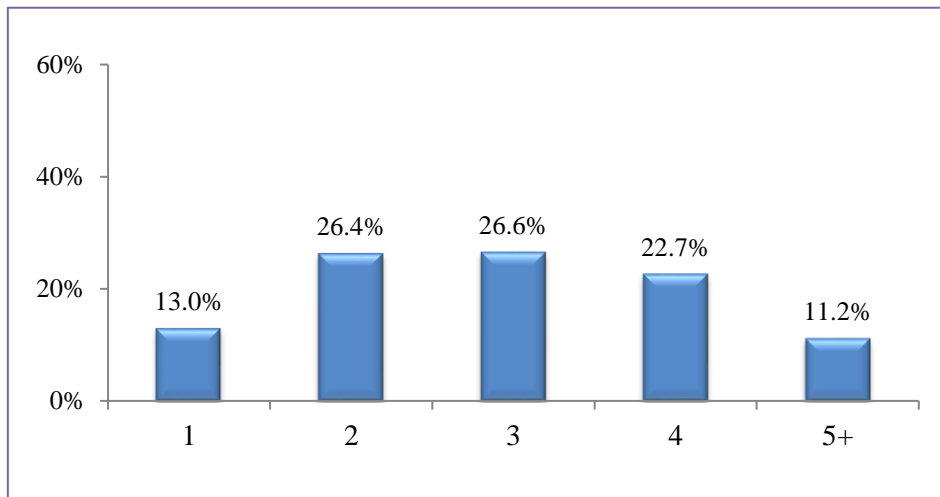
### 3.1 Household Characteristics

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

#### *Household Size*

3.1.2 Small households predominated: 26% were 2-person households, 27% were 3-person households and 23% were 4-person households. Households with one person and with 5 or more persons accounted for 13% and 11% respectively.

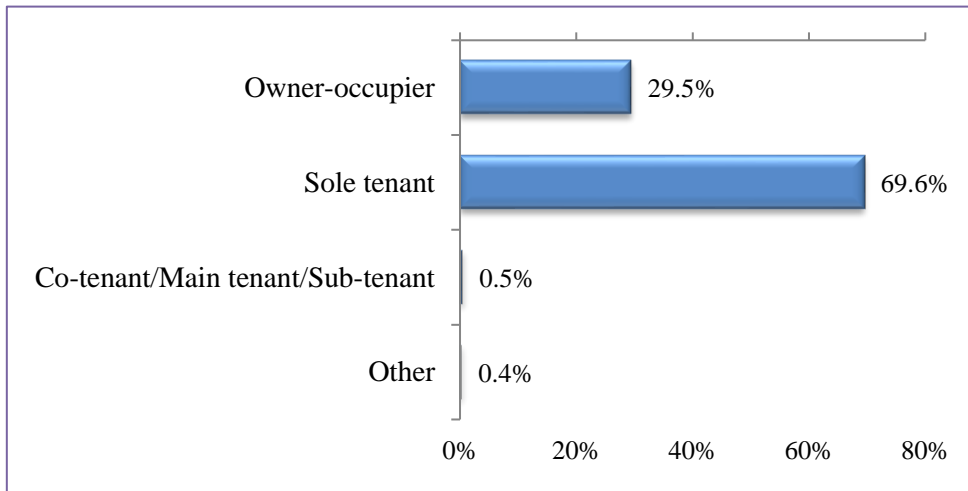
**Chart 3.1.1: Household size (%)**



#### *Tenure of Accommodation*

3.1.3 70% of the households were sole tenants and 30% were owner-occupiers. Only less than 1% of the households shared living quarters with other households, i.e. they were either main tenants, sub-tenants or co-tenants.

**Chart 3.1.2: Tenure of accommodation (%)**



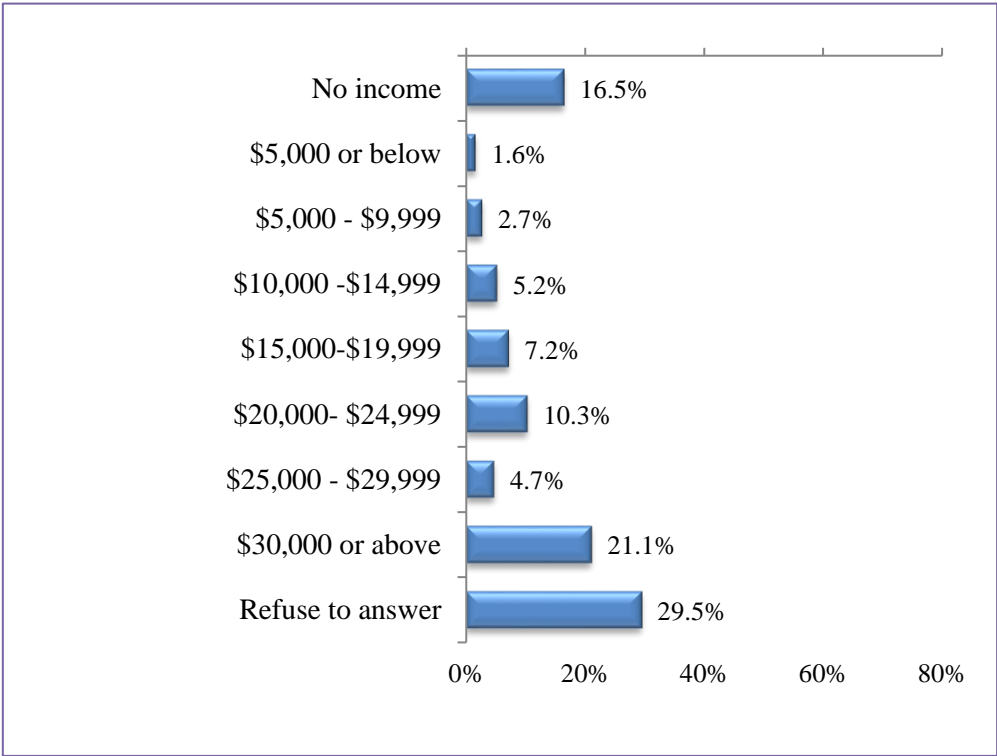
### *Monthly Household Income*

3.1.4 4% of the households had an average monthly household income<sup>4</sup> of \$9,999 or below, 12% had monthly household income of \$10,000 to \$19,999, 15% had monthly household income of \$20,000 to \$29,999 and 21% had average household income at \$30,000 or more a month. The Survey results also indicated that 17% of the households had no income at all (e.g. the retired couples). It is worth noting that 30% of the respondents refused to provide household income information. In view of the high refusal rate, care should be taken in interpreting the findings on income.

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

**Chart 3.1.3: Average monthly household income (%)**



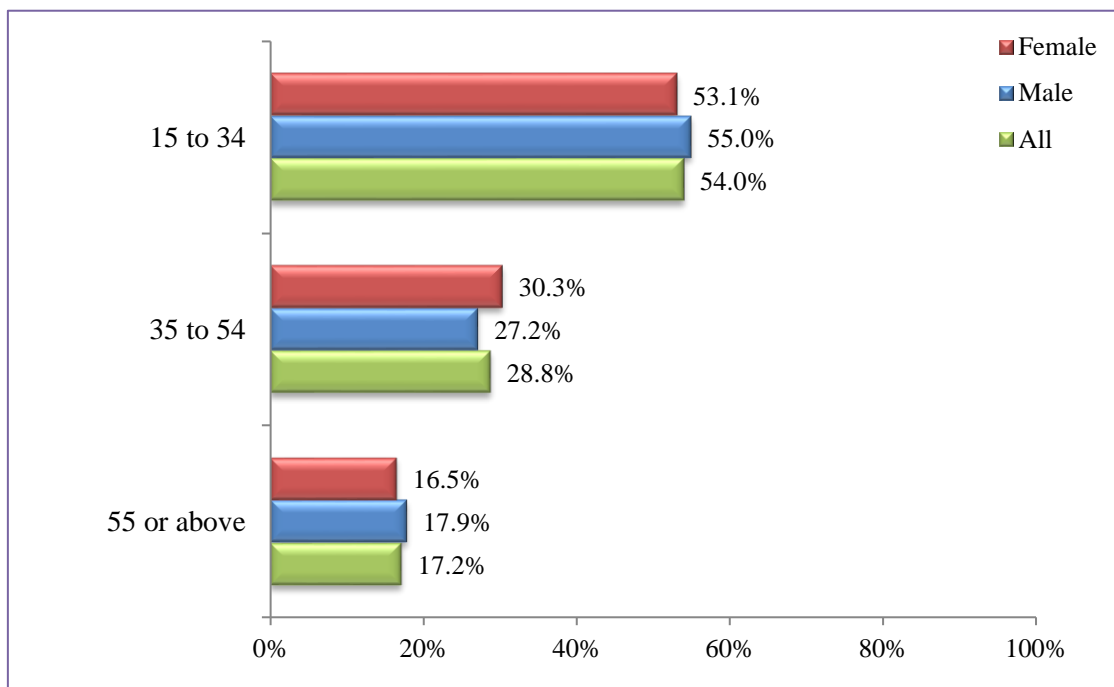
## 3.2 Demographic Characteristics

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

### Age and Gender

3.2.2 Among all, 54% of the respondents were female and 46% were male. 54% were between the age of 15 and 34, 29% aged 35-54 and the remaining 17% were aged 55 or above.

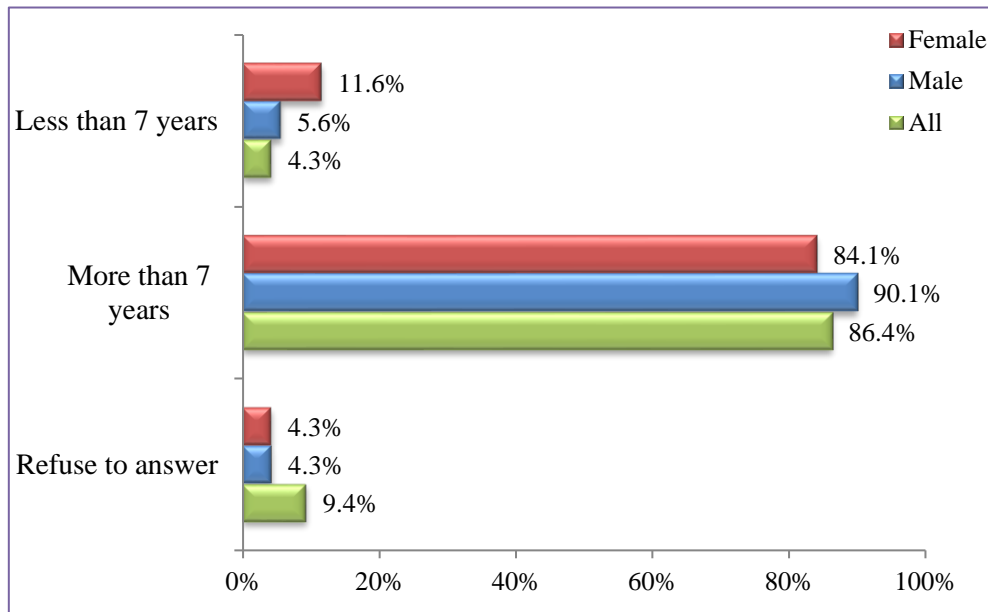
Chart 3.2.1: Age group (%)



### *Length of Residence in Hong Kong*

3.2.3 86% of the respondents lived in Hong Kong for more than 7 years and 4% of them were new arrivals who have lived in Hong Kong for less than 7 years. There was a higher proportion of female new arrivals (12%), as compared to the corresponding figure of 6% for male new arrivals.

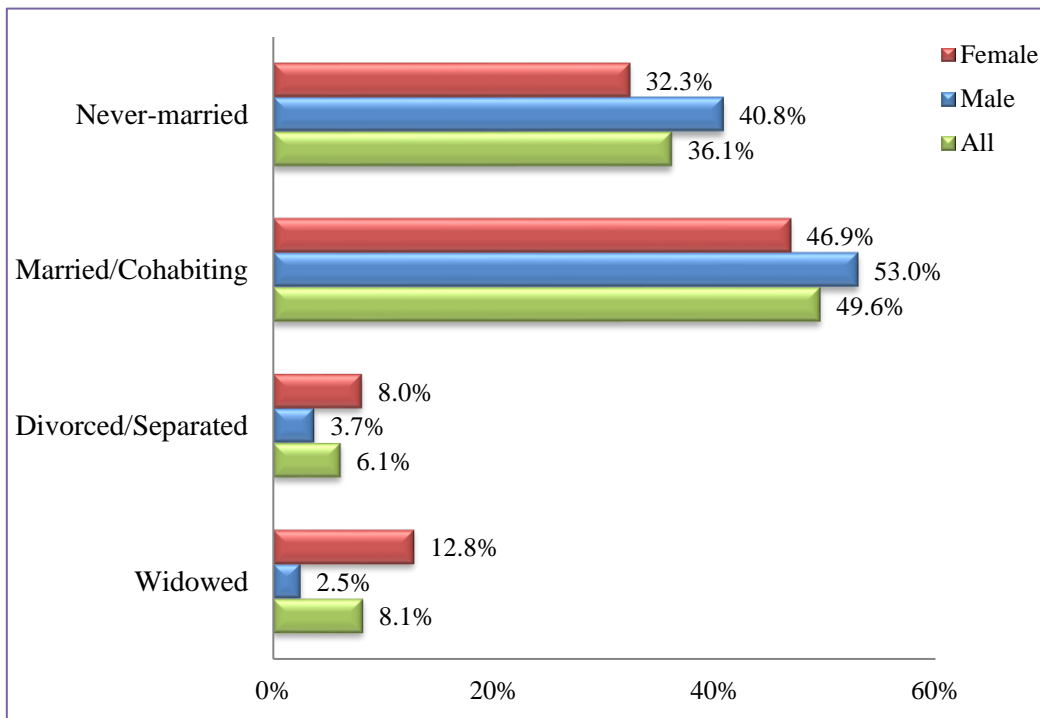
**Chart 3.2.2: Length of residence in Hong Kong (%)**



### *Marital Status*

3.2.4 50% of the respondents were either married or cohabiting and 36% were not yet married. Divorced/separated and widowed constituted the remaining 14%. It is also noticeable that the number of female respondents who were either divorced or separated was about two times more than that of male respondents.

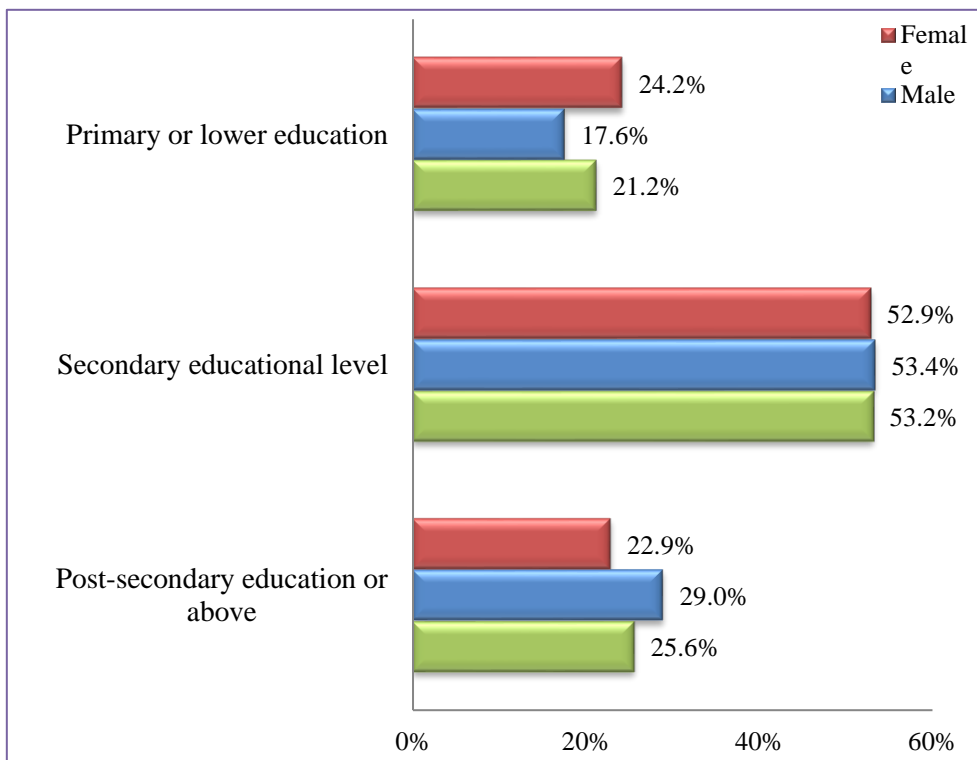
**Chart 3.2.3: Marital status (%)**



*Educational Level*

3.2.5 26% of them had post-secondary education or above, 53% of the respondents attained secondary educational level and 21% had primary education or below. The educational level of male respondents was higher than that of female respondents in general.

**Chart 3.2.4: Educational level (%)**

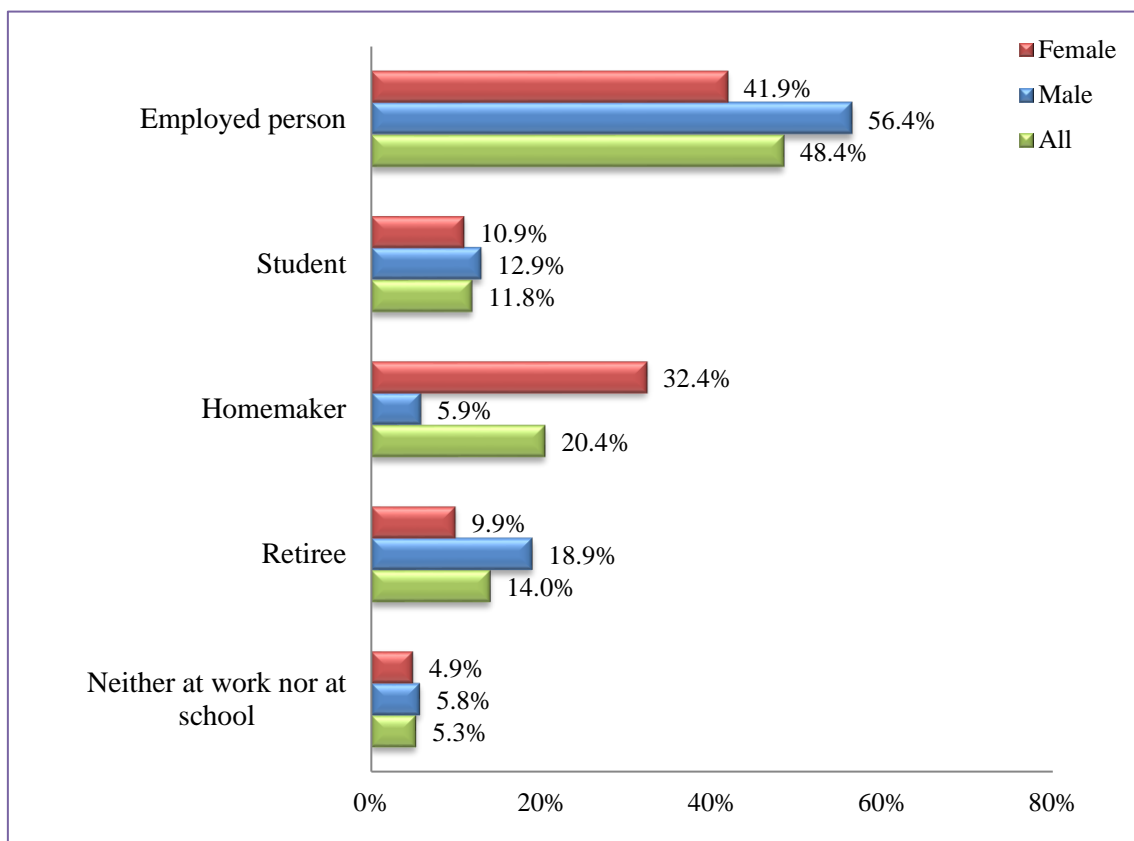


### *Economic Activity Status*

3.2.6 48% of the respondents were employed. 46% were economically inactive, such as retired, home-makers or students, and another 5% were neither at work nor at school.

3.2.7 56% of the male respondents were employed, and about 6% of the male respondents were home-makers. Regarding the female respondents, 42% of them were employed, 53% were economically inactive who were homemakers (32%), retired (10%) or students (11%).

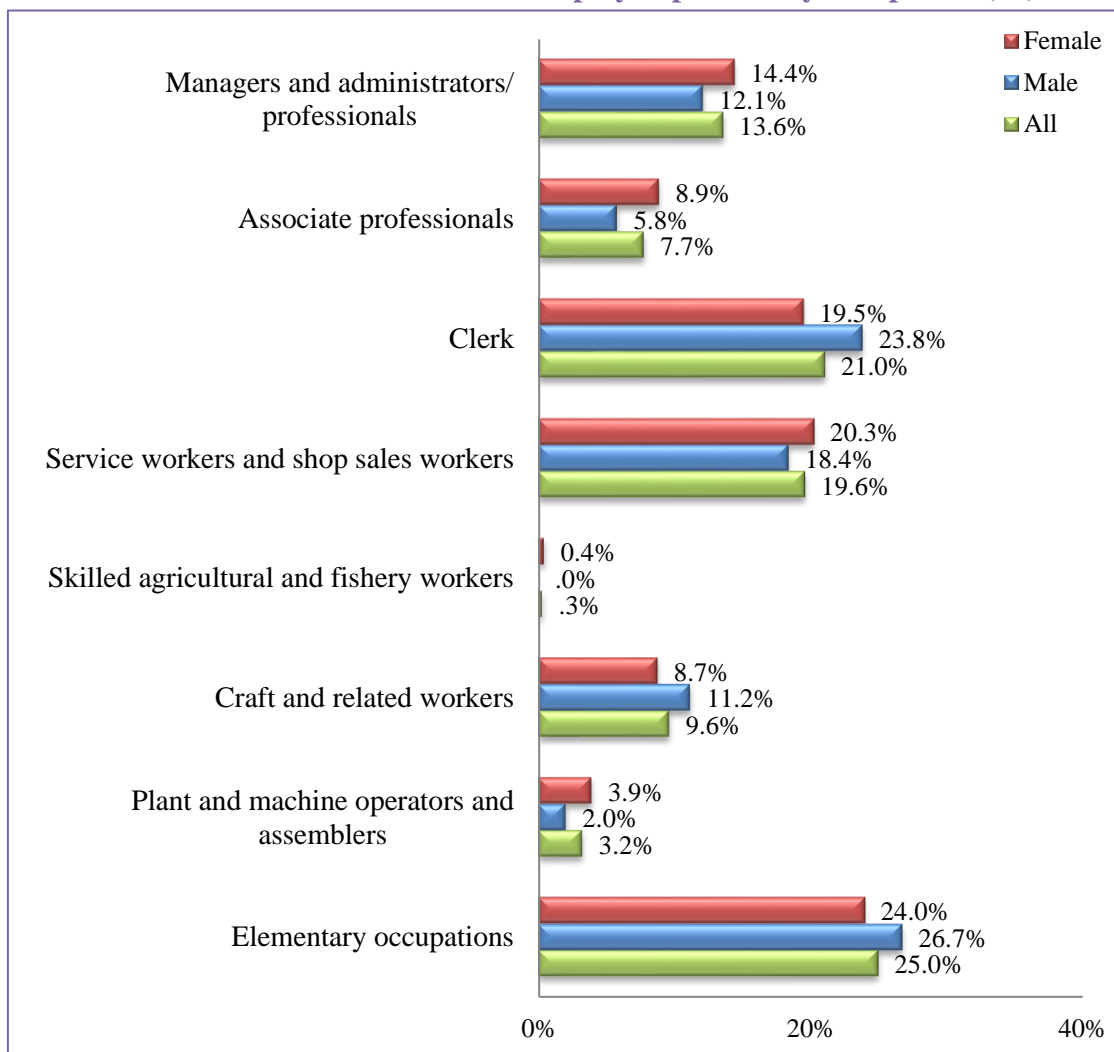
**Chart 3.2.5: Economic activity status (%)**



## Occupation

3.2.8 20% of the employed persons, 18% of the male respondents and 20% of the female respondents were service and shop sales workers. 27% of the male respondents and 24% of female respondents were elementary workers<sup>5</sup>. 12% of the male respondents and 14% of the female respondents were managers and administrator/ professionals. Survey results showed that females worked fewer hours per week than males.

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



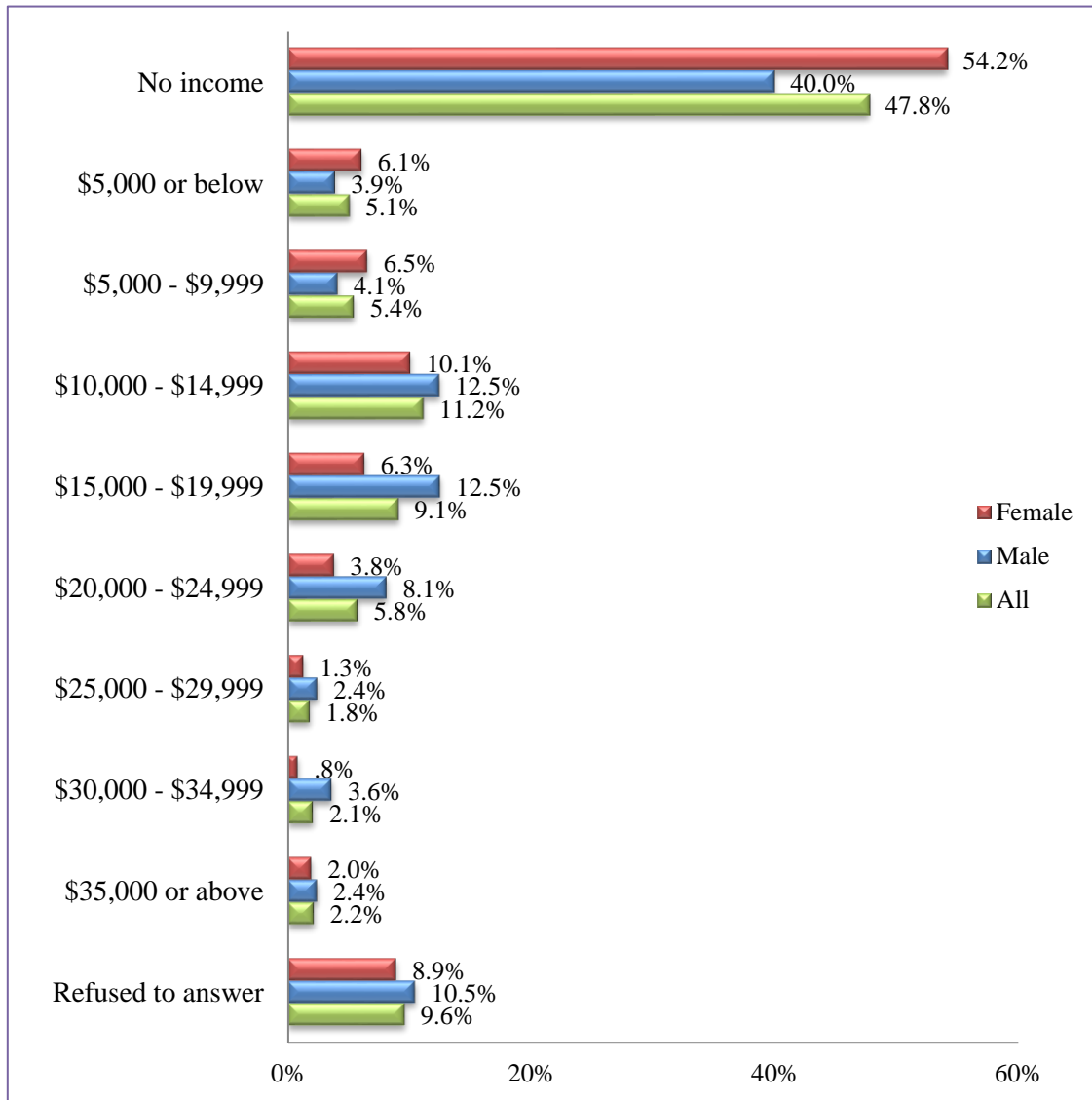
5 Elementary occupations – including street vendors; domestic helpers and cleaners; messengers; private security guards; watchmen; freight handlers; lift operators; construction labourers; hand packers; agricultural and fishery labourers. (According to classification by Census and Statistics Department)



*Monthly Personal Income*

3.2.9 On the whole, 48% of the respondents had no monthly personal income.<sup>6</sup> Monthly personal income of male respondents was higher than that of the female respondents. Overall, 11% of the respondents earned less than \$10,000, 20% earned \$10,000 to \$19,999. Only 2% of the respondents earned \$35,000 or above. This notwithstanding, care should be taken in interpreting the figures as 10% of the respondents refused to provide information on monthly personal income.

**Chart 3.2.7: Monthly personal income distribution (%)**



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

## Key Demographic Characteristics in 2013, 2015 and 2017

3.2.10 The key demographic characteristics including sex, age groups, marital status, economic activity status, length of residence in HK and educational level of the respondents in 2013, 2015 and 2017 are shown in the table below:

**Chart 3.2.8: Key demographic characteristics in 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

<b>Sex</b>	2013	2015	2017	<b>Economic activity status</b>	2013	2015	2017
Female	54%	54%	54%	Economically active	48%	48%	48%
Male	46%	46%	46%	Economically inactive	52%	44%	46%
<b>Age groups</b>	2013	2015	2017	<b>Length of residence in HK</b>	2013	2015	2017
15-34	30%	30%	54%	New arrivals	6%	5%	4%
35-54	38%	37%	29%	Not new arrivals	92%	93%	86%
55 or above	32%	33%	17%	<b>Educational level</b>	2013	2015	2017
<b>Marital status</b>	2013	2015	2017	Primary or below	22%	26%	21%
Never married	30%	29%	36%	Secondary	54%	55%	53%
Married/cohabiting	56%	51%	50%	Tertiary	23%	19%	26%
Divorced/separated/widowed	14%	20%	14%				

*Note: Some figures may not add up to 100% as some respondents refused to provide the information.*

## Chapter 4 | Importance of Family

### 4.1 Introduction

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

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

- (a) traditional family values;
- (b) living with parents;
- (c) marriage and having child;
- (d) involvement of grandparents in family issues;
- (e) singlehood;
- (f) cohabitation;
- (g) divorce; and
- (h) practice of filial piety.

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

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

## 4.2 Attitudes towards Traditional Family Values

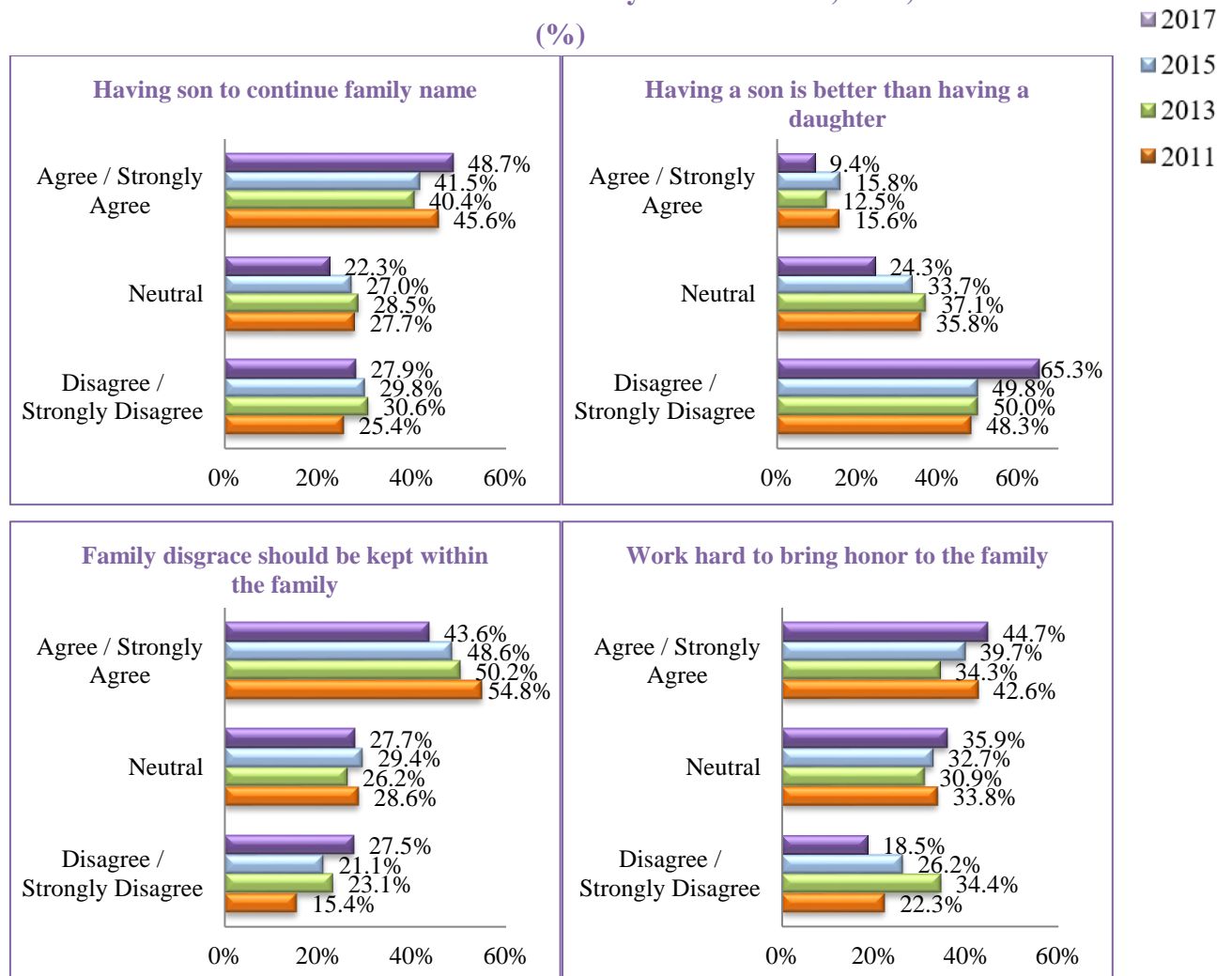
### 4.2.1 Most traditional family values were still quite prevalent, but not strong.

4.2.2 For traditional views of having son to continue family name, the percentage of those agreed/strongly agreed slightly increased to 49% in 2017. For that having a son is better than having a daughter, about 65% of the respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed in 2017.

4.2.3 For traditional views of keeping family disgrace within the family, a decreasing trend was observed from 2011 to 2017, where the respondents agreed or strongly agreed dropped to 44% in 2017 from 55% in 2011.

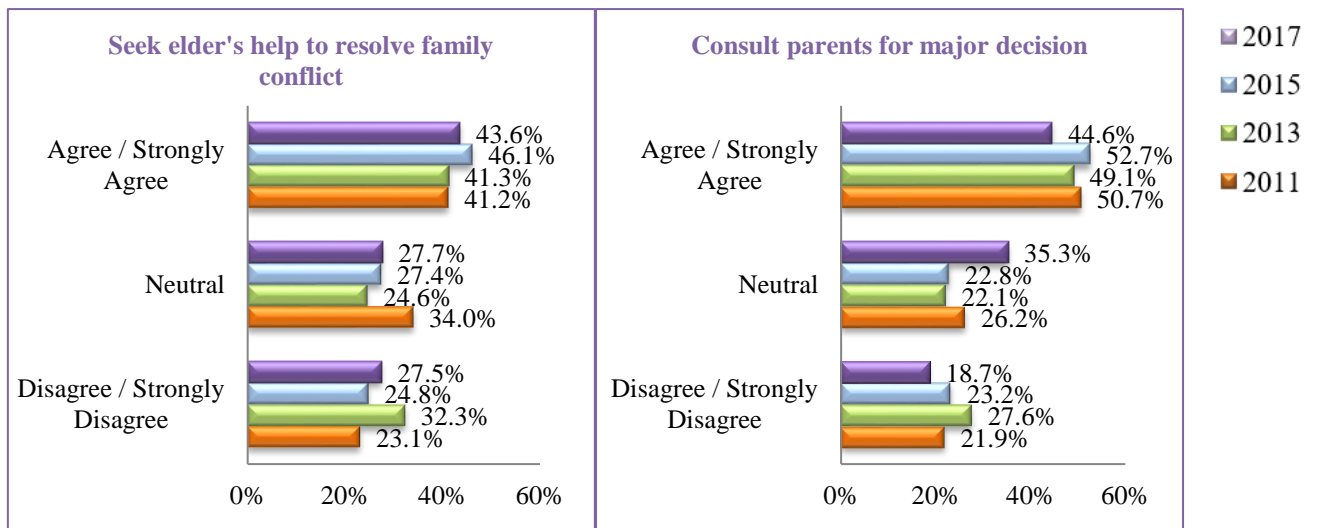
4.2.4 The attitudes towards traditional views of working hard to bring honor to the family dropped as well. The percentage of those disagreed/strongly disagreed dropped to 19% whereas the percentage of those agree/strongly agreed rose to 45% in 2017 from 2011.

**Chart 4.2.1: Attitudes towards traditional family values in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017**



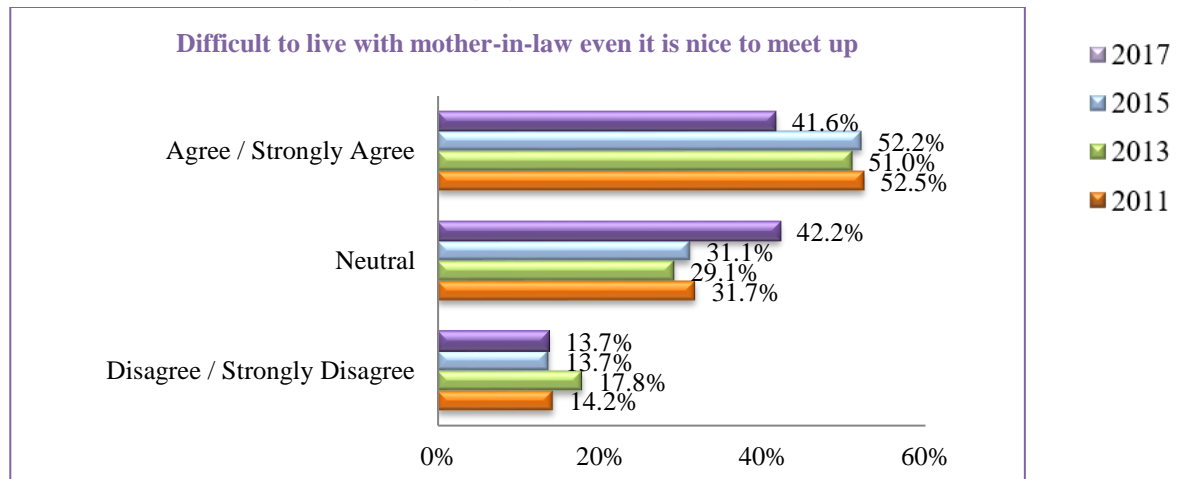
4.2.5 For traditional views about advice seeking within the family (including “seek elder’s help to resolve family conflict” and “consult parents for major decision”), the percentage of those agreed/strongly agreed is generally steady.

**Chart 4.2.2: Attitudes towards advice seeking within the family in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**



4.2.6 Regarding the attitude towards living with mother-in-law, around 42% of the respondents agreed/strongly agreed that it was difficult to live with mother-in-law even it was nice to meet up in 2017. With the findings in 2011, 2013 and 2015 compared, more respondents were neutral to this issue in 2017.

**Chart 4.2.3: Attitude towards living with mother-in-law in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**



4.2.7 Analysed by age group, older respondents aged 55 or above were more likely to agree with the traditional family values, such as “difficult to live with mother-in-law even it is nice to meet up” (45% in 2017; 56% in 2015; 55% in 2013; 53% in 2011) and “consult parents for major decision” (49% in 2017; 49% in 2015; 46% in 2013; 50% in 2011); “having a son is better than having a daughter” (10% in 2017; 18% in 2015; 19% in 2013; 20% in 2011).

**Table 4.2.4: Agreement on attitudes towards traditional family values by age group in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Having son to continue family name	2017	46.5	<b>51.6</b>	47.8
	2015	38.7	39.0	46.9
	2013	36.5	37.1	48.0
	2011	42.3	41.9	54.0
Having a son is better than having a daughter	2017	9.9	7.8	<b>10.4</b>
	2015	14.2	14.9	18.2
	2013	9.8	9.5	18.7
	2011	12.5	14.5	20.3
Family disgrace should be kept within the family	2017	26.5	<b>28.8</b>	24.7
	2015	49.6	46.4	50.0
	2013	53.0	47.5	50.6
	2011	49.0	54.7	61.3
Work hard to bring honor to the family	2017	42.5	<b>46.3</b>	44.7
	2015	38.5	39.2	41.2
	2013	35.2	29.2	39.4
	2011	43.3	37.7	48.3
Seek elder's help to resolve family conflict	2017	39.7	<b>49.5</b>	43.8
	2015	52.5	43.8	43.0
	2013	43.3	40.2	40.7
	2011	44.7	37.4	42.7
Difficult to live with Mother-in-law even it is nice to meet up	2017	33.3	44.4	<b>45.4</b>
	2015	42.8	56.6	55.6
	2013	43.0	53.9	55.0
	2011	44.7	58.4	53.0
Consult parents for major decision	2017	32.0	47.1	<b>49.2</b>
	2015	58.8	51.0	49.0
	2013	55.2	47.0	46.0
	2011	53.7	48.9	49.7

4.2.8 Analysed by marital status, male respondents who were divorced/separated (15% in 2017, 23% in 2015; 12% in 2013; 40% in 2011) and male respondents who were widowed (18% in 2017, 23% in 2015; 19% in 2013; 5% in 2011) were more likely to agree that “having a son is better than having a daughter”. Besides, male respondents who were widowed were more likely to agree with “difficult to live with mother-in-law even it is nice to meet up” (54% in 2017, 56% in 2015; 39% in 2013; 64% in 2011).

