

# **Longitudinal Study on Civic Engagement and Social Networks of Youth in Hong Kong**

## **Final Report**

**Prepared for  
The Commission on Youth**

**Prepared by  
Policy 21 Ltd., The University of Hong Kong**

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Objectives

1.1.1 The Commission on Youth (COY) is undertaking a study to systematically and comprehensively track the accumulation and development of social capital of youth in Hong Kong. The present longitudinal study is a follow-up to the first benchmark study - the Benchmark Study on Civic Engagement and Social Networks of Youth in Hong Kong (the Benchmark Study) - conducted in 2004-05. The Benchmark Study has developed a structured and systematic range of social capital indicators for evaluation of youth services, and also provided COY and the Government with very good and useful information and a clear baseline for future research on civic engagement and social networking of youth in Hong Kong. The Longitudinal Study helps track the changes in civic engagement, social networks and other related characteristics of youth, and identify related factors affecting their civic engagement and social networks.

1.1.2 More specifically, the objectives of conducting the longitudinal study and more in-depth analysis into changes in the civic engagement and social networks of youth in Hong Kong, on the basis of findings from the Benchmark and Longitudinal Studies, are as follows:

- a) To track the changes of civic engagement, social networks and other related characteristics, such as the economic activity status (from student to non-engaged, student to employed, non-engaged to employed, non-engaged to student, etc.) of youth over time;
- b) To find out the various factors, such as government policies and prevention / intervention measures (funded publicly or privately) as well as respondents' personal events, accounting for the changes of civic engagement and social networks since the Benchmark Study;
- c) To examine the underlying causes for the 'double-dip' pattern observed from the results of the Benchmark Study for the age groups 17 to 19 and 21 to 23;
- d) To find out the aspirations of individual youth and the challenges they anticipate to attain their aspirations;
- e) To construct relevant indices on items (a)-(d) above for trend analysis with the Benchmark Study / future studies where appropriate;
- f) To conduct trend analysis with the Benchmark Study where appropriate; and
- g) To make recommendations based on the results of the study for enhancing youth social capital and evaluating youth services in Hong Kong.

## **1.2 Organization of the report**

1.2.1 This report presents the findings of the first phase questionnaire survey, based on data obtained from a questionnaire survey on a panel of youth enumerated in the Benchmark Study conducted in 2004-05, as well as information obtained from a follow-up in-depth interview (Phase II) with a sample of respondents enumerated in the questionnaire survey and in-depth interviews with social workers and academics involved in youth work. The report is organized into the following sections.

- a) Methodology;
- b) Profile of respondents;
- c) Civic engagement and social networks;
- d) Use of community services and social support network; and
- e) Personal well-being and family functioning.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 The data collection framework

#### *The concept of social capital*

2.1.1 Social capital comprises two main elements, social structures and actions between people within the social structures, based on trust and expectation of reciprocal treatment. It is an attribute of individuals as well as communities. The existence of social capital is exhibited by networks, norms and trust among individuals, which enable them to work together to pursue common goals.

2.1.2 Furthermore, social capital represents ties between family members as well as ties between members of a community or between communities, serving as a cohesive force holding families and communities together. Thus, social capital is not only an important attribute essential for the well-being of individuals, it is also a valuable resource within any community.

#### *Components of social capital: civic engagement and social networks*

2.1.3 A number of attempts have been made to define the concept of social capital, putting it in operational terms and measure it. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), social capital is defined as “networks together with shared norms, values and understanding that facilitate co-operation within and among groups”.

2.1.4 The Australian Bureau of Statistics further distinguishes different dimensions of social capital, including network quality which refers to trust and reciprocity, network structure which refers to participation in social networks and network transactions which refer to integration into the community, volunteering, etc. In other words, social capital is manifested through different aspects of civic engagement and social networks.

2.1.5 According to the World Bank, there are three categories of social capital indicators, namely structural social capital which refers to such aspects as civic leadership and associational involvement and faith-based engagement, cognitive social capital which covers such aspects as social trust and diversity of friendship, and outcome measure which includes political participation, giving and volunteering, informal social ties, etc.

2.1.6 Adopting the OECD’s definition of social and the World Bank’s framework of social capital indicators, 8 areas of civic engagement and social networks can be identified, which represent three different dimensions of social capital. The conceptual framework for the present study is depicted in the table below.

<b>Dimensions of social capital</b>	<b>Areas of civic engagement and social networks</b>	<b>Types of social capital indicators</b>
Network Qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social trust</li> </ul>	Cognitive social capital
Network Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Associational involvement</li> <li>• Diversity of friendship</li> <li>• Informal socializing</li> </ul>	Structural social capital
Network Transactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conventional politics</li> <li>• Civic rallies</li> <li>• Giving and volunteering</li> <li>• Faith-based engagement</li> </ul>	Output measure

2.1.7. In designing the questionnaires, the framework developed by Professor CHAN Wing-tai on different aspects of civic engagement and social networks was adopted. These aspects are summarized below:

- a) Social trust, including trust of neighbours, co-workers, clerks, police, “most people”;
- b) Conventional politics, including voter registration; voting history; interest in and knowledge of politics and national affairs; reading daily newspapers.
- c) Civic rallies, including membership in group(s) that took local action for reform; attendance at political meetings or rallies; signing petitions; participation in ethnic, nationality, or civil rights organization(s); community celebrations.
- d) Civic leadership, including formal group involvement (other than religious); service as an officer or committee member; number of meetings attended; attendance at public meetings, school or town affairs.
- e) Associational involvement, including membership in: professional associations; hobby clubs; youth organizations; neighbourhood associations; service organization; school-related groups; sports leagues; nationality or civil rights organizations.
- f) Informal socializing, including frequency of socializing with friends at home or in a public place; socializing with co-workers outside of work; played cards or board games with others; ICQs; visited with relatives.
- g) Diversity of friendships, including whether has friend(s) who owns a business; is a manual worker; has been on welfare; is a community leader; is gay or lesbian; has a different religious orientation.
- h) Giving and volunteering, including contributions to religious or non-religious charities or causes; volunteering for religious, charity, youth-school, neighbourhood-civic, health, or culture-arts organizations.
- i) Faith-based engagement, including religious or spiritual attendance or membership; participation in activities besides religious services; money contributed to church or religious causes; participation in organization affiliated with religion.

***Other variables included in the study***

2.1.8 In addition, a number of locally validated measurements scales were used in data

collection. These scales are summarized below:

- a) For the assessment of family functioning, the 33-item Chinese Family Assessment Instrument (C-FAI) developed and validated by Professor Daniel Shek was used in both the benchmark and longitudinal studies. The 33 items may be categorized into four areas, namely mutuality, communication and connectedness, conflict and harmony and parent-child subsystem quality. Based on results of three empirical studies on a sample of secondary schools, a sample of over 700 boys and girls comprising both clinical and non-clinical groups and a community sample of over 3 600 adolescents, the scale has been found to have excellent psychometric properties such as test-retest reliability, internal consistency, convergent validity, construct validity and discriminant or divergent validity.<sup>1</sup>
- b) For general health status, it has been shown that the Chinese version of the 30-item General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-30) has high internal consistency and correlates significantly with other measures of psychopathology such as anxiety, depression, purposes in life, ego strength and somatic complaints. The GHQ-30 can be regarded as a valid measure of general psychological health.<sup>2</sup> In addition, five factors may be extracted from GHQ-30, namely anxiety, depression, inadequate coping, interpersonal dysfunction, and sleep disturbances. The fifth factor (i.e. sleep disturbances) is a relatively weak factor as it includes only two items.<sup>3</sup> As the GHQ-30 items on mental health are too “negatively” oriented, only 15 items of the GHQ-30 were used in the longitudinal and benchmark studies. For mental health, five items on life satisfaction, measuring positive aspects of mental health, are also used. There are studies supporting the psychometric properties of these measures.
- c) For self-esteem, the Chinese version of the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale was adopted in both the longitudinal and benchmark studies. This scale has been tested in a study based on a sample of 429 Chinese adolescents.<sup>4</sup>

## 2.2 Data collection approach for the questionnaire survey

### *Household survey*

2.2.1 Both quantitative data and qualitative information were obtained in the study. The quantitative data were collected through face-to-face household interviews. Information on the various components of social capital, as well as factors that might affect the accumulation of social capital of youths was gathered in the household survey. The questionnaire used is given in the [Appendix](#).

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1 Shek, D.T.L. (2002), “Assessment of family functioning Chinese adolescents: The Chinese Family assessment Instrument”, In N.N. Singh, T. Ollendick and A.N. Singh (Eds.), *International perspectives on child and adolescent mental health* (pp.297-316).

2 Shek, Daniel T. L. (1989), “Validity of the Chinese version of the General Health Questionnaire”, in *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 45(6): 890 – 897.

3 Shek, Daniel, T. L. (1987), “Reliability and factorial structure of the Chinese version of the General Health Questionnaire”, in *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 43(6): 683 – 691.

4 Shek, Daniel, T. L. (1997), “The relation of family functioning to adolescent psychological well-being, school adjustment and problem behaviour”, in *The Journal of Genetic Psychology*, 158(4): 467 – 479.

2.2.2 The sample of 3 556 youth enumerated in the Benchmark Study was used as the sampling frame for the present study, so that a longitudinal study design was ensured. It may be noted that this was a sampling frame of persons aged 15 – 24, and not a sampling frame of addresses. From this sampling frame, a list of addresses in which the 3 556 youth were living when the Benchmark Study was conducted was drawn up.

2.2.3 To ensure that data collection was carried out without infringing the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, a two-phase stratified sample design was adopted. In the first phase, all persons residing in the addresses drawn up above were covered in the survey and became target respondents for the survey. The purposes of the first phase operation were as follow:

- a) To seek permission from the respondents for a second interview;
- b) To obtain again from the respondents basic information on demographic characteristics (e.g. age and sex) and economic activity status (i.e. whether studying, employed or non-engaged).

2.2.4 No information that was provided by the respondents in the Benchmark Study would be used in the first phase operation. In other words, all staff responsible for the survey had no access to such information that was related to individual respondents.

2.2.5 It may be noted that some respondents who were aged around 23 – 24 enumerated in the Benchmark Study would have reached age 26 or above when they were contacted in the first phase. By matching information on the age, sex and whether they were residing in the same addresses at the time of the Benchmark Study, it may be possible to identify respondents who were interviewed in both the Benchmark and Longitudinal Studies.

***Enumeration results of the questionnaire survey***

2.2.6 The survey was conducted during the period from 28 January 2008 to 31 May 2008. After excluding 786 living quarters found to be unoccupied or moved, a total of 1 036 out of 1 724 eligible living quarters were successfully enumerated, representing a household response rate of 60%. Among the living quarters enumerated, 1 506 respondents aged 18 – 27 were interviewed. Out of these 1 506 respondents, 1 054 were found to be have been interviewed in both the Benchmark and Longitudinal Studies. Data presented in this report are in respect of these 1 054 respondents. Details on the enumeration results are appended below:

a) Total number of living quarters sampled	2 510
b) Number of living quarters excluded from the sample	786
c) Number of living quarters eligible for inclusion	1 724
d) Number of living quarters successfully enumerated	1 036
e) Number of living quarters refused to be interviewed	365
f) Number of living quarters not contacted	323
g) Household response rate	<b>60.1%</b>
h) Number of living quarters with youth enumerated	1 036
i) Number of youths interviewed	<b>1 506</b>
j) Number of matched cases	<b>1 054</b>

## 2.3 Data collection approach for the in-depth interviews

### *Criteria in selecting target respondents*

#### *Changes in economic activity status*

2.3.1 An analysis of the change in economic activity status of these 1 054 respondents is shown below. It may be seen that the economic activity status of more than half (65%) of respondents remained the same in the two surveys. About 46% remained as students in 2004-05 and 2008, 18% continued to be employed and 1% continued to be non-engaged. On the other hand, the economic activity status of the remaining 35% in 2008 was different from that in 2004-05, and the changes are summarized below:

- a) 27% of respondents were studying in 2004-05 left schools and then became employed in 2008 while 3% left schools and became non-engaged;
- b) 1% of those were employed in 2004-05 and then resumed school in 2008 and another 1% became non-engaged;
- c) 4% of those were non-engaged in 2004-05, on the other hand, found a job and were employed in 2008 and 0.3% resumed schooling.

2008	2004-5		
	Students	Employed	Non-engaged
Students	46.1%	0.9%	0.3%
Employed	26.9%	17.6%	3.5%
Non-engaged	3.2%	0.7%	0.8%

2.3.2 For the purposes of conducting the in-depth interviews, a sample of respondents from each of the nine categories highlighted above were interviewed, to find out how the change in economic activity status would affect their social capital, family functioning and mental well-being, or vice versa, to what extent government or community services have been instrumental in their change of economic activity status, their aspirations and the challenges they anticipate to attain their aspirations

#### *Schooling and employment situations*

2.3.3 Viewed from life transition perspectives, those whose economic activity status had not changed might have changed schools, progressed from one level of education (say secondary) to another (tertiary or technical education), or changes in employers. Furthermore, those who were studying full-time might not be interested in schooling at all, and were absent from schools quite often. Their characteristics, in terms of civic engagement and social network, might not be very much different from those who are non-engaged. In addition, among those who are employed, some of them might have only temporary jobs. They entered and left the labour force intermittently and displayed similar characteristics as those who are non-engaged.

2.3.4 In the questionnaire survey, information was collected for those who were employed on the nature of employment (i.e. short-term, temporary employment versus jobs with long-term employment contract of say over a year) and hours of work and

whether seeking more work (i.e. to identify those who are under-employed in terms of hours of work). For those who were studying, additional information was gathered on whether they were interested in schooling and whether they had any intention of dropping out from schools.

2.3.5 For the purposes of conducting in-depth interviews, it was considered useful to interview a sample of respondents having the following characteristics:

- a) Those who had changed schools or progressed from one level of education to another;
- b) Those who had changed employers;
- c) Those who were studying but had no interest in schooling and were absent from school quite often;
- d) Those who were employed but were having temporary employment, or were under-employed.

2.3.6 In conducting in-depth interviews, information was gathered from this group of respondents on factors, including government and community services, that might have affected their social capital, family functioning and mental well-being, their aspirations and the challenges they anticipate to attain their aspirations.

#### *The “double-dip” pattern*

2.3.7 In the Benchmark Study conducted in 2004-05, a “double-dip” pattern was observed, with those in the age groups 17 - 19 and 21 - 23 having lower scores in the various social capital indicators, family functioning, self-esteem and other indicators of mental well-being. A similar “double-dip” pattern was also observed in the Phase I survey conducted in 2008, with those aged 20 and 25 having lower scores in the various social capital indicators, family functioning, self-esteem and other indicators of mental well-being.

2.3.8 For the purposes of conducting the in-depth interviews, it was considered useful to interview a sample of respondents aged 20 and 25, the social capital, family functioning and mental well-being of whom have increased, remained more or less the same or declined, with a view to finding out factors, including government or community services, which may have affected their social capital, family functioning and mental well-being, their aspirations and the challenges they anticipate to attain their aspirations.

#### *Disadvantaged groups*

2.3.9 To supplement data on family functioning, additional information on the family background of youth was gathered in the questionnaire survey, covering type of housing, family structure and family size, family income and educational background and economic activity status of parents as well as length of stay in Hong Kong.

2.3.10 From the above information, it was possible to identify respondents belonging to certain disadvantaged groups, as follows:

- a) Respondents who were from single-parent families<sup>5</sup>;
- b) Respondents who had no employment income (e.g. those who were studying or non-engaged) and whose parents were both non-working;
- c) Respondents who were from families of new immigrants (e.g. who had been in Hong Kong for less than seven years or whose parents had been in Hong Kong for less than seven years at the time of the Phase II survey).

2.3.11 For the purposes of conducting the in-depth interviews, it was considered useful to interview a sample of respondents belonging to the above groups, with a view to finding out factors, including government or community services, which might have affected their social capital, family functioning and mental well-being, their aspirations and the challenges they anticipate to attain their aspirations.

*Changes in social capital, family functioning and mental wellbeing*

2.3.12 As noted above, data on a number of social capital, family functioning and mental well-being variables were gathered in both the Benchmark Study conducted in 2004-05 and the questionnaire survey conducted in 2008. Findings from the two surveys show that:

- a) As indicators of network quality, the index of trust in people and the index of trust in institutions were higher in 2008, as compared to those in 2004-05;
- b) As one of the indicators of network structure, the index of diversity of friendship was higher in 2008, as compared to that in 2004-05. For associational involvement and the percentage participating in informal activities every week, the percentages were lower in 2008, as compared to those in 2004-05;
- c) As indicators of network transactions, the percentage of registered voters, participating in civic rallies, volunteer work or donation activities and with faith-based engagement, as well as the index of attitude towards volunteering were lower in 2008, as compared to those in 2004-05;
- d) The indices of family functioning, parent-child relationship, perception in life and mental health were higher in 2008, as compared to those in 2004-05, while the indices of self-esteem were more or less the same in 2008 and 2004-05.

2.3.13 From the matched dataset, it was possible to identify respondents whose:

- a) Social trust was lower, rather than higher for all respondents as a whole, in 2008, as compared with that in 2004-05;
- b) Social trust was exceptionally higher, by say at least one standard deviation of the difference between the average in 2008 and that in 2004-05;
- c) Network transactions indicators were all higher, rather than lower for all respondents as a whole, in 2008, as compared with that in 2004-05;
- d) Indices of family functioning, parent-child relationship and mental health were lower, rather than higher for all respondents as a whole, in 2008, as compared with that in 2004-05.

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<sup>5</sup> Refer to the families that the youth who were living with either one of their parents.

2.3.14 For the purposes of Phase II study, it was considered useful to interview a sample of respondents belonging to the above groups, with a view to finding out factors, including government or community services, which might have affected their social capital, family functioning and mental well-being, their aspirations and the challenges they anticipate to attain their aspirations.

***Selection of respondents for in-depth interviews***

*First selection criteria: changes in economic activity status*

2.3.15 Based on findings of the questionnaire survey, it was possible to categorize the respondents into nine sub-groups, based on the change in economic activity status between 2004-05 and 2008. For the 1 054 respondents interviewed in 2004-05 and 2008, they may be classified into nine sub-groups as follows:

2008	2004-5		
	Students	Employed	Non-engaged
Students	486	10	3
Employed	283	186	37
Non-engaged	34	7	8

2.3.16 As only a small number of respondents was found in six categories of respondents, namely “student, non-engaged” (i.e. being students in 2004-05 and non-engaged in 2008), “employed, student”, “employed, non-engaged”, “non-engaged, student”, “non-engaged, employed” and “non-engaged, non-engaged”, all respondents belonging to these six categories were selected for the in-depth interviews. Out of 99 respondents selected, 38 were successfully interviewed.

Phase I survey 2008	Benchmark Study 2004-5		
	Students	Employed	Non-engaged
Students		3/10 <sup>6</sup>	1/3
Employed			11/37
Non-engaged	16/34	2/7	5/8

*Second selection criteria: disadvantaged groups*

2.3.17 In the second stage, respondents were selected based on the classification disadvantaged group from the remaining three categories of respondents shown above (i.e. “students, students”, “students, employed” and “employed, employed”. The selection result was shown in the table below, together with the number of respondents interviewed, are summarized as follows:

- a) 60 respondents who were from single-parent families were selected, of whom 46 were successfully interviewed;

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6 Out of 10 respondents selected, 3 were successfully interviewed. Similar notations are used for other figures shown in the table.

- b) 20 respondents who had no employment income (e.g. those who were studying or non-engaged) and whose parents were not working were selected and all of them were successfully interviewed;
- c) 33 respondents who were from families of new immigrants (e.g. who had been in Hong Kong for less than seven years or whose parents had been in Hong Kong for less than seven years at the time of the questionnaire survey) and all of them were successfully interviewed.

Sub-groups	Second-selection classification		
	Un-employed parents	Single parents	New immigrants
Students-Students	20/20	18/20	23/23
Students-Employed	-	18/20	10/10
Employed-Employed	-	10/20	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>20/20</b>	<b>46/60</b>	<b>33/33</b>

*Third selection criteria: schooling and employment status*

2.3.18 Based on the third selection criteria, 118 respondents were selected, of whom 92 were successfully interviewed. The selection plan and the enumeration results for the four groups of respondents are shown in the table below and summarized as follows:

- a) 20 respondents who had changed schools or progressed from one level of education to another were selected and all of them were successfully interviewed;
- b) 40 respondents who had changed employers were selected and 29 of them were successfully interviewed;
- c) 18 respondents who were studying but had no interest in schooling and were absent from school quite often, or the potential dropouts, were selected and all of them were successfully interviewed;
- d) 40 respondents who were employed but were having temporary or part-time employment, or were unemployed in the 12 months prior to enumeration were selected and 25 of them were successfully interviewed.

Sub-groups	Third-selection classification			
	Change school	Change employers	Potential dropouts	Temporary under-employed
Students-Students	20/20	-	18/18	-
Students-Employed	-	20/20	-	20/20
Employed-Employed	-	9/20	-	5/20
<b>Total</b>	<b>20/20</b>	<b>29/40</b>	<b>18/18</b>	<b>25/40</b>

*Fourth selection criteria: age*

2.3.19 Based on the fourth selection criteria, 90 respondents were selected, of whom 74 were successfully interviewed. The selection plan and the enumeration results for the three groups of respondents are shown in the table below and summarized as follows:

- a) 30 respondents aged 21 or 25 with most indicators of their social capital, family functioning and mental health in 2008 lower than those in 2004-05 were selected and 25 of them were successfully interviewed;
- b) 30 respondents aged 21 or 25 with most indicators of their social capital, family functioning and mental health in 2008 more or less the same as those in 2004-05 were selected and 24 of them were successfully interviewed;
- c) 30 respondents aged 21 or 25 with most indicators of their social capital, family functioning and mental health in 2008 higher than those in 2004-05 were selected and 25 of them were successfully interviewed.

Sub-groups	Fourth-selection classification		
	Lower	Same	Higher
Students-Students	10/10	10/10	10/10
Students-Employed	10/10	10/10	10/10
Employed-Employed	5/10	4/10	5/10
<b>Total</b>	25/30	24/30	25/30

*Fifth selection criteria: changes in social capital*

2.3.20 Based on the fifth selection criteria, 120 respondents were selected, of whom 97 were successfully interviewed. The selection plan and the enumeration results for the four groups of respondents are shown in the table below and summarized as follows.

- a) 30 respondents whose social trust was lower, rather than higher for all respondents as a whole, in 2008, as compared with that in 2004-05, were selected and 26 of them were successfully interviewed;
- b) 30 respondents whose social trust was exceptionally higher, by say at least one standard deviation of the difference between the average in 2008 and that in 2004-05, were selected and 22 of them were successfully interviewed;
- c) 30 respondents whose network transactions indicators were all higher, rather than lower for all respondents as a whole, in 2008, as compared with that in 2004-05, were selected and 22 of them were successfully interviewed;
- d) 30 respondents whose indices of family functioning, parent-child relationship and mental health were lower, rather than higher for all respondents as a whole, in 2008, as compared with that in 2004-05, were selected and 27 of them were successfully interviewed.

Sub-groups	Fifth-selection classification			
	Lower social trust	Higher social trust	Higher network transactions	Lower family functioning and mental health
Students-Students	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Students-Employed	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Employed-Employed	6/10	2/10	2/10	7/10
<b>Total</b>	26/30	22/30	22/30	27/30

*Overall selection and enumeration results*

2.3.21 After five stages of selection, a total of 540 respondents were selected for the in-depth interviews, with the breakdown by the nine sub-groups shown in the table below. It may be noted that respondents sampled according to the four sets of selection criteria described above may have characteristics belonging to more than one set of selection criteria.

Phase I survey 2008	Benchmark Study 2004-5		
	Students	Employed	Non-engaged
Students	169/171	3/10	1/3
Employed	138/140	55/130	11/37
Non-engaged	16/34	2/7	5/8

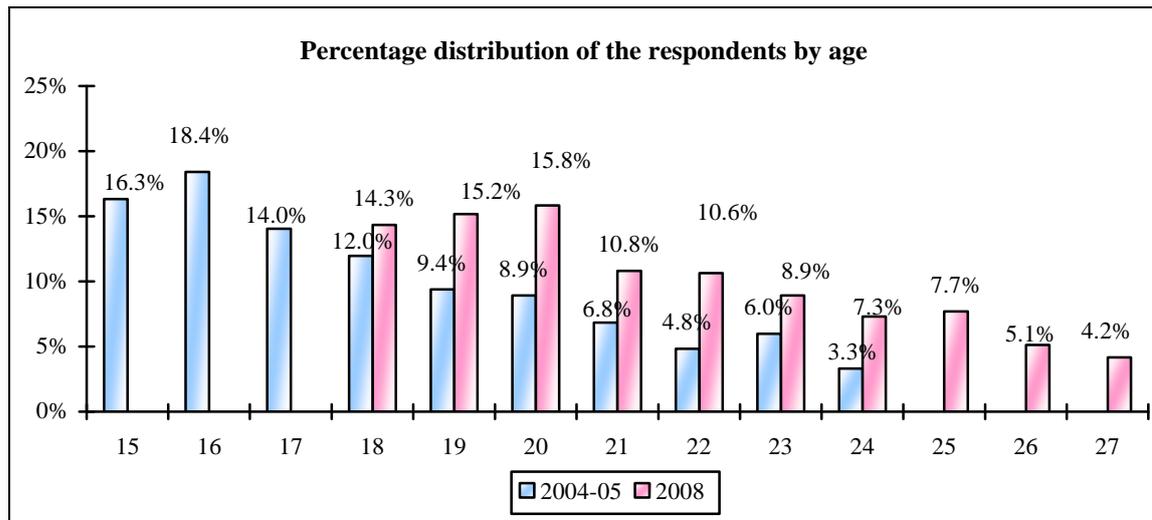
2.3.22 Out of 540 respondents selected for the in-depth interviews, 400 were successfully interviewed, representing a response rate of 74%. The detailed enumeration results analyzed by the above nine sub-groups are shown in the table below.

Category	Number sampled	Non-contact	Refusals	Successfully interviewed	
				Number	%
Students to Students	171	0	2	169	98.8%
Students to Employed	140	0	2	138	98.6%
Students to Non-engaged	34	9	9	16	47.1%
Employed to Students	10	4	3	3	30.0%
Employed to Employed	130	24	51	55	42.3%
Employed to Non-engaged	7	3	2	2	28.6%
Non-engaged to Students	3	1	1	1	33.3%
Non-engaged to Employed	37	5	21	11	29.7%
Non-engaged to Non-engaged	8	1	2	5	62.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>74.1%</b>

### 3. Profile of respondents

#### 3.1 Demographic characteristics

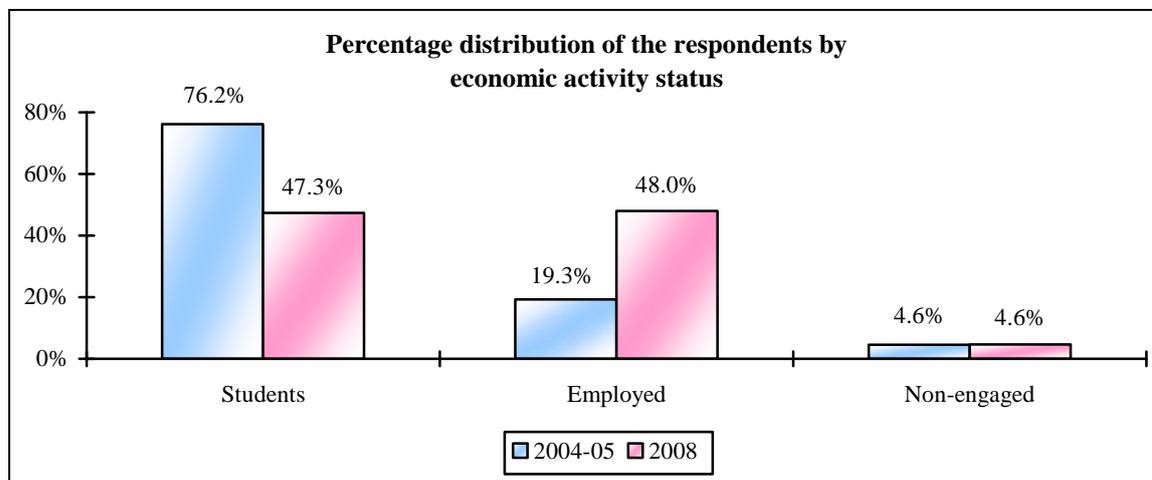
3.1.1 About 46% of respondents were females and the balance of 54%, males. In 2008, about 45% of respondents were aged 18 – 20 and a further 30% aged 21 – 23. As expected, the chart below shows that the age distribution of respondents has shifted by about 3 – 4 years between 2004-05 and 2008.



Base: All respondents (N=1 054)

#### 3.2 Economic activity status

3.2.1 In 2008, 47% (as compared with 76% in 2004-05) of respondents were students and a further 48% (19% in 2004-05) were employed. Only about 5% were non-engaged, which was about the same as that in 2004-05. Apparently, changes in economic conditions in Hong Kong between 2004-05 and 2008 have had little impact on the proportion of non-engaged for this panel of respondents.

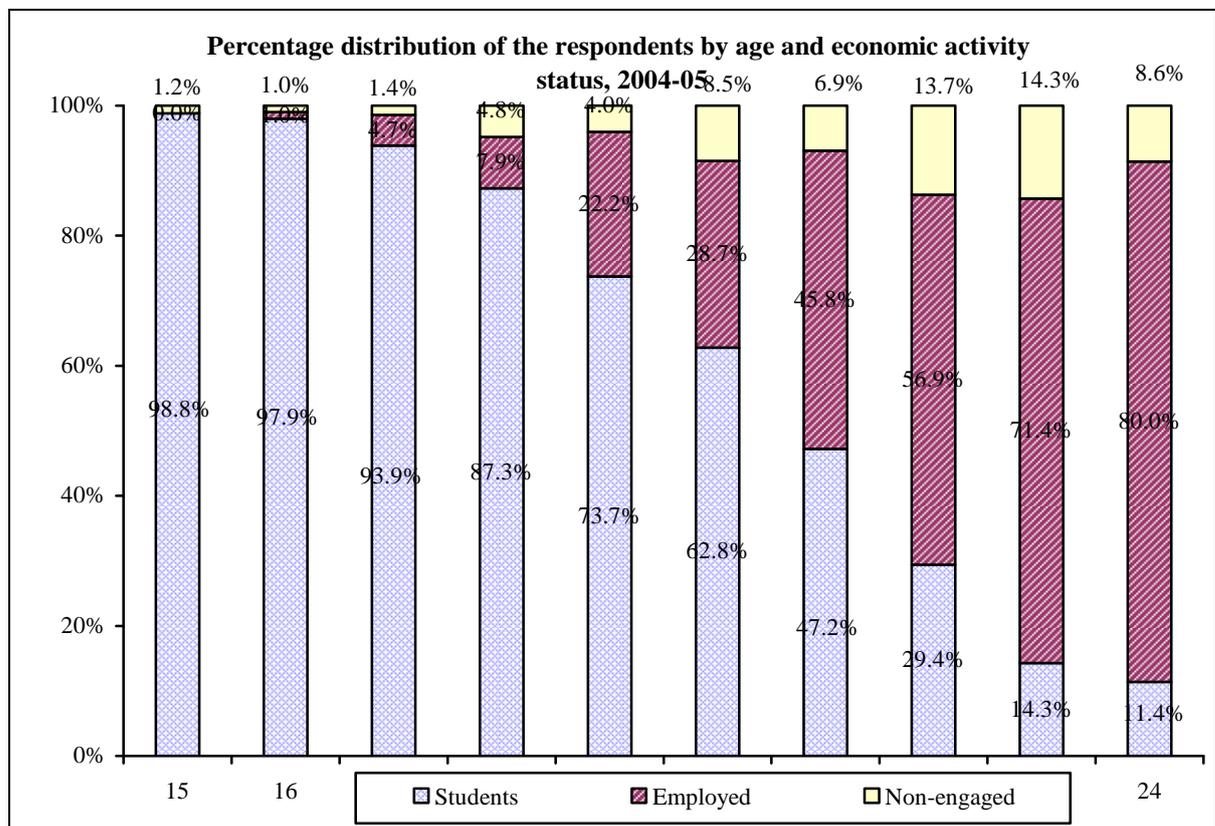


Base: All respondents (N=1 054)

3.2.2 The following table depicts changes in economic activity status between 2004-05 and 2008. It may be worth noting that 3.2% of respondents were studying in 2004-05 and were non-engaged in 2008. Only about 0.8% of respondents remained non-engaged in both 2004-05 and 2008. About 3.5% of respondents were non-engaged in 2004-05 and had found a job in 2008.

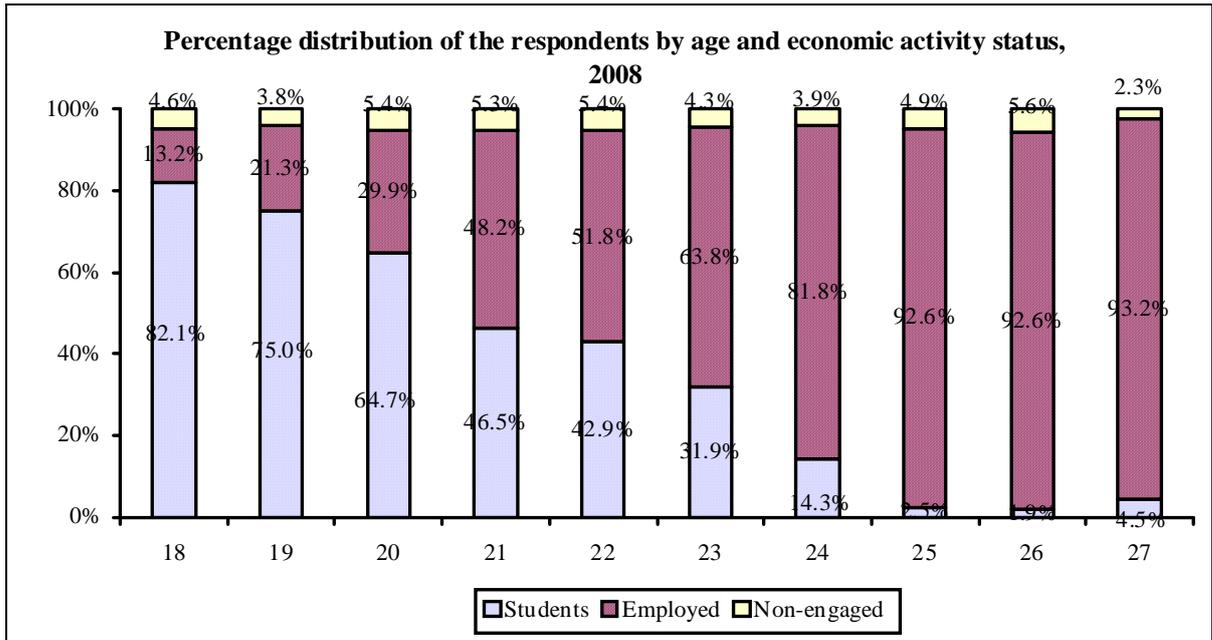
2008	2004-5		
	Students	Employed	Non-engaged
Students	46.1%	0.9%	0.3%
Employed	26.9%	17.6%	3.5%
Non-engaged	3.2%	0.7%	0.8%

3.2.3 An analysis of the economic activity status of respondents in 2004-05 by age is shown in the chart below. It may be noted in particular that the percentage of respondents who were non-engaged in 2004-05 was higher for those aged 22 – 23 (at around 14%) and lower for those who were aged 15 – 17 (at around 1%).



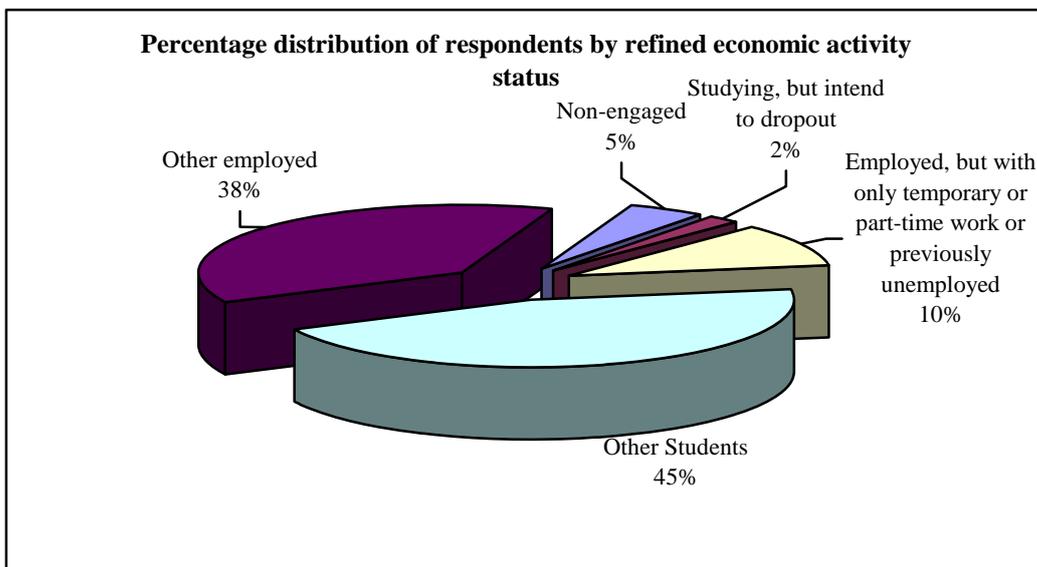
Base: All respondents (N=1 054)

3.2.4 For this panel of respondents, their economic activity status in 2008 analyzed by age is shown in the chart below. It may be noted in particular that in 2008 there were much smaller variations in the proportions who were non-engaged for different age groups, as compared with the pattern in 2004-05, with the percentage slightly higher for those aged 26 (at 5.6%) and 20 – 22 (at around 5.3%-5.4%). Seen in this context, it may be seen that improved economic conditions in Hong Kong in 2008 might have helped reduced the proportion of respondents aged 18 - 24 in 2004-05 who were non-engaged.



Base: All respondents (N=1 054)

3.2.5 In the 2008 survey, additional information was collected on, among those who were employed, whether they were only engaged in temporary or part-time work, or whether they were previously unemployed in the 12 months prior to enumeration. As shown in the chart below, 10% of respondents belonged to this category. For those who were students, additional information was also gathered on their intention to drop out from schools who may be regarded as the “potential dropouts”. The survey findings show that 2% of respondents were potential dropouts.

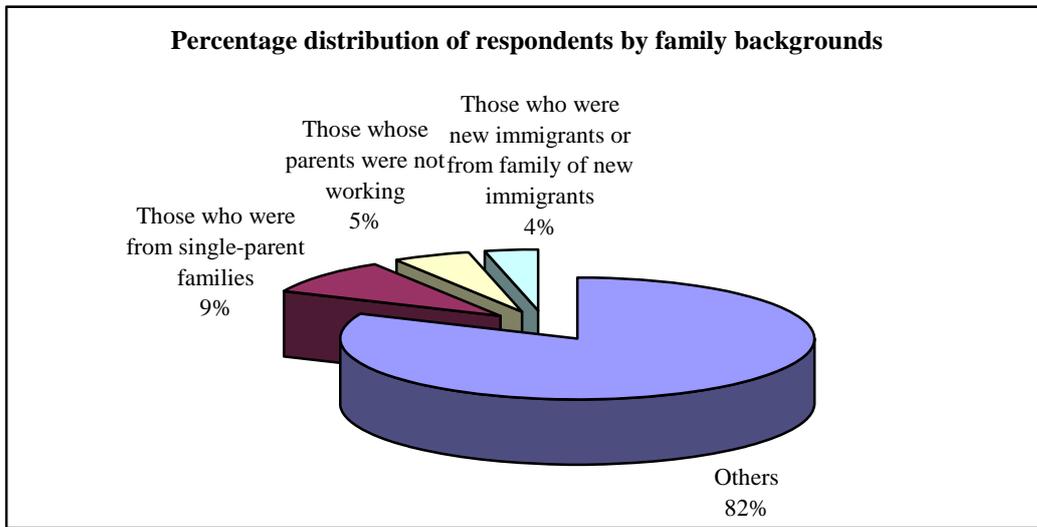


Base: All respondents (N=1 054)

### 3.3 Family backgrounds

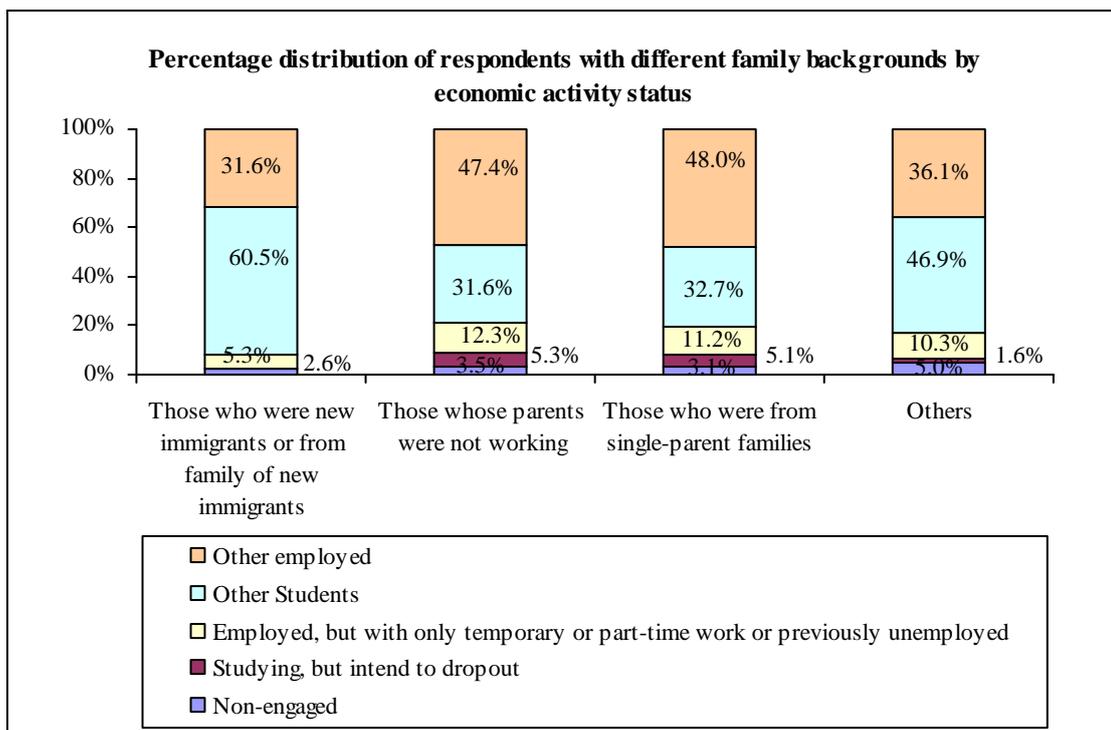
3.3.1 Further analysis of the survey data has also been undertaken on family background of respondents which may have an impact on their civic engagement and social networks. The survey findings show that 9% of respondents were from

single-parent families and a further 5% were from families with both parents were not working. About 4% were new immigrants who had been in Hong Kong for less than seven years, or from families of new immigrants. It is noted that about 0.1% (1 case) of respondents in others were from single parent family and those who were new immigrants.



Base: All respondents (N=1 054)

3.3.2 Among those who were new immigrants or from families of new immigrants, a lower proportion of them were non-engaged (2.6%) or employed in temporary or part-time jobs or were previously unemployed in the 12 months prior to enumeration (5.3%), as compared to other categories of respondents. On the other hand, for those whose parents were not working or who were from single parent families, a higher proportion of them were potential dropouts or were employed in temporary or part-time jobs or previously unemployed in the 12 months prior to enumeration, as compared to other categories of respondents.



Base: All respondents (N=1 054)

### 3.4 Observations

3.4.1 It may be observed from the above that more than half of respondents in 2008 either continued schooling (accounting for 46% of respondents) or working (18%). A further 27% left schools and became employed and about 1% of those previously employed resumed schooling. About 5% were non-engaged in 2008, little changed from the level in 2004-05. In other words, for this panel of respondents, the proportion of them who were non-engaged was apparently not affected by changes in economic conditions between 2004-05 and 2008.

