

Chapter Six

Poverty

70. Monthly Income from Main Employment of Working Youths

Table 6.1: Median monthly income (HK\$) from Main Employment of working population* by sex and age group, 1991, 1996 and 2001

Sex	Age Group	1991	1996	2001
Male	15-19	3600	6000	6000
	20-24	5000	8000	8500
Female	15-19	3800	6000	5900
	20-24	4500	8000	7500
Both sexes	15-19	3750	6000	6000
	20-24	4750	8000	8000

Source: Census and Statistics Department (2001)

** The figures exclude unpaid family workers.*

In contrast to the sizeable increase in median family income in 1995 and 1996, median monthly income from main employment of working youth in 2001 showed no real gains.

70. Monthly Income from Main Employment of Working Youths

Table 6.2: Monthly Income from Main Employment of Working Youths(1) by Sex, 1991, 1996 and 2001

	Working Youths (1991)					
	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Both Sexes	Percent
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<2,000	20 211	8.5	14 124	6.5	34 335	7.5
2,000 - 3,999	58 822	24.7	60 568	27.8	119 390	26.2
4,000 - 5,999	99 141	41.7	103 469	47.4	202 610	44.4
6,000 - 7,999	38 316	16.1	25 376	11.6	63 692	14.0
8,000 - 9,999	13 00	5.5	8 357	3.8	21 364	4.7
10,000 - 14,999	6 046	2.5	4 956	2.3	11 002	2.4
15,000 - 19,999	1 254	0.5	678	0.3	1 932	0.4
≥20,000	1 043	0.4	616	0.3	1 659	0.4
Total	237 840	100.0	218 144	100.0	455 984	100.0
Median monthly income in 1991 (HK\$)	4,500		4,250		4,300	
	Working Youths (1996)					
<2,000	3 122	1.5	2 598	1.3	5 720	1.4
2,000 - 3,999	11 329	5.4	21 959	11.0	33 288	8.1
4,000 - 5,999	31 063	14.7	22 772	11.4	53 835	13.1
6,000 - 7,999	62 204	29.4	58 939	29.5	121 143	29.4
8,000 - 9,999	47 630	22.5	47 684	23.9	95 314	23.2
10,000 - 14,999	42 721	20.2	33 607	16.8	76 328	18.6
15,000 - 19,999	9 591	4.5	8 667	4.3	18 258	4.4
≥20,000	3 944	1.9	3 595	1.8	7 539	1.8
Total	211 604	100.0	199 821	100.0	411 425	100.0
Median monthly income in 1996 (HK\$)	7,600		7,500		7,500	
	Working Youths (2001)					
<2,000	3 775	2.0	4 558	2.2	8 333	2.1
2,000 - 3,999	10 835	5.8	42 884	20.8	53 719	13.7
4,000 - 5,999	20 944	11.2	20 566	10.0	41 510	10.6
6,000 - 7,999	49 641	26.6	51 276	24.9	100 917	25.7
8,000 - 9,999	43 764	23.5	39 158	19.0	82 922	21.1
10,000 - 14,999	41 653	22.3	33 757	16.4	75 410	19.2
15,000 - 19,999	11 584	6.2	8 882	4.3	20 466	5.2
≥20,000	4 332	2.3	4 647	2.3	8 979	2.3
Total	186 528	100.0	205 728	100.0	392 256	100.0
Median monthly income in 2001 (HK\$)	8,000		7,000		7,500	

Source: Census and Statistics Department (2001)

Note: (1) Figures exclude unpaid family workers.

The monthly income for full-time working youth was the same between 1996 and 2001. In contrast to the income decline among young females, the median income for all males increased by \$400 during the 1996 to 2001 period. During 2001, the gap between young men's and women's incomes was larger than those in 1991 and 1996.

71. Labour Market Participation

Table 6.3: Labour Force Participation Rates* by Sex, Age Group and Broad Area, 2001

Age Group	HK Island and Kowloon	New Towns	Other Areas and Marine	The Whole Territory
Male				
15-24	46.3	49.8	48.9	48.2
25-34	93.2	94.5	86.9	93.3
Female				
15-24	47.2	49.0	52.2	48.3
25-34	82.1	78.5	74.4	80.0
Both sexes				
15-24	46.8	49.4	50.5	48.3
25-34	87.1	85.7	80.2	86.0

Source: Census and Statistics Department (2001)

Table 6.4: Labour participation rate of youth from different countries

Year	USA	Japan	Taiwan	Macau	Hong Kong
	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000
15-19 age	52.2	17.7	36.6	44.0	17.0
20-24 age	77.9	72.7	-	-	75.3
25-29 age	84.6	80.3	-	84.2	91.2
Overall	67.2	62.9	57.9	63.4	60.7

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (2001)

Table 6.3 and 6.4 compares the youth labour force participation rate (percentage of youth labour force in the age-specific population) in 2000 and 2001. At close look, it should be noted that the labour force participation rate for Hong Kong youths aged 25-29 were higher than those of other countries.

72. Number of Students Receiving Financial Assistance

Table 6.5: Student Finance Assistance Scheme Summary of Statistics

	2000/2001	2001/2002
Eligible student enrolment	2,656	1,690 (1,844*)
No. of applications received	1,186	741 (895*)
No. of applications processed	1,186	742 (895*)
No. of successful applications	1,089	643
No. of applicants receiving grants	974	604
No. of applicants receiving loan	1,065	643
Average amount of assistance	\$23,852	\$23,403
Average grant	\$7,833	\$7,639
Average loan	\$16,688	\$16,227
Total amount of grant	\$7.6m	\$4.6m
Total amount of loan offered	\$18.1m	\$10.4m
Total amount of loan accepted	\$17.8m	\$10.4m

Source: Student Financial Assistance Agency

* including 154 applicants opted for Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-Secondary Students.