**Table 4.2.5: Agreement on attitudes towards traditional family values by marital status and gender in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

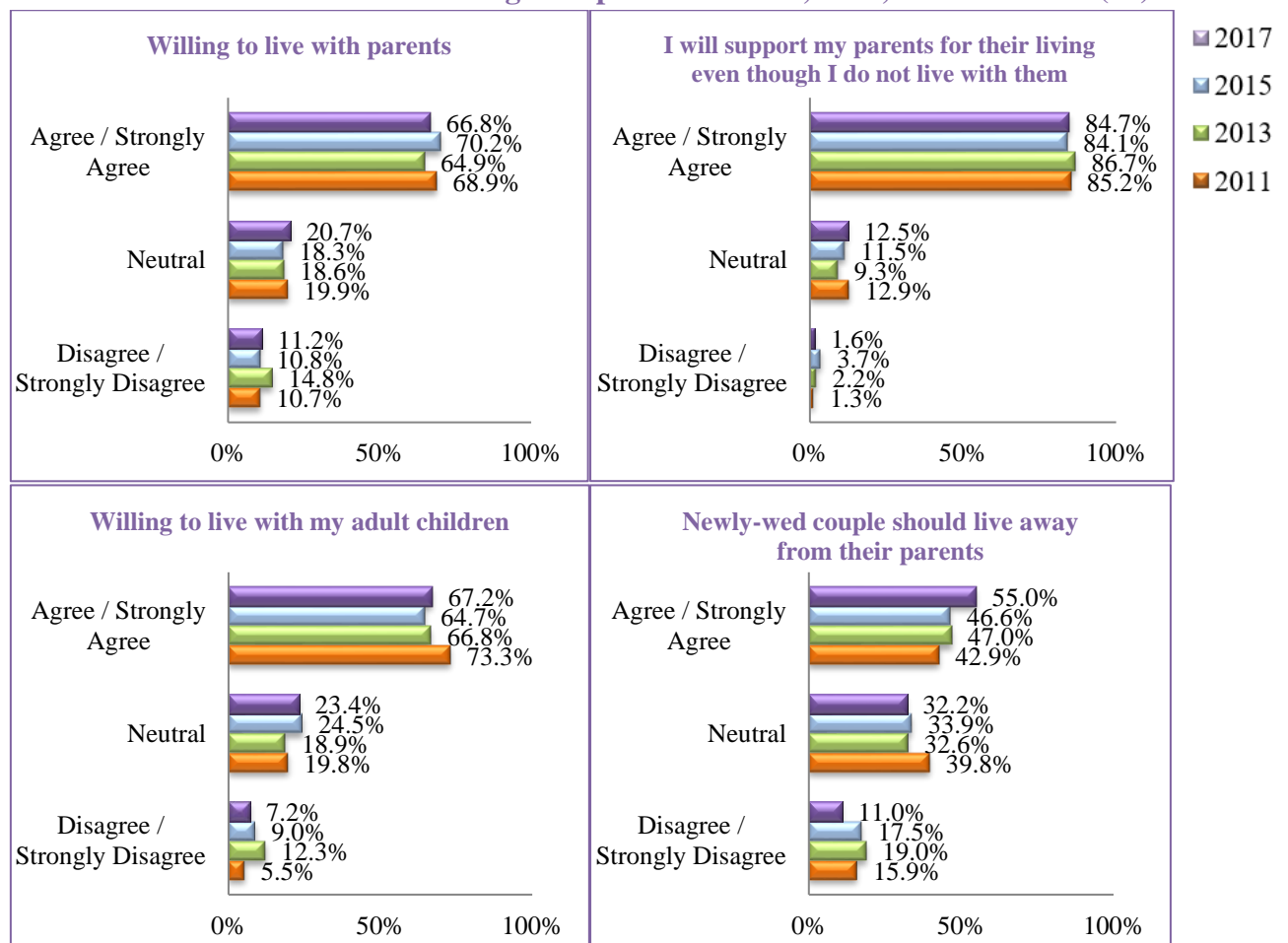
	Year	Never married		Married/cohabiting without child		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Having son to continue family name	2017	45.4	55.2	44.8	48.1	46.7	44.1	<b>57.7</b>	<b>66.4</b>	41.5	46.2
	2015	45.5	30.1	41.2	35.1	47.4	42.0	41.5	29.3	53.9	48.6
	2013	44.4	26.3	33.6	11.9	52.0	40.7	33.3	30.3	48.5	48.3
	2011	43.3	38.4	35.3	30.9	56.3	43.2	67.0	53.0	43.7	45.8
Having a son is better than having a daughter	2017	9.3	7.6	12.2	9.2	7.9	4.1	15.1	6.1	<b>17.9</b>	7.8
	2015	17.7	11.4	16.3	10.8	18.9	13.2	23.4	16.1	22.6	19.6
	2013	13.8	7.1	8.9	0.9	19.0	9.1	12.0	9.0	18.9	22.9
	2011	18.3	10.8	16.4	15.4	17.5	13.8	40.4	20.2	4.6	11.9
Family disgrace should be kept within the family	2017	24.8	26.7	20.2	32.4	23.8	26.3	<b>35.8</b>	<b>35.0</b>	26.8	28.1
	2015	54.9	43.0	50.3	38.1	51.0	46.2	48.6	39.5	64.9	53.7
	2013	53.3	50.6	49.5	38.0	56.2	45.8	19.3	46.6	48.6	57.2
	2011	52.0	47.0	57.6	50.2	62.0	54.2	74.8	57.6	64.7	47.9
Work hard to bring honor to the family	2017	39.3	46.9	38.8	47.2	40.5	50.2	<b>59.2</b>	<b>65.7</b>	34.8	42.4
	2015	46.8	30.0	43.1	23.7	44.4	38.9	31.2	38.5	52.7	38.2
	2013	39.3	32.3	28.5	23.5	38.0	30.1	25.8	27.1	47.4	44.0
	2011	47.5	41.4	43.4	27.1	44.7	39.2	48.0	51.8	39.1	38.2
Seek elder's help to resolve family conflict	2017	42.9	42.2	44.2	43.9	47.9	37.4	<b>63.9</b>	<b>61.7</b>	48.2	43.2
	2015	55.0	46.8	61.0	43.4	40.8	42.2	47.2	41.7	43.8	48.4
	2013	50.4	41.6	47.9	18.0	42.5	38.3	40.0	42.7	30.7	38.2
	2011	43.8	44.8	37.5	41.4	40.4	38.8	49.5	41.9	43.2	36.0
Difficult to live with mother-in-law even it is nice to meet up	2017	32.6	36.9	47.6	46.0	37.1	38.0	<b>51.6</b>	<b>46.3</b>	54.0	44.9
	2015	41.7	49.6	47.9	54.1	54.9	56.1	<b>67.0</b>	<b>58.9</b>	56.3	54.7
	2013	41.7	44.7	44.3	63.5	53.2	57.2	44.5	58.9	39.4	51.2
	2011	44.9	44.3	57.9	62.4	55.4	55.2	46.4	56.3	63.6	57.0
Consult parents for major decision	2017	37.7	39.2	48.3	41.4	42.8	30.2	<b>63.0</b>	<b>59.2</b>	50.5	54.7
	2015	63.3	53.5	60.7	55.8	50.8	48.3	42.8	44.3	48.1	47.4
	2013	52.3	58.3	35.1	42.2	42.0	51.8	43.9	52.1	36.9	51.0
	2011	47.1	57.1	36.6	49.4	49.3	53.3	52.6	52.5	51.5	43.5

### 4.3 Attitudes towards Living with Parents

4.3.1 **Majority of the respondents were willing to live with their parents and support their living even though they did not live with them.** In 2017, 67% of the respondents were willing to live with their parents and 85% agreed to support their parents' living even though they did not live with them. 67% agreed "willing to live with their adult children". At the same time, 55% of the respondents agreed that "newly-wed couple should live away from their parents". With the findings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 compared, agreement on the attitudes towards willingness to live with parents and support parents' living was fairly steady.

4.3.2 **Increasing percentage of people agreed that newly-wed couple should live away from their parents.** There was an increasing trend observed that the agreement on the attitude from 43% in 2011 to 55% in 2017.

**Chart 4.3.1: Attitudes towards living with parents in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**





4.3.3 Similar views were held by the respondents across all age groups. However, younger people aged 15-34 were more likely to be willing to live with their parents (75% in 2017 and 2015; 73% in 2013; 74% in 2011) than those in the older age groups. Majority of the respondents were willing to support their parents' living even though they did not live with them, especially those aged 15-34 and that aged 55 or above.

**Table 4.3.2: Agreement on attitudes towards living with parents by age group in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Willing to live with parents	2017	<b>75.3</b>	61.1	65.4
	2015	75.3	65.9	70.3
	2013	73.2	62.7	59.6
	2011	74.4	66.7	66.0
I will support my parents for their living even I do not live with them	2017	86.0	82.6	85.6
	2015	89.5	81.7	81.8
	2013	95.0	87.3	78.1
	2011	89.5	86.3	79.0
Willing to live with adult children	2017	63.2	66.8	70.7
	2015	63.1	66.5	64.2
	2013	69.9	65.4	65.6
	2011	73.5	77.3	67.8
Newly-wed couple living away from their parents	2017	47.1	53.9	61.9
	2015	40.9	49.0	49.2
	2013	41.7	45.1	54.5
	2011	39.5	43.3	46.0

4.3.4 Analysed by marital status, female respondents who were never married were more likely to be willing to live with their parents (79% in 2017, 82% in 2015; 76% in 2013; 80% in 2011).

**Table 4.3.3: Agreement on attitudes towards living with parents by marital status and gender in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	Never married		Married/cohabiting without child		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Willing to live with parents	2017	75.2	<b>79.4</b>	54.7	62.7	58.9	62.5	45.0	58.0	59.4	70.1
	2015	74.0	81.7	54.4	56.7	68.0	65.7	68.4	68.5	59.5	76.7
	2013	73.3	76.1	58.0	45.4	63.5	59.3	61.2	61.2	55.8	67.5
	2011	71.8	79.8	66.4	60.7	67.1	67.0	60.2	60.8	62.7	66.8
I will support my parents for their living even I do not live with them	2017	85.0	85.5	81.2	82.5	86.3	85.2	77.0	81.5	80.8	82.8
	2015	87.6	88.6	79.3	87.7	81.6	82.5	85.4	74.8	81.6	84.9
	2013	88.4	96.7	90.5	89.2	83.4	86.9	74.8	84.2	62.2	77.6
	2011	86.3	90.4	82.7	87.6	82.4	88.7	73.5	73.5	74.8	85.1
Willing to live with adult children	2017	58.2	63.2	62.4	46.2	73.0	72.8	58.9	77.8	78.6	69.9
	2015	58.6	61.1	50.9	46.8	67.6	73.7	73.3	57.0	64.3	68.7
	2013	62.0	65.2	57.4	48.8	69.2	73.6	47.4	65.1	61.3	71.8
	2011	69.6	71.9	53.9	70.9	78.0	80.9	66.9	65.5	51.7	69.7
Newly-wed couple living away from their parents	2017	49.4	50.0	54.6	38.3	59.8	56.5	68.1	67.2	61.7	62.7
	2015	41.7	45.4	45.7	48.4	48.3	48.9	47.6	44.0	51.6	49.6
	2013	39.8	41.5	42.7	63.4	53.7	48.8	43.8	36.6	36.2	49.9
	2011	40.2	38.5	44e.4	45.0	42.3	48.2	55.3	38.0	36.0	46.5

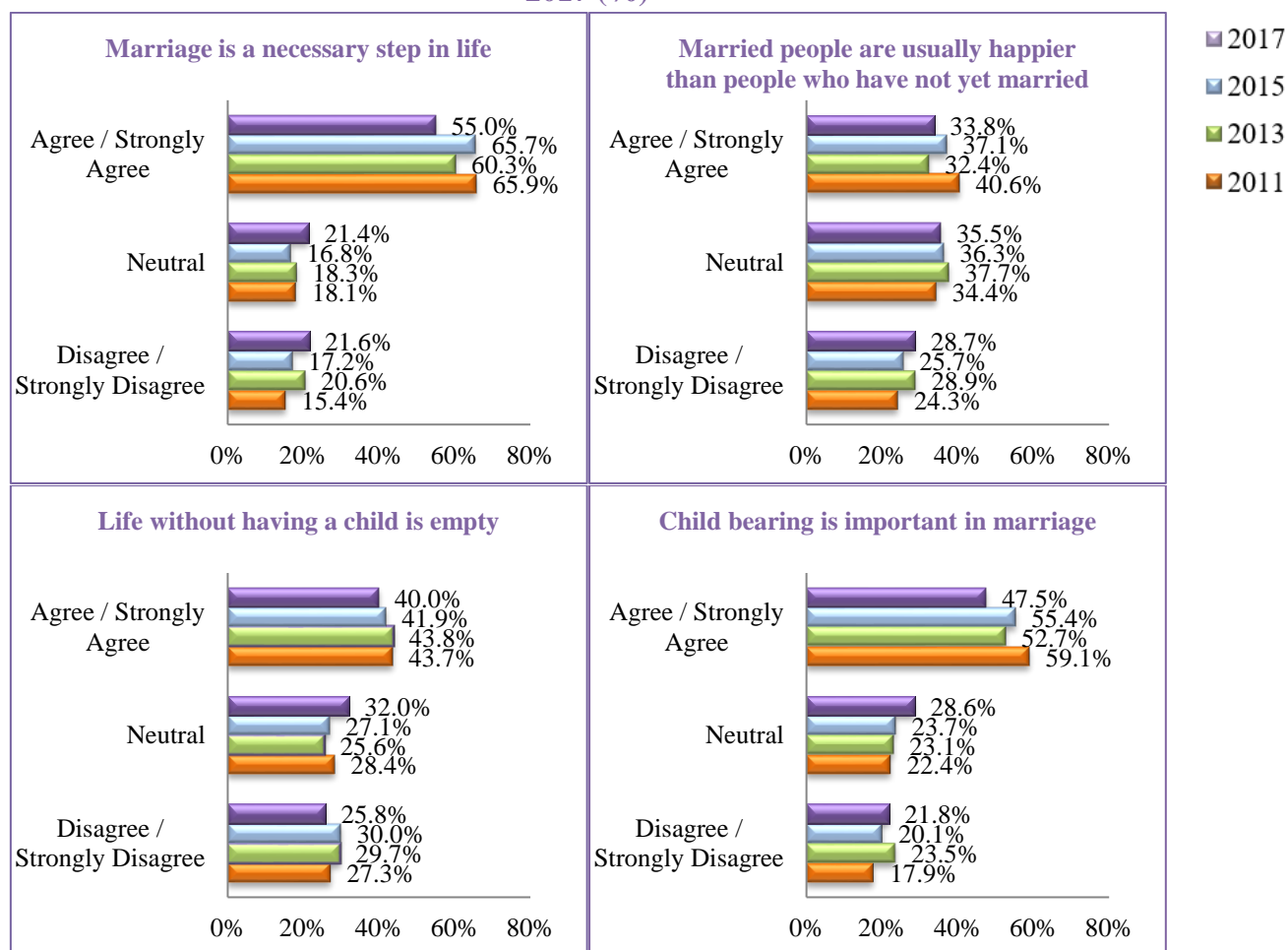
*Views collected from focus group discussions*

- 4.3.5 Apart from the findings collected from the questionnaire survey, views on the intention to live with parents or adult children were solicited from participants during the focus group discussions.
- 4.3.6 Majority of young adults of the focus group discussions were willing to live with their parents due to the housing problem. In the meantime, they believed newly-wed couples should live away from their parents and wanted to build their own families. It was agreed that unless they got a child, they would not prefer living with their parents.

## 4.4 Attitudes towards Marriage and Having Child

4.4.1 **Most people agreed that marriage is a necessary step in life, despite a slight drop of agreement from previous rounds.** In 2017, 55% and 48% of the respondents agreed/strongly agreed that “marriage is a necessary step in life” and “child bearing is important in marriage” respectively. 40% of the respondents also agreed that “my whole life without having a child is empty” while around 34% of the respondents agreed/strongly agreed that “married people are usually happier than those who have not married”.

**Chart 4.4.1: Attitudes towards marriage and having child in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**



4.4.2 Analysed by age group, different views were held by the respondents across all age groups. Older people aged 55 or above were more likely to agree that “marriage is a necessary step in life” (62% in 2017; 66% in 2015; 65% in 2013; 71% in 2011), “child bearing is important in marriage” (58% in 2017; 61% in 2015; 62% in 2013; 69% in 2011), “life without having a child is empty” (53% in 2017; 51% in 2015; 61% in 2013; 59% in 2011) and “married people are usually happier than people who have not yet married” (44% in 2017; 41% in 2015; 39% in 2013; 49% in 2011).

**Table 4.4.2: Agreement on attitudes towards marriage and having child by age group in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Marriage is a necessary step in life	2017	48.1	52.7	<b>62.1</b>
	2015	67.3	63.8	66.3
	2013	59.9	57.0	64.6
	2011	64.9	63.0	70.9
Married people are usually happier than people who have not yet married	2017	23.6	31.4	<b>43.6</b>
	2015	30.3	38.9	41.4
	2013	25.6	32.7	38.6
	2011	32.7	40.4	49.1
Life without having a child is empty	2017	24.9	38.7	<b>52.7</b>
	2015	30.9	43.0	50.7
	2013	27.1	42.9	60.8
	2011	31.6	41.4	59.2
Child bearing is important in marriage	2017	35.4	46.1	<b>58.0</b>
	2015	48.6	55.6	61.3
	2013	44.2	52.1	61.5
	2011	49.8	59.0	69.0

4.4.3 Analysed by marital status, respondents who were married/cohabiting with child were more likely to agree that “marriage is a necessary step in life”. Female respondents who were widowed were more likely to agree that “married people are usually happier than people who have not yet married” and “life without having a child is empty”.

**Table 4.4.3: Agreement on attitudes towards marriage and having child by marital status and gender in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	Never married		Married/cohabiting without child		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Marriage is a necessary step in life	2017	41.1	35.0	56.8	42.6	<b>74.5</b>	<b>64.6</b>	37.0	35.7	61.6	70.3
	2015	53.1	54.9	69.5	77.8	74.0	75.5	48.8	43.7	72.2	73.0
	2013	47.9	48.7	56.8	55.0	76.6	64.7	38.6	43.9	75.3	59.7
	2011	57.6	52.4	51.0	58.2	75.6	72.8	84.1	74.3	67.6	57.2
Married people are usually happier than people who have not yet married	2017	16.5	13.8	39.8	20.6	52.9	44.9	20.2	14.5	<b>42.4</b>	<b>53.0</b>
	2015	26.4	25.3	45.9	28.3	48.2	44.0	26.1	25.8	22.8	48.6
	2013	19.8	23.6	23.4	20.0	64.3	57.0	18.8	31.3	62.3	61.0
	2011	33.0	25.5	46.6	35.0	47.8	48.6	42.5	46.2	30.8	29.4
Life without having a child is empty	2017	17.8	18.7	18.5	20.7	62.2	51.4	33.9	40.8	<b>57.2</b>	<b>63.8</b>
	2015	25.7	26.2	27.1	26.1	56.1	56.5	31.6	32.3	33.2	54.5
	2013	34.6	33.4	37.2	36.4	69.2	64.4	47.9	42.9	78.9	56.4
	2011	29.4	24.1	27.9	27.8	53.3	55.4	59.2	59.2	40.2	53.4
Child bearing is important in marriage	2017	28.5	26.4	30.7	40.2	<b>67.8</b>	<b>59.0</b>	42.1	45.4	68.3	64.7
	2015	39.6	40.7	41.6	48.6	66.8	69.6	48.4	36.3	56.2	72.6
	2013	21.1	19.5	35.9	36.6	48.5	35.1	17.6	12.2	39.4	31.7
	2011	48.8	40.2	50.5	39.8	70.5	69.5	72.8	64.3	61.4	57.3

### *Views collected from focus group discussions*

- 4.4.4 Apart from the findings collected from the questionnaire survey, views on whether marriage was a necessary step in life were solicited from participants during the focus group discussions. Most young adults believed that marriage is still their lifetime milestones, accepting cohabitation before marriage. They expressed that getting divorce is common but somehow some believed this is not a good resolution to conflicts.
- 4.4.5 Most parents agreed that marriage was a necessary step in life, still believing that marriage is a fancy issue. However, they understood that getting child bearing is somehow not necessarily related to marriage. Some agreed that having a marriage is not a necessary pre-requisite to having a child. Single parenthood is generally accepted yet not all of them are preferred.

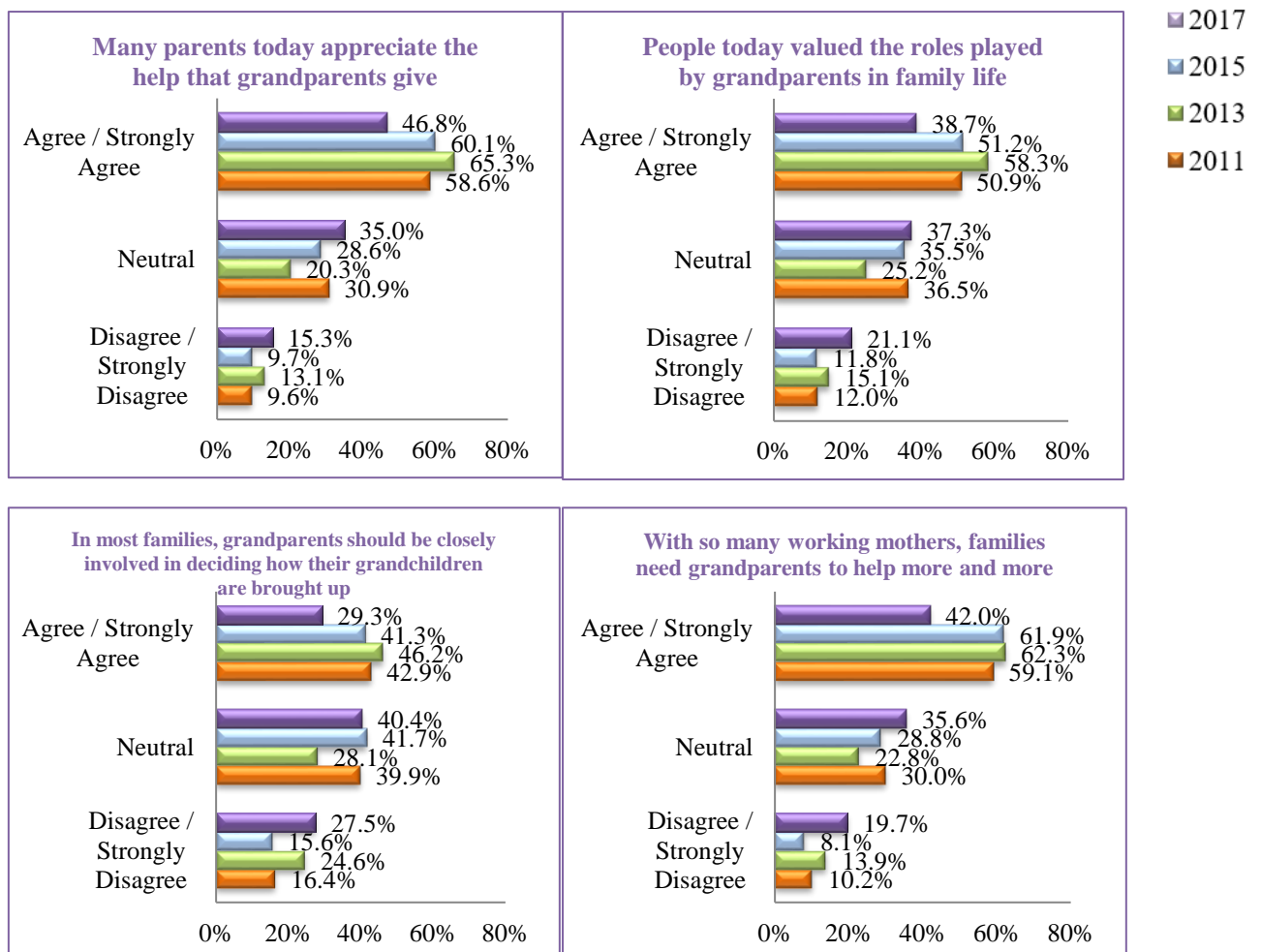
## 4.5 Attitudes towards Involvement of Grandparents in Family Matters

### 4.5.1 Majority of people still valued the contribution and help of grandparents. However, number of respondents showing agreement decreased since 2015.

In 2017, 47%, 39% and 42% of the respondents agreed that “many parents today appreciated the help that grandparents give”, “people today valued the roles played by grandparents in family life” and “with so many working mothers, families needed grandparents to help more”. Meanwhile, the disagreement on the attitudes increased by around 6%, 9% and 12% respectively.

### 4.5.2 Only 29% of the respondents agreed that “grandparents should be closely involved in deciding how their grand-children are brought up”. With the findings in 2011, 2013 and 2015 compared, the agreement towards relevant issues in 2017 dropped drastically.

**Chart 4.5.1: Attitudes towards involvement of grandparents in family matters in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**



4.5.3 Number of respondents showing agreement on involvement of grandparents in family matters decreased in general. Meanwhile, older people (aged 55 or above) were comparatively showing agreement on the involvement of grandparents. The extent is the decline of those aged 55 or above is smallest among all age groups.

4.5.4 For instance, older people (aged 55 or above) who agreed that “Many parents today appreciate the help that grandparents give” has decreased 7% from 2015 to 2017 (from 58% to 51%); yet the older middle-aged (aged 35 to 54) has dropped to 18% (from 62% to 44%).

**Table 4.5.2: Agreement on attitudes towards involvement of grandparents in family matters by age group in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Many parents today appreciate the help that grandparents give	2017	44.8	43.8	<b>50.9</b>
	2015	60.2	61.6	<b>58.3</b>
	2013	66.9	65.8	63.2
	2011	59.2	55.9	61.6
People today place enough value on the part grandparents play in family life	2017	39.0	34.7	42.2
	2015	52.6	52.0	48.9
	2013	59.4	59.1	56.3
	2011	53.5	46.2	54.3
In most families, grandparents should be closely involved in deciding how their grandchildren are brought up	2017	26.9	26.6	33.5
	2015	38.1	45.4	39.7
	2013	41.9	44.9	51.7
	2011	42.6	39.1	48.0
With so many working mothers, families need grandparents to help more and more	2017	42.6	39.3	43.9
	2015	60.2	65.7	59.1
	2013	60.4	62.2	64.2
	2011	54.9	58.1	64.8

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



**Table 4.5.3: Agreement on attitudes towards involvement of grandparents in family matters by marital status and gender in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	Never married		Married/cohabiting without child		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Many parents today appreciate the help that grandparents give	2017	43.5	44.7	34.1	38.7	<b>49.6</b>	<b>51.6</b>	44.1	47.4	46.9	48.7
	2015	57.4	58.4	59.0	56.5	68.0	60.8	55.1	52.6	48.7	55.3
	2013	57.9	68.2	66.3	50.3	70.4	66.9	47.4	66.9	69.0	62.9
	2011	57.4	57.3	39.7	45.7	65.7	59.8	56.9	60.6	52.7	58.3
People today place enough value on the part grandparents play in family life	2017	36.0	36.8	30.9	32.8	<b>41.2</b>	<b>42.3</b>	35.9	33.7	42.4	41.5
	2015	50.3	51.6	53.1	35.7	55.3	53.2	45.1	43.5	37.5	49.1
	2013	56.8	56.5	61.5	44.4	64.6	59.4	44.8	51.8	61.8	52.0
	2011	49.6	49.8	34.5	48.7	53.3	54.5	40.5	54.4	47.5	44.7
In most families, grandparents should be closely involved in deciding how their grandchildren are brought up	2017	27.2	25.2	27.7	22.9	31.3	31.4	26.1	31.5	<b>44.7</b>	<b>37.6</b>
	2015	39.4	39.5	39.5	30.1	46.8	44.1	34.6	40.1	24.2	36.5
	2013	43.7	42.0	60.0	17.3	52.2	44.3	25.6	47.2	62.0	57.2
	2011	39.4	42.9	28.4	34.1	47.7	42.2	33.3	54	42.5	47.2
With so many working mothers, families need grandparents to help more and more	2017	39.7	41.0	37.7	39.5	42.1	44.7	35.3	41.1	40.2	44.9
	2015	58.6	59.0	64.2	55.0	67.3	64.9	56.8	55.4	63.3	57.1
	2013	54.0	56.1	66.6	51.3	66.5	66.8	65.2	66.1	61.7	63.8
	2011	52.6	54.9	54.1	53.3	63.9	64.8	51.6	62.9	54.3	52.1

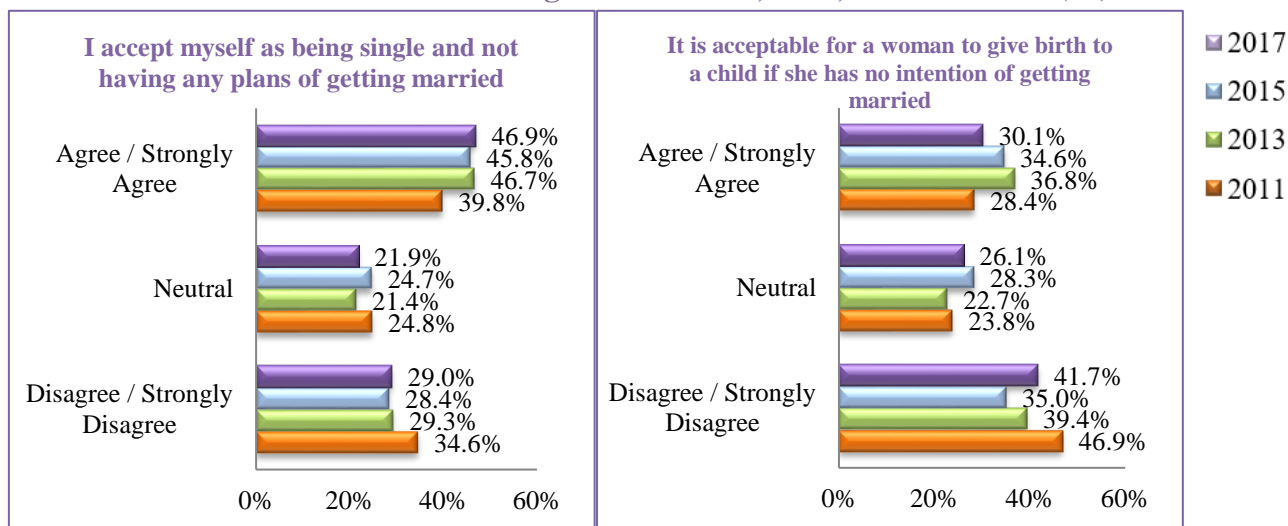
### *Views collected from focus group discussions*

- 4.5.6 Apart from the findings collected from the questionnaire survey, views on the grandparents' involvement in taking care of grandchildren and parenting were solicited from participants during the focus group discussions.
- 4.5.7 Most of the grandparents of the focus group discussions were willing to take care of their grandchildren if they were capable to. Some reported that they were not confident or willing to take care their grandchildren at first but getting used to this gradually.
- 4.5.8 For parents who had full-time job, some of them were willing to let their grandparents to take care of their children to their grandparents when they were out for work. They understood that tri-parenting is inevitable in Hong Kong where both parents are required to work to sustain the living, to them, at least it is better than merely relying on foreign domestic helpers

## 4.6 Attitudes towards Singlehood

4.6.1 **Attitudes towards singlehood varied.** In 2017, 47% of the respondents accepted the view of “being single and not having any plan to get married”. At the same time, 30% of the respondents found it acceptable for a woman to give birth to a child if she had no intention of getting married.

**Chart 4.6.1: Attitudes towards singlehood in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**



4.6.2 Analysed by age group, younger people aged 15-34 were more likely to agree that “being single and not having any plan to get married” (52% in 2017, 46% in 2015; 51% in 2013; 46% in 2011) whereas younger people aged 15-34 were more likely to agree that “woman to give birth to a child if she has no intention of getting married” (34% in 2017; 38% in 2015; 44% in 2013; 33% in 2011).

**Table 4.6.2: Agreement on attitudes towards singlehood by age group in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
I accept myself as being single and not having any plans of getting married	2017	51.6	48.0	42.4
	2015	46.0	51.3	39.5
	2013	51.0	51.5	37.0
	2011	45.7	43.0	29.3
It is acceptable for a woman to give birth to a child if she has no intention of getting married	2017	34.4	34.6	22.7
	2015	37.8	37.2	28.7
	2013	44.4	38.8	27.3
	2011	32.5	31.2	20.6

4.6.3 Analysed by marital status, respondents who were divorced/separated were more likely to accept themselves as “being single and not having any plan to get married” (68% and 66% of male and female respondents respectively shared such view in 2017; 73% and 67% in 2015; 77% and 69% in 2013). Respondents who were never married were also more likely to accept “a woman to give birth to a child if she has no intention of getting married”.

**Table 4.6.3: Agreement on attitudes towards singlehood by marital status and gender in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

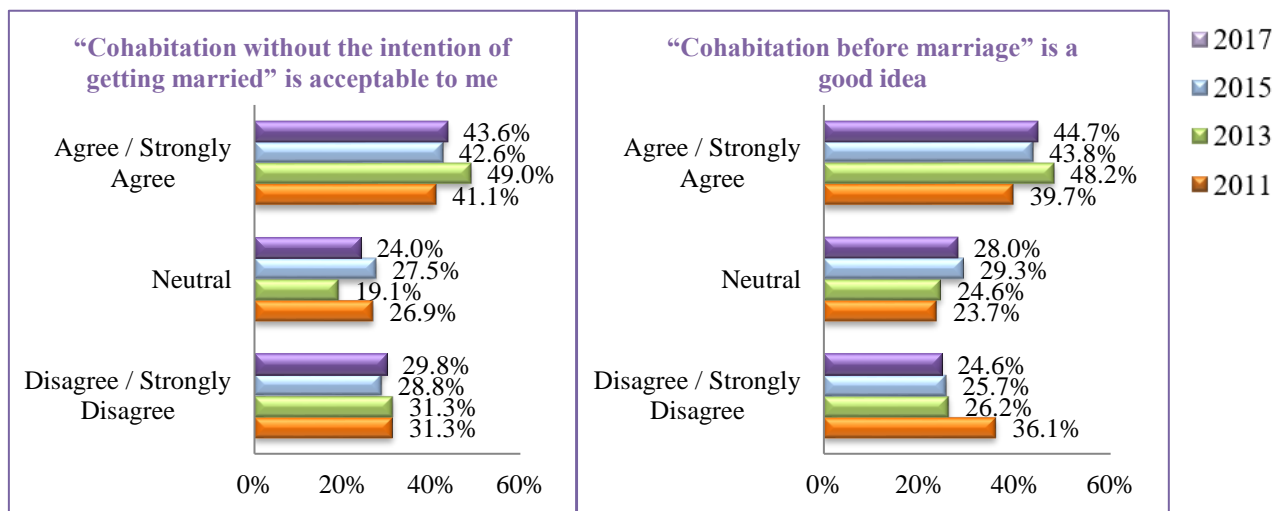
	Year	Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
I accept myself as being single and not having any plans of getting married	2017	52.8	67.4	43.3	49.7	31.5	36.8	<b>68.1</b>	<b>65.6</b>	51.8	45.0
	2015	62.3	56.7	41.0	37.9	34.6	36.0	72.9	67.4	28.3	34.3
	2013	60.6	56.7	50.6	50.3	35.8	38.7	77.2	69.4	34.8	36.3
	2011	50.8	60.6	31.2	45.1	31.4	27.1	31.7	28.1	67.8	62.1
It is acceptable for a woman to give birth to a child if she has no intention of getting married	2017	<b>35.6</b>	<b>37.1</b>	32.7	27.4	22.1	31.6	33.4	37.0	8.9	15.8
	2015	41.6	42.4	28.7	27.3	27.9	31.2	51.9	47.4	21.7	26.2
	2013	45.7	45.8	45.2	45.5	29.0	32.7	45.2	51.0	23.0	20.5
	2011	32.2	36.5	27.1	28.1	25.5	22.8	22.1	19.0	55.7	46.5

## 4.7 Attitudes towards Cohabitation

4.7.1 *Attitudes towards cohabitation varied, but less people opposed cohabitation in the past seven years.* It was shown that 44% of the respondents accepted “cohabitation without intention of getting married” while 45% accepted that “cohabitation before marriage is a good idea”.

4.7.2 Even though quite a medium proportion of the respondents accepted “cohabitation without intention of getting married” and “cohabitation before marriage is a good idea”, at the same time, there were still 30% showed disagreement to “cohabitation without intention of getting married” and 25% disagreed that “cohabitation before marriage” was a good idea in 2017.

**Chart 4.7.1: Attitudes towards cohabiting in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**



4.7.3 Analysed by age group, younger people aged 15-34 were more likely to accept “cohabitation without intention of getting married” (49% in 2017; 50% in 2015; 55% in 2013; 49% in 2011). Interestingly, about half of people aged 35-54 accept “cohabitation before marriage” is a good idea, which was a higher proportion than that of other age groups.

**Table 4.7.2: Agreement on attitudes towards cohabitation by age group in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
“Cohabitation without the intention of getting married” is acceptable to me	2017	<b>49.1</b>	47.0	36.3
	2015	49.8	45.4	32.8
	2013	54.5	55.2	36.3
	2011	49.4	42.4	25.8
“Cohabitation before marriage” is a good idea	2017	45.5	<b>51.0</b>	38.5
	2015	51.8	47.4	32.4
	2013	53.8	53.6	36.4
	2011	49.5	42.5	30.3

4.7.4 With respect to marital status, male respondents who were never married and divorced/separated respondents were more likely to accept “cohabitation without the intention of getting married” and “cohabitation before marriage”.

**Table 4.7.3: Agreement on attitudes towards cohabitation by marital status and gender in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

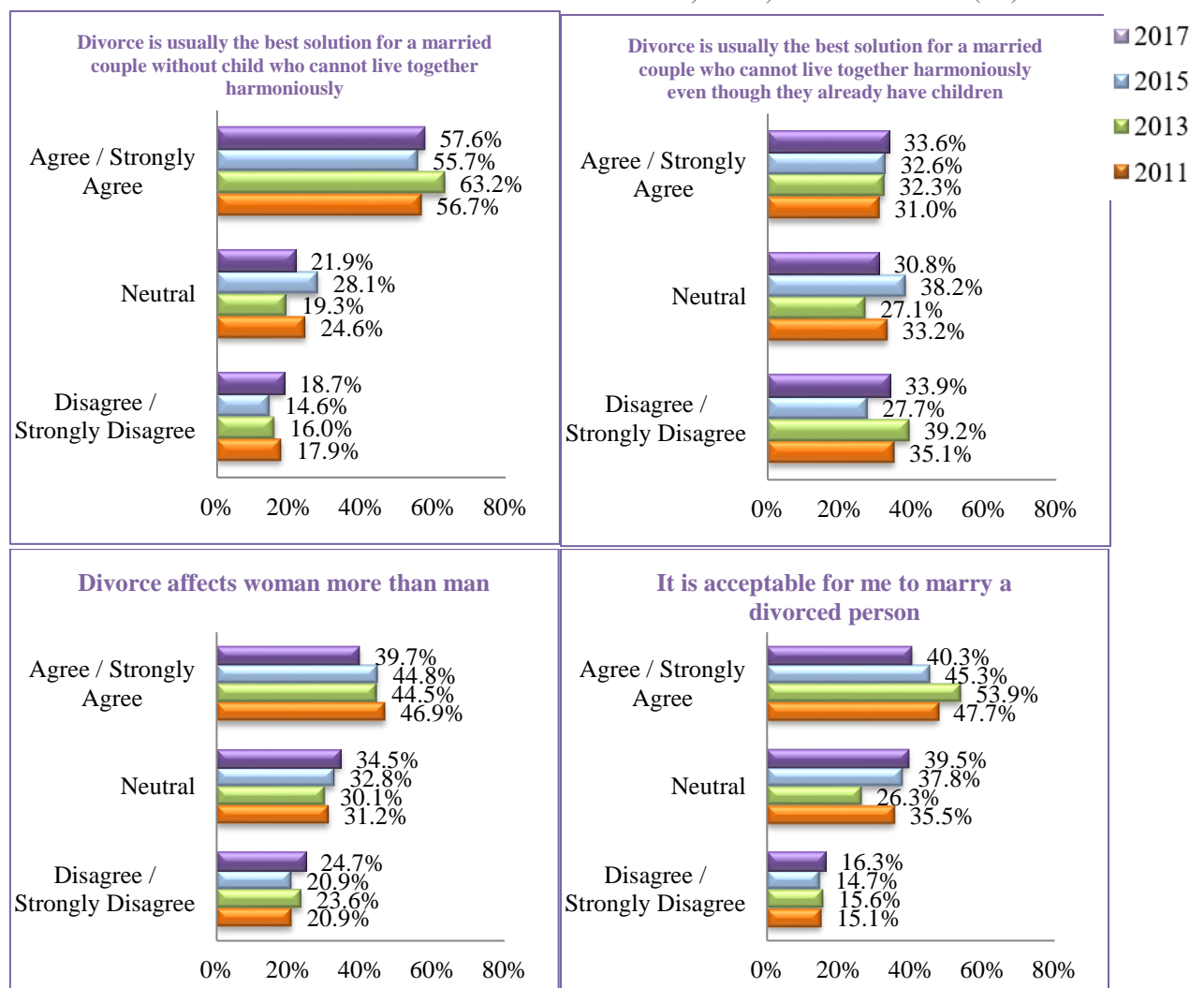
	Year	Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
“Cohabitation without the intention of getting married” is acceptable to me	2017	52.2	48.2	53.9	41.5	40.7	39.7	<b>63.6</b>	<b>51.5</b>	34.8	18.7
	2015	55.0	49.6	43.4	48.1	37.4	35.7	63.2	49.5	26.4	22.2
	2013	65.1	45.2	56.9	66.9	47.2	41.4	57.3	66.6	37.0	30.1
	2011	57.7	43.6	51.8	46.7	33.4	32.4	30.9	16.3	62.4	42.2
“Cohabitation before marriage” is a good idea	2017	51.0	44.0	52.0	38.3	45.3	42.6	<b>70.0</b>	<b>56.4</b>	39.3	21.2
	2015	57.5	46.0	49.7	42.5	37.2	40.1	67.6	54.7	27.0	20.8
	2013	63.3	43.8	49.5	56.8	47.7	42.5	45.4	65.3	26.1	37.0
	2011	54.5	46.3	53.3	48.1	35.2	34.8	44.4	23.8	55.5	36.5

## 4.8 Attitudes towards Divorce

4.8.1 **Over half of people agreed that “divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple without child who cannot live together harmoniously”.** In 2017, over half of respondents accepted “divorce being the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously provided that they do not have children” (58%). About 34% of the respondents indicated agreement on “divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously even though they already have children”.

4.8.2 With the findings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 compared, the trend observed on the attitudes that “divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously even though they already have children” and “Divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously provided that they do not have children” was quite stable.

**Chart 4.8.1: Attitudes towards divorce in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**



4.8.3 Compared with other age groups, middle-aged respondents (35-54) were more likely to support divorce as the best solution for a couple who could not get along well with each other if the couple had no child (60% in 2017; 59% in 2015; 70% in 2013; 61% in 2011) and they were also likely to accept marrying a divorced person (43% in 2017; 52% in 2015; 61% in 2013; 53% in 2011).

**Table 4.8.2: Agreement on attitudes towards divorce by age group in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously provided that they do not have children	2017	52.3	<b>59.9</b>	59.7
	2015	55.3	58.7	52.8
	2013	58.6	69.8	59.6
	2011	54.6	60.8	53.8
Divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously even though they already have children	2017	27.8	<b>36.5</b>	35.4
	2015	30.2	36.1	30.8
	2013	27.4	36.5	32.0
	2011	28.9	32.9	30.8
Divorce affects woman more than man	2017	39.4	39.2	<b>40.3</b>
	2015	42.2	46.9	44.9
	2013	40.9	46.6	45.4
	2011	49.9	46.0	45.2
It is acceptable for me to marry a divorced person	2017	39.5	<b>43.4</b>	38.2
	2015	43.5	52.3	39.1
	2013	51.8	60.7	47.7
	2011	49.7	53.4	38.1



4.8.4 Analysed by marital status, respondents who were divorced/separated were more likely to agree that “divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot get along well with each other if the couple do not have children” (85% and 75% for male and female respondents respectively in 2017) or “divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously even though they already have children” (71% and 60% for male and female respondents respectively in 2017). Likewise, they were more likely to accept marrying a divorced person.

**Table 4.8.3: Agreement on attitudes towards divorce by marital status and gender in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	Never married		Married/cohabiting without child		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously provided that they do not have children	2017	51.7	61.6	61.6	54.8	50.6	51.9	<b>84.9</b>	<b>74.7</b>	42.4	50.3
	2015	54.9	61.4	66.1	59.2	51.5	52.4	79.9	65.6	61.1	45.9
	2013	57.3	65.5	54.7	54.2	66.5	67.6	53.2	81.9	35.5	51.5
	2011	54.4	59.7	47.0	64.6	56.8	54.5	39.4	51.7	86.2	76.8
Divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously even though they already have children	2017	29.8	40.8	35.0	26.7	36.6	14.4	<b>71.3</b>	<b>60.2</b>	20.1	31.2
	2015	30.5	34.4	35.3	34.5	33.7	28.5	55.3	44.1	30.0	29.1
	2013	30.6	36.4	25.8	21.9	34.7	29.0	43.5	56.5	23.3	26.3
	2011	31.4	32.6	23.2	33.4	27.1	29.1	32.7	26.1	65.4	58.2
Divorce affects woman more than man	2017	29.0	38.8	42.4	47.6	26.3	31.9	12.1	44.5	33.5	51.2
	2015	37.3	46.0	42.4	53.1	44.7	48.6	35.1	43.4	41.1	50.9
	2013	32.5	36.0	37.0	36.6	45.8	54.8	17.3	69.8	21.9	55.2
	2011	43.3	47.3	48.0	56.0	41.7	54.0	39.6	44.9	31.5	50.6
It is acceptable for me to marry a divorced person	2017	38.2	39.3	39.6	45.0	39.1	40.9	<b>43.6</b>	<b>43.7</b>	43.8	33.9
	2015	48.8	48.4	55.1	31.3	48.3	40.6	74.2	50.1	42.7	25.8
	2013	48.7	56.0	58.3	67.8	53.2	54.8	70.3	63.7	54.7	38.0
	2011	53.6	49.1	48.0	55.8	44.3	45.9	43.0	29.5	76.0	61.6

### *Views collected from focus group discussions*

4.8.5 Apart from the findings collected from the questionnaire survey, views on divorce were solicited from participants during the focus group discussions. Similar comments with the findings in survey were collected from some participants of focus group discussions. They accepted divorce as the best solution for a married couple who could not live together harmoniously provided that they did not have children. However, a few disagreed that divorce is a best solution because of the own experiences of being raised under a divorced family.