3.4.2 What is also worth noting is that the proportion of youth aged 18 – 26 who were non-engaged in 2008 hovered at around 3.8% to 5.6%. This group is likely to be the “hardcore” non-engaged youth who were not helped by improved economic and employment conditions in 2008. They would probably remain non-engaged as they grew older. Apparently, it would be useful to find out from this group of non-engaged youth factors affecting their ability or willingness to seek job or continue school, with a view to exploring the types of training and employment services that could help them become engaged.

3.4.3 It is also worth noting that as high as 10% of respondents were only employed in temporary or part-time jobs, or were previously unemployed in the 12 months prior to enumeration. Furthermore, in addition to 5% of respondents who were non-engaged, a further 2% were potential dropouts.

3.4.4 When analyzed by family backgrounds, it appears that those who were new immigrants or from families of new immigrants were less likely to be become non-engaged or to be working in temporary or part-time jobs or were previously unemployed in the 12 months prior to enumeration. On the other hand, those whose parents were not working or who were from single parent families were more likely to become potential dropouts or to be working in employed in temporary or part-time jobs or previously unemployed in the 12 months prior to enumeration.

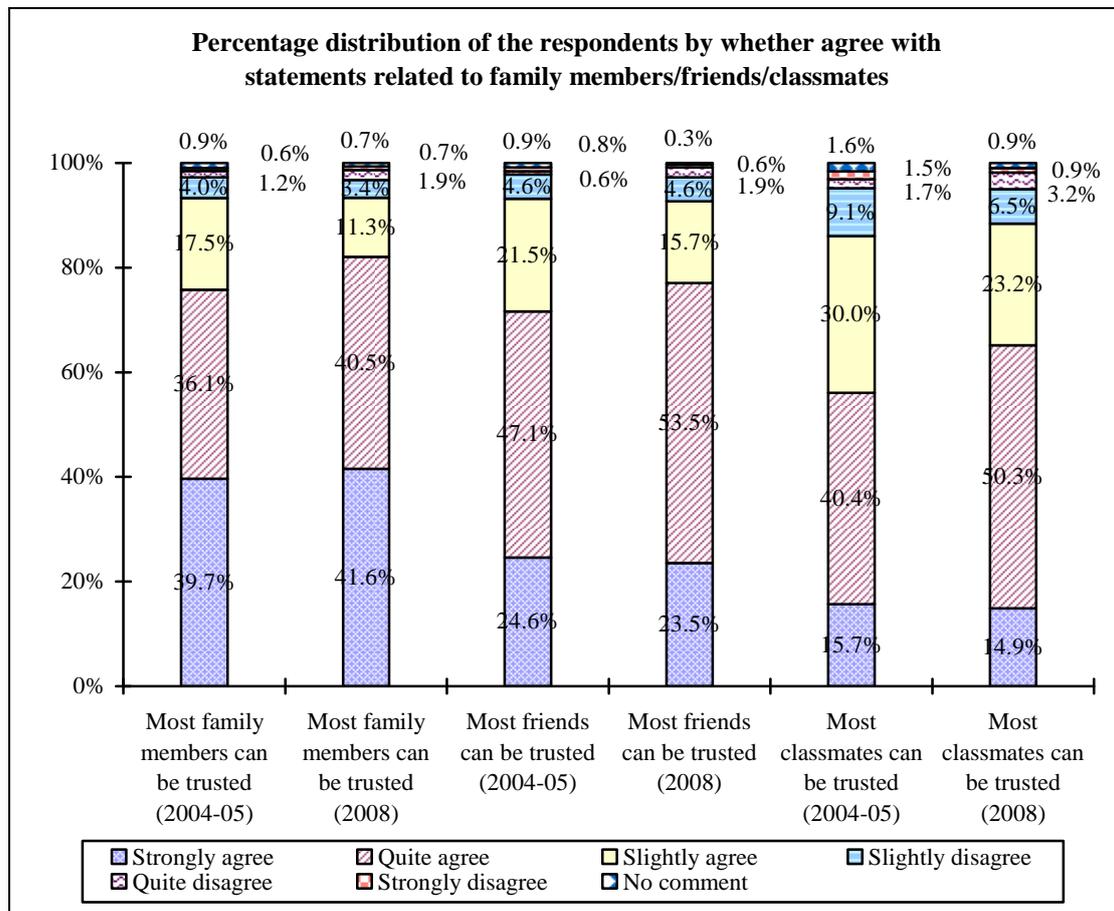
## 4. Civic engagement and social networks

### 4.1 Network qualities

4.1.1 Network qualities refer to the extent of social trust youths have on the community. A total of 33 items were used in the survey to tap the respondents' perception of trust in and attachment to different segments of the community, including their families, colleagues, classmates, friends, neighbours and other people in Hong Kong, government officials, politicians, institutions, the political system and the society in general.

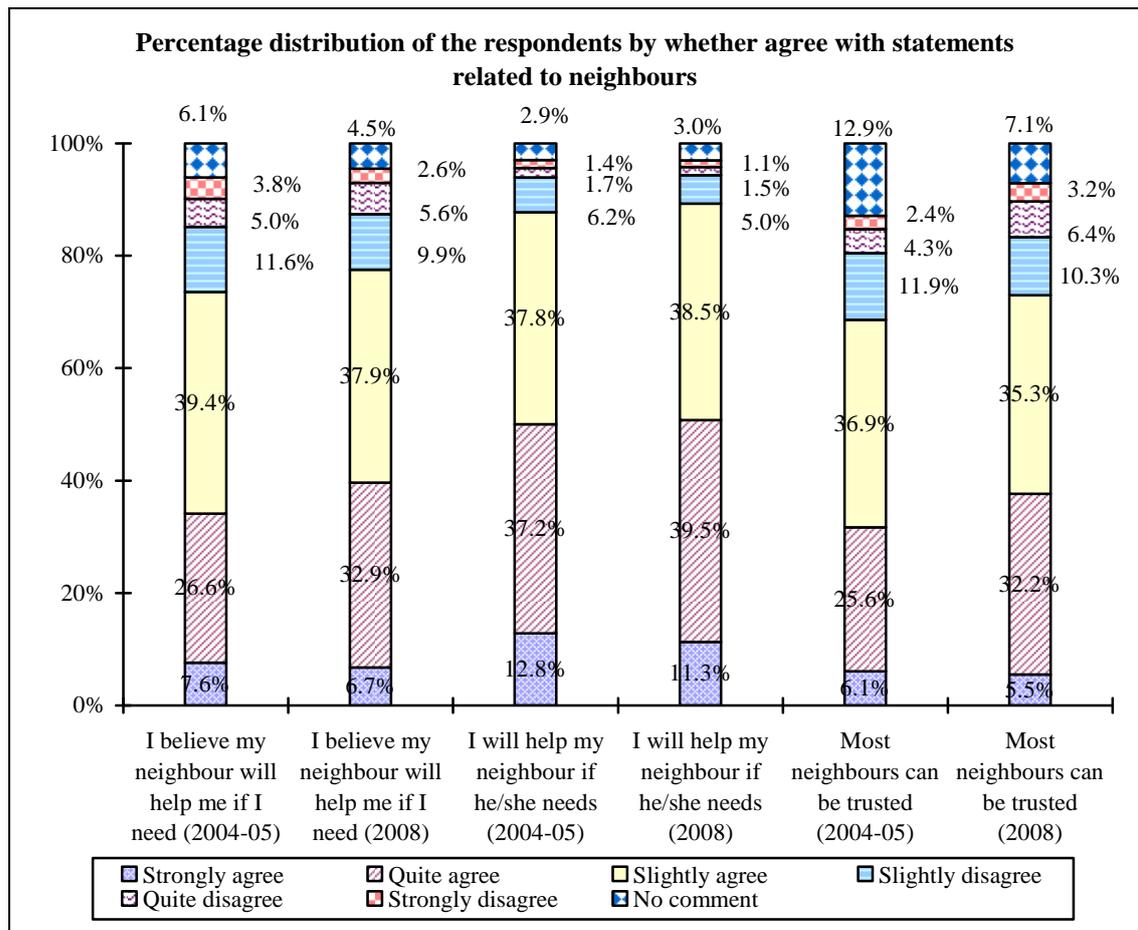
#### *Families, friends, neighbours and others in Hong Kong*

4.1.2 Researchers believe that trust in family members, colleagues, classmates, friends, neighbours and others in the same ethnic group is characterized by strong ties and is a kind of bonding social capital. The survey findings show that in 2008 the great majority of respondents agreeing that “most family members can be trusted” (accounting for 93.4% of all respondents, as compared to 93.3% in 2004-05) that “most friends can be trusted” (92.7%, as compared to 93.2% in 2004-05) and that “most classmates can be trusted” (88.4%, as compared to 86.1% in 2004-05). Comparing the findings in 2004-05 and 2008, it may be noted from the chart below that the percentage of respondents who strongly agreed or quite agreed with the statements was higher in 2008.



Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q46d, e, f]

4.1.3 Furthermore, the majority (77.5%, as compared to 73.6% in 2004-05) of respondents believed that if required their neighbours would help them. A higher proportion (89.3%, as compared to 87.8% in 2004-05) of them also indicated that they would help their neighbours if necessary. The percentage of respondents who considered that “most neighbours can be trusted” was slightly lower, at 73.0% (as compared to 68.6% in 2004-05). Comparing the findings in 2004-05 and 2008, it may be noted from the chart below that the percentage of respondents who strongly agreed or quite agreed with the statements was higher in 2008. In other words, the survey findings indicate that the strength of bonding social capital extended to family members, friends, classmates and neighbours has increased over time and possibly with age.

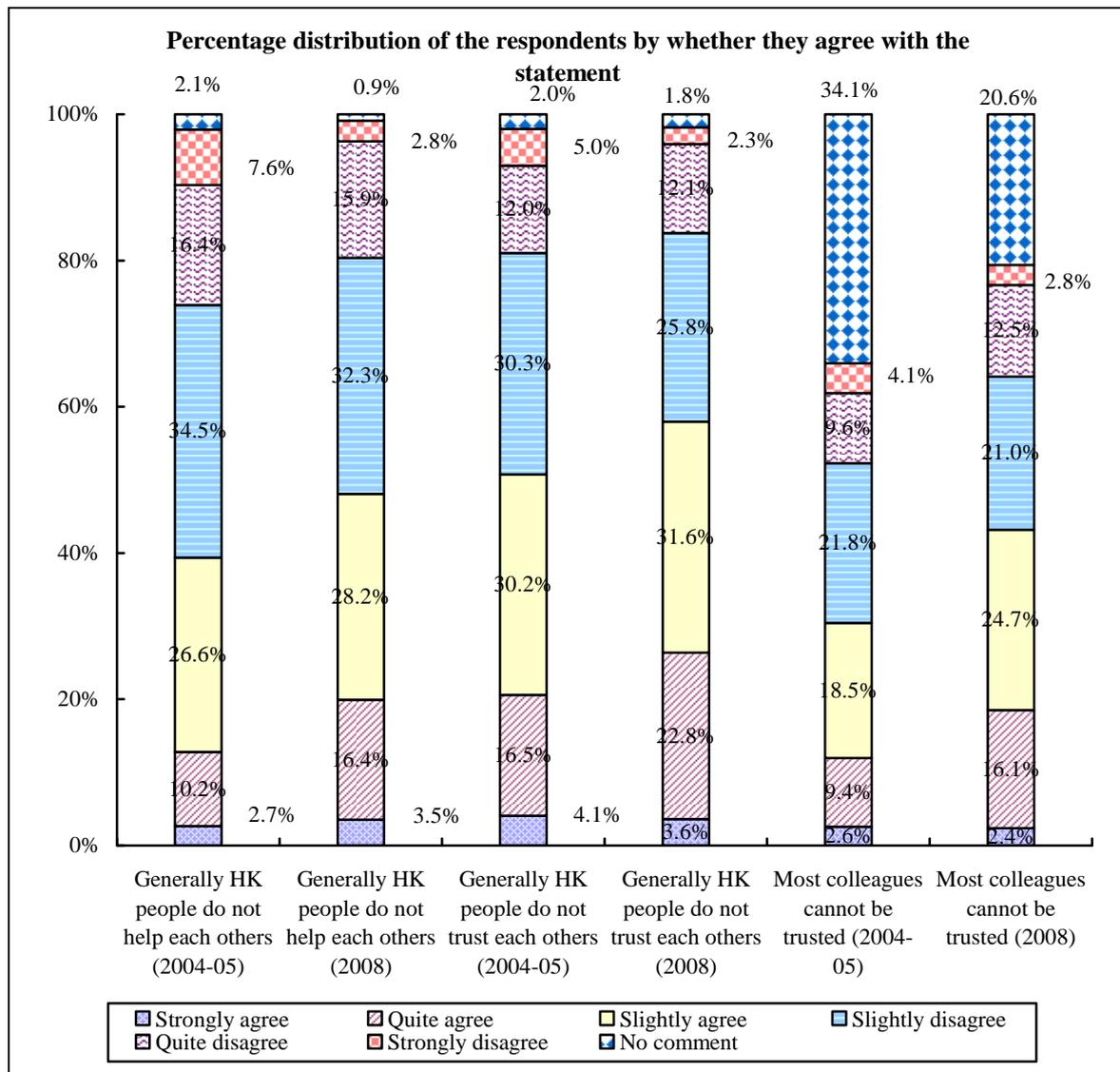


Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q46h, Q47g, h]

4.1.4 On the other hand, a sizable proportion of respondents agreed that “Generally Hong Kong people do not trust each others” (58%, as compared with 50.8% in 2004-05), that “Generally Hong Kong people do not help each others” (48.1%, as compared with 39.5% in 2004-05) and that “most colleagues cannot be trusted” (43.2%, as compared with 30.5% in 2004-05). This indicates that the strength of bonding social capital became much weaker when extended from family members and friends to neighbours, colleagues and other people in Hong Kong.

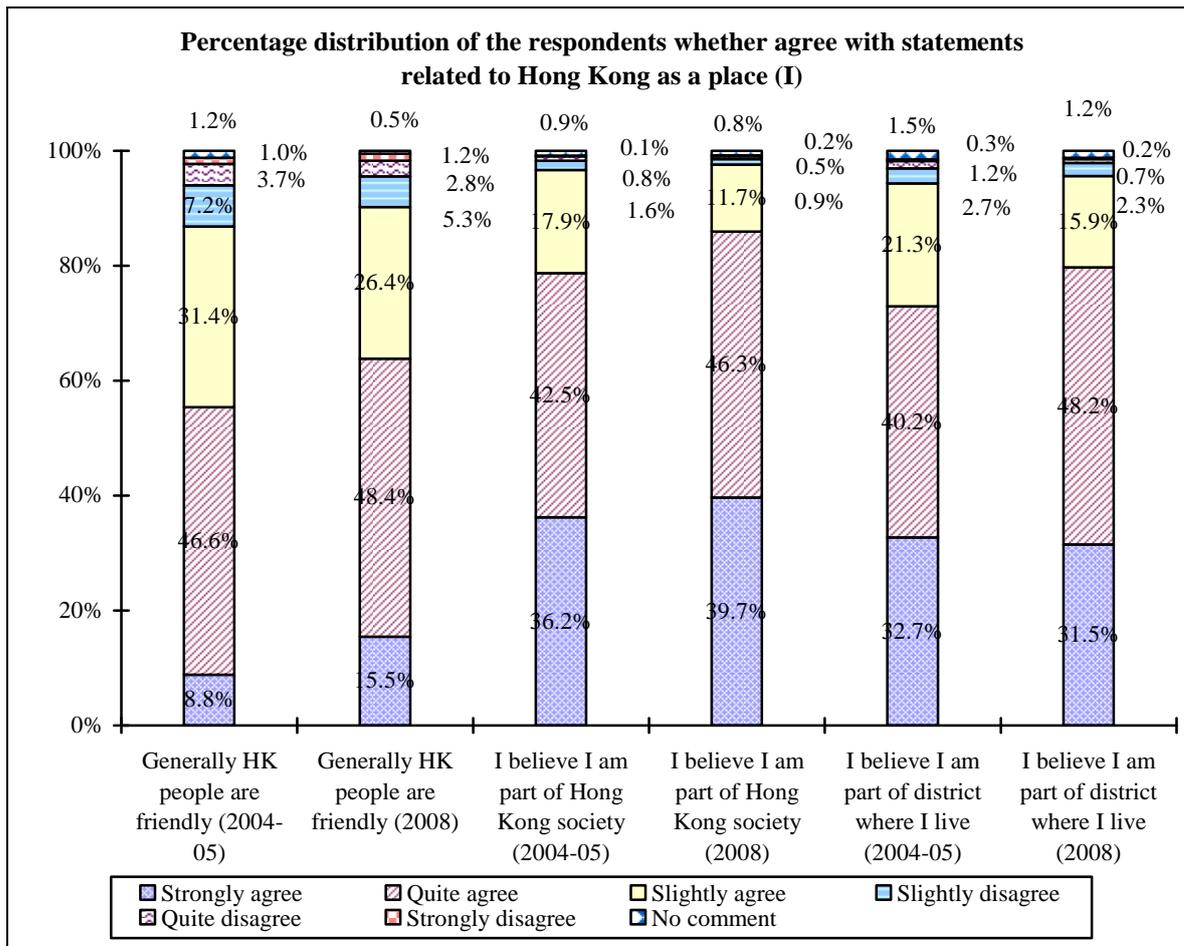
4.1.5 Comparing the findings in 2004-05 and 2008, it may be noted from the chart below that the percentage of respondents who strongly agreed or quite agreed with the statements was higher in 2008. In other words, the survey findings indicate that people in

Hong Kong did not likely to help or trust other people over time and possibly with age.



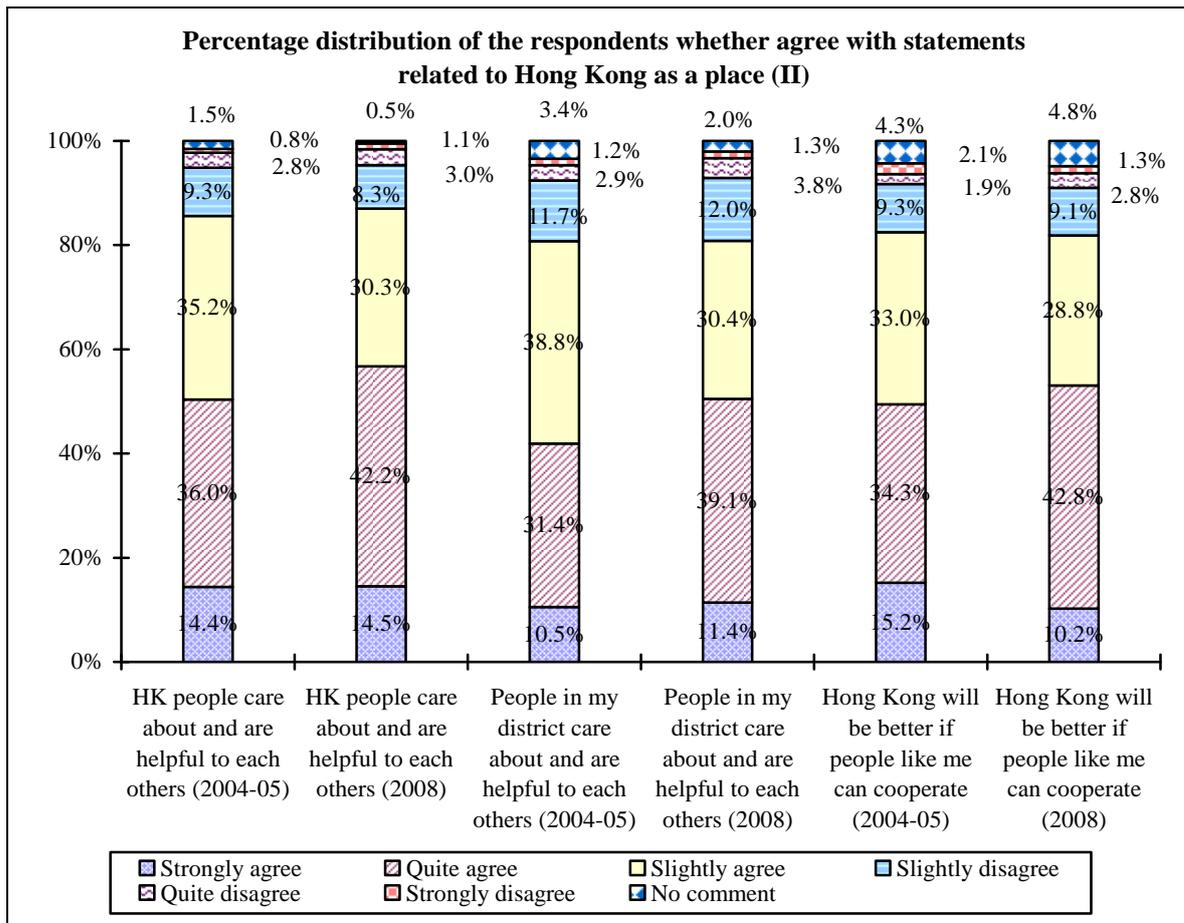
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q46b, c, g]

4.1.6 As regards Hong Kong as a place, the great majority of respondents believed that they were part of the districts they were living in (95.6%, as compared with 94.2% in 2004-05), that they were part of Hong Kong society (97.7%, as compared with 96.6% in 2004-05) and that generally Hong Kong people were friendly (90.2%, as compared with 86.8% in 2004-05).



Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q46a, Q47a, b]

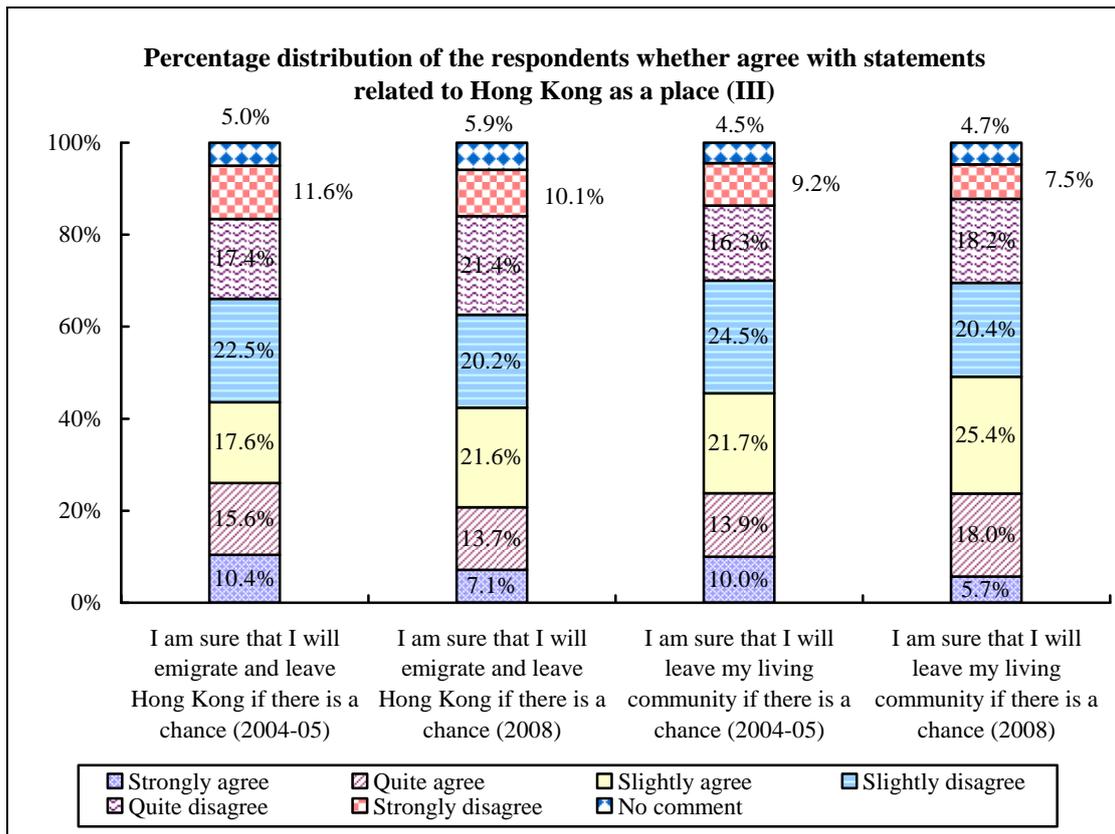
4.1.7 Furthermore, the majority of respondents also believed that “Hong Kong people cared about and were helpful to each others” (87.0% as compared with 85.6% in 2004-05) and that people in their districts cared about and were helpful to each others (80.9%, as compared with 80.7% in 2004-05). About 81.8% (82.5% in 2004-05) considered that Hong Kong would be better if people like them could cooperate and work together.



Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q47c, d, Q45d]

4.1.8 Comparing the findings in 2004-05 and 2008, it may be noted that the percentage of respondents who strongly agreed or quite agreed with the statements was slightly higher in 2008. In other words, the survey findings indicate that people in Hong Kong cared about other people and Hong Kong as a place has increased over time and possibly with age.

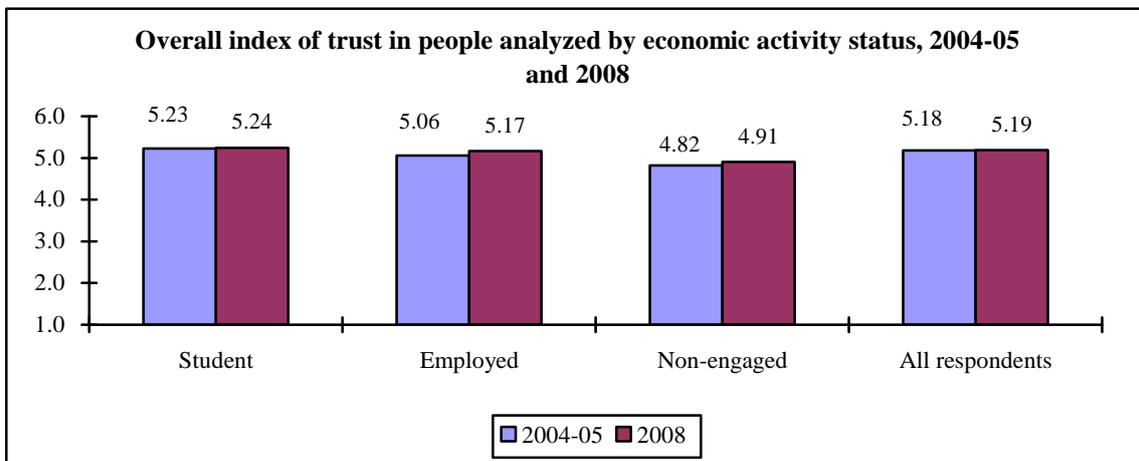
4.1.9 Less than half of the respondents were sure that they would emigrate and leave Hong Kong if there was a chance 42.4% (43.6% in 2004-5) and that they would leave their living community if there is a chance 49.1% (45.6% in 2004-05). Comparing the findings in 2004-05 and 2008, the survey findings indicate that the proportion who wanted to leave Hong Kong has decreased over time and possibly with age, while the proportion who wanted to leave their community has increased over time and possibly with age.



Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q47e, f]

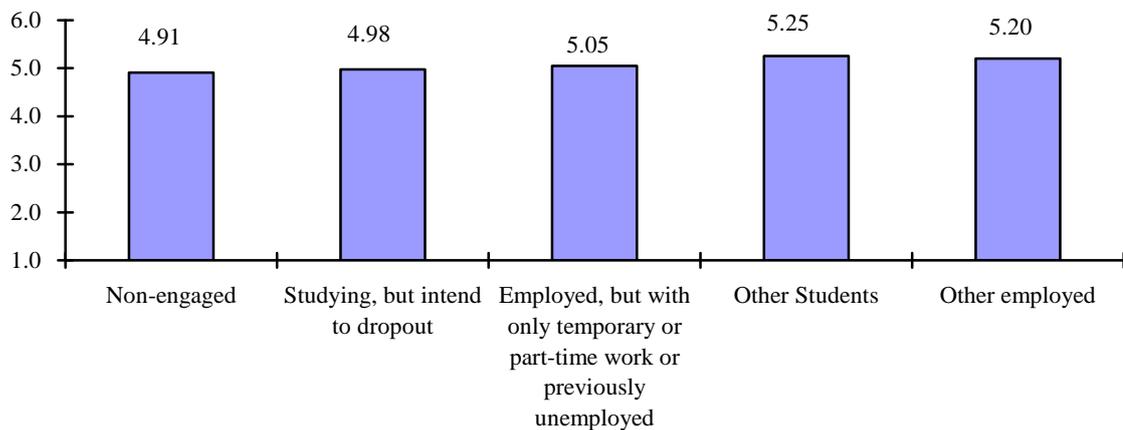
### *Index of trust in people*

4.1.10 An overall index of trust in people may be compiled covering the 15 statements above. The index of trust in people, at 5.19 in 2008 (similar to 5.18 in 2004-05), in a Likert scale of 7, was quite high. The index was higher for employed in 2008 at 5.17 (5.06 in 2004-05) and non-engaged in 2008 at 4.91 (4.82 in 2004-05). On the other hand, the index remained more or less the same for those who were students, at 5.24 in 2008 (5.23 in 2004-05). Comparing 2004-05 and 2008, the index of trust in people was slightly higher in 2008 for those who were employed and those who were non-engaged.



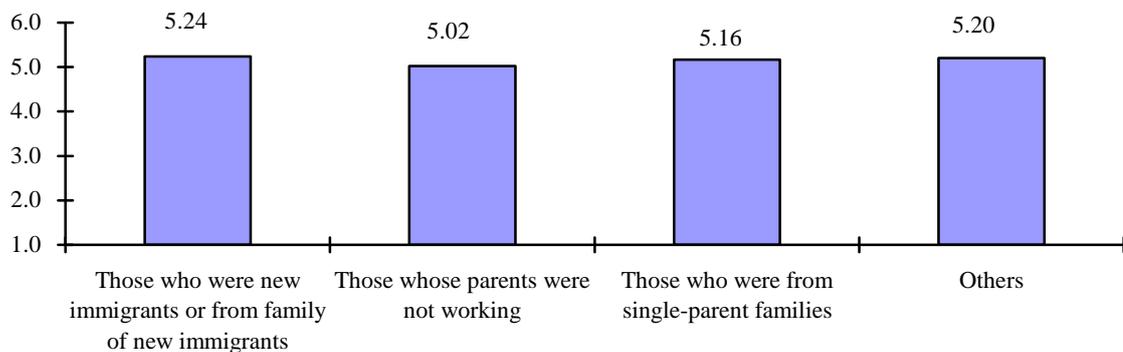
4.1.11 When analyzed by refined economic activity status, in 2008, the index of trust in people was lower for those who were studying but had intention to drop out (4.98), as compared that for other students (5.25). The index was also lower for those who were employed, but with only temporary or part-time work or previously unemployed in the 12 months prior to enumeration (5.05), as compared with that for other employed (5.20).

**Overall index of trust in people by refined economic activity status, 2008**



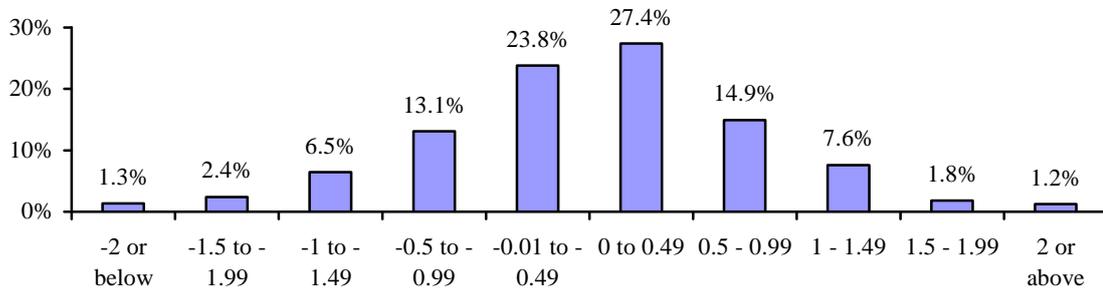
4.1.12 When analyzed by family background, in 2008, the index of trust in people was lower for those whose parents were not working (5.02). On the other hand, the index was higher for those who were new immigrants or from families of new immigrants (5.24).

**Overall index of trust in people by family background, 2008**

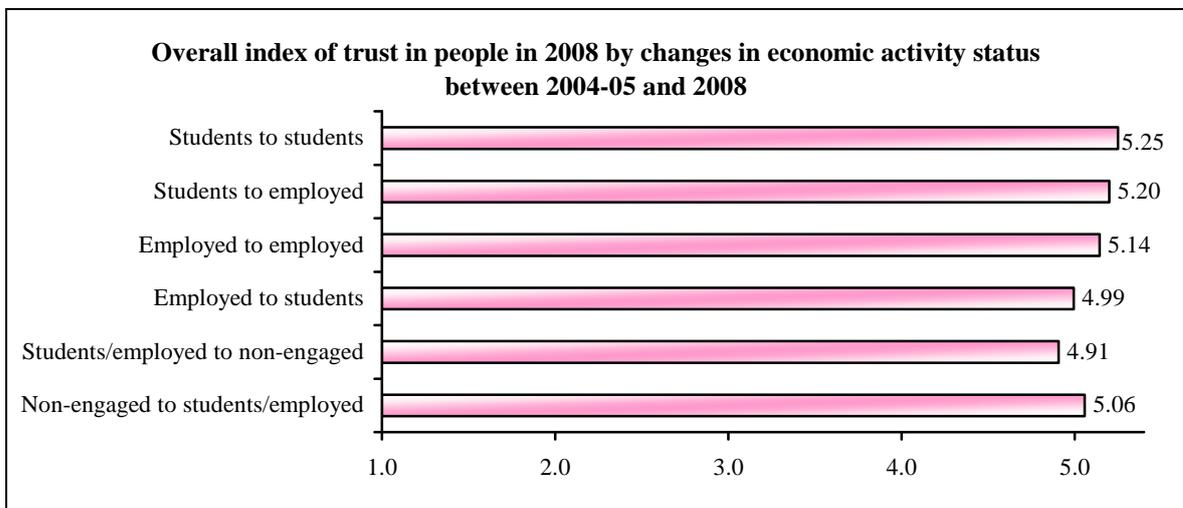


4.1.13 Although the average index of trust in people was more or less the same in 2008 as compared with that in 2004-05, the average figures conceal changes in the index for individual respondents between the two time points. As depicted in the chart below, for about 24% of respondents, their index in 2008 was lower than that in 2004-05 by 0.01 to 0.49, and for a further 13%, their index in 2008 was lower than that in 2004-05 by 0.5 to 0.99. On the other hand, for about 15% of respondents, their index in 2008 was higher than that in 2004-05 by 0.5 to 0.99, and for a further 8%, their index in 2008 was higher than that in 2004-05 by 1.0 to 1.49. In the paragraphs to follow, an attempt is made to identify factors that may have an impact on the respondents' index of trust in people.

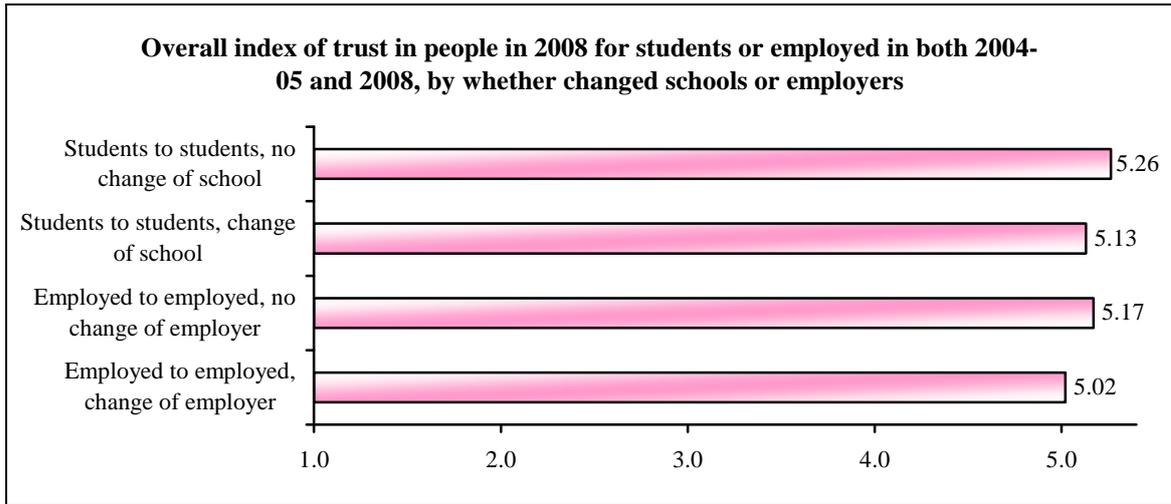
**Percentage distribution of respondents by changes in Index of trust in people between 2004-05 and 2008**



4.1.14 By analyzing the changes in economic activity status of respondents between 2004-05 and 2008, it may be worth noting from the chart below that for those who were students in 2004-05 but had changed to employed in 2008, their index was slightly lower in 2008 as compared with other students. For those who were employed in 2004-05 but resumed schooling in 2008, their index was lower in 2008 as compared with other employed. For obvious reasons, for those who were students or employed in 2004-05 but became non-engaged in 2008, their index of trust in 2008 was much lower. On the other hand, for those who were non-engaged youth in 2004-05 but resumed schooling and became employed in 2008, their index of trust in people 2008 was higher.



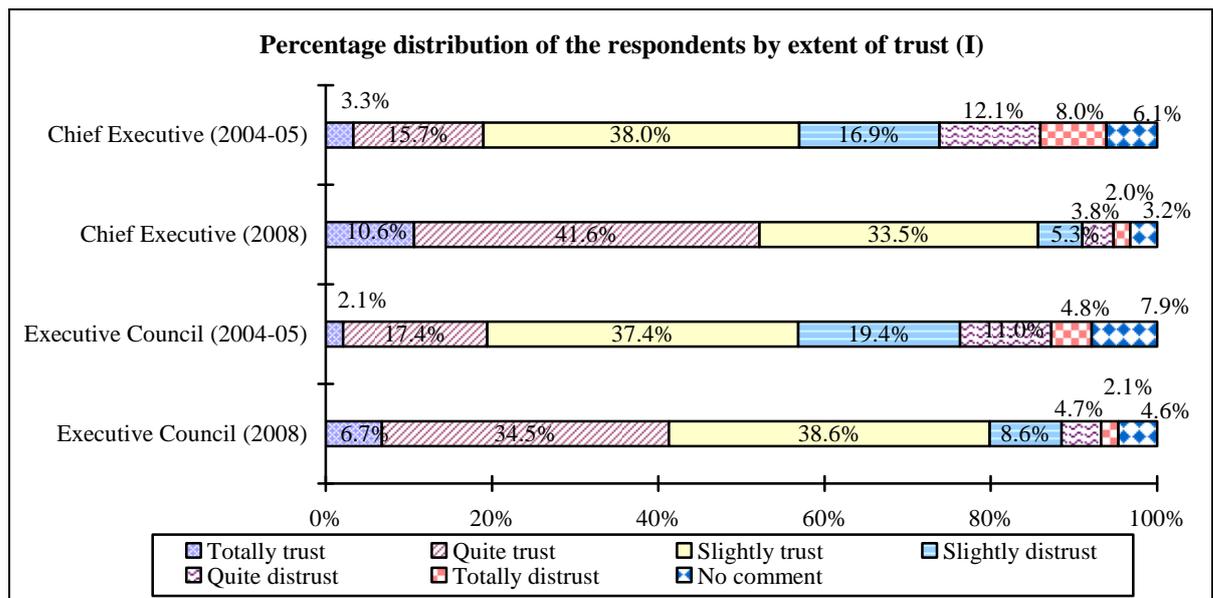
4.1.15 Furthermore, among those who were studying in both 2004-05 and 2008, their index of trust in people was lower for those who had changed schools, as compared with that for other students. Among those who were employed in both 2004-05 and 2008, their index of trust in people was lower for those who had changed employers, as compared with that for other youth who were employed but had not changed employers.



4.1.16 From the above analysis, it appears that as youth progress from one stage in their life to another, say from studying to becoming employed, they have to cope with a number of changes, which may weaken their past tie with family members, friends and other people. Similarly, as their studying or working environment changes following their change of schools or employers, they are subjected to similar changes. Consequently, their trust in people would be adversely affected.

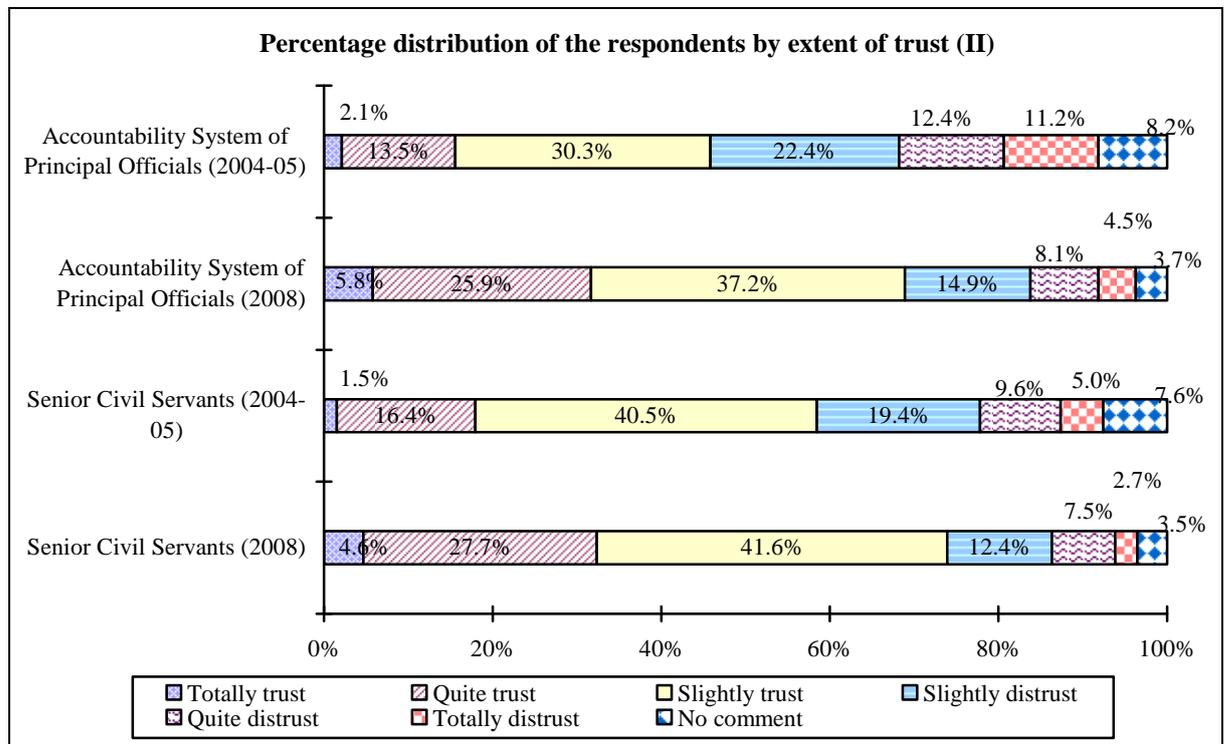
***Government officials, politicians and institutions***

4.1.17 Trust in government officials, politicians and institutions is typical of linking social capital. Survey findings show that linking social capital was not low, with the majority of respondents having trust in the Executive Council (79.8% in 2008 and 56.9% in 2004-05), the Chief Executive (85.7% in 2008 and 57.0% in 2004-05).



