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香港婦女中心協會
HONG KONG FEDERATION OF
WOMEN'S CENTRES

Press Conference on Survey on Women's Quality of Life and Public's Attitude toward Gender Equality in Hong Kong

4 March 2024





Rundown

Release of survey findings on ‘Women's Quality of Life and Public’s Attitude toward Gender Equality in Hong Kong’

Prof. Celia Hoi Yan CHAN | Professor, Department of Social Work and Social Administration, HKU

Sharing by Service Users

Connie | Service Users

Ellen | Service Users

Insights for Women’s Policies and Services

Ms. Si-si Pui Shan LIU | Director, Hong Kong Federation of Women’s Centres

Questions and Answers





Release of survey findings on 'Women's Quality of Life and Public's Attitude toward Gender Equality in Hong Kong'

Prof. Celia Hoi Yan CHAN, Professor
Department of Social Work and Social Administration, HKU





Background



This study aims to understand the **quality of life** of women in Hong Kong and the public's perception of **gender equality**, in order to contribute to the formulation of relevant policies and the promotion of services.

To the best of our knowledge, this study is the first in Hong Kong to combine and analyze data from the following two questionnaires:

- (1) The World Health Organization Quality of Life questionnaire (WHOQoL-BREF) Hong Kong version, and
- (2) UN Women Gender Equality Attitudes Study survey.





Methodology

Data collection method: Online Survey

Target: Hong Kong resident aged 18 or above

Data collection period: Jan-Feb 2024

Survey on women's quality of life and public's attitude toward gender equality in Hong Kong

This study aims to examine women's quality of life and public perception toward gender equality in Hong Kong, which sheds insight into the service development in Hong Kong.

Scan the QR Code
Tell us what you think



Target:

- Hong Kong resident aged 18 or above

Will take approximately 20 mins to complete

HK\$ 50 supermarket gift coupon will be given after completing the survey

ibms_swsa@hku.hk | 3917 - 5531

Organizer: Department of Social Work and Social Administration, The University of Hong Kong
Co-organizer: 香港婦女中心協會 HONG KONG FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CENTRES

This study has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of the University of Hong Kong (EA230527).

香港婦女的生活質素及大眾對性別平等的態度意見調查

本研究旨在了解香港婦女的生活質素及社會大眾對性別平等的看法，從而有助相關服務的設計及推展。

掃描二維碼
告訴我們您的想法



研究對象

- 年滿18歲香港居民

問卷需時大約20分鐘

完成問卷後，將獲贈港幣\$50超市禮券乙張

ibms_swsa@hku.hk | 3917 - 5531

主辦機構: Department of Social Work and Social Administration, The University of Hong Kong
協辦機構: 香港婦女中心協會 HONG KONG FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CENTRES

本研究已經獲得香港大學操守委員會批准 (EA230527)

香港婦女的生活質素及大眾對性別平等的態度意見調查

我們誠邀你完成一份網上問卷以了解您對性別平等的態度



研究對象

- 年滿18歲香港男性
- 女性數據已收齊!

完成問卷後，將獲贈港幣\$50超市禮券乙張

ibms_swsa@hku.hk | 3917 - 5531

主辦機構: Department of Social Work and Social Administration, The University of Hong Kong
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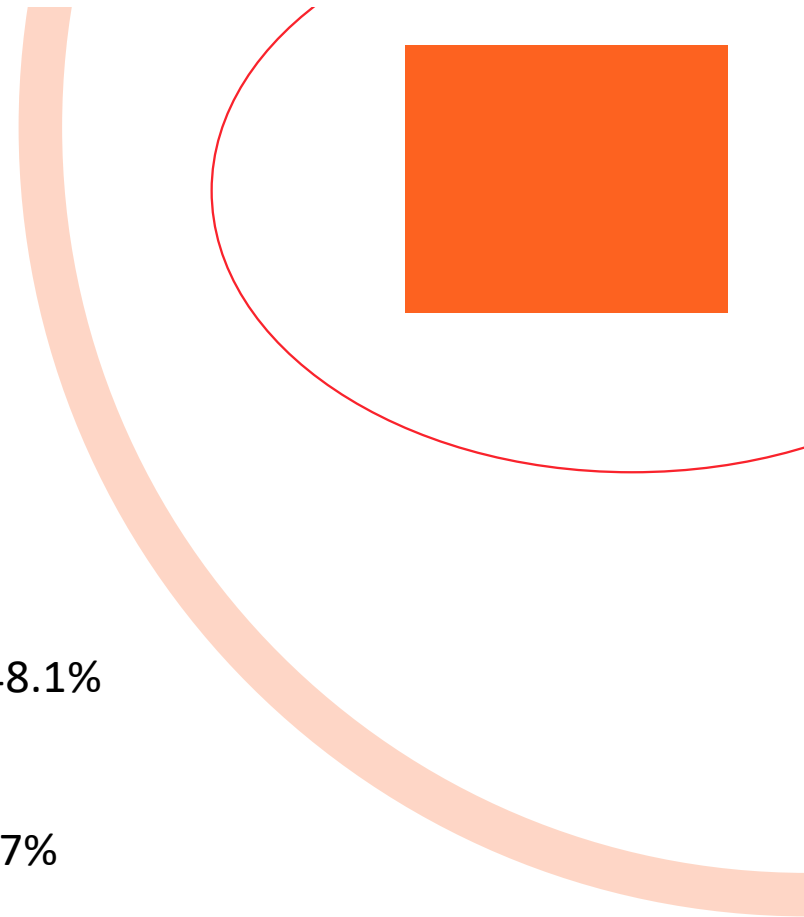


Result: Demographics

- N = 1,287
- Male = 603 : Female = 684

Demographics overview:

- Age	26-45; 49.1%
- Marital Status	Married; 53.7%
- Employment status	Working Full-time; 48.1%
- Number of Child	None; 48.7%
- Caregiver	No; 66.7%
- Living Condition	Private Housing; 38.7%
- Housing Ownership	Rent; 50.7%
- CSSA	No; 95.2%
- Education Level	Degree (including Master's, Doctorate, etc.); 42.7%
- Personal Monthly Income	No Income; 21.4%
- Family Monthly Income	\$40,001 or above; 25.9%





Result: Demographics



- 603 Male respondents

Demographics overview:

- Age **26-45**; 49.7%
- Marital Status Married; 51.1%
- Employment status Working Full-time; 62.0%
- Number of Child None; 57.9%
- Caregiver No; 80.8%
- Living Condition **Private Housing**; 45.9%
- Housing Ownership **Privately Owned**; 52.7%
- CSSA No; 97.0%
- Education Level **Degree**; 58.9%
- Personal Monthly Income **\$20,001 - \$30,000**; 18.1%
- Family Monthly Income \$40,001 or above; 34.2%

- 684 Female respondents

Demographics overview:

- Age **26-45**; 48.5%
- Marital Status Married; 57.9%
- Employment status Working Full-time; 35.8%
- Number of Child None; 40.6%
- Caregiver No; 54.4%
- Living Condition **Public Housing**; 41.3%
- Housing Ownership **Rent**; 53.8%
- CSSA No; 93.6%
- Education Level **Secondary**; 45.9%
- Personal Monthly Income **No Income**; 30.1%
- Family Monthly Income \$40,001 or above; 18.6%



Measurements

UN Women Gender Equality Attitudes Study

- Access + Control
- Attitudes on Stereotype Gender Roles
- Roles in Society
- Future Ideal (Leung et al., 2005)

WHOQoL-BREF (Hong Kong version) - Female data only

- Physical health
- Psychological health
- Social relationships
- Environmental health (Women, U. N., 2022)



Access + Control (N = 1,287)

- Compared to the data from the Gender Equality Study by UN Women, Hong Kong's gender equality awareness is higher than the global average level in every domain
- In terms of Access + Control, there are **significant differences** between men's and women's views
- Men tend **to over-estimate** the **easiness** women face in obtaining and controlling these resources in the society



Picture source: Women, U. N. (2022). The levers of change gender equality attitudes study 2022.