Table 6.6: Financial Assistant Scheme for Post-Secondary Students Summary of Statistics

	2001/2002 (as at 30.9.2002)	2002/2003 (as at 30.9.2002)
Eligible student enrollment	8,416	17,509*
No. of applications received	3,352	2,693
No. of applications completed	3,352	1,869
No. of successful applications with notifications issued	2,519	1,483
No. of applicants offered grants	635	430
No. of applicants offered loan	1,884	1,053
Average amount of assistance	\$23,281	\$26,321
Average grant	\$37,607	\$40,300
Average loan	\$18,453	\$20,613
No. of applications accepted grant	\$630	\$382
No. of applications accepted loan	1,303	\$676
Total amount of grant offered	\$23.88m	\$17.33m
Total amount of loan offered	\$34.76m	\$21.71m
Total amount of grant accepted	\$23.69m	\$15.21m
Total amount of loan accepted	\$27.39m	\$14.93m

Source: Student Financial Assistance Agency

* include Hong Kong Shue Yan College's continuing students who are covered by the Student Finance Assistance Scheme.

72. Number of Students Receiving Financial Assistance

Table 6.7: Student Travel Subsidy Scheme

	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2001
No. of applications received/processed	193 143	208 300	213 179	218 520	225 167
School Sector	157 646	177 705	184 276	187 922	191 355
Tertiary Sector	35 497	30 595	28 276	30 598	33 812
No. of successful applications	180 031	191 598	196 899	201 455	209 150
School Sector	152 816	163 969	172 036	173 546	178 376
Tertiary Sector	28 015	27 629	24 863	27 909	30 774
Average subsidy					
School Sector	\$1,202	\$1,266	\$1,323	\$1,588.35	\$1,637.77
Tertiary Sector	\$2,159	\$2,341	\$2,288	\$2,917.19	\$2,842.46
Total amount of subsidy provided					
School Sector	\$183.7m	\$207.6m	\$227.7m	\$275.7m	\$292.1m
Tertiary Sector	\$60.5m	\$64.7m	\$56.9m	\$81.4m	\$87.5m

Source: Student Financial Assistance Agency

Table 6.8: School Textbook Assistance Scheme

	1997/1998	1998/1999*	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002
Eligible student enrolment	653 907	867 636	880 227	885 412	923 900
No. of applications received	163 473	311 517	339 608	373 731	389 837
No. of applications processed				374 731	390 837
No. of successful applications	162 986	289 169	319 156	348 975	367 126
Primary	80 943	108 040	130 827	155 344	166 596
Half grant	71 670	93 609	102 927	121 494	128 359
Full grant	9 273	14 431	27 900	33 850	38 237
Secondary	82 043	181 129	188 329	193 631	200 530
Half grant	74 890	158 824	150 315	151 771	152 818
Full grant	7 153	22 305	38 014	41 860	47 712
Grant Rates					
P1 - P6	\$1,029	\$1,221	\$1,332	\$1,790	\$1,928
S1 - S3	\$1,683	\$1,766	\$1,756	\$2,546	\$2,682
S4	/	\$1,592	\$1,632	\$2,382	\$2,474
S5	/	\$978	\$960	\$1,516	\$1,540
S6	/	\$1,463	\$1,492	\$2,144	\$2,200
S7	/	\$416	\$422	\$840	\$850
Total amount of assistance provided	\$121.5m	\$224.5m	\$271.7m	\$426.5m	\$480.8m

Source: Student Financial Assistance Agency

* The School Textbook Assistance Scheme was extended to cover Senior Secondary Students *m.e.f.* 1998/1999 school years.

72. Number of Students Receiving Financial Assistance

Table 6.9: Senior Secondary Fee Remission Scheme

	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002
No. of approved enrolment	190 750	194 540	195 560	193 160	204 500
S4 - S5	142 210	146 180	146 720	144 200	147 700
S6 - S7	48 540	48 360	48 840	48 960	56 800
No. of applications received	92 578	105 904	105 843	103 012	102 039
S4 - S5	67 456	77 048	77 334	74 858	73 700
S6 - S7	25 122	28 856	28 509	28 154	28 339
No. of applications processed				103 012	102 039
No. of successful applications	92 175	97 058	98 685	95 321	95 286
S4 - S5	67 166	71 247	72 299	69 544	68 998
Half Fee Remission	59 936	61 721	56 764	53 623	51 719
Full Fee Remission	7 230	9 526	15 535	15 921	17 279
S6 - S7	25 009	25 811	26 386	25 777	26 896
Half Fee Remission	22 021	22 208	20 671	19 854	19 671
Full Fee Remission	2 988	3 603	5 715	5 923	6 617
Gazetted Fee*					
S4 - S5	\$5,050	\$5,050	\$5,050	\$5,050	\$5,050
S6 - S7	\$8,750	\$8,750	\$8,750	\$8,750	\$8,750

Source: Student Financial Assistance Agency

** Set by Education and Manpower Bureau for the public sector secondary schools*

** Excluding foreign domestic helpers*

The amount of financial assistance has risen dramatically from 1997 to 2001 for the primary, secondary and tertiary students. Table 6.6 and 6.7 indicate that the number and percentage of student receiving travel subsidy and textbook assistance rose dramatically from 1997 to 2001. The total amount of provided textbook assistance has increased 75% from \$121.5 million in 1997 to \$480.8 million in 2001. In 2001, there were \$292.1 million and \$87.5 million of travel subsidy awarded to student of the school sector and tertiary sector respectively that has increased 36% from 1997 to 2001.