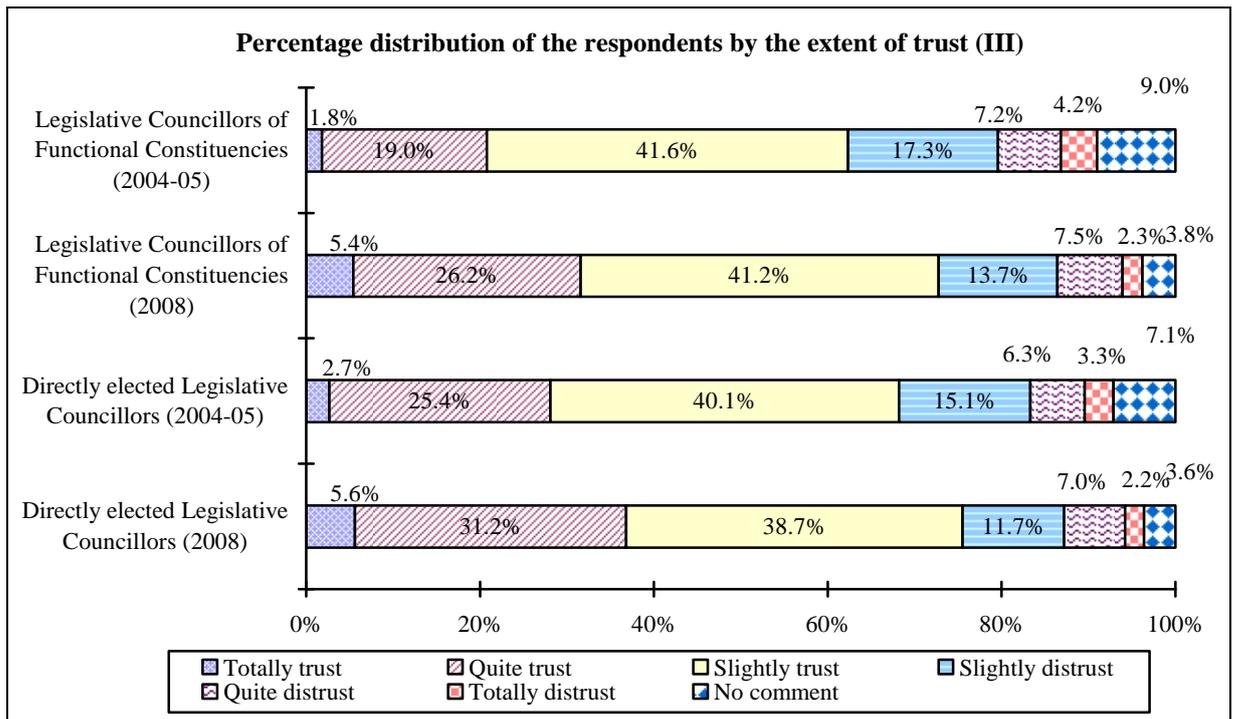
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q48a, b]

4.1.18 The majority of respondents also had trust in the senior civil servants (73.9% in 2008 and 58.4% in 2004-05). Trust in the Accountability System of Principal Officials was however lower, at 68.9% in 2008 and 45.9% in 2004-05.

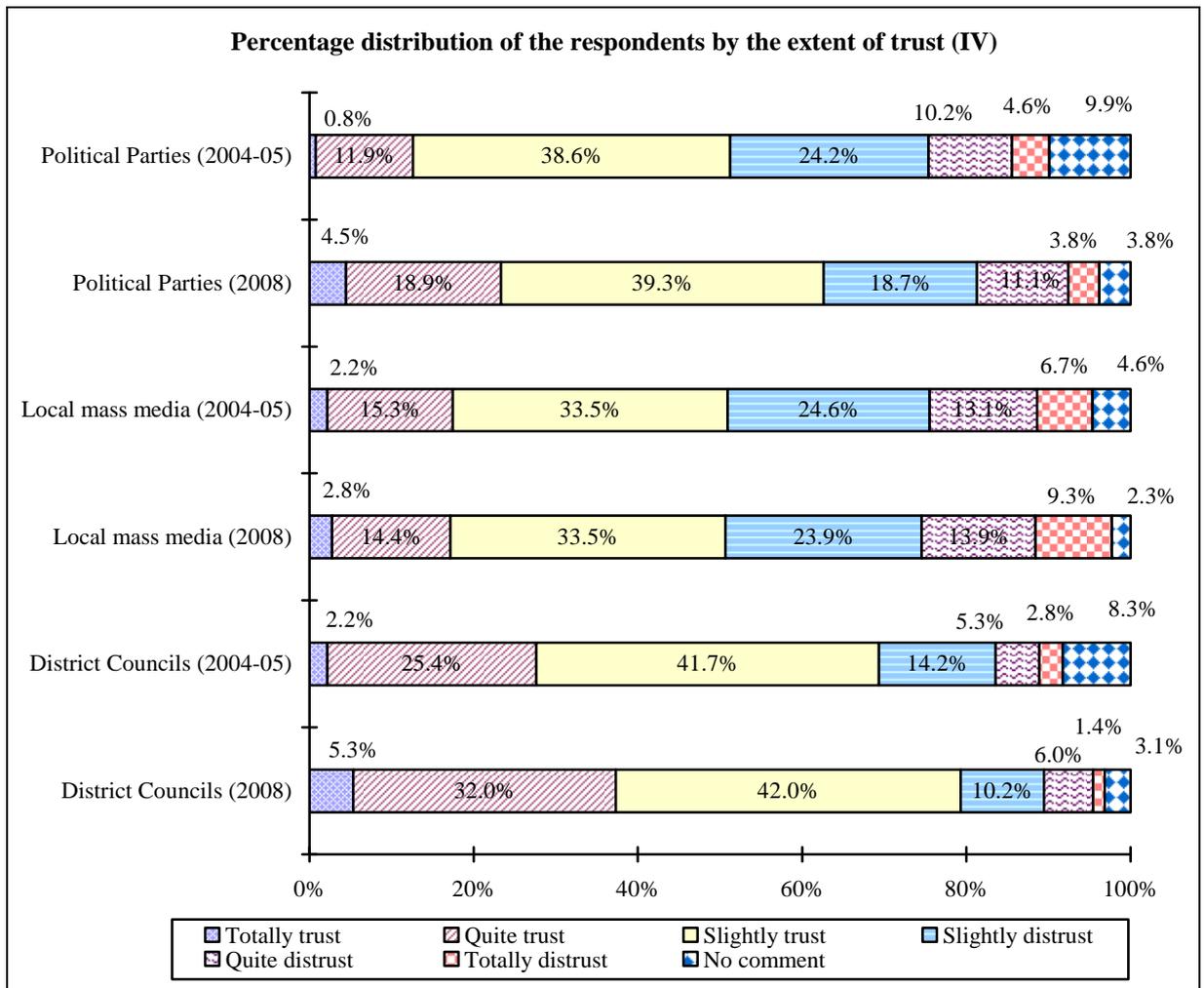


Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q48c, d]

4.1.19 Trust in directly elected politicians and District Councils was higher. The majority of respondents had trust in directly elected Legislative Councillors (75.5% in 2008 and 68.2% in 2004-05) and Legislative Councillors of Functional Constituencies (72.8% in 2008 and 62.4% in 2004-05).

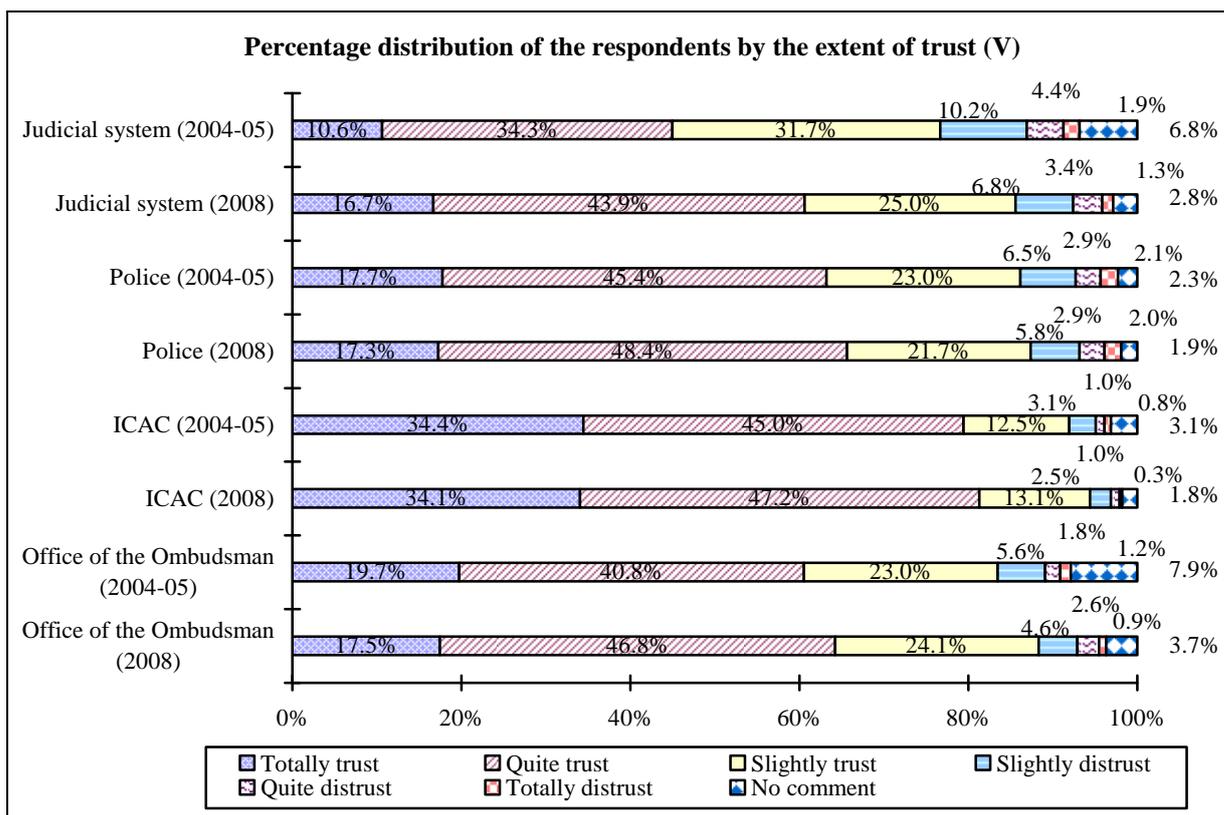


4.1.20 Trust in District Councils was also quite high. The majority of respondents had trust in the District Councils (79.3% in 2008 and 69.3% in 2004-05). Trust in local mass media was lower, at 50.7% in 2008 and 51.0% in 2004-05, and was also quite low for political parties, at 62.7% in 2008 and 51.3% in 2004-05.



Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q48g, h, i]

4.1.21 Trust in the judicial system, police, ICAC and Office of the Ombudsman was much higher. The great majority of respondents had trust in the ICAC (94.4% in 2008 and 91.9% in 2004-05), Police (87.4% in 2008 and 86.1% in 2004-05), the Office of the Ombudsman (88.4% in 2008 and 83.5% in 2004-05) and the judicial system (85.6% in 2008 and 76.6% in 2004-05).

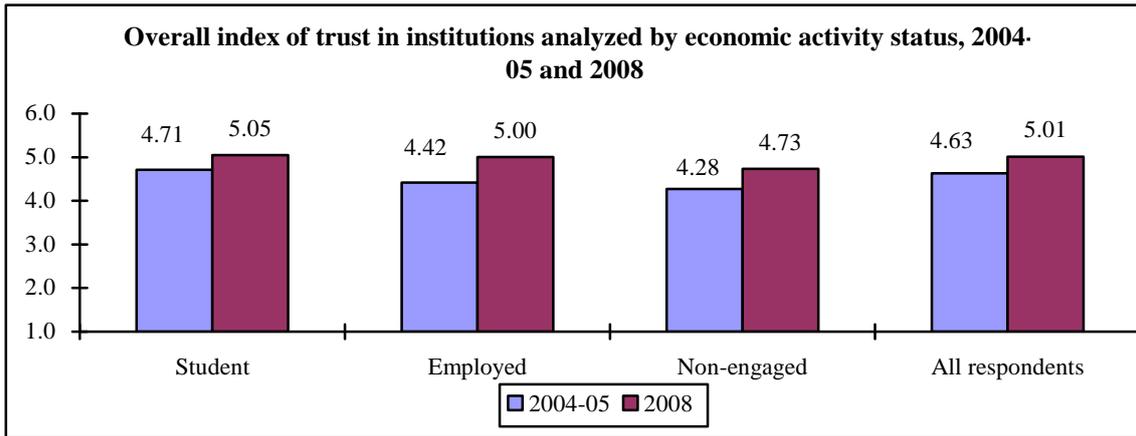


Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q48j-m]

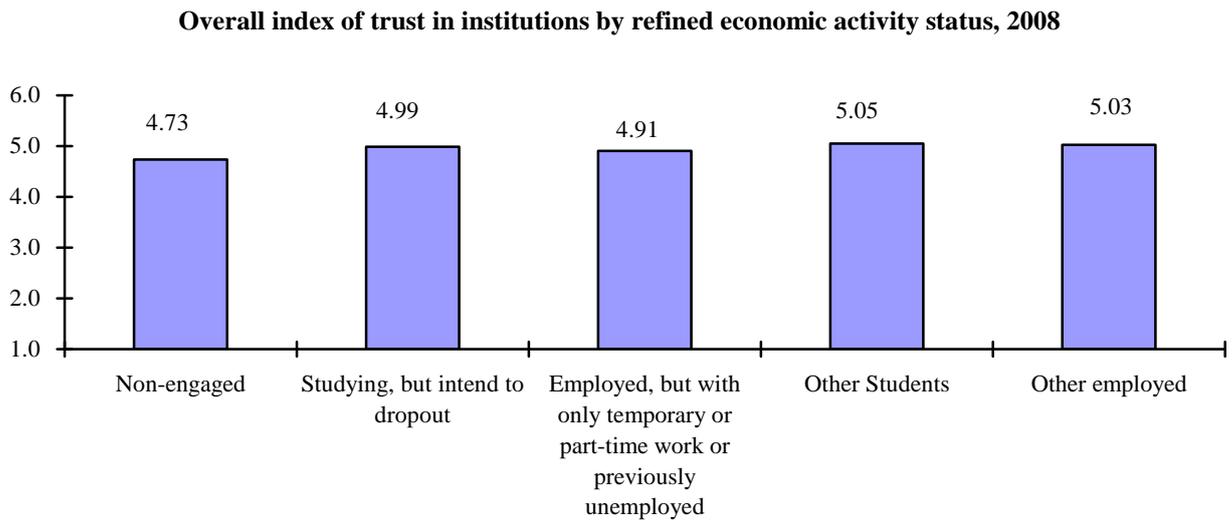
4.1.22 Comparing the findings in 2004-05 and 2008, it may be noted that the percentage of respondents totally trusted or quite trusted various institutions in Hong Kong, apart from the local mass media, was higher in 2008. In other words, the survey findings indicate that the strength of linking social capital extended to institutions in Hong Kong has increased over time and possibly with age.

***Index of trust in institutions***

4.1.23 An index of trust in institutions may be compiled covering the 13 items above. The index, at 5.01 in 2008 (as compared to 4.63 in 2004-05) in a Likert scale of 7, was above average. The index was higher for those who were students in 2008 at 5.05 (4.71 in 2004-05), employed in 2008 at 5.00 (4.42 in 2004-05) and non-engaged in 2008 at 4.73 (4.28 in 2004-05). In other words, comparing 2004-05 and 2008, the index of trust in institutions has increased over time and possibly with age.

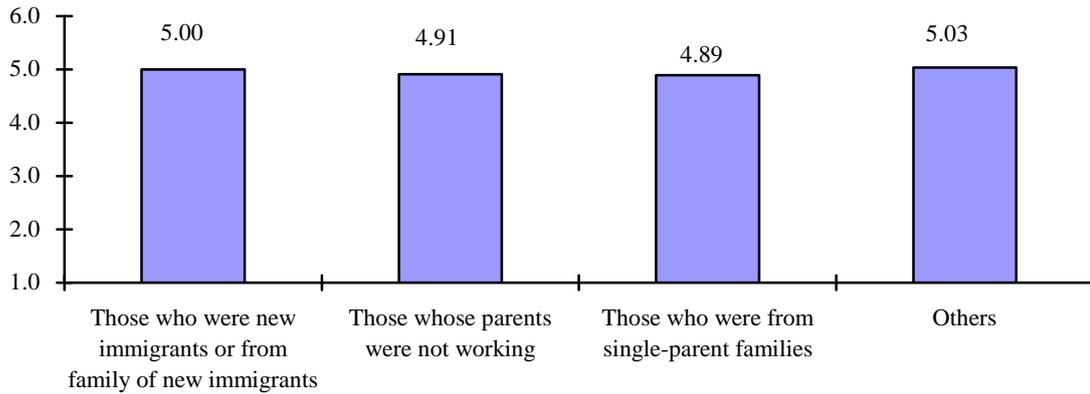


4.1.24 When analyzed by refined economic activity status, in 2008, the index of trust in institutions was lower for those who were studying but had intention to drop out (4.99), as compared that for other students (5.05). The index was also lower for those who were employed in part-time or temporary jobs or who had been previously unemployed in the 12 months prior to enumeration (4.91), as compared with that for other employed (5.03).



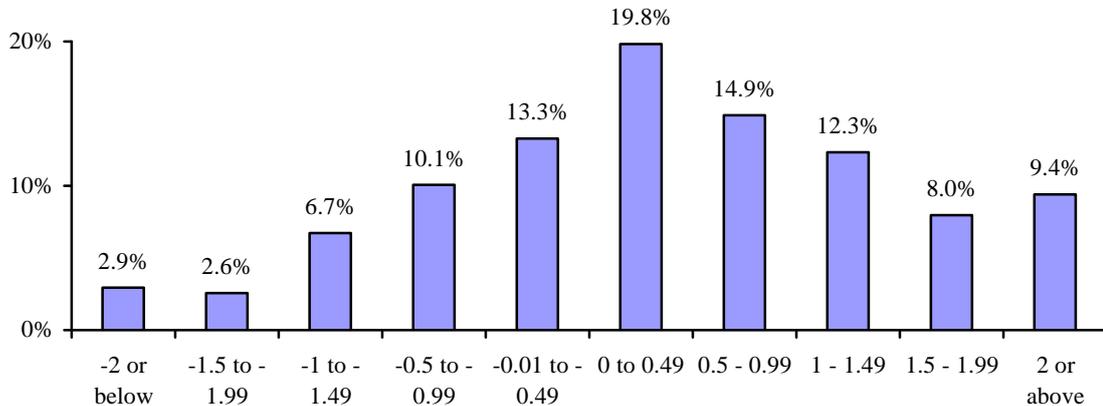
4.1.25 When analyzed by family background, in 2008, the index of trust in institutions was lower for those whose parents were not working (4.91) and those who were from single parent families (4.89). On the other hand, the index was higher for those who were new immigrants or from families of new immigrants (5.00).

**Overall index of trust in institutions by family background, 2008**



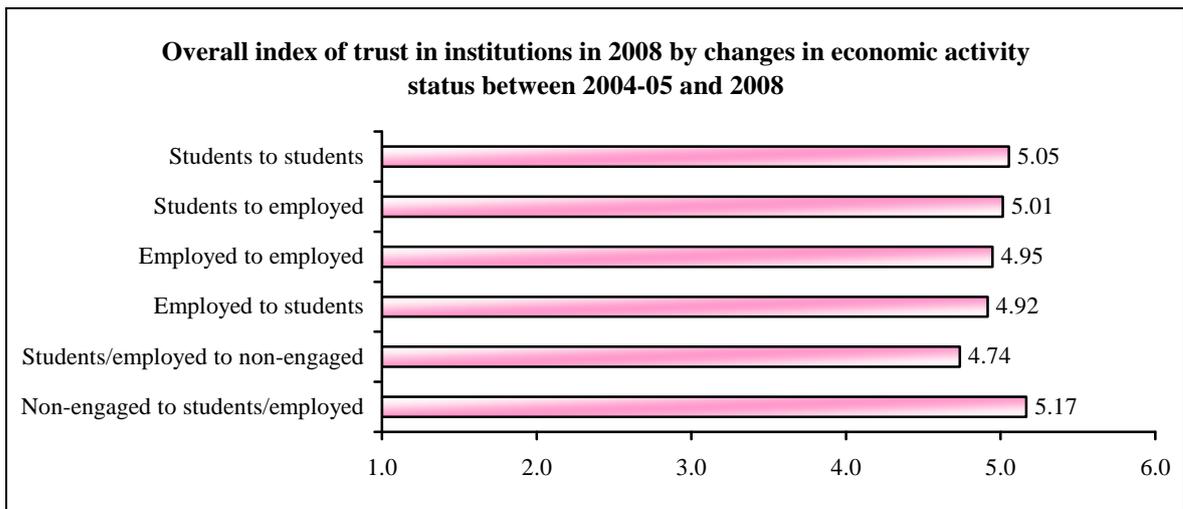
4.1.26 While the average index of trust in institutions was higher in 2008 as compared with that in 2004-05, it may also be worth noting that changes in the index for individual respondents between the two time points were even more significant. As depicted in the chart below, for about 13% of respondents, their index in 2008 was lower than that in 2004-05 by 0.01 to 0.49, and for a further 10%, their index in 2008 was lower than that in 2004-05 by 0.5 to 0.99. On the other hand, for about 15% of respondents, their index in 2008 was higher than that in 2004-05 by 0.5 to 0.99, and for a further 12%, their index in 2008 was higher than that in 2004-05 by 1.0 to 1.49. In the paragraphs to follow, an attempt is made to identify factors that may have an impact on the respondents' index of trust in institutions.

**Percentage distribution of respondents by changes in index of trust in institutions between 2004-05 and 2008**

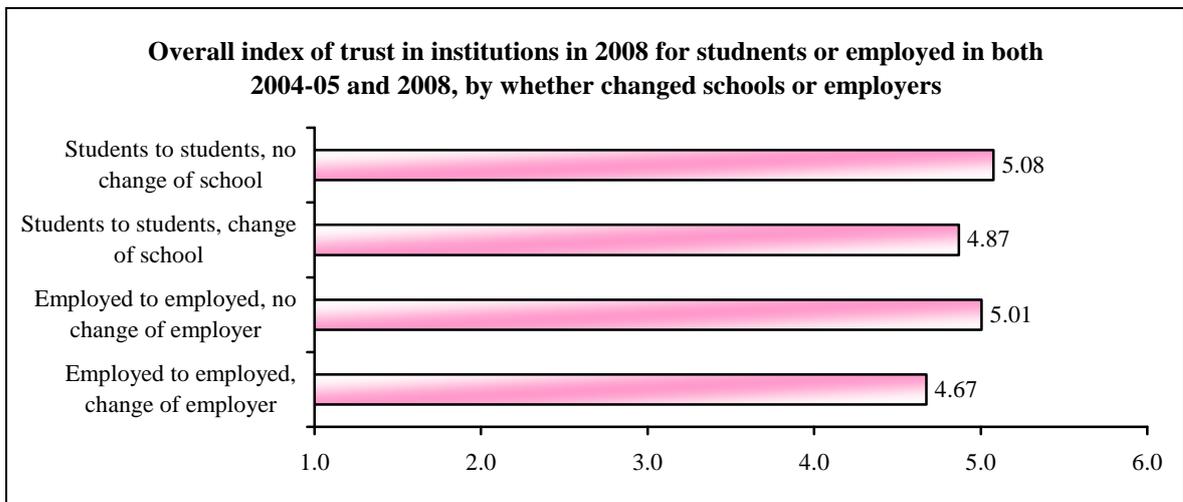


4.1.27 By analyzing the changes in economic activity status of respondents between 2004-05 and 2008, it may be worth noting from the chart below that for those who were students in 2004-05 but had changed to employed in 2008, their index was lower in 2008 as compared with other students. For those who were employed in 2004-05 but resumed schooling in 2008, their index was slightly lower in 2008 as compared with other employed. For obvious reasons, for those who were students or employed in 2004-05 but became non-engaged in 2008, their index of trust in 2008 was much lower. On the other hand, for those who were non-engaged youth in 2004-05 but resumed schooling and

became employed in 2008, their index of trust in 2008 was much higher.



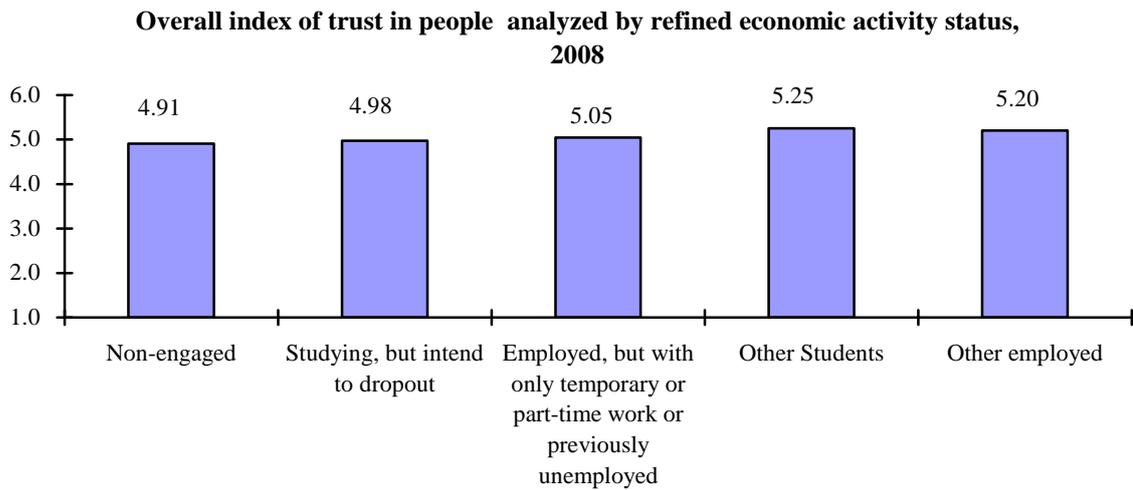
4.1.28 Furthermore, among those who were studying in both 2004-05 and 2008, their index of trust in institutions was slightly lower for those who had changed schools, as compared with that for other students. Among those who were employed in both 2004-05 and 2008, their index of trust in institutions was much lower for those who had changed employers, as compared with that for other youth who were employed.



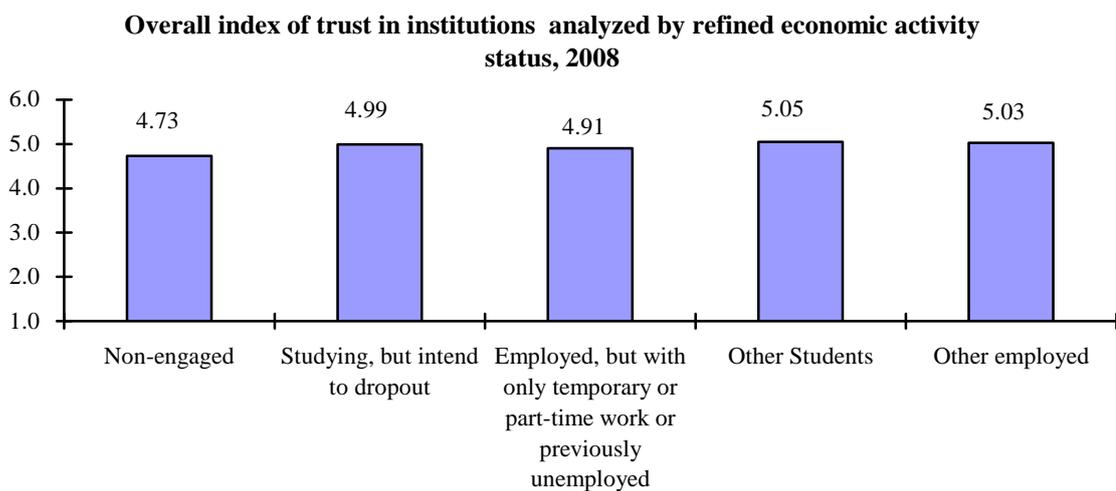
4.1.29 From the above analysis, it appears that any change in economic activity status of youth would have impact on their trust in institutions. Furthermore, as the school or working environment of youth changes following their change of schools or employers, even if their economic activity status remains unchanged, their trust in institutions would also be affected. Apparently, this calls for heightened support to youth when they reach transitions in life from studying to employment, in order to ensure that their civic engagement and social networks would not be adversely affected.

**Further analysis by economic activity status**

4.1.30 When analyzed by refined economic activity status of respondents in 2008, the index of trust in people was much lower for students who had intention to drop out (or the potential dropouts) and the employed who were working on part-time or temporary employment or who had been previously unemployed in the past 12 months prior to enumeration, as compared with other students or other employed.



4.1.31 The index of trust in institutions was lower for the employed who were working on part-time or temporary employment or who had been previously unemployed in the past 12 months prior to enumeration, as compared with students or other employed.



*Findings from the in-depth interviews: the non-engaged*

Case 1 (reference: 4024291)

4.1.32 The respondent was a male aged 25, with upper secondary education. He was non-engaged when interviewed in 2004-05 and 2008. During the second interview in 2008, he indicated that he did not think being non-engaged would have any adverse impact on him. He did not know what to do in future, whether to continue education or to find a job, mainly because he was lazy. He hoped to find a job as soon as possible, because he did not have sufficient money to spend.

4.1.33 He had not used any community services because he did not understand such services or activities. He did not participate in any activity of civic associations, because he had no interest in such activities and he had no friend to accompany him. He did not mind making friends with people of different background, but he did not have such kinds of friends. He had trust in his family members, classmates, friends, colleagues, neighbours and Hong Kong people in general, but did not know why. He also had trust in senior government officials, Legislative Councillors, the judicial system, the Police and the ICAC, the mass media and political parties, but again did not know why. In short, his trust in people and institutions seemed to be very high, but apparently he did not know what this meant.

對其他人及制度完全相信，但沒有原因

4.1.34 It appears that his relationship with family members was very good and he believed his parents loved him. He was happy with what he was. Apparently, he was muddling through his life, remaining largely non-engaged.

父母愛及照顧自己，有與他們溝通，都明白及關心自己  
覺得自己好開心  
認為自己是有用的人，人生有希望，生活有價值

Case 2 (reference: 4094944)

4.1.35 The respondent was a male aged 23, with upper secondary education. He was studying when interviewed in 2004-05 but was non-engaged when interviewed in 2008. During the second interview in 2008, he indicated that he did not think being non-engaged would have any adverse impact on him. He indicated he wanted to review the situation before deciding what to do in future. He preferred to study and considered working was hard for him. However, he did not know his learning interest. He did not want to work in the near future, and believed that it was difficult to find a job.

4.1.36 He had not used any community services and did not participate in any activity of civic associations. He did not mind making friends with people of different background, as long as there was topic to talk about. He had trust in his family members, which he

considered as quite natural. He was not sure if he had trust in friends, neighbours or Hong Kong people in general. In short, he seemed to have little trust in people, apart from his family members.

家庭成員：信任

朋友：不清楚

鄰居/香港的一般市民：視乎情況：很難說，因為太廣泛

4.1.37 He did not trust senior government officials, Legislative Councillors and political parties, but he had trust in the mass media. He was not sure if he had trust in the judicial system, the Police and the ICAC. His trust in institutions was very low, and it seems that he was quite detached from what was happening in Hong Kong.

政府高級官員/立法會議員：不信任：因為政績差，政見差

大眾媒體：信任：一般信任

政黨：不信任

司法系統/警方/廉政公署：不知道：因為沒有接觸

4.1.38 It appears that his relationship with family members was good, with adequate communications with them. His relationship with his parents had improved. He seemed to be happy with what he was, considering that he had hope and saw value in life, though he had not thought about whether he was a useful person.

受訪者覺得媽媽愛他、照顧他、明白他，所以經常一齊分享同溝通；但與爸爸的關係較差一點。但關係越來越好，因為多了溝通

因為功課多而感到有點煩厭

沒有想過是否認為自己是有用的人，覺得有希望、生活有價值

### Case 3 (reference: 4104892)<sup>7</sup>

4.1.39 The respondent was a male aged 22, with upper secondary education. He was studying when interviewed in 2004-05 but was non-engaged when interviewed in 2008. During the second interview in 2008, he indicated that he did not think being non-engaged would have any adverse impact on him. He indicated he did not want to work, as there was no suitable job and that there was no pressure from his family members. He considered working was tough for him. As he was not in urgent need of money, there was not need for him to work.

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<sup>7</sup> The economic activity status provided by the respondents in Phase I and Phase II studies were changed over time.

無讀書三年，無工作兩至三個月，之前做了維修大半年，覺得不適合自己  
暫時未想工作，而暫時無適合工作，家人亦無迫自己工作  
做工一般辛苦，要錢時便想工作，現在不急於用錢就不做工

4.1.40 He did not participate in any training or employment programme, considering such programme as useless and boring. He had not used any community service and did not participate in any activity of civic associations, because he had no interest. He did not mind making friends with people of different background, saying that as long as he considered appropriate to do so. He had trust in his family members, classmates and friends. He had some trust in colleagues, neighbours and Hong Kong people in general. In short, he seemed to have trust in people, though less so for those whom he did not know well.

家庭成員/同學/朋友：信任  
同事：一般信任  
鄰居：一般信任：因為不太熟  
香港的一般市民：信任：一般信任：因為不認識

4.1.41 He was not sure if he had trust in senior government officials, Legislative Councillors and political parties. He generally had trust in the mass media, but stressing that if the stance adopted by the mass media coincided with his. He considered he had trust in the judicial system, the Police and the ICAC, as they were law enforcement agencies and had no negative news. Apparently, his trust in institutions was low and he was quite detached from what was happening in Hong Kong.

政府高級官員/立法會議員/政黨：不清楚，很少留意時事  
大眾媒體：一般信任：與自己立場對便覺得是對  
司法系統/警方/廉政公署：信任：因是執法人員，無負面新聞

4.1.42 He considered he had good relationship with family members, though there was little communication with them. He spent most of his time playing game, feeling no pressure. He saw value in life, hoping that life would better, though he had not much expectation of life.

家庭關係不錯，但少溝通因為與家人沒有太多話題，所以少分享  
平時睇新聞，打機，在家上網找資料題，多數自己打機，無任何壓力  
認為自己人生有希望，生活有價值，希望生活更好，幫到家庭，對人生無特別大希望

Case 4 (reference: 4189261)<sup>8</sup>

4.1.43 The respondent was a male aged 20, with post-secondary education. He was studying when interviewed in 2004-05 but was non-engaged when interviewed in 2008. During the second interview in 2008, he said that he had just completed his education. He realized it was difficult for him to find a job, as his education was not high and in view of current economic situations. As his family finance would be affected if he was unemployed, he hoped to find a job quickly and did not wish to continue further education.

剛剛讀完書，因為金融海嘯的關係，香港經濟變差了，多間公司倒閉及裁員，所以很難找到工作。最近從新聞中看到話，內地市民不需再經香港，可直接去台灣，香港的商機又少了

自己學歷不高，社會競爭大，很難找到工作

待業影響家庭經濟，因為家庭經濟環境欠佳，不希望進修，因為想儘快找到工作，幫助家人

4.1.44 He did not participate in any training or employment programme, but had browsed the website of Labour Department to find a job. He had not used community services as he had no interest. He was willing to make friends with people of different background, except those with religious background for fears that they would “persuade” him to get converted. While attending schools, his friends included people of different races and new immigrants. In short, his trust in people was quite high.

大致上都願意和不同背景的人做朋友，因為之前中學朋友都有不同種族及新移民或不同背景的人都有，但大家相處得好好，所以覺得做朋友是不會有問題，但介意同不同宗教的人做朋友，因為他們好煩成日迫人返教會

4.1.45 He had trust in others, especially family members and friends as he knew them for a long time. He believed that if one hoped to be trusted by others, one should trust others first. In short, his trust in people was very high.

最信的是家人，朋友，因為相處最耐，其他都信，因為要得到別人信任，便先要信任別人

4.1.46 He did not trust in senior government officials and the mass media, but had trust in Legislative Councillors. He had trust in the Police and ICAC, but was not sure if he had trust in political parties or the judicial system. In short, his trust in institutions was not

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<sup>8</sup> The economic activity status provided by the respondents in Phase I and Phase II studies were changed over time.

high.

政府高級官員：不信任：覺得佢地做野好冇共識，亂黎  
立法會議員：信任：因為他們俾了好多意見政府  
大眾媒體：不信任：因為手法太誇張失實  
政黨：不知道：冇意見  
司法系統：不知道：冇意見  
警方：信任：因為是他們維持治安  
廉政公署：信任：因為是獨立機構，他們的工作是防止貪污

4.1.47 He considered his relationship with his parents had deteriorated recently, because they did not like his previous job, affecting his self-confidence and self-esteem. His parents, especially his mother, loved him and cared about him. He was feeling unhappy and was under pressure, due to unemployment, and would like to find a job as soon as possible. He was worried about his future. Because he did not perform well at school, he had to find a job.

父母愛他，照顧他，明白他及分享他關心的事。媽媽特別關心自己。因為爸爸是個很固執的人，不是因為年紀問題而有代溝，只是溝通就比較少。  
今年關係變得差了，因為父母看不起我之前做過的回收工作，放工回家後，父親會對著我冷笑，我覺得好傷自尊心使我更沒有自信心。  
最近都有不愉快及壓力大，因為還未能找到工作。變得失落，想快點找到工作。  
從前在學不需關心前途問題，變得現在要天天擔心自己的前途及將來，讀書不成功一定要找工作。

Case 5 (reference: 4148561)<sup>9</sup>

4.1.48 The respondent was a female aged 26, with post-secondary education. She was studying when interviewed in 2004-05 but was non-engaged when interviewed in 2008. During the second interview in 2008, she said that she had just resigned from her previous employment after having worked for a year, and would like to find a job related to what she had learnt. Having no income, her family finance would be affected and thus she felt some pressure on her. She hoped to find a job quickly, realizing that giving current economic situations, with redundancy and new graduates looking for work, competition for jobs was keener. She also hoped to pursue a master degree, in order to gain more professional knowledge to cope with changes in the community.

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<sup>9</sup> The economic activity status provided by the respondents in Phase I and Phase II studies were changed over time.

剛剛上個月辭職，覺得差唔多係時候轉其他，本來想搵份有關研究的工因為同之前讀書有關

辭職影響家庭經濟，因為現在無做野冇收入但有支出，會有壓力係度

希望快一些找工作，因為讀書要錢

想進修碩士學位，覺得社會上變得好快如果要跟得上社會就要學多一些專業知識  
成個大環境既金融問題令到好多公司都有抄人，又有一班新既一批畢生，所以競爭大左

4.1.49 She did not participate in any training or employment programme, considering such programme not useful to her. She had used community services while at school and had been participating in voluntary work since secondary schools on an ad hoc basis, helping say the disabled. She did not participate in activity of civic associations for lack of time.

4.1.50 She did not mind making friends with people of different background, as she had experience contacting such persons as a volunteer. She was of the view that communications with others was not related to their background. She had trust in his family members, classmates, friends and colleagues. She had some trust in neighbours and Hong Kong people in general, indicating that much depended on circumstances. In short, her trust in people was quite high.

同唔同背景既做朋友同背景無關

家庭成員/同學/朋友/同事：信任

鄰居：視乎情況：少了信任，因為溝通少了

香港的一般市民：視乎情況：要睇情況如果問路既就信其他既野就要考慮清楚

4.1.51 She had trust in senior government officials and Legislative Councillors, because she had trust in the government. She had trust in some of the mass media but not others. She trusted Hong Kong Economic Journal, South China Morning Post, Mingpao and Singtao. She did not trust The Sun. She kept reading newspaper when she was studying. She tried to read the newspapers which she didn't read before, but she found that it had quite a large amount of invalid contents, too exaggerated. She generally had trust political parties, but noting that political parties simply followed their own beliefs. She had trust in the judicial system, the Police and the ICAC. In short, her trust in institutions was quite high. She was of the view that over the past 4 years, there were often quarrels among political parties, as they strived to have more publicity and to win more votes.

政府高級官員/立法會議員：信任高官，可能係自己對香港政府有信心所以信  
大眾媒體：會視乎哪一間，信任信報，南華早報，明報，星島，不信太陽報，原因以前讀書開始一直有閱讀信任的報紙，有時嘗試閱讀不是平時看的報紙，發覺抄作成份及假嘢太多，誇張事實

政黨：一般信任：他們只顧自己理念

司法系統/警方/廉政公署：信任

過去四年，政黨的改變比較大，因為他們經常對罵，政黨為了暴光率，政黨要增取市民的選票及為了要上位，所以弄成現在這個局面。

4.1.52 She considered her parents loved her, took care of her and also concerned her. Probably because of the difference of generations, they had different communication methods. Parents and older generations had less communication so her parents seldom communicated with her. In the past, sometimes she had quarrels with family members because of work pressure. Now, she felt some pressure being unemployed, but she will try to reduce pressure by doing physical exercise and talking to friends. She considered she was a useful person, believed that life had hope and value, hoping that she could find a job she liked and got a master degree. She realized life was more complicated than she previously thought and the need to take more factors into consideration.

父母愛自己，照顧他，亦到關心他，但可能因為年代唔同，大家用的溝通方法都唔同，因父母與上一代的溝通也較少，所以父母亦較少與他溝通。

以前會因工作壓力發家人脾氣，但現在再沒有了。

會有少少受失業影響而有壓力，但會找朋友傾下及做運動減壓。

以前覺得人生好簡單，現在覺得人生較複雜，要顧及的事多了。

他是有用的人，人生有希望，生活有價值。希望盡快找到一份自己喜歡的工作及成功取得碩士學位

Case 6 (reference: 4100473)<sup>10</sup>

4.1.53 The respondent was a male aged 21, with upper secondary education. He was studying when interviewed in 2004-05 but was non-engaged when interviewed in 2008. During the second interview in 2008, he said that he has been seeking job but was not successful. Though being unemployed did not have any adverse on him, he hoped to have a job in order to reduce burden on family members. He had completed a two-year higher diploma in accounting. At the moment, he hoped to save some money before pursuing education, though he believed he had to obtain more qualification as his present educational qualification was not adequate. Apparently, he knew what his future goal was and was taking steps to achieve this.

找不到工作，已經找了幾個月，將會找文員工作，因為想減輕家人負擔  
很難找工，因為金融海嘯，自己寄了很多求職信都沒有回覆，每天已經寄了十份求職信以上  
中五畢業，高級文憑二年制會計畢業，當時都滿意成績，與同學相處到。再讀會計，要再儲蓄先讀，想取文憑，原因學歷未夠。

4.1.54 He did not participate in any training or employment programme or used any community services, as he was not aware of such. He had participated in volunteering work while at school. He also attended church gatherings and found people caring and friendly.

4.1.55 He did not mind making friends with people of different background, as long as he could communicate with them. He had trust in his family members, classmates, friends and colleagues, after knowing them for a while. He had reservation in having trust in neighbours and Hong Kong people in general, as he did not know what were in their mind. In short, his trust in people was fairly high.

願意與不同背景的人做朋友，最重要是大家可以溝通  
家庭成員/同學/同事/朋友/鄰居：信任：大家相處了一段時間，都會相信大家  
香港的一般市民：視乎情況：有保留，因為不知道別人的想法

4.1.56 He had trust in senior government officials, Legislative Councillors and the judicial system. He did not have much trust in the mass media and his trust in political parties was just average. His trust in the Police and the ICAC was very high, however the recent rape related to the Police had affected his trust in the Police. In short, his trust in institutions was fairly high.

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<sup>10</sup> The economic activity status provided by the respondents in Phase I and Phase II studies were changed over time.

政府高級官員/立法會議員/司法系統：信任

大眾媒體：不太信任：很多炒作新聞

政黨：認識不多，一般信任

警方/廉政公署：十分信任：絕對信，公平公正主旨好明確做得好；但警署強姦案，對警隊信任度減少了很多

4.1.57 His relationship with family members was just average. He was under pressure seeking job. He believed he was a useful person, as he could use what he learnt to help others. He saw hope and value in life. His dream was to attain university education.

與父母關係一般

找工的壓力，因為找工會不開心，要見工前一晚會比較難入睡，比較緊張

有用之處：可以用自己的專業知識幫到人，人生有希望，生活有價值

想讀大學，讀大學是自己夢想

4.1.58 Findings of the questionnaire survey showed that non-engaged youth in general had low trust in people and institutions, as illustrated by Cases 1 - 4. As remarked by several social workers interviewed, apart from performing well in examinations, some schools did not have much expectation from the students, especially expectation on their core values. A number of students did not know what they wanted, and what the society expected them to become. For some of the non-engaged youth, they did not have to support their family financially. Sometimes, parents did not exert much pressure on them and did not have any expectation on them. As a result, a number of non-engaged youth simply drifted along, doing nothing and had little aim in life. Some might buried them in the cyber world, having little contact with others.