Access + Control

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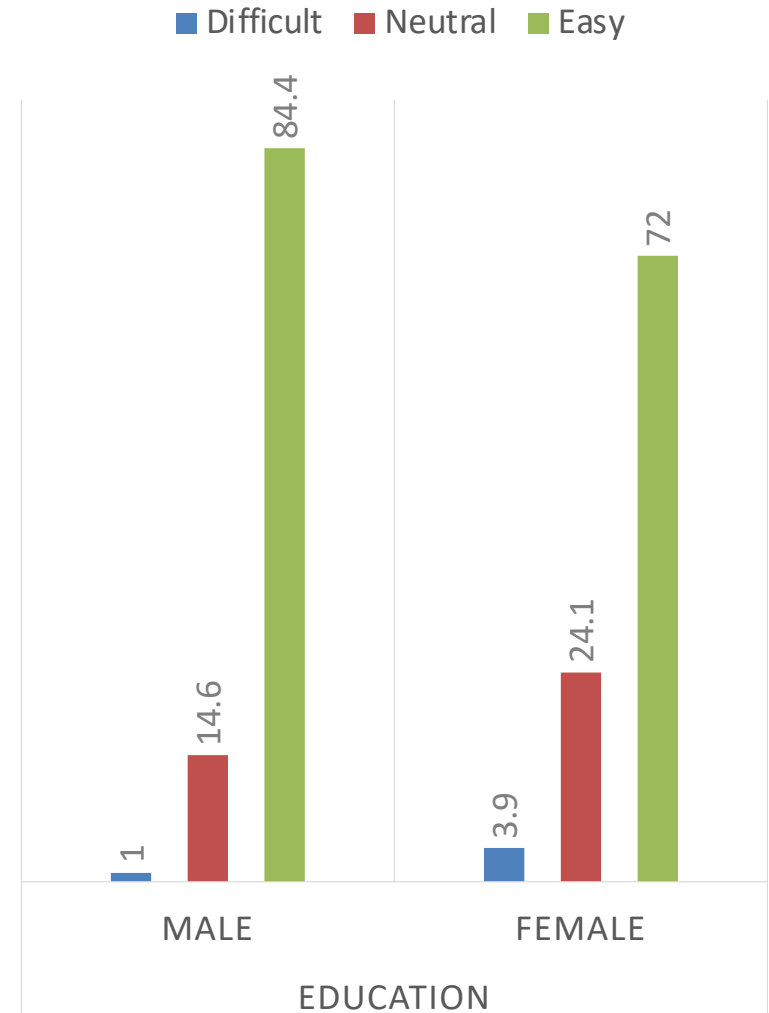
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- International average: Easy = 56%
Hong Kong: Easy = 77.6%
- There are **significant differences** between men and women in their views on whether women can access **quality education** ($X^2 (2, N = 1,274) = 31.5, p < 0.001***$)
- Men significantly **overestimated** the ease with which women can access **quality education**



Access + Control

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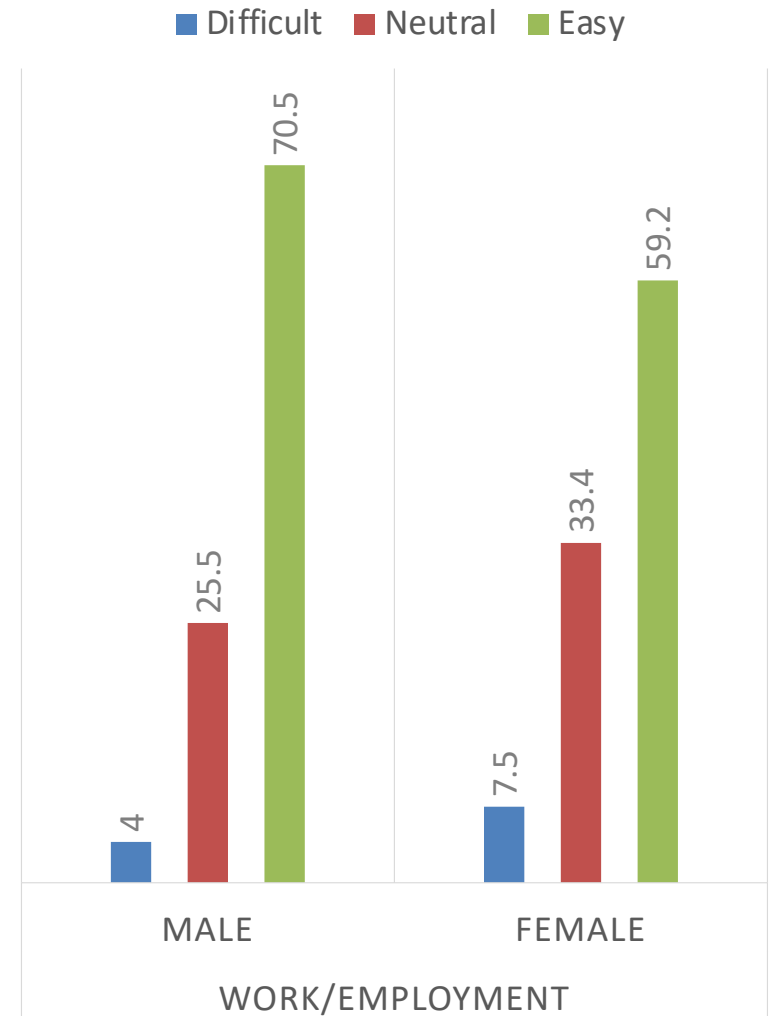
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- International average: Easy = 44%
Hong Kong: Easy = 63.4%
- There are **significant differences** between men and women in their views on whether women can be **hired as professionals**.
($X^2 (2, N = 1,274) = 31.5, p < 0.001^{***}$)
- Men significantly **overestimated** the ease with which women are **hired as professionals**