## 4.9 Practice of filial piety

### 4.9.1 *In general, quite a number of people practiced filial piety to their parents.*

The respondents were asked about how often they had engaged in the six filial piety practices, namely caring, respecting, greeting, pleasing, obeying and providing financial support in three months<sup>9</sup> prior to enumeration. These six practices referred to various aspects of interactions between parents and children for useful and reliable reference.<sup>10</sup>

4.9.2 Results showed that about half of the respondents (excluding students<sup>11</sup>) had practised “respecting” (51%) very much or rather a lot to their parents in three months prior to enumeration. Less than half of the respondents (excluding students) had practised “greeting” (41%), “caring” (46%), “pleasing” (38%), “obeying” (33%) and “providing financial support” (24%) rather a lot or very much to their parents.

4.9.3 It is worth noting that 19% of the respondents (excluding students) provided very little or rather little financial support to their parents in the three months prior to enumeration.

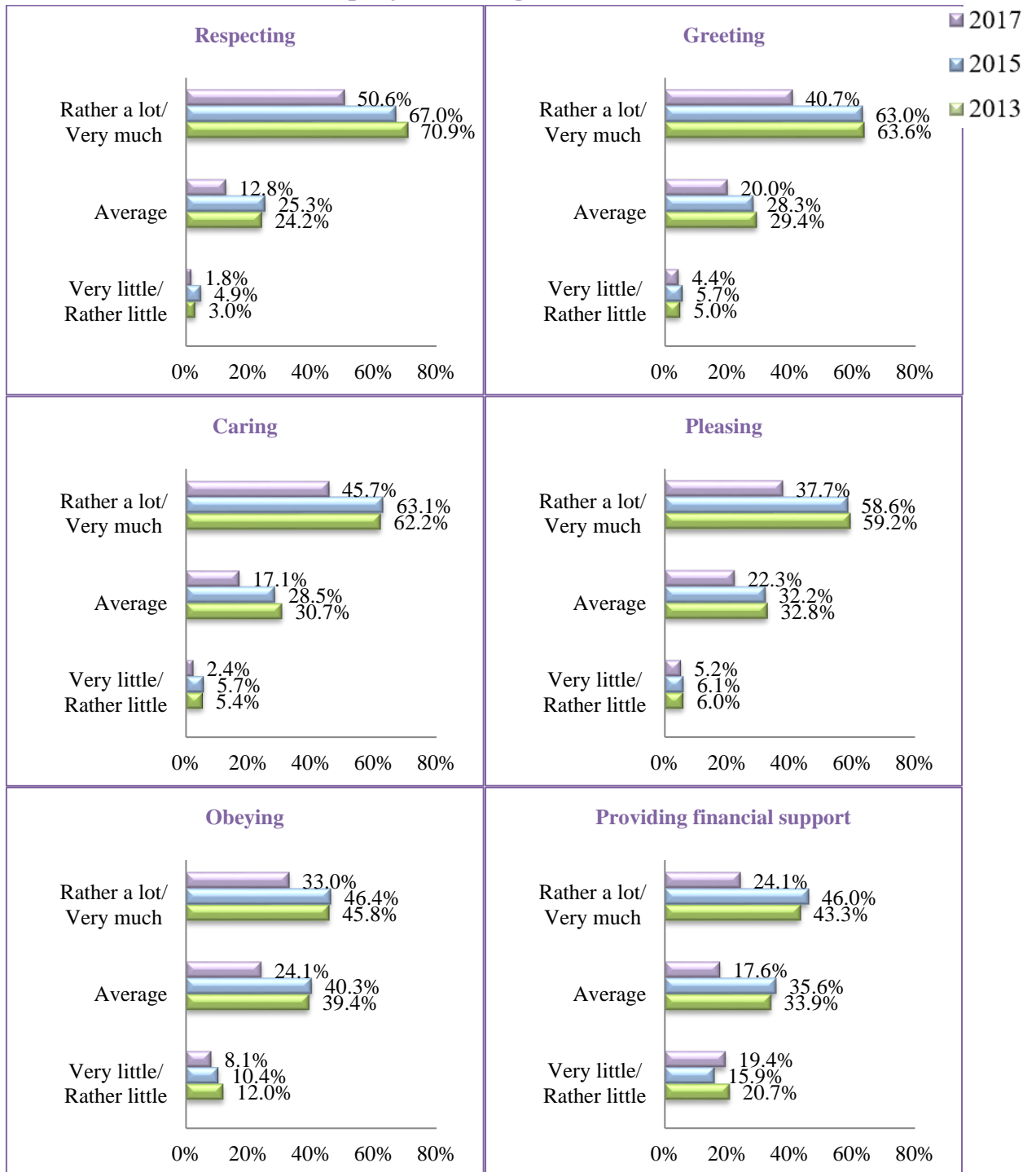
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9 Cheung, C. & Kwan, A.Y.H. 2009. “The erosion of filial piety by modernisation in Chinese cities.” *Ageing & Society* 29(2):179-198.

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

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

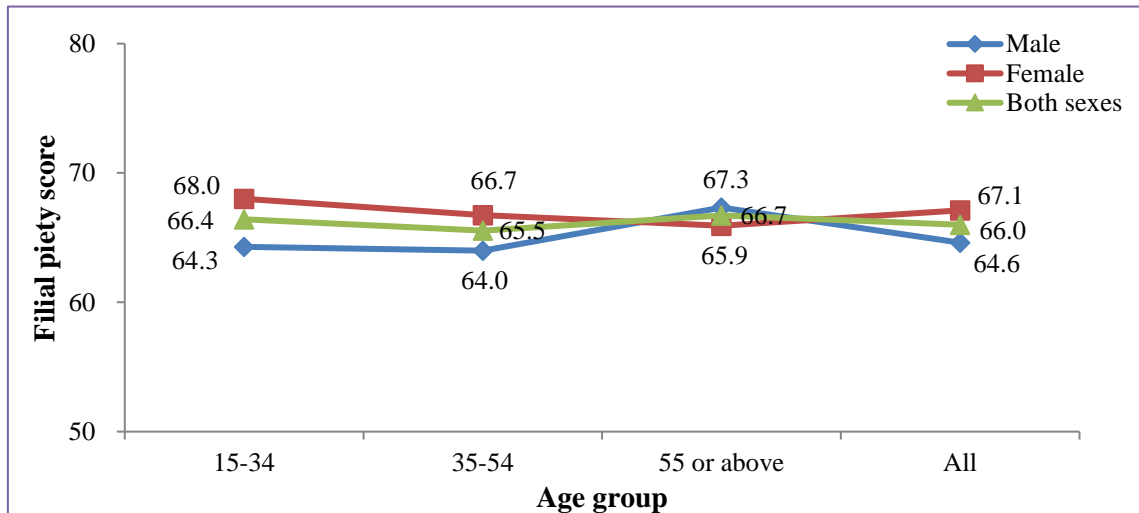
**Chart 4.9.1: Practice of filial piety (excluding students) in 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**



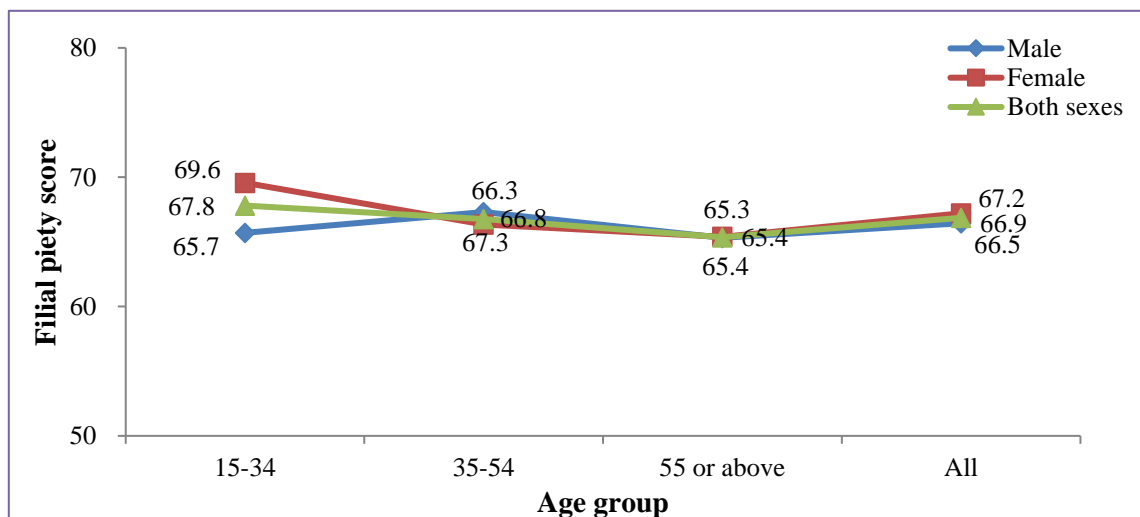
## Filial Piety Score

4.9.4 To evaluate the observance of the six filial piety practices of all respondents (excluding students), the filial piety scores were compiled as a composite of these practices<sup>12</sup>. The average filial piety scores were 66.0 out of 100 (male: 64.6; female: 67.1) and 66.9 out of 100 (male: 66.5; female: 67.2), 65.0 out of 100 (male: 63.2; female: 66.4) in 2013, 2015 and 2017 respectively which were above average as 100 was the possible maximum.

**Chart 4.9.3: Filial piety score (excluding students) by gender and age group in 2013**

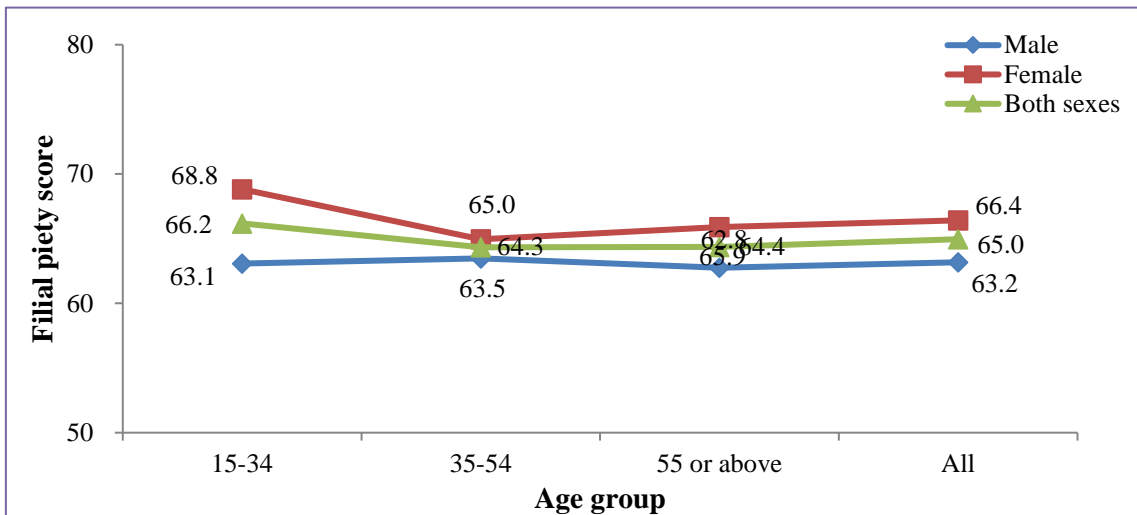


**Chart 4.9.4: Filial piety score (excluding students) by gender and age group in 2015**



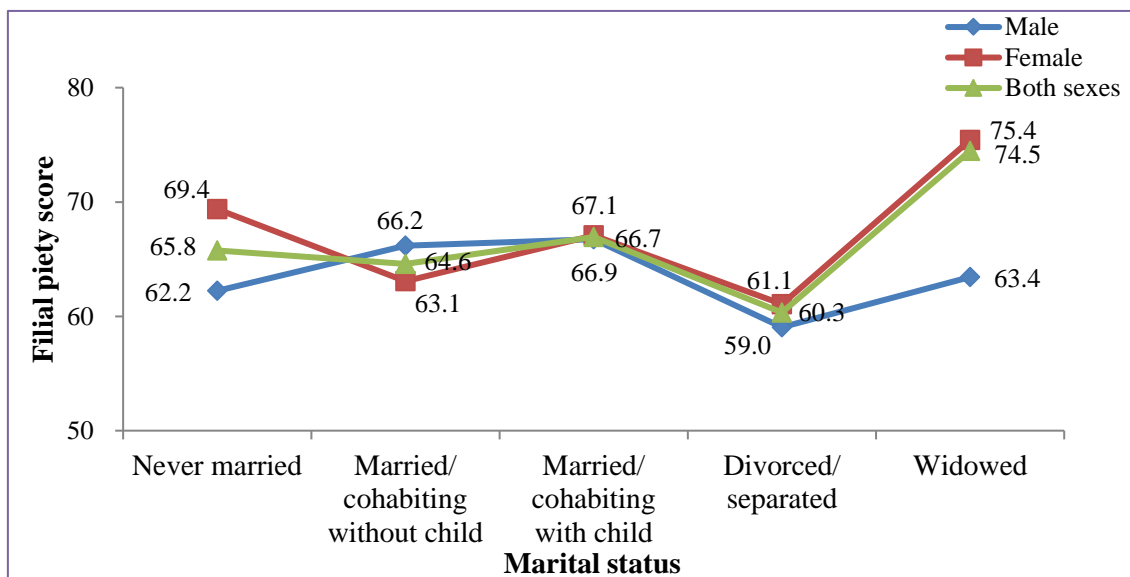
12 Each of the filial piety practice were rated in five categories that were allocated to a scale from '0' to '100' (0 for "very little", 25 for "rather little", 50 for "average", 75 for "rather a lot", and 100 for "very much"). The measure of filial piety exhibited a reliability ( $\alpha$ ) coefficient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

**Chart 4.9.5: Filial piety score (excluding students) by gender and age group in 2017**

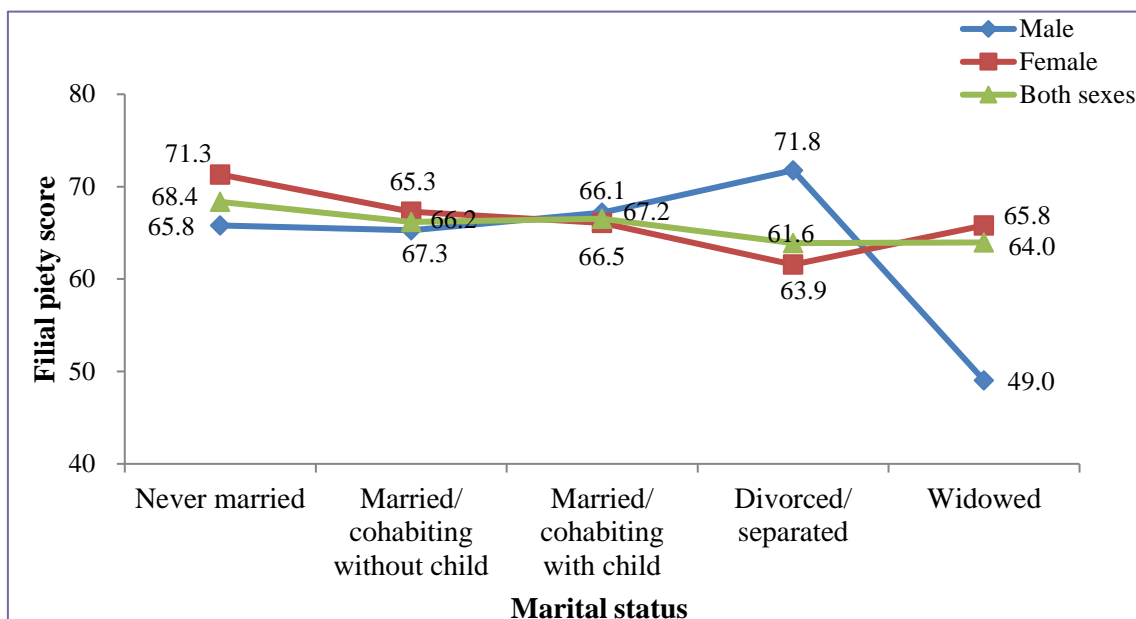


4.9.5 Analysed by marital status, female respondents who were widowed were more likely to practise filial piety to their parents in 2013 and 2015. While, male respondents who were widowed were more likely to practice filial piety to their parents in 2017.

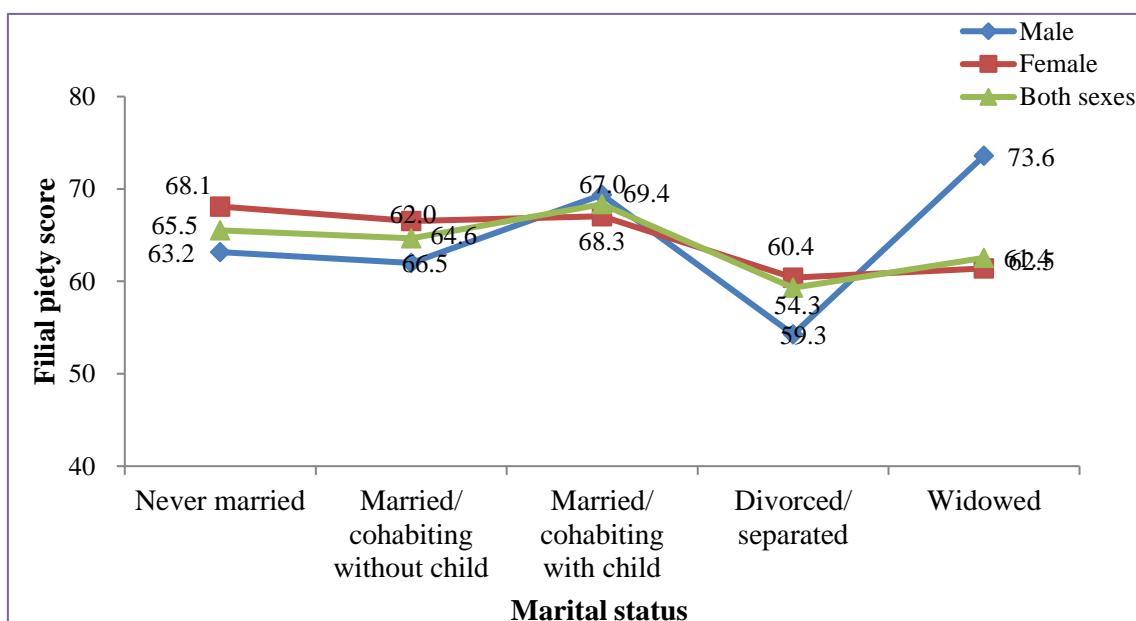
**Chart 4.9.6: Filial piety score (excluding students) by gender and marital status in 2013**



**Chart 4.9.7: Filial piety score (excluding students) by gender and marital status in 2015**



**Chart 4.9.8: Filial piety score (excluding students) by gender and marital status in 2017**



## Chapter 5 | Parenthood

### 5.1 Introduction

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

Main areas of concern are:

- (a) attitudes towards parenthood;
- (b) impact on raising children;
- (c) role models;
- (d) intention to have children;
- (e) desire to have more children;
- (f) parenting methods;
- (g) parental stress; and
- (h) attitudes towards tri-parenting.

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

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

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

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

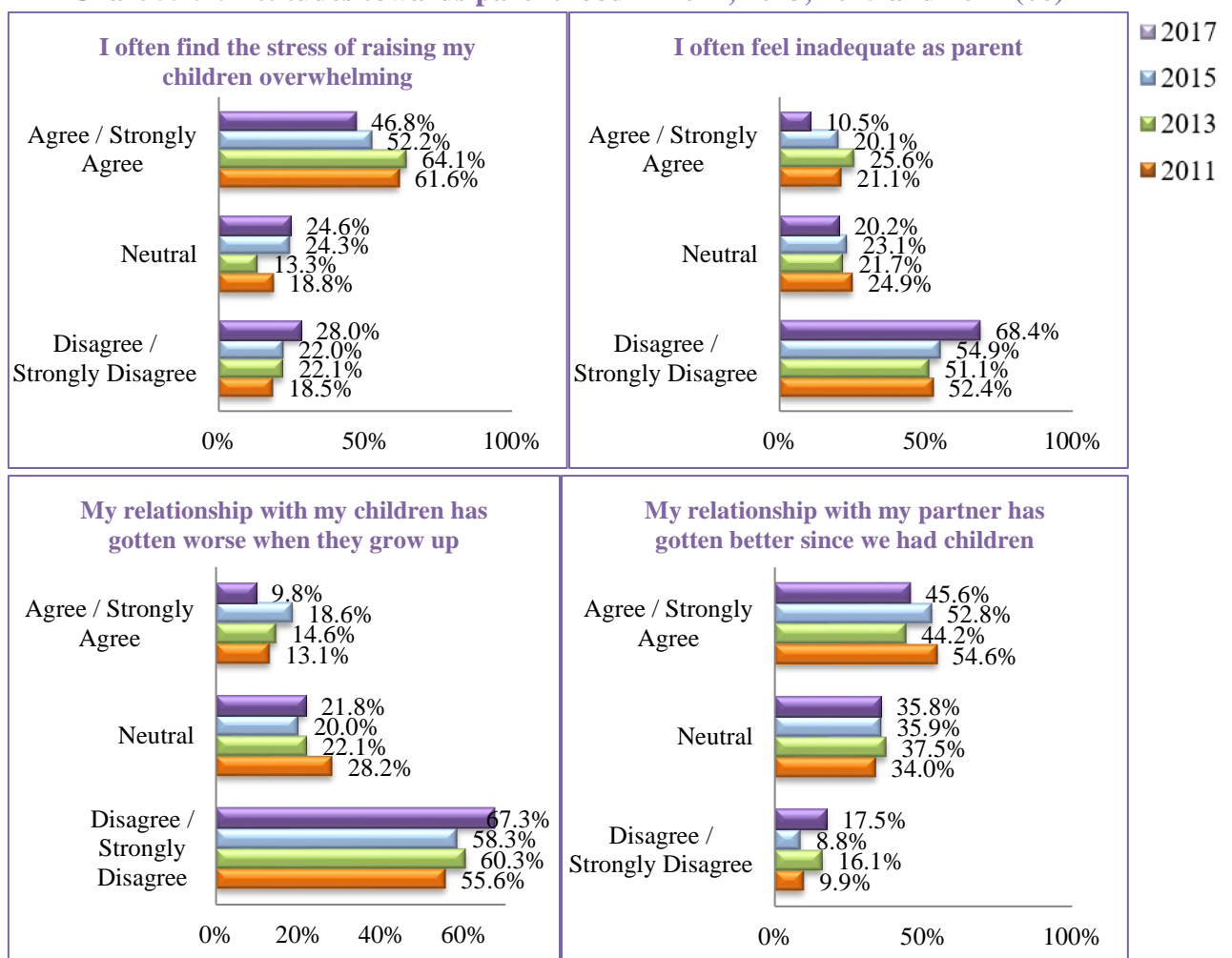


## 5.2 Attitudes towards Parenthood

5.2.1 **Raising children was stressful for some parents.** In 2017, 47% of the parents agreed that they often found the stress of raising their children overwhelming, indicating that majority of them were not confident of their ability in both raising children and handling the associated stress. With the findings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 compared, decreasing percentage of parents who often found the stress of raising their children overwhelming was observed in 2017.

5.2.2 At the same time, there was only 11% agreed that they often felt inadequate as a parent and 10% of them agreed that their relationship with their children had gotten worse when they grew up. With the findings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 compared, number of respondents posing negative attitudes towards parenthood dropped.

**Chart 5.2.1: Attitudes towards parenthood in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**



5.2.3 In 2017, 48% of 55 or above respondents considered that their relationship with their partner got better after they had children. On the other hand, there was only 11% of the parents with 55 or above age expressed that their relationship with partners got worse since they had children.

5.2.4 Analysed by age group, young-aged parents (aged 15-34) were more likely to agree that they often found the stress of raising their children overwhelming (55%).

**Table 5.2.2: Agreement on attitudes towards parenthood by age group in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
I often find the stress of raising my children overwhelming	2017	54.5	48.3	44.5
	2015	49.6	55.7	49.2
	2013	69.2	63.1	64.1
	2011	53.0	64.0	60.8
I often feel inadequate as parent	2017	11.1	11.5	9.6
	2015	24.8	22.5	20.1
	2013	38.6	26.4	22.3
	2011	22.7	22.2	19.4
My relationship with my children has gotten worse when they grow up	2017	4.1	8.9	11.3
	2015	10.9	22.2	16.6
	2013	13.7	14.2	15.2
	2011	9.3	11.4	15.8
My relationship with my partner has gotten better since we had children	2017	45.5	42.5	47.9
	2015	58.1	54.0	50.7
	2013	45.5	41.3	46.8
	2011	54.5	52.8	56.6

5.2.5 Mothers who were divorced/separated were more likely to agree that they often found the stress of raising children overwhelming (60% in 2017; 67% in 2015; 76% in 2013; 70% in 2011).

**Table 5.2.3: Agreement on attitudes towards parenthood by marital status and gender in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

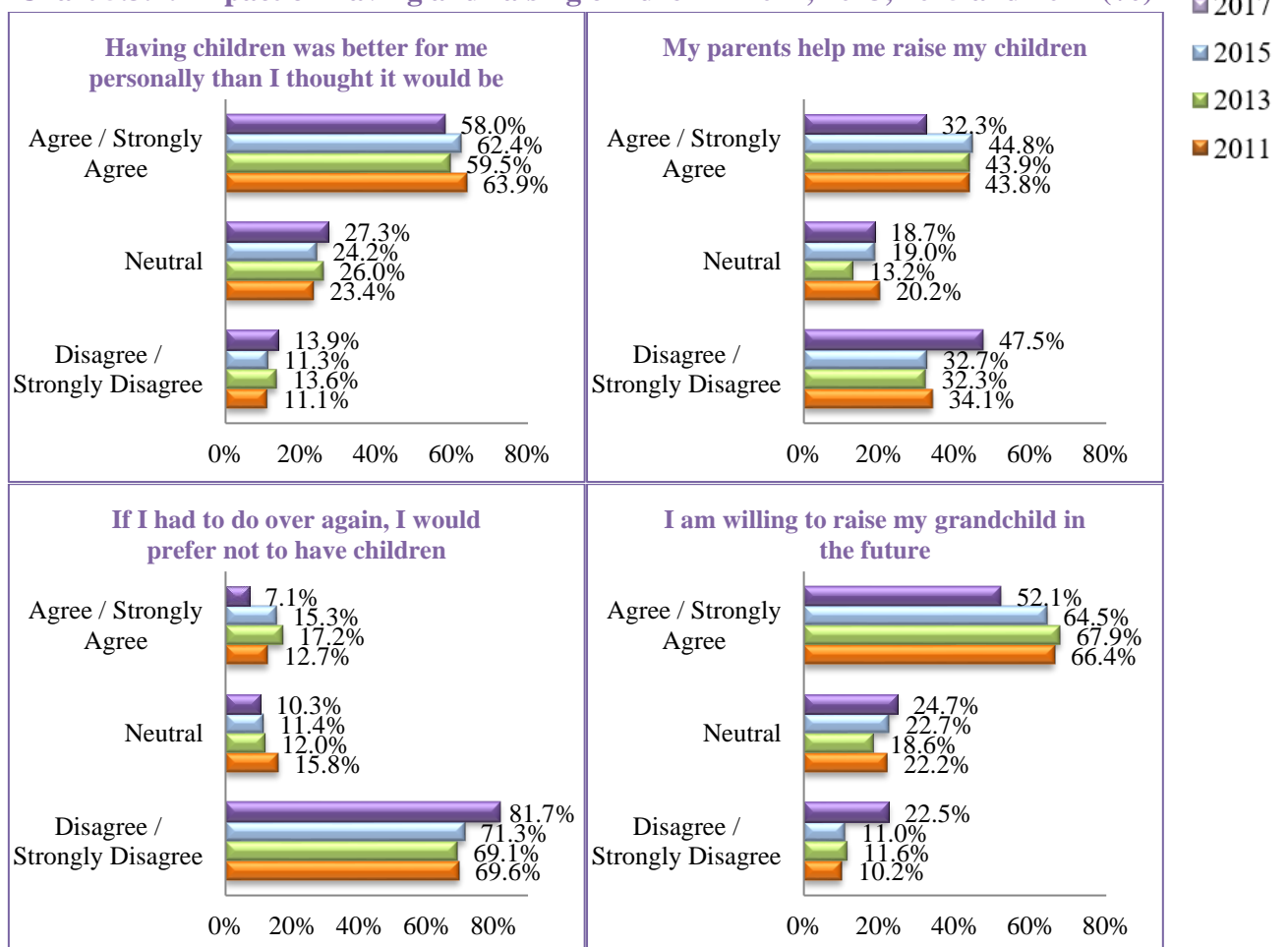
	Year	Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F
I often find the stress of raising my children overwhelming	2017	41.4	50.3	33.1	<b>59.7</b>	56.2	45.0
	2015	47.7	55.4	56.2	66.9	50.8	45.1
	2013	63.0	62.8	43.4	75.8	68.0	70.0
	2011	56.3	63.7	47.4	69.8	60.7	73.6
I often feel inadequate as parent	2017	8.4	12.1	14.3	8.1	12.4	11.1
	2015	21.6	19.3	28.8	19.1	15.3	18.9
	2013	20.0	27.7	34.7	42.1	19.9	26.4
	2011	18.0	20.9	16.7	23.3	30.6	36.9
<b>My relationship with my children has gotten worse when they grow up</b>	2017	9.0	9.6	24.6	10.0	13.9	9.6
	2015	20.2	15.6	32.7	29.0	26.8	14.0
	2013	15.3	13.0	25.4	18.3	14.4	14.5
	2011	14.3	10.5	6.3	12.4	24.1	21.6
<b>My relationship with my partner has gotten better since we had children</b>	2017	56.8	45.9	18.0	10.0	51.1	45.1
	2015	57.9	54.7	28.0	37.6	42.3	46.4
	2013	53.8	43.3	4.9	13.8	47.7	39.3
	2011	58.5	56.6	56.3	50.4	26.5	27.5

### 5.3 Impact of Raising Children

5.3.1 **Views on raising children by grandparents were diversified.** In 2017, views of the respondents as to whether their parents rendered assistance in taking care of their children (32% agreed, whereas 48% disagreed) were observed. On the other hand, 52% of the parents agreed that “I am willing to raise my grandchildren in the future” and “having children was better for me personally than I thought it would be” (58%). It is also interesting to note that 7% of the parents would prefer not to have children if they had to do over again.

5.3.2 With the findings in 2011, 2013 and 2015 compared, the trend drops. It was worth noting that the proportion of parents that would prefer not to have children if they had to do over again decreased significantly from 15% in 2015 to 7% in 2017. Besides, the proportion of respondents has declined that their parents do help them raise their children, the agreement has dropped from 44% in 2011 to 32% in 2017. For the proportion of grandparents prefers to raise their grandchildren has also dropped, from 66% in 2011 to 52% in 2017.

**Chart 5.3.1: Impact on having and raising children in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**



5.3.3 Analysed by age group, consensus was found in all groups.

**Table 5.3.2: Agreement on impact on having and raising children by age group in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Having children was better for me personally than I thought it would be	2017	48.1	54.7	61.9
	2015	53.2	62.3	64.0
	2013	58.4	55.0	64.1
	2011	67.4	62.3	64.9
My parents help me raise my children	2017	45.2	31.8	30.7
	2015	45.3	47.6	42.0
	2013	73.1	42.2	39.8
	2011	47.1	44.6	42.0
If I had to do over again, I would prefer not to have children	2017	5.6	7.2	7.2
	2015	10.2	15.4	16.2
	2013	16.6	15.4	19.0
	2011	14.9	12.5	12.4
I am willing to raise my grandchild in the future	2017	55.2	52.2	51.5
	2015	60.0	66.5	63.3
	2013	61.7	71.5	65.6
	2011	59.2	65.9	68.6

5.3.4 Analysed by marital status, mothers who were married/cohabitating with child, they were more likely to agree that if they had to do over again, they would prefer not having children, as compared to other groups.

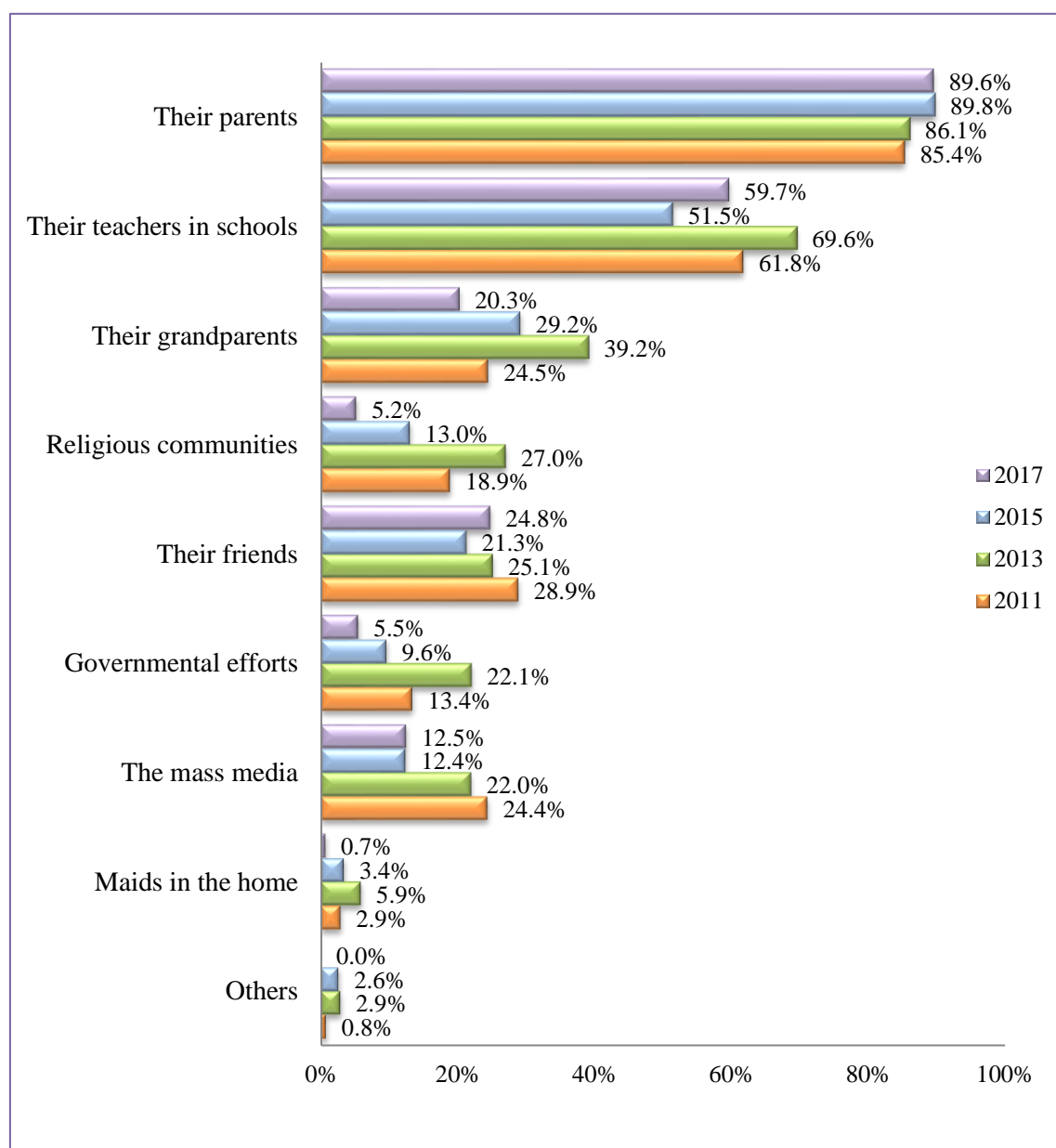
**Table 5.3.3: Agreement on impact on having and raising children by marital status and gender in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F
Having children was better for me personally than I thought it would be	2017	<b>64.0</b>	<b>57.1</b>	23.1	49.8	63.7	60.3
	2015	63.9	63.3	35.3	59.5	64.7	62.4
	2013	62.8	58.9	38.5	47.4	64.5	61.2
	2011	66.3	66.5	46.2	59.0	61.0	49.0
My parents help me raise my children	2017	32.4	35.0	17.2	31.1	29.9	28.8
	2015	46.1	46.4	49.7	41.2	33.0	38.4
	2013	48.8	41.9	12.2	52.1	33.9	38.5
	2011	47.9	42.6	22.7	38.6	32.9	46.2
If I had to do over again, I would prefer not to have children	2017	5.3	<b>9.5</b>	7.7	8.6	6.4	4.6
	2015	15.2	13.0	21.0	26.7	14.9	17.6
	2013	14.3	16.7	30.0	35.9	10.8	17.1
	2011	9.4	12.7	10.8	14.6	31.7	24.3
I am willing to raise my grandchild in the future	2017	<b>49.4</b>	<b>60.0</b>	29.4	33.9	38.8	48.1
	2015	65.3	65.6	70.3	62.2	60.9	60.0
	2013	69.7	70.5	28.0	64.4	60.5	62.9
	2011	72.3	64.8	38.9	61.4	51.1	72.7

## 5.4 Role models

5.4.1 **90% of respondents considered that parents were the most suitable persons to teach their children the right values.** 60% and 20% believed that teachers in schools and their grandparents shouldered such duty respectively in 2017. With the findings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 compared, decreasing percentage of parents considered that other parties such as grandparents were the most suitable persons to teach their children the right values.

**Table 5.4.1: Teaching right values in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

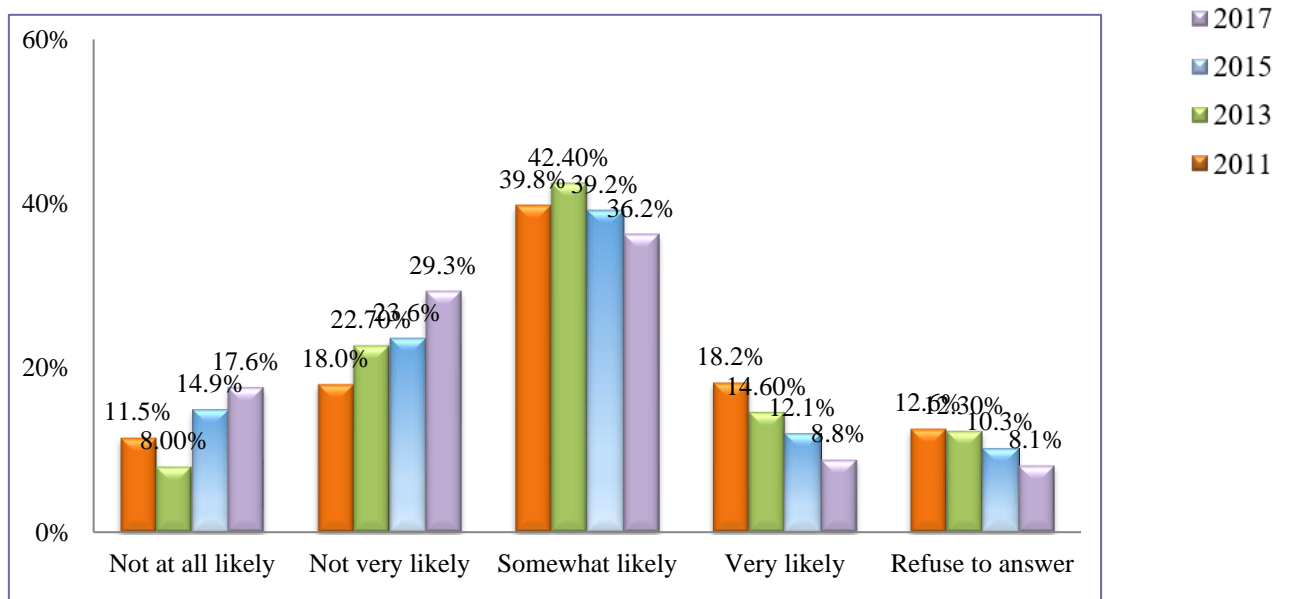


Note: Respondents were allowed to give more than one choice.

## 5.5 Intention to have children

5.5.1 *Non-parent respondents' intention varied in having children in the future.* About 45% of the non-parent respondents indicated that they were very likely or somewhat likely to have children in the future in 2017. At the same time, there were also 8% of the respondents who refused to answer.

Chart 5.5.1: Intention to have children in the future in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)



5.5.2 *Slightly more than half of those non-parents aged 35-54 had no intention to have children in the future.* In 2017, around 73% of those non-parent respondents aged 55 or above had little intention to have children in the future. It is noticeable that non-parents aged 15-34 (57%) and those female respondents who had never married (42%) were very likely or somewhat likely to have children in the future in 2017.