4.1.59 Cases 5 and 6 described above apparently are quite different from the other four cases, as far as social trust is concerned. A distinct characteristic for the two cases is that they both had participated in volunteer work. Both of them had “dreams” and were taking steps towards their goals.

4.1.60 Several social workers interviewed shared the view that volunteering helped foster positive thinking and let youth see meaning in life. A social worker stressed merely arranging simple volunteer work aimed at making use of manual labour of youth like selling flags in donation campaigns would not help, unless this was accompanied by efforts to educate youth on the meaning of such work. In order to help youth sustain interests in volunteering, a variety of interesting volunteer work, especially those activities which involved interactions with others, would have to be organized.

*Findings from the in-depth interviews: the potential dropouts*

Case 1 (reference: 4120551)

4.1.61 The respondent was a male aged 19. He was studying when interviewed in 2004-05 and 2008. During the second interview in 2008, he indicated that he did not have interest in school and had intention to drop out. When he was contacted again later in 2008, he had already quitted schooling and was working as a part-time waiter in a restaurant. He had changed several employers after having left school in June, mainly because he could not get along with his colleagues. He hoped he could study part-time later and expressed interest in attending training courses in catering.

4.1.62 He had not used any community services and did not participate in any activity of civic associations. He was willing to make friends with people of different background. He had trust in his family members and considered his mother was the most closest to him. However, he seemed to have little trust in classmates, friends, colleagues, neighbours and Hong Kong people in general. In short, his trust in people was very low.

同學/同事/朋友：視乎情況：要相處下才知道  
鄰居/香港的一般市民：不太信任：信心較低

4.1.63 He did not trust senior government officials and Legislative Councillors. About mass media, his trust was fair but did not trust gossip magazines. He suggested that the trust to political parties depended on situations and he only trusted DAB. He had trust in the judicial system, the Police and the ICAC, but fairly trusted police as their methods of handling issue were not relatively civilized.

政府高級官員/立法會議員：不信任  
大眾媒體：一般信任：但八掛雜誌就不信  
政黨：視乎情況：只信任民建聯  
司法系統/廉政公署：信任：香港的司法系統好健全  
警方：一般信任：他們處理手法比較沒有咁文明

4.1.64 It appears that his relationship with family members was average, with little communications with them. He did not have any expectation on himself, hoping to lead a “stable life”.

家人關係一般，爸爸已去世，會與家人講心事但講了都不明白，自己有給家用屋企  
只希望平穩過渡一生，不要有太大起伏

Case 2 (reference: 4125491)

4.1.65 The respondent was a male aged 19. He was studying when interviewed in 2004-05 and 2008. During the second interview in 2008, he indicated that he did not have interest in school and had intention to drop out. When he was contacted again later in 2008, he had self-study, attending a course on construction. He was satisfied with his academic performance. He hoped he could proceed to attend matriculation courses, and then enrol in university programmes. On completion of his university education, he hoped to take up a career in construction.

4.1.66 He had used library services and had participated in volunteer work while at school, visiting the elderly. He played football and ping pong and was interested in participating in activities of civic associations. He was willing to make friends with people of different background, though did not like the smell of “black” people. He had most trust in his family members. He also had trust in classmates because he knew their character well and Hong Kong people in general. Depending on circumstances, he also had trust in some friends. But he did not trust colleagues as there might be conflicts due to vested interests and did not trust neighbours as he did not know them. In short, his trust in people was quite high.

家庭成員：信任：最信任

同學：信任：因為日日見，會了解他們的性格，知道誰是好人

同事：不信任：會有利益衝突

朋友：視乎情況：朋友分好多種，有些未能信得過，人越大分得越多種朋友

鄰居：不知道：不熟識他們

香港的一般市民：信任

4.1.67 He had trust in senior government officials, Legislative Councillors, the judicial system, the Police, the ICAC, the mass media and political parties. His trust in institutions was very high.

政府高級官員：信任：會對說出口的話負責任

大眾媒體：視乎情況：信基本資料，不信內容

立法會議員/政黨/司法系統/警方/廉政公署：信任：身在香港便要信

4.1.68 His relationship with family members was good, frequently having lunch or dinner together. He had expectation on himself, aspiring to attend university, and thus was under pressure. Nevertheless, he was positive and was aware of the need to plan ahead.

家人關係良好，過去四年多了一起食飯  
對未來工作，金錢，感情，讀書都有壓力，怕未能升上大學，怕會沒有前途  
有希望才會有生活價值  
金融海嘯，要為自己打算將來，所以在過去的牛市，要儲錢

4.1.69 The two cases described above show interesting differences in their social trust and perception of life. For Case 1, the respondent had low trust in people and institutions. He seemed to have little knowledge of what to do and did not find any meaning in his life. For Case 2, the respondent's trust in people and institutions was high. He was positive about his life, hoping to complete university education and being aware of the need to plan ahead. It is worth noting that for Case 1, the respondent did not participate in any activities of civic organizations and in volunteer work.

4.1.70 Findings of the questionnaire survey showed that potential dropouts in general had low trust in people and institutions, as illustrated by Case 1. As remarked by several social workers interviewed, many students who performed less well at school did not see any meaning in life, scarcely had any forward planning and did not have any positive value system. They were often neglected by teachers. Since they did not have any behavioural problems, they did not receive attention from social workers either. Apparently, there is a need to give more attention to this group of students, especially the potential dropouts, with a view to enhancing their civic engagement and social network.

*Findings from the in-depth interviews: those with temporary or part-time employment*

Case 1 (reference: 4025281)

4.1.71 The respondent was a male aged 19, with post-secondary education. He was studying when interviewed in 2004-05 and had a part-time job when interviewed in 2008. During the second interview in 2008, he indicated that he was happy with his present job in a fashion wholesaler. He was also studying Japanese and hoped to continue further education in Japan. He attended a post-secondary institute previously, but found the course boring and the fees expensive.

4.1.72 He had not used any community services, did not participate in any activity of civic associations, because he had no friend to accompany him. He was willing to make friends with people of different background. He had trust in his family members for "obvious reasons" and classmates whom he knew since they were attending kindergarten. Depending on which friends one was referring, he had trust in such friends. He had trust in some colleagues, but was not sure if he had trust in neighbours. He did not trust Hong Kong people in general, as much depended on what they did. In short, his trust in people was not high.

家庭成員：信任：家庭成員都不信還有甚麼可信  
同學：信任：因為有些同學是由幼稚園開始相識  
同事：一半一半信任  
朋友：信任：看看是甚麼朋友先  
鄰居：不知道：不認識他們  
香港的一般市民：不信任：看看他們做甚麼先

4.1.73 He did not have trust in senior government officials, but had trust in Legislative Councillors, the judicial system and the Police. His trust in the ICAC was only fair, as he did not know what they were doing. For the mass media, his trust was selective, favouring newspapers but not magazines, while he was not sure if he had trust in political parties. In short, his trust in people and institutions was not high.

政府高級官員：不信任：報紙上寫的令到自己唔信  
立法會議員：信任  
大眾媒體：視乎情況：信報紙，周刊好假不信  
政黨：不知道  
司法系統：信任：不過始終有漏洞  
警方：信任：有他們才有治安  
廉政公署：普通信任，不曉得他們做甚麼，看不見

4.1.74 It appears that his relationship with family members was just average, with more communication with his mother, though he would take to friends instead on emotional problems. He was under pressure when encountered problems in studying and when confronting customers while at work. He saw hope in life and money was important to him, as he needed the money for his study in Japan.

父母愛自己。但與父親少溝通，因為父比較冷漠。母比較多溝通，平時都會分享心事，講感情就找朋友  
讀書遇到困難就壓力大，工作上對顧客壓力，怕自己招呼唔到，平時沒有失眠，不過有時生病就會失眠。  
失戀，因爭吵，之後覺得自己都有錯，現在對人好了，不易發脾氣  
覺得人生有希望，人生最重要係錢，四年前對錢沒有那麼緊張，現在不同了，遲些去日本還要爸爸媽媽在金錢上幫助

Case 2 (reference: 4000834)

4.1.75 The respondent was a male aged 22, with upper secondary education. He was studying when interviewed in 2004-05 and had a part-time job when interviewed in 2008. During the second interview in 2008, he indicated that he had lost his job a number of times and his employers went bankrupt. Nevertheless, he was not afraid of being unemployed, as he would simply find another job. He had no interest in further study and seemed to have given up. What he learnt at school was considered not useful to him.

4.1.76 He had not used any community services and did not participate in any activity of civic associations for lack of interest. He was willing to make friends with people of different background, though it seems that he only made friends with people he knew. He had trust in his family members, classmates, friends and colleagues, but did not trust neighbours and Hong Kong people in general. In short, his trust in people was not high. There was no person of importance to him in life and it appears he just muddled through.

轉左 4 至 5 份工，之前的公司都倒閉左  
無興趣無時間進修，覺得自己俾社會淘汰左，賺夠基本生活所需就可以  
以前讀書的內容對現在沒有幫助  
不擔心失業，失業後再搵過另外一份  
生命中沒有最重要的人，因為認為得過且過就算  
不論貧富：視乎情況：無這類型的朋友  
家庭成員/同學/同事/朋友：信任  
鄰居/香港的一般市民：不信任

4.1.77 He was not sure if he had trust in senior government officials, but it seems that he had no trust. He was not sure if he had trust in Legislative Councillors, the judicial system, the Police and ICAC, as he did not know them or had any connection with them. He did not read or watch the mass media. In short, his trust in people and institutions was low.

政府高級官員：不知道：不認識：他們幫唔到人  
立法會議員：沒有意見  
大眾媒體：不知道：唔睇  
政黨/司法系統：不知道：不認識  
警方/廉政公署：不知道：同受訪者無關係

4.1.78 It appears that his relationship with family members was just average, with communication gaps. He thought that his mother loved him as he was the only son in the family. He was not happy with his work, could not sleep well and was under pressure. He thought he was useful person but did not know why. Apparently, he was not happy with his life and was quite detached from the community.

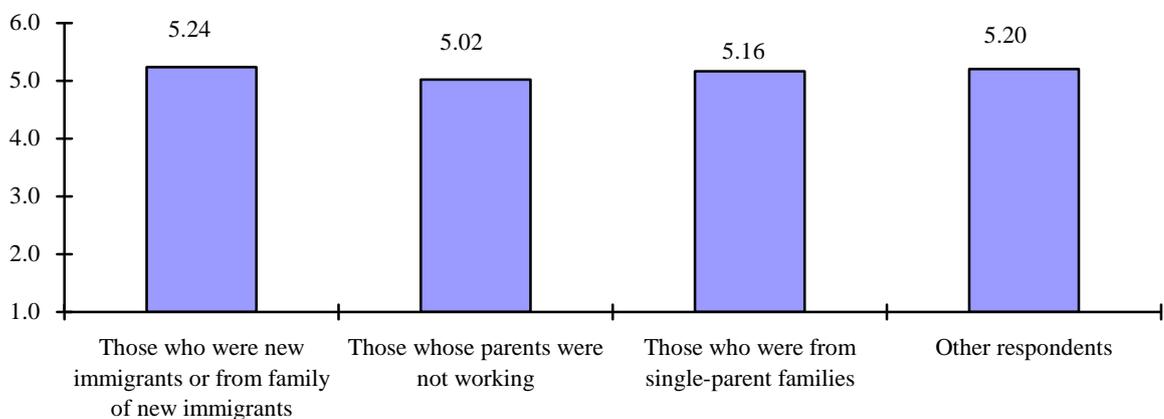
父：愛，但好少與他談天，有代溝;母：愛，好疼愛受訪者，因只得他一個仔  
 返工時唔開心，多野做就食多左煙  
 早上起身趕時間眼瞓眼痛會有脾氣，因而導致精神緊張  
 自己係一個有用的人，但一時間想不到原因  
 過去四年間對人生睇法有所改變，覺得夢想與現實不同

4.1.79 Findings of the questionnaire survey showed that youth with only temporary or part-time employment in general had low trust in people and institutions, as illustrated by Cases 1 and 2. As remarked by several social workers interviewed, it was difficult to provide counseling services to youth at work. Many of them were busy at work and did not have time to participate in activities organized for them. Activities that used to be of interest to youth when they were younger, including camping and activities organized by uniformed groups like the scout, were no longer of interest to many youth once they got older. For youth who were less educated and less well trained, they might have difficulties finding a good job, especially during economic downturn. This group of youth would not be happy with their work, lost hope of the future and had little planning for their career. They were detached from the society and had low civic engagement and social network.

***Further analysis by family background***

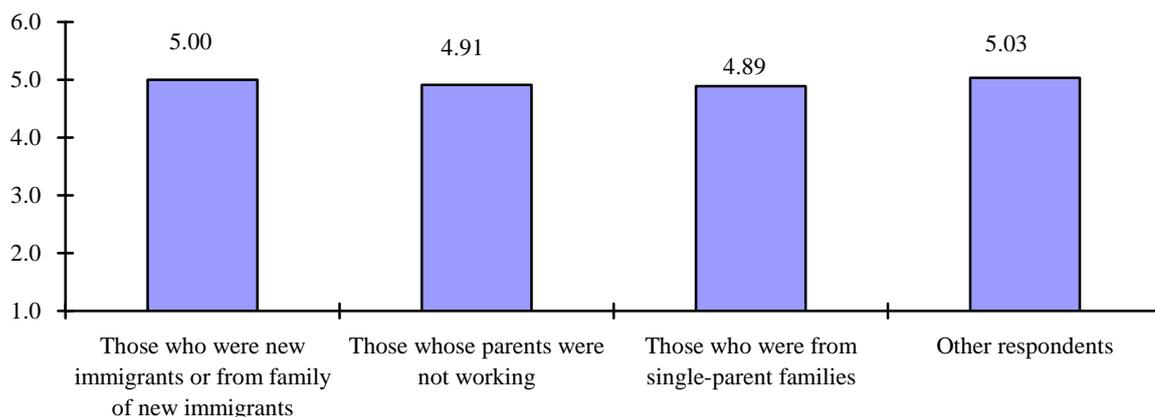
4.1.80 When analyzed by family background of respondents in 2008, the index of trust in people was much lower for those whose parents were not working, as compared with those who were new immigrants or from family of new immigrants or those who were from single-parent families, which is not surprising. For those who were new immigrants or from families of new immigrants and those who were from single-parent families, on the other hand, their index of trust in people was more or less on a par with other respondents.

**Overall index of trust in people analyzed by family background, 2008**



4.1.81 The index of trust in institutions was much lower for those whose parents were not working or for those who were from single-parent families, as compared with those who were new immigrants or from family of new immigrants. For those who were new immigrants or from families of new immigrants, on the other hand, their index of trust in institutions, was more or less on a par with other respondents.

**Overall index of trust in institutions analyzed by family background, 2008**



*Findings from the in-depth interviews: those who were from single-parent families or whose parents were not working*

Case 1 (reference: 4062201)

4.1.82 The respondent was a female aged 19, with upper secondary education. She was studying when interviewed in 2004-05 and was employed when interviewed in 2008. During the second interview in 2008, she indicated that she was happy with her present job, though it was very tough. She wished to continue further education to obtain a degree. She had participated in volunteering work in the past five years, helping the elderly and disabled. Through volunteering work, she found that there were others whose situations were worse than hers, and believed volunteering work had had a beneficial impact on her.

現職學警，因為興趣，所以做這一行

做過幾個月茶餐廳，工作好辛苦，很多客人無理取鬧，大壓力，人際關係好複雜  
想修讀公開大學課程(degree)，或報讀其他大學讀心理及社會學

為裝備自己及提醒自己要有毅力，不想容易放棄

在過去5年來做過很多義工，幫助老人家，智障人士，傷殘人士，及賣旗

做義工後認為人長大了，覺得有貢獻，又看到這個世界原來好多人好慘，相信自己的正義感是由做義工培養出來的，好有滿足感

4.1.83 She was willing to make friends with others, regardless of their background, as long as they were good people and they were happy together as friends. She considered her mother was the most important person in her life. In her view, her mother was very strong and looked after her and her brothers, though her mother once thought about committing suicide.

生命最重要的人媽咪。因為覺得佢好堅強，好勇敢，爸爸在她四歲時被人害死，媽媽好辛苦養大他們三姊弟，當時媽媽無野做，要諗好多方法解決財困(包括問人借錢)。後來發現原來媽媽當年有諗過自殺。覺得媽媽能夠養他們三個養到咁大，真係好偉大

都是隨緣覺得啱傾就可以做朋友。最重要係有心，只要大家相處得開心便可以做朋友。但是不會同性格好衰，出賣人，講人是非及黑社會既人做朋友。

不論貧富：願意：唔會刻意跟好富有既人做朋友。這種朋友可能都是朋友搭朋友咁識。

4.1.84 She had trust in her family members, classmates and friends. Due to past experience with colleagues who were not trustworthy while working in a restaurant, she did not trust colleagues. She was not sure if she had trust in neighbours, as she did not know them. From her past experience of receiving help from others while not feeling well when riding on a bus, she thought that some Hong Kong people was nice too. In short, her trust in people was quite high.

家庭成員/同學/朋友：信任

同事：不信任：以前做餐廳時的同事信不過。因為他們實在十分壞。為了自己分工，為了升職，經常出賣其他人，只管保護自己。

鄰居：不知道：鄰居很少打文道，見面也很少打招呼。

香港的一般市民：視乎情況：香港一般市民都信得過，但不是個個人都有心，有些都很壞。有兩次因為身體不適在巴士上暈倒，第一次係完全無人理，覺得為甚香港人那樣沒有同情心。但第二次情況完全相反，有個可能是醫生或醫護人員幫佢把脈，按穴位。有個女士叫人讓坐。其他人個個都問他有沒有事。自始之後就對香港人改觀，覺得第一次可能是在上班的繁忙時間，所以才會這樣。總括來說，都覺得香港人都幾好，比大陸人好得多。

4.1.85 She did not have much trust in senior government officials and the mass media, and did not have trust in Legislative Councillors. She had trust in the judicial system, the Police and ICAC. In short, her trust in institutions was not high.

政府高級官員：一半一半信任：對高官的信任只是一半，因為覺得有些高官真係只想保住自己個位，不是真心做事，有些政策只識講，實在甚麼都沒有做，

立法會議員：不信任：立法會議員真是經常爭拗，改變不到任何事情，他們根本無用。但又不能怪他們，因為有些事情他們真是沒有能力可以做到的。

大眾媒體：一半一半信任：大眾媒體只信明報，其他都不信，他們太不是。

政黨：沒有意見：對政黨無意見，因為很少注意政治。

司法系統/警方/廉政公署：信任

4.1.86 It appears that her relationship with family members was quite good and improving. Progress was also made in her ability to control her temperament and her interpersonal skills. Her work pressure was high and she could not sleep well quite often. Through talking to her friends and having a target in life to work towards, it appears that she was able to manage her work pressure and the stress of life.

因為年紀長大了，與家人關係比幾年前好了不少。弟弟幾年前脾氣好暴躁，說甚麼就要甚麼，要媽媽全部配合他。現在年長了，升上中六後又出社會做過事，性格也改變了，同家庭和諧了不少。家庭是重男輕女的，以前每人都要遷就弟弟。工作壓力真的很大，累到沒有可能失眠。但星期六、日返回家裏就會有時失眠，也會有精神緊張，有抑鬱情況，因為自己根本是很容易緊張的人。試過有段時間覺得生命沒有甚麼值得有興趣，現在好了好多，但遇到真是好不開心的時候，那種感覺又出現了。

現在開始努力找朋友傾訴，過往就係太收藏自己，覺得找人傾很有用，令自己想到原來自己思想是這麼狹窄，這個世界是這麼大，一樣東西原來可以有很多不同看法。

自己是追求學業，想有份好工作，想再讀書，令身邊的人過得開心、舒服，要回報媽媽，因為她辛苦了很多年

#### Case 2 (reference: 4115191)

4.1.87 The respondent was a male aged 21, with post-secondary education. He was studying when interviewed in 2004-05 and in 2008. During the second interview in 2008, he hoped to complete his post-secondary education to prepare for his career. He did not use any community services, apart from study room. He did not participate in any activity organized by civic associations, though he had participated in interest groups at school, which he considered useful to him.

4.1.88 It appears he was quite self-centred, considered he himself as most important. He was prepared to make friends with others regardless of their background, as long as they did not behave in a childish manner. He had trust in his family members, classmates, friends and colleagues, but did not trust neighbours and Hong Kong people in general. In short, his trust in people was fairly high.

在學時表現一般，會受朋友與同學影響，不一齊玩就好像自己是不合群，為了自己的前途，希望可以好好的完成課程，找到一份理想的工作。

辯論學會：因為覺得男孩子要盡量增廣見聞，而在辯論學會可以達到這個目標以及可以學到辯論技巧

因為覺得自己係中心，自己是最重要

不介意與不同背景的人做朋友，只是不想和思想幼稚的人做朋友

家庭成員/同學/朋友/：十分信任：絕對信任

鄰居/香港的一般市民：不信任：因為環境問題。

4.1.89 He did not have trust in senior government officials and Legislative Councillors,

and had had trust in the mass media selectively. He had reservations of trust with the judicial system and the Police, but had trust in ICAC. In short, his trust in institutions was not low.

政府高級官員/立法會議員：不信任：因為覺得他們工作能力有問題，政府高級官員經常只講不做，立法會議員參選時的政綱做得很好，但當選後又是另外一回事。  
大眾媒體：視乎情況：自己會信任電視台和電台；但不信任報紙雜誌。  
政黨：不知道：因為沒有留意。  
司法系統/警方：視乎情況：對他們有所保留。

4.1.90 It appears that his relationship with family members was just average, with little communication due to increasing generational gaps. He saw hope and value in life, realizing others had expectation on him.

自己不會經常與父母溝通和分享，因為有代溝，所以覺得他們不太明白自己，但父母也是愛自己和照顧自己。  
自己的年紀越大就越少和父母溝通。因為覺得自己在改變，但父母就沒有改變。覺得將來會是有用的人、覺得人生有希望，因為來自別人的期望，將來生活會有價值。

#### Case 3 (reference: 4143062)

4.1.91 The respondent was a male aged 18, with upper secondary education. He was studying when interviewed in 2004-05 and in 2008. During the second interview in 2008, he said that he was studying in a post-secondary institution. He would like to become a fire-fighter. He had not used any community services nor participated in activities organized by civic associations, apart from church activities. He was willing to make friends with others, regardless of their background, as long as they were happy together as friends. He had trust in his family members, friends and neighbours as he knew them for many years. He did not trust his classmates and he did not know them. He did not have trust in Hong Kong people in general. In short, his trust in people was not high.

沒有什麼教育志向，但是想做消防員。  
參加教會，因為中學時，學校是基督教。同朋友一齊只要開心就可以成為朋友。  
家庭成員：信任：因為他們不會騙我。朋友/鄰居：信任：識了好多年。  
同學：不信任：因為不熟。香港的一般市民：不信任：因為不認識。

4.1.92 He did not have trust in senior government officials, the mass media and the Police. He had trust in the judicial system and ICAC. In short, his trust in institutions was low.

政府高級官員：不信任：只講唔做。  
立法會議員：視乎情況：有一部份不信。  
大眾媒體：不信任：個個都差不多。  
政黨：不信任：他們太主觀。警方：不信任：內部透明度不高。  
司法系統：信任：因為有系統，有程序。廉政公署：信任

4.1.93 It appears that his relationship with family members was just average. Though he considered his parents loved and cared about him, he had little communications with them. He was not unhappy and did not have pressure studying. He thought he was a useful person, saw hope in life and considered it was worth living.

父母愛、照顧，但沒有時間少溝通，無時間少分享。  
爸爸病了沒有工作。  
無不愉快、抑鬱、讀書壓力和失眠。  
覺得是 useful 的人、認為人生有希望、認為生活有價值。

Case 4 (reference: 4001281)

4.1.94 The respondent was a female aged 19, with lower secondary education. She was studying when interviewed in 2004-05 and was employed when interviewed in 2008. During the second interview in 2008, she said that she was also studying a commercial course part-time. Her classmates were very good and she was happy studying. She hoped to study for a university degree.

4.1.95 She had not used any community services nor participated in activities organized by civic associations. She was willing to make friends with others, regardless of their background. She had trust in her family members, classmates, friends and neighbours. She did not have much trust in neighbours and did not have trust in Hong Kong people in general, because she did not know them. In short, her trust in people was not high.

兼讀夜校讀商科 (今年九月開始)，同學都好好，讀得都好開心，選擇商科係因為覺得對將來找工作有幫助，覺得自己成績都幾好。教育志向：大學畢業。

工作約大半年：今年四月到現在做兼職售貨員，同事和上司都很好，做得很開心，工作時間夠彈性，不會困身。

家庭成員/同學/同事/朋友：信任

鄰居：不太信任：因為大家不熟悉

香港的一般市民：不信任：根本與他們不熟悉

4.1.96 She did not have trust in senior government officials, Legislative Councillors, political parties and the Police. He had some trust in the mass media and the judicial system. In short, except ICAC, her trust in institutions was very low.

對政府高官、立法議員、政黨都唔相信，因為他們不能幫到香港，大眾媒體都可信任，司法系統的信任度只是一般，太多灰色地帶。警方都信不過，感覺他們只是「有牌爛仔」，ICAC 就可以相信。

4.1.97 Her relationship with family members was good, with adequate communications among them. As she grew older, her relationship with her family members had improved. She considered she was a useful person, saw hope in life and considered it was worth living. She considered one should support environmental protection with action.

家人有爸爸媽媽，一個家姐和一個哥哥，他們都好和諧，常常有溝通，關係很密切。同家人感情好了，因為自己大個了，比以前生性，更加感受到家人對自己的重要從來未試過有壓力，覺得自己係有用的人，人生有希望，生活有價值。人生目標係要令北極熊開開心心，呢句係廣告對白，即係要用行動支持環保。

4.1.98 Findings of the questionnaire survey showed that youth from single-parent families general had high trust in people but low trust in institutions, as illustrated by Cases 1 and 2. For youth whose parents were not working had low trust in people and institutions, as illustrated in Cases 3 and 4. Case 1 shows that volunteering and friends are important to the personal development of youth. As remarked by several social workers interviewed, meaningful volunteering was important to youth, especially those coming from disadvantaged families. Friends and mentors also play an important role in facilitating the development of proper attitudes to life and the community.

*Findings from the in-depth interviews: those who were new immigrants*

Case 1 (reference: 4104354)

4.1.99 The respondent was a female aged 18, with upper secondary education. She was studying when interviewed in 2004-05 and in 2008. During the second interview in 2008, she said that she was studying for an associate degree. She was happy studying, working together with classmates in preparing course work. Currently, she had adapted well to the changed mode of study at the post-secondary level. She hoped to finish her degree education and then looked for job.

副學士課程，認為現時在學表現不錯。在人際關係方面，同朋友好會令其報告或功課都有好的表現；在財政方面，要交學費或交流團等都需要支出。  
讀完中七便讀副學士。一開始並不習慣，中七上課定時，而大學較為彈性，要一、兩個月適應。而且功課多數多人一起完成，其學習模式與之前很不同。  
完成大學學士課程就可以，因為讀碩士的機會不大和需要時間。現在想早點讀完書出來工作吸收經驗。

4.1.100 She had participated in volunteering work, visiting elderly, which had beneficial impact on her. She played badminton, through which she got to know more friends. She also participated in religious activities, which was helpful in promoting cohesion and preventing discrimination.

青年服務：探訪，賣旗。原因是可以增廣見聞。較為開心，見識過不同的情況，自己感觸良多，會知道很多人需要幫助。老人家沒有人關注；他們住在老人院，想了解他們的情況。  
羽毛球隊，原因是有興趣，強身健體和認識朋友，有正面影響，較開心  
宗教：不同宗教的人有改變和開始融合了，可能因為宣傳了，不會再歧視不同宗教及性別的人，傾向比較博愛會開心去與人接觸。

4.1.101 She had trust in her family members, classmates and friends as she knew them well. She fairly trusted neighbours as she did not have much contact with them. For Hong Kong people in general, she indicated it depended much on circumstances. In short, her trust in people was quite high.

家庭成員/同學/朋友：：信任：接觸時間多，認識深

鄰居：一般信任：少接觸

香港的一般市民：視乎情況：未必盡信，會有詐騙的人，不是全都是能相信的人。

4.1.102 She had trust in senior government officials, Legislative Councillors and ICAC. She did not have much trust in political parties, but she had some trust in the mass media, the judicial system and the Police. In short, her trust in institutions was quite high.

政府高級官員/立法會議員：信任：他們有一套系統和規則，相信他們有能力去解決問題。

大眾媒體：一般信任：言論自由，他們說話未必真實，有時會誇張失實。

政黨：不太信任：有些可能是反派，為了博宣傳，會吹噓自己，未必能做到他們的政綱。

司法系統：一般信任：少接觸，刑罰沒有一定標準。

警方：一般信任：在跟進罪案時，所採用的方法有時未能即時解決問題，與司法系統差不多，都是要時間。

廉政公署：信任：有精英，能解決到問題。

4.1.103 Her relationship with family members was good, with adequate communications among them. She was under pressure when studying. She hoped to complete her university education and to find a good job. In short, she had a goal in mind and was working towards it.

自己的學業問題和父母的工作問題會互相傾談交流，溝通多了

會有讀書壓力，溫書，測驗方面

之前想升大學，現在想找好的工作

要打好基礎，找一份好工，而且現在找工作困難，所以會希望將來能找到一份好工作

#### Case 2 (reference: 4159175)

4.1.104 The respondent was a male aged 19, with lower secondary education. He was studying when interviewed in 2004-05. During the second interview in 2008, he said that he was non-engaged and was looking for a job. He had no plan to continue further study, as

he considered it not useful. He had not used any community services nor participated in activities of civic associations. He was willing to making friends with people of different background, and was of the view that it was better to have more friends.

希望：希望快些找到工作，可以有收入。不滿舊公司。  
不希望進修，讀屋宇裝備課程 2 年，覺得無用，因為所讀的與所做的不同。  
願意與不同背景的人做朋友，因為大家都是人，而且多個朋友反而更好。

4.1.105 He trusted his family members most, followed by classmates, colleagues, friends, neighbours and Hong Kong people in general. In short, his trust in people was very high.

家人，因為從小都是他們照顧自己，永遠都在自己身邊，對自己不離不棄。  
最信是家庭成員，因為他們是親人；其次是同學、同事、朋友、鄰居和香港一般市民。但鄰居和一般市民信任會低些，因為比較少接觸。  
家庭成員：十分信任：最信是家庭成員，因為他們是親人  
同學/同事/朋友/鄰居/香港的一般市民：信任

4.1.106 He did not have trust in senior government officials, but he had trust in Legislative Councillors, the judicial system, the Police and ICAC. He did not have much trust in the mass media. In short, his trust in institutions was high.

政府高級官員：不信任：因為他們講就天下無敵，做就無能為力，講一套做一套。  
立法會議員：信任：因為他們向政府提供很多寶貴意見，幫到很多市民。  
大眾媒體：信任：一般信任：因為有時報導太過誇張及一件事會有好多唔同版本。  
政黨：不知道  
司法系統：信任：因為香港有一個公平公正的司法系統。  
警方/廉政公署：信任：他們為社會執法，不可以不信

4.1.107 It seems that his relationship with family members was average, with not much communications among them. He considered himself old enough not to inform parents about everything and there was generation gap between him and his parents.

父母愛自己及照顧自己，溝通方面就一般，因為自己長大了，不需甚麼都同父母講；始終大家有代溝，他們很難明白年輕一輩的思想。

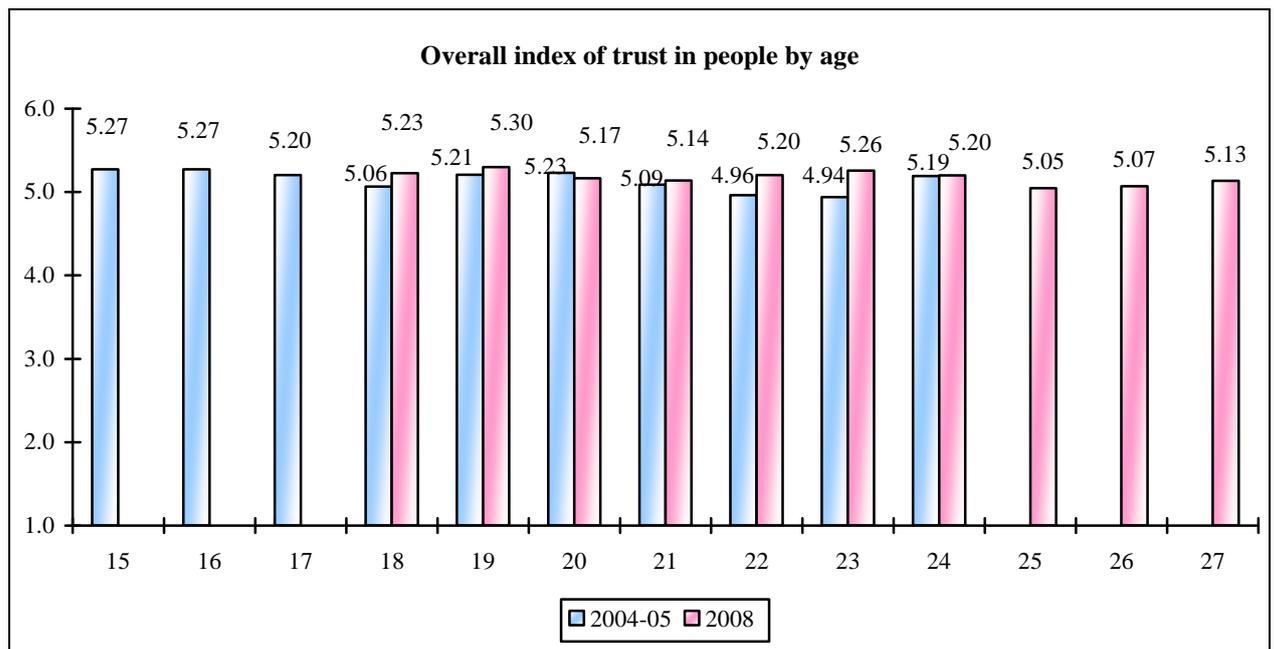
4.1.108 Findings of the questionnaire survey showed that youth who were new

immigrants had high trust in people and in institutions, as illustrated by Cases 1 and 2. As remarked by several social workers interviewed, youth who were new immigrants were usually more positive about Hong Kong and had social trust. Among those who performed well, they were even more hardworking and capable than most local youth. One social worker remarked that this lent support to government services in helping new immigrants adapt to Hong Kong. Nevertheless, he was of the view that if for those youth who were new immigrants, if their social trust was low, their behaviour could be worse than local youth with comparable social trust, as the new immigrants had lower social support network in Hong Kong.

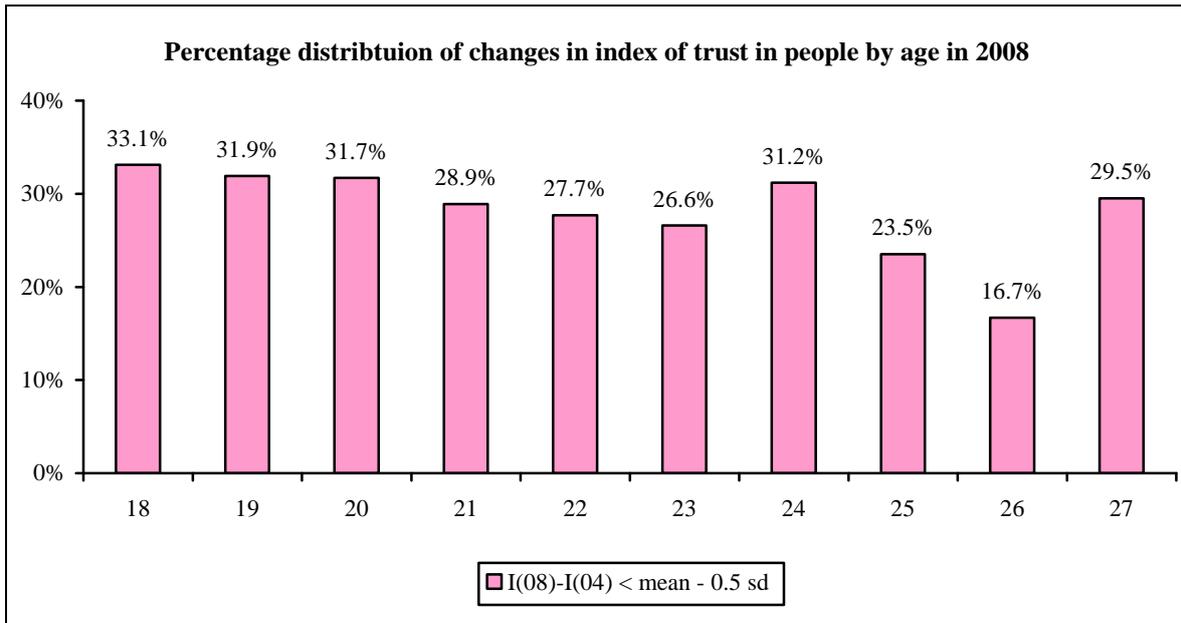
***Analysis of social trust by age***

*Index of trust in people*

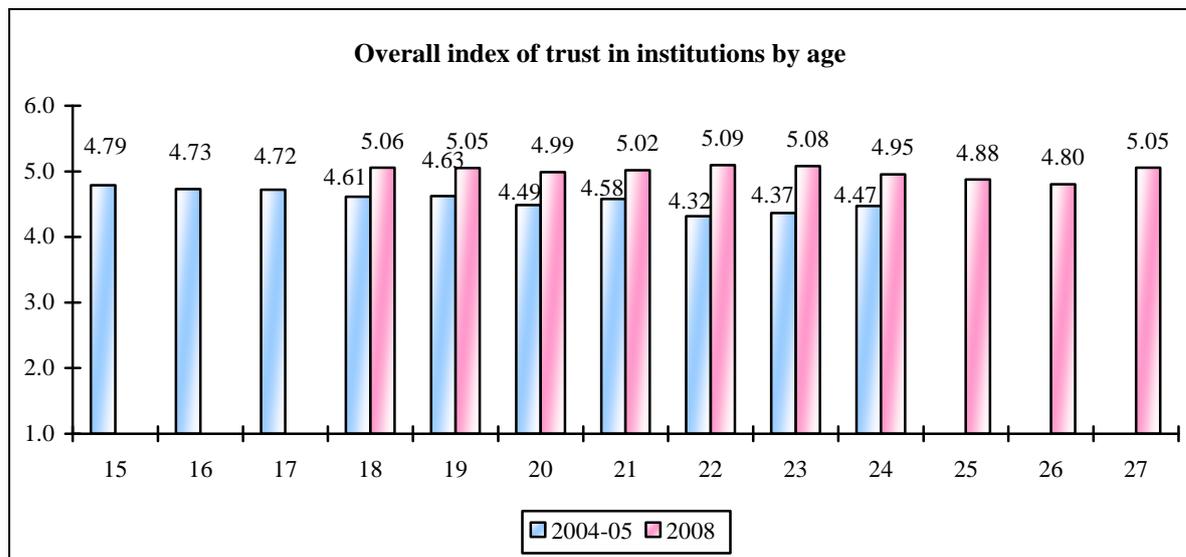
4.1.109 When analyzed by age of the respondents, it may be seen from the chart below that the overall index of trust in people was relatively higher for those in the younger age groups. Similar to the findings for 2004-05, a “double dip” pattern may also be observed for findings in 2008, with the index of trust in people lower in the 20 – 21 and 25 - 26 age groups. It seems that the double-dip phenomenon follows the cohort of youth as they get older.



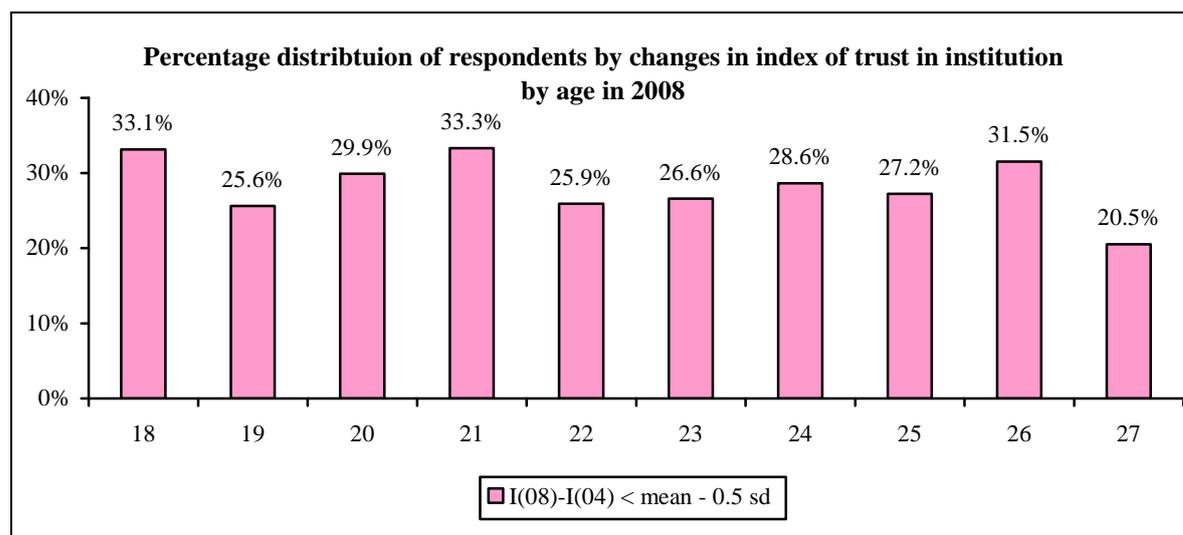
4.1.110 A closer analysis of the changes in the index of trust in people by age has been conducted. It may be seen from the chart below that for a higher proportion of respondents (32% - 33%) in the age range of 15 – 17 in 2004-05, who would fall in the age range of 18 to 20 in 2008, their index of trust in people had declined by more than difference between the mean change and half of the standard deviation of change (or more than 0.4). The corresponding percentage was also higher for those who were aged 21 in 2004-05 and aged 24 in 2008. In other words, for a higher proportion of youth aged 15 – 17 and 21, their trust in people is likely to decline as they get older.



4.1.111 When analyzed by age of the respondents, it may be seen from the chart below that the overall index of trust in institutions was higher for those in the younger age groups. Similar to findings for 2004-05, a “double dip” pattern may also be observed from the chart, with the index of trust in institutions lower for those aged 24 - 26. It seems that the double-dip phenomenon follows the cohort of youth as they get older.



4.1.112 A closer analysis of the changes in the index of trust in institutions by age has been conducted. It may be seen from the chart below that for a higher proportion of respondents (33%) aged 15 and 18 in 2004-05, who would fall in the age range of 18 and 21 in 2008, their index of trust in institutions had declined by more than difference between the mean change and half of the standard deviation of change (or more than 0.24). The corresponding percentage (32%) was also higher for those who were aged 23 in 2004-05 and aged 26 in 2008. In other words, for a higher proportion of youth aged 15, 18 and 23, their trust in institutions is likely to decline as they get older.



4.1.113 The above analysis by age shows that while the double-dip phenomenon revealed in the 2004-05 data follows the cohort of youth as they get older, the social trust of a higher proportion of youth in the age range of 15 to 18 and 21 to 23 is likely to decline as they grow older. To a certain extent, this confirms the earlier observations that as youth faces key transitions in their life from studying to employment, or as their schooling and working environments, their trust in people and institutions would be adversely affected, as these are the ages during which a higher proportion of youth would face critical life choices over further studying versus finding employment, or as they progress from secondary education to other forms of technical or post-secondary education.

### *Sense of control and efficacy*

4.1.114 Closely related to trust in institutions is the feeling of control and sense of efficacy, as far as government affairs are concerned. Respondents were quite divided as to whether they believed that people like them could have a say in government policies. While about 54.4% in 2008 (46.3% in 2004-05) believed that they did not have a say in government policies, 42.4% in 2008 (49.7% in 2004-05) did not think so.