Access + Control

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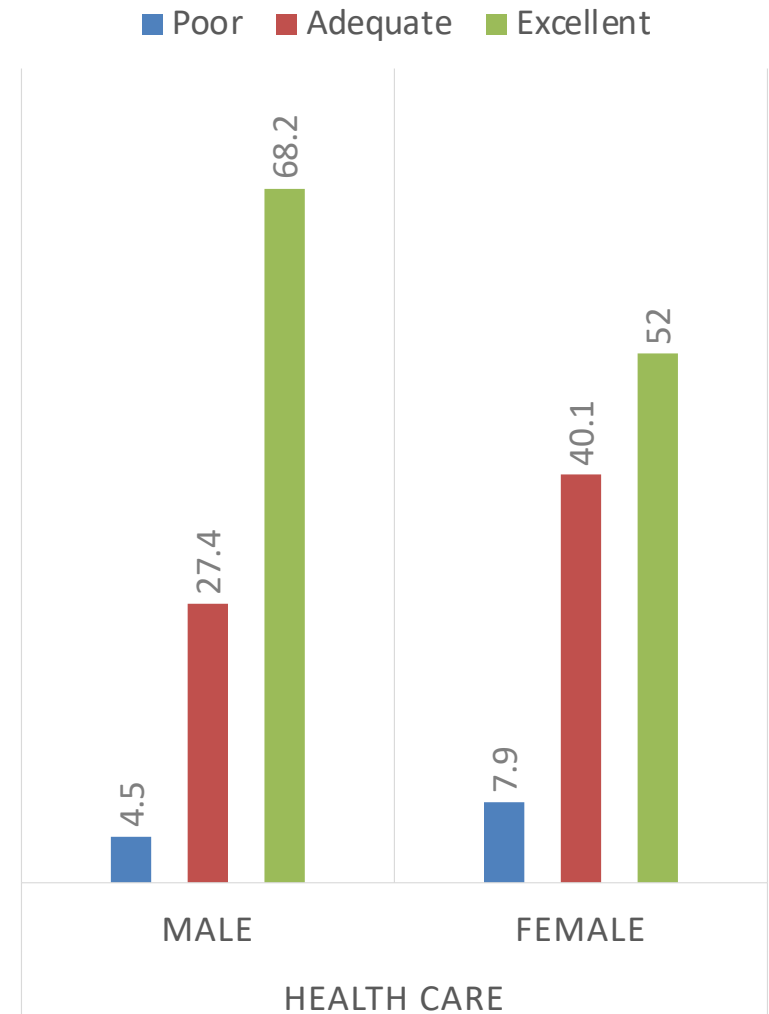
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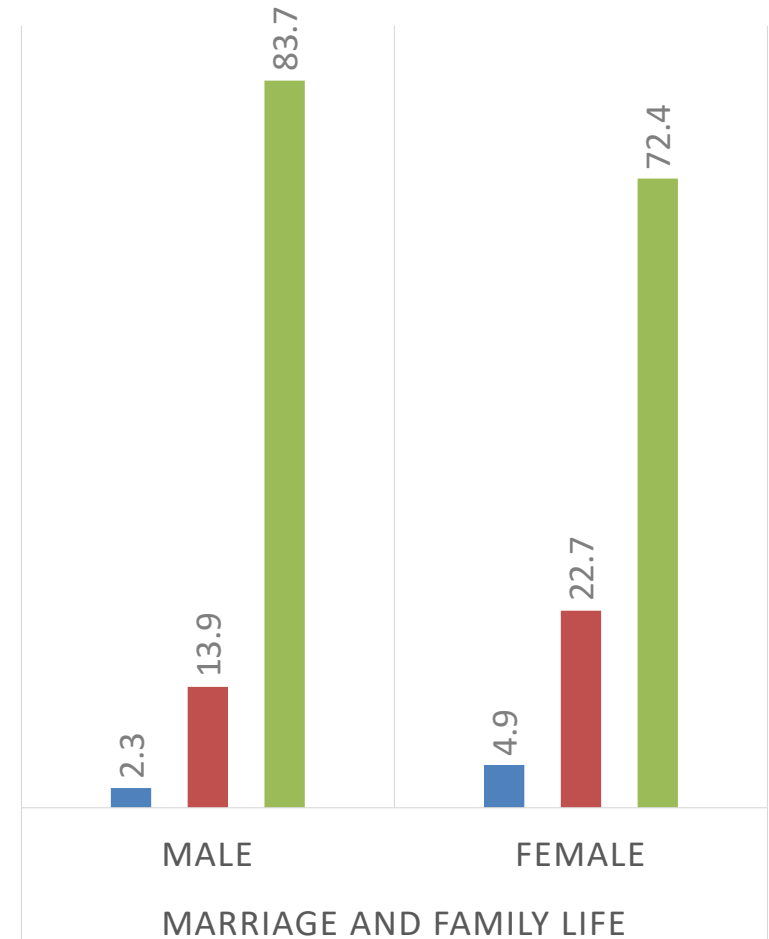
- International average: Excellent = 51%
Hong Kong: Excellent = 59.2%
- There are **significant differences** between men and women in their views on the quality of **basic healthcare** for women
($\chi^2 (2, N = 1,274) = 34.9, p < 0.001^{***}$)
- Men significantly **overestimated** the **quality of basic women's healthcare**.



Access + Control

■ None ■ Some ■ A lot

- International average: A lot = 59%
Hong Kong: A lot = 77.5%
- There are **significant differences** between men and women in their views on whether women can **decide their own marriage partners** ($X^2(2, N = 1,274) = 24.1, p < 0.001^{***}$)
- Men significantly **overestimated** the **influence** women have in deciding whom to marry.



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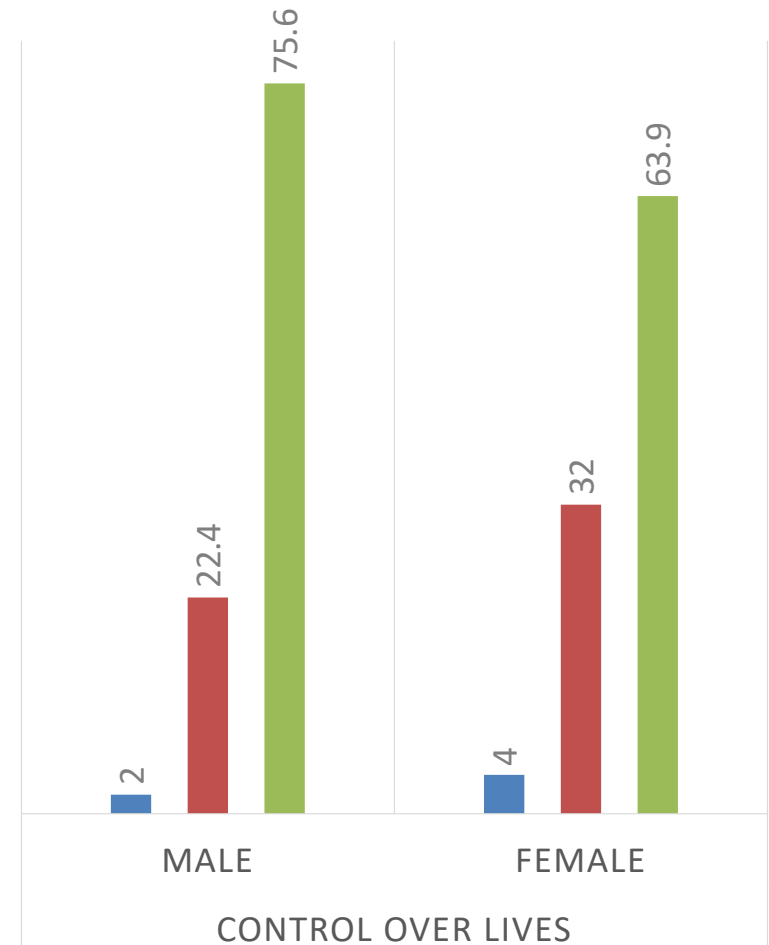
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- International average: A lot = 59%
Hong Kong: A lot = 69.2%
- There are **significant differences** between men and women in their views on whether women can have **control over their own lives** ($X^2 (2, N = 1,274) = 21.3, p < 0.001^{***}$)
- Men significantly **overestimated** the ease with which women can **control over their own lives**