**Table 5.5.2: Intention to have children in the future by age group in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

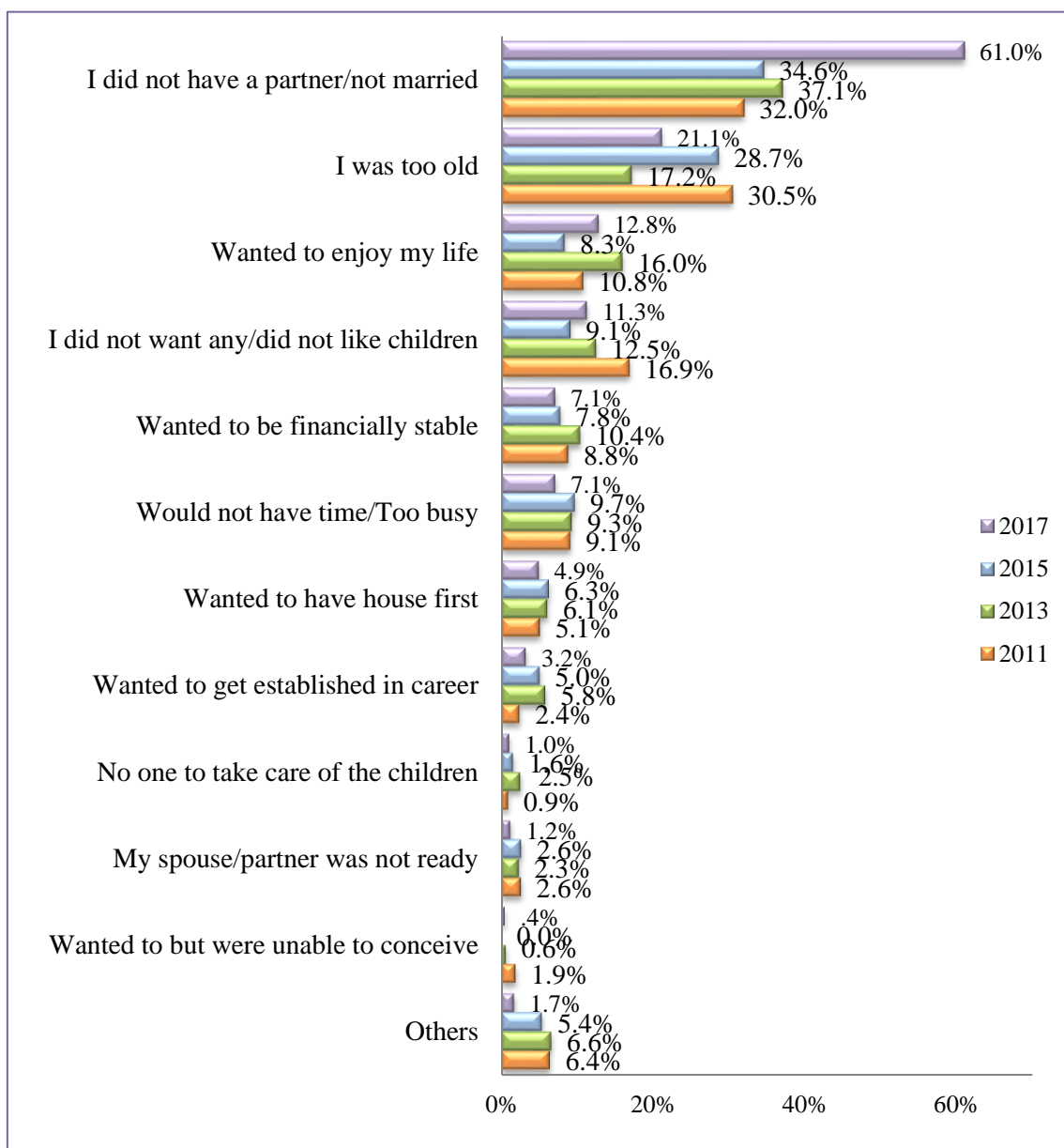
	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Not at all likely	2017	5.9	<b>16.8</b>	<b>51.9</b>
	2015	1.8	20.2	59.4
	2013	2.4	11.4	34.3
	2011	2.2	15.7	60.6
Not very likely	2017	26.7	<b>40.8</b>	<b>20.6</b>
	2015	15.8	36.3	32.5
	2013	14.7	40.7	25.1
	2011	9.7	34.9	24.4
Somewhat likely	2017	<b>45.7</b>	30.5	17.3
	2015	54.4	25.7	1.0
	2013	54.0	27.0	9.9
	2011	50.2	28.8	2.5
Very likely	2017	<b>11.7</b>	7.3	2.7
	2015	16.4	8.8	0.0
	2013	18.5	7.6	9.0
	2011	25.8	6.6	0.0

**Table 5.5.3: Intention to have children in the future by marital status and gender in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Not at all likely	2017	12.7	17.3	29.9	9.7	37.9	55.5	65.4	68.3
	2015	11.8	11.6	17.2	20.5	42.4	37.6	82.6	50.9
	2013	4.4	8.2	13.6	9.4	10.5	0.0	40.9	49.0
	2011	7.0	9.4	15.0	21.4	66.9	40.9	26.4	65.9
Not very likely	2017	28.6	32.2	22.1	27.7	50.0	44.5	0.0	15.9
	2015	25.3	18.8	23.4	29.9	35.1	29.1	8.3	49.1
	2013	27.2	16.7	26.0	23.2	35.3	100.0	0.0	28.4
	2011	18.4	15.3	19.1	21.1	16.9	23.3	34.0	34.1
Somewhat likely	2017	40.7	36.4	33.3	25.3	12.1	0.0	34.6	10.0
	2015	39.2	47.9	29.0	35.2	0.0	10.1	0.0	0.0
	2013	47.2	43.2	33.4	39.6	6.5	0.0	10.6	22.6
	2011	44.1	43.9	37.6	18.8	0.0	21.0	25.9	0.0
Very likely	2017	9.3	5.8	10.6	27.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.8
	2015	13.0	12.8	11.6	9.3	11.4	6.4	0.0	0.0
	2013	11.7	18.5	12.8	17.4	0.0	0.0	8.1	0.0
	2011	19.9	17.7	16.7	21.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

5.5.3 Major reasons for non-parent respondents for not having children were “I did not have a partner/not married” (61%) and “I was too old” (21%) in 2017.

**Table 5.5.4: Reasons for non-parents not to have children in the future in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017(%)**

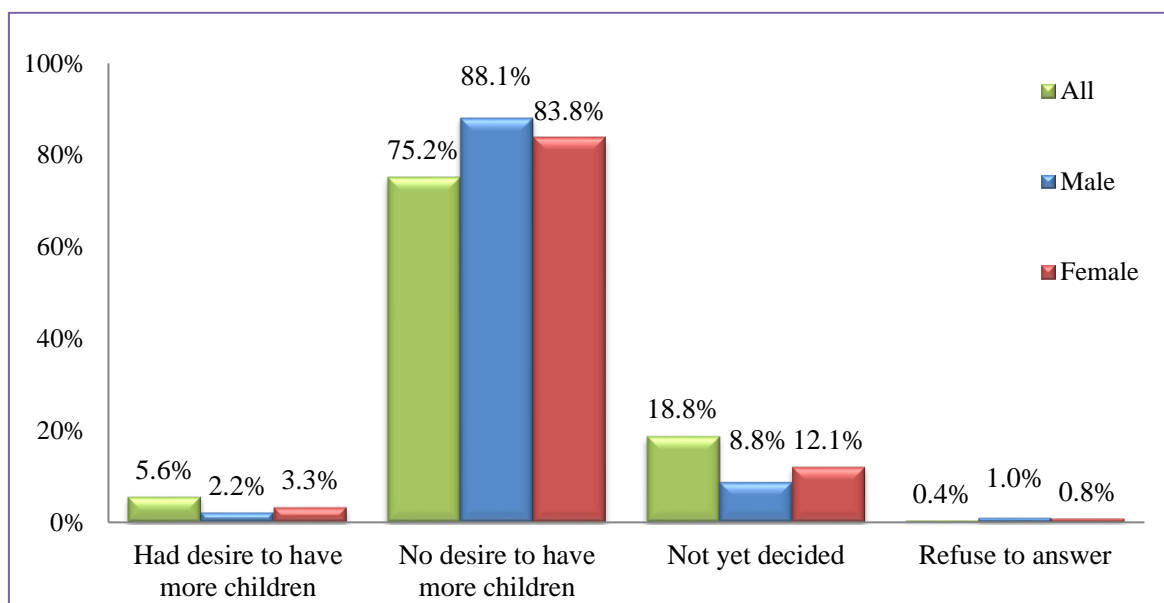


Note: Respondents were allowed to give more than one choice.

## 5.6 *Desire to have more children*

5.6.1 ***Weak desire to have more children among those parents aged 18-54.*** In 2017, 6% of the parents aged 18-54 had desire to have more children in the future, 75% did not have desire to have more children in the future and 19% did not make the decision yet.

**Chart 5.6.1: Desire to have more children among those parents aged 18-54 in the future in 2017 (%)**



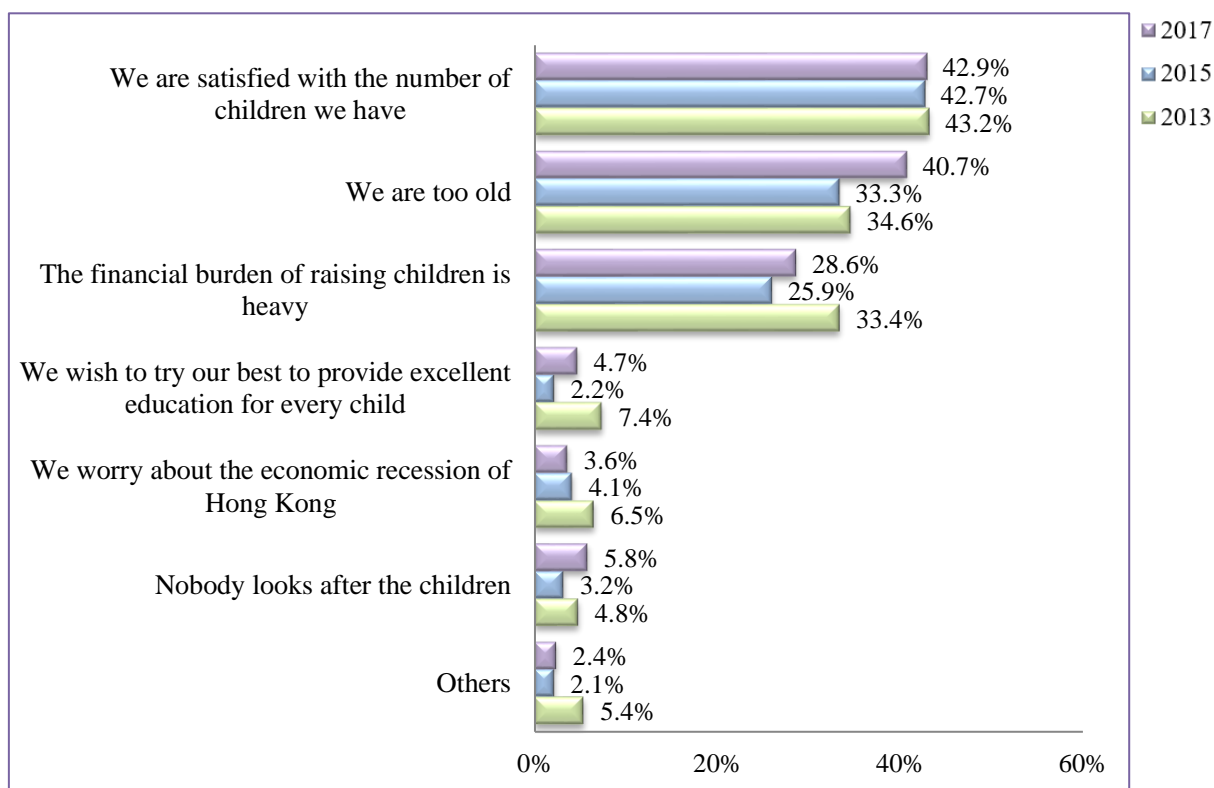
5.6.2 ***More than half of the parents aged 18-34 had no desire to have more children in the future.*** 63% of the parents aged 18-34 and 88% of the parents aged 35-54 had no desire to have more children in the future whereas 7% of the parents aged 18-34 and only 3% of the parents aged 35-54 had desire to have more children. It is noticeable that the desire became weaker within the past two years for both age groups of parents.

**Table 5.6.2: Desire to have more children among those parents aged 18-54 in the future by age group in 2013, 2015 and 2017(%)**

	Year	18-34	35-54	Total
Had desire to have more children	2017	6.8	2.6	3.3
	2015	21.3	2.8	5.6
	2013	26.4	5.6	9.1
No desire to have more children	2017	62.9	88.2	83.8
	2015	53.0	87.8	82.6
	2013	50.4	86.5	80.3
Not yet decided	2017	27.4	8.9	12.1
	2015	19.3	5.7	7.8
	2013	21.1	5.3	8.0

5.6.3 Among the parents aged 18-54, the major reasons for not having more children in the future were “we are satisfied with the present number of children we have” (43%), “we are too old” (41%) and “the financial burden of raising children is heavy” (29%) in 2017.

**Table 5.6.3: Reasons for not to have more children among parents aged 18-54 in the future in 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**



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

## 5.7 *Parenting methods*

5.7.1 ***Most parents cared about children's needs and behavior.*** Over 90% of parents with children aged 18 or below indicated that they often or sometimes adopted positive approaches in teaching their children such as “care for my children’s needs when they are small” (97% in 2017; 91% in 2015; 93% in 2013), “point out and rectify my children’s mistakes immediately” (96% in 2017; 90% in 2015; 93% in 2013), “explain the reason with my children” (94% in 2017; 90% in 2015; 93% in 2013) and “able to perceive the unhappiness of my children” (96% in 2017; 88% in 2015; 88% in 2013). On the other hand, 68% expressed that they often or sometimes criticized their children in 2017.

**Chart 5.7.1: Parenting methods in 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never	Refuse to answer
Care for my children's needs when they are small	2017	82.3	14.5	1.7	0.2	1.3
	2015	69.9	21.5	3.6	0.0	4.3
	2013	69.5	23.8	2.2	0.0	4.4
Point out and rectify my children's mistakes immediately	2017	79.7	16.4	2.2	0.7	1.1
	2015	66.0	23.5	4.4	0.8	4.6
	2013	67.1	25.6	2.4	0.2	4.7
Explain the reason with my children	2017	75.7	18.0	2.7	2.4	1.2
	2015	63.2	27.2	3.1	1.6	4.3
	2013	67.6	25.0	2.5	0.4	4.5
Able to perceive the unhappiness of my children	2017	68.8	26.7	2.6	0.7	1.1
	2015	56.2	31.5	5.1	2.2	4.3
	2013	54.3	33.8	6.9	0.5	4.5
Express my love to my children through languages and actions	2017	65.7	28.2	4.8	0.2	1.1
	2015	56.6	31.4	5.8	0.9	4.6
	2013	53.1	35.2	6.8	0.0	4.8
Teach my children to be self-disciplined when they are small	2017	72.6	21.2	2.5	2.7	1.1
	2015	60.3	30.5	2.6	1.4	4.6
	2013	61.0	26.4	4.9	1.2	6.5
Teach my children to try their best to do everything	2017	56.8	29.9	6.7	5.4	1.1
	2015	50.0	36.4	4.2	3.1	5.5
	2013	46.6	34.0	9.9	4.0	5.5
Endeavour to educate my children when they are small	2017	61.2	24.0	9.7	3.9	1.3
	2015	57.3	29.6	5.2	2.6	4.6
	2013	56.3	29.4	6.2	2.8	5.3
Play with my children	2017	71.8	23.0	3.9	0.2	1.1
	2015	59.7	31.0	3.6	0.3	4.8
	2013	59.9	30.2	5.5	0.3	4.1
Acclaim my children in front of my friends	2017	30.5	55.0	11.4	2.0	1.1
	2015	35.5	47.2	9.9	2.4	4.3
	2013	27.5	48.9	16.2	2.3	5.1
Criticize my children	2017	15.5	52.2	24.9	6.3	1.1
	2015	15.9	52.8	22.4	3.8	4.5
	2013	14.6	45.3	29.2	6.4	4.5

## 5.8 Parental stress

- 5.8.1 ***Though nearly half of the parent respondents claimed that they had no private time, about two-thirds were happier than before.*** Regarding parental stress after the birth of child, despite the lack of personal time, most parents were found happier than before. The majority of parents<sup>14</sup> agreed or strongly agreed that they were more tired than before (68% in 2017), large part of their life is controlled by the needs of children (48%) and had no private time (45%). However, about two-thirds of the parents (64%) were happier than before.

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14 Questions in section 5.9 were for those respondents who had children. Number of the respondents who had children = 1 302.



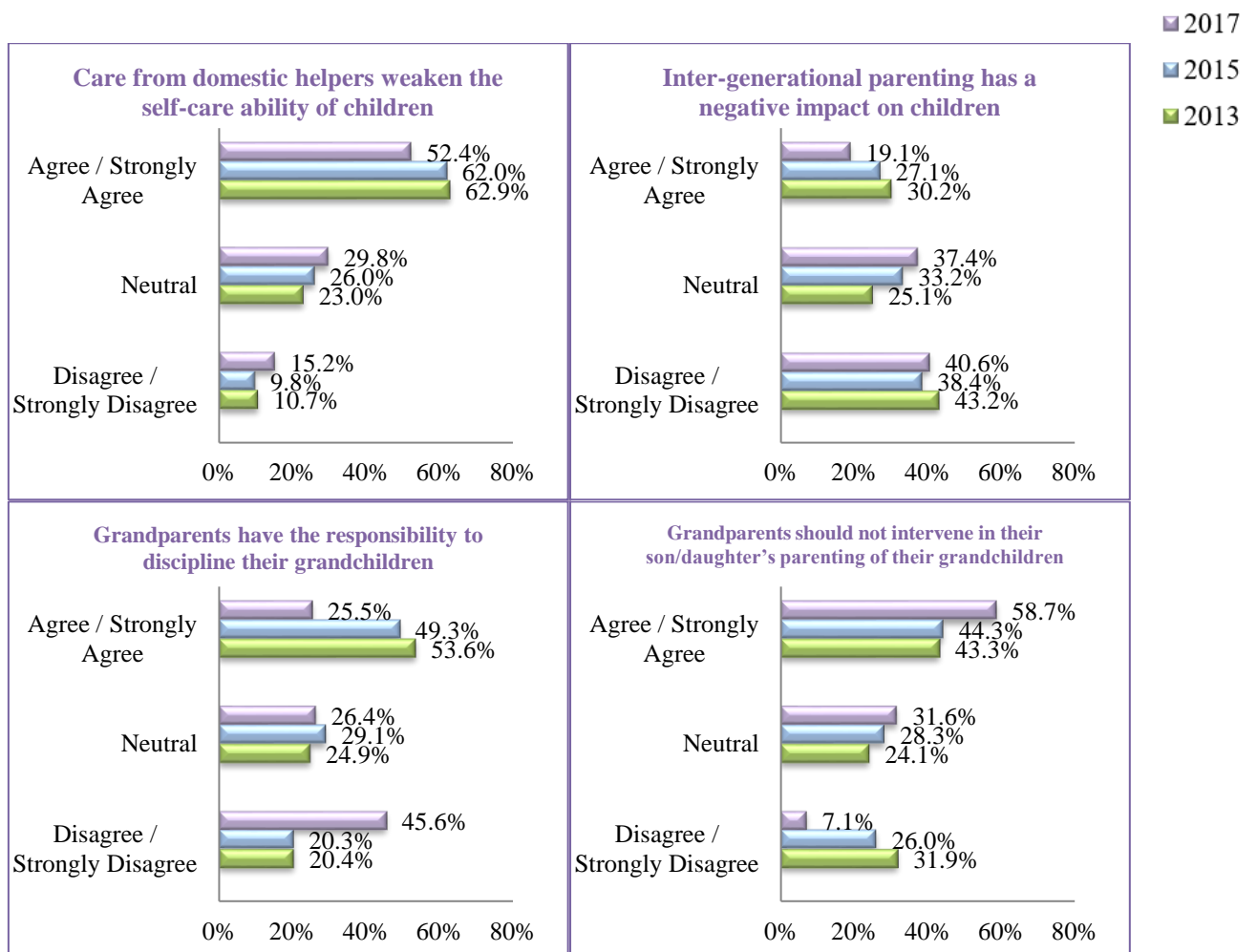
**Chart 5.8.1: Parental stress in 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	Strongly disagree /Disagree	Neutral	Strongly agree /Agree	Refuse to answer
More tired than before	2017	14.4	16.9	<b>68.0</b>	0.7
	2015	15.9	12.6	69.8	1.7
	2013	16.9	9.5	72.0	1.6
Large part of my life is controlled by the needs of children	2017	24.3	27.1	<b>47.9</b>	0.7
	2015	19.1	21.8	57.1	1.9
	2013	23.8	11.6	63.2	1.4
Had no private time	2017	27.2	26.7	45.4	0.7
	2015	23.1	19.2	56.0	1.9
	2013	27.4	10.6	60.4	1.6
I feel that my ability falls short of my wishes when handling children's problems	2017	30.4	26.2	42.7	0.7
	2015	37.3	25.5	35.4	1.9
	2013	32.3	19.5	46.4	1.8
Have more conflicts with my partner than before	2017	25.0	38.1	35.6	1.3
	2015	37.3	24.6	35.4	2.7
	2013	38.8	18.3	39.3	3.7
No one provides help when I am in need	2017	31.7	27.0	40.6	0.8
	2015	40.0	22.7	35.2	2.0
	2013	45.2	16.4	36.5	2.0
My family encounters financial difficulties	2017	27.0	32.7	39.6	0.7
	2015	40.3	26.0	31.9	1.8
	2013	43.6	17.4	37.4	1.6
The relationship with my partner is better than before	2017	12.1	41.3	45.8	0.9
	2015	11.3	38.4	47.4	3.0
	2013	17.2	38.6	40.4	3.7
Exchange the experience of raising children with other parents more frequently	2017	10.9	30.9	57.4	0.8
	2015	6.5	19.3	72.2	2.0
	2013	14.7	13.8	69.7	1.7
Happier than before	2017	5.8	29.2	<b>64.2</b>	0.8
	2015	4.8	28.5	65.0	1.7
	2013	7.8	26.5	63.8	2.0

## 5.9 Attitudes towards tri-parenting

5.9.1 *About half of parents disagreed that grandparents have the responsibility to discipline their grandchildren, while slightly more than half of parents stated that grandparents should not intervene in their parenting method.* Considering the attitudes towards tri-parenting, more than half of parents agreed or strongly agreed with “care from domestic helpers weaken the self-care ability of children” (52%) and about a quarter of them agreed that “grandparents have the responsibility to discipline their grandchildren” (26%). On the other hand, the agreement towards “inter-generational parenting has a negative impact on children” decreased since 2013 while more respondents reported neutral.

**Chart 5.9.1: Attitudes towards tri-parenting in 2013, 2015 and 2017(%)**



5.9.2 Analysed by age group, more parents aged 15-34 agreed or strongly agreed with “care from domestic helpers weaken the self-care ability of children” (66%) and “grandparents have the responsibility to discipline their grandchildren” (31%), as compared with the other two age groups. On the other hand, there were also 54% of the younger parents who agreed or strongly agreed that “grandparents should not intervene in their son/daughter’s parenting of their grandchildren”.

**Table 5.9.2: Agreement on attitudes towards tri-parenting by age group in 2013, 2015 and 2017(%)**

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above	Total
Grandparents should not intervene in their son/daughter’s parenting of their grandchildren	2017	53.8	45.3	57.7	52.4
	2015	50.1	45.6	42.2	44.3
	2013	39.9	44.1	43.2	43.3
Grandparents have the responsibility to discipline their grandchildren	2017	31.2	22.1	27.1	25.5
	2015	61.6	43.5	52.8	49.3
	2013	52.7	48.4	58.8	53.6
Inter-generational parenting has a negative impact on children	2017	24.9	20.3	17.1	19.1
	2015	40.4	29.7	22.3	27.1
	2013	33.7	30.0	29.7	30.2
Care from domestic helpers weaken the self-care ability of children	2017	<b>66.1</b>	58.9	57.4	58.7
	2015	67.2	63.9	59.2	62.0
	2013	59.7	68.2	58.5	62.9

# Chapter 6 | Family Functioning

## 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Family functioning comprises two components: family interaction, and parenting. The Chinese Family Assessment Instrument (CFAI) was adopted in this Survey to assess family functioning<sup>15</sup>. The CFAI is a 33-item instrument which can be classified into the following five dimensions to assess family functioning: (1) Mutuality, (2) Communication and Cohesiveness (Communication), (3) Conflict and Harmony (Conflict), (4) Parental Concern (Concern), and (5) Parental Control (Control). Classification of these 33 items is shown in table below.

**Table 6.1.1: Classification of CFAI**

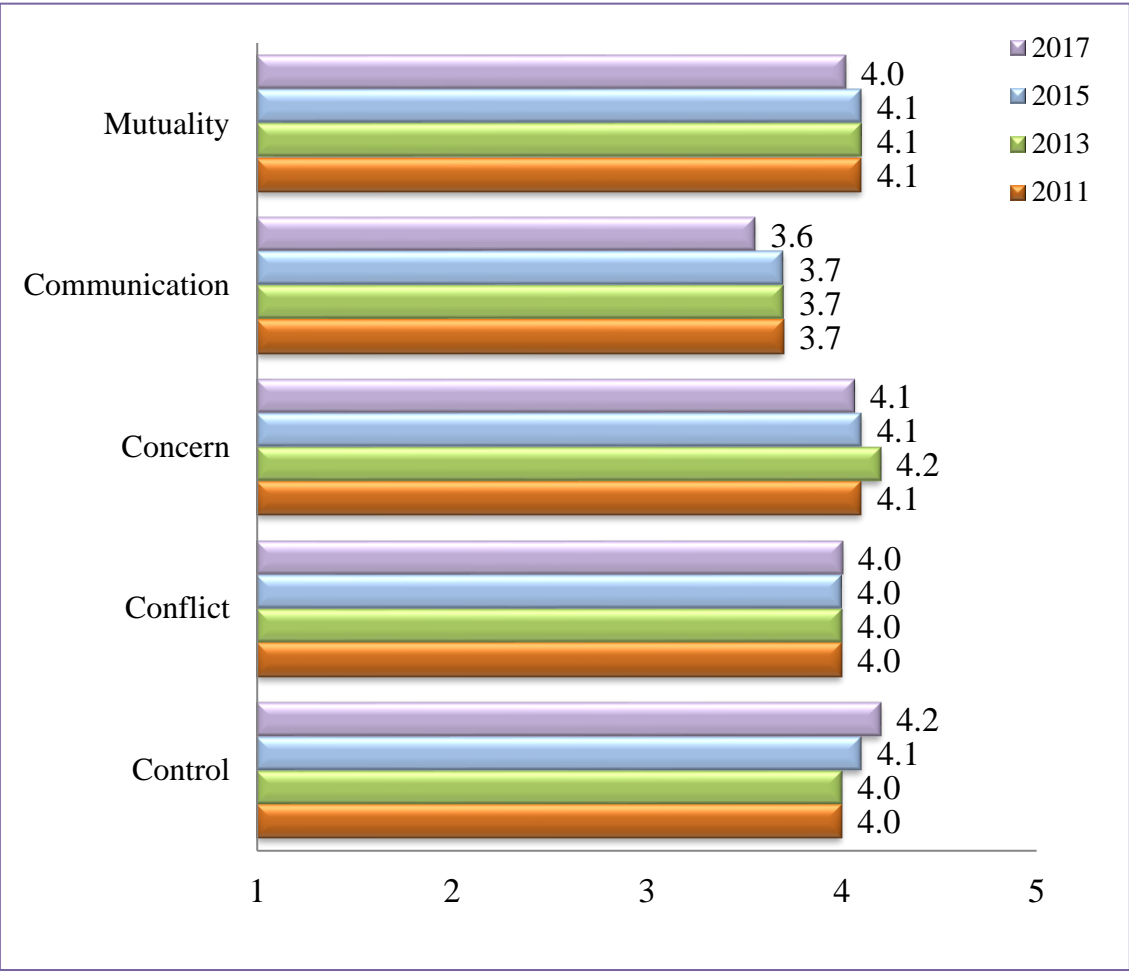
<p><b><u>Mutuality</u></b>          Family members support each other          Family members love each other          Family members care each other          Mutual consideration          Family members understand each other          Family members get along well          Good family relationship  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

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

## 6.2 *The Chinese Family Assessment Instrument (CFAI)*

- 6.2.1 Ratings were expressed in a Likert scale of 5, with “1” denoting “does not fit our family” and “5” denoting “very fit our family”. Mean scores are computed for the five classifications by aggregating ratings of these 33 items. A lower total score on the subscales indicated a higher level of dysfunction in family functioning.
- 6.2.2 For the dimensions of “Mutuality”, “Communication” and “Concern”, higher mean value implied more mutual concern of family members, better relationship and better communication within the family. For the dimensions of “Control” and “Conflict”, lower mean value implied that the family has conflict such as fighting and quarrelling sometimes or even frequently, and parents’ control on children is tight within the family.
- 6.2.3 The results in 2017 were similar to that in 2011, 2013 and 2015. A slight drop of 0.1 in the mean scores of “Mutuality” and “Communication” while slight increase of “Control” of 0.1 was observed in 2017. The mean score of “Communication” was at 3.6 in 2017 implying that in general the respondents communicated quite well and their families were cohesive, and parents understood their children’s need and thinking.
- 6.2.4 The results also showed that the mean scores of “Conflict” and “Control” were at 4.0 and 4.2 respectively in 2017, implying that the families were quite harmonious, without much conflict between family members. Besides, parents did not exercise tight control on their children.

**Chart 6.2.1: Mean scores of the Chinese Family Assessment Instrument in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017**



6.2.5 Tables below showed the analysis by age group as well as marital status in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017.

**Table 6.2.2: Mean scores of the Chinese Family Assessment Instrument by age group in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017**

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above	Total
Mutuality	2017	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.0
	2015	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.1
	2013	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.1
	2011	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.1
Communication	2017	3.6	3.7	3.4	3.6
	2015	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.7
	2013	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.7
	2011	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.7
Concern	2017	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.1
	2015	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.1
	2013	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.2
	2011	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Conflict	2017	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
	2015	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.0
	2013	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
	2011	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Control	2017	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.2
	2015	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.1
	2013	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.0
	2011	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.0

**Table 6.2.3: Mean scores of the Chinese Family Assessment Instrument by marital status and gender in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017**

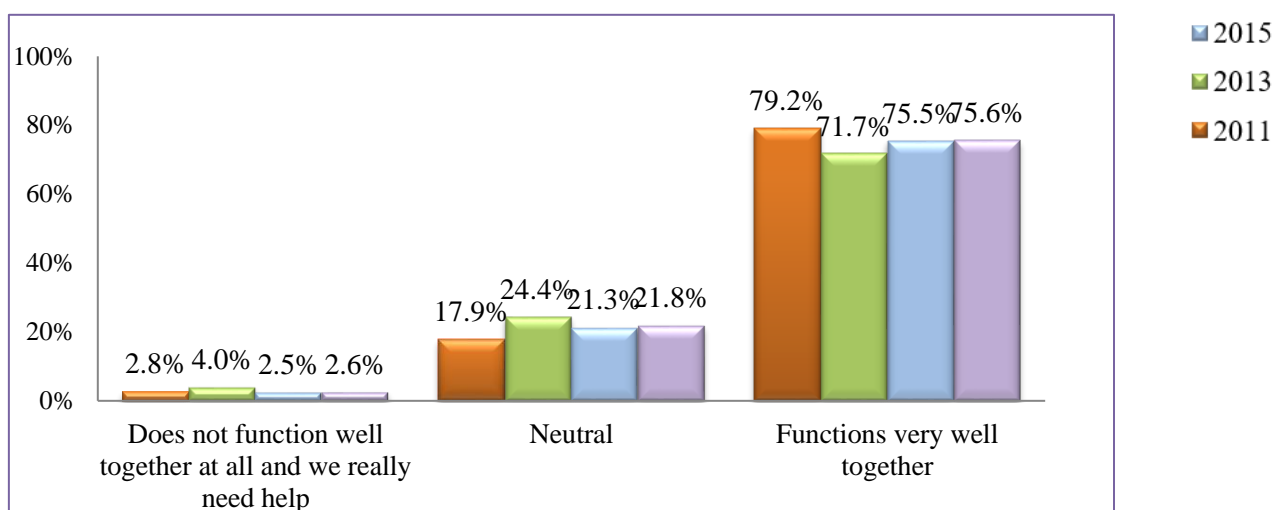
	Year	Never married		Married/cohabiting without child		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Mutuality	2017	3.9	3.9	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	3.2	4.0	3.9	4.0
	2015	3.9	4.0	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	3.6	4.0	3.9	3.9
	2013	3.9	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.2	3.7	4.0	3.9	4.1
	2011	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.9
Communication	2017	3.4	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.7	2.7	3.6	3.1	3.3
	2015	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.9	3.9	3.2	3.7	3.4	3.5
	2013	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.6
	2011	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.9	3.9	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.6
Concern	2017	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.3	3.9	3.9	3.7	4.1	3.8	4.0
	2015	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.2	4.3	3.9	4.2	4.0	4.0
	2013	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	3.9	4.3	4.1	4.1
	2011	4.0	4.1	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.1	3.9	4.0
Conflict	2017	4.0	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2	3.3	3.7	4.0	4.1
	2015	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.2	3.7	3.9	4.0	4.0
	2013	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1	3.6	3.8	4.1	4.0
	2011	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1	4	3.9	3.9	3.6	3.6
Control	2017	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.4
	2015	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.4	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.2
	2013	3.9	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.1	3.8	4.1	4.2	4.1
	2011	4.0	4.0	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9



## 6.3 Family Functioning

6.3.1 **Most families functioned very well.** At the same time, comments were collected from respondents on the functioning of their families. In 2017, 76% of the respondents considered that their family functioned very well together. Only 3% of the respondents indicated that their family did not function very well together at all and they needed help.

**Chart 6.3.1: Family functioning in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**



6.3.2 Tables below showed the analysis by age group as well as marital status in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017. It was observed that there are comparatively less respondents aged 55 or above believed that functions very well together were relatively fewer when compared with others.

**Table 6.3.2: Family functioning by age group in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Functions very well together	2017	78.4	77.6	71.6
	2015	75.0	76.6	74.7
	2013	76.0	70.8	68.5
	2011	79.3	81.0	75.6
Neutral	2017	20.1	19.7	25.0
	2015	22.0	20.9	21.1
	2013	17.8	26.9	27.6
	2011	18.1	16.3	19.6
Does not function well together at all and we really need help	2017	1.5	2.7	3.4
	2015	2.3	2.0	3.2
	2013	6.2	2.3	3.9
	2011	2.1	2.2	4.4

6.3.3 Analysed by marital status, respondents who were divorced or separated and widowed (8% and 5% of male and female respondents in 2017 respectively) were more likely to report that their family did not function well together at all and they really needed help.

**Table 6.3.3: Family functioning by marital status and gender in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017(%)**

	Year	Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Functions very well together	2017	74.2	74.5	80.6	85.7	80.5	79.8	<b>46.1</b>	<b>72.9</b>	56.2	70.4
	2015	68.7	76.7	81.0	73.9	79.9	79.8	58.3	60.5	70.1	75.3
	2013	63.5	79.7	74.2	72.7	78.2	75.6	34.9	49.6	44.4	62.6
	2011	70.7	79.8	84.6	78.7	84.4	85.1	69.8	70.2	51.9	64.3
Neutral	2017	23.6	23.4	17.3	11.0	18.1	18.8	<b>51.6</b>	<b>32.3</b>	34.8	25.4
	2015	27.9	19.7	14.8	25.4	17.6	17.5	33.0	32.5	25.8	22.6
	2013	29.8	18.5	23.3	16.0	20.4	22.1	39.4	39.9	47.7	34.1
	2011	24.4	17.4	14.4	18.7	14.5	12.5	27.1	20.4	43.8	27.7
Does not function well together at all and we really need help	2017	2.2	2.1	2.2	3.3	1.4	1.4	<b>8.2</b>	<b>4.8</b>	8.9	4.2
	2015	2.7	2.6	1.6	0.7	1.6	2.6	6.4	5.8	4.1	1.6
	2013	6.7	1.8	2.6	11.2	1.5	2.2	25.7	10.6	7.9	3.3
	2011	4.5	1.9	1.0	0.8	1.1	2.3	3.1	8.0	4.3	7.0

## Chapter 7 | Family Life and Communication

### 7.1 *Introduction*

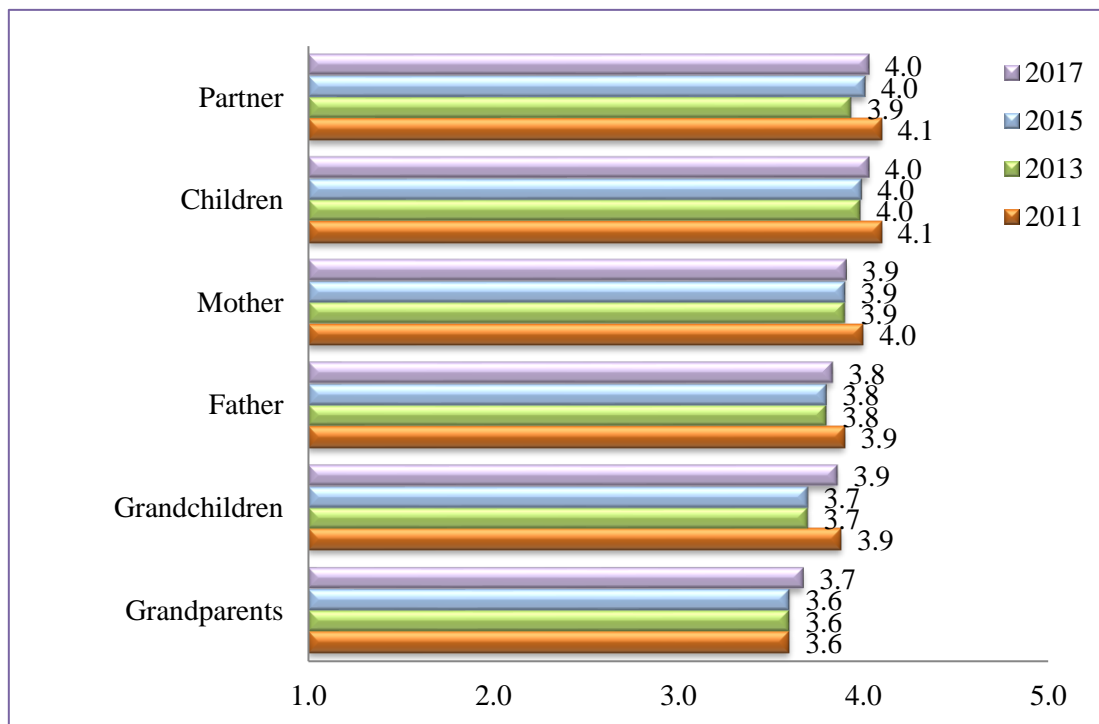
- 7.1.1 The following questions about satisfaction with family life of the respondents were asked:
- (a) satisfaction with family life;
  - (b) time spent with family members;
  - (c) communication with family members; and
  - (d) frequency in use of modern technologies in communication with family members.
- 7.1.2 Communications between members of the households were also crucial to harmonious family relationships. Information on time spent and communication with family members (such as talking about personal concern, seeking advice, feeling proud of family members, having dinner with family members and participation in family activities) were collected.
- 7.1.3 Furthermore, the frequency in use of modern technologies to communicate between family members and inter-generations was collected in the Survey.

## 7.2 Satisfaction with Family Life

### *Satisfaction with the relationship with family members*

- 7.2.1 ***On the whole, respondents were quite satisfied with the relationship with their family members and their family life.*** Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction over their relationship with each of their family members. Ratings were expressed in a Likert scale of 5, with “1” denoting “very dissatisfied” and “5” denoting “very satisfied”. A mean rating of 4 or above implied that the respondent was satisfied or very satisfied with the particular family member, whereas mean score below 3 did not.
- 7.2.2 On the whole, respondents were quite satisfied with the relationship with their family members. The overall mean scores were 4.0 for children and partner, 3.9 for mother, 3.8 for father, 3.9 for grandchildren and 3.7 for grandparents in 2017.
- 7.2.3 Compared with the findings in 2015, the means scores of satisfaction with the relationship with family members were more or less the same in 2017, except that of grandchildren and grandparents. It was observed that there is an increase of the satisfaction with grandchildren and grandparents.

**Chart 7.2.1: Mean scores of satisfactions with the relationship with family members in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017**



7.2.4 Analysed by age, for the younger respondents aged 15-34, in general, the mean score of satisfaction with their family members were relatively high than other age groups.

**Table 7.2.2: Mean scores of satisfactions with the relationship with family members by age group in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017**

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above	Total
Children	2017	<b>4.17</b>	3.99	3.96	4.00
	2015	4.08	4.05	3.90	3.98
	2013	4.31	4.08	3.84	3.99
	2011	4.21	4.12	3.95	4.05
Father	2017	<b>4.18</b>	4.04	3.98	4.03
	2015	3.77	3.83	3.90	3.81
	2013	3.81	3.78	4.02	3.81
	2011	3.87	3.87	3.88	3.87
Mother	2017	<b>3.95</b>	3.87	3.89	3.91
	2015	3.89	3.87	3.95	3.88
	2013	4.00	3.88	3.84	3.93
	2011	4.01	3.93	4.00	3.97
Partner	2017	<b>3.86</b>	3.81	3.78	3.83
	2015	4.16	4.02	3.94	4.01
	2013	4.20	3.93	3.84	3.93
	2011	4.17	4.09	4.04	4.08
Grandparents	2017	3.64	3.82	3.64	3.68
	2015	3.59	3.83	3.90	3.81
	2013	3.59	3.63	4.00	3.60
	2011	3.59	3.50	3.89	3.58
Grandchildren	2017	--	3.94	3.85	3.86
	2015	-	3.26	3.77	3.75
	2013	-	3.61	3.75	3.75
	2011	-	4.16	3.87	3.88

7.2.5 Analysed by marital status, for those respondents who were married/cohabiting without child, the mean scores of satisfaction with their partners were relatively high. In regard to the respondents who never married, the mean scores of satisfaction with their partner were high as well. To the respondents who married/cohabiting without child, the mean scores of satisfaction with grandparents were also high.

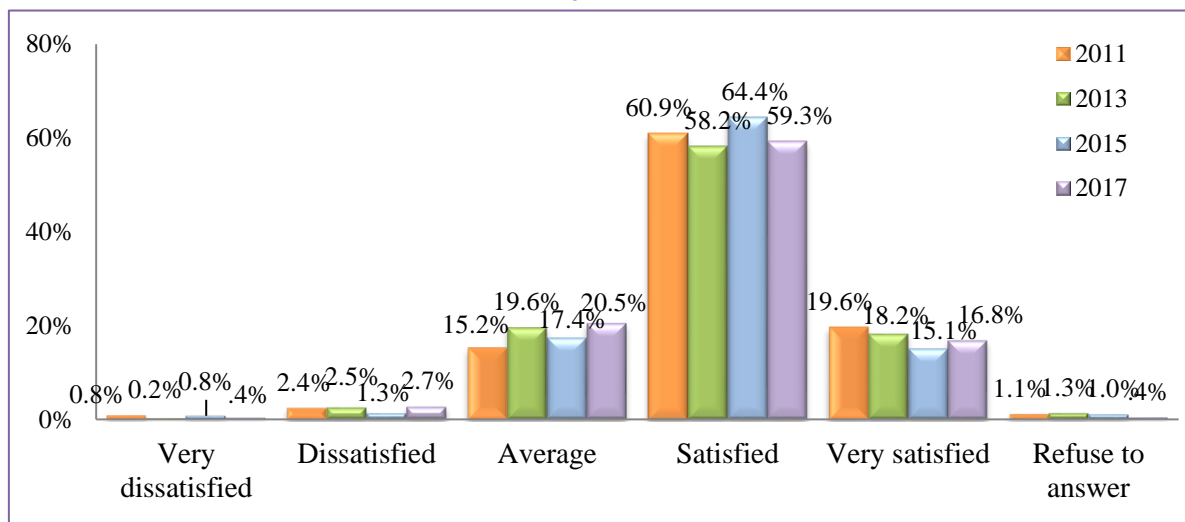
**Table 7.2.3: Mean scores of satisfactions with the relationship with family members by marital status and gender in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017**

	Year	Never married		Married/cohabiting without child		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Child	2017	-	-	-	-	4.01	4.07	3.64	4.00	3.88	3.97
	2015	-	-	-	-	3.97	4.05	3.85	3.83	4.01	3.92
	2013	-	-	-	-	3.94	4.09	3.64	4.11	3.74	3.80
	2011	-	-	-	-	4.02	4.16	3.83	3.89	3.90	3.87
Father	2017	3.83	3.79	3.82	3.91	3.87	3.88	3.81	3.69	4.00	3.91
	2015	3.70	3.84	3.62	3.96	3.94	3.87	3.77	3.51	-	3.73
	2013	3.67	3.85	3.74	3.93	3.92	3.91	2.97	3.45	4.46	4.29
	2011	3.68	3.92	4.13	4.04	3.86	3.91	4.00	3.94	4.10	3.91
Mother	2017	3.89	3.92	3.99	3.93	3.90	3.92	3.70	3.85	4.00	3.90
	2015	3.86	3.93	3.83	3.84	4.00	3.85	3.78	3.73	-	3.73
	2013	3.85	4.04	3.97	3.97	3.88	3.96	3.64	3.73	4.25	4.01
	2011	3.88	4.04	4.15	4.16	3.93	3.99	4.00	3.74	3.70	3.96
Partner	2017	4.19	4.05	4.13	4.05	3.99	3.99	2.56	2.68	-	4.00
	2015	4.14	3.89	4.20	4.27	4.03	3.99	1.89	2.58	-	3.43
	2013	2.93	3.95	4.14	4.04	3.98	3.90	3.42	2.04	-	-
	2011	-	-	4.25	4.23	4.09	4.07	-	-	3.79	2.50
Grandparents	2017	3.57	3.66	4.23	4.08	3.82	4.05		4.00		4.00
	2015	3.50	3.53	3.61	3.41	4.19	3.65	4.00	2.05	-	4.00
	2013	3.53	3.70	2.73	3.94	3.74	3.59	3.00	3.74	-	3.08
	2011	3.56	3.58	3.54	3.41	3.80	3.62	-	-	-	3.45
Grandchildren	2017	-	-	-	-	3.95	3.89	2.80	3.72	3.83	3.80
	2015	-	-	-	-	3.69	3.69	3.54	3.84	3.66	3.89
	2013	-	-	-	-	3.80	3.80	3.05	3.83	3.69	3.66
	2011	-	-	-	-	3.93	3.91	3.80	3.79	4.35	3.62

## Satisfaction with family life

7.2.6 76% of the respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with their family life whereas only around 3% were not satisfied with their family life. Compared with the findings in 2015, the proportion of respondents who were satisfied or very satisfied with their family life decreased from 80% in 2015 to 76% in 2017, lowering back to a level similar to that in 2013 (76%).