4.1.115 On the other hand, while about 45.6% in 2008 (38.5% in 2004-05) considered the people like them could not possibly understand government policies, a higher proportion 50.9% in 2008 (57.9% in 2004-05) of respondents did not think so. Furthermore, more than half (66.6% in 2008 and 63.7% in 2004-05) considered that the government treated

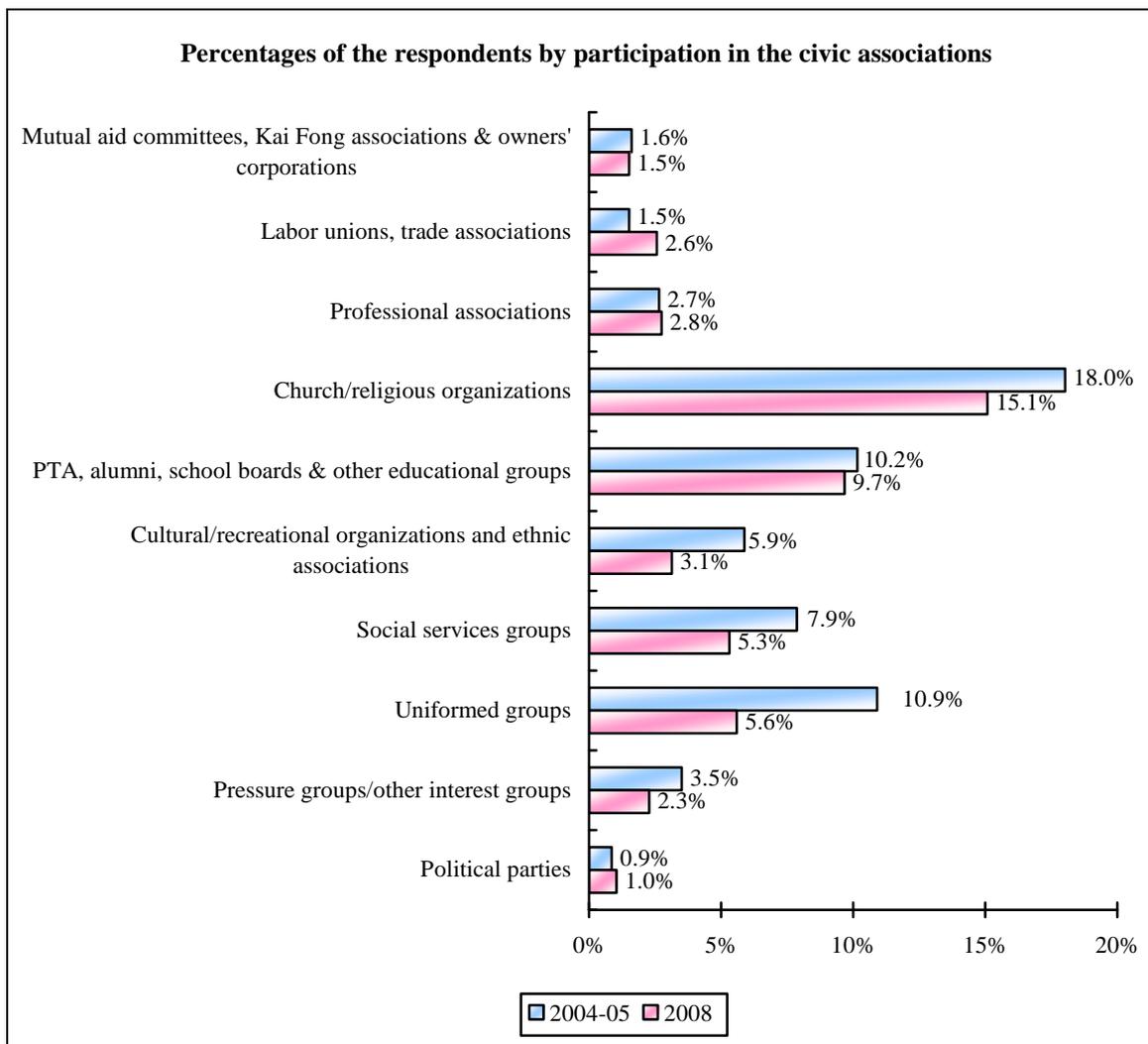
them fairly. In other words, comparing 2004-05 and 2008, the respondents' sense of control and efficacy has increased over time and possibly with age.

## **4.2 Network structure**

4.2.1 As discussed above, network structure encompasses three areas of civic engagement and social networks, namely associational involvement, diversity of friendship and informal socializing. In the following paragraphs, survey findings in respect of these three areas are presented.

### ***Associational involvement***

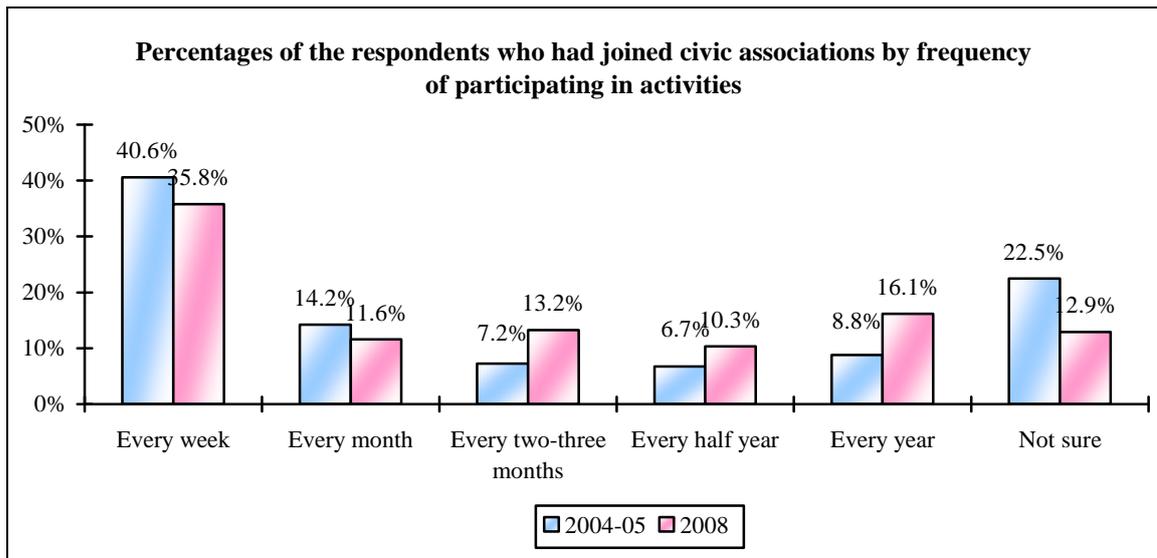
4.2.2 A higher proportion of respondents had joined church/religious organizations (accounting for 15.1% in 2008 (18.0% in 2004-05) of respondents), parent/teacher associations (PTA), alumni, school boards and other educational groups (9.7% in 2008 and 10.2% in 2004-05), uniformed groups (5.6% in 2008 and 10.9% in 2004-05) and social services groups (5.3% in 2008 and 7.9% in 2004-05). A lower proportion of the respondents were members of cultural/recreational organizations and ethnic associations (3.1% in 2008 and 5.9% in 2004-05), professional associations (2.8% in 2008 and 2.7% in 2004-05), pressure groups/other interest groups (2.3% in 2008 and 3.5% in 2004-05), labor unions and trade associations (2.6% in 2008 and 1.5% in 2004-05), mutual aid committees, Kai Fong associations and owners' corporations (1.5% in 2008 and 1.6% in 2004-05) and political parties (1.0% in 2008 and 0.9% in 2004-05).



Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q30a – j]

4.2.3 Taking all civic associations together, about 29.4% in 2008 (36.7% in 2004-05) of respondents had participated in civic associations. The percentage was the highest for students (39.5% in 2008 and 39.9% in 2004-05), lower for those who were employed (20.4% in 2008 and 26.1% in 2004-05) and those who were non-engaged (20.4% in 2008 and 29.2% in 2004-05).

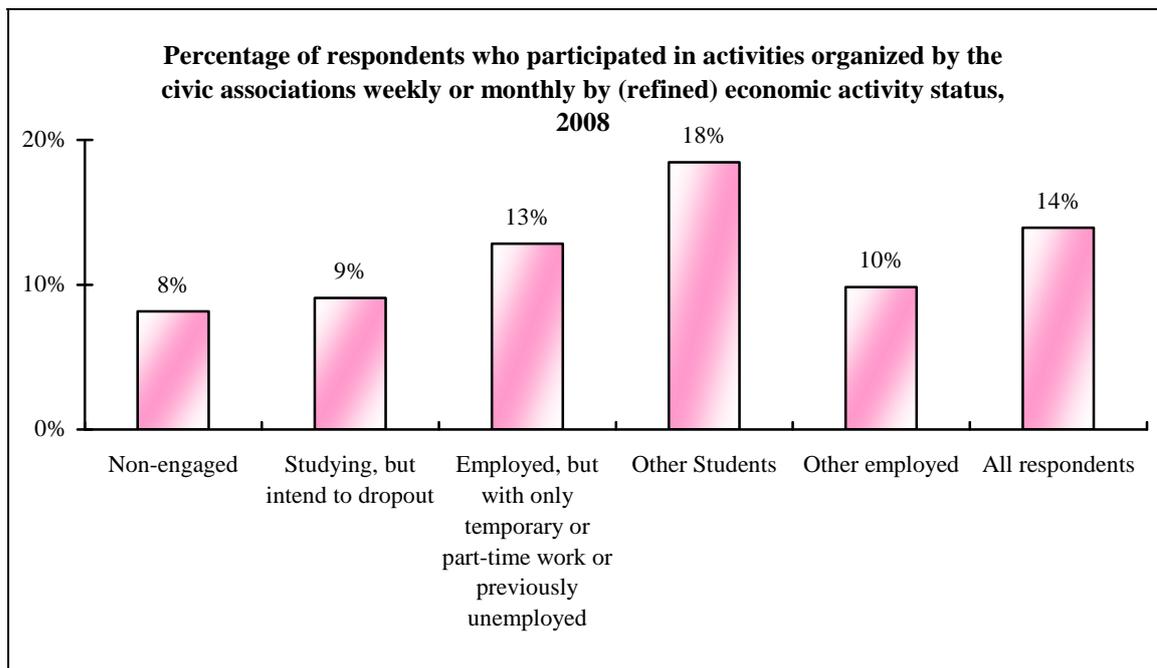
4.2.4 Among those who had joined civic associations, about 35.8% (40.6% in 2004-05) participated in activities of these associations every week and a further 11.6% (14.2% in 2004-05) every month. In other words, about half participated regularly in activities of civic associations.



Base: In 2004-05: respondents who had joined civic associations ( N=387 ) [Ref: Q30a-k]

Base: In 2008: respondents who had joined civic associations ( N=310 ) [Ref: Q30a-k]

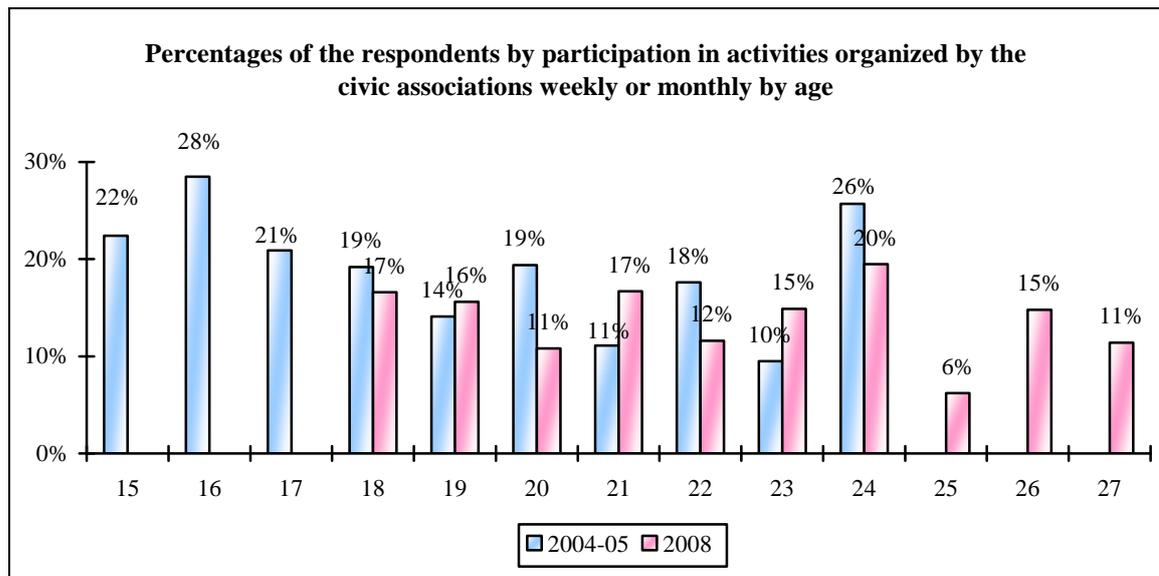
4.2.5 Expressed as percentage of all respondents, about 14% of them participated in activities of civic associations regularly, on a monthly or weekly basis. The percentage was lower for the non-engaged (8%), students who had intention to drop out (9%) and other employed (10%)



Base: Non-engaged (N=49) / Studying, but intend to dropout (N=22) / Employed, but with only temporary or part-time work or under (N=109) / Other Students (N=477) / Other employed (N=397) / All respondents (N=1054)

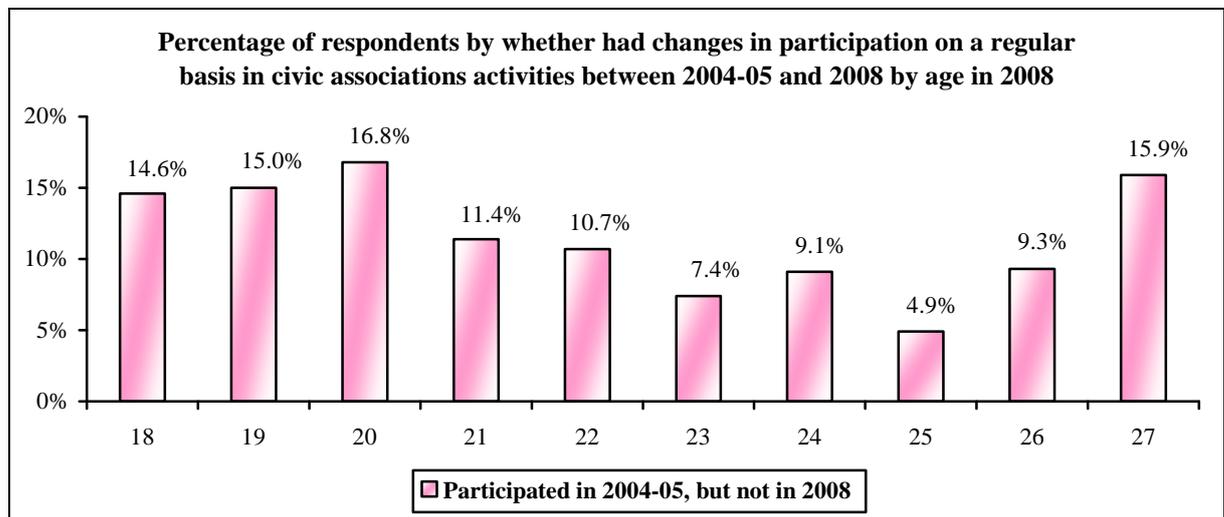
4.2.6 When analyzed by age, a higher proportion of those in the younger age groups had joined civic associations and participated in associations' activities weekly or monthly. The percentage was lower for those in the older age groups and was the lowest for those aged 25. Comparing survey findings in 2008 with 2004-05, it appears that associational involvement has declined over time and with age, and as higher proportion of respondents

became employed (48% in 2008 and 19% in 2004-05).



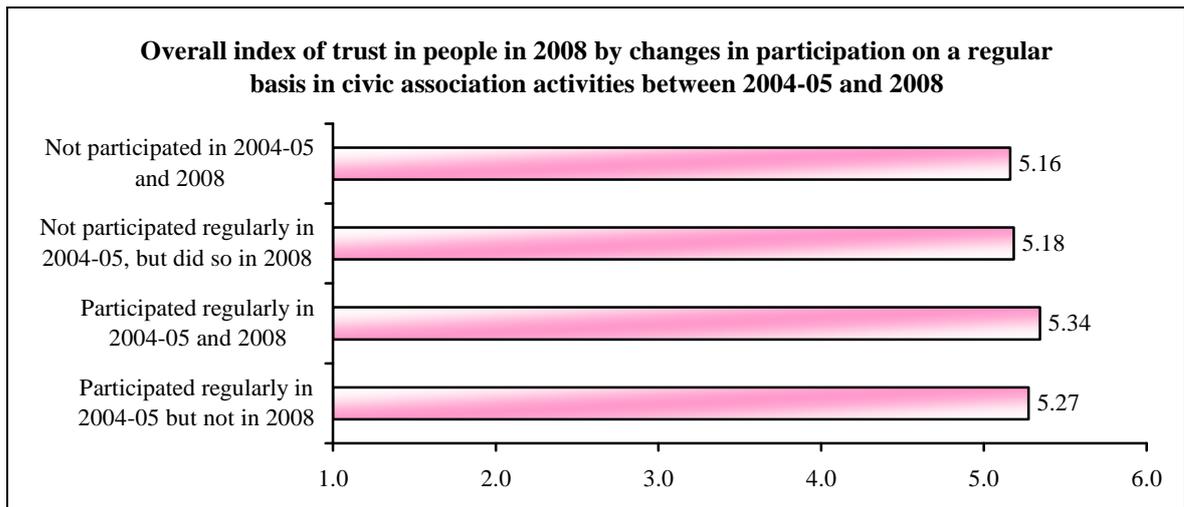
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q30a-k]

4.2.7 A closer analysis of the changes in the percentage of respondents who participated regularly in activities of civic associations has been conducted. It may be seen from the chart below that a higher proportion of respondents (15% - 17%) aged 15 to 17 in 2004-05, who would fall in the age range of 18 to 20 in 2008, participated regularly on a weekly or monthly basis in activities of civic associations in 2004-05 but not in 2008. The corresponding percentage (16%) was also higher for those who were aged 24 in 2004-05 and aged 27 in 2008. In other words, for youth aged 15-17 and 24 a higher proportion of them ceased to be active in participating in activities of civic associations as they get older.

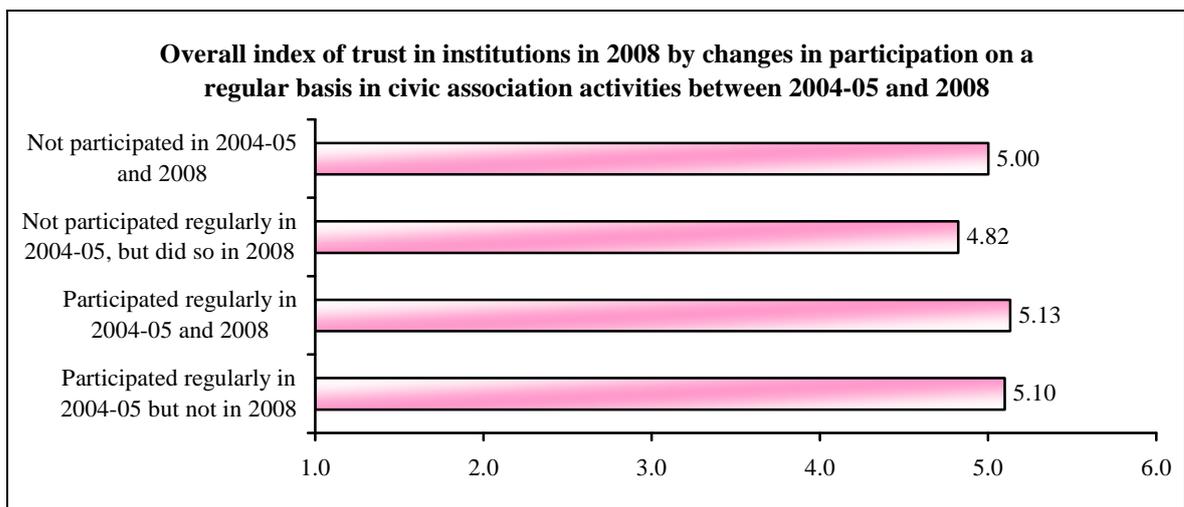


Base: All respondents (N=1 054)

4.2.8 Changes in the pattern of participation in activities of civic associations have an impact on social trust, as illustrated in the charts below. For those who participated regularly on a weekly or monthly basis in activities of civic associations in both 2004-05 and 2008, their index of trust in people was slightly higher.



4.2.9 Similar pattern was also observed for index of trust in institutions. For those who participated regularly on a weekly or monthly basis in activities of civic associations in both 2004-05 and 2008, their index of trust in institutions was slightly higher.



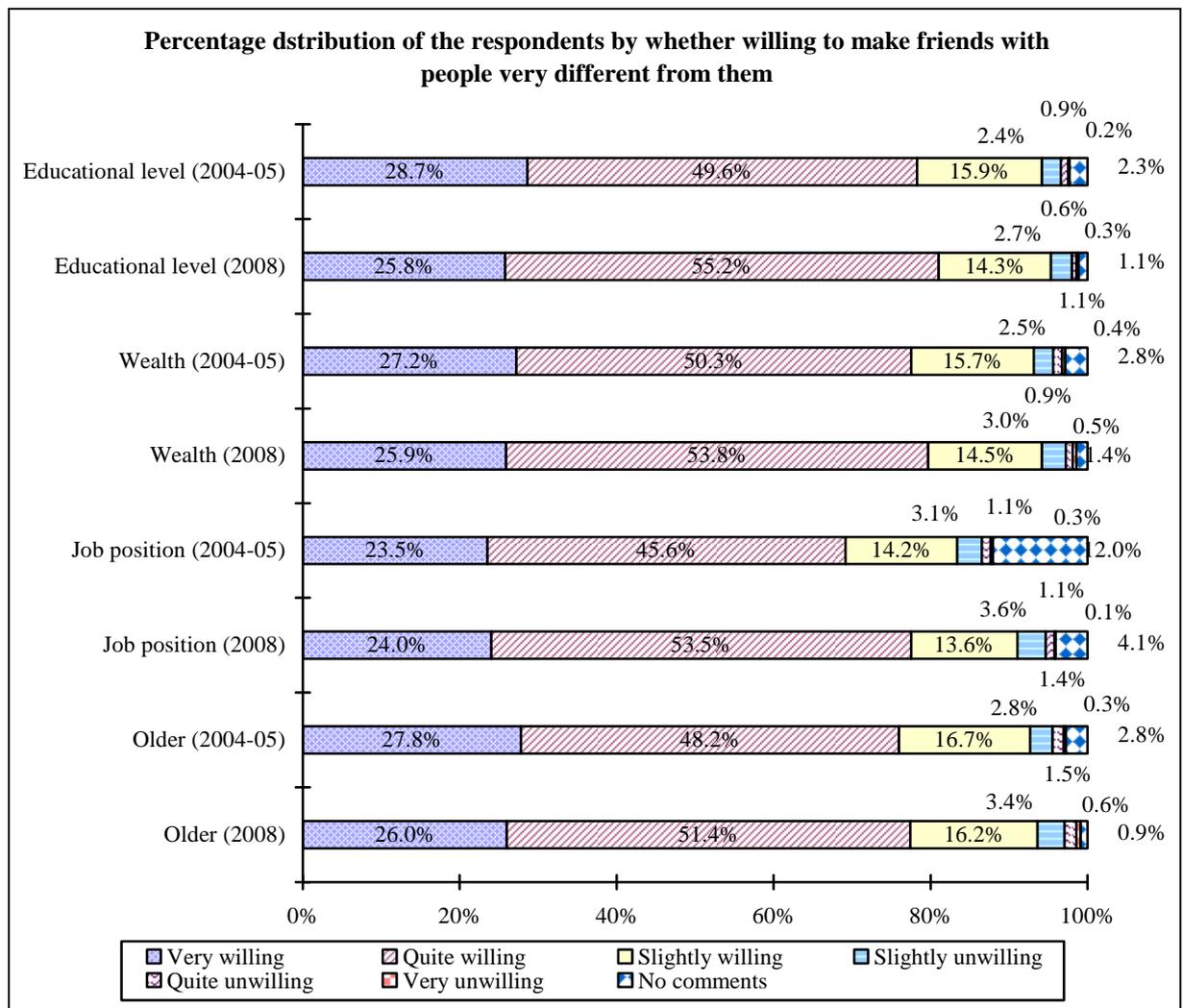
4.2.10 The above analysis by age shows similar patterns with regards to youth aged 15, 19 and 23 as shown in the earlier paragraphs. The associational involvement of this group of youth is likely to be adversely affected, as they go through transitions from schools to work, or face changes in their schooling and working environment. As remarked by several social workers interviewed, the associational involvement of youth is much reduced when they leave secondary schools, either because they have no interest or time to participate in such activities, or because activities that are of interest to youth at work are not in ample supply, or both.

4.2.11 Participation in activities of civic associations seems to have some impact on social trust of youth. As noted by a social worker interviewed, there is declining trend in participation in activities of civic associations, especially among those who are older. There is a need to take a critical look at the types of activities attractive to youth and that are conducive to enhancing youth's civic engagement and social networks, make a

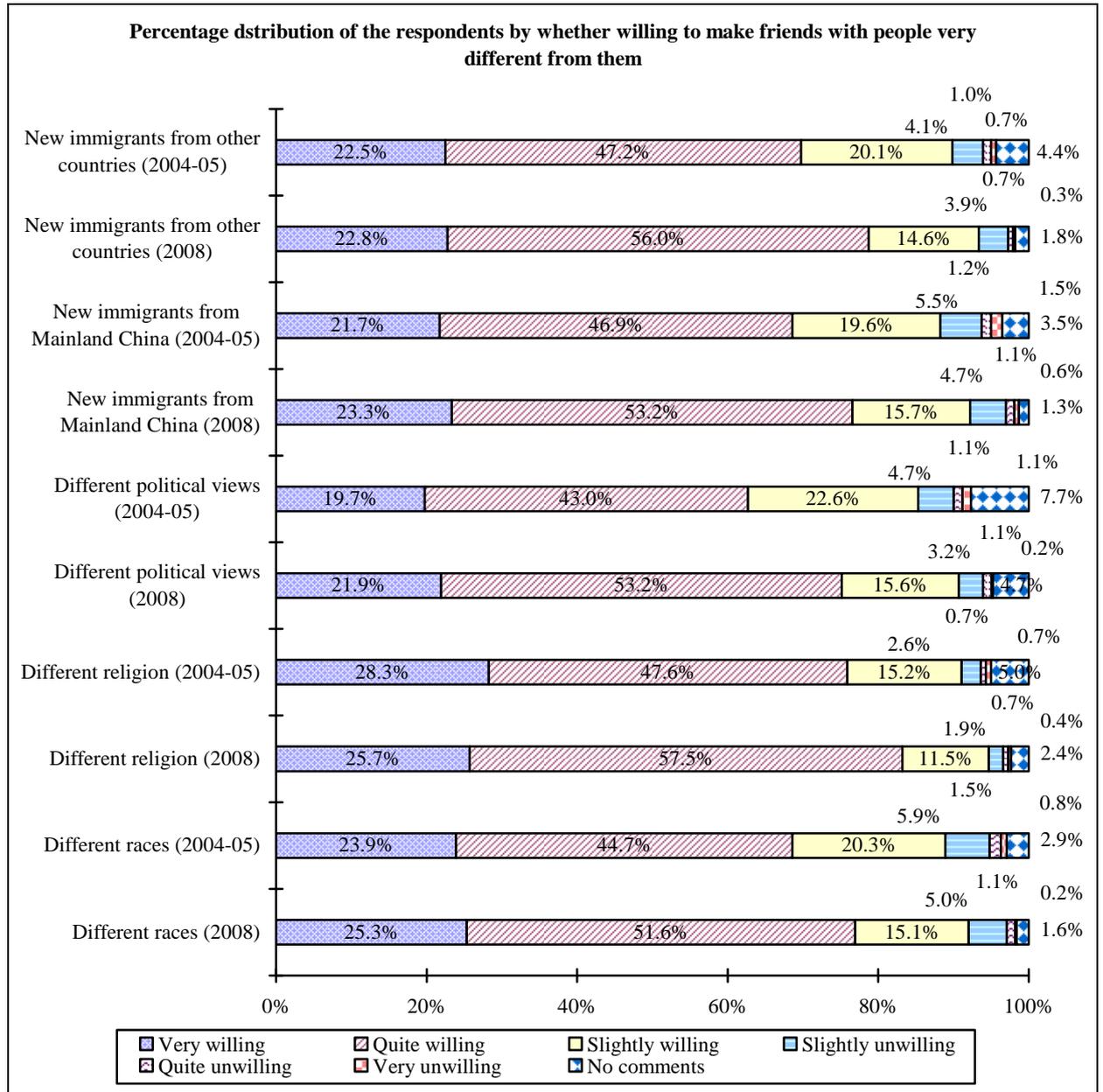
conscious effort to promote activities that are of interest and beneficial to youth's personal development.

**Diversity of friendship**

4.2.12 The great majority of respondents indicated that they were willing to make friends with people with educational levels very much different from theirs (accounting for 95.3% in 2008 and 94.2% in 2004-05 of respondents), having very different amount of wealth (94.2% in 2008 and 93.2% in 2004-05), of an older age (93.6% in 2008 and 92.7% in 2004-05) and occupying very different job positions (91.1% in 2008 and 83.3% in 2004-05).

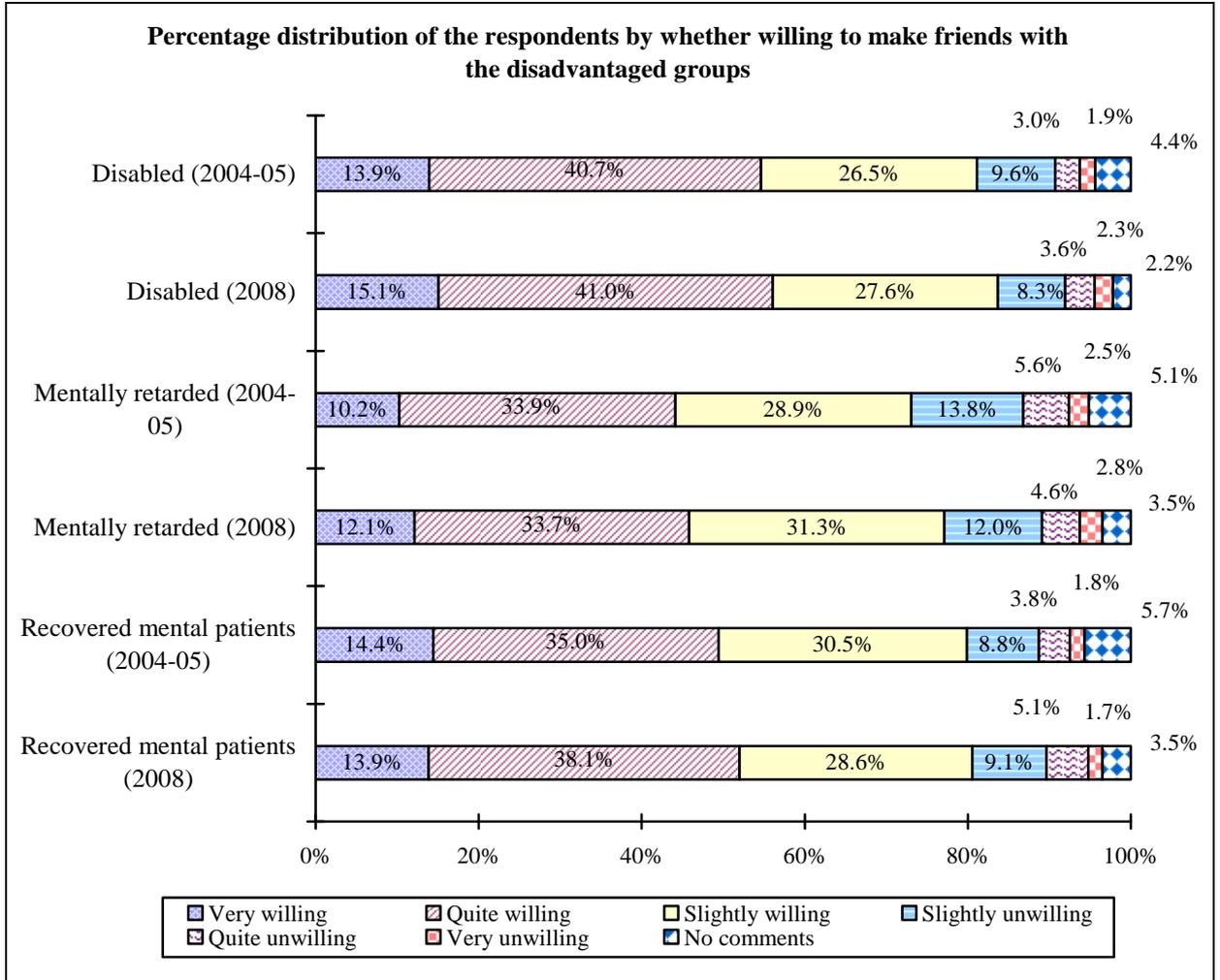


4.2.13 The great majority of respondents also indicated that they were willing to make friends with people of a different race (92.0% in 2008 and 88.9% in 2004-05), with a different religion (94.7% in 2008 and 91.1% in 2004-05), newly immigrated from other countries (93.4% in 2008 and 89.8% in 2004-05), newly immigrated from Mainland China (92.2% in 2008 and 88.2% in 2004-05) and holding different political views (90.7% in 2008 and 85.3% in 2004-05).

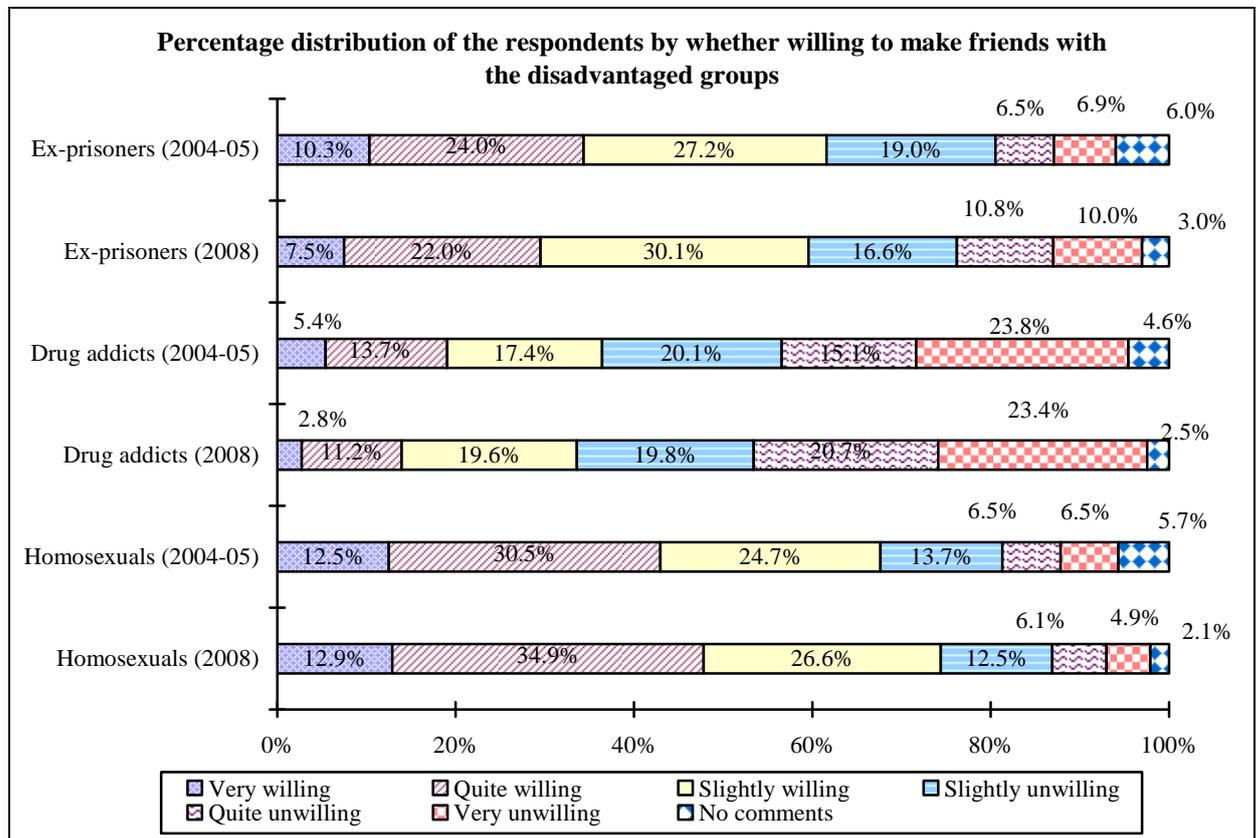


Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q44e-i]

4.2.14 As regards disadvantaged groups, the majority of respondents indicated that they were willing to make friends with the disabled (accounting for 83.7% in 2008 and 81.1% in 2004-05 of respondents), people who had recovered from mental illness (80.6% in 2008 and 79.9% in 2004-05) and the mentally retarded (77.1% in 2008 and 73.0% in 2004-05).



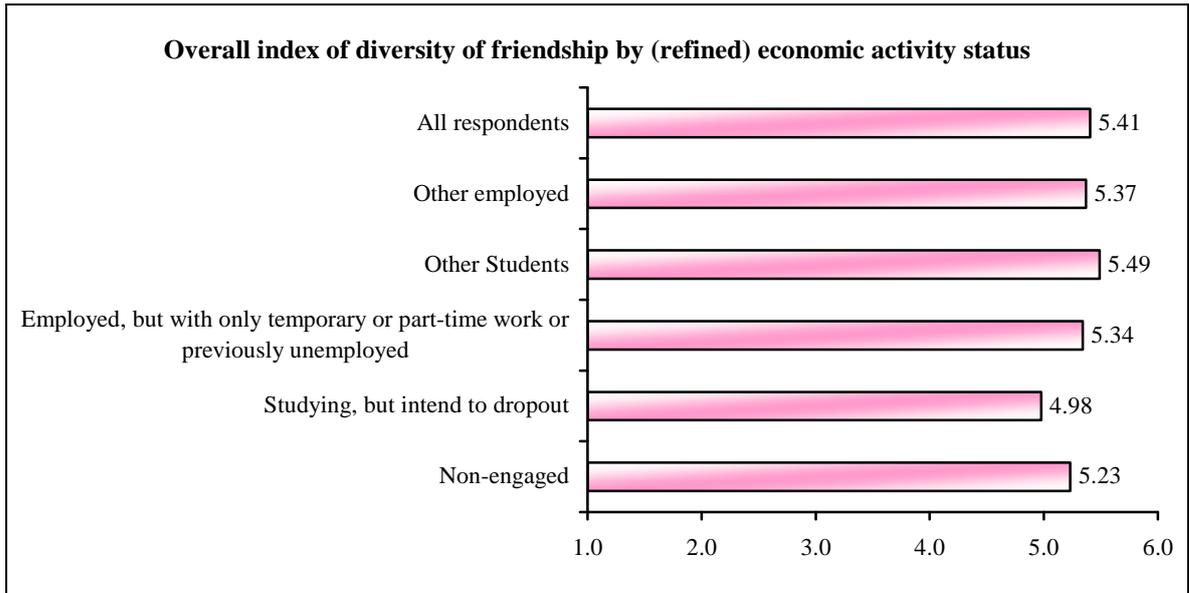
4.2.15 As regards other disadvantaged groups, more than half respondents indicated that they were willing to make friends with the homosexuals (74.4% in 2008 and 67.7% in 2004-05). A lower proportion of respondents was willing to be friends with ex-prisoners (59.6% in 2008 and 61.5% in 2004-05) and with drug addicts (33.6% in 2008 and 36.5% in 2004-05). Comparing the survey findings in 2008 and 2004-05, it may be noted that, apart from ex-prisoners and drug addicts, the proportion of youth willing to make friends with people of different backgrounds has increased over time and with age.



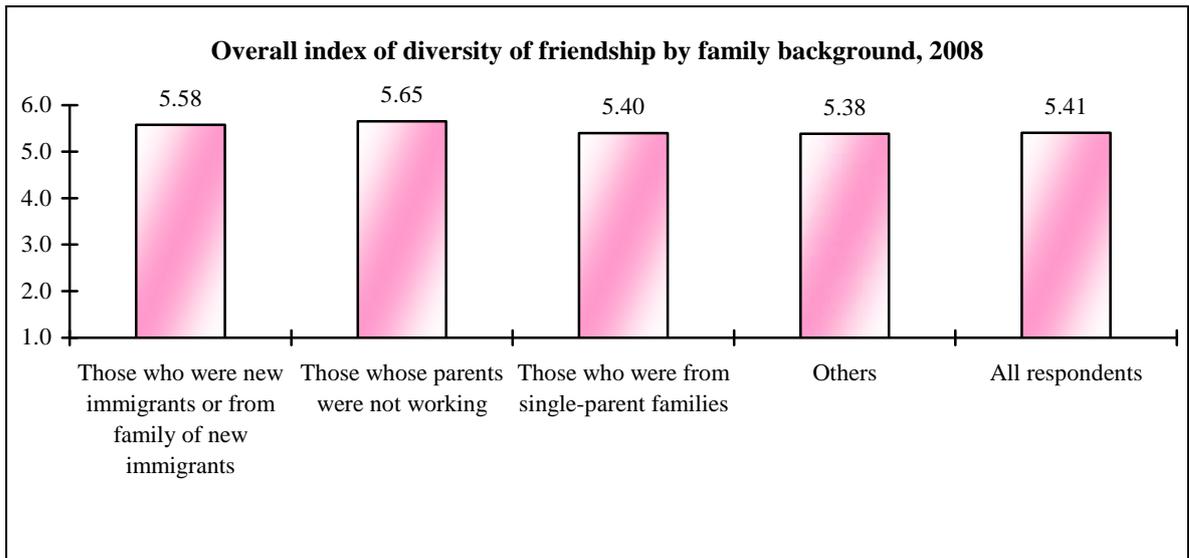
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q44m-o]

4.2.16 An index of diversity of friendship may be compiled incorporating respondents' willingness to make friends with different segments of the community. The index was 5.41 in 2008, little changed from 5.35 in 2004-05, in a Likert scale of 7, which was fairly high. The index was slightly higher for students in 2008 at 5.47 (5.36 in 2004-05). On the other hand, the index remained more or less the same for those who were employed in 2008 at 5.36 (5.34 in 2004-05) and non-engaged in 2008 at 5.23 (5.22 in 2004-05). In other words, the extent of diversity of friendship for those who were students has increased slightly over time and with age.

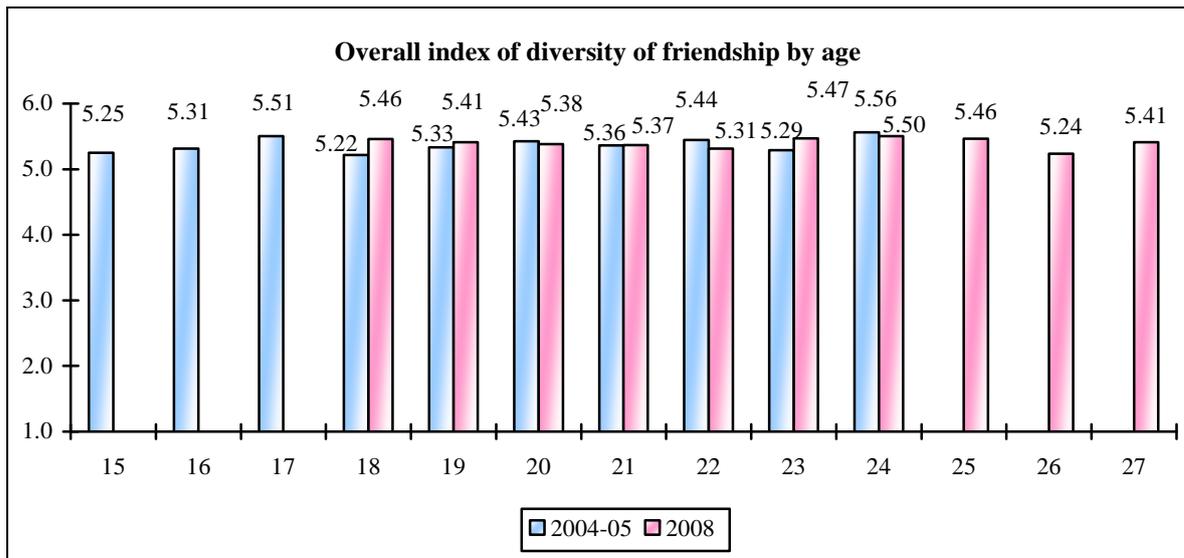
4.2.17 While the diversity of friendship was lower for those who were non-engaged (5.23), the index was even lower for students who had intention to drop out (4.98). The index was higher for other students (5.49) and other respondents who were employed (5.34 – 5.37).