■ None ■ Some ■ A lot



Access + Control

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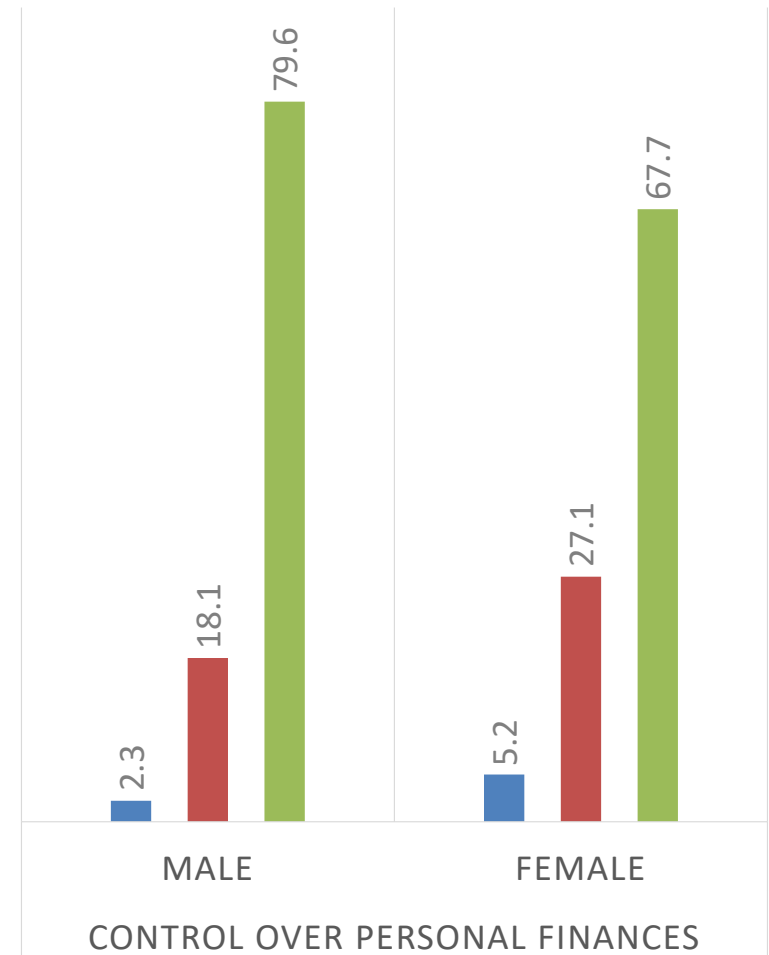
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- International average: A lot = 61%
Hong Kong: A lot = 72.7%
- There are **significant differences** between men and women in their views on whether women can have **control over their personal finances** ($X^2 (2, N = 1,274) = 24.5, p < 0.001^{***}$)
- Men significantly **overestimated** the ease with which women can control their **personal finances**

■ None ■ Same ■ A lot



Access + Control

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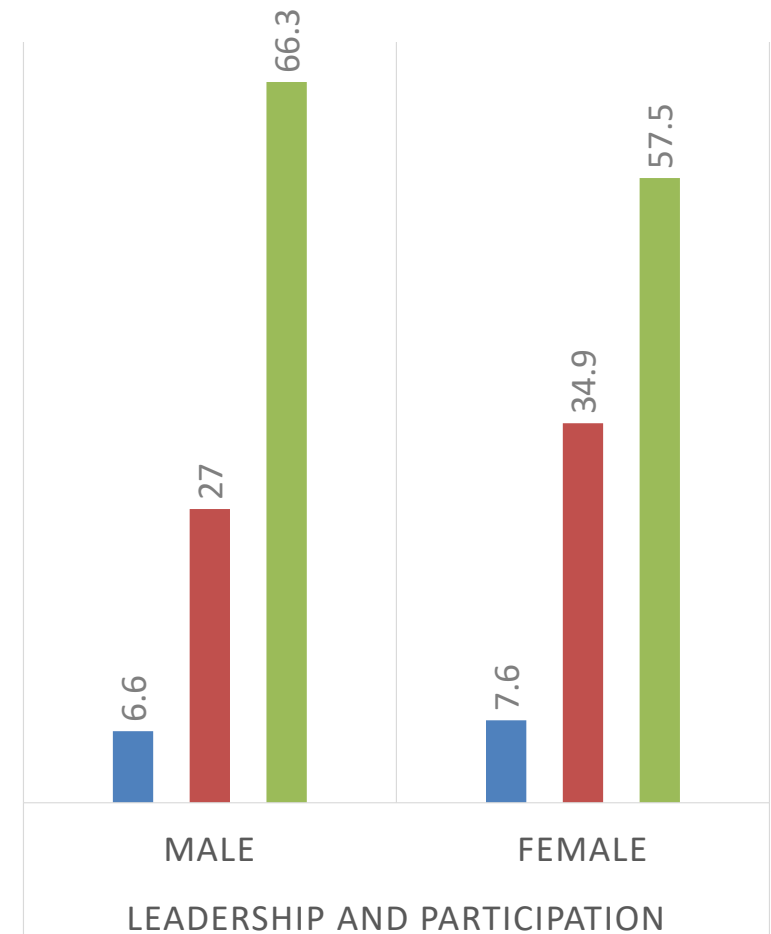
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- International average: Easy = 38%
Hong Kong: Easy = 61%
- There are **significant differences** between men and women in their views on whether women can **run for elected office** ($X^2 (2, N = 1,274) = 6.52, p < 0.038^*$)
- Men significantly **overestimated** the ease with which women can **run for elected office**