**Chart 7.2.4: Satisfaction with family life in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**



## Dependence of family members

7.2.7 In 2017, majority of family members were dependent on each other. 76% of the respondents indicated that their family members were dependent on each other.

**Table 7.2.5: Dependence of family members by gender in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	All	Male	Female
Dependent	2017	<b>75.5</b>	75.9	75.2
	2015	75.1	73.1	76.9
	2013	70.1	67.3	72.4
	2011	78.3	75.4	80.8
Neutral	2017	20.1	19.3	20.8
	2015	20.4	21.5	19.5
	2013	25.5	28.2	23.2
	2011	17.4	19.4	15.8
Independent	2017	4.4	4.8	4.0
	2015	3.5	4.0	4.1
	2013	4.4	4.5	4.4
	2011	4.2	5.3	3.4

7.2.8 Analysed by age, gender and marital status, a remarkable proportion of older people aged 55 or above (6%) as well as the respondents who were divorced/separated (15% and 7% of male and female respondents respectively) expressed that their family members were independent in 2017.

**Table 7.2.6: Dependence of family members by age group in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Dependent	2017	77.9	77.1	72.3
	2015	76.6	76.7	72.0
	2013	71.3	71.5	67.2
	2011	77.1	81.0	73.8
Neutral	2017	18.4	19.7	21.9
	2015	20.4	19.9	21.0
	2013	24.4	25.9	26.1
	2011	19.6	14.6	18.4
Independent	2017	3.7	3.3	5.8
	2015	2.3	2.6	5.7
	2013	4.4	2.6	6.7
	2011	2.8	3.5	6.7

**Table 7.2.7: Dependence of family members by marital status and gender in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017(%)**

	Year	Never married		Married/cohabiting without child		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Dependent	2017	73.4	74.3	82.0	88.3	81.5	78.8	29.1	66.2	62.9	68.8
	2015	67.2	75.7	84.0	75.3	79.2	83.2	52.3	60.9	54.8	67.4
	2013	59.4	72.7	69.5	70.1	76.3	78.1	36.5	54.8	47.8	60.4
	2011	64.8	78.9	85.3	78.4	83.5	85.1	64.9	69.3	52.4	70.0
Neutral	2017	21.8	21.0	14.8	10.0	16.1	19.5	35.4	27.2	28.1	23.0
	2015	27.1	20.1	10.5	24.0	16.1	14.5	35.6	30.9	39.5	27.1
	2013	34.9	23.0	26.8	21.9	21.3	19.4	43.6	35.3	47.2	32.6
	2011	27.2	16.5	14.7	17.1	12.2	12.1	31.9	21.7	30.4	23.4
Independent	2017	4.7	4.6	3.2	1.7	2.4	1.7	<b>15.4</b>	<b>6.6</b>	8.9	8.2
	2015	4.6	3.3	2.9	0.7	3.5	2.1	6.5	7.0	5.7	5.5
	2013	5.7	4.3	3.6	8.0	2.4	2.5	19.9	10.0	4.9	7.0
	2011	7.3	3.1	0.0	1.9	4.0	2.5	3.1	7.4	15.8	5.6

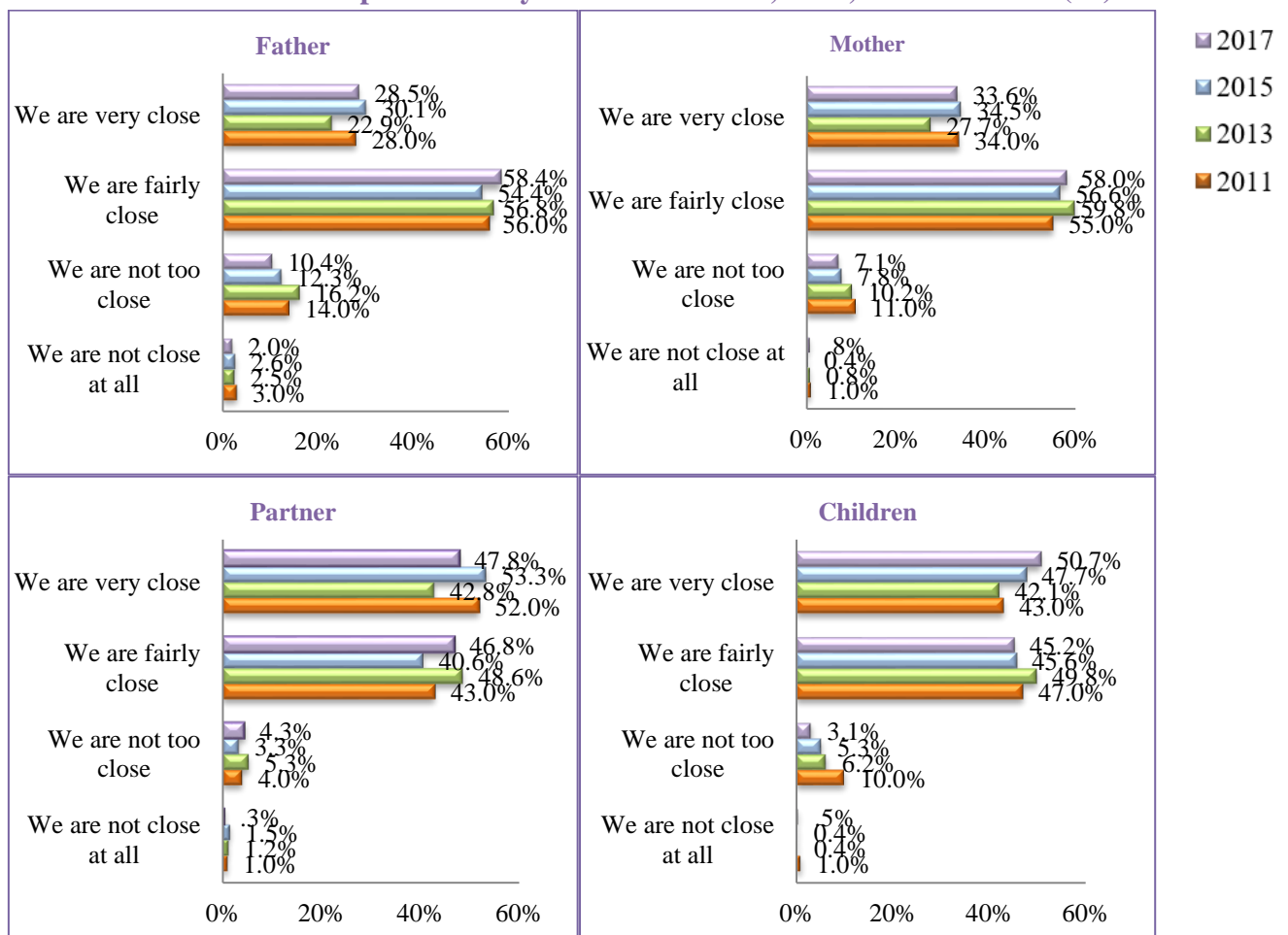


**Relationship with Family Members**

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

7.2.10 87% of the respondents considered their relationship close (fairly close and very close) with their fathers and 92% with their mothers. 95% had close relationship with their partners and 96% with their children. With the findings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 compared, the trend observed was quite stable.

**Chart 7.2.8: Relationship with family members in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**



7.2.11 Analysed by age group, over 95% of the respondents aged 15-34 and aged 35-54 had a closer relationship with their partners and children. They also had a close relationship with their mothers.

**Table 7.2.9: Relationship with family members by age group in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

		Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
<b>Father</b>	Not close	2017	12.8	11.4	14.3
	Close		86.5	88.4	84.2
	Not close	2015	16.5	12.7	16.3
	Close		83.0	86.7	82.5
	Not close	2013	19.8	18.7	3.6
	Close		77.6	80.6	96.4
	Not close	2011	16.4	14.8	29.8
	Close		83.6	85.2	70.2
<b>Mother</b>	Not close	2017	6.7	8.8	9.1
	Close		92.9	90.9	89.5
	Not close	2015	8.1	7.9	10.1
	Close		91.4	91.2	88.5
	Not close	2013	8.4	12.8	15.1
	Close		89.1	86.6	84.3
	Not close	2011	8.9	12.5	17.3
	Close		91.1	87.5	82.7
<b>Partner</b>	Not close	2017	0.0	5.0	5.8
	Close		100.0	94.8	92.8
	Not close	2015	1.1	4.4	6.6
	Close		98.0	94.5	82.5
	Not close	2013	1.8	7.7	6.8
	Close		98.2	90.2	91.6
	Not close	2011	0.5	5.5	5.4
	Close		99.5	94.5	94.6
<b>Children</b>	Not close	2017	0.0	2.7	5.5
	Close		100.0	96.8	93.6
	Not close	2015	1.4	4.2	7.7
	Close		96.5	95.3	90.8
	Not close	2013	2.4	4.8	9.4
	Close		95.5	94.2	88.9
	Not close	2011	3.7	3.2	13.4
	Close		96.3	96.8	86.6

## 7.3 Time Spent with Family Members

7.3.1 **Time spent with parents was limited.** In 2017, about 60% of the respondents talked to their father and 54% talked to their mother for less than 30 minutes a week. 22% had not talked to their fathers, while 20% had not talked to their mothers at all in the week prior to enumeration. Partners communicated with each other approximate frequently, with only 14% did not speak to each other; 6% talked to each other for more than 4 hours, 5% for 2 to 4 hours, 15% for 1 to 2 hours, and 44% for less than half hour a week.

7.3.2 50% chatted with their children for less than 30 minutes a week and 23% did not talk to each other at all. On the other hand, 4% talked to their children for more than 4 hours.

**Table 7.3.1: Time spent in talking with family members per week in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	Father	Mother	Partner	Children
<b>None</b>	2017	21.8	19.7	14.0	22.7
	2015	12.5	10.1	6.8	11.9
	2013	16.6	11.7	8.2	16.2
	2011	22.8	19.1	8.4	20.5
<b>&lt; 30 minutes</b>	2017	60.2	54.2	43.5	49.9
	2015	33.5	29.6	15.2	19.3
	2013	35.0	32.1	19.2	25.7
	2011	40.1	38.8	25.5	32.0
<b>31 – 60 minutes</b>	2017	4.7	10.1	14.8	8.9
	2015	10.9	10.7	6.0	8.2
	2013	9.1	9.6	9.2	10.7
	2011	8.2	8.9	11.2	10.4
<b>1 hour to &lt; 2 hours</b>	2017	3.7	6.9	14.5	9.1
	2015	13.1	15.1	9.8	12.7
	2013	17.1	17.0	12.4	11.4
	2011	11.1	11.4	14.1	10.6
<b>2 hours to &lt; 4 hours</b>	2017	1.8	2.8	4.9	3.5
	2015	10.6	11.3	10.6	10.2
	2013	7.3	10.0	9.4	7.8
	2011	6.2	8.9	10.7	7.5
<b>≥ 4 hours</b>	2017	0.9	1.2	5.6	4.3
	2015	17.8	21.4	49.3	35.5
	2013	13.4	18.0	39.2	26.9
	2011	11.6	12.8	30.1	19.0

7.3.3 Analysed by age group, people aged 15 to 34 were less likely to talk with their parents, 67% and 60% of them talked to their father and mother for less than 30 minutes a week or did not talk at all respectively in 2017.

**Table 7.3.2: Time spent in talking with family members by age group in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

		Year	15 - 34	35 - 54	55 or above
<b>Father</b>	None to < 30 mins	2017	<b>67.4</b>	58.2	52.0
	31 – 60 mins		5.4	4.2	4.3
	> 1 hour		8.5	5.4	4.8
	None to < 30 mins	2015	39.8	52.1	58.4
	31 – 60 mins		12.9	8.7	7.8
	> 1 hour		45.9	37.2	30.4
	None to < 30 mins	2013	45.7	58.6	61.3
	31 – 60 mins		8.2	9.8	13.6
	> 1 hour		43.8	30.9	25.1
	None to < 30 mins	2011	56.0	70.5	77.2
	31 – 60 mins		9.1	7.1	7.4
	> 1 hour		34.9	22.4	15.5
<b>Mother</b>	None to < 30 mins	2017	<b>59.5</b>	54.5	47.2
	31 – 60 mins		10.7	9.2	10.2
	> 1 hour		15.2	7.7	9.2
	None to < 30 mins	2015	31.9	43.8	57.3
	31 – 60 mins		11.8	10.5	6.5
	> 1 hour		54.7	43.3	34.7
	None to < 30 mins	2013	34.1	50.8	57.3
	31 – 60 mins		8.0	11.2	10.5
	> 1 hour		55.3	37.3	31.7
	None to < 30 mins	2011	44.5	68.5	74.6
	31 – 60 mins		10.7	7.7	5.8
	> 1 hour		44.9	23.8	19.6
<b>Partner</b>	None to < 30 mins	2017	39.4	45.7	43.5
	31 – 60 mins		15.3	15.3	14.0
	> 1 hour		31.7	24.1	22.5
	None to < 30 mins	2015	20.9	20.2	25.1
	31 – 60 mins		6.0	4.3	8.1
	> 1 hour		72.4	72.7	64.9
	None to < 30 mins	2013	19.6	25.4	32.9
	31 – 60 mins		11.2	8.9	8.9
	> 1 hour		69.2	63.0	55.3
	None to < 30 mins	2011	25.8	32.3	39.6
	31 – 60 mins		13.8	10.4	11.5
	> 1 hour		60.3	57.3	48.9
<b>Children</b>	None to < 30 mins	2017	47.3	48.9	52.0
	31 – 60 mins		7.3	9.9	8.6
	> 1 hour		20.9	18.9	13.3

		Year	15 - 34	35 - 54	55 or above
	None to < 30 mins	2015	40.8	26.2	34.2
	31 – 60 mins		5.4	4.6	12.1
	> 1 hour		51.7	67.1	51.5
	None to < 30 mins	2013	44.3	38.0	45.2
	31 – 60 mins		7.8	8.6	13.3
	> 1 hour		47.0	52.2	40.1
	None to < 30 mins	2011	59.3	46.8	56.5
	31 – 60 mins		4.7	9.0	12.7
	> 1 hour		35.9	44.2	30.8

**Table 7.3.3: Time spent in talking with family members by marital status and gender in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

			Never married	Married/ cohabiting without child	Married/ cohabiting with child	Divorced/ separated	Widowed					
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
		Year	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
<b>Father</b>	None to < 30	2017	67.0	60.4	60.0	49.6	55.2	51.0	49.6	55.2	57.7	46.0
	31 – 60 mins		3.9	3.9	3.2	5.0	6.0	8.4	7.4	6.2	0	3.8
	> 1 hour		7.3	11.1	3.1	5.2	1.7	10.6	7.4	2.5	0	4.7
	None to < 30	2015	39.9	37.3	50	36.9	50.3	58	62	55.6	0	33.5
	31 – 60 mins		9.1	6.8	13.9	31.3	13.4	12.2	0	0	0	18.2
	> 1 hour		49.3	56	36.1	25.9	34.1	27.4	38.1	44.4	0	36.1
	None to < 30	2013	41.6	46.4	45.6	58.0	52.8	64.3	100.	57.9	100.	42.1
	31 – 60 mins		9.1	5.0	15.4	10.4	15.9	5.9	0.0	17.7	0.0	17.1
	> 1 hour		47.8	44.8	39.0	31.6	31.2	29.0	0.0	21.1	0.0	40.8
	None to < 30	2011	60.7	54.0	62.0	59.8	68.4	70.2	0.0	32.2	70.0	80.3
	31 – 60 mins		6.4	8.1	6.3	6.0	7.1	11.7	100.	5.8	22.4	3.0
	> 1 hour		32.9	37.9	31.7	34.2	24.6	18.1	0.0	62.1	7.6	16.6
<b>Mother</b>	None to < 30	2017	61.0	57.2	55.1	40.2	49.2	52.9	32.5	51.6	49.5	42.2
	31 – 60 mins		8.6	6.7	8.0	14.9	7.6	7.7	21.0	12.9	5.5	12.1
	> 1 hour		12.2	17.3	7.5	9.4	9.2	15.3	12.8	10.4	0	7.4
	None to < 30	2015	33.9	25.6	48.6	31.3	45.8	52.3	50.1	45.1	100	48.8
	31 – 60 mins		6.7	8.1	14.9	31.4	14	12.9	5.4	0	0	6
	> 1 hour		58.3	65	35	32	37.5	32.1	44.4	54.9	0	41.2
	None to < 30	2013	35.4	30.5	40.6	43.6	54.0	54.3	61.2	49.1	53.2	62.6
	31 – 60 mins		7.3	6.9	11.1	18.1	15.2	6.4	9.6	21.1	0.0	13.4
	> 1 hour		55.4	59.5	48.3	38.3	30.1	38.5	29.2	26.9	46.8	18.9
	None to < 30	2011	52.4	38.3	69.5	53.0	68.6	67.9	100.	50.5	83.7	61.5

	31 – 60 mins		12.2	6.2	5.5	7.8	7.5	9.5	0.0	11.5	9.9	10.8
	> 1 hour		35.4	55.5	25.0	39.2	23.9	22.6	0.0	38.1	6.4	27.6
<b>Partner</b>	None to < 30	2017	-	-	41.8	44.2	35.4	26.6	56.7	33.7	29.1	43.1
	31 – 60 mins		-	-	19.0	12.8	12.3	14.2	19.9	22.6	5.2	13.7
	> 1 hour		-	-	27.9	24.0	45.2	47.7	10.7	26.0	31.3	24.8
	None to < 30	2015	8.5	68.3	17.8	13.1	20.6	23	100	54.4	0	15.3
	31 – 60 mins		0	0	6.8	8.2	7.8	4.4	0	7.6	0	17
	> 1 hour		91.5	31.7	74.3	75.8	69.1	70.4	0	38	100	67.7
	None to < 30	2013	88.3	7.6	16.6	18.6	26.9	28.3	100.	90.4	-	-
	31 – 60 mins		11.7	0.0	5.0	6.9	9.1	10.7	0	0.0	-	-
	> 1 hour		0.0	83.6	77.5	68.8	62.2	58.2	0	9.6	-	-
	None to < 30	2011	-	-	26.6	26.3	36.0	34.3	-	-	43.1	100.
	31 – 60 mins		-	-	16.9	12.7	11.5	10.4	-	-	0.0	0.0
	> 1 hour		-	-	56.5	61.0	52.5	55.3	-	-	56.9	0.0
<b>Children</b>	None to < 30	2017	--	--	--	--	100.	36.8	55.9	41.2	31.3	53.1
	31 – 60 mins		--	--	--	--	0.0	0.0	9.8	14.3	5.2	6.9
	> 1 hour		--	--	--	--	0.0	63.2	17.9	21.2	20.9	15.9
	None to < 30	2015	--	--	--	--	31.3	31	37.4	30.2	7.7	38.3
	31 – 60 mins		--	--	--	--	9.3	7.1	2.2	4.1	12.3	11.4
	> 1 hour		--	--	--	--	56.4	60.1	60.5	64.8	77.4	49.4
	None to < 30	2013	-	-	-	-	44.1	39.4	54.4	29.9	39.9	49.5
	31 – 60 mins		-	-	-	-	9.1	10.0	25.7	14.8	27.1	10.3
	> 1 hour		-	-	-	-	45.2	49.4	18.5	55.2	30.9	39.9
	None to < 30	2011	-	-	-	-	56.8	47.0	82.9	54.1	54.7	44.7
	31 – 60 mins		-	-	-	-	9.2	11.3	2.7	15.0	2.0	4.5
	> 1 hour		-	-	-	-	34.0	41.7	14.4	30.9	43.4	50.8

## 7.4 Communication with Family Members

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

7.4.2 **Talking about personal concern** - Overall, talking about personal concern to partner was frequent (26% frequently and 57% sometimes, while only 4% almost never talked to partner about personal concern). 10% of the respondents talked frequently and 44% sometimes to their mothers about personal concern. The corresponding percentages were 7% and 38% respectively for talking to fathers. 57% talked about personal concern to their child sometimes or frequently.

**Table 7.4.1: Talking about personal concern in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

Personal Concern	Year	Father	Mother	Partner	Children
<b>Almost never</b>	2017	16.0	12.9	3.5	16.6
	2015	12.4	8.9	4.9	12
	2013	12.1	10.1	6.6	17.4
	2011	14.1	12.7	5.8	16.2
<b>Not often</b>	2017	38.8	32.7	12.9	26.3
	2015	25.8	25.8	12.7	23.4
	2013	36.1	27.6	10.7	22.8
	2011	35.1	30.1	14.4	26.2
<b>Sometimes</b>	2017	38.1	44.2	56.9	42.5
	2015	42	40.3	27	35.3
	2013	35.4	38.0	33.2	35.0
	2011	34.0	35.1	33.2	34.4
<b>Frequently</b>	2017	6.9	10.0	26.3	14.3
	2015	19.4	24.3	54.1	28.2
	2013	15.5	23.7	47.2	23.2
	2011	16.8	22.2	46.6	23.1

7.4.3 **Seeking advice from family member** - Similar pattern was observed in respect of seeking advice. Majority of the respondents sought advice from their partners (86%) and mothers (58%) sometimes or frequently.

**Table 7.4.2: Seeking advice from family member in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

Seeking Advice	Year	Father	Mother	Partner	Children
<b>Almost never</b>	2017	12.7	11.6	3.2	11.1
	2015	9.4	6.9	3.8	13.9
	2013	14.3	11.0	6.3	19.1
	2011	12.5	11.0	4.6	16.1
<b>Not often</b>	2017	35.9	30.6	10.9	23.4
	2015	25.3	25.2	9.9	20.9
	2013	31.3	27.5	10.1	23.8
	2011	34.4	33.5	12.4	26.5
<b>Sometimes</b>	2017	45.1	48.6	58.0	48.3
	2015	45.5	45.2	30.5	38.6
	2013	39.9	41.0	37.0	34.9
	2011	35.7	35.2	40.1	35.8
<b>Frequently</b>	2017	6.1	8.9	27.5	16.8
	2015	19.3	21.8	54.3	25
	2013	13.6	19.6	43.9	20.9
	2011	17.3	20.3	42.9	21.7

7.4.4 **Feeling proud of family member** – Majority of the respondents were proud of their parents (74% father, 78% mother). 80% of respondents were proud of their partners (40% frequently) and 82% proud of their children (45% frequently).

**Table 7.4.3: Feeling proud of family member in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

Feeling proud	Year	Father	Mother	Partner	Children
<b>Almost never</b>	2017	5.1	4.3	2.7	3.2
	2015	8.1	6.4	6.3	5.8
	2013	11.5	11.4	11.3	9.8
	2011	11.7	8.1	7.1	7.4
<b>Not often</b>	2017	19.1	16.7	14.3	12.2
	2015	13.8	15.4	9.0	9.4
	2013	14.5	13.1	9.8	10.2
	2011	24.3	23.3	15.1	14.4
<b>Sometimes</b>	2017	42.0	41.2	39.9	36.8
	2015	45.0	42.8	36.4	35.4
	2013	40.4	40.3	41.1	40.9
	2011	38.5	40.7	41.7	42.1
<b>Frequently</b>	2017	32.4	36.4	40.2	44.9
	2015	29.9	31.8	44.0	44.8
	2013	29.2	31.1	31.9	34.7
	2011	25.5	27.8	36.1	36.1



7.4.5 *Having dinner with family members* – Majority of the respondents had dinner sometimes or frequently with their partners (96%), children (96%), and mother (70%). Survey results also showed that 79% of the respondents frequently had dinner with their partners, 77% frequently with children and over one-third with parents.

**Table 7.4.4: Having dinner with family member in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

Having dinner	Year	Father	Mother	Partner	Children
<b>Almost never</b>	2017	6.3	6.0	0.7	0.3
	2015	4.7	2.5	2.1	2
	2013	6.2	4.0	2.0	1.6
	2011	4.7	3.1	0.9	2.1
<b>Not often</b>	2017	24.5	24.0	3.0	3.2
	2015	24.1	22.3	4.6	8.3
	2013	33.1	28.7	5.4	10.3
	2011	29.0	28.1	5.7	18.0
<b>Sometimes</b>	2017	32.5	31.6	17.1	19.5
	2015	34.6	34.6	10.6	24.1
	2013	26.4	27.4	11.4	18.6
	2011	31.9	30.3	10.5	23.6
<b>Frequently</b>	2017	36.6	38.1	78.9	76.7
	2015	35.9	39.7	81.7	64.9
	2013	33.3	39.0	79.0	68.3
	2011	34.4	38.5	83.0	56.3

7.4.6 *Participation in family activities* – Majority of the respondents frequently or sometimes participated in family activities with their partners (79%) and children (75%). About half of the respondents frequently or sometimes participated in family activities with their parents.

**Table 7.4.5: Participate in family activities in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017(%)**

Participation in family activities	Year	Father	Mother	Partner	Children
<b>Almost never</b>	2017	15.5	14.0	3.1	2.5
	2015	9.5	7.6	3.6	3.2
	2013	12.1	8.7	5.3	5.6
	2011	8.7	7.0	2.5	4.3
<b>Not often</b>	2017	39.5	38.0	17.5	22.5
	2015	29.8	29.6	12.2	18.5
	2013	39.2	36.3	17.4	21.8
	2011	37.1	36.7	17.5	26.7
<b>Sometimes</b>	2017	35.4	37.2	53.1	50.2
	2015	37	36.5	30.1	35.5
	2013	32.6	34.0	33.8	35.5
	2011	36.5	35.6	27.7	31.8
<b>Frequently</b>	2017	9.1	9.7	25.7	24.4
	2015	22.9	25.3	52.6	41.8
	2013	15.2	20.2	41.4	36.0
	2011	17.6	20.7	52.4	37.1

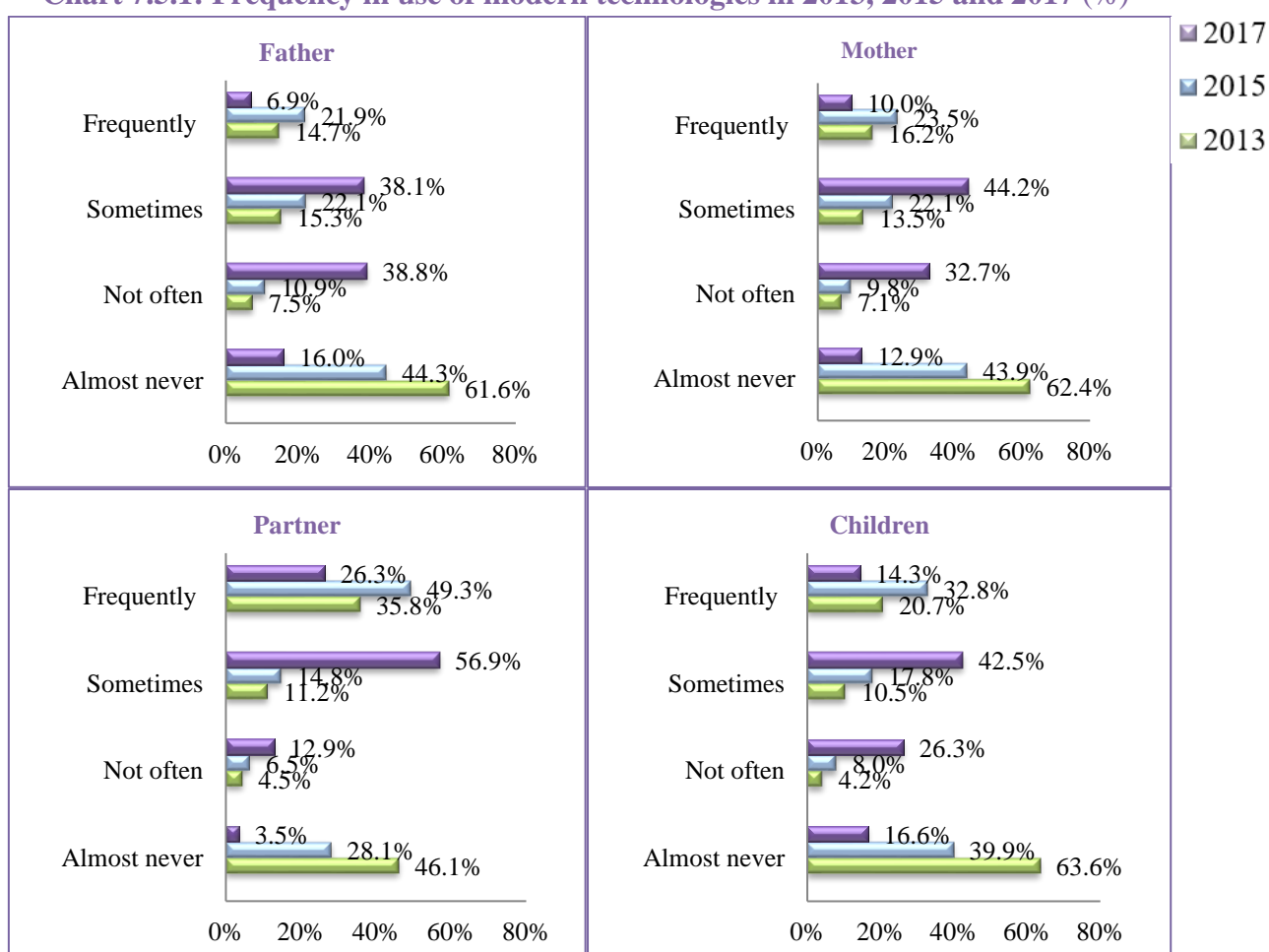
## 7.5 Frequency in use of modern technologies in communication with family members

### 7.5.1 Increasing percentage of people frequently or sometimes used modern technologies (e.g. SMS, WhatsApp) in communication with family members.

In 2017, about half of the respondents frequently or sometimes used modern technologies in communication with children (57%), mothers (54%) and fathers (45%).

### 7.5.2 The proportion of respondents who never used modern technologies in communication with other family members dropped drastically in 2017.

Chart 7.5.1: Frequency in use of modern technologies in 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)



### 7.5.3 Analysed by age group, younger respondents aged 15-34 were more likely to use modern technologies in communication with their partners (93%), fathers (75%), mothers (61%) frequently or sometimes.

**Table 7.5.2: Frequency in use of modern technologies by age group in 2015 and 2017**  
(%)

			15 - 34	35 - 54	55 or above
<b>Father</b>	2017	Almost never	10.0	44.3	59.5
		Not often	14.8	10.2	4.9
		Sometimes	52.8	31.3	21.6
		Frequently	22.3	14.1	12.0
	2015	Almost never	31.2	58.4	65.0
		Not often	14.1	6.4	13.9
		Sometimes	25.2	19.4	13.3
		Frequently	28.3	15.5	7.9
<b>Mother</b>	2017	Almost never	6.9	46.7	67.8
		Not often	9.9	8.6	5.3
		Sometimes	54.2	31.1	15.5
		Frequently	6.9	46.7	67.8
	2015	Almost never	23.6	57.9	78.4
		Not often	12.8	7.2	7.1
		Sometimes	29.1	17.7	8.6
		Frequently	33.9	16.5	5.4
<b>Partner</b>	2017	Almost never	1.7	5.6	39.5
		Not often	4.9	4.8	8.0
		Sometimes	22.2	45.7	30.5
		Frequently	71.2	43.7	20.7
	2015	Almost never	11.8	16.4	48.9
		Not often	5.1	7.0	6.5
		Sometimes	7.3	17.3	14.7
		Frequently	72.3	59.0	28.2
<b>Child</b>	2017	Almost never	61.2	20.3	34.9
		Not often	5.9	8.0	8.3
		Sometimes	21.4	40.5	36.4
		Frequently	10.0	30.8	19.1
	2015	Almost never	49	29.7	47.6
		Not often	13.5	9.4	5.8
		Sometimes	13.2	19.0	17.6
		Frequently	20.1	41.1	27.4

### *Views collected from focus group discussions*

- 7.5.4 Apart from the findings collected from the questionnaire survey, views on the usage of modern communication technologies were solicited from participants during the focus group discussions.
- 7.5.5 As indicated in the 2017 survey, increasing percentage of grandparents, parents and children frequently or sometimes used modern technologies (e.g. SMS, WhatsApp) in communication with their family members. They reported that using mobile apps not necessarily improve their relationships but make communication easier. In the meanwhile, with the group chat function available in some mobile apps, it is easier to communicate with family members (for live-in and non live-in families)

## Chapter 8 | Balancing Work and Family

### 8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 Nowadays in Hong Kong, it is getting more and more stressful to strike for work-life balance. We attempt to gather information on views and attitudes regarding balancing work and family. The questions were adopted from the Canadian family survey<sup>16</sup>.

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

- a) stress in balancing work and family;
- b) satisfaction with time spent at work and family
- c) problems associated with poor work-life balance;
- d) level of difficulty in balancing work and family; and
- e) problems faced by the families.

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

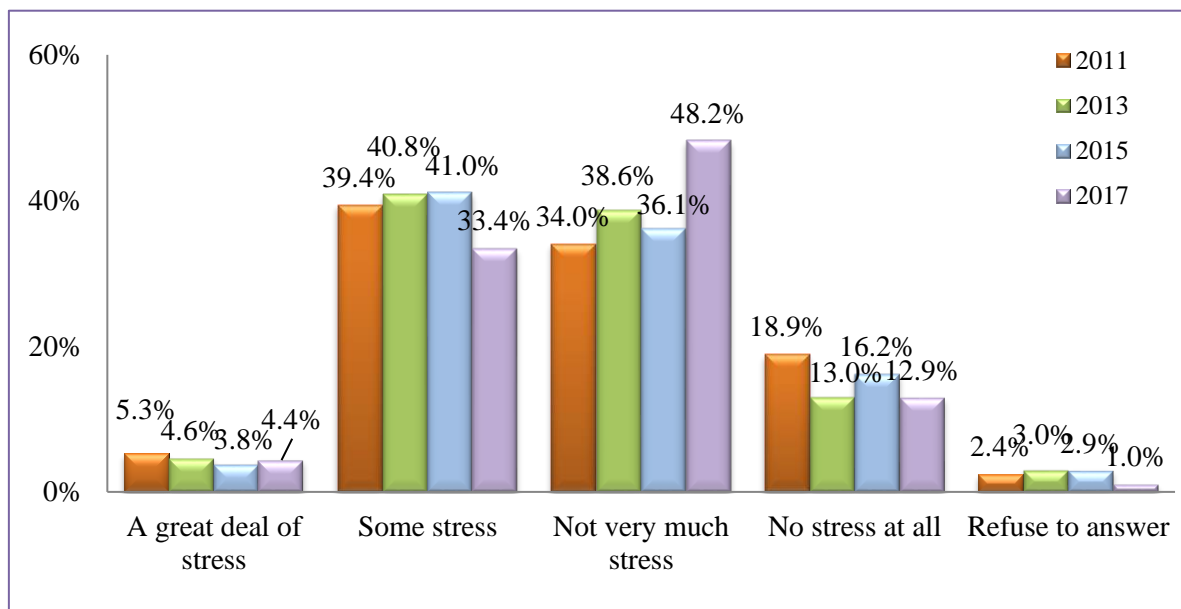
## 8.2 Stress and time spent at work and family

### Stress in balancing work and family

8.2.1 ***Around one-third of those at work reported stress in balancing work and family.*** On the whole, 38% of the respondents who were currently at work reported that balancing the competing demands of work and family caused them a great deal of stress or some stress in 2017. 48% did not have very much stress and 13% did not have stress at all.

8.2.2 With the findings in 2011, 2013 and 2015 compared, fewer respondents in 2017 reported feeling stressful.

**Chart 8.2.1: Stress in balancing work and family in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**



8.2.3 When compared with other age groups, respondents (55 or above) and middle-aged respondents at work (35-54) had the highest proportion of respondents who were more likely to have stress in balancing the demands of work and family. Similar observations were also made for respondents at work who were “divorced/separated” (48% for male and 49% for female in 2017) respectively.

**Table 8.2.2: Stress in balancing work and family by age group in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
A great deal of stress/some stress	2017	31.9	44.6	32.3
	2015	47.9	46.1	35.4
	2013	39.2	51.5	37.4
	2011	44.4	48.5	30.7
Not very much stress/no stress at all	2017	66.8	54.8	66.1
	2015	49.7	50.6	61.7
	2013	56.3	46.7	58.2
	2011	51.9	50.0	66.8

**Table 8.2.3: Stress in balancing work and family by marital status and gender in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	Never married		Married/cohabiting without child		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
A great deal of stress/some stress	2017	30.7	28.6	46.2	45.6	34.3	26.1	<b>48.4</b>	<b>48.5</b>	35.3	36.4
	2015	51.7	39.5	45.5	28.9	46.8	45.0	50.4	36.9	32.9	39.5
	2013	41.9	30.0	43.2	45.9	55.9	52.3	17.7	49.1	0.0	42.5
	2011	35.8	40.3	52.7	35.7	53.3	49.2	26.9	33.5	17.4	45.6
Not very much stress/no stress at all	2017	67.5	70.3	52.8	53.8	64.3	73.9	<b>51.6</b>	51.5	64.7	63.6
	2015	46.2	57.6	51.3	62.4	49.9	51.8	49.6	63.1	67.1	56.8
	2013	55.2	69.4	53.8	54.1	40.7	41.4	82.3	47.3	100	55.0
	2011	62.4	55.2	44.7	64.3	46.2	47.5	73.1	66.5	80.2	46.8

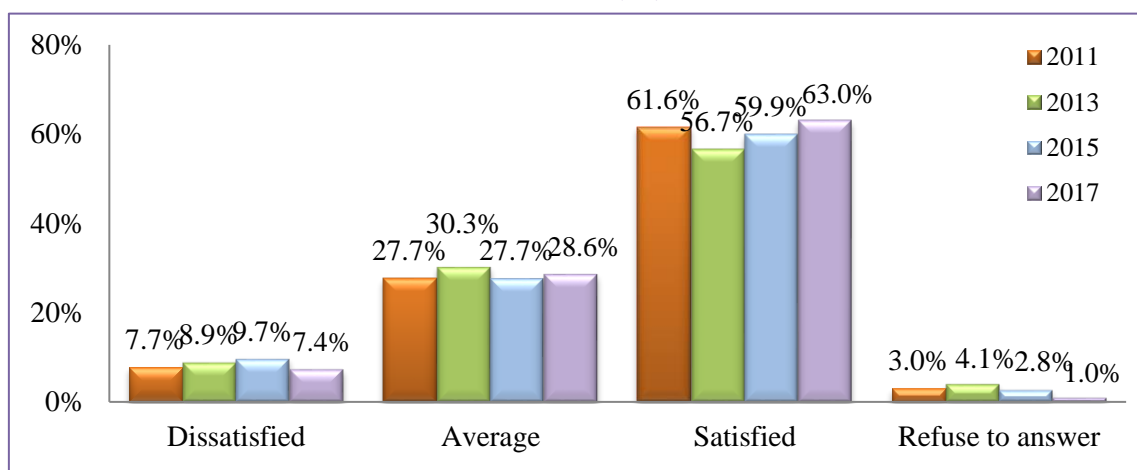
### *Satisfaction with time spent at work and family*

8.2.4 Notwithstanding the fact that quite a number of respondents reported stress in balancing the competing demands of work and family, 63% of the respondents who were currently at work were satisfied with the amount of time spent at work and with family and about 7% were not satisfied.

8.2.5 With the findings in 2011, 2013 and 2015 compared, respondents in 2017 were slightly more satisfied with that in the previous years.



**Table 8.2.4: Satisfaction with time spent at work and family in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**



8.2.6 Analysed by gender, male respondents at work were more likely to report that they were satisfied with the amount of time spent at work and with family (61% and 65% for male and female respondents at work respectively in 2017).

**Table 8.2.5: Satisfaction with time spent at work and family by gender in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

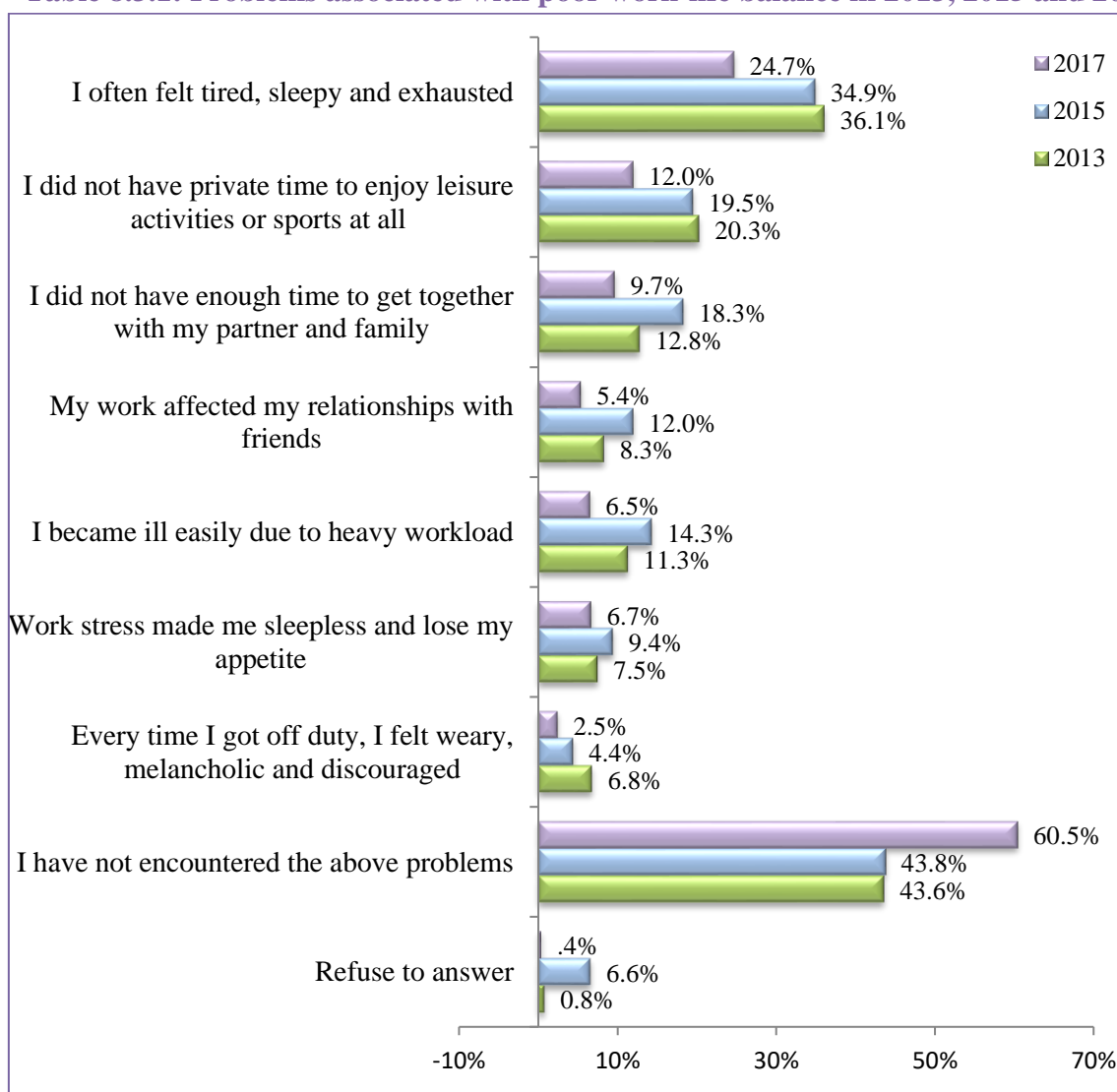
	Year	All	Male	Female
Dissatisfied	2017	7.3	7.6	7.0
	2015	9.4	10.0	9.7
	2013	8.9	10.7	6.6
	2011	7.7	7.1	8.6
Average	2017	28.7	29.8	27.6
	2015	27.7	30.1	24.7
	2013	30.3	30.5	30.0
	2011	27.7	29.5	25.3
Satisfied	2017	63.0	61.4	64.8
	2015	58.1	62.2	59.9
	2013	56.7	55.5	58.3
	2011	61.6	61.6	61.5

## 8.3 Problems associated with poor work-life balance

### Problems associated with poor work-life balance

8.3.1 The major problems associated with poor work-life balance of those respondents at work were “I often felt tired, sleepy and exhausted” (25%), “I did not have private time to enjoy leisure activities or sports at all” (12%), “I did not have enough time to get together with my partner and family” (10%), and “Work stress made me sleepless and lose my appetite” (7%) in 2017. On the other hand, 61% of the respondents at work reported that they did not encounter any problems associated with poor work-life balance. It was observed that quite a number of respondents increased in this.