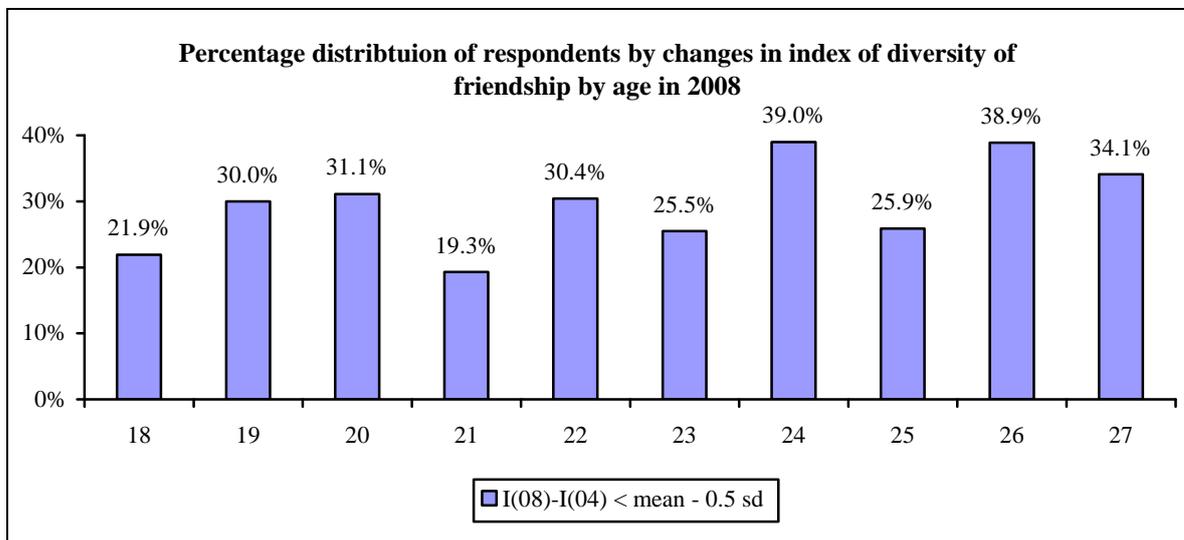
4.2.18 When analyzed by family background, it may be seen from the chart below that the index of diversity of friendship was higher for those who were new immigrants or from families of new immigrants (5.58) and those whose parents were not working (5.65).



4.2.19 When analyzed by age of the respondents, it may be seen from the chart below that the overall index of diversity of friendship was relatively higher for those in the older age groups. The index was lower for those aged 20 – 22 and 26 – 27. Similar to the findings in 2004-05, the “double-dip” pattern was also observed in 2008 for diversity of friendship.



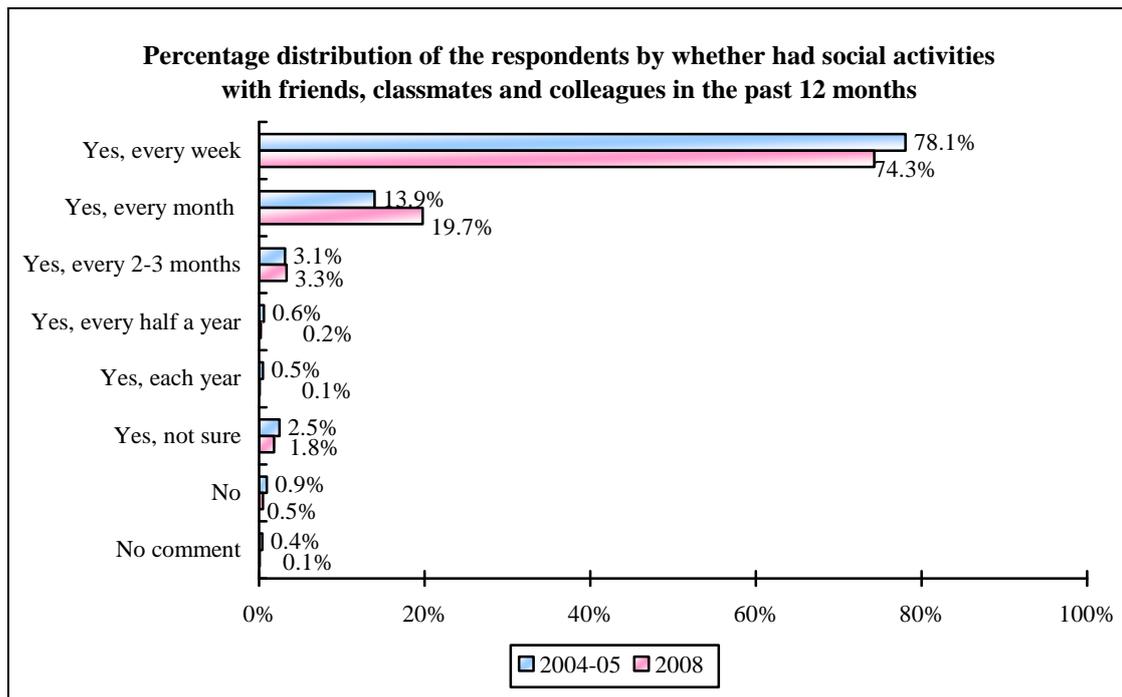
4.2.20 A closer analysis of the changes in the index of diversity of friendship by age has been conducted. It may be seen from the chart below that for a higher proportion of respondents (39%) in the age groups of 21 and 23 in 2004-05, who would fall in the age groups of 24 and 26 in 2008, their index of diversity of friendship had declined by more than difference between the mean change and half of the standard deviation of change (or more than 0.5). The corresponding percentage was also higher for those aged 16 – 17, 19 and 24 in 2004-05. In other words, for a higher proportion of youth in the age groups of 16 – 17, 19, 21, 23 and 24, their diversity of friendship is likely to decline as they get older.



### *Informal socializing*

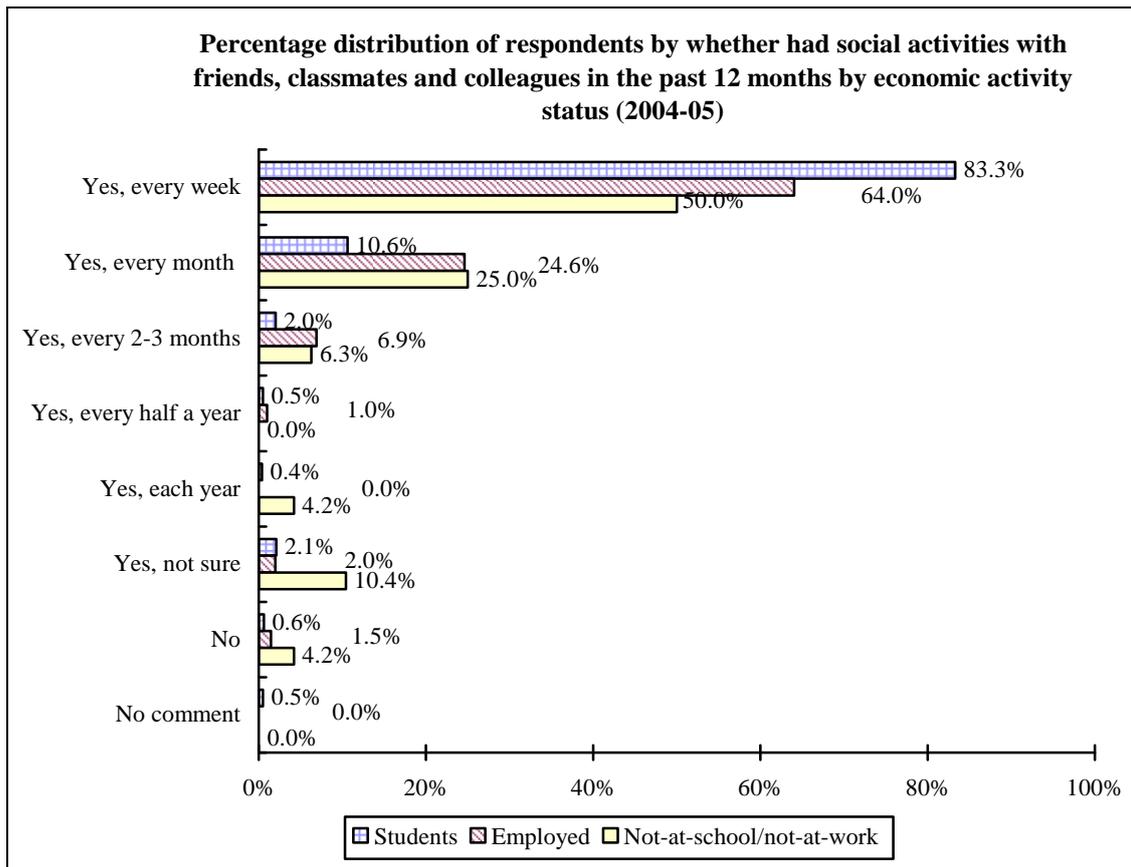
4.2.21 Informal socializing refers to informal social activities with friends, classmates, co-workers. The majority of the respondents (74.3% in 2008 and 78.1% in 2004-05) had social activities with these groups every week, and a further 19.7% in 2008 (13.9% in 2004-05) did so every month. About 0.5% in 2008 (0.9% in 2004-05) did not have social activities with these groups in the past 12 months. In other words, most respondents had

social activities with friends, classmates and colleagues every week or every month.



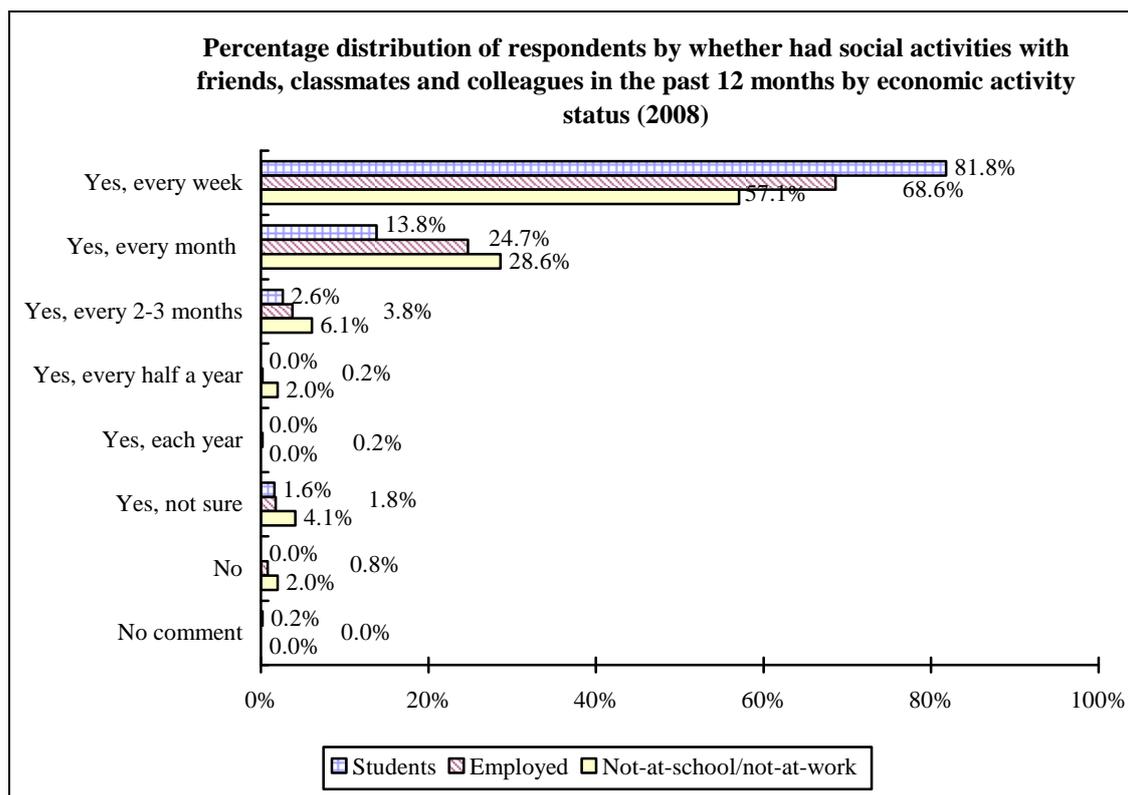
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q36a-d]

4.2.22 When analyzed by economic activity status of the respondents, the percentage of the respondents who had social activities with friends, classmates or colleagues every week was higher for students (83.3% in 2004-05) and lower for non-engaged youths (50.0% in 2004-05). The proportion who did not have social activities with friends, classmates or colleagues was higher for non-engaged youths (4.2% in 2004-05) when compared to that for students (0.6% in 2004-05) and the employed (1.5% in 2004-05).



Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q36a-d]

4.2.23 Comparing the survey findings in 2008 and 2004-05, it may be worth noting that the extent of informal socializing for respondents every week for students slightly declined from 83.3% in 2004-05 to 81.8% in 2008 but for non-engaged youths, the extent increased from 50.0% in 2004-05 to 57.1% in 2008.



Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q36a-d]

### 4.3 Network transactions

4.3.1 As discussed above, network transactions encompass four areas of civic engagement and social networks, including conventional politics, civic rallies, giving and volunteering and faith-based engagement. In the following paragraphs, survey findings in respect of these four areas are presented.

#### *Conventional politics and civic rallies*

4.3.2 A number of questions were included in the survey to obtain information on respondents' participation in conventional politics and civic rallies, including voter registration, voting behaviour and attendance at public meetings or rallies. For those who were aged 18 or above, about 48.3% in 2008 and 53.3% in 2004-05 had registered as voters. The percentages were higher for those who were students (44.5% in 2008 and 50.5% in 2004-05) and those who were employed (53.2% in 2008 and 58.5% in 2004-05). As regards those who were non-engaged, the percentage was much lower, at 36.7% in 2008 and 48.8% in 2004-05).

4.3.3 For the respondents who had registered as voters, about 23.8% in 2008 and 42.3% in 2004-05 indicated that they voted in every round of Legislative Council elections, and a further 13.3% in 2008 and 13.6% in 2004-05 often did so. About 37.2% in 2008 and 24.1% in 2004-05 had never voted in Legislative Council elections. For District Councils election, about 28.1% in 2008 and 33.2% in 2004-05 indicated that they voted in every election, and a further 15.0% in 2008 and 10.1% in 2004-05 often did so. About 31.5% in 2008 and 38.5% in 2004-05 indicated that they had never voted in the elections.

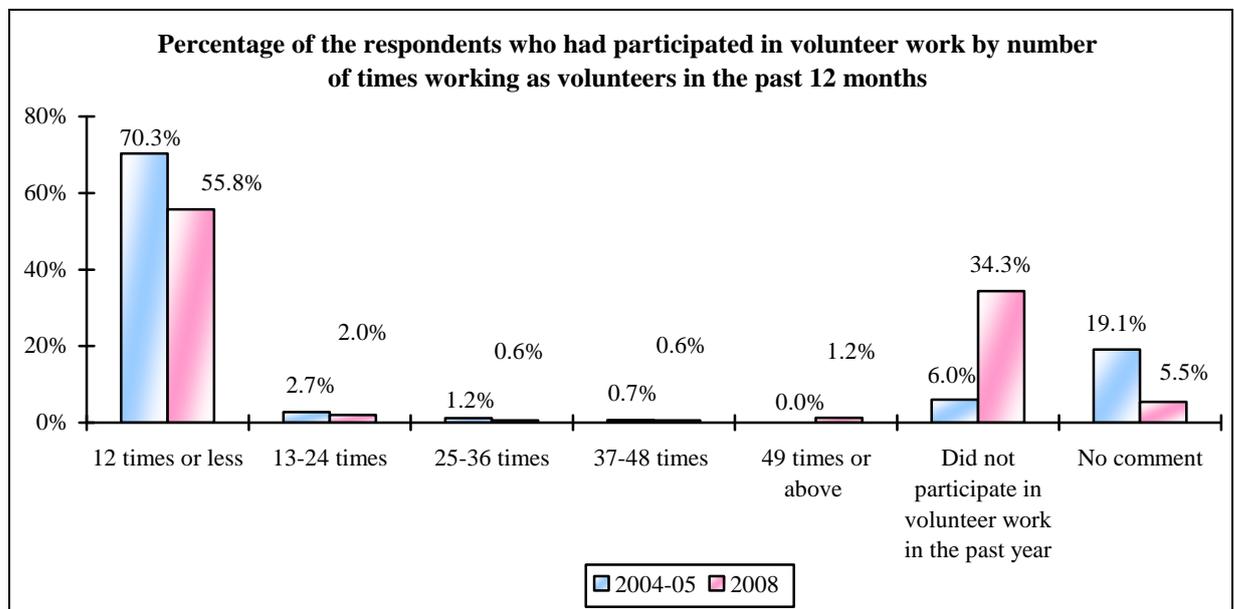
4.3.4 About 12.8% in 2008 (15.3% in 2004-05) of the respondents indicated that they had participated in signature campaigns, rallies, demonstrations and protests in the past 12 months. For those who had participated in these activities, the great majority of them (85.9% in 2008 and 92.5% in 2004-05) had attended one to three times in the past 12 months. About 11.1% in 2008 (6.2% in 2004-05) attended four to five times, and for the remaining 3.0% in 2008 (1.2% in 2004-05), five times or more.

4.3.5 When analyzed by economic activity status, about 13.8% in 2008 (14.4% in 2004-05) of the respondents who were students indicated that they had participated in signature campaigns, rallies, demonstrations and protests in the past 12 months. The corresponding percentage for those who were employed was 12.1% in 2008 (20.2% in 2004-05) and for those who were non-engaged, at 10.2% in 2008 (8.3% in 2004-05).

4.3.6 Comparing the survey findings in 2008 and 2004-05, it may be worth noting that the extent of participation in conventional politics and civic rallies for respondents who were students and employed has declined over time and with age. On the other hand, the extent of participation in conventional politics and civic rallies for respondents who were non-engaged has increased over time and with age.

***Giving and volunteering***

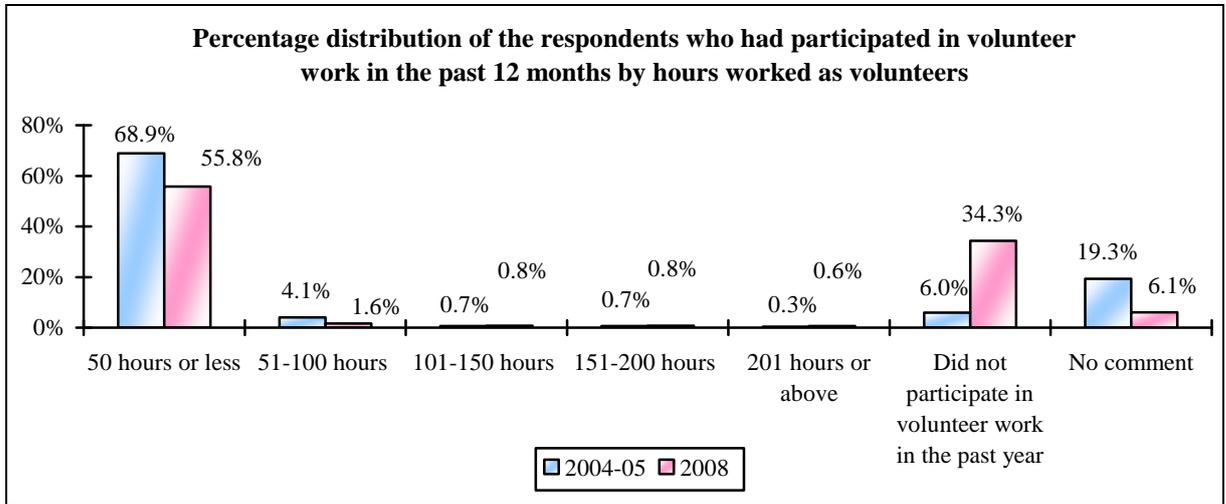
4.3.7 About 47.0% in 2008 (55.6% in 2004-05) of respondents indicated that they had participated in volunteer work. Of those, more than half (55.8% in 2008, as compared with 70.3% in 2004-05) had worked as volunteers 12 times or less during the past 12 months and about 34.3% in 2008 (6.0% in 2004-05) did not participate in volunteer work in the past year.



Base: In 2004-05: respondents who had participated in volunteer work (N=586) [Ref: Q31b]

Base: In 2008: respondents who had participated in volunteer work (N=495) [Ref: Q31b]

4.3.8 For respondents who had participated in volunteer work in the past 12 months, more than half of them (55.8% in 2008 and 68.9% in 2004-05) had worked as volunteers for 50 hours or less during the past 12 months.

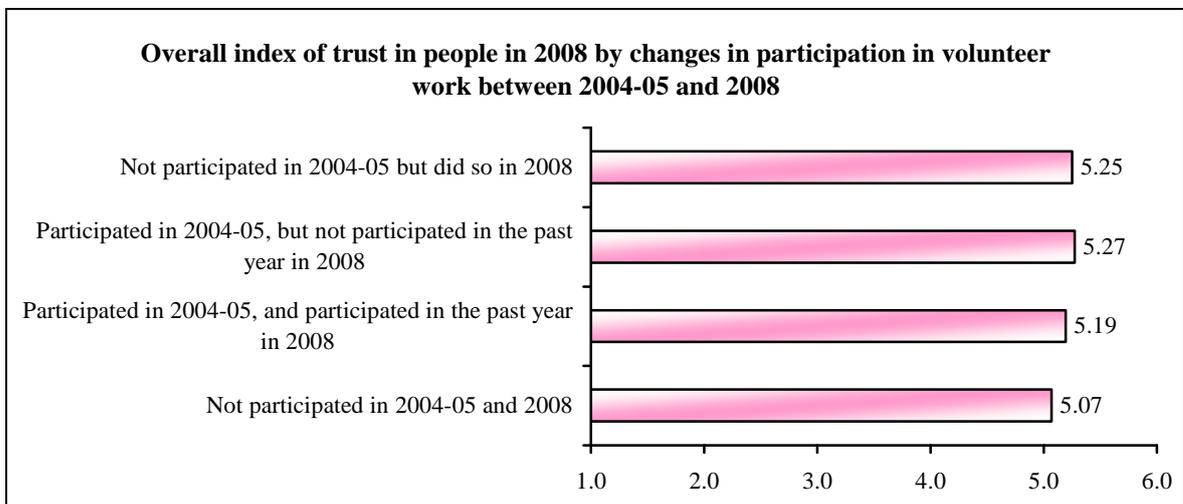


Base: In 2004-05: respondents who had participated in volunteer work ( N=586 ) [Ref: Q31c]

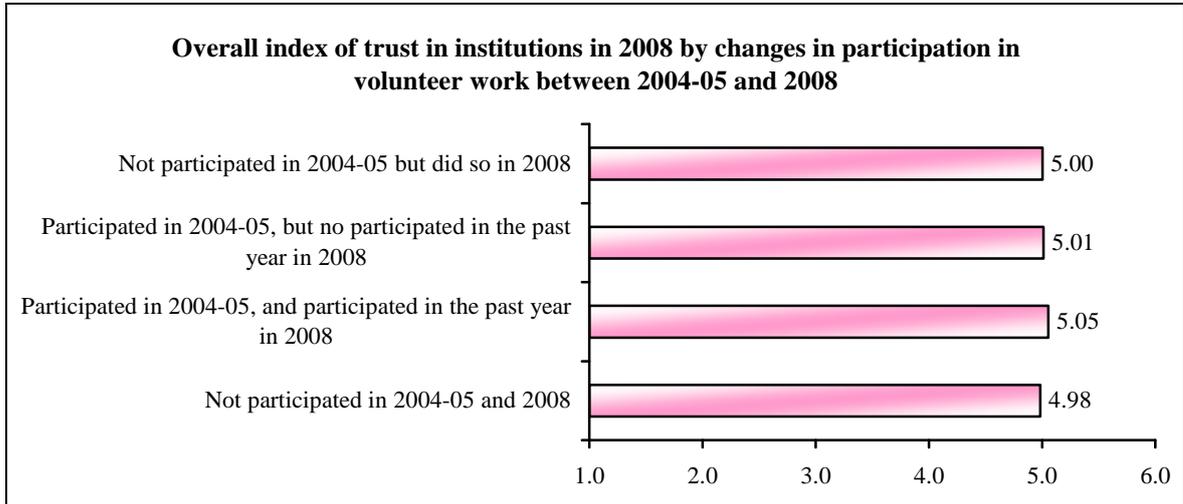
Base: In 2008: respondents who had participated in volunteer work ( N=495 ) [Ref: Q31c]

4.3.9 When analyzed by economic activity status, about 60.7% in 2008 (61.0% in 2004-05) of respondents who were students had participated in volunteer work. The corresponding percentage for those who were employed was 34.4% in 2008 (39.9% in 2004-05) and for those who were non-engaged, 36.7% in 2008 (31.3% in 2004-05) were much lower. Comparing the survey findings in 2008 and 2004-05, it may be worth noting that the extent of participation in volunteering for respondents who were students and employed has declined over time and with age. On the other hand, the extent of participation in volunteering for respondents who were non-engaged has increased over time and with age.

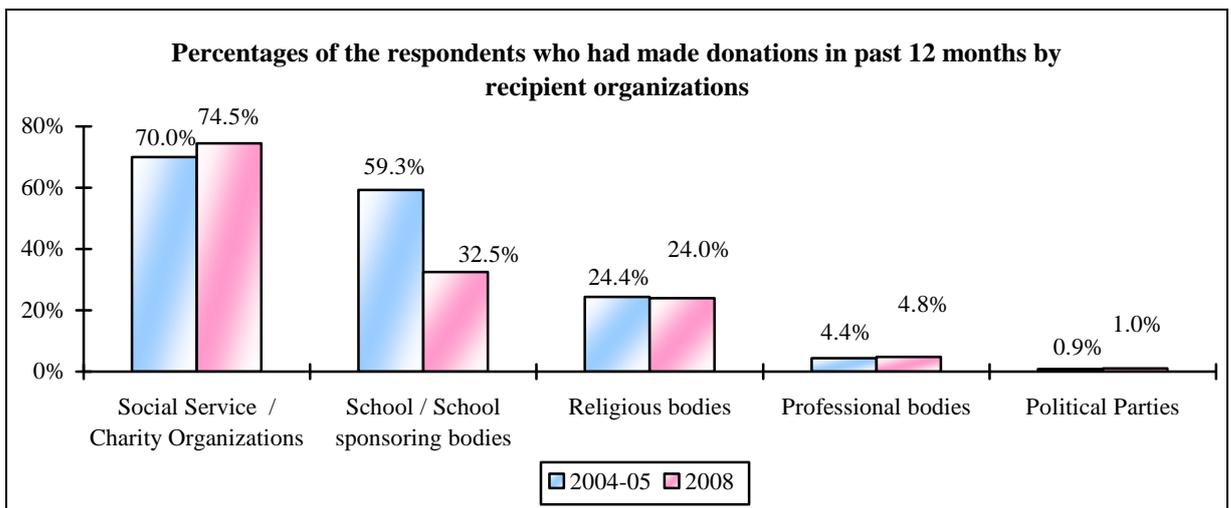
4.3.10 Participation in volunteer work has an impact on social trust, as illustrated in the charts below. For those who had participated in volunteer work, either in 2008, 2004-05 or previously, their index of trust in people was higher than those who had not done so in 2008, 2004-05 and previously.



4.3.11 Similarly, for those who had participated in volunteer work, either in 2008, 2004-05 or previously, their index of trust in institutions was similar. As remarked by several social workers interviewed, volunteer work helped connect youth to the outside world, having a beneficial impact on their self-confidence and their perception of life. It also helped youth establish their social support network by getting to know more friends who could render emotional support and other kind of advice to youth.



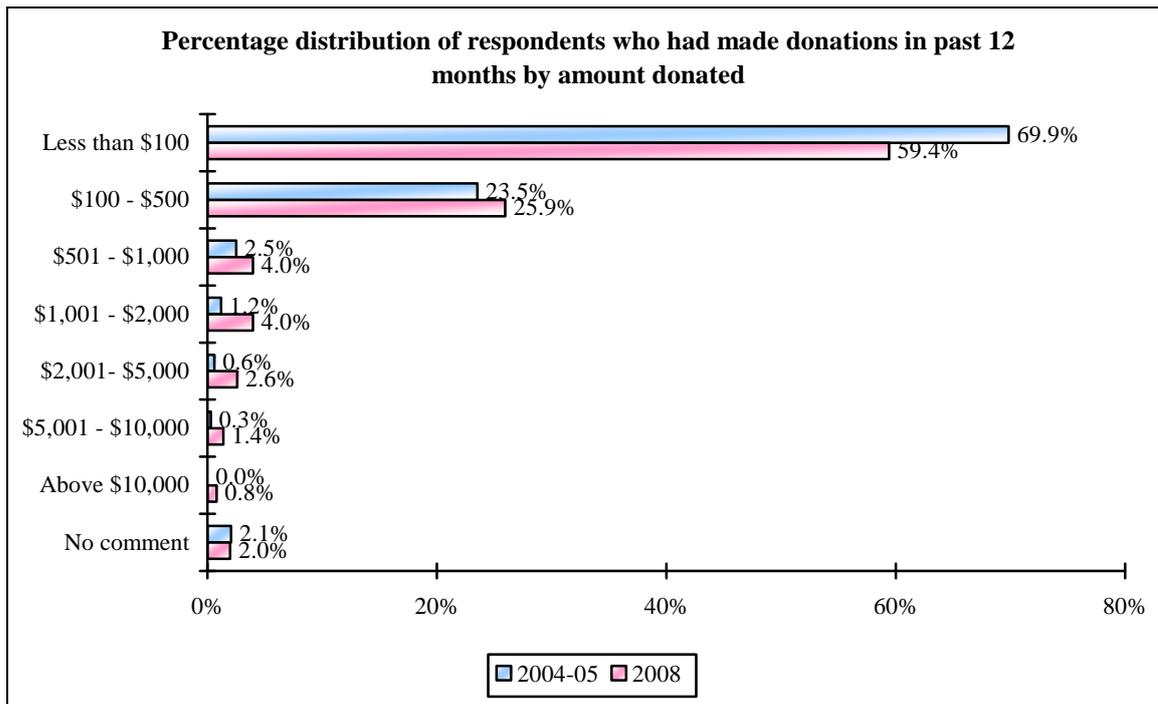
4.3.12 About 47.9% in 2008 (64.5% in 2004-05) of respondents indicated that they had made donations in the past 12 months. Among these respondents, the majority (74.5% in 2008 and 70.0% in 2004-05) had made donation to social services or charitable organizations and about 32.5% in 2008 (59.3% in 2004-05) had also made donations to schools or school sponsoring bodies.



Base: In 2004-05: respondents who had made donation (N=680) [Ref: Q33a-e]

Base: In 2008: respondents who had made donation (N=505) [Ref: Q33a-e]

4.3.13 For respondents who had made donations in the past 12 months, more than half of them (59.4% in 2008 and 69.9% in 2004-05) had donated less than \$100, and a further 25.9% in 2008 (23.5% in 2004-05) had donated \$100 - \$500.



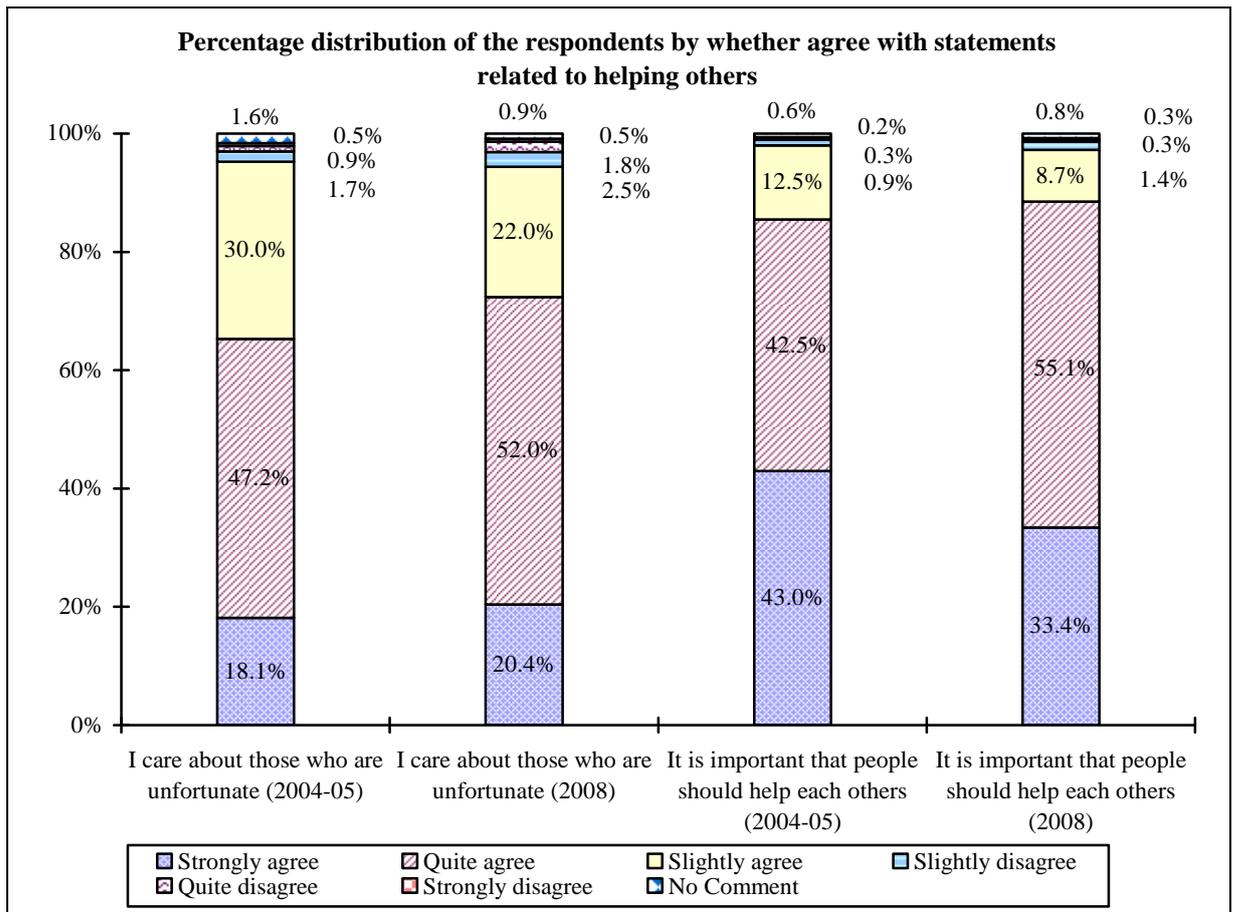
Base: In 2004-05: respondents who had made donation (N=680) [Ref: Q34]

Base: In 2008: respondents who had made donation (N=505) [Ref: Q34]

4.3.14 When analyzed by economic activity status, about 51.1% in 2008 (70.4% in 2004-05) of respondents who were students had made donations in the past 12 months. The corresponding percentage for those who were employed was 45.3% in 2008 (47.3% in 2004-05) and for those who were non-engaged, 42.9% (39.6% in 2004-05). Comparing the survey findings in 2008 and 2004-05, it may be worth noting that the proportion having made donations for respondents who were students and employed has declined over time and with age. On the other hand, the corresponding proportion for respondents who were non-engaged has increased over time and with age.

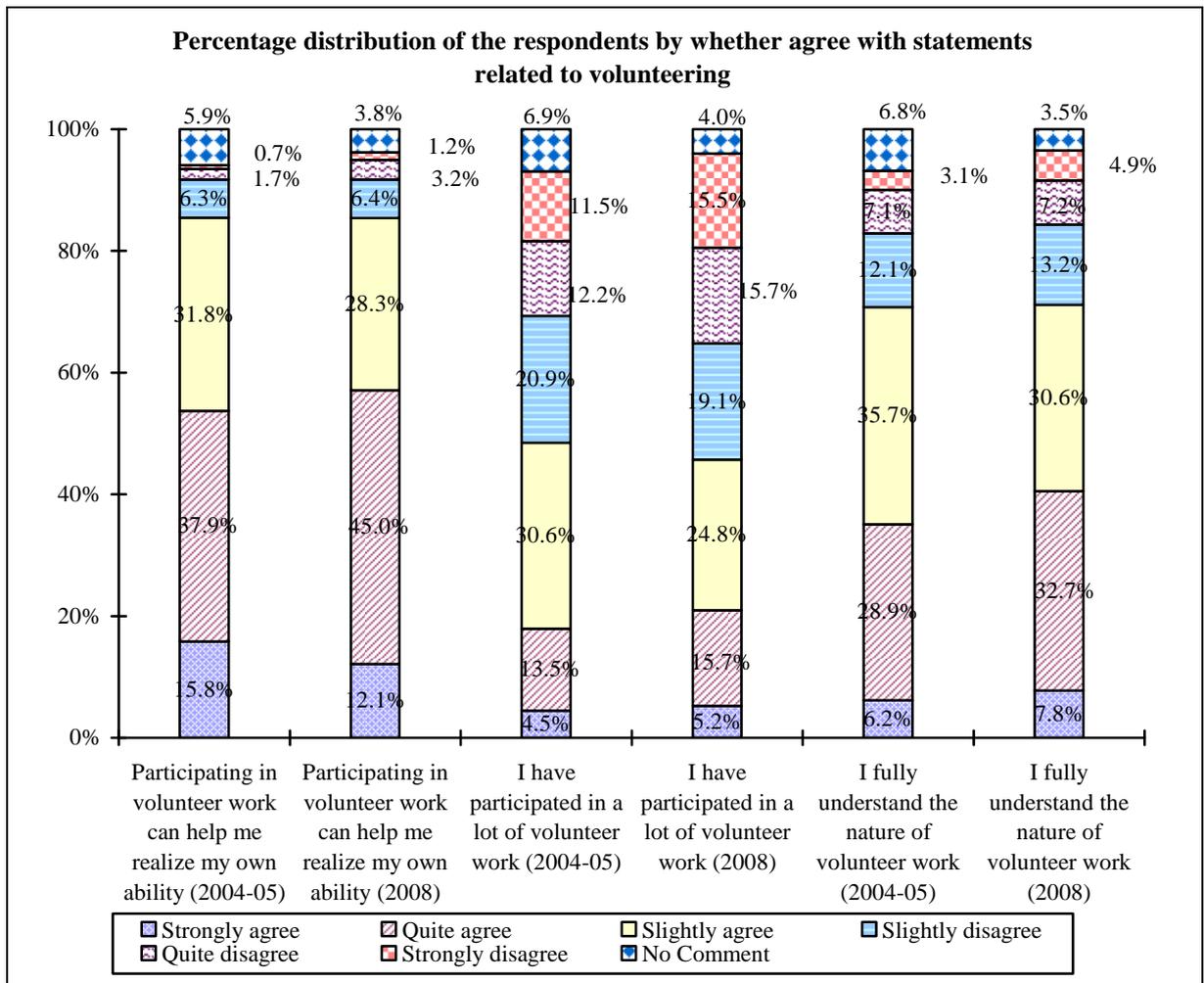
### ***Attitudes towards volunteering***

4.3.15 Although only 47.0% in 2008 (55.6% in 2004-05) of respondents had participated in volunteer work, the great majority of respondents indicated that they cared about those who were unfortunate (94.4% in 2008 and 95.3% in 2004-05) and were of the view that it was important that people should help each others (97.2% in 2008 and 98.0% in 2004-05).



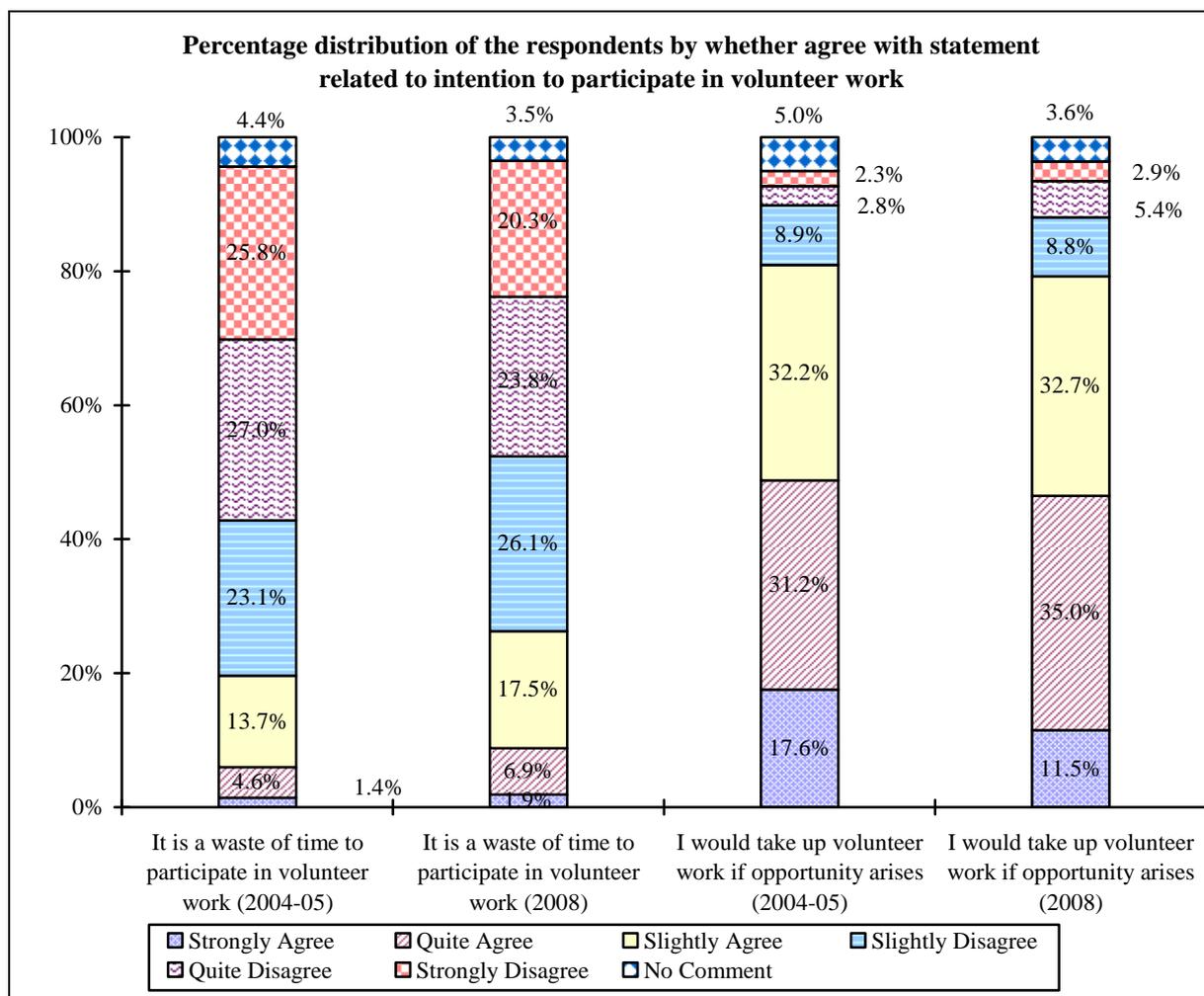
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q32a-b]

4.3.16 As regards attitude towards volunteer work, the majority of respondents were of the view that participating in volunteer work could help realize one's own ability (85.4% in 2008 and 85.5% in 2004-05) and that they fully understood the nature of volunteer work (71.1% in 2008 and 70.8% in 2004-05). Consistent with the respondents' admittance of their participation in volunteer work, only about 45.7% in 2008 (48.6% in 2004-05) of respondents indicated that they had participated in a lot of volunteer work.



Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q32c-e]

4.3.17 Only about 26.3% in 2008 (19.7% in 2004-05) of respondents agreed that it was a waste of their time to participate in volunteer work. On the other hand, the majority of them (79.2% in 2008 and 81.0% in 2004-05) indicated that they would take up volunteer work if opportunity arose.

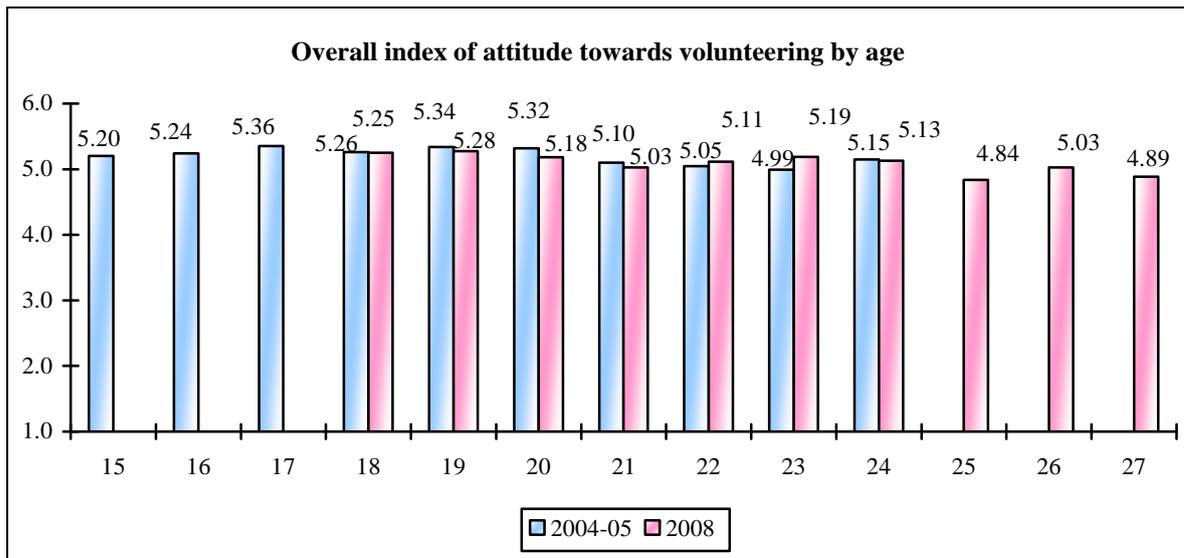


Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q32f-g]

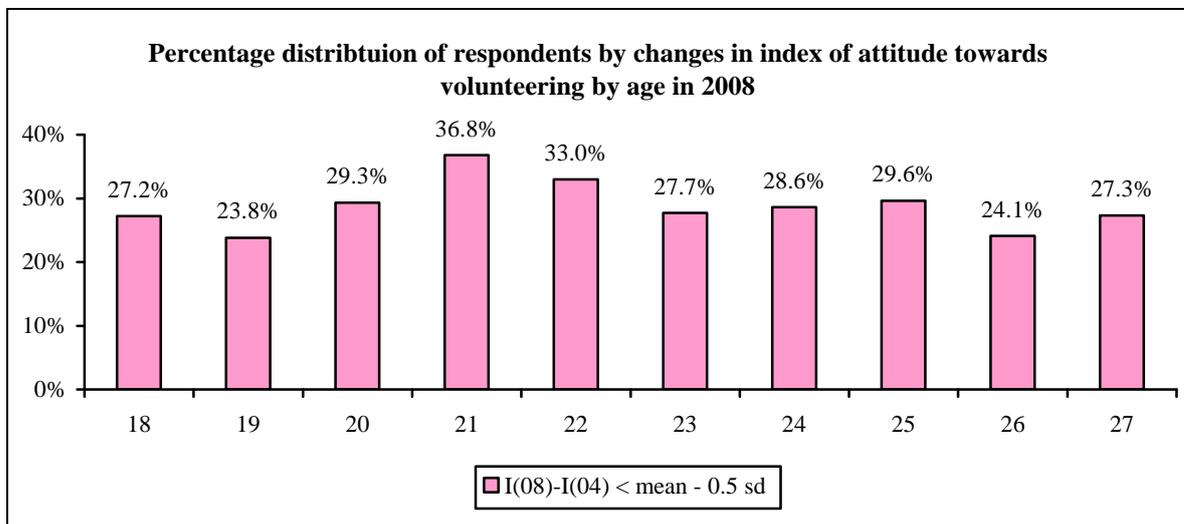
4.3.18 An index of attitude towards volunteering may be compiled from the survey findings, based on a Likert scale of 7. The index, at 5.13 in 2008 and 5.23 in 2004-05 in a Likert scale of 7, was fairly high. The index was higher for non-engaged in 2008 at 4.92 (4.73 in 2004-05) but lower for employed in 2008 at 4.94 (5.03 in 2004-05). On the other hand, the index remained more or less the same for those who were students, at 5.34 in 2008 (5.31 in 2004-05).

4.3.19 Comparing the survey findings in 2008 and 2004-05, it may be worth noting that the index of attitude towards volunteering for respondents who were employed has declined over time and with age. On the other hand, the index of attitude towards volunteering for respondents who were non-engaged has increased over time and with age.

4.3.20 When analyzed by age of the respondents, it may be seen from the chart below that the overall index of attitude towards volunteering was relatively higher for those in the younger age groups. The index was the lowest for those aged 25 and 27. Similar to the findings in 2004-05, the “double-dip” pattern was also observed in 2008 for index of attitude towards volunteering.

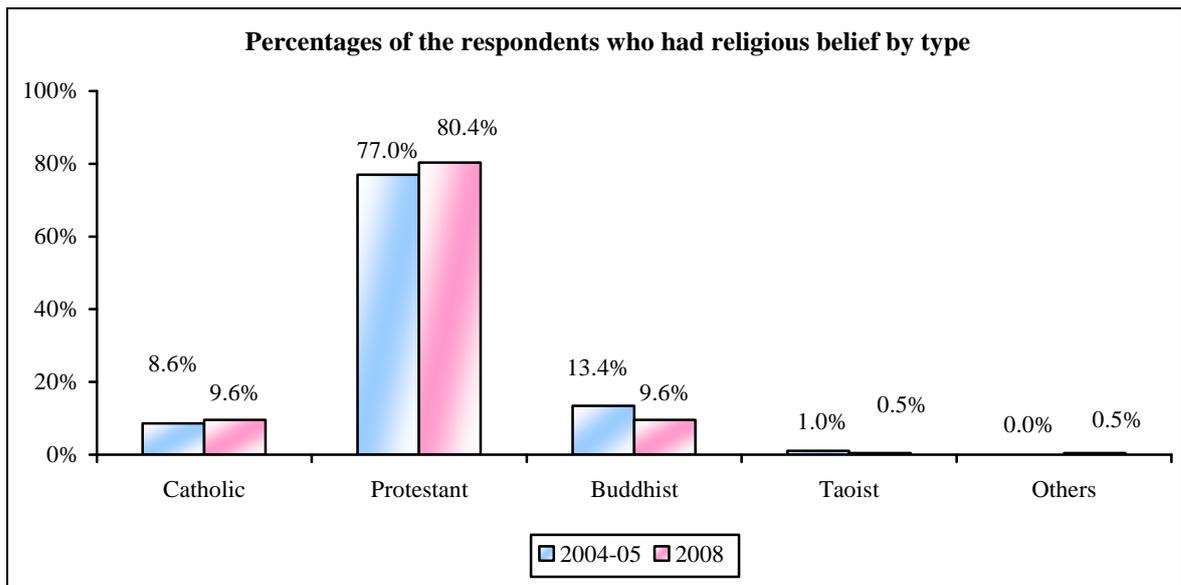


4.3.21 A closer analysis of the changes in the index of attitude towards volunteering by age has been conducted. It may be seen from the chart below that for a higher proportion of respondents (37%) in the age group of 18 in 2004-05, who would fall in the age group of 21 in 2008, their index had declined by more than difference between the mean change and half of the standard deviation of change (or more than 0.6). The corresponding percentage was also higher for those aged 19 in 2004-05. In other words, for a higher proportion of youth in the age groups of 18 and 19, their attitude towards volunteering is likely to decline as they get older.



***Faith-based engagement***

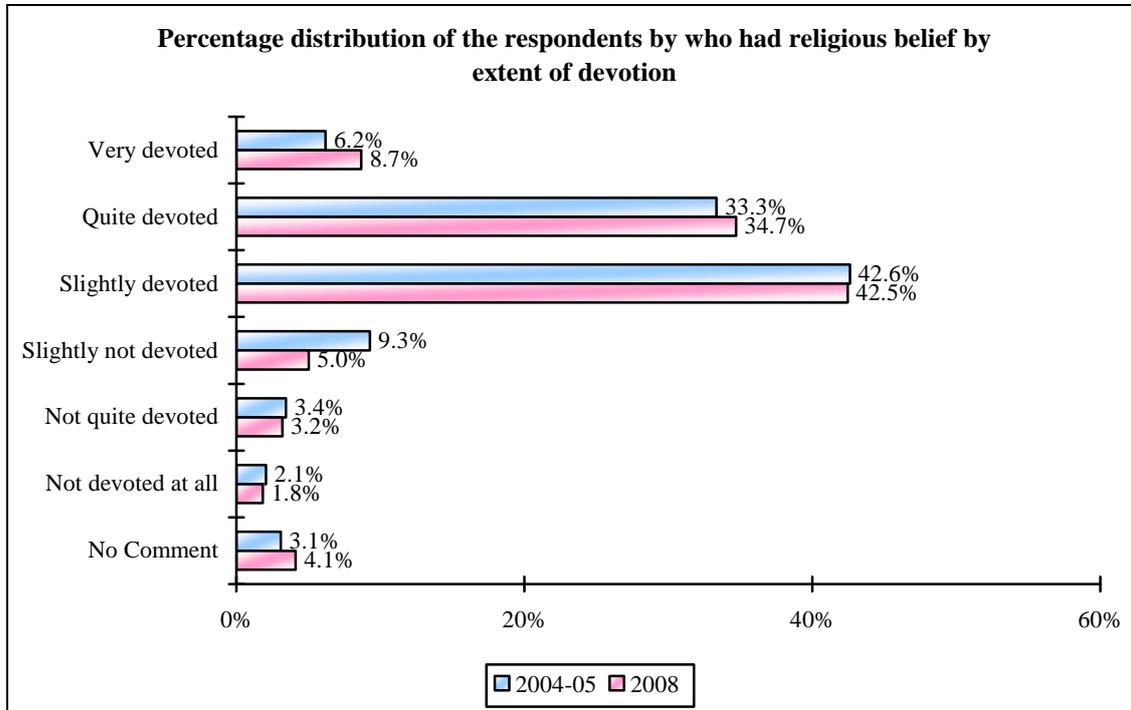
4.3.22 About 20.8% in 2008 (27.6% in 2004-05) of respondents indicated that they had religious belief. Among these respondents, the majority (80.4% in 2008 and 77.0% in 2004-05) were Protestants and a further 9.6% in 2008 (8.6% in 2004-05) were Catholics. About 9.6% in 2008 (13.4% in 2004-05) indicated that they believed in Buddhism. Comparing the survey findings in 2008 and 2004-05, it may be worth noting that the extent of faith based engagement has declined over time and with age.



Base: In 2004-05: respondents who had religious belief by type (N=291) [Ref: Q35a]

Base: In 2008: respondents who had religious belief by type (N=219) [Ref: Q35a]

4.3.23 For those respondents who had religious belief, about 42.5% in 2008 (42.6% in 2004-05) indicated they were only slightly devoted to their religion and a further 34.7% in 2008 (33.3% in 2004-05) indicated that they were quite devoted. Only about 10.0% in 2008 (14.8% in 2004-05) considered that they were not devoted.

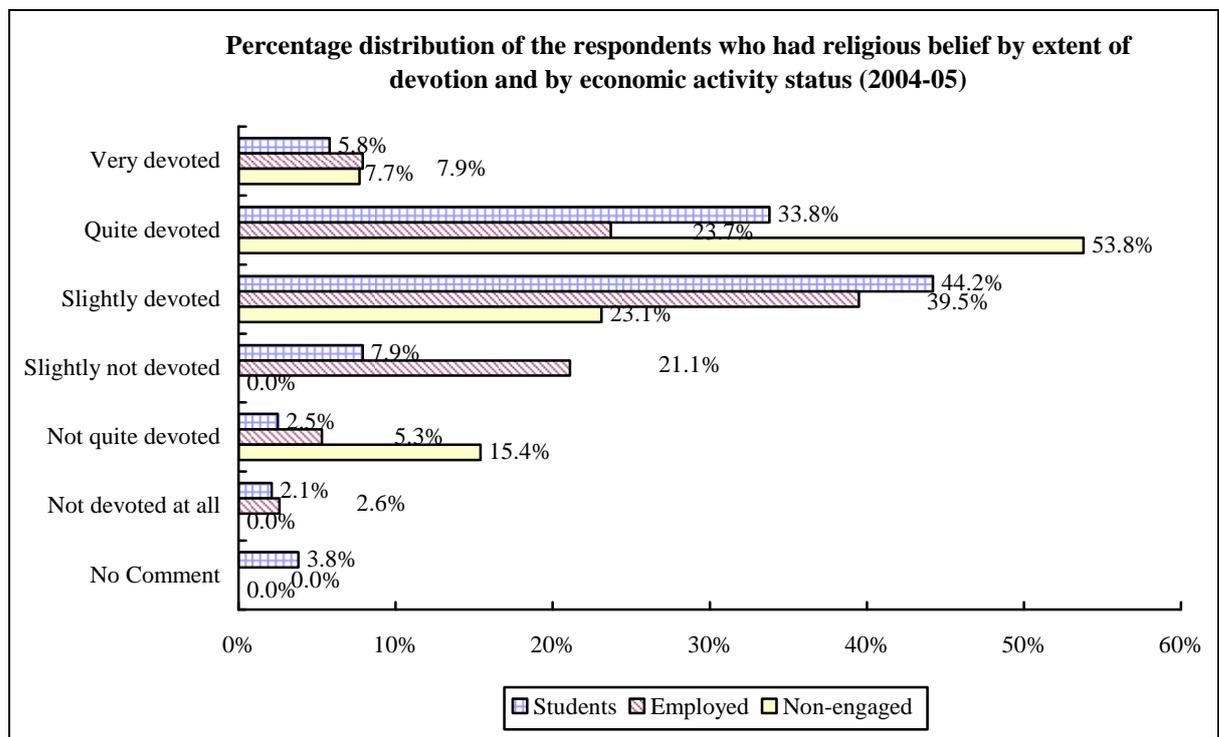


Base: In 2004-05: respondents who had religious belief by type (N=291) [Ref: Q35b]

Base: In 2008: respondents who had religious belief by type (N=219) [Ref: Q35b]

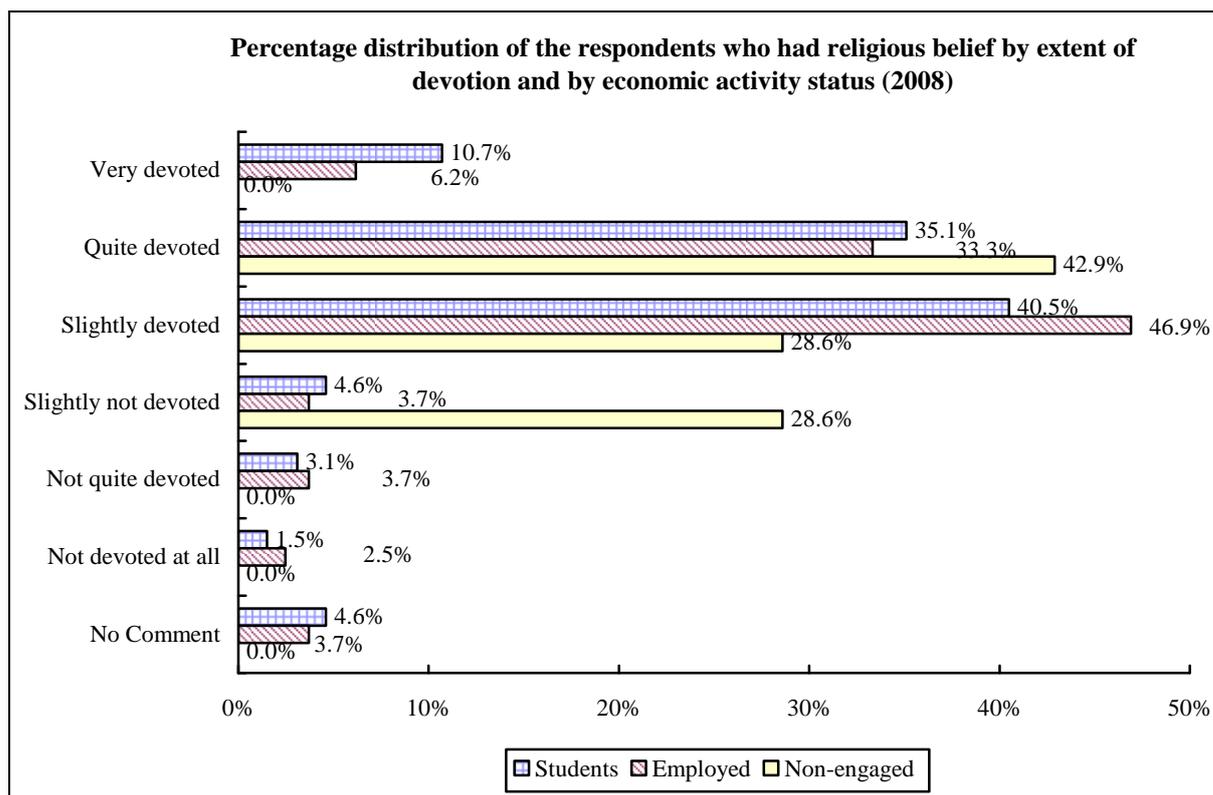
4.3.24 When analyzed by economic activity status, it may worth noting that a higher proportion of respondents who were non-engaged (42.9% in 2008 and 61.5% in 2004-05)

considered they were very devoted or quite devoted, as compared with that for students (45.8% in 2008 and 39.6% in 2004-05) and the employed (39.5% in 2008 and 31.6% in 2004-05).



Base: Respondents who had religious belief ( N=291 ) [Ref: Q35b]

4.3.25 The percentage who considered themselves as slightly not devoted, not quite devoted or not devoted at all was lower for students (9.2% in 2008 and 12.5% in 2004-05), as compared with the corresponding percentages for those who were employed (9.9% in 2008 and 29.0% in 2004-05) and non-engaged (28.6% in 2008 and 15.4% in 2004-05).



Base: Respondents who had religious belief ( N=219 ) [Ref: Q35b]

#### 4.4 Observations

##### *Network qualities*

4.4.1 The survey findings show that the strength of bonding social capital extended to family members, friends, classmates and neighbours has increased over time and possibly with age.

4.4.2 The percentage of respondents totally trusted or quite trusted various institutions in Hong Kong, apart from the local mass media, was higher in 2008. In other words, the survey findings indicate that the strength of linking social capital extended to institutions in Hong Kong has increased over time and possibly with age. The index of trust in institutions has increased over time and possibly with age.

4.4.3 In short, what may be observed from the survey findings is that network qualities of respondents have increased in 2008, as compared with 2004-05.

##### *Network structure*

4.4.4 Comparing survey findings in 2008 with 2004-05, it appears that the extent of informal socializing for respondents on weekly basis for students slightly declined from 83.3% in 2004-05 to 81.8% in 2008 but for non-engaged youths, the extent increased from 50.0% in 2004-05 to 57.1% in 2008.

4.4.5 On the other hand, apart from ex-prisoners and drug addicts, the proportion of

youth willing to make friends with people of different backgrounds has increased over time and with age. In other words, the extent of diversity of friendship for those who were students and employed has increased slightly over time and with age.

#### *Network transactions*

4.4.6 It is worth noting from the survey findings that the extent of informal socializing, participation in conventional politics and civic rallies, participation in volunteering and donation for respondents who were students and employed has declined over time and with age. On the other hand, the extent of informal socializing for respondents who were non-engaged has increased over time and with age.

4.4.7 Furthermore, the index of attitude towards volunteering for respondents who were employed has declined over time and with age. On the other hand, the index of attitude towards volunteering for respondents who were non-engaged has increased over time and with age.

4.4.8 In addition, the extent of faith based engagement has declined over time and with age.

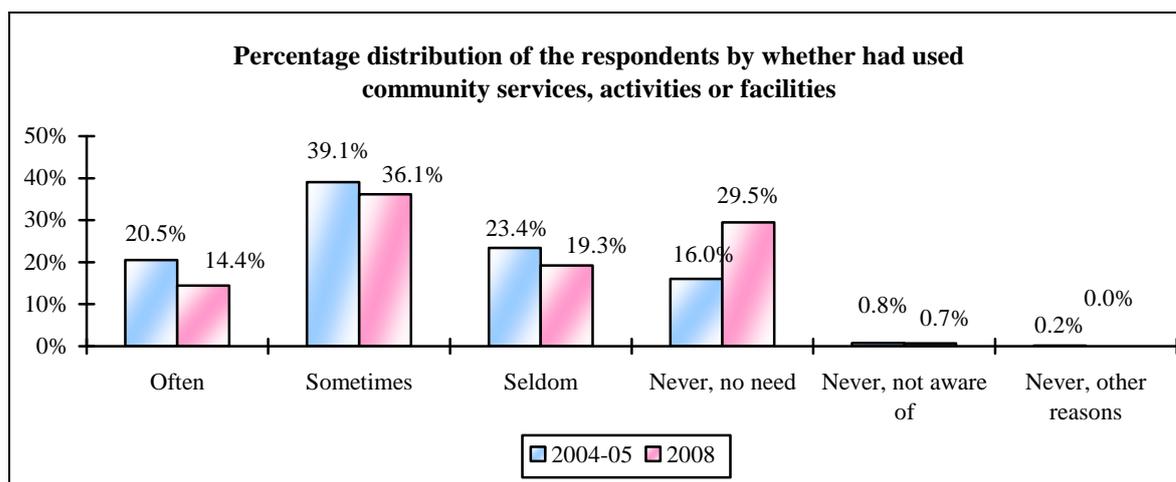
## 5. Use of community services and social support network

### 5.1 Use of services

5.1.1 As discussed above, a variety of services targeted at youths are organized by different community organizations and government departments. This has helped enhance youths' civic engagement and raise their social capital. In this section, survey findings are presented on the use of services provided by community organizations and government departments by youths.

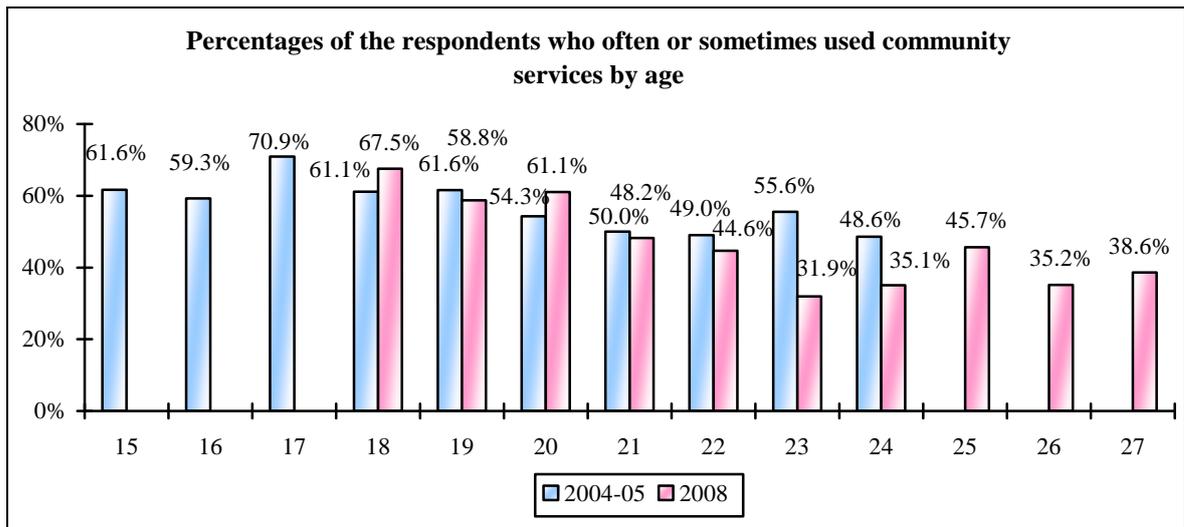
#### *Use of community services*

5.1.2 More than half (69.8% in 2008 and 83.0% in 2004-05) of respondents had used services or facilities provided by or participated in activities organized by community organizations. About 29.5% in 2008 (16.0% in 2004-05) had not used such services because they considered them unnecessary and a further 0.7% in 2008 (0.8% in 2004-05) had not done so because they were not aware of them.



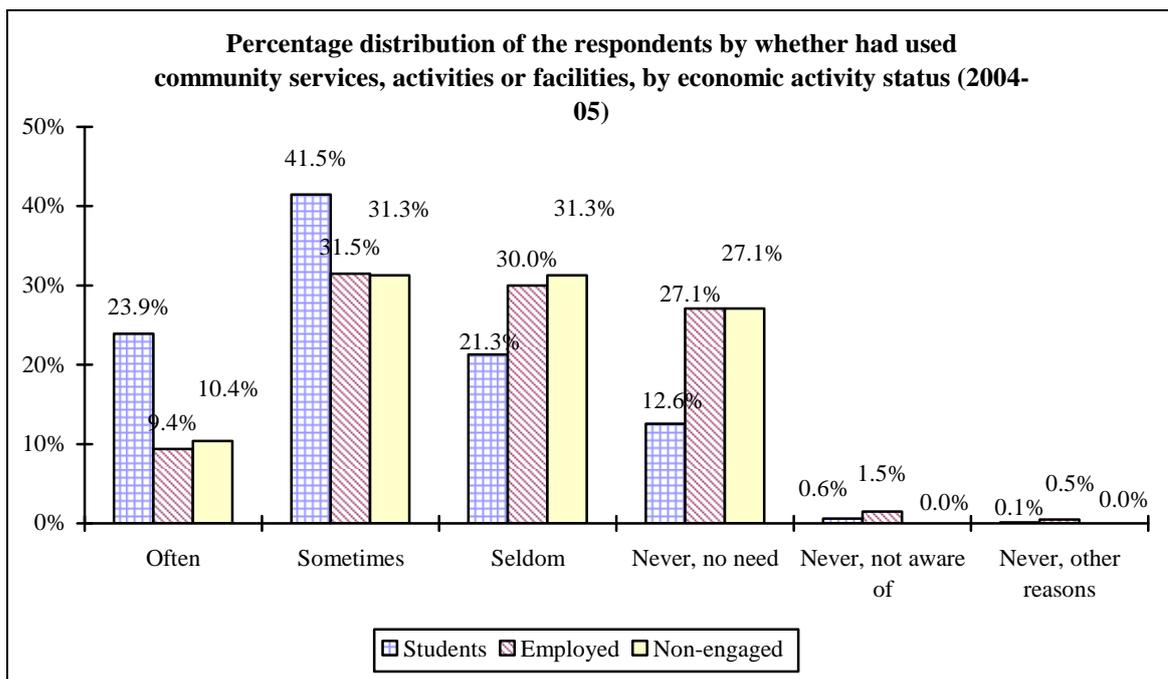
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q22a-g]

5.1.3 When analyzed by age, a higher proportion of those in the younger age groups often or sometimes used community services. The percentage decreased steadily with age. The percentages were markedly lower for those aged 23, 24 and 26, with the lowest at 32% for those aged 23. Similar to the findings in 2004-05, a “double-dip” pattern was also observed for the 2008 findings. Apparently, the pattern follows the cohort of youth as they grow older.



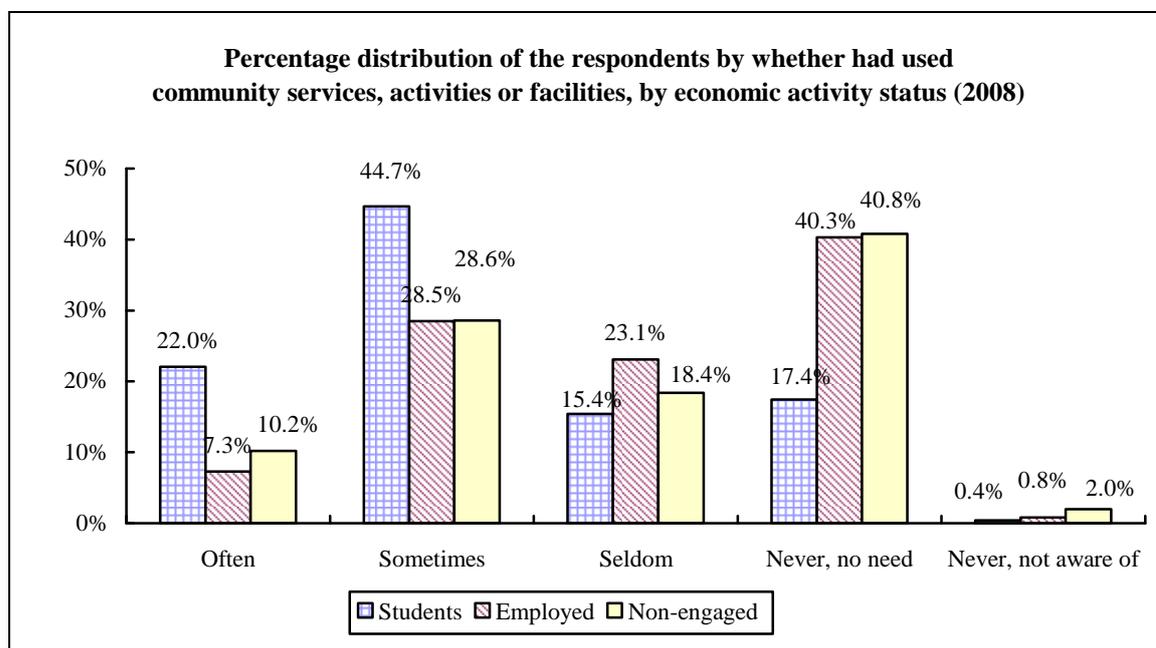
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q22a-g]

5.1.4 When analyzed by economic activity status, the majority (82.2% in 2008 and 86.7% in 2004-05) of respondents who were students had used services of community organizations. The corresponding percentage for those who were employed was 58.9% in 2008 (70.9% in 2004-05) and for those who were non-engaged, 57.2% in 2008 (73.0% in 2004-05).



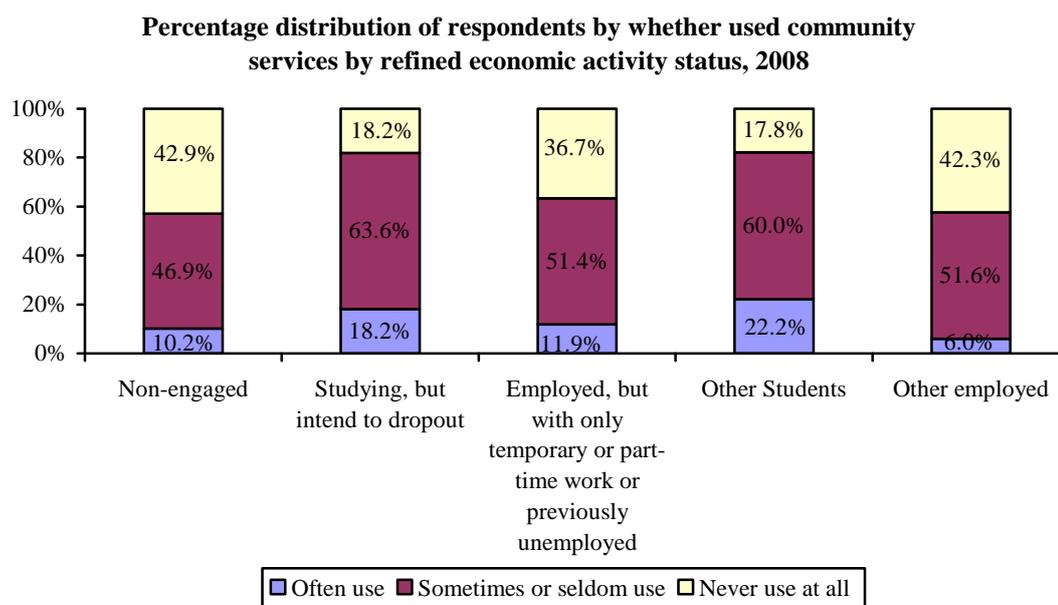
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q22a-g]

5.1.5 Comparing the survey findings in 2008 and 2004-05, it may be worth noting that the proportion of respondents who had used community services has decreased over time and with age.



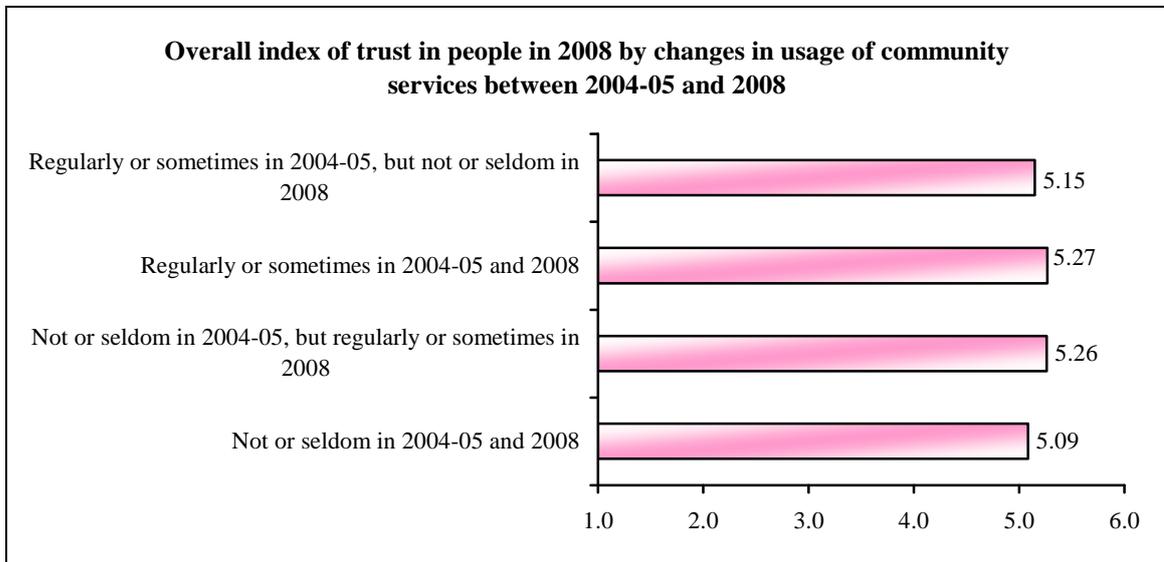
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q22a-g]

5.1.6 In 2008, a lower proportion of those who were non-engaged and employed had used community services, as compared with those who were students, which was not surprising. It may also be noted from the chart below that a lower proportion of those who were students but had intention to drop out often used community services (18%), as compared to other students (22%).

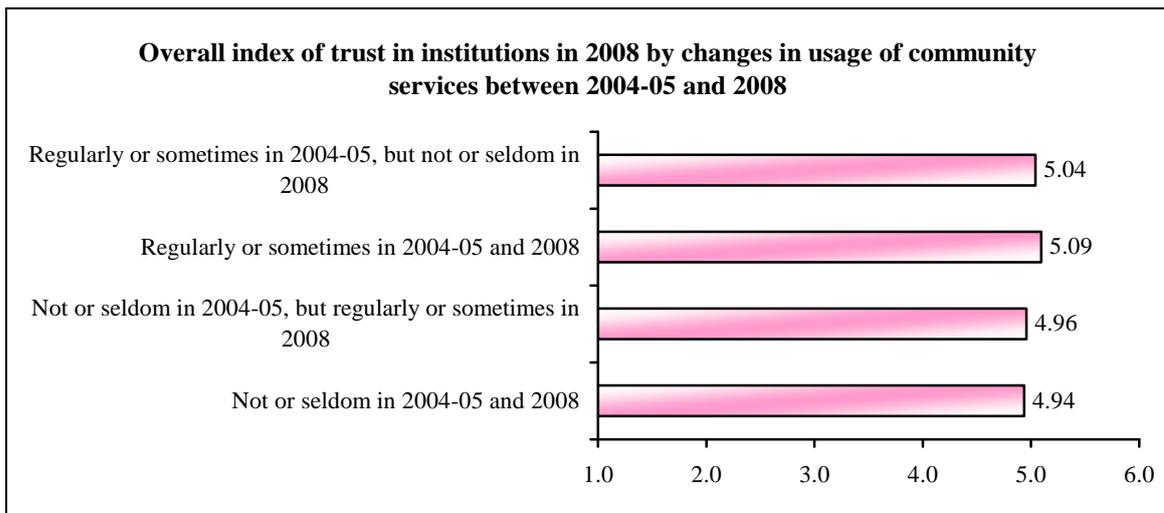


5.1.7 An analysis of the likely impact of changes in the usage of community services between 2004-05 and 2008 on the social trust of youth has been conducted. As depicted in

the chart below, for youth who regularly or sometimes used community services in 2004-05 but did not use or seldom used community services in 2008 as well as those who did not or seldom used community services in both 2004-05 and 2008, their index of trust in people was lower. On the other hand, for those who regularly or sometimes used community services in both 2004-05 and 2008, as well as those who did not use or seldom used community services in 2004-05 but who regularly or sometimes used community services in 2008, their index of trust in people was higher.

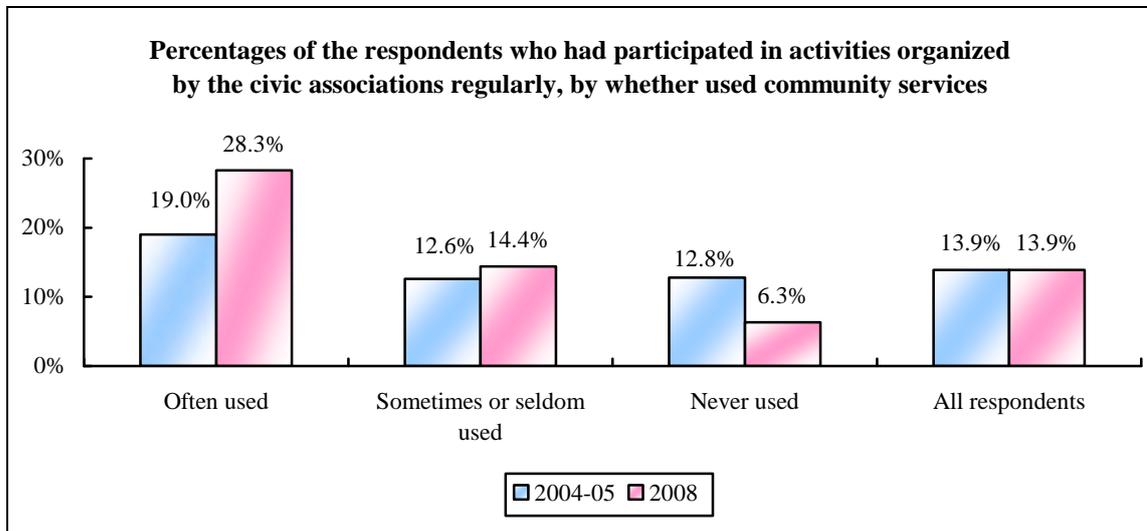


5.1.8 Similar pattern was observed for the index of trust in institutions. For youth who regularly or sometimes used community services in both 2004-05 and 2008, their index of trust in institutions was higher. On the other hand, for those who did not use or seldom used community services in both 2004-05 and 2008, their index of trust in people was lower.



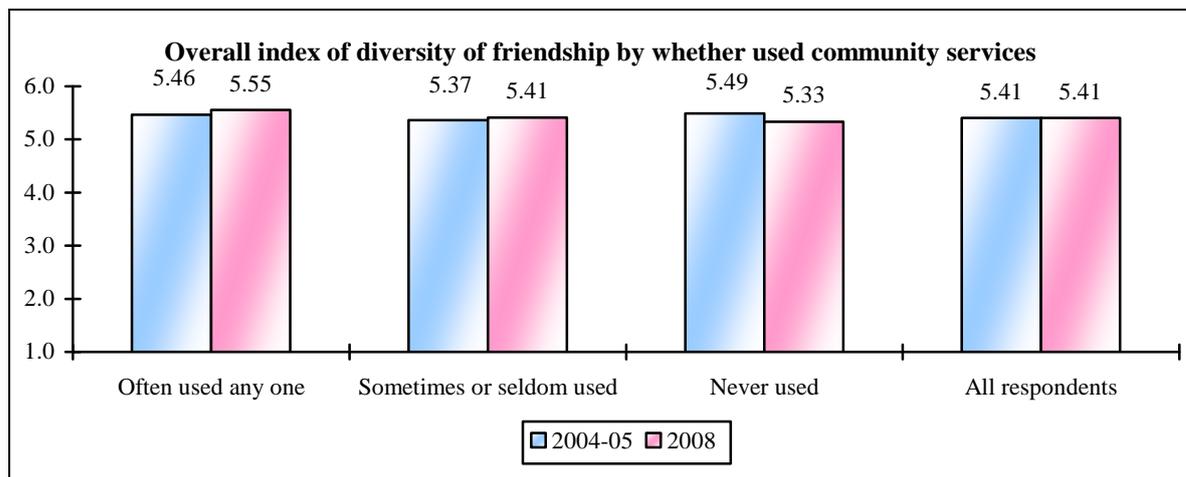
5.1.9 The study findings also show that use of community services by youth have other positive impact. As shown in the chart below, the associational involvement of those who regularly used community services on a weekly or monthly basis was higher, as compared

to those who seldom or never used community services. For instance, in 2008, 28% of those who often used community services participated in activities of civic associations, as compared with 14% for those who sometimes or seldom used community services and 6% for those who never used community services.



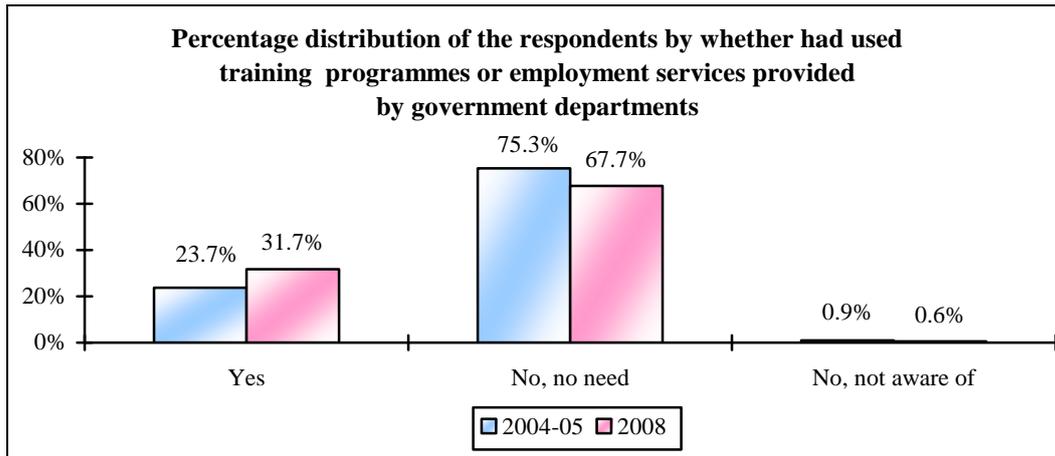
Base: Often used (N=152) / Sometimes or seldom used (N=584) / Never used (N=318) / All respondents (N=1 054)

5.1.10 Furthermore, the index of diversity of friendship was higher for those who regularly used community services on a weekly or monthly basis was higher, as compared to those who seldom or never used community services. In other words, those who often used community services participated in activities of civic associations were more willing to make friends with people of different background.