■ Difficult ■ Neutral ■ Easy



Access + Control

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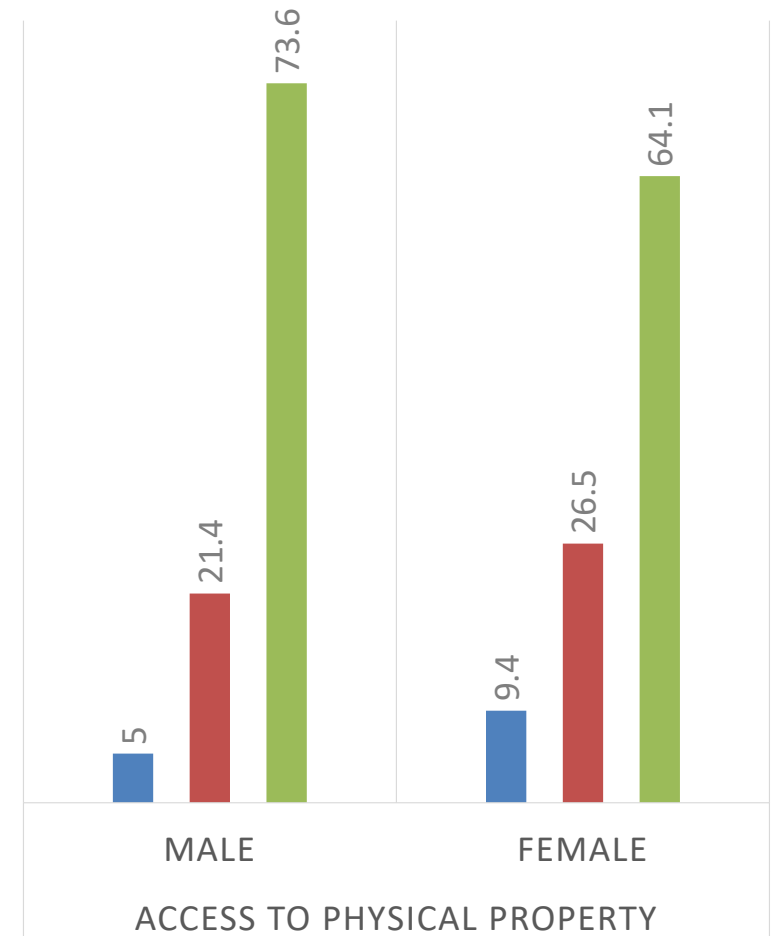
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- International average: Easy = 54%
Hong Kong: Easy = 68.3%
- There are **significant differences** between men and women in their views on whether women can **buy property in their own name** ($X^2 (2, N = 1,274) = 16.2, p < 0.001^{***}$)
- Men significantly **overestimated** the ease with which women can **buy property in their own name**

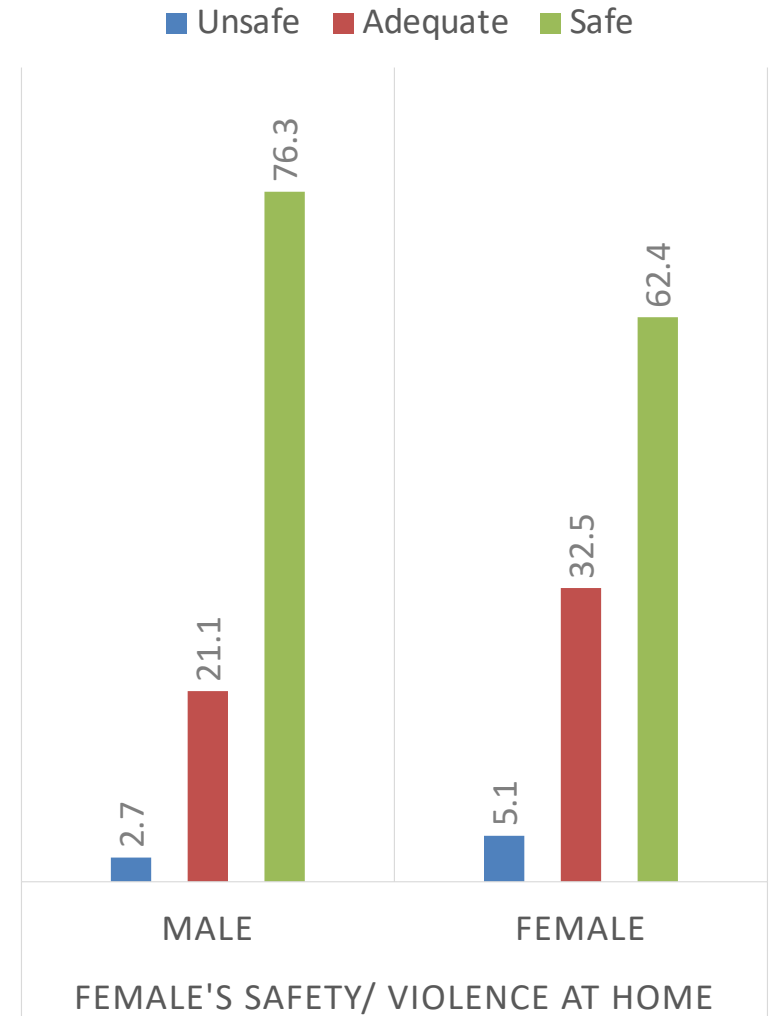
■ Difficult ■ Neutral ■ Easy



Access + Control

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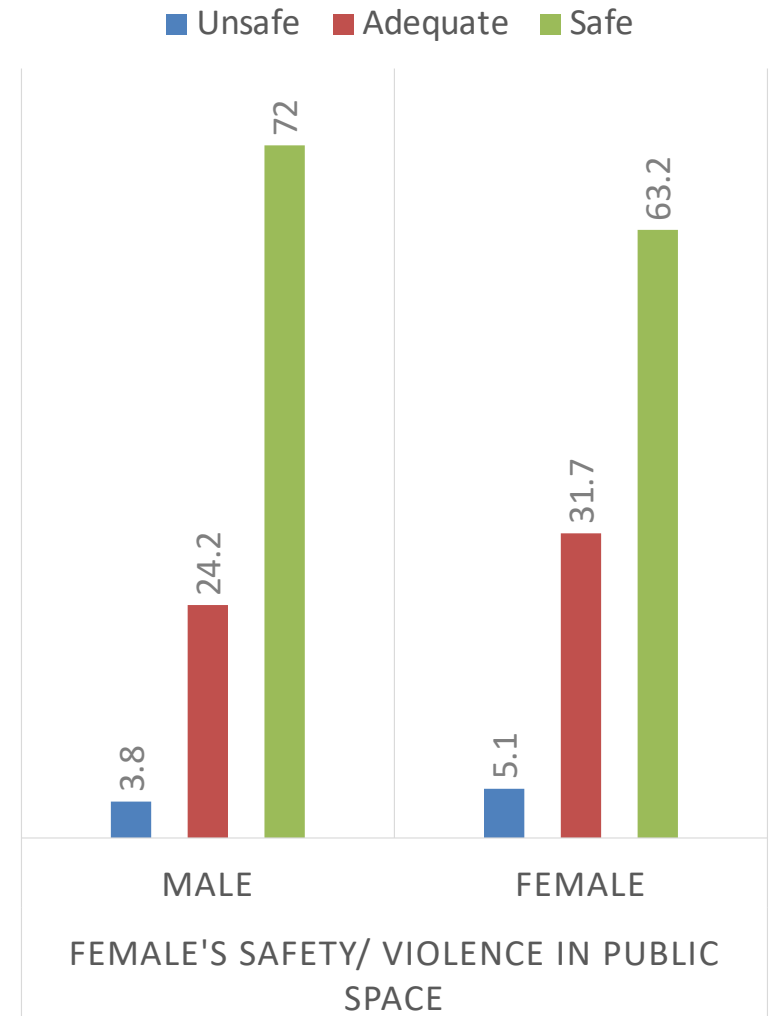
- International average: Safe = 54%
Hong Kong: Safe = 67%
- There are **significant differences** between men and women in their views on whether women are **safe at home**
($X^2 (2, N = 1,274) = 28.8, p < 0.001^{***}$)
- Men significantly **overestimated** the **sense of security** women have **at home**