**Table 8.3.1: Problems associated with poor work-life balance in 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

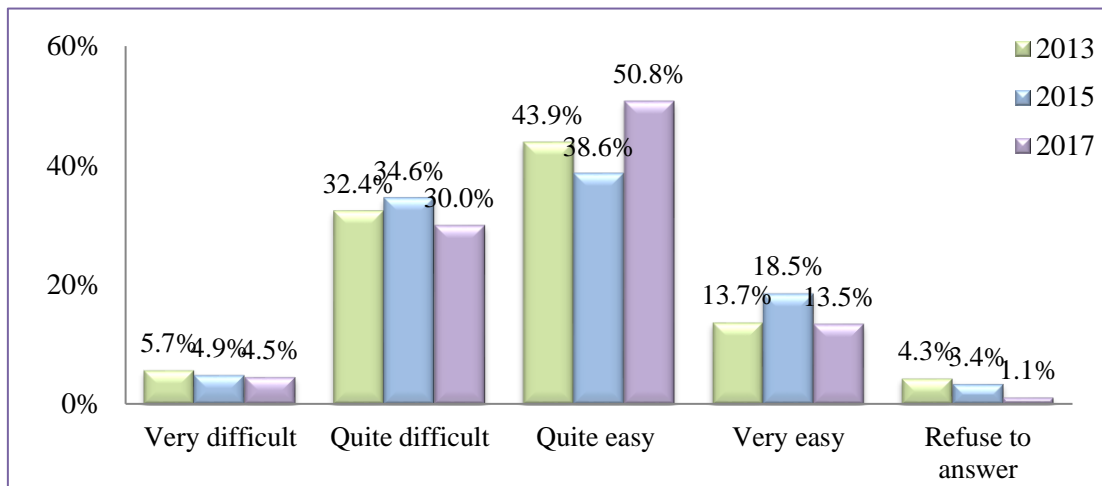


Note: Respondents were allowed to give more than one choice.

*Level of difficulty in balancing work and family*

8.3.2 **Over one-third of those at work reported that it would be very difficult or quite difficult in balancing work and family.** In 2017, 35% of the respondents at work reported that it would be very difficult or quite difficult in balancing the demands of work and family whereas 64% expressed that it would be quite easy or very easy in balancing work and family.

**Table 8.3.2: Level of difficulty in balancing work and family in 2013, 2015 and 2017(%)**



8.3.3 When compared with other age groups and marital status, respondents at work (35-54) and female respondents at work who were divorced or separated were more likely to report that it would be very difficult or quite difficult in balancing the demands of work and family.

**Table 8.3.3: Level of difficulty in balancing work and family by age group in 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Very difficult/quite difficult	2017	29.9	40.1	30.1
	2015	42.2	39.5	34.4
	2013	29.3	44.7	33.9
Quite easy/very easy	2017	68.9	59.2	68.1
	2015	54.8	57.7	60.0
	2013	65.4	51.9	60.7

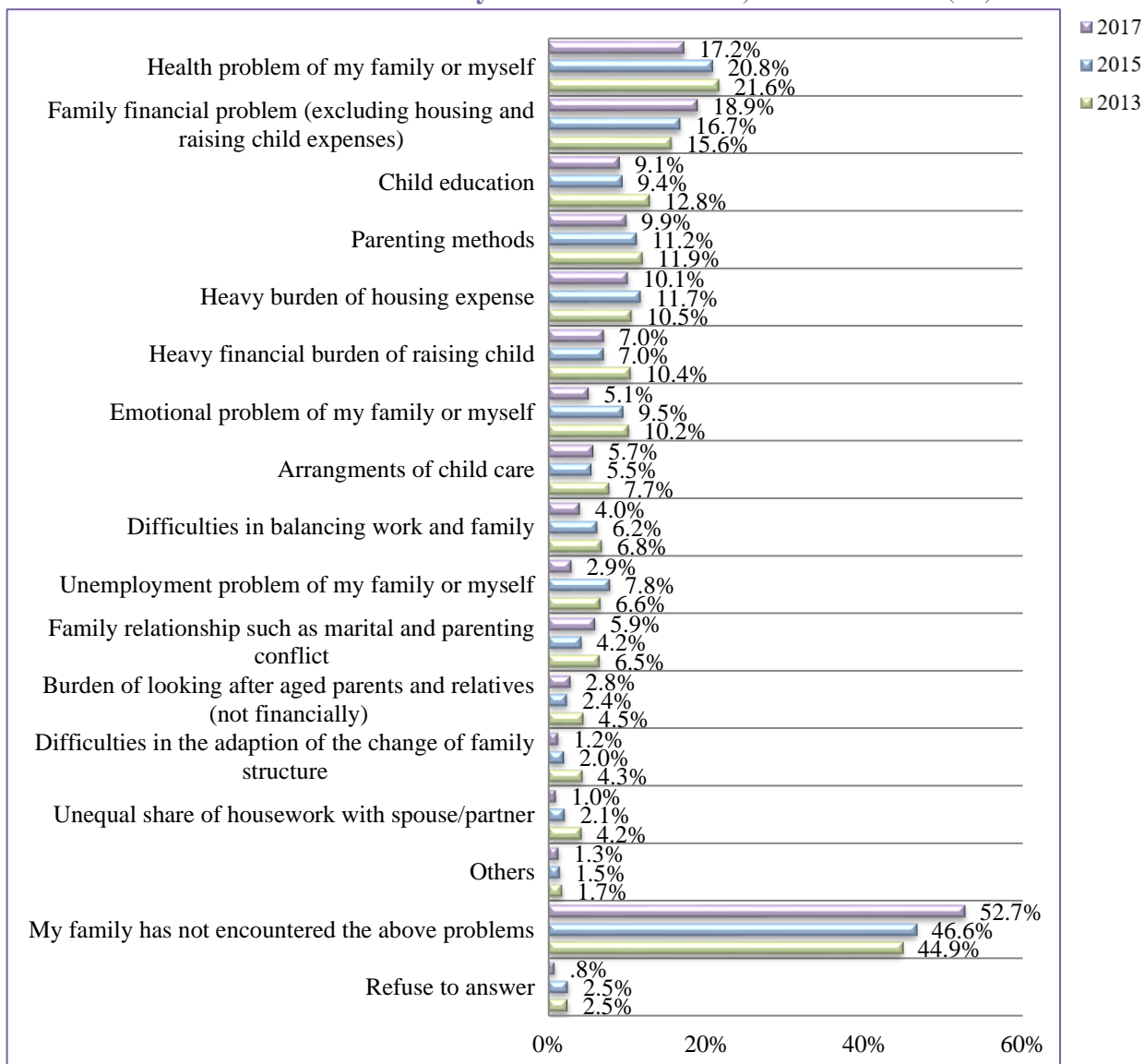
**Table 8.3.4: Level of difficulty in balancing work and family by marital status and gender in 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

		Year	Never married		Married/cohabiting without child		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Very difficult/quite difficult	2017	26.8	29.1	40.1	41.7	21.3	27.4	48.4	55.1	35.3	38.8	
	2015	44.4	40.1	39.2	30.5	39.5	38.9	31.8	32.6	32.9	30.1	
	2013	31.9	26.0	36.5	43.2	48.6	38.3	31.4	38.0	0.0	51.0	
Quite easy/very easy	2017	70.5	70.6	58.4	58.0	77.3	72.6	51.6	44.9	64.7	61.2	
	2015	53.5	57.1	57.7	60.9	56.7	57.4	64.6	67.4	48.2	62.8	
	2013	59.7	71.4	59.0	56.8	48.3	55.4	68.6	58.5	100.0	46.6	

*Problems faced by the families*

8.3.4 The major problems faced by the families reported by the respondents were “Family financial problem excluding housing and raising child expenses” (19%), “Health problems of my family or myself” (17%), “Heavy burden of housing expense” (10%), “Parenting methods” (10%), “Child education” (9%), “Heavy financial burden of raising child” (7%), “Emotional problem of my family or myself” (5%), and “Unemployment problem of my family or myself” (3%) . On the other hand, 53% of the respondents indicated that their families did not encounter the problems.

**Table 8.3.5: Problems faced by the families in 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**



## Chapter 9 | Social Support Network

### 9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 A social support network refers to a social structure which is made up of individuals such as family members, friends and peers or organisations. A strong social support network can be critical in helping one through the stress of tough times. In this Chapter, we will focus on the “help seeking” behaviours of respondents when they encountered financial and emotional problems, and the persons whom they would approach for assistance or advice.
- 9.1.2 Information on the helpfulness or the strength of support from their family members in six scenarios, namely (i) When you are sick (ii) When you need to make an important decision (iii) When you are depressed and upset (iv) When you are unemployed and cannot get a job (v) When you have financial problems (vi) When you want to share your happiness with your family members was gathered in the Survey.

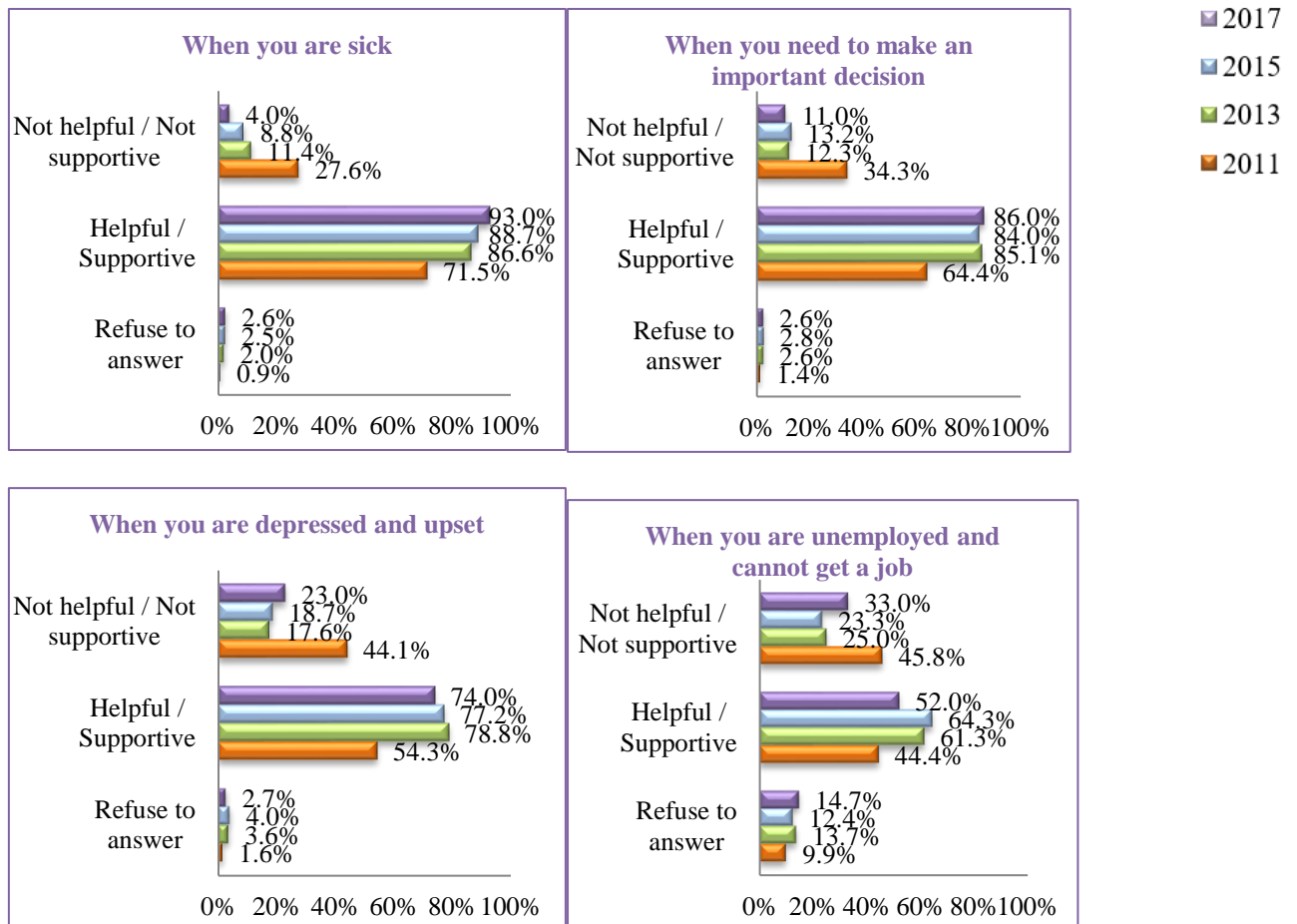
## 9.2 Availability of Assistance

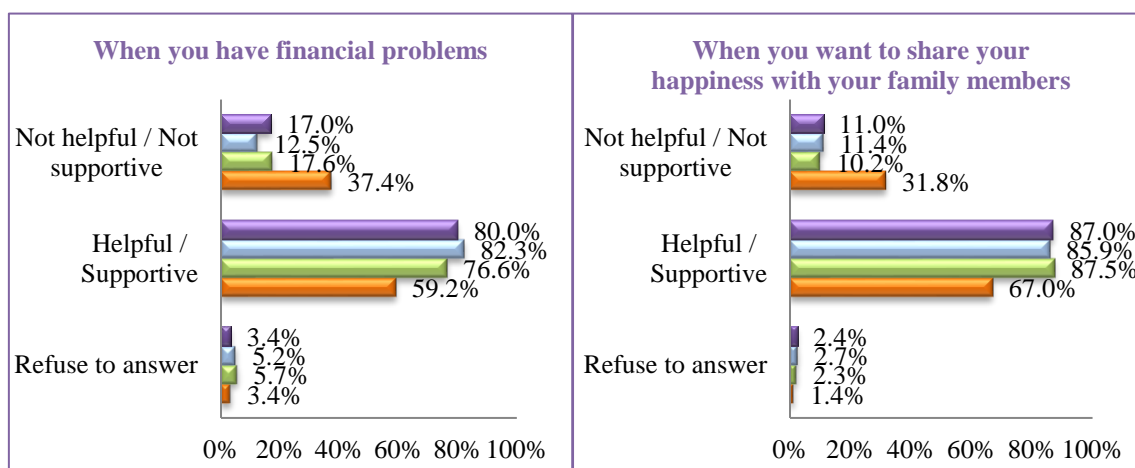
### 9.2.1 *When problems encountered, family members were helpful and supportive.*

The respondents considered their family members supportive (slightly supportive or very supportive) when they were sick (93%), when they wanted to share the happiness with their family members (87%), when they needed to make an important decision (86%), when they had financial problems (80%), when they were depressed and upset (74%) and when they were unemployed and could not get a job (52%).

9.2.2 Compared with the findings in 2015, more respondents expressed that family members were helpful and supportive when problems encountered in 2017. On the other hand, some respondents considered their family members were not helpful or supportive when they were unemployed and cannot get a job (33%), when they were depressed and upset (23%) and when they had financial problems (17%).

**Chart 9.2.1: Availability of assistance in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**





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

**Table 9.2.2: Availability of assistance by age group in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above
When you are sick	2017	<b>93.3</b>	88.5	85.5
	2015	90.9	89.3	86.1
	2013	90.6	85.1	84.5
	2011	90.6	89.0	81.4
When you need to make an important decision	2017	<b>90.1</b>	87.2	82.6
	2015	86.8	82.6	83.0
	2013	88.1	83.8	83.8
	2011	85.3	86.1	79.5
When you are depressed and upset	2017	74.5	76.5	71.7
	2015	82.5	76.4	73.4
	2013	80.3	79.8	76.1
	2011	80.7	79.1	74.4
When you are unemployed and cannot get a job	2017	<b>60.8</b>	53.1	44.4
	2015	71.0	66.1	56.3
	2013	67.5	63.5	53
	2011	70.1	65.5	57
When you have financial problems	2017	<b>87.5</b>	77.6	75.7
	2015	86.0	82.7	78.5
	2013	82.2	76.4	71.7
	2011	83.6	78.2	74.1
When you want to share your happiness with your family members	2017	<b>91.9</b>	88.7	81.4
	2015	86.6	88.3	82.5
	2013	88.4	88.2	85.8
	2011	87.9	87.8	79.1



**Table 9.2.3: Availability of assistance by marital status and gender in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	Never married		Married/cohabiting without child		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
When you are sick	2017	89.1	88.1	92.5	90.5	93.6	96.7	40.8	77.2	82.1	85.9
	2015	88.7	88.9	86.4	94.9	90.9	89.7	69.7	89.1	78.6	83.5
	2013	85.4	85.2	88.2	92.5	89.0	89.1	73.3	71.7	84.7	82.9
	2011	82.9	88.0	89.7	95.0	90.6	92.4	69.0	73.2	66.7	79.6
When you need to make an important decision	2017	81.8	82.5	89.4	92.2	85.0	98.3	44.1	82.8	82.7	87.3
	2015	83.0	84.0	86.2	89.2	83.5	87.6	59.6	80.0	76.0	82.4
	2013	82.7	82.6	86.9	93.6	88.1	87.9	61.6	74.5	81.0	83.2
	2011	75.0	81.8	85.5	91.4	88.6	91.8	75.7	72.1	68.0	71.1
When you are depressed and upset	2017	63.5	68.8	78.9	82.3	88.4	92.4	24.3	67.1	71.0	75.1
	2015	77.3	75.4	87.3	86.6	77.4	82.3	42.4	73.6	69.1	64.7
	2013	70.1	78.6	79.0	92.0	81.9	81.9	67.2	71.7	71.3	78.9
	2011	71.8	77.3	72.7	84.9	83.8	87.3	62.8	60.6	41.2	71.4
When you are unemployed and cannot get a job	2017	48.0	54.2	49.8	57.0	61.7	72.0	21.3	32.4	62.0	50.3
	2015	67.5	65.1	67.7	69.5	67.3	63.4	33.0	68.1	53.4	50.6
	2013	61.9	66.3	71.7	63.6	60.5	61.1	57.2	53.9	44.6	54.5
	2011	55.2	70.8	69.2	80.4	69.2	69.1	35.4	45.8	45.3	49.0
When you have financial problems	2017	79.3	81.0	79.3	86.1	80.2	89.9	40.8	53.9	79.9	77.7
	2015	83.5	80.6	82.4	87.1	82.6	86.2	49.2	79.6	68.3	79.8
	2013	75.1	78.4	80.3	80.8	75.6	80.4	52.7	67.3	74.4	74.0
	2011	71.9	80.8	77.0	88.9	79.4	87.0	71.0	66.9	58.3	64.0
When you want to share your happiness with your family members	2017	82.7	85.0	89.1	93.1	86.7	98.3	47.0	80.2	77.7	86.9
	2015	82.0	85.4	91.8	91.5	87.4	90.6	58.5	84.6	76.3	79.0
	2013	79.0	86.6	90.3	95.6	89.2	91.8	79.7	85.3	77.8	86.1
	2011	75.8	86.4	82.7	91.7	89.5	92.9	68.9	72.4	60.1	83.3

## Chapter 10 | Awareness of Family-related Programmes

### *10.1 Introduction*

- 10.1.1 The Government and quite a number of non-government organisations (NGOs) organised family-related activities/programmes from time to time. However, majority of the respondents indicated that they were not aware of any family-related promotional activities or programmes organised by the Government and/or other organisations. Apart from gathering information on the level of awareness, reasons for not participating in family-related activities/programmes were also collected in the Survey. In addition, attitudes towards family counseling and family education services were solicited from the respondents who had participated in any family-related promotional activities or programmes organised by the Government and/or other organisations.
- 10.1.2 In addition, the **correlations** between the level of awareness of any family-related promotion of the Government and / or other organisations and the existing concept of family among the public in two areas, namely importance of family and satisfaction with family life were also examined in this Chapter.

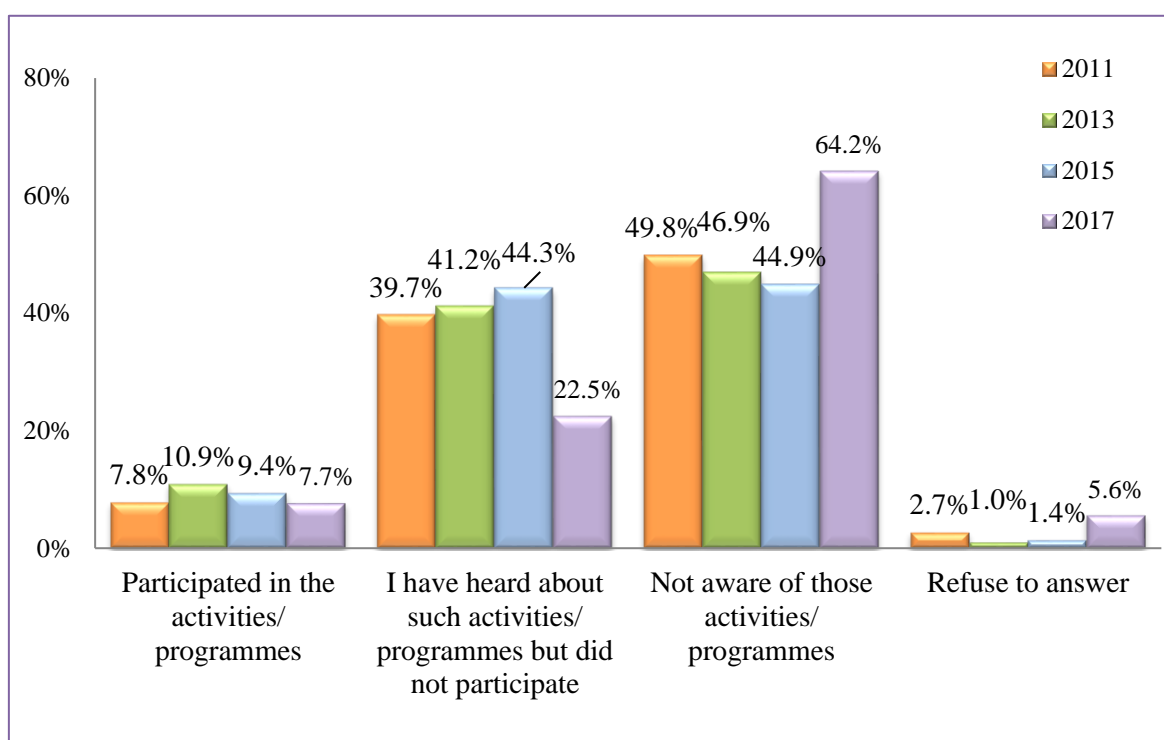
## 10.2 Awareness and Perceived Effectiveness of Family-related Programmes

### Awareness of family-related programmes

10.2.1 *Nearly half of the respondents were not aware of any family-related promotional activities or programmes organised by the Government and/or NGOs.* In 2017, 64% of the respondents were not aware of such programmes and 23% had heard of such programmes but had not participated. 8% participated in programmes organised by the Government and/or NGOs.

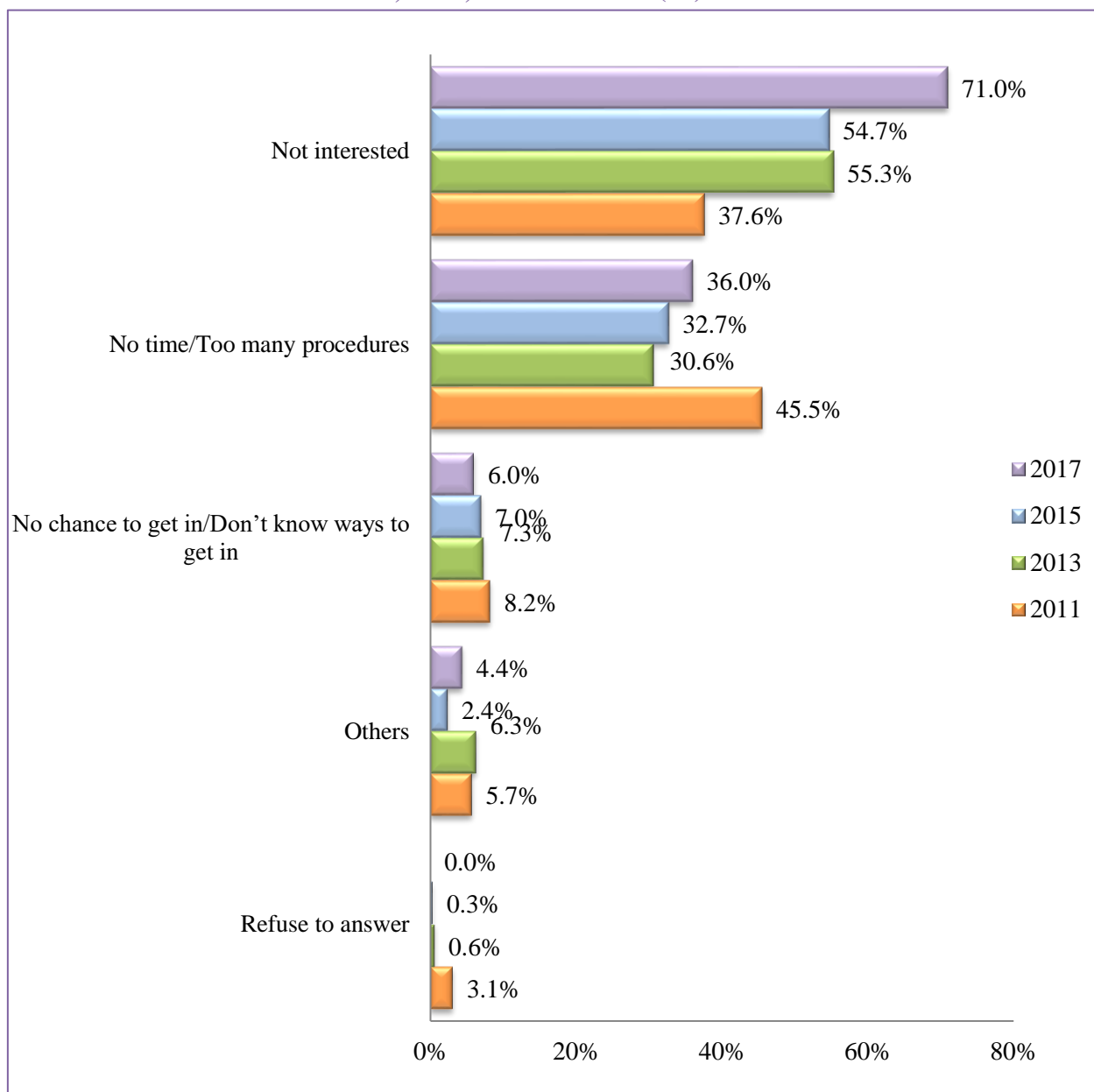
10.2.2 With the findings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 compared, there was an increase of respondents being not aware of the activities/programmes.

**Table 10.2.1: Awareness of family-related activities in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**



10.2.3 Among 23% of the respondents who had heard about the family-related activities/programmes but had not participated in those family-related programmes, their main reason for not participating was “not interested” (71%) in 2017. Another reason was that the respondents had no time to participate in such programmes or such programmes involved too many procedures (36%).

**Table 10.2.2: Main reasons for not participating in the family-related activities in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**



10.2.4 Across all age groups, participation rate of those family-related programmes was relatively low (from 0% to 6%). Relatively speaking, elder respondents were the most active.

**Table 10.2.3: Awareness of family-related activities by age group in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	15-34	35-54	55 or above	Total
Participated in the activities / programmes	2017	0.0	3.3	6.2	3.7
	2015	7.7	10.4	9.8	9.4
	2013	7.3	14.6	9.9	10.9
	2011	4.1	10.5	8.2	7.8
I have heard about such activities/ programmes but did not participate	2017	19.1	14.6	26.9	21.5
	2015	42.5	48.0	41.8	44.3
	2013	41.6	43.0	38.6	41.2
	2011	36.7	43.4	37.9	39.7
Not aware of those activities/ programmes	2017	73.8	79.2	54.2	66.3
	2015	47.4	40.7	47.3	44.9
	2013	49.1	42.0	50.7	46.9
	2011	55.5	43.7	51.9	49.8

**Table 10.2.4: Awareness of family-related activities by marital status and gender in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

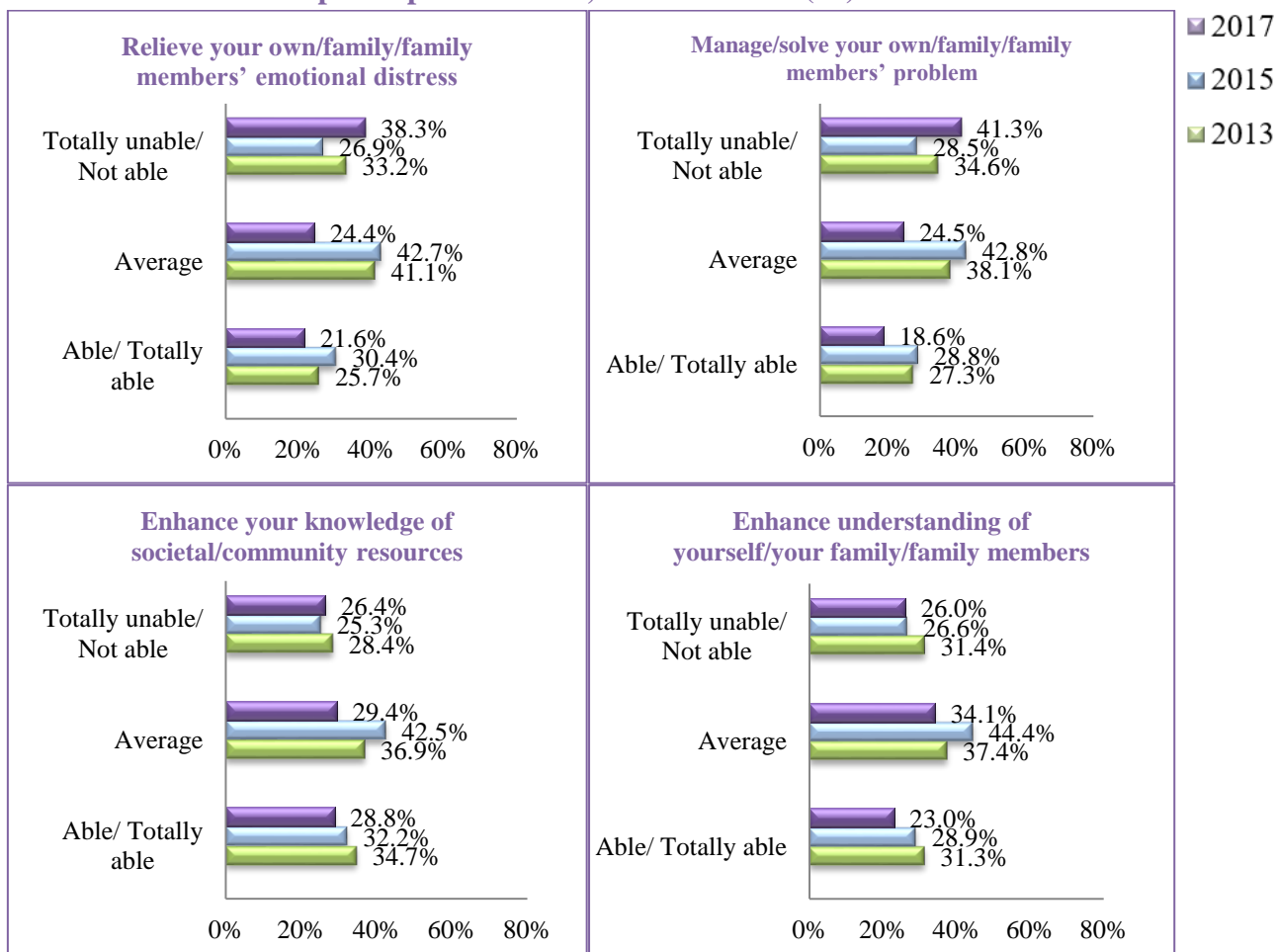
	Year	Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Participated in the activities / programmes	2017	2.6	3.0	4.4	7.0	1.4	0.0	2.4	3.8	0.0	4.6
	2015	2.7	2.4	1.2	0.7	8.3	8.2	5.4	5.8	5.3	7.2
	2013	4.1	6.0	3.6	7.7	14.9	14.3	4.6	18.1	14.6	13.6
	2011	3.5	4.0	0.0	1.3	10.2	12.4	6.2	8.1	7.3	14.7
I have heard about such activities/ programmes but did not participate	2017	23.2	21.7	21.9	25.3	23.4	22.7	28.4	19.8	28.1	18.3
	2015	42.6	48.3	54.0	40.2	46.3	43.3	26.3	45.5	45.9	36.3
	2013	44.2	44.2	47.8	35.9	39.2	40.3	60.3	38.6	40.6	31.4
	2011	37.4	36.5	55.1	46.2	44.4	39.0	33.6	31.4	27.9	39.6
Not aware of those activities/ programmes	2017	68.4	69.3	69.7	60.8	69.2	69.9	60.6	73.6	65.2	69.3
	2015	48.9	42.9	38.3	54.7	40.1	44.1	63.5	39.1	48.8	54.8
	2013	50.5	46.8	44.9	56.4	45.7	44.9	35.1	43.3	43.5	54.1
	2011	55.0	56.1	44.9	48.7	44.2	46.9	58.7	54.9	55.2	44.7

*Perceived effectiveness on family counselling and family education services*

10.2.5 Among the 8% of the respondents who had participated in programmes organised by the Government and/or NGOs, their perceived effectiveness on family counseling and family education services varied.

10.2.6 With the findings in 2013, 2015 and 2017 compared, the trend observed was quite stable.

**Table 10.2.5: Perceived effectiveness on family-related programmes among the participants in 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**



## *Family-related Programmes and Satisfaction with Family Life*

10.2.7 Correlating participation in family-related programmes and satisfaction with family life, the pattern of satisfaction with family life was similar no matter whether the respondents had participated in family-related programmes or not.

**Table 10.2.6: Participation of family-related programmes by satisfaction with family life in 2013, 2015 and 2017 (%)**

	Year	Satisfied	Average	Dissatisfied
Participated in the activities / programmes	2017	86.5	13.5	-
	2015	71.5	23.2	1.8
	2013	77.7	18.8	3.3
I have heard about such activities/ programmes but did not participate	2017	81.3	14.3	4.4
	2015	79.6	18.0	2.0
	2013	73.9	21.8	2.9
Not aware of those activities/ programmes	2017	80.7	14.8	4.5
	2015	81.6	15.4	2.3
	2013	78.2	17.9	2.5

### *Views collected from focus group discussions*

10.2.8 Apart from the findings collected from the questionnaire survey, views on participation of family-related programmes were solicited during the focus group discussions. Most of the focus group participants indicated that they would not participate in family-related programmes organised by the Government or NGOs. Some of the younger participants perceived that most of the activities were organised for the elderly. Some of the younger participants indicated that they needed to work overtime or take care of their children, therefore, if they had extra time, they would choose to take more rest at home instead of participating family-related programmes.

10.2.9 On the other hand, some participants from single-parent families of higher income group respondents reported that some support provided by the Government or NGOs were not applicable to them. Some of them agreed that they prefer to handle themselves if they need help as they find nowhere to seek help from.

## Chapter 11 | Conclusion and Recommendation

### 11.1 Conclusions

#### *Importance of family*

- 11.1.1 Results of the Survey in 2017 indicated that there was a significant drop to 44% of respondents holding traditional family values like “having a son to continue family name”, “having a son is better than having a daughter”, “family disgrace should be kept within the family” and “work hard to bring honor to the family”. It was observed the decrease of respondents aged 15 – 34 and aged 35 – 54) are relatively more than the respondents aged 55 or above.
- 11.1.2 There were still quite a number of people considering marriage as a necessary step in life and that child bearing was important in marriage (55% and 48% respectively in 2017), the trend observed was quite stable. The attitude towards singlehood and cohabitation was similar over years.
- 11.1.3 Concerning the attitudes on divorce, the trend was steady over years as well. Over half of the respondents (58%) agreed that divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple without child who cannot live together harmoniously, however, there was no consensus for couples already had children.
- 11.1.4 On involving grandparents in family matters, about half of the respondents valued the contribution and help of grandparents. However, the degree of involvement of grandparents should be further explored and discussed. The agreement towards the responsibility of grandparents in disciplining their grandchildren and intervening the parenting methods dropped in 2017.
- 11.1.5 In general, most people practiced filial piety (caring, respecting, greeting, pleasing, obeying and providing financial support) to their parents. The trend was quite stable over the seven years.



## *Parenthood*

- 11.1.6 47% of the parents often found the stress of raising children overwhelming. With the findings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 compared, decreasing percentage of parents who often found the stress of raising their children overwhelming was observed in 2017. In the meanwhile, 45% of parents claimed that they had no private time, about two-thirds were happier than before
- 11.1.7 Though 45% of parents claimed that they had no private time, about two-thirds were happier than before. Regarding parental stress after the birth of child, despite the lack of personal time, most parents were found happier than before.
- 11.1.8 About half of parents disagreed that grandparents have the responsibility to discipline their grandchildren, on the other hand, slightly more than half of parents stated that grandparents should not intervene in their parenting method.

## *Family functioning and family life satisfaction*

- 11.1.9 Using a sophisticated instrument to assess family functioning, it is found out that two-thirds of the families are functioning well. Family members were dependent on each other and their relationship with one another was close in general.
- 11.1.10 Around three-quarter (76%) respondents were quite satisfied with their family lives. Only 3% were not satisfied with their family life. Compared with the findings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017, the proportion of respondents who were satisfied or very satisfied with their family lives decreased from 80% in 2015 to 76% in 2017.
- 11.1.11 The Survey results indicated that time spent with parents was limited. With the findings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 compared, there is a decreasing percentage of people spending time to talk with their partner and children
- 11.1.12 Increasing percentage of people including grandparents, parents and children frequently or sometimes used modern technologies (e.g. SMS, WhatsApp) in communication with family members. In 2017, about half of the respondents frequently or sometimes used modern technologies in communication with partner (7350 children (57%), mothers (54%) and fathers (45%).

### *Balancing work and family*

- 11.1.13 Work-life balance continues to remain a challenge in Hong Kong. It is worth noting that around one-third of those at work found it difficult to strike a balance between work and family in view of competing priorities. 38% of those at work reported stressful in balancing work. With the findings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 compared, fewer respondents in 2017 reported feeling stressful.
- 11.1.14 Notwithstanding the fact that quite a number of people at work reported stress in balancing the competing demands of work and family, 63% of people at work were satisfied with the amount of time spent at work and with family and about 7% were not satisfied.

## *11.2 Recommendation*

### *Family Education*

- 11.2.1 Family is a core component of society. Pursuit of happy family lives is vital in building a harmony society where individual family members are having higher satisfaction. It was observed that frequent communication between family members and trust build among members were the core elements for well-functioned families and thus enhance the satisfaction level of the family members. It is, thus, recommended to strengthen messages in promoting communication and interaction among family members.
- 11.2.2 It is heartening to observe that the role of grandparents in raising and nurturing children is getting more important and reliant. However, there might be some problems raised in the communication between parents and grandparents in their parenting and nurturing methods. Social support to these parents and grandparents might be favourable in avoiding any possible conflicts. Therefore, it is recommended to further promote the messages of proper communication between parents and grandparents in times of tri-parenting. Furthermore, community resources can be set up to support tri-parenting.

### *Family-related programs*

- 11.2.3 It is revealed that family-related programmes, be it preventive, educational or remedial, are not quite aware among the public. It is recommended that social welfare units, including government and NGOs, should consider designing programmes favouring wide variety of target groups among the public, such as those families with higher income group background. Based on survey findings that limited communication between family members, more programmes that targets enhancement of parent-child relationships, and fostering better communication among family embers shall be arranged. Besides, promotion of programmes be strengthened. For example, to facilitate the public to seek for appropriate programmes, it is also suggested that an online platform gathering family programmes organisations different social welfare units could be set up.

### *Family-friendly employment practices*

- 11.2.4 Employers or the top management personnel of corporations and organisations should deliberately communicate with employees in the course of formulating their own FFEPs. The views from the core beneficiaries of the policy, that is the

employees, should be collected. Feeling respect from the employers would boost the morale among the employees. Therefore, it is recommended to promote to the employers that a discussion platform could be established in formulating FFEPs.

- 11.2.5 It is recommended that government should continue to promote the FFEPs among different corporations and organisations, and should further strengthen the promotion to the SMEs. Moreover, government could encourage the employers to promote their FFEPs to their own employees. Employees should get well informed about FFEPs implemented within their workplace.

### *The future of family survey*

- 11.2.6 The findings of the Family Surveys provide a wide range of useful information based on which changes over time in people's attitude and behaviour related to family can be monitored and studied. Yet, questionnaires covering a wide range of topics would result in a longer interviewing time and thus enhance the difficulties in fieldwork. It is recommended that, on top of having a general Family Survey covering a wide range of topics, thematic surveys with specific topics, such as Marriage or Parenting, could be implemented separately and periodically. This would provide more in-depth data for further analysis and policy recommendations, and in the meantime, reduce the length of the questionnaire and interviewing time.
- 11.2.7 Furthermore, for future surveys, in terms of the detailed topics, it may be worthy to further explore and focus that in what aspect that FFEPs could help address the difficulties experienced by families of different backgrounds, such as single-parent families, families with the vulnerable. Family satisfaction among different backgrounds could be further explored as well.

## **Annex | In-depth analysis:**

### **Young respondents (cohort study approach)**

#### ***Introduction***

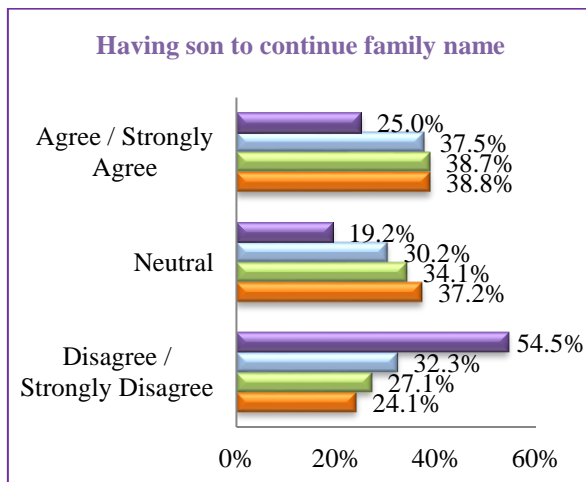
1. Noticing that attitudes towards some values might change over maturity, responses from the respondents of the same age-group over years were selected to be compared, using the cohort study approach.
2. In this chapter, in-depth comparative analysis over years of the youth respondents in four age group segments, namely, those aged 15-17, aged 18-24, aged 25-29 and aged 30-34 over seven years (2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 respectively), is conducted using the retrospective cohort method.
3. The areas of attitudes being compared include:
  - a) Attitudes towards traditional family values;
  - b) Attitudes towards marriage and child; and
  - c) Attitudes towards singlehood, cohabitation and divorce.

