

WOMEN'S COMMISSION

Research on Core Life Values for Parenting Education

PURPOSE

This paper reports to Members the findings of the research on core life values for parenting education and seeks Members' views on the way forward.

BACKGROUND

2. Parents play an important role in the socialization process and instill various values to their children. In response to the needs and concerns expressed by many women groups, the Women's Commission (WoC) has put nurturing caring families as one of its work foci in the past two years and has held a number of meetings with Government departments, experts and non-government organisations in the field of parenting education to identify gaps and areas that need to be further strengthened.

3. Among other things, the WoC notes that many of the parenting education programmes place focus on the parenting skills and that there has not much attention paid to the development of the value system of our next generation. The WoC therefore sees a need for further study in this aspect.

4. While it was found that researches on issues related to different life values had been conducted by scholars in different contexts, it was important to gauge the views of stakeholders, e.g. education practitioners, experts in parenting field and parents, in the local context in identifying the set of values that were suitable for instilling in children in Hong Kong. In late 2005, WoC commissioned the Policy 21 of Hong Kong University to conduct a research on the core life values for parenting education. The objective of the research was

to identify a set of core values for instilling in the children for their personal nourishment with due consideration on the views of relevant stakeholders including, education practitioners, experts in the parenting field, parents and children.

5. The research was conducted by 3 major Stages as below,

Stage I - Literature Review & Focus Group Discussion

The Review was to conduct a literature search on related studies conducted in Hong Kong and other places. In addition, 6 focus group discussions were convened to collect the views of parents, teachers, social workers and experts in the parenting field. A preliminary list of 32 core values was drawn up as at **Annex A** (in Chinese only).

Stage II – School Survey

To assure the evidence-based support and to further confirm the content validity of the list, views of school principals, school social workers and representatives of Parent-Teacher Associations (or parents' representatives) were sought. Questionnaires were sent to 100 primary and 100 secondary schools which were randomly selected. A total of 127 school principals, 121 school social workers and 114 parents' representatives returned the completed questionnaires. Findings of the questionnaire revealed that the majority of the respondents rated the preliminary 32 core values as important.

Stage III – Household Survey

Stage III was to conduct face-to-face household interviews in order to obtain from quantitative information on core values held by parents and children. According to the results from Stage II, the list of 32 core values was adopted for use in the survey on a sample of 572 pairs of parents and their children aged 10 – 24 randomly drawn from the population.

6. The household survey exercise was completed in August 2006. The survey results revealed that these 32 core values identified were widely considered as important and very important for instilling in our younger generation. The findings also suggested that mothers in general had a higher expectation of children's behaviour as compared with fathers, and daughters in

general had a higher expectation of parents' behaviour as compared with sons. On the perceived performance of youths in the population, fathers in general had a more favourable assessment as compared with mothers. Sons in general had a more favourable assessment on the perceived performance of adults in the population as compared with daughters. The detail of the findings is set out at **Annex B** (in Chinese only).

WAY FORWARD

7. The full report of the study will be available in October 2006. Meanwhile, the Commission is exploring collaboration opportunity with community organisations to conduct a pilot project on quality parenting in a district. The idea is to establish a support network for parents to share experience and offer mutual help on parenting issues, with participation of different stakeholders in the district. It will also provide a platform to promote quality parenting education and to instil the core life values to children and youth.

ADVICE SOUGHT

8. Members are invited to note the research findings and provide views on the way forward.

Women's Commission Secretariat
September 2006

Annex A
to WoC 30/06

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|-----------|------------|-------------|
| 1) 互相尊重 | 11) 自力更生 | 21) 愛國 |
| 2) 關懷愛護家人 | 12) 體諒別人 | 22) 誠懇 |
| 3) 有公民意識 | 13) 積極 | 23) 節儉 |
| 4) 自強不息 | 14) 具批判性思考 | 24) 誠實 |
| 5) 自信 | 15) 樂於助人 | 25) 有禮貌 |
| 6) 上進 | 16) 負責任 | 26) 寬恕 |
| 7) 獨立自主 | 17) 孝順 | 27) 尊重他人的權利 |
| 8) 堅毅 | 18) 勤勞 | 28) 平等 |
| 9) 為他人著想 | 19) 正義 | 29) 愛好和平 |
| 10) 勇敢 | 20) 廉潔 | 30) 忍耐 |
| | | 31) 有節制 |
| | | 32) 包容 |