Access + Control

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- International average: Safe = 46%
Hong Kong: Safe = 48.7%
- There are **significant differences** between men and women in their views on whether women are **safe in public space** ($X^2 (2, N = 1,274) = 11.1, p < 0.004^{**}$)
- Men significantly **overestimated** the **sense of security** women have **in public space**



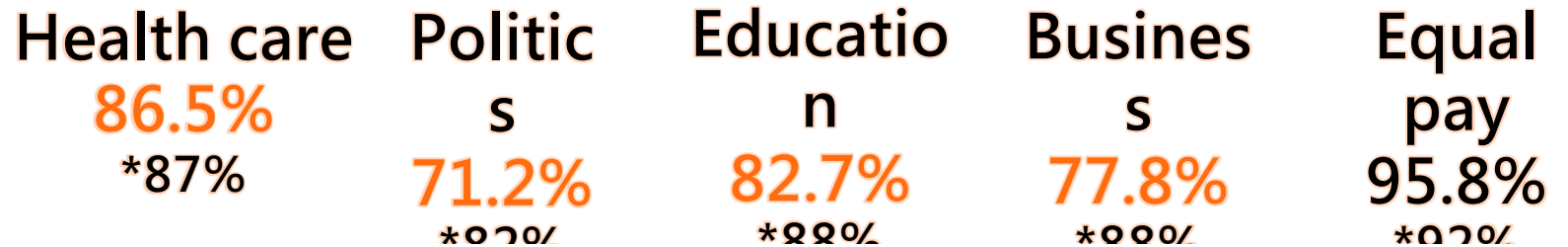
Future Ideal (N = 1,287)

The majority of respondents agree that **more respect is needed in all areas** in terms of women's rights. However, some of the Hong Kong's values are **below** the international average.

Women's rights across areas

90.2%

*91%



*International average

Future Ideal

- There are **significant differences** between men and women in their views
- Men are not placing as much importance on these claims as women



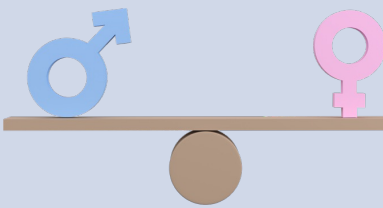
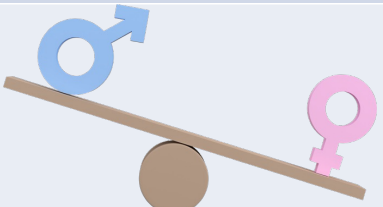
Two-Sample t Test	Men		Women		df	t	p	Cohen's d
	M#	SD	M#	SD				
Across areas	3.31	0.734	3.51	0.690	1,149	-4.92	<0.001***	-0.291
Health care	3.23	0.801	3.39	0.748	1,113	-3.46	<0.001***	-0.207
Politics	2.85	0.871	3.02	0.825	1,042	-3.32	<0.001***	-0.204
Education	3.08	0.887	3.37	0.794	1,119	-5.71	<0.001***	-0.342
Business	2.95	0.814	3.11	0.787	1,084	-3.35	<0.001***	-0.204
Equal pay	3.65	0.614	3.79	0.510	1,124	-4.23	<0.001***	-0.243

#The higher the number, the higher the level of agreement.

Attitudes on Stereotype Gender Roles (N = 684)

- The higher the level of gender stereotyping attitudes, the poorer the perceived **psychological health** and **environmental health**.

Linear Regression	B	β	R ²	F	df1	df2	p
Gender stereotype*Psychological health	-0.363	-0.117	0.0138	6.38	1	457	0.012*
Gender stereotype*Environmental health	-0.334	-0.120	0.0143	6.64	1	457	0.010*

Low gender stereotype 	Psychological health 👍 M = 63.6, SD 13.1	Environmental health 👍 M = 52.3, SD 11.8
High gender stereotype 	Psychological health 👎 M = 60.4, SD 14.0	Environmental health 👎 M = 49.1, SD 12.7

Roles in Society (N = 684)

- Women who are more prone to have an equal attitude toward men's and women's roles in society, their **general quality of life** are better.

Linear Regression	B	β	R ²	F	df1	df2	p
Gender roles*Physical health	0.262	0.121	0.0147	7.69	1	516	0.006**
Gender roles*Psychological health	0.287	0.127	0.0162	8.51	1	516	0.004**
Gender roles*Social relationships	0.219	0.099	0.0097	5.05	1	516	0.025*
Gender roles*Environmental health	0.221	0.110	0.0122	6.35	1	516	0.012*

More equal attitude toward men's and women's roles in society	Physical health 	Psychological health 	Social relationships 	Environmental health 
	M = 47.0, SD 13.7	M = 64.5, SD 14.3	M = 55.4, SD 13.6	M = 52.7, SD 12.7
Less equal attitude toward men's and women's roles in society	Physical health 	Psychological health 	Social relationships 	Environmental health 
	M = 43.3, SD 13.6	M = 61.1, SD 14.1	M = 52.6, SD 14.6	M = 49.5, SD 12.6

Conclusion

- In terms of gender **equality awareness**, Hong Kong scores **higher** than the global average.
 - There is a significant difference in views between men and women regarding women's **access and control** of social resources and opportunities, with men tending to **overestimate** women's easiness in society.
- In terms of future ideals, Hong Kong scores slightly lower than in global
 - There is a significant difference in views between men and women, men are **not** placing as much **importance** on these claims as women
- The higher women's awareness of gender equality, the better their mental health and environmental satisfaction.
- Women who are more prone to have an **equal attitude** toward men's and women's roles in society, their general **quality of life is better**.



Suggestions

- Promoting **gender equality education** can help reduce the negative impact of traditional gender stereotypes and improve women's mental health and quality of life.
- Researching the **role and challenges that men play in promoting gender equality** can enhance their collective participation in gender equality issues.
- Implementing **gender studies that align with international standards** locally can help assess the state of gender equality in Hong Kong.



Sharing by Service Users

Ellen Connie
HKFWC Service Users





Insights for Women's Policies and Services



Ms. Si-si Pui Shan LIU, Director
Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres



Gender Mainstreaming



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- The government should promote **gender mainstreaming** extensively
- The Government should incorporate **gender perspectives and needs** into the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of all legislations, policies, and programs in all areas and levels and consider the issues and experiences of both women and men. The government should also increase transparency to allow the public to monitor the effectiveness and progress of gender mainstreaming
- Further promote the consideration of **the needs of different genders** among various social groups such as non-governmental organizations, businesses, and schools.