#### ***Having son to continue family name***

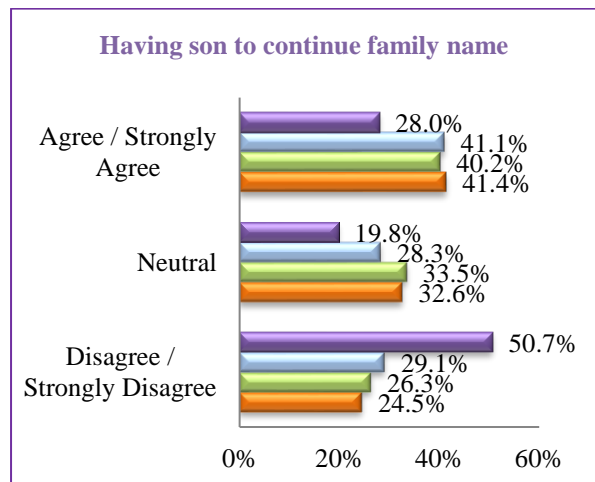
4. For traditional views of having son to continue family name, the percentage of young respondents aged 15 to 17 disagreed/strongly disagreed increased drastically from 24% to 55% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree dropped from 39% to 25%. For the age group 18 to 24, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree increased sharply from 25% to 51% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree dropped from 41% to 28%. For age group 25 to 29, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree increased sharply from 31% to 51% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree decreased from 35% to 18%.
5. All age groups have a similar tendency at converting the attitude from agree to disagree dramatically, and among all age groups, respondents aged 15 to 17 had the largest increment of percentage in the disagree/strongly disagree, which had increased by 30%, and the age group 25 to 29 had the largest decrease in agree/strongly agree percentage, which had dropped by 17%.

**Chart 1: Attitudes towards traditional family value: “Having son to continue family name” among young respondents over seven years (%)**

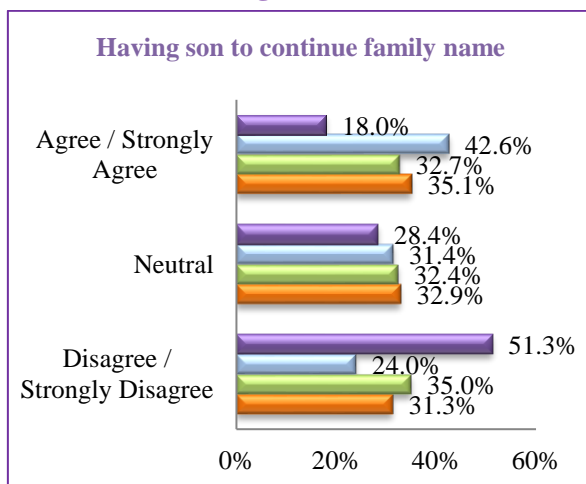
■ 2017  
■ 2015  
■ 2013  
■ 2011



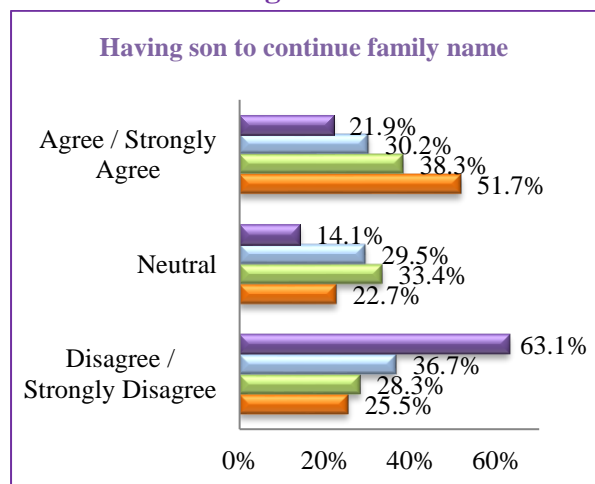
**aged 15-17**



**aged 18-24**



**aged 25-29**



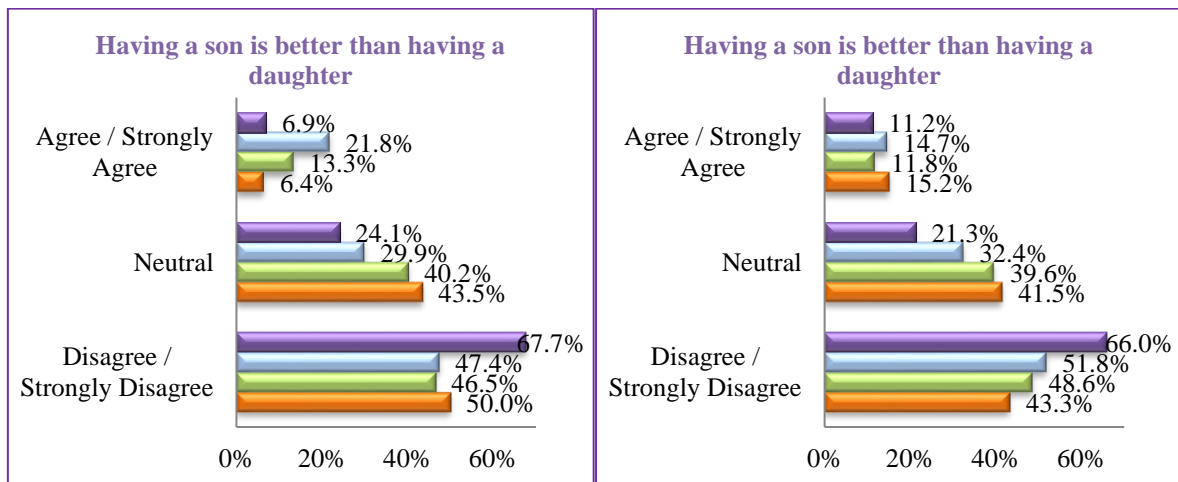
**aged 30-34**

### ***Having a son is better than having a daughter***

6. For traditional views of having a son is better than having a daughter, the percentage of young respondents aged 15 to 17 disagreed/strongly disagreed increased from 50% to 68% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree had only increased slightly from 6% to 7%. For the age group 18 to 24, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree increased from 43% to 66% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree dropped from 15% to 11%. For age group 25 to 29, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree increased from 56% to 70% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree decreased from 12% to 5%.
  
7. Except for the age group 15-17, the percentage of respondents agree/strongly agree of other age groups dropped, and the extent of decrease in the percentage of those aged 25 to 29 is larger than those aged 18 to 24. In terms of the disagree/strongly disagree, all age groups have been resulted in increase over seven years, and the age group 18 to 24 had the largest degree of increase, which is a net increase of 23% over seven years.

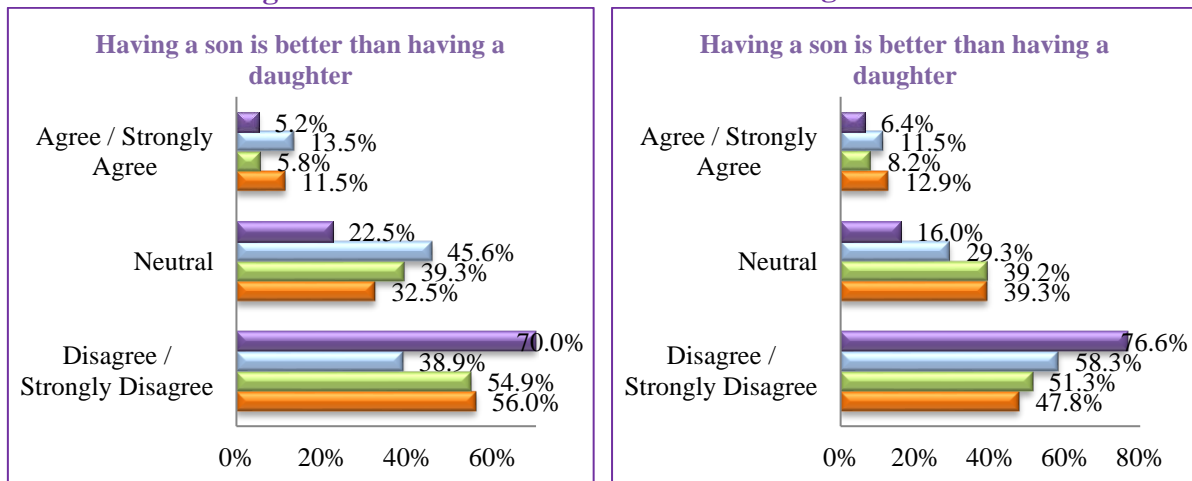
**Chart 2: Attitudes towards traditional family values: “Having a son is better than having a daughter” among young respondents over seven years (%)**

■ 2017  
 ■ 2015  
 ■ 2013  
 ■ 2011



**aged 15-17**

**aged 18-24**



**aged 25-29**

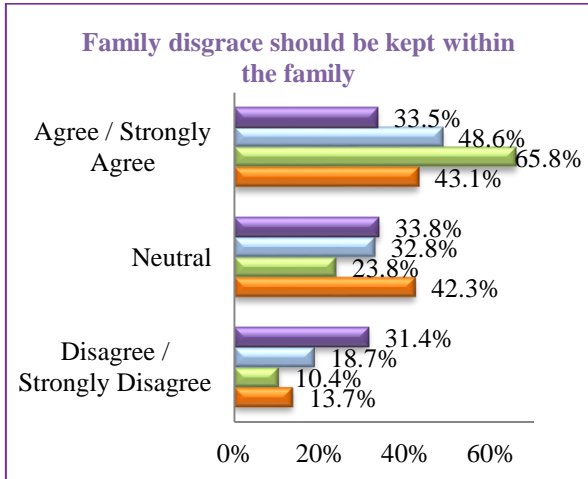
**aged 30-34**



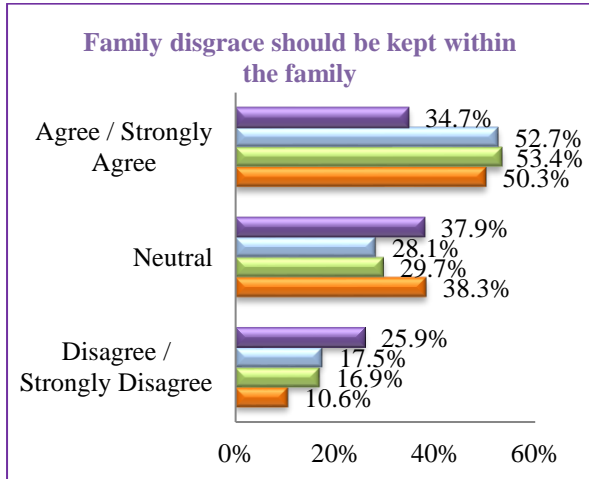
***Family disgrace should be kept within the family.***

8. For traditional views of family disgrace should be kept within the family, the percentage of young respondents aged 15 to 17 disagreed/strongly disagreed increased from 14% to 31% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree had dropped from 43% to 34%. For the age group 18 to 24, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree increased from 11% to 26% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree dropped from 50% to 35%. For age group 25 to 29, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree increased from 15% to 32% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree decreased from 44% to 31%.
  
9. All age group have a similar tendency at converting the attitude from agree to disagree, and among all age groups, the age group 15 to 17 had the largest increase in the disagree/strongly disagree percentage, which had increased by 18%, and the age group 18 to 24 had the largest decrease in agree/strongly agree percentage, which had dropped by 16%.

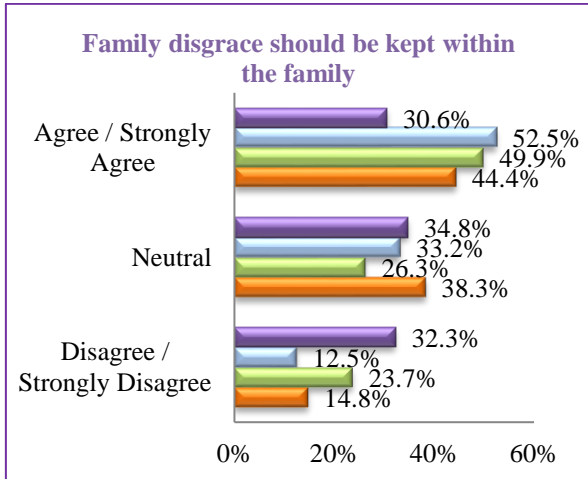
**Chart 3: Attitudes towards traditional family values: “Family disgrace should be kept within the family” among young respondents over seven years (%)**



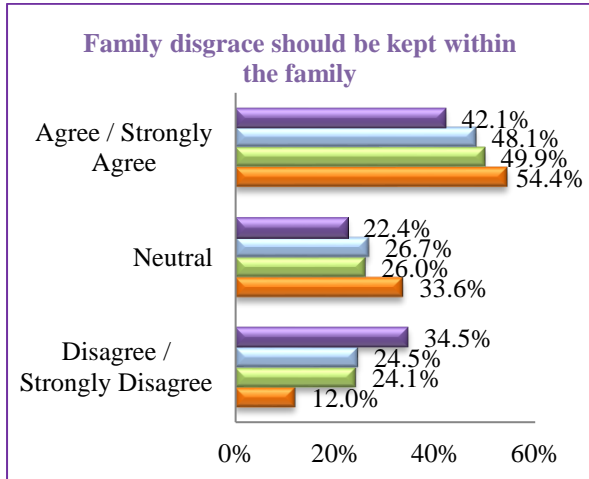
**aged 15-17**



**aged 18-24**



**aged 25-29**

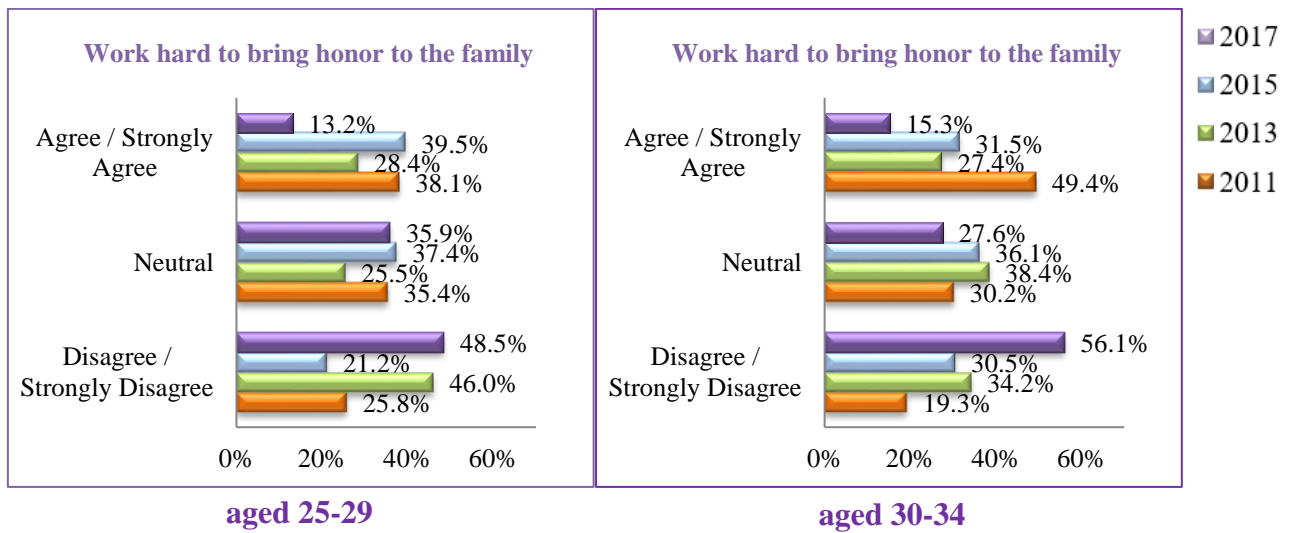
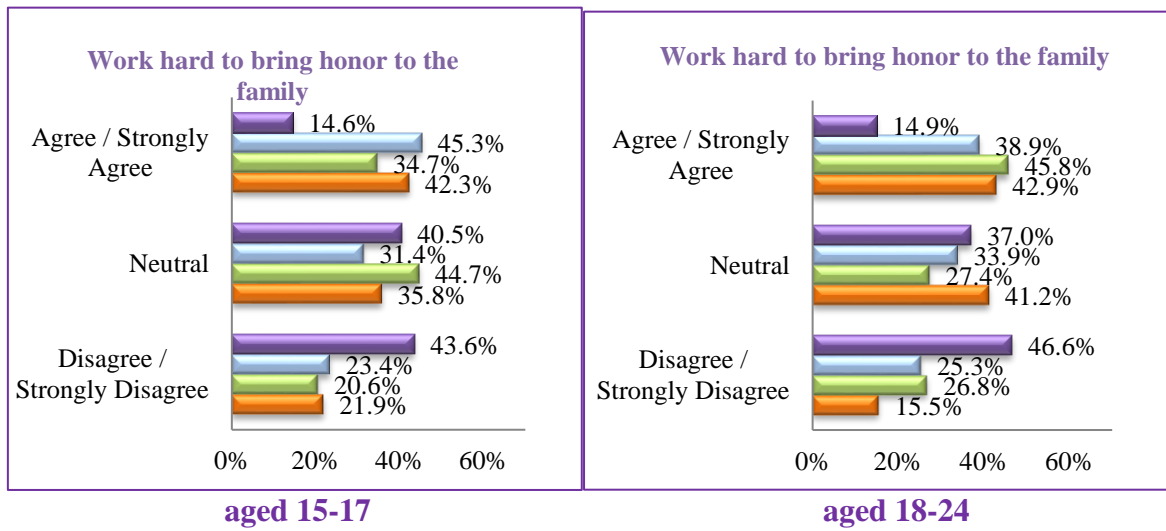


**aged 30-34**

***Work hard to bring honor to the family***

10. For traditional views of work hard to bring honor to the family, the percentage of young respondents aged 15 to 17 disagreed/strongly disagreed increased drastically from 22% to 44% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree dropped dramatically from 42% to 15%. For the age group 18 to 24, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree increased sharply from 16% to 47% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree dropped from 43% to 15%. For age group 25 to 29, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree increased sharply from 26% to 49% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree decreased from 38% to 13%.
  
11. All age group have a similar tendency at converting the attitude from agree to disagree dramatically, and among all age groups, the age group 18 to 24 had the largest increase in the disagree/strongly disagree percentage, which had increased by 31%, and the age group 18 to 24 had the largest decrease in agree/strongly agree percentage, which had dropped by 28%.

**Chart 4: Attitudes towards traditional family values : “Work hard to bring honor to the family” among young respondents over seven years (%)**

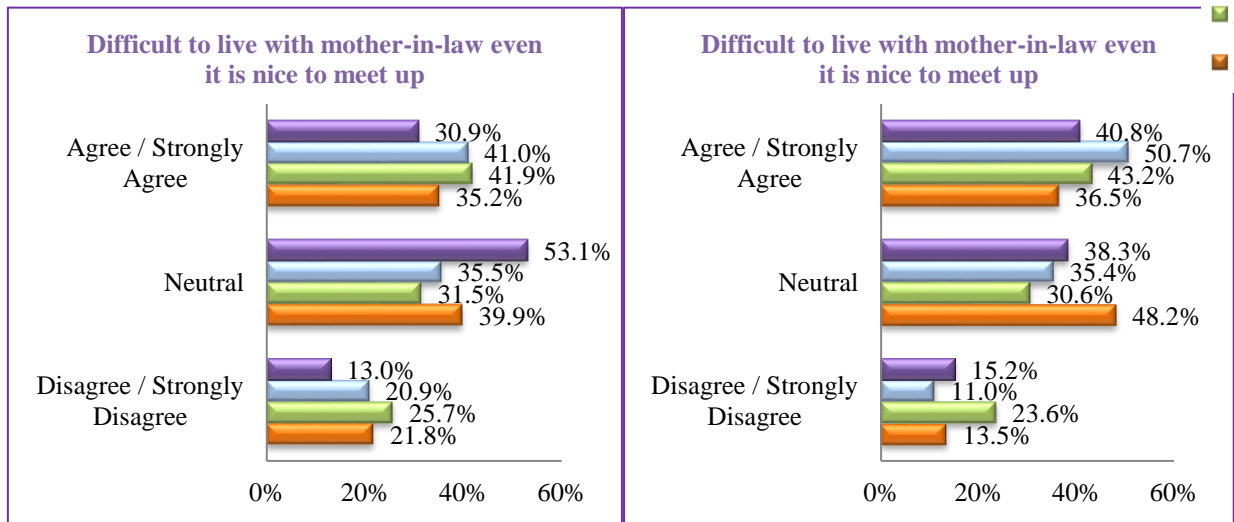


*Difficult to live with mother-in-law even it is nice to meet up*

12. For traditional views of difficult to live with mother-in-law even it is nice to meet up, the percentage of young respondents aged 15 to 17 disagreed/strongly disagreed decreased from 22% to 13% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree had also decreased from 35% to 31%. For the age group 18 to 24, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree increased slightly from 14% to 15% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree also increased slightly from 37% to 41%. For age group 25 to 29, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree decreased from 15% to 10% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree remained 42%.
  
13. The change of attitude of this question did not change as much, and there is no common trend of this 3 age groups. The age group 15 to 17 had both agree and disagree percentage reduced and the percentage of neutral attitude had been increased from 40% to 53%. The age group 18 to 24 on the other hand had an increasingly diverged attitude, with both slight increase in disagree and agree percentage. For age group 25 to 29, the percentage of disagree had been converted to neutral or refuse to answer.

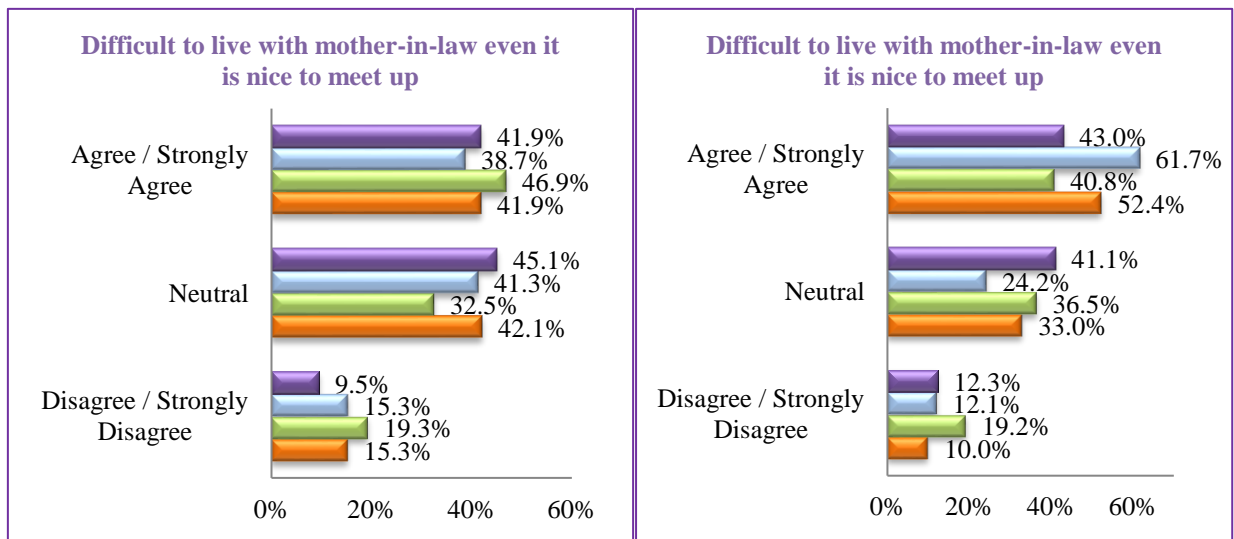
**Chart 5: Attitudes towards traditional family values: “Difficult to live with mother-in-law even it is nice to meet up” among young respondents over seven years (%)**

■ 2017  
 ■ 2015  
 ■ 2013  
 ■ 2011



**aged 15-17**

**aged 18-24**



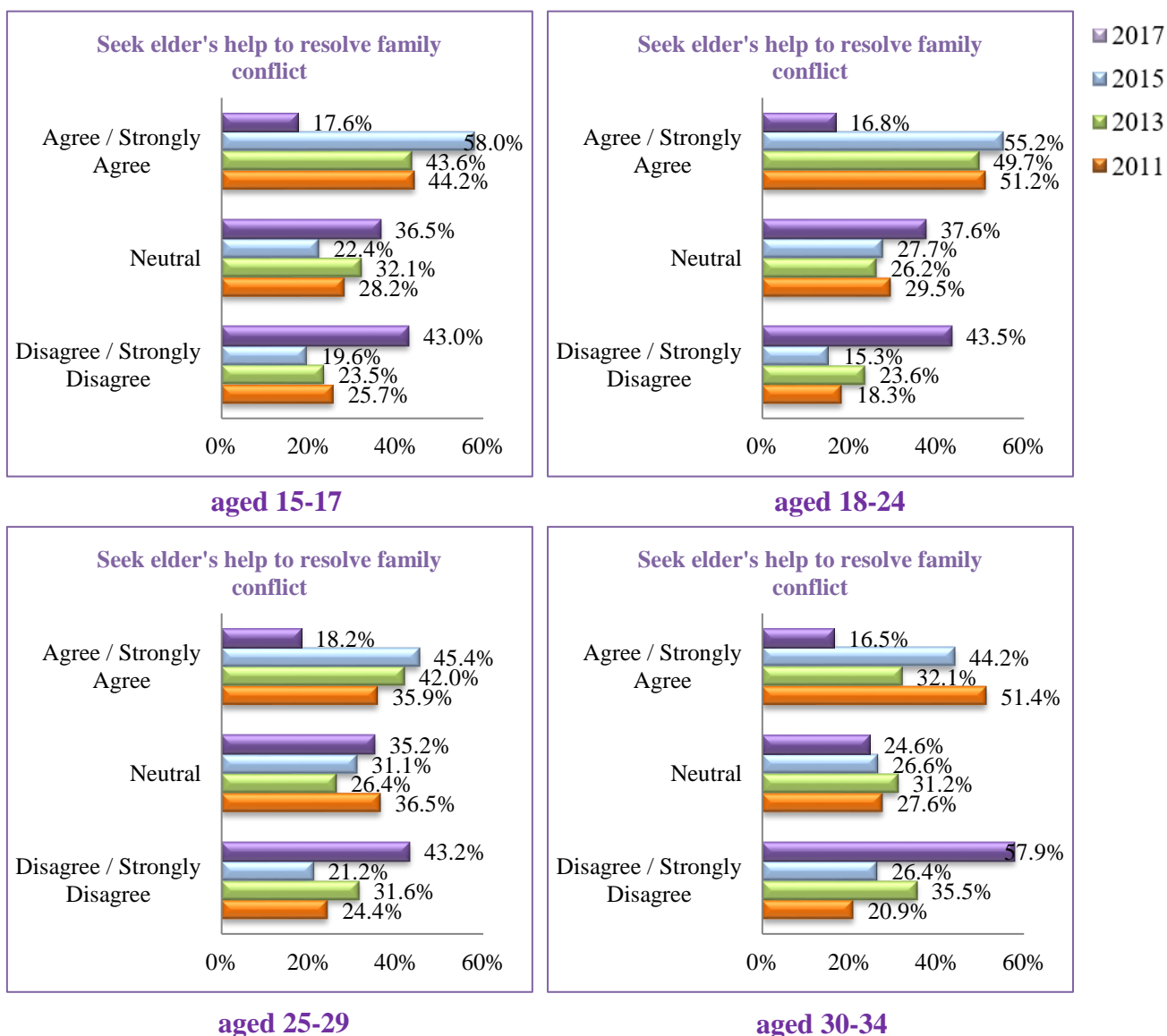
**aged 25-29**

**aged 30-34**

*Seek elder's help to resolve family conflict*

14. For the statement seek elder's help to resolve family conflict, the percentage of young respondents aged 15 to 17 disagreed/strongly disagreed increased from 26% to 43% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree dropped from 44% to 18%. For the respondents aged 18 to 24, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree had increased from 18% to 44%, while the percentage of agree/strongly agree were decreased drastically from 51% to 17%. For the respondents aged 25 to 29, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were increased from 24% to 43%, while the percentage of agree/strongly agree were decreased from 36% to 18%.
  
15. All age groups had the same tendency of increased disagree attitude and decreased agree attitude towards this statement, and the age group 18 to 24 had the largest increase in disagree attitude among 3 groups, which is 25%. The age group 18 to 24 had also the largest decrease in agree attitude, which is 34%

**Chart 6: Attitudes towards advice seeking within the family: “Seek elder’s help to resolve family conflict” among young respondents over seven years (%)**

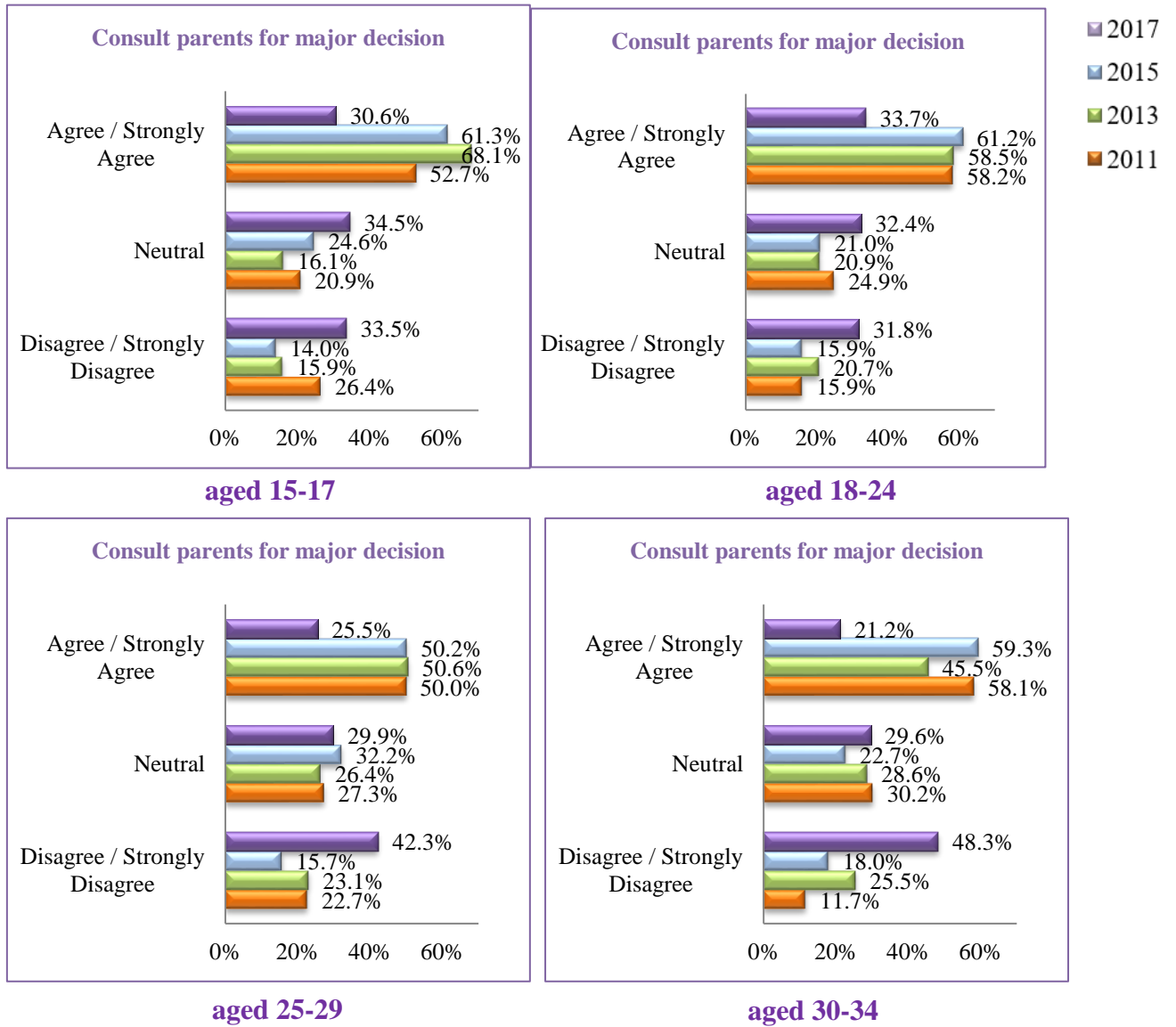




*Consult parents for major decision*

16. For the statement consult parents for major decision, the percentage of young respondents aged 15 to 17 disagreed/strongly disagreed increased from 26% to 34% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree dropped from 53% to 31%. For the respondents aged 18 to 24, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree had increased from 16% to 32%, while the percentage of agree/strongly agree were decreased drastically from 58% to 34%. For the respondents aged 25 to 29, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were increased from 23% to 42%, while the percentage of agree/strongly agree were decreased from 50% to 26%.
17. All age groups had same tendency of increased disagreement attitude and decreased agreement attitude towards this statement, the age group 18 to 24 had the same degree of decrease in the agreement attitude with the age group 25 to 29, which is 25%. The age group 15 to 17 had the least degree of decrease, which is 23%. The age group 25 to 29 had the largest degree of increase, which is 20%.

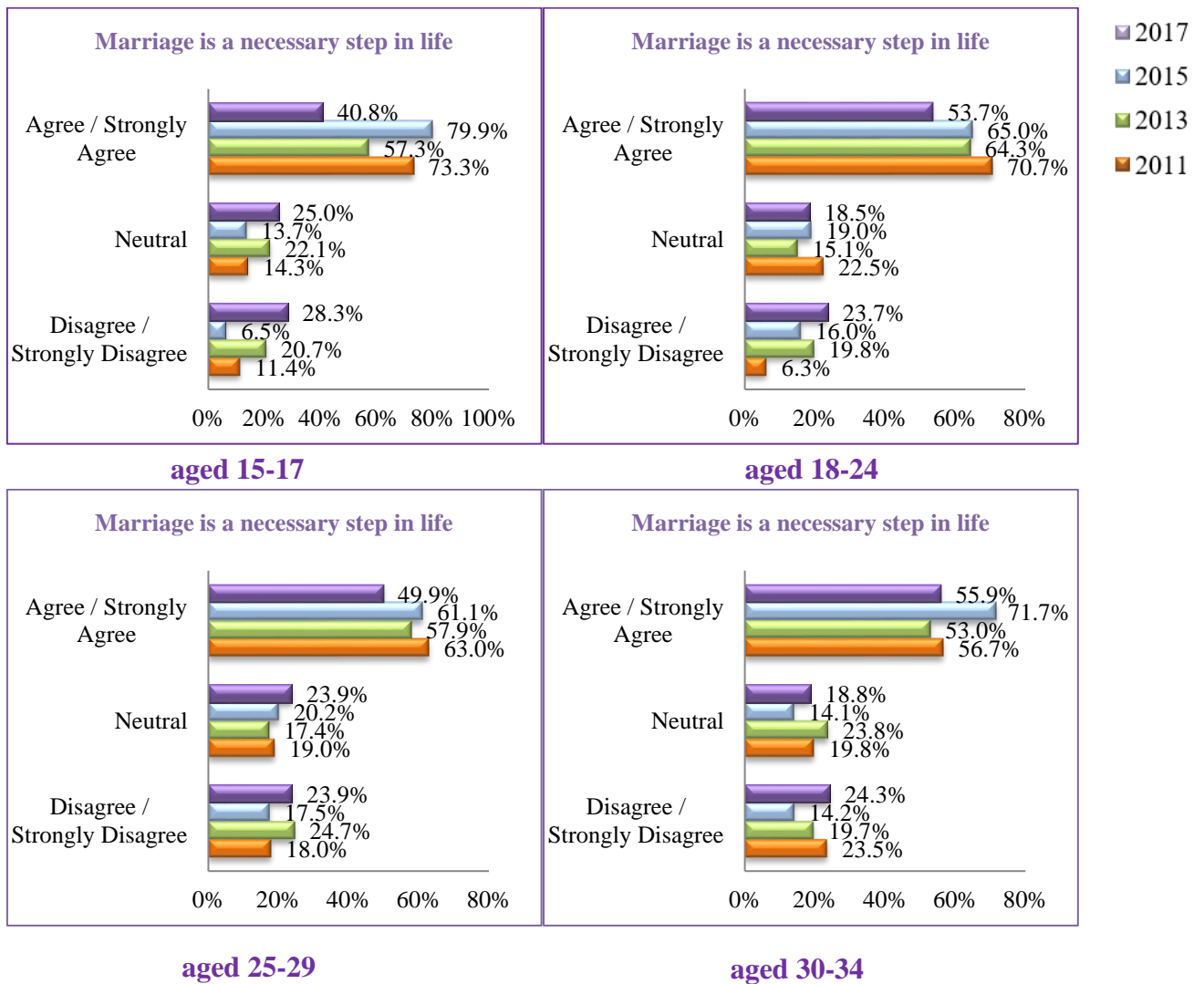
**Chart 7: Attitudes towards advice seeking within the family: “Consult parents for major decision” among young respondents over seven years (%)**



*Marriage is a necessary step in life*

18. For the attitude towards the statement marriage is a necessary step in life, the percentage of young respondents aged 15 to 17 disagreed/strongly disagreed increased from 11% to 28% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree dropped from 73% to 41%. For the respondents aged 18 to 24, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were increased from 6% to 24%, while the percentage of agree/strongly agree were decreased from 71% to 54%. For the respondents aged 25 to 29, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were increased from 18% to 24%, and the percentage of agree/strongly disagree were decreased from 63% to 50%.
  
19. All age groups had the same tendency of increased disagree attitude and decreased agree attitude towards this statement. The age group 18 to 24 had the largest degree of increase in disagree percentage over seven years, which is 17%. The age group 15 to 17 had the largest degree of decrease in agree percentage over seven years, which is 33%.

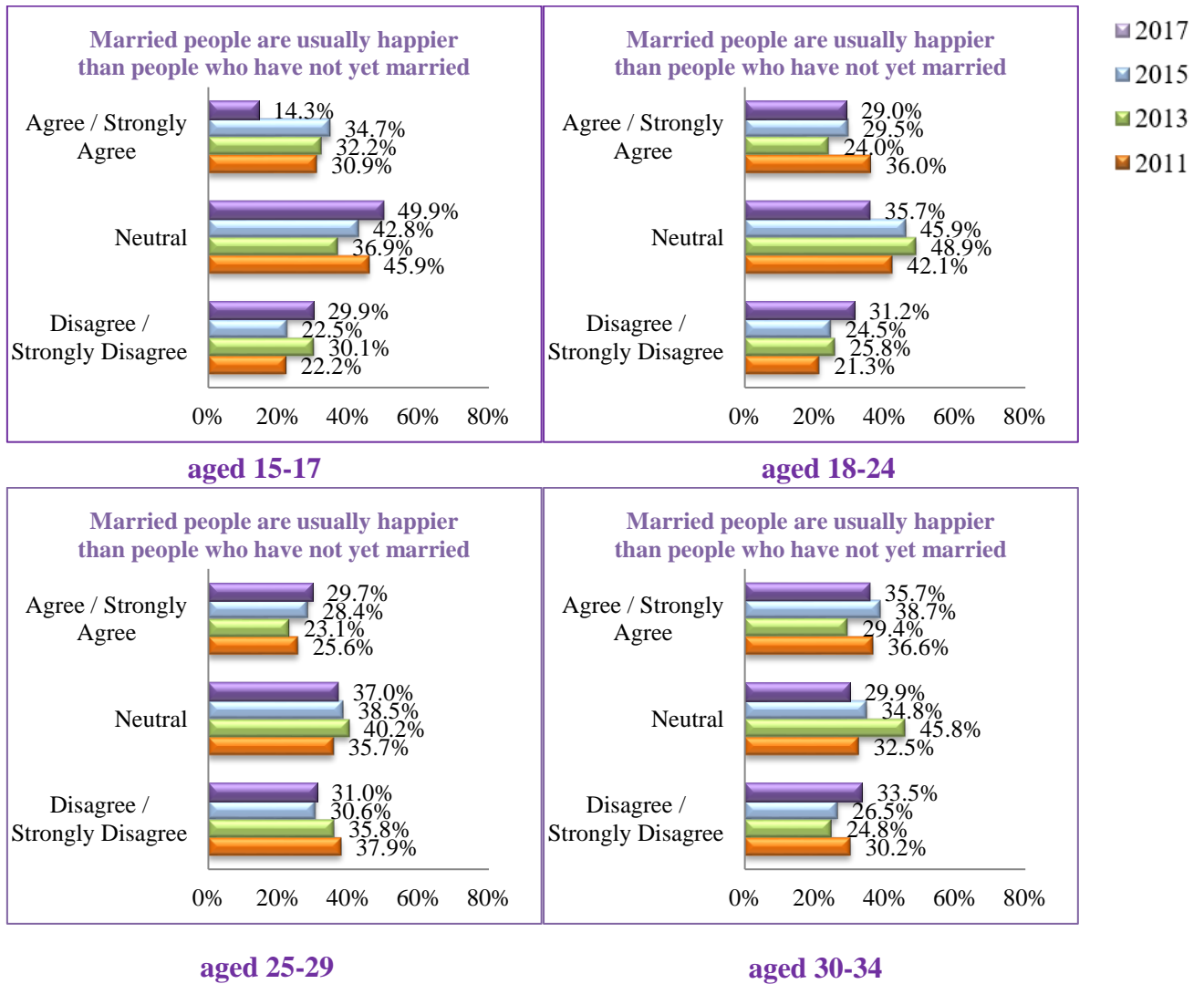
**Chart 8: Attitudes towards marriage and having child: “Marriage is a necessary step in life” among young respondents over seven years (%)**



*Married people are usually happier than people who have not yet married*

20. For the attitude towards the statement married people are usually happier than people who have not yet married, the percentage of young respondents aged 15 to 17 disagreed/strongly disagreed increased from 22% to 30% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree dropped from 31% to 14%. For the respondents aged 18 to 24, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were increased from 21% to 31%, while the percentage of agree/strongly agree were decreased from 36% to 29%. For the respondents aged 25 to 29, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were increased from 26% to 30%, and the percentage of agree/strongly disagree were decreased from 38% to 31%.
  
21. All age groups had the same tendency of increased disagree attitude and decreased agree attitude towards this statement. The age group 18 to 24 had the largest degree of increase in disagree percentage over seven years, which is 10%. The age group 15 to 17 had the largest degree of decrease in agree percentage over seven years, which is 17%.