Gender Education

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- Strengthening gender education and encouraging the participation from **both genders**.
- Integrate **gender education** into formal primary and secondary school education to cultivate gender awareness from an early age and increase self-awareness.
- Promote the participation of **both genders** in **household division of labor**.

All-rounded Support Programs or Initiatives

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- Reduce the impact of **gender labels**
- Subsidizing initiatives with a gender perspective such as **mental health projects that encourage gender equality awareness** and assisting women in the community to identify mental health risks in an early stage
- Organizing **parallel activities for women and children** and providing **childcare services** during the events to cater to the needs of women and their care recipients. This will allow women to be freed from traditional gender roles and caregiving responsibilities, enabling them to fully engage in the activities

Women-friendly Workplaces

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- The Government should take the lead or legislate measures to establish a carer-friendly **work environment and measures**
 - Providing **menstrual leave**
 - **Caregiving leave**
 - **Breastfeeding rooms**
 - **Flexible working hours** for carers

Explore different Economic Empowerment Models

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- Provide women with more **vocational training**, **employment**, and **entrepreneurial support**, enabling convenient participation.

Community Respite Services

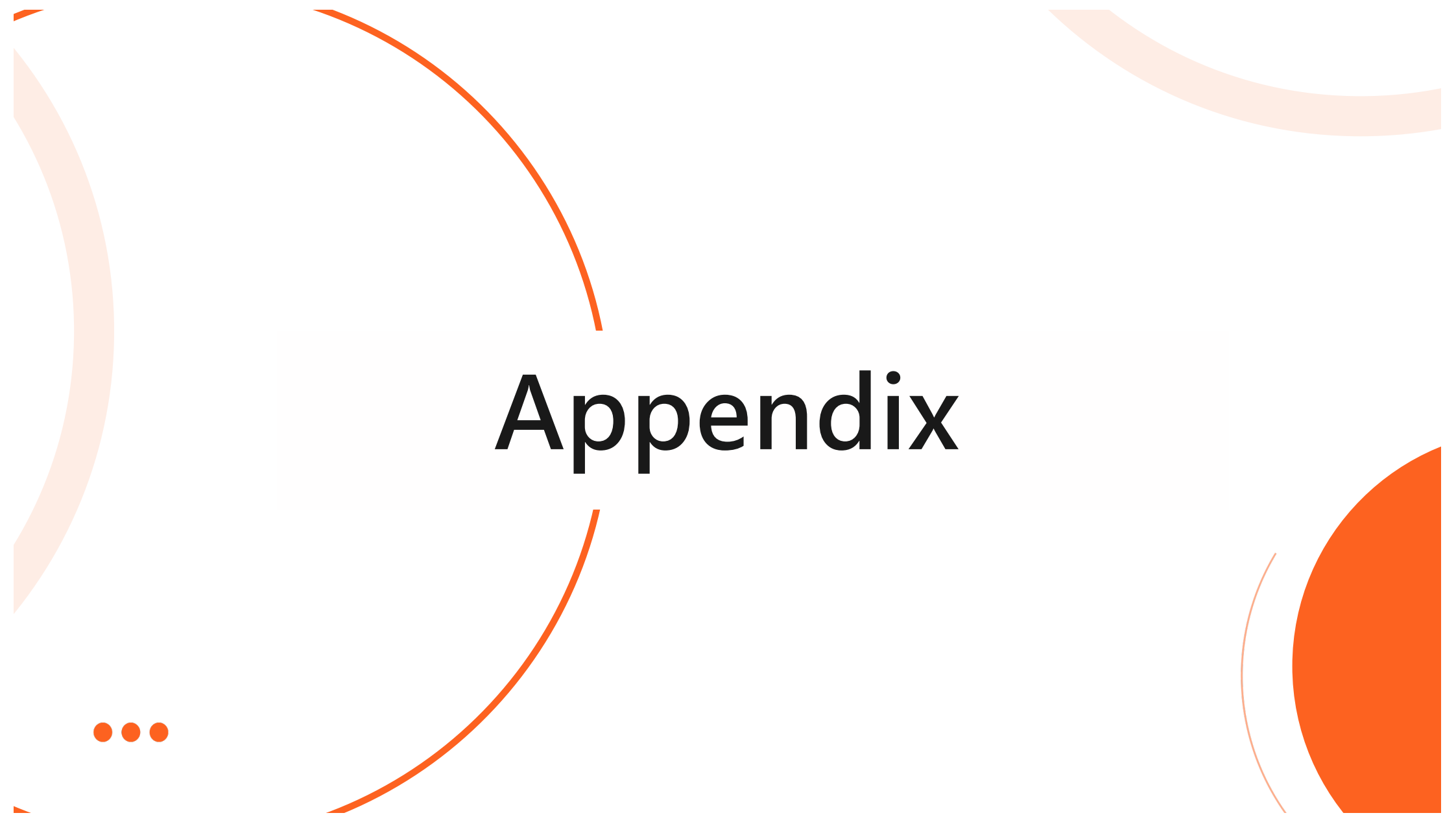
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- Increasing the availability of community respite services, providing women with alternative care options such as childcare, eldercare, and emergency respite services can reduce caregiving pressure and provide opportunities for respite and personal development.



Questions and Answers

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Appendix





Demographics



Gender

Age

CSSA

**Personal
Monthly
Income**

**Have
Child?**

**Caregiving
Type**

**Employment
Status**

**Residential
Area**

**Living
Condition**

**Marital
Status**

Caregiver

**Education
Level**

**Number of
Child**

**Caregiving
Category**

**Housing
Ownership**

**Family
Monthly
Income**

Demographics

Variables	Overall		Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Gender						
Male	603	46.9	603	-	-	-
Female	684	53.1	-	-	684	-
Age						
18 - 25	152	11.8	106	17.6	46	6.7
26 - 35	299	23.2	166	27.5	133	19.4
36 - 45	333	25.9	134	22.2	199	29.1
46 - 55	182	14.1	80	13.3	102	14.9
56 - 65	190	14.8	76	12.6	114	16.7
66 or above	131	10.2	41	6.8	90	13.2
Marital Status						
Unmarried/ Single	462	35.9	253	42.0	209	30.6
Married	704	54.7	308	51.1	396	57.9
Cohabitation	28	2.2	19	3.2	9	1.3
Living Apart	8	0.6	2	0.3	6	0.9
Divorce	59	4.6	15	2.5	44	6.5
Widowed	20	1.6	5	0.8	15	2.2
Others	6	0.5	1	0.2	5	0.7

Variables	Overall		Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Employment Status						
Homemaker	172	13.5	4	0.7	168	24.8
Working Full-time	615	48.1	372	62.0	243	35.8
Working Part-time	119	9.3	32	5.3	87	12.8
Freelancer	47	3.7	27	4.5	20	2.9
Jobless/ Unemployed	43	3.4	115	2.5	28	4.1
Retired	164	12.8	58	9.7	106	15.6
Student	118	9.2	92	15.3	26	3.8
Number of Child						
0	627	48.7	349	57.9	278	40.6
1	258	20.0	105	17.4	153	22.4
2	327	25.4	121	20.1	206	30.1
3	61	4.7	23	3.8	38	5.6
4 or above	14	1.1	5	0.8	9	1.3
Caregiver						
Yes	428	33.3	116	19.2	312	45.6
No	859	66.7	487	80.8	372	54.4

Demographics

Variables	Overall		Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Living Condition						
Public Housing	469	36.5	188	31.2	281	41.3
Home Ownership Scheme Flat	203	15.8	98	16.3	105	15.4
Sandwich Class Housing Scheme Flat	5	0.4	2	0.3	3	0.4
Private Housing	497	38.7	277	45.9	220	32.3
Village House	55	4.3	17	2.8	38	5.6
Stone/ Wooden/ Temporary House	5	0.4	-	-	5	0.7
Subdivided Flat	32	2.5	11	1.8	21	3.1
Transitional Housing	7	0.5	2	0.3	5	0.7
Dormitory	11	0.9	8	1.3	3	0.4

Variables	Overall		Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Housing Ownership						
Privately Owned	634	49.3	318	52.7	316	46.2
Rent	653	50.7	285	47.3	368	53.8
CSSA						
Yes	62	4.8	18	0.3	44	6.4
No	1225	95.2	585	97.0	640	93.6
Education Level						
No Formal Education	4	0.3	2	0.3	2	0.3
Primary	72	5.6	22	3.6	50	7.3
Secondary	455	35.4	142	23.5	313	45.9
Diploma/ Certificate	144	11.2	52	8.6	92	13.5
Associate Degree	61	4.7	30	5.0	31	4.5
Degree	549	42.7	355	58.9	194	28.4

Demographics

Variables	Overall		Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Personal Monthly Income						
No Income	275	21.4	69	11.4	206	30.1
No Fixed Income	155	12.0	65	10.8	90	13.2
Below \$10,000	103	8.0	33	5.5	70	10.2
\$10,001 - \$20,000	221	17.2	105	17.4	116	17.0
\$20,001 - \$30,000	182	14.1	109	18.1	73	10.7
\$30,001 - \$40,000	115	8.9	77	12.8	38	5.6
\$40,001 or above	142	11.0	100	16.6	42	6.1
Rather not Tell	94	7.3	45	7.5	49	7.2
Family Monthly Income						
No Income	82	6.4	22	3.6	60	8.8
No Fixed Income	88	6.8	31	5.1	57	8.3
Below \$10,000	58	4.5	17	2.8	41	6.0
\$10,001 - \$20,000	157	12.2	57	9.5	100	14.6
\$20,001 - \$30,000	172	13.4	81	13.4	91	13.3
\$30,001 - \$40,000	133	10.3	77	12.8	56	8.2
\$40,001 or above	333	25.9	206	34.2	127	18.6
I do not Know	91	7.1	41	6.8	50	7.3
Rather not Tell	173	13.4	71	11.8	102	14.9

Variables	Overall		Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Residential Area						
Central and Western	65	5.1	38	6.3	27	3.9
Wan Chai	30	2.3	17	2.8	13	1.9
Eastern	82	6.4	54	9.0	28	4.1
Southern	178	13.8	44	7.3	134	19.6
Sham Shui Po	126	9.8	67	11.1	59	8.6
Yau Tsim Mong	33	2.6	26	4.3	7	1.0
Kowloon City	39	3.0	23	3.8	16	2.3
Wong Tai Sin	69	5.4	43	7.1	26	3.8
Kwun Tong	79	6.1	45	7.5	34	5.0
Sha Tin	77	6.0	36	6.0	41	6.0
Tai Po	74	5.7	26	4.3	48	7.0
North	174	13.5	31	5.1	143	20.9
Yuen Long	57	4.4	33	5.5	24	3.5
Tuen Mun	42	3.3	25	4.1	17	2.5
Sai Kung	44	3.4	29	4.8	15	2.2
Islands	31	2.4	16	2.7	15	2.2
Tsuen Wan	39	3.0	21	3.5	18	2.6
Kwai Tsing	48	3.7	29	4.8	19	2.8

WHOQoL-BREF (Hong Kong version)

Environmental Health

- How safe do you feel in your daily life?
- How healthy is your physical environment?
- Have you enough money to meet your needs?
- How available to you is the information you need in your day-to-day life?
- To what extent do you have the opportunity for leisure activities?
- How satisfied are you with the conditions of your living place
- How satisfied are you with your access to health services?
- How satisfied are you with your transport?

Psychological health

- How much do you enjoy life?
- To what extent do you feel your life to be meaningful?
- How well are you able to concentrate?
- Are you able to accept your body appearance?
- How satisfied are you with yourself?
- How often do you have negative feelings such as blue mood, despair, anxiety or depression?

How would you rate your quality of life?

Social relationships

- How satisfied are you with your personal relationships?
- How satisfied are you with your sex life?
- How satisfied are you with the support you get from your friends?

Physical health

- To what extent do you feel that physical pain prevents you from doing what you need to do?
- How much do you need any medical treatment to function in your daily life?
- Do you have enough energy for everyday life?
- How well are you able to get around physically?
- How satisfied are you with your sleep?
- How satisfied are you with your ability to perform your daily living activities?
- How satisfied are you with your capacity for work?

How satisfied are you with your health?

UN Women Gender Equality Attitudes Study

Future ideal

- More opportunities for women in business
- More opportunities for women in politics
- More access to higher education for women
- More respect for women's rights in all areas
- More affordable primary health care for women
- Equal pay for equal work regardless of a person's gender

Gender stereotypes

- It is important for women to have access to family planning
- When a mother works for pay, the children suffer
- When a father works for pay, the children suffer
- For the same job, men should be paid more than women
- A woman should not earn more than her husband
- A woman should be free to refuse sex with her husband/ partner
- There are acceptable circumstances for someone to hit their spouse or partner
- Women call attention to themselves based on how they dress
- It is appropriate for men to discuss a female colleague's appearance at work
- It is essential for society to treat women as equals to men
- In the media in my city (i.e., television, advertisements, or public communication), women are typically portrayed in traditional female roles – wife, mother, caregiver or supporting tasks
- In the media in my city (i.e., television, advertisements, or public communication), men are typically portrayed in traditional male roles – providing for the family, as a leader or a business man

Roles in society

- Is it more important for a boy to get a university education than a girl
- A man's job is to earn money; a woman's job is to look after the house and the family
- Women should work less and devote more time to caring for their families
- It is natural for men to earn more than women, as they should be the main providers
- Women should be free to make choices regarding marriage – if they marry at all as well as when and whom they marry
- When jobs are scarce, men should have more right to a job than women
- In a time of a shortage of food, priority should be given to men
- In general, men are better business executives than women
- Service jobs (i.e. secretarial, administrative, cleaning) are better suited for women
- In general, men are better political leaders than women
- Having a paid job is the best way for a woman to be an independent person

Access + Control

- Education
- Work/ Employment
- Health Care
- Marriage and Family Life
- Control over Lives
- Control over Personal Finances
- Leadership and Participation
- Access to Physical Property
- Safety/ Violence at Home
- Safety/ Violence in Public Space
- Quality of Family Planning Services