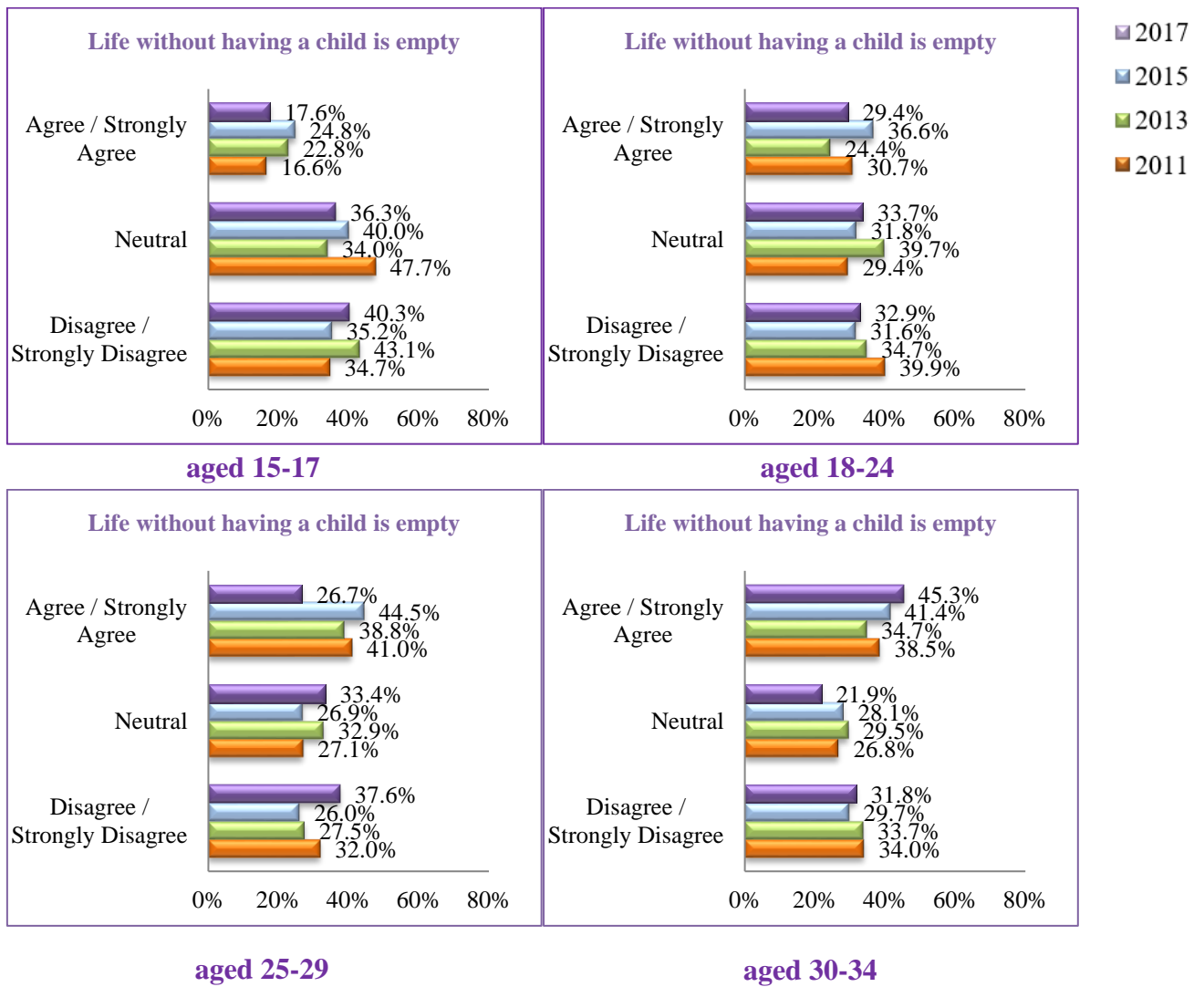
**Chart 9: Attitudes towards marriage and having child: “Married people are usually happier than people who have not yet married” among young respondents over seven years (%)**



*Life without having a child is empty*

22. For the attitude towards the statement married people are usually happier than people who have not yet married, the percentage of young respondents aged 15 to 17 disagreed/strongly disagreed increased from 35% to 40% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree increased very slightly from 17% to 18%. For the respondents aged 18 to 24, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were decreased from 40% to 33%, while the percentage of agree/strongly agree were decreased slightly from 31% to 29%. For the respondents aged 25 to 29, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were increased from 32% to 38%, and the percentage of agree/strongly agree were decreased from 41% to 27%.
23. All age groups had the same trend of increased disagree attitude. For the age group 15 to 17 and 18 to 24, the percentage of disagree were decreased over the seven years, but the percentage of agree remained more or less the same. For the age group 25 to 29, the disagree attitude had also dropped by about 5%, but the degree of agree were decreased by 14%, which is the largest degree of decrease among the 3 groups.

**Chart 10: Attitudes towards marriage and having child: “Life without having a child is empty” among young respondents over seven years (%)**

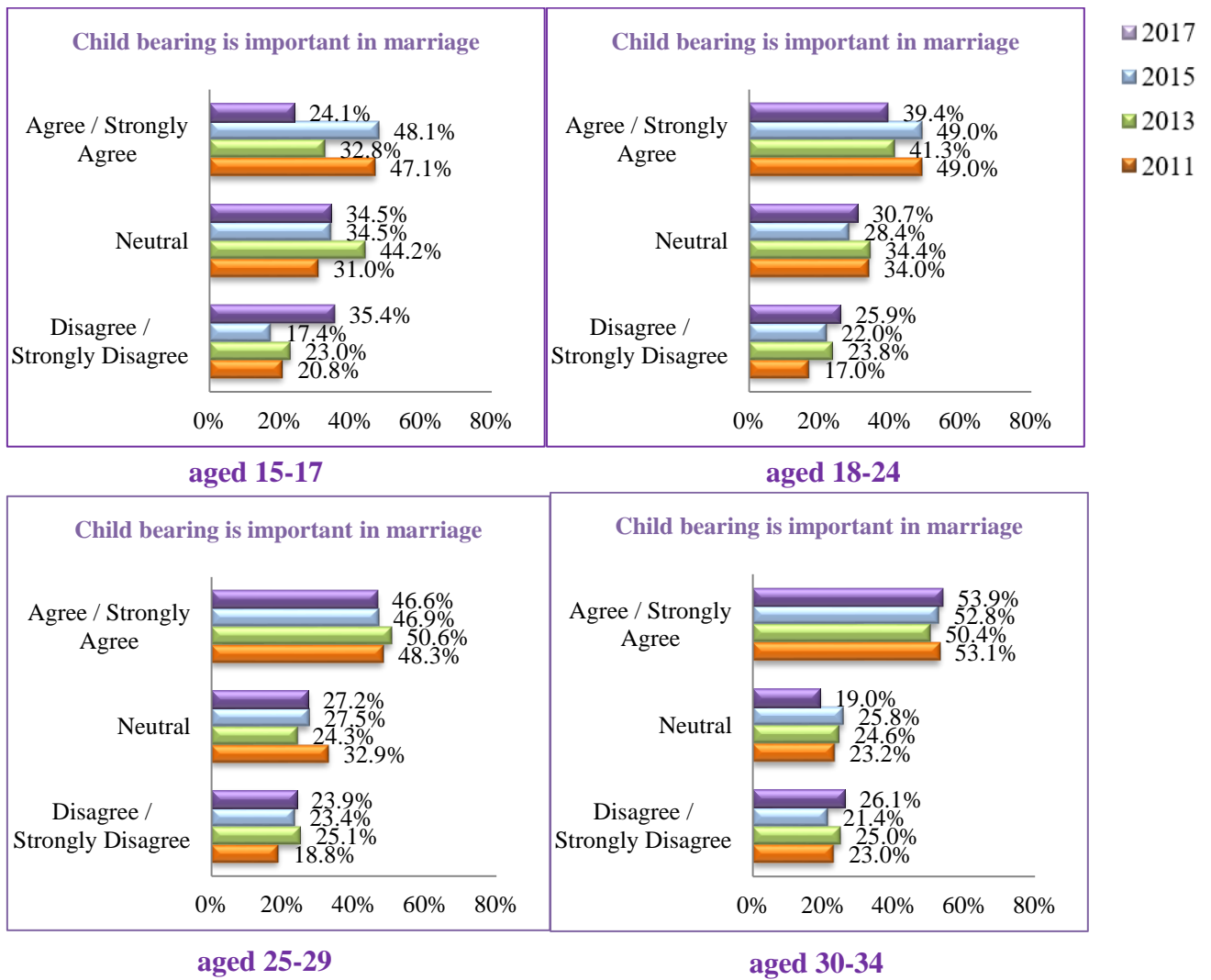




### *Child bearing is important in marriage*

24. For the attitude towards the statement married people are usually happier than people who have not yet married, the percentage of young respondents aged 15 to 17 disagreed/strongly disagreed increased from 21% to 35% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree dropped from 47% to 24%. For the respondents aged 18 to 24, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were increased from 17% to 26%, while the percentage of agree/strongly agree were decreased from 49% to 39%. For the respondents aged 25 to 29, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were increased from 19% to 24%, and the percentage of agree/strongly agree were decreased from 48% to 47%.
  
25. All age groups had the same tendency of increased disagree attitude and decreased agree attitude towards this statement. The age group 15 to 17 had the largest degree of increase in disagree percentage over seven years, which is 15%. The age group 15 to 17 had also the largest degree of decrease in agree percentage over seven years, which is 23%.

**Chart 11: Attitudes towards marriage and having child: “Child bearing is important in marriage” among young respondents over seven years (%)**

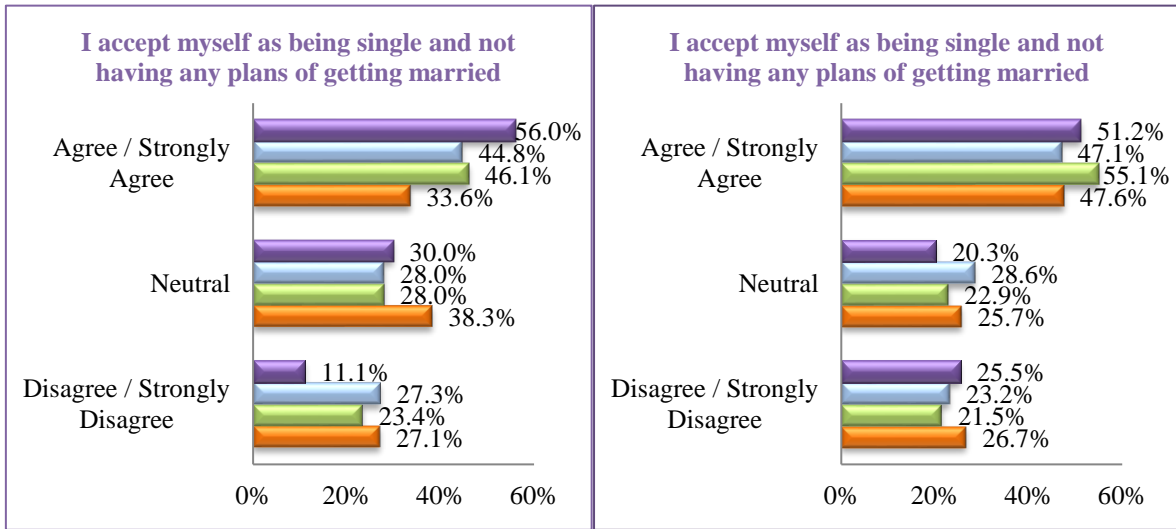


*I accept myself as being single and not having any plans of getting married*

26. For the attitude towards the statement I accept myself as being single and not having any plans of getting married, the percentage of young respondents aged 15 to 17 disagreed/strongly disagreed increased from 34% to 56% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree dropped from 27% to 11%. For the respondents aged 18 to 24, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were increased from 48% to 51%, while the percentage of agree/strongly agree were decreased from 27% to 26%. For the respondents aged 25 to 29, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were increased from 45% to 49%, and the percentage of agree/strongly agree were increased slightly from 23% to 24%.
27. All age groups had the same increasing tendency in disagreement attitude. The age group 15 to 17 had the largest degree of increase in disagree percentage over seven years, which is 22%. The age group 15 to 17 had the largest degree of decrease in agree percentage over seven years, which is 16%.

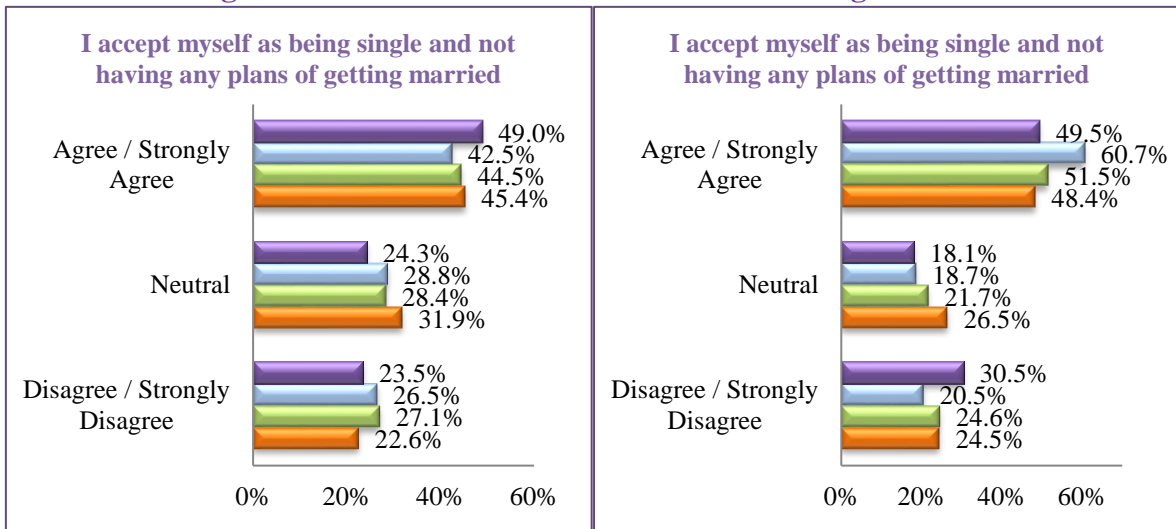
**Chart 12: Attitudes towards singlehood: “I accept myself as being single and not having any plans of getting married” among young respondents over seven years (%)**

■ 2017  
■ 2015  
■ 2013  
■ 2011



**aged 15-17**

**aged 18-24**



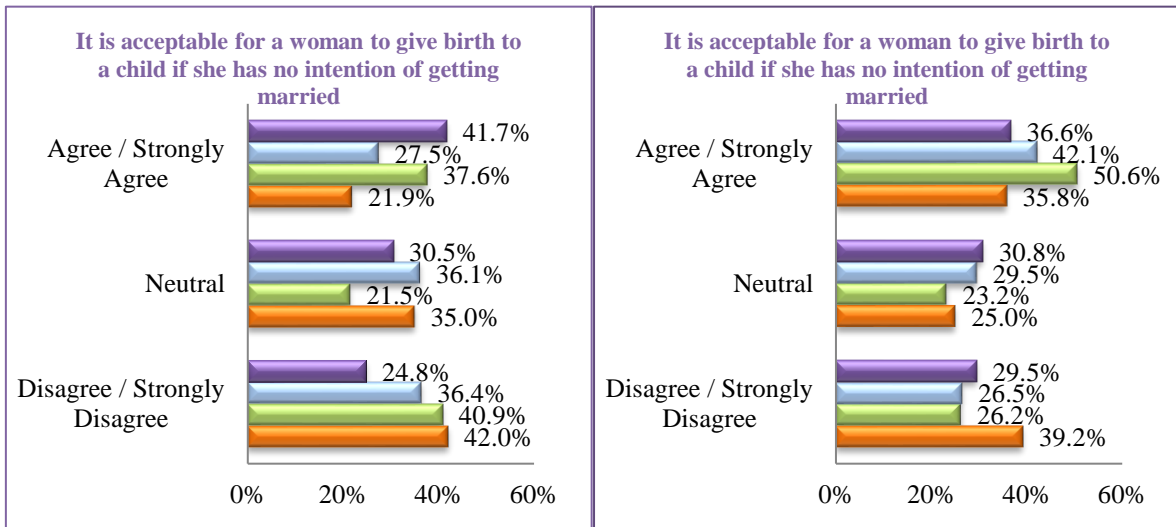
**aged 25-29**

**aged 30-34**

***It is acceptable for a woman to give birth to a child if she has no intention of getting married***

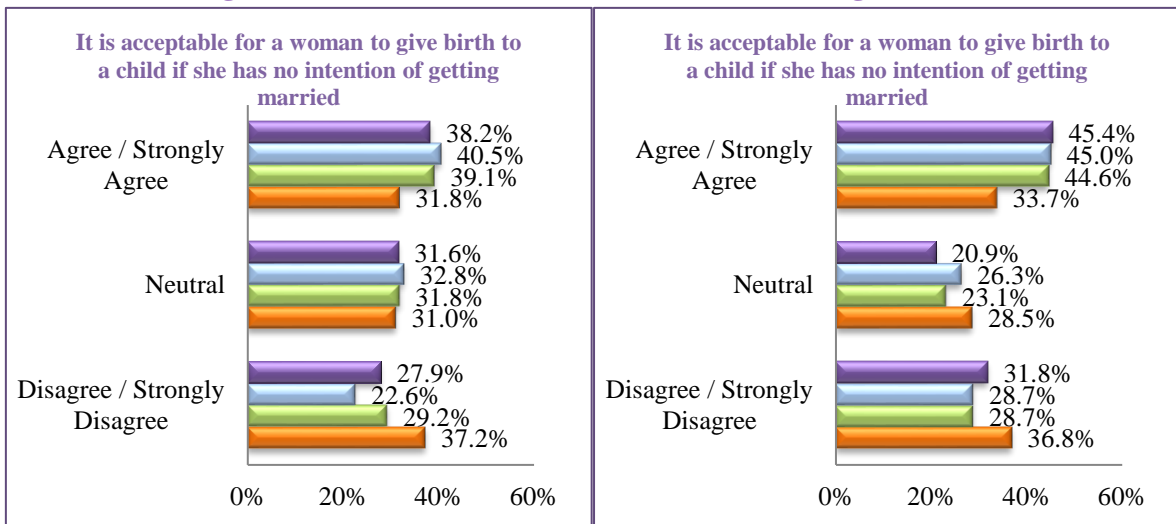
28. For the attitude towards the statement it is acceptable for a woman to give birth to a child if she has no intention of getting married, the percentage of young respondents aged 15 to 17 disagreed/strongly disagreed decreased from 42% to 25% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree increased from 22% to 42%. For the respondents aged 18 to 24, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were decreased from 39% to 30%, while the percentage of agree/strongly agree were increased slightly from 36% to 37%. For the respondents aged 25 to 29, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were decreased from 37% to 28%, and the percentage of agree/strongly agree were increased from 32% to 38%.
29. All age groups had the same tendency of decreased disagree attitude and increased agree attitude. The age group 15 to 17 had the largest degree of decrease in disagree percentage over seven years, which is 17%. The age group 15 to 17 had the largest degree of increase in agree percentage over seven years, which is 20%.

**Chart 13: Attitudes towards singlehood: “It is acceptable for a woman to give birth to a child if she has no intention of getting married” among young respondents over seven years (%)**



**aged 15-17**

**aged 18-24**



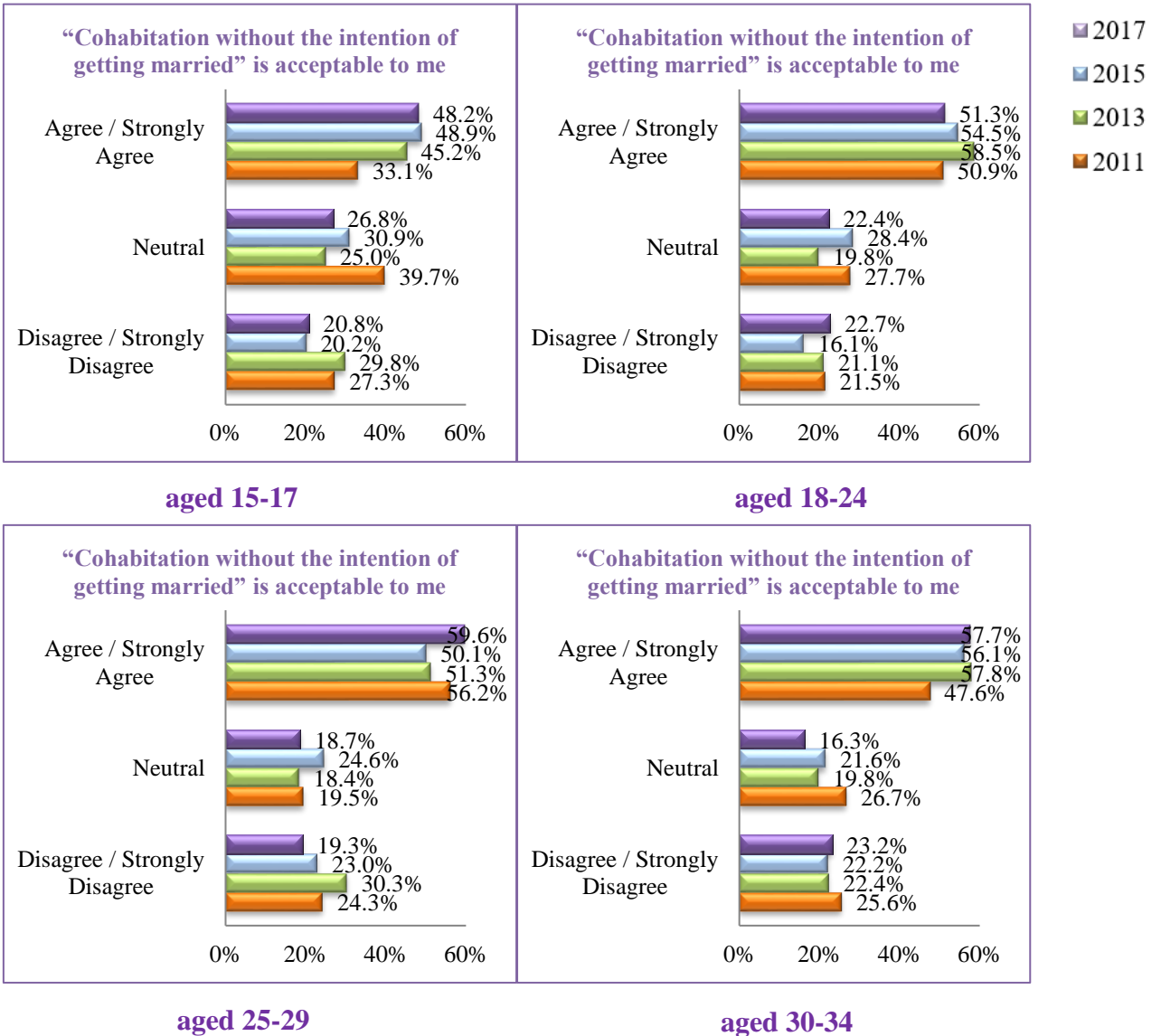
**aged 25-29**

**aged 30-34**

***“Cohabitation without the intention of getting married” is acceptable to me***

30. For the attitude towards the statement “‘Cohabitation without the intention of getting married’ is acceptable to me”, the percentage of young respondents aged 15 to 17 disagreed/strongly disagreed decreased from 27% to 21% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree increased from 33% to 48%. For the respondents aged 18 to 24, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were increased slightly from 22% to 23%. For the respondents aged 25 to 29, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were decreased from 24% to 19%, and the percentage of agree/strongly agree were increased from 56% to 60%.
31. The trend is more or less the same over seven years, the remaining two groups have both decreased disagree attitude and increased agree attitude. And respondents aged 15 to 17 had the largest degree of changes in percentages, the increase of agree percentage is 15% while the decrease of disagree attitude is 7%.

**Chart 14: Attitudes towards cohabiting: “Cohabitation without the intention of getting married’ is acceptable to me” among young respondents over seven years (%)**

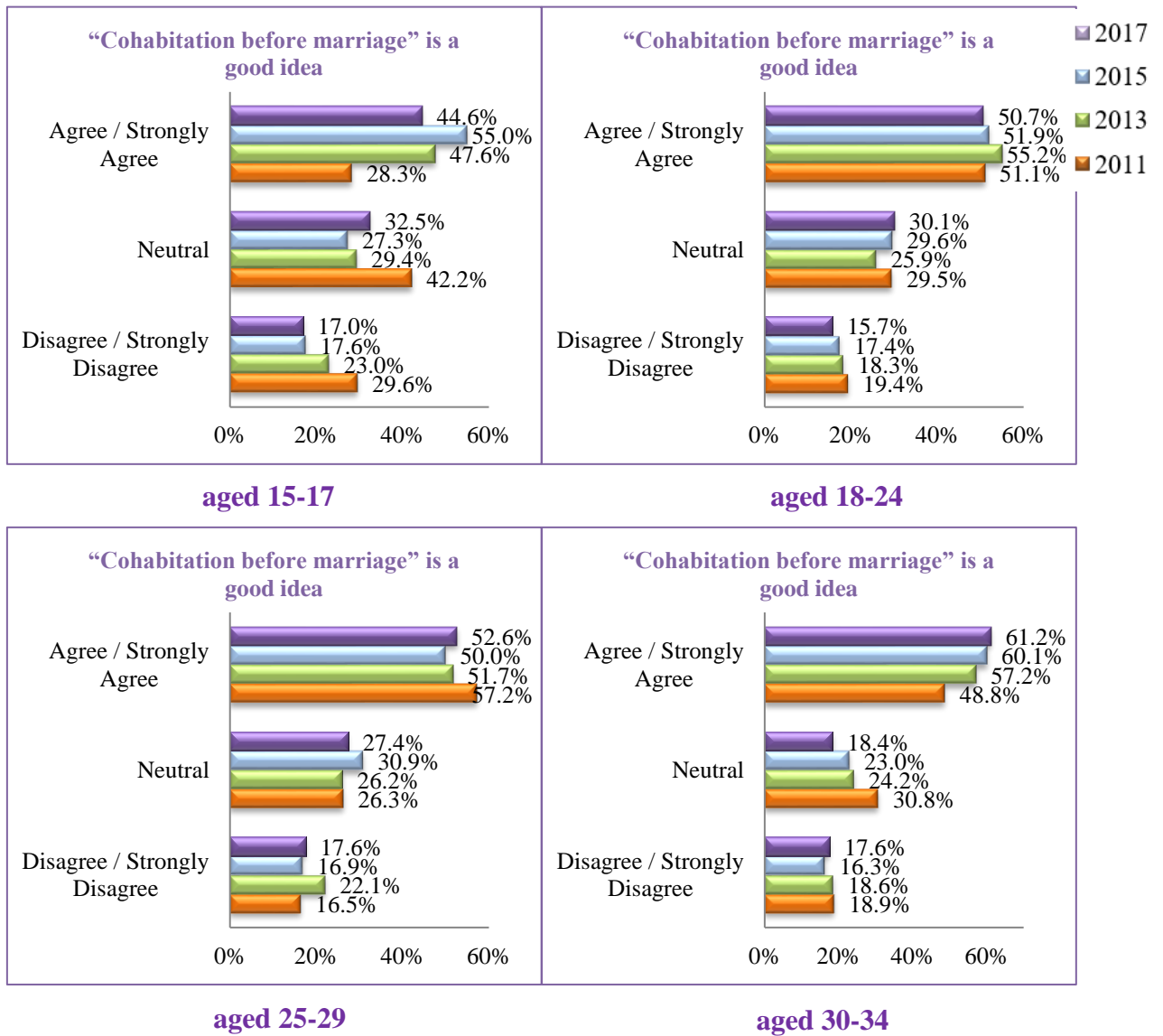




***“Cohabitation before marriage” is a good idea***

32. For the attitude towards the statement “‘Cohabitation before marriage’ is a good idea”, the percentage of young respondents aged 15 to 17 disagreed/strongly disagreed decreased from 30% to 17% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree increased from 28% to 45%. For respondents aged 18 to 24, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were decreased from 19% to 16%, while the percentage of agree/strongly agree were also decreased slightly from 51% to 51%. For the respondents aged 25 to 29, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were increased slightly from 17% to 18%, and the percentage of agree/strongly agree were decreased from 57% to 53%.
33. The age group 15 to 17 had a different trend of attitude change than that of other age groups, the disagree attitude were decreased by 13%, while the agree attitude were increased by 16%. Both 18 to 24 and 25 to 29 age groups had decreased agree attitude, but the disagree attitude changes is very different in the two groups.

**Chart 15: Attitudes towards cohabiting: “Cohabitation before marriage’ is a good idea” among young respondents over seven years (%)**

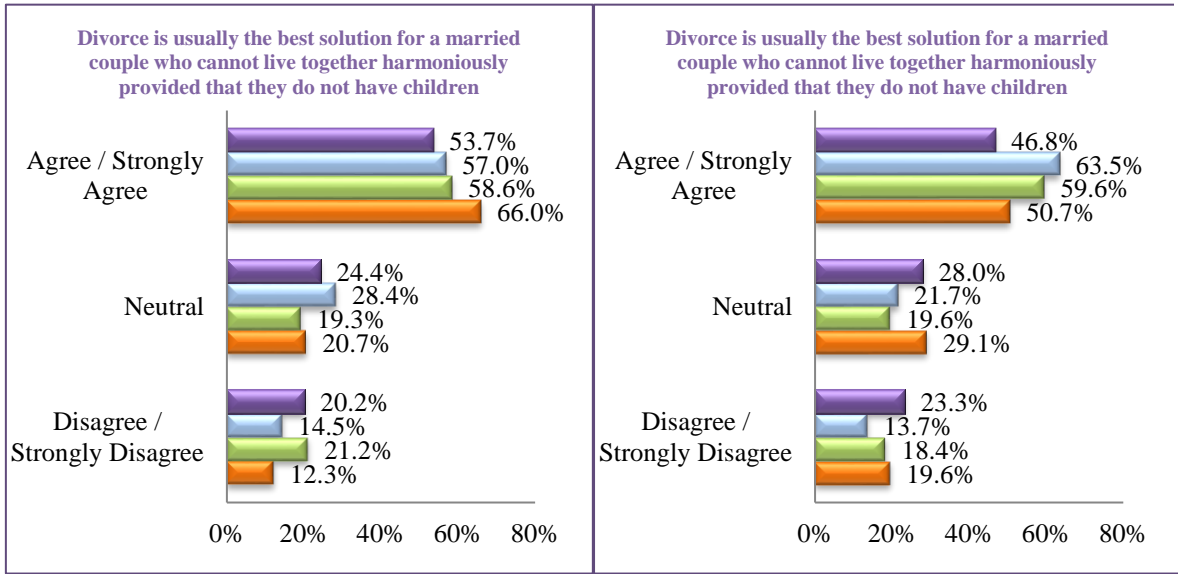


***Divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously provided that they do not have children***

34. For the attitude towards the statement divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously provided that they do not have children, the percentage of young respondents aged 15 to 17 disagreed/strongly disagreed increased from 12% to 20% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree decreased from 66% to 54%. For the respondents aged 18 to 24, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were increased from 20% to 23%, while the percentage of agree/strongly agree were also decreased from 51% to 47%. For the respondents aged 25 to 29, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were increased from 16% to 19%, and the percentage of agree/strongly agree were decreased from 61% to 58%.
35. All age groups had the same tendency of increased disagree attitude and decreased agree attitude. The age group 15 to 17 had the largest degree of increase in disagree percentage over seven years, which is 8%. The age group 15 to 17 had the largest degree of decrease in agree percentage over seven years, which is 12%.

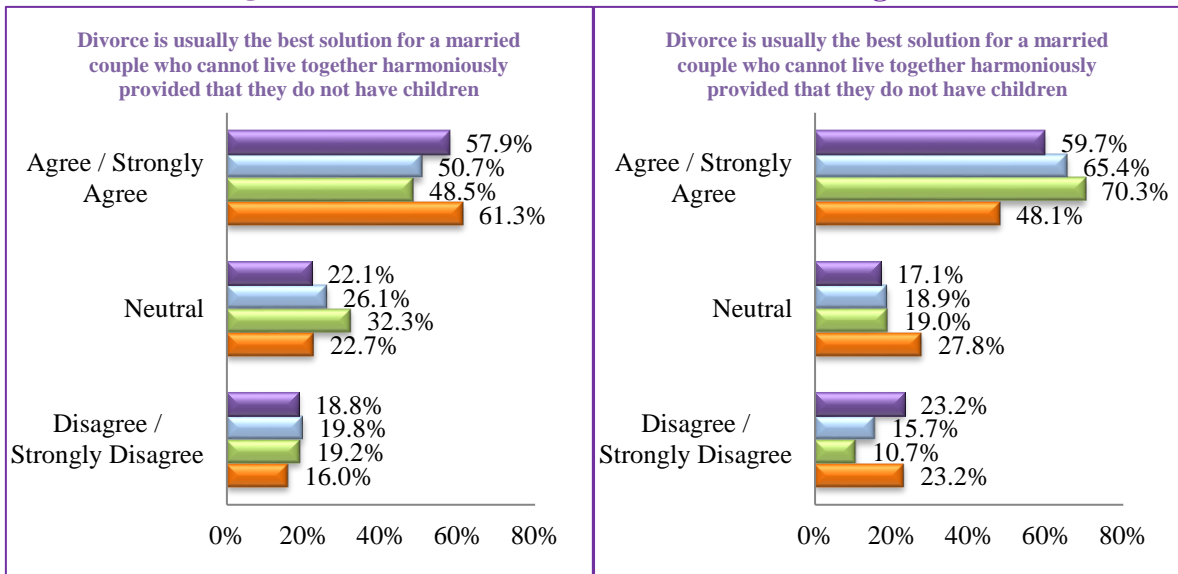
**Chart 16: Attitudes towards divorce: “Divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously provided that they do not have children” among young respondents over seven years (%)**

■ 2017  
 ■ 2015  
 ■ 2013  
 ■ 2011



**aged 15-17**

**aged 18-24**



**aged 25-29**

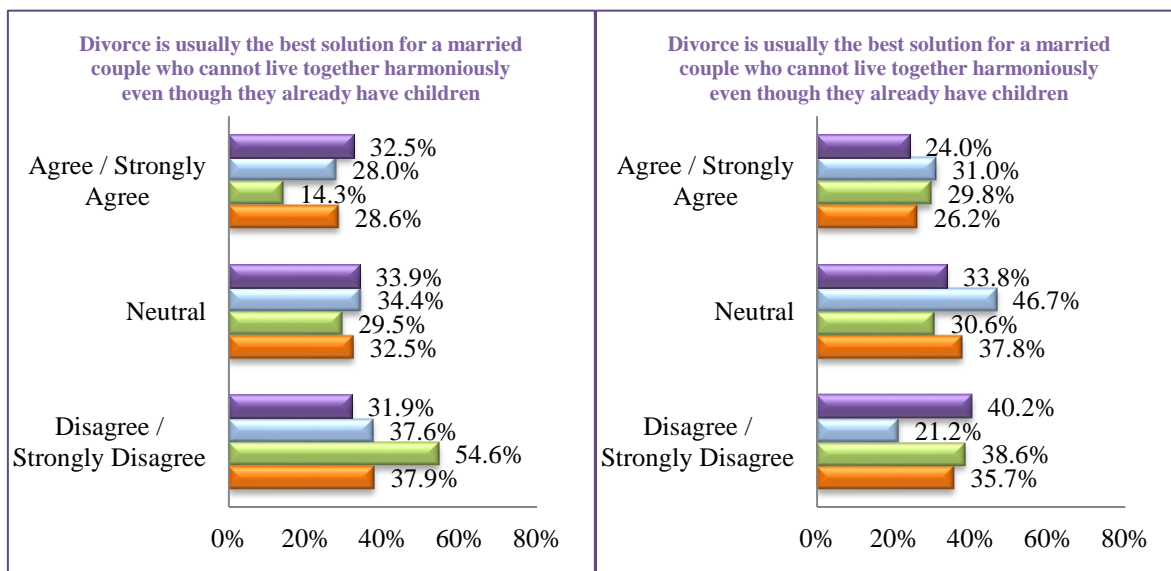
**aged 30-34**

***Divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously even though they already have children***

36. For the attitude towards the statement divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously even though they already have children, the percentage of young respondents aged 15 to 17 disagreed/strongly disagreed decreased from 38% to 32% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree increased from 29% to 33%. For the respondents aged 18 to 24, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were increased from 36% to 40%, while the percentage of agree/strongly agree were also decreased from 26% to 24%. For the respondents aged 25 to 29, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were increased from 29% to 40%, and the percentage of agree/strongly agree were decreased from 33% to 30%.
37. The age group 15 to 17 years old had the different tendency of percentage change in attitude over seven years, they had increased agree percentage towards such statement by 4%. The age group 18 to 24 and 25 to 29 had different had increased disagree and decreased agree percentage. The age group 25 to 29 had the largest degree of increase in disagree attitude which is 10% and the largest degree of decrease in agree attitude which is 3%.

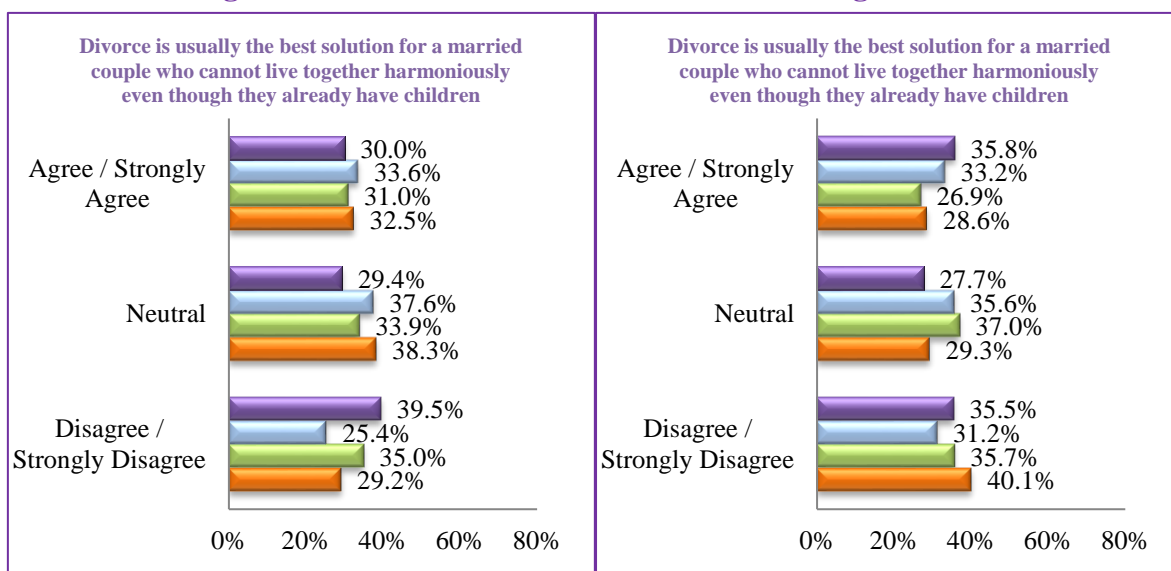
**Chart 17: Attitudes towards divorce: “Divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously even though they already have children” among young respondents over seven years (%)**

■ 2017  
 ■ 2015  
 ■ 2013  
 ■ 2011



**aged 15-17**

**aged 18-24**



**aged 25-29**

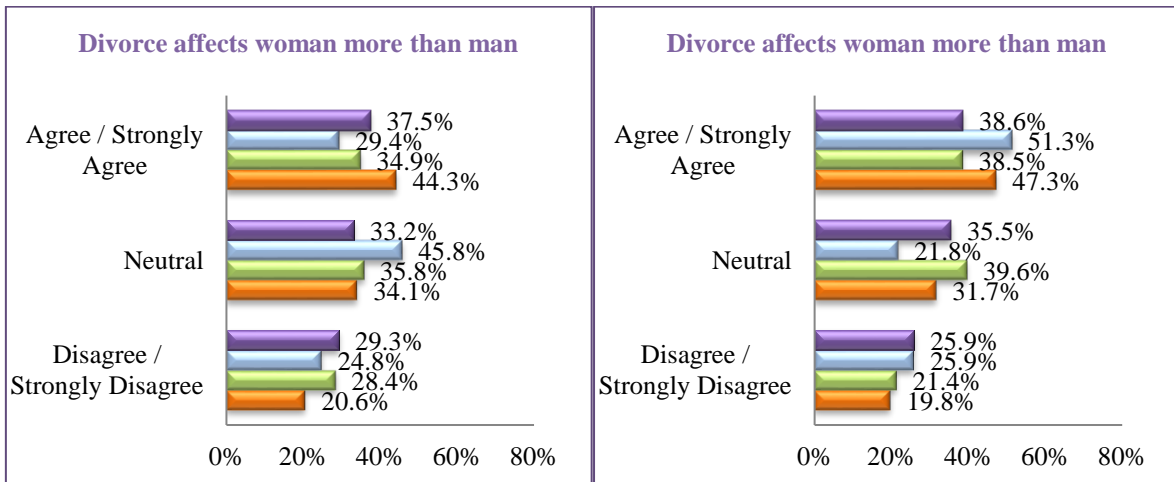
**aged 30-34**

*Divorce affects woman more than man*

38. For the attitude towards the statement divorce affects woman more than man, the percentage of young respondents aged 15 to 17 disagreed/strongly disagreed increased from 21% to 29% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree decreased from 44% to 38%. For the respondents aged 18 to 24, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were increased from 20% to 26%, while the percentage of agree/strongly agree were also decreased from 47% to 39%. For the respondents aged 25 to 29, the percentage of agree/strongly agree were decreased from 44% to 41%.
39. All age groups had the same tendency of decreased agree attitude towards this statement over seven years. The age group 18 to 24 had the largest decrease in agree attitude over seven years which is 9%. And except for those aged 25 to 29 where the change in disagree perception remains more or less the same, the other two groups have increased disagree percentage, and respondents aged 15 to 17 had increased 9% of disagree attitude over seven years.

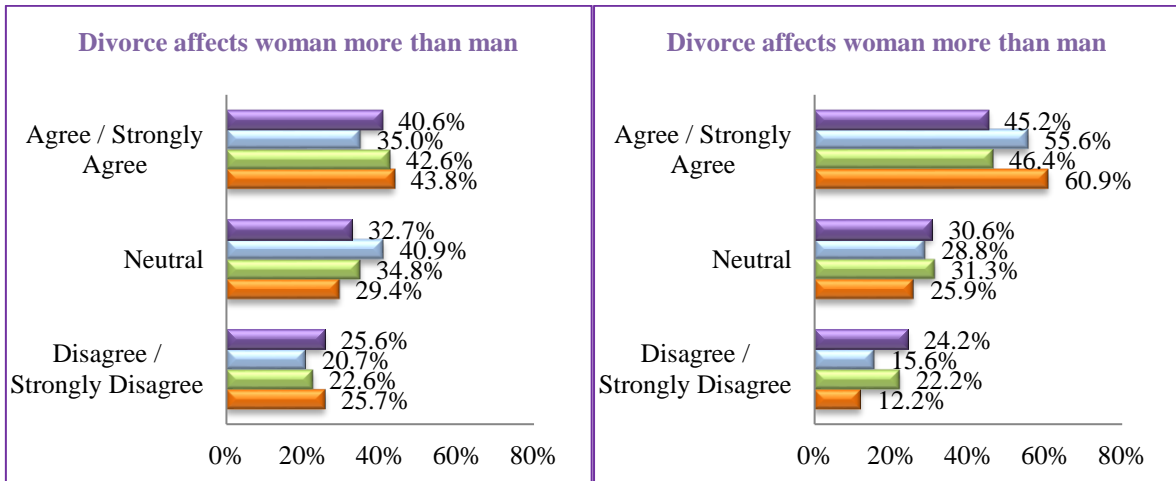
**Chart 18: Attitudes towards divorce: “Divorce affects woman more than man”  
among young respondents over seven years (%)**

■ 2017  
■ 2015  
■ 2013  
■ 2011



**aged 15-17**

**aged 18-24**



**aged 25-29**

**aged 30-34**



*It is acceptable for me to marry a divorced person*

40. For the attitude towards the statement it is acceptable for me to marry a divorced person, the percentage of young respondents aged 15 to 17 disagreed/strongly disagreed increased from 5% to 14% over seven years, whereas the percentage for agree/strongly agree decreased from 50% to 43%. For the respondents aged 18 to 24, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were increased from 10% to 13%, while the percentage of agree/strongly agree were also decreased from 44% to 39%. For the respondents aged 25 to 29, the percentage of disagree/strongly disagree were decreased from 18% to 7%, and the percentage of agree/strongly agree were decreased from 51% to 42%.
  
41. All age groups had reduced percentage of agreement, and the age group 25 to 29 had the largest reduction in the perception of agree, which is 9%. The age group 25 to 29 were also the only age group that have reduced agree percentage for that statement, which had dropped by 11%. For the other two age groups, they had increased agree percentage over seven years, and age group 15 to 17 had the largest degree of increase, which is 9%.

**Chart 19: Attitudes towards divorce: “It is acceptable for me to marry a divorced person” among young respondents over seven years (%)**

■ 2017  
 ■ 2015  
 ■ 2013  
 ■ 2011