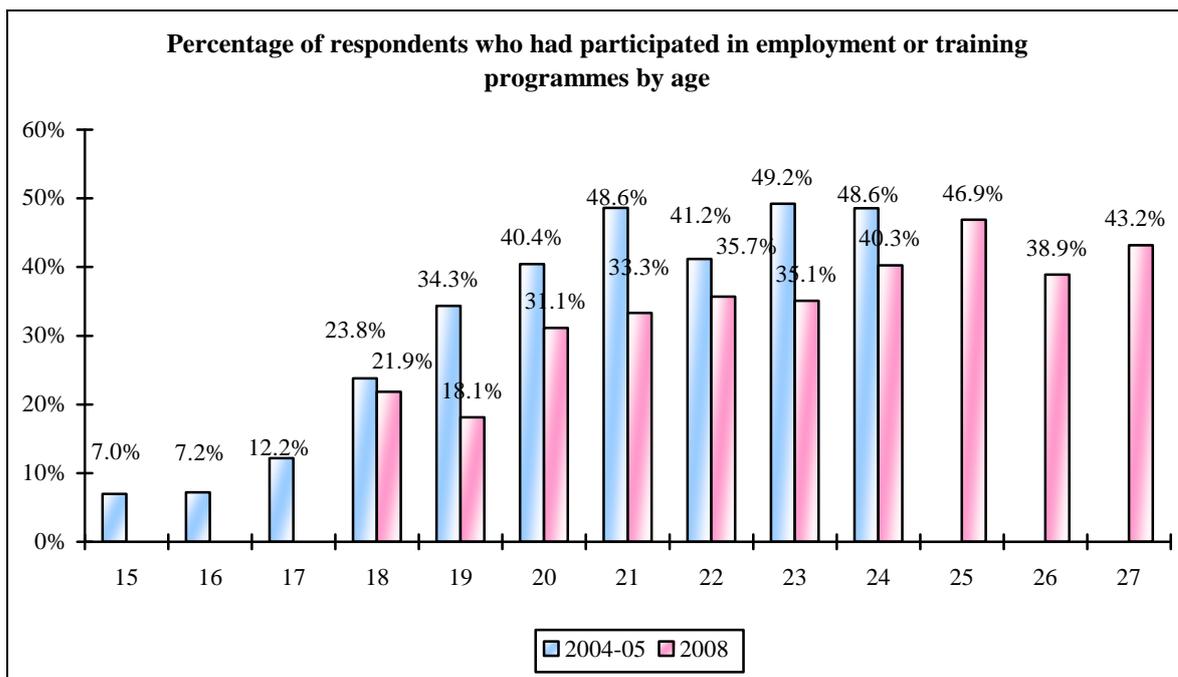
### ***Participation in programmes organized by government***

5.1.11 Only about 31.7% in 2008 (23.7% in 2004-05) of respondents had participated in employment and training programmes provided by government. The majority (67.7% in 2008 and 75.3% in 2004-05) had not because they considered them unnecessary and a further 0.6% in 2008 (0.9% in 2004-05) had not used because they were not aware of them.



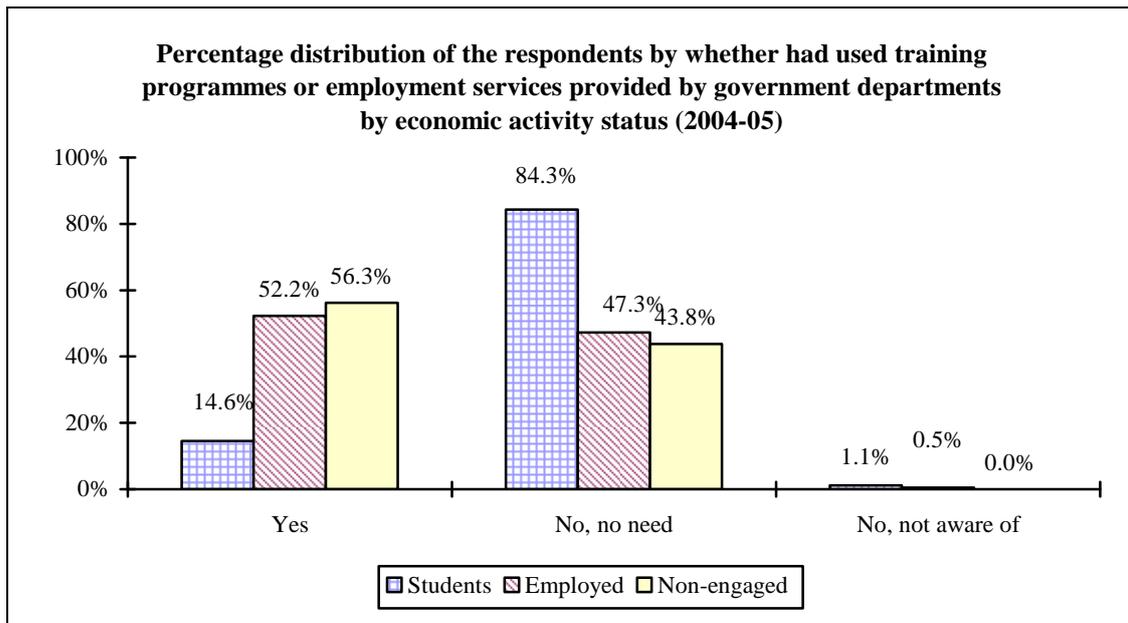
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q23a-g]

5.1.12 When analyzed by age, a higher proportion of those in the older age groups had participated in employment or training programmes, with the percentage reaching the highest at 46.9% for those aged 25, while the percentages were lower for those aged 26 at 38.9% and aged 27 at 43.2%.



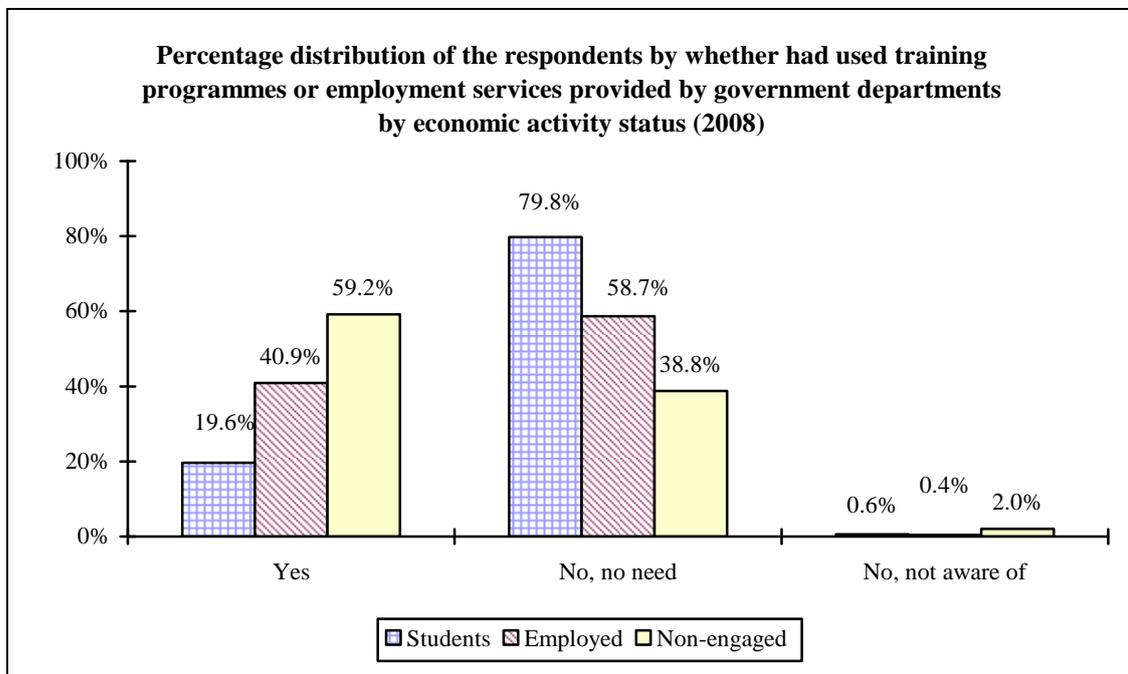
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q23a-g]

5.1.13 When analyzed by economic activity status, more than half of the respondents who were non-engaged (59.2% in 2008 and 56.3% in 2004-05) had used employment services or training programmes provided by government departments. The corresponding percentage for those who were students was 19.6% in 2008 (14.6% in 2004-05) and for those who were employed, 40.9% in 2008 (52.2% in 2004-05) were lower.



Base: All respondents (N=1054) [Ref: Q23a-g]

5.1.14 The majority of students (79.8% in 2008 and 84.3% in 2004-05) had not used such services or programmes because they considered them unnecessary. This is not surprising as the employment services and training programmes are mainly targeted at those who do not continue further formal education. The corresponding percentages for those who were employed and non-engaged were lower, at 58.7% in 2008 (47.3% in 2004-05) and 38.8% in 2008 (43.8% in 2004-05) respectively.

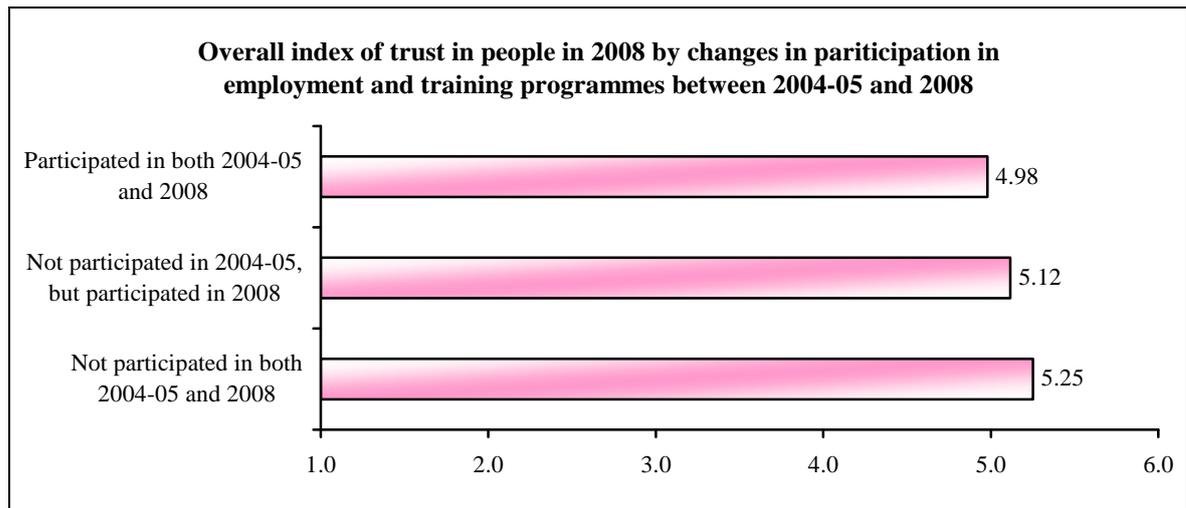


Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q23a-g]

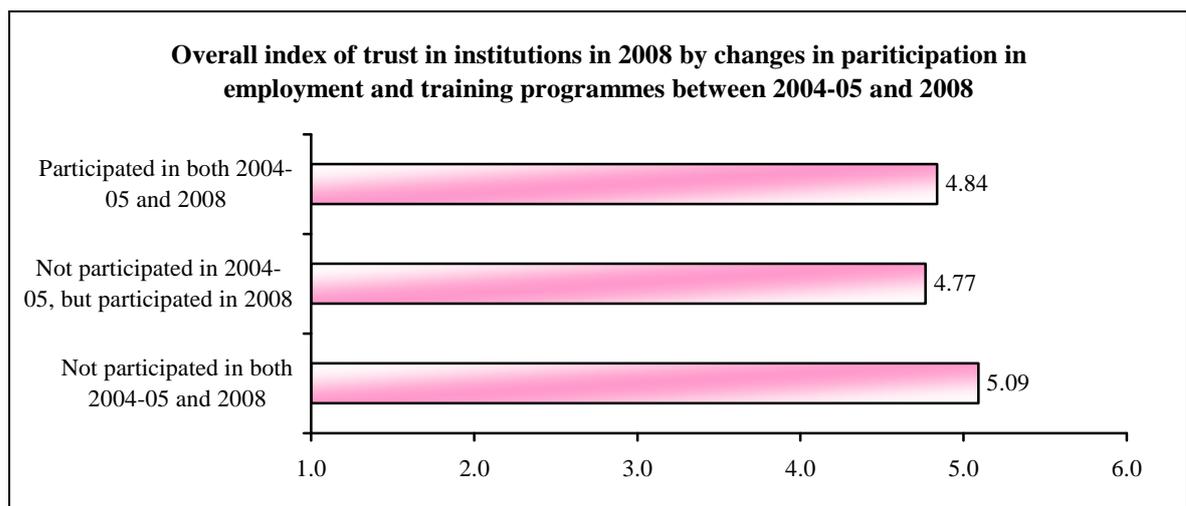
5.1.15 Comparing the survey findings in 2008 and 2004-05, it may be worth noting that the proportion of respondents who were employed having used employment services or training programmes provided by government departments has decreased over time and with age. On the other hand, for those who were students and non-engaged, the proportion

of respondents having used employment services or training programmes provided by government departments community services has increased over time and with age.

5.1.16 An analysis of the likely impact of changes in participation in employment and training programmes between 2004-05 and 2008 on the social trust of youth has been conducted. As depicted in the chart below, for youth who participated in employment and training programmes in both 2004-05 and 2008, their index of trust in people was lower. On the other hand, for those who did not participate in employment and training programmes in both 2004-05 and 2008, their index of trust in people was higher.



5.1.17 A similar pattern may also be observed for index of trust in institutions. As depicted in the chart below, for youth who did not participate in employment and training programmes in 2004-05 but did so in 2008, their index of trust in institutions was lower. On the other hand, for those who did not participate in employment and training programmes in both 2004-05 and 2008, their index of trust in institutions was higher.

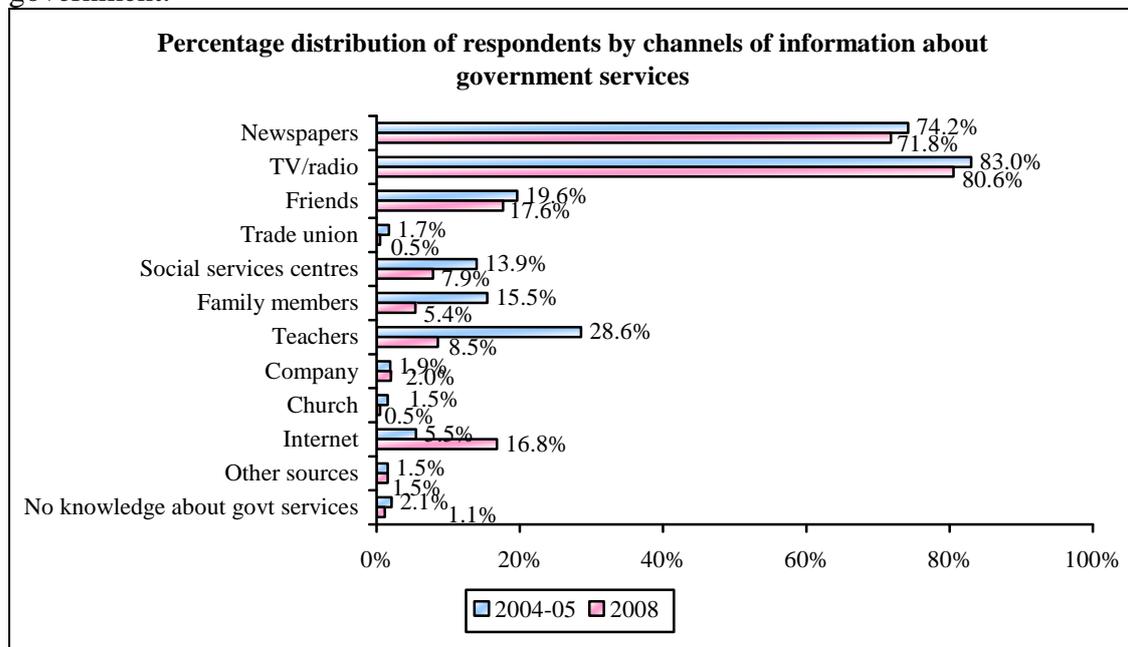


5.1.18 Apparently, while use of community services has a positive impact on the social trust of youth, participation in employment or training programmes organized by government does not seem to have a positive impact on the social trust of youth. It should nevertheless be noted that the casual relationship observed above could be mediated by the

fact that those who had low social trust were likely to be enrolled in employment or training programmes which are designed to provide vocational training to youth who are more likely to have difficulties finding employment or the non-engaged youth. As remarked by a number of social workers interviewed, while vocational training for youth was useful, it is also desirable to provide counseling and support services to youth in order to engage them and strengthen their civic engagement and social networks. As demonstrated above, youth with temporary or part-time employment had a lower social trust compared with other employed youth.

***Channels of information about government services to the public***

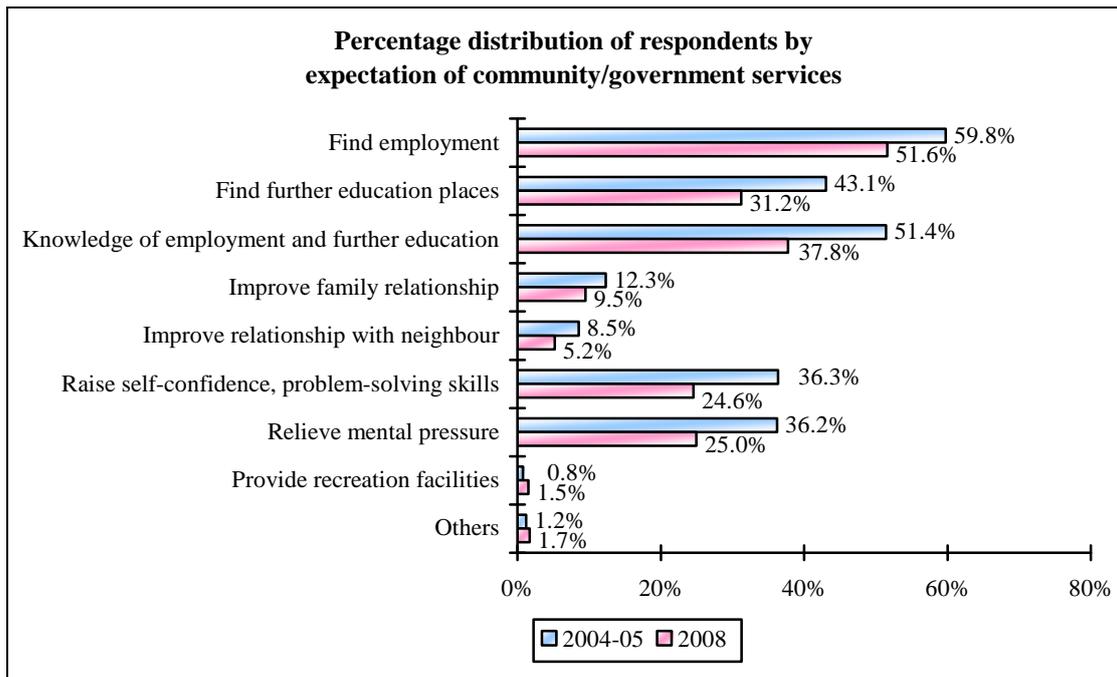
5.1.19 The majority of the respondents knew about services provided by the government to the public through television or radio (80.6% in 2008 and 83.0% in 2004-05) and newspapers (71.8% in 2008 and 74.2% in 2004-05). About 16.8% in 2008 (5.5% in 2004-05) knew about government services from the internet. Only about 1.1% (2.1% in 2004-05) of the respondents admitted they had no knowledge about services provided by government.



Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q25]

***Expectation of community/government services***

5.1.20 More than half respondents (51.6% in 2008 and 59.8% in 2004-05) hoped that services provided by the government could help them find employment. About 37.8% in 2008 (51.4% in 2004-05) hoped the government services could help increase their knowledge about employment or further education opportunities. Less than one-third hoped that government could help them find further education places (31.2% in 2008 and 43.1% in 2004-05), relieve mental pressure (25.0% in 2008 and 36.2% in 2004-05) and raise self-confidence, improve problem-solving skills (24.6% in 2008 and 36.3% in 2004-05).



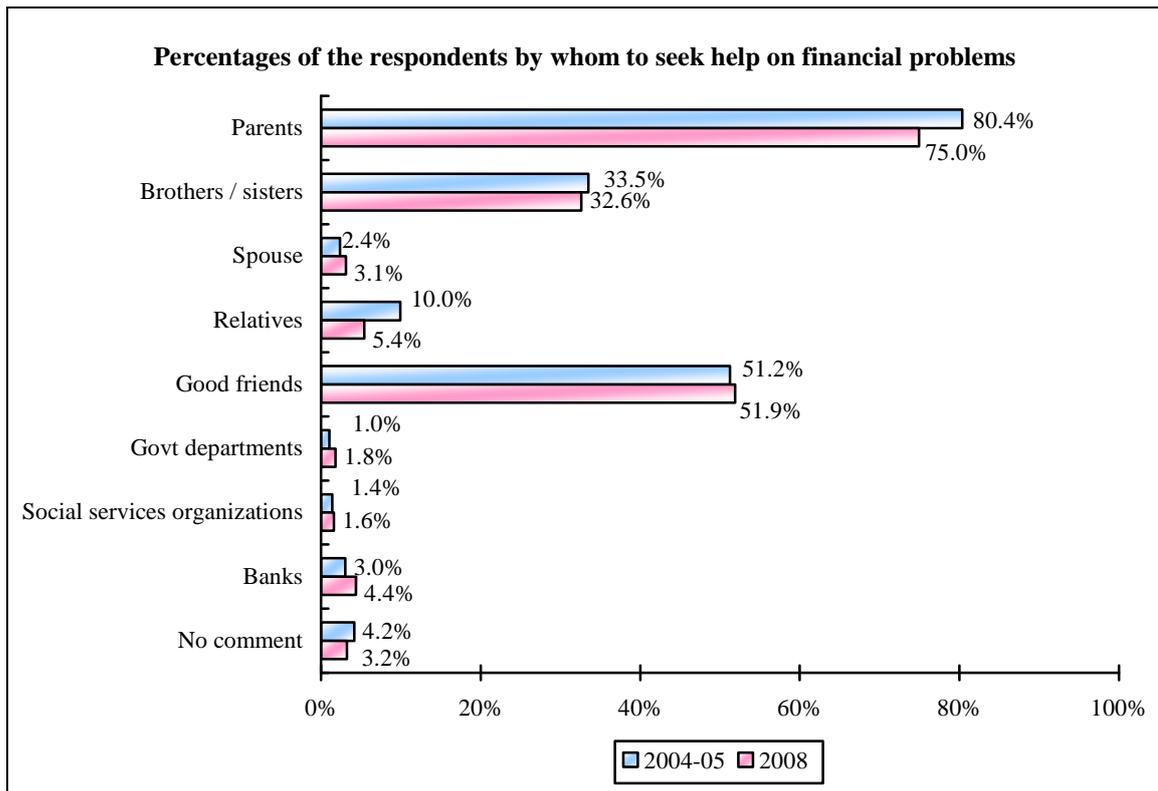
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q24]

## 5.2 Social support network

5.2.1 Social support network of youth is closely related to the bonding social capital of youth and their relationship with family members, friends and neighbours. It is also related to how youth make use of community and government services. In this section, survey findings are presented on different aspects of social support network of youth, including their help seeking behaviour and availability of help when in need.

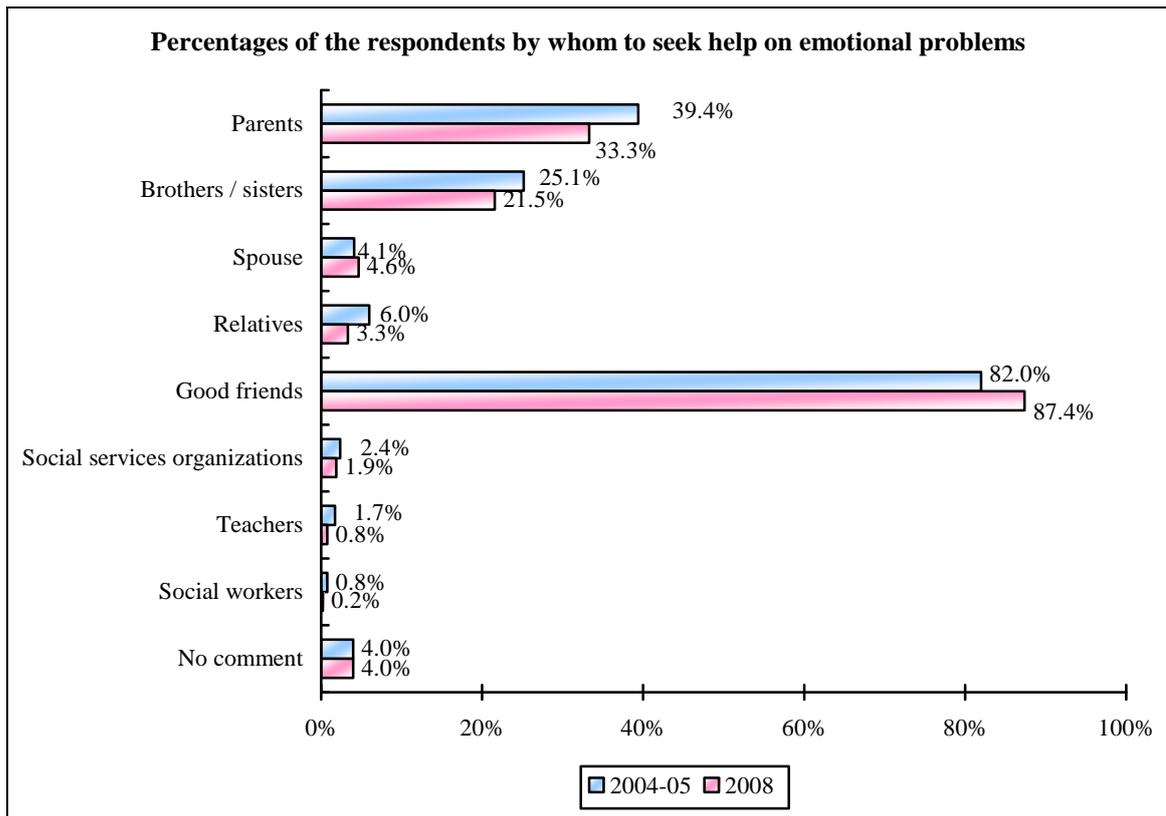
### *Help seeking behaviour*

5.2.2 When faced with financial problems, the majority of respondents (75.0% in 2008 and 80.4% in 2004-05) would seek the help of parents. Slightly more than half (51.9% in 2008 and 51.2% in 2004-05) would seek the help of good friends and about one third would seek the help of brothers or sisters (32.6% in 2008 and 33.5% in 2004-05).



Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q39]

5.2.3 When faced with emotional problems, the majority of respondents (87.4% in 2008 and 82.0% in 2004-05) would seek the help of good friends. About 33.3% in 2008 (39.4% in 2004-05) would seek the help of parents and about 21.5% in 2008 (25.1% in 2004-05) would seek the help of brothers or sisters.

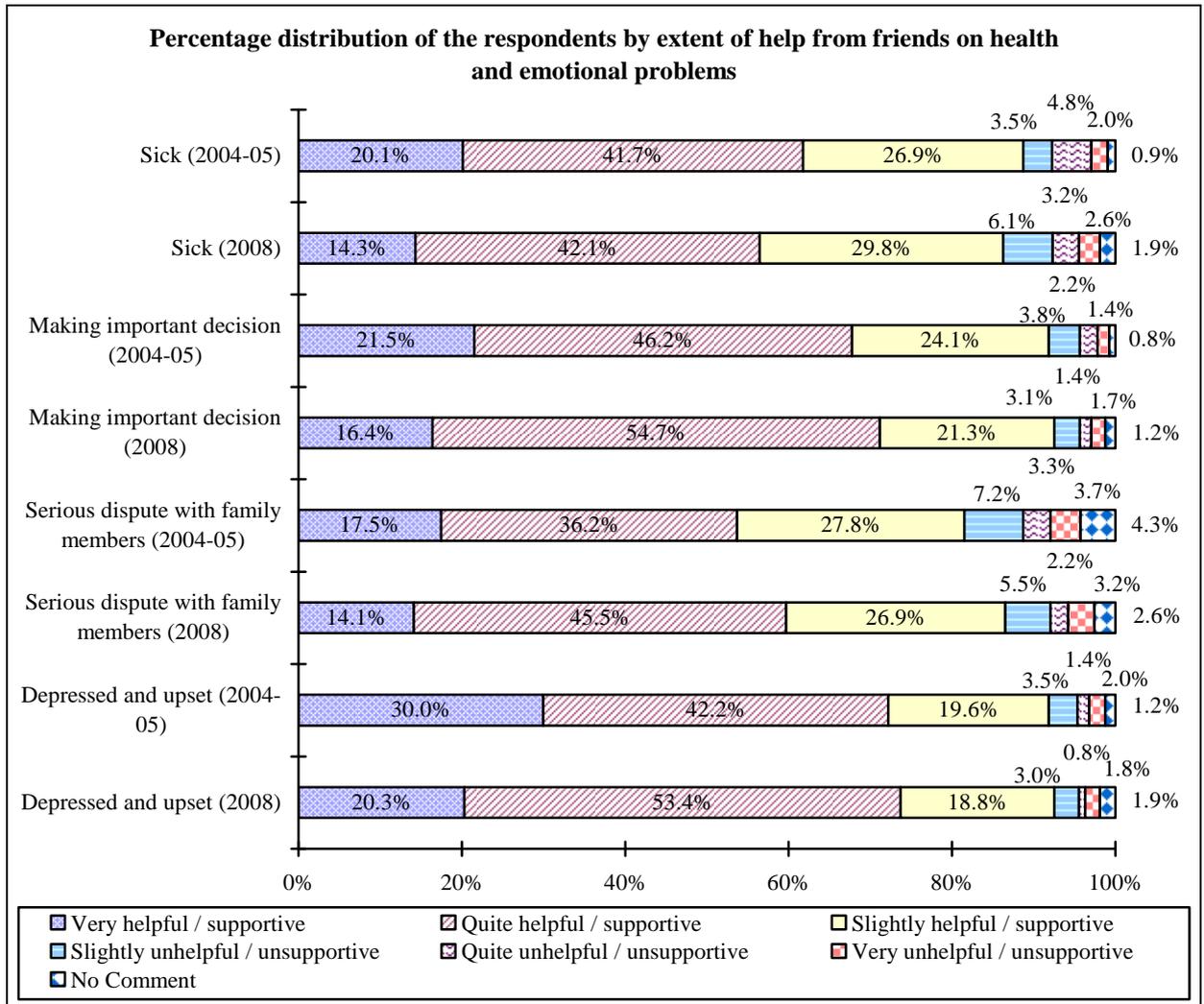


Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q40]

5.2.4 Comparing the survey findings in 2008 and 2004-05, it may be worth noting that the proportion of respondents who would seek help to solve their financial and emotional problems from parents, brothers or sisters has decreased over time and with age. On the other hand, the proportion of respondents who would seek help to solve their financial and emotional problems from good friends has increased over time and with age.

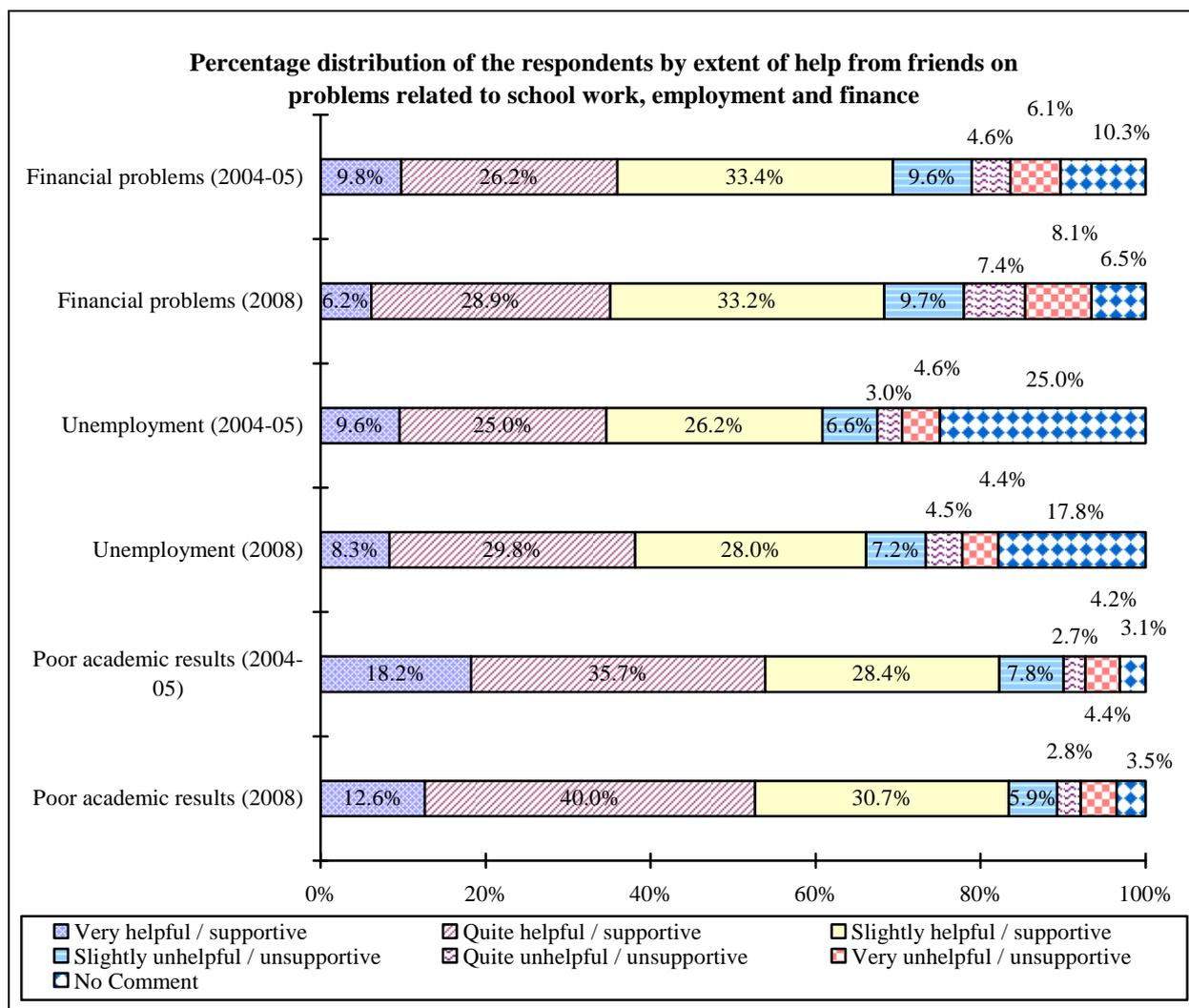
### Availability of help from friends

5.2.5 The great majority of respondents believed that they would be able to obtain the help and support from friends when they were sick (accounting for 86.2% of respondents in 2008 and 88.7% in 2004-05), making important decisions (92.4% in 2008 and 91.8% in 2004-05), having serious disputes with family members (86.5% in 2008 and 81.5% in 2004-05) and feeling depressed or upset (92.5% in 2008 and 91.8% in 2004-05).



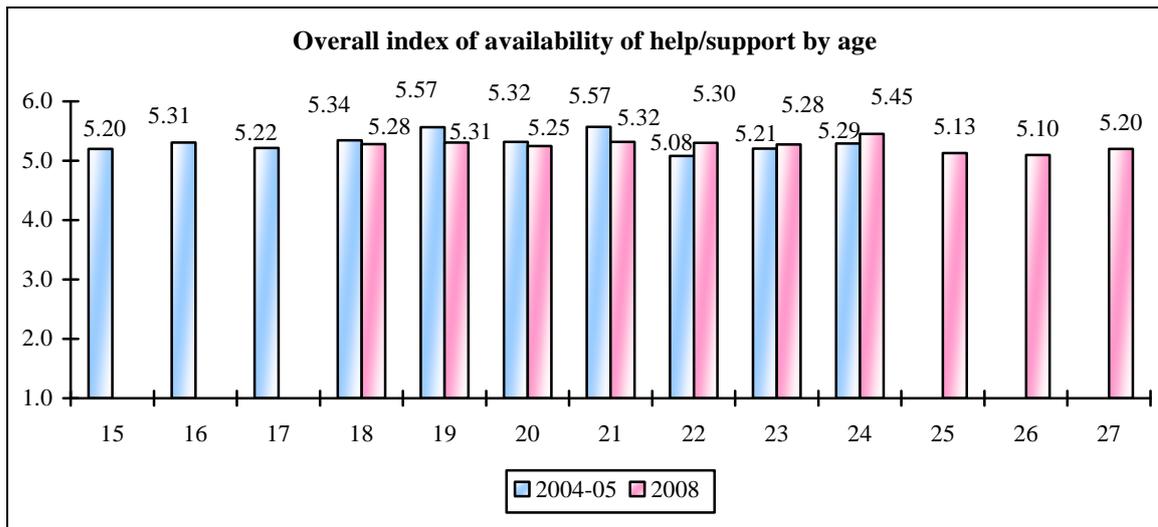
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q41a-d]

5.2.6 A lower proportion of respondents believed that they would be able to obtain the help and support from friends when they were unemployed (66.1% in 2008 and 60.8% in 2004-05) or having financial problems (68.3% in 2008 and 69.4% in 2004-05). The majority (83.3% in 2008 and 82.3% in 2004-05) believed that they would be able to obtain the help and support from friends when they had poor academic results.

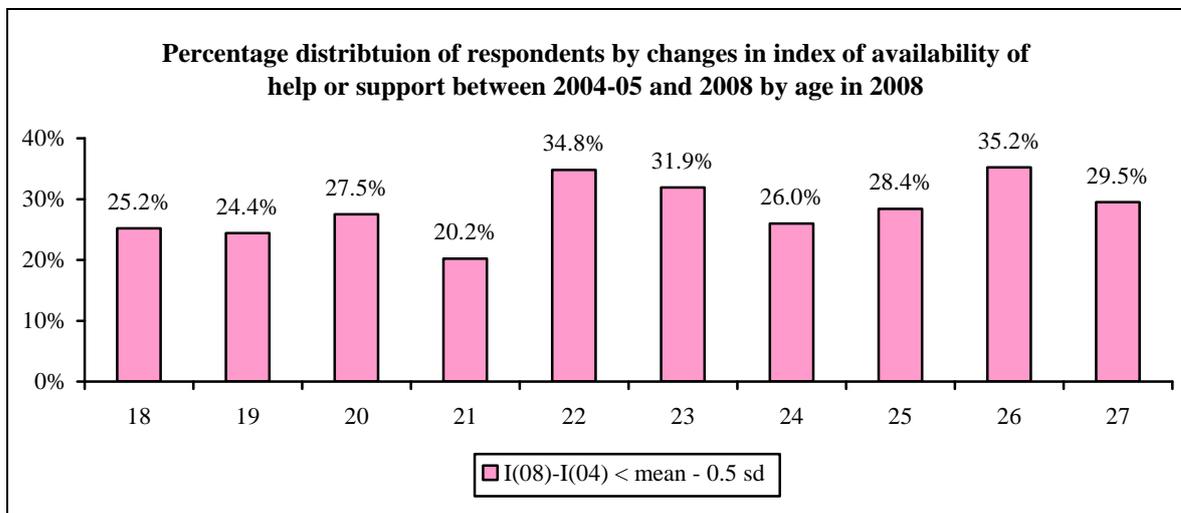


5.2.7 Based on a Likert scale of 7, an index of availability of help or support may be compiled from data obtained in respect of the 7 items above. The index was 5.27 in 2008 and 5.31 in 2004-05, in the Likert scale of 7, indicating that on the whole respondents were able to obtain help or support from friends. The index was lower for employed, at 5.27 in 2008 (5.42 in 2004-05). On the other hand, the index remained more or less the same for those who were students, at 5.31 in 2008 (5.30 in 2004-05) and non-engaged, at 4.96 in 2008 (4.99 in 2004-05). Comparing the survey findings in 2008 and 2004-05, the index of availability of help remained more or less the same.

5.2.8 When analyzed by age of the respondents, it may be seen from the chart below that the overall index of availability of help was relatively higher for those aged 24. The index was lower for those in the older age groups from those aged 25 or above. Similar to the findings for 2004-05, the “double-dip” pattern was also observed for the 2008 data. Apparently, the pattern follows the cohort of youth as they grow older.

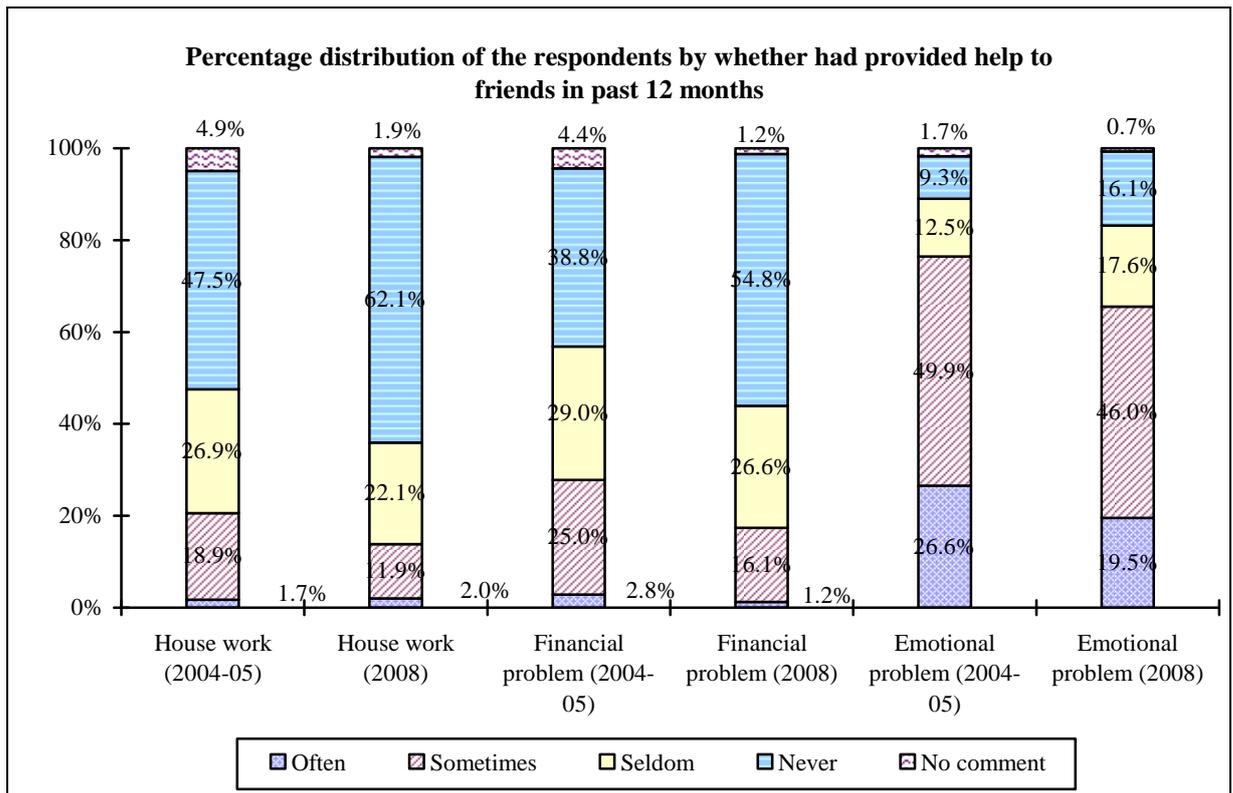


5.2.9 A closer analysis of the changes in the index of availability of help or support by age has been conducted. It may be seen from the chart below that for a higher proportion of respondents (35%) in the age group of 19 in 2004-05, who would fall in the age group of 22 in 2008, their index had declined by more than difference between the mean change and half of the standard deviation of change (or more than 0.7). The corresponding percentage was also higher for those aged 23 in 2004-05 and 26 in 2008. In other words, for a higher proportion of youth in the age groups of 19 and 23, their index of availability of help or support is likely to decline as they get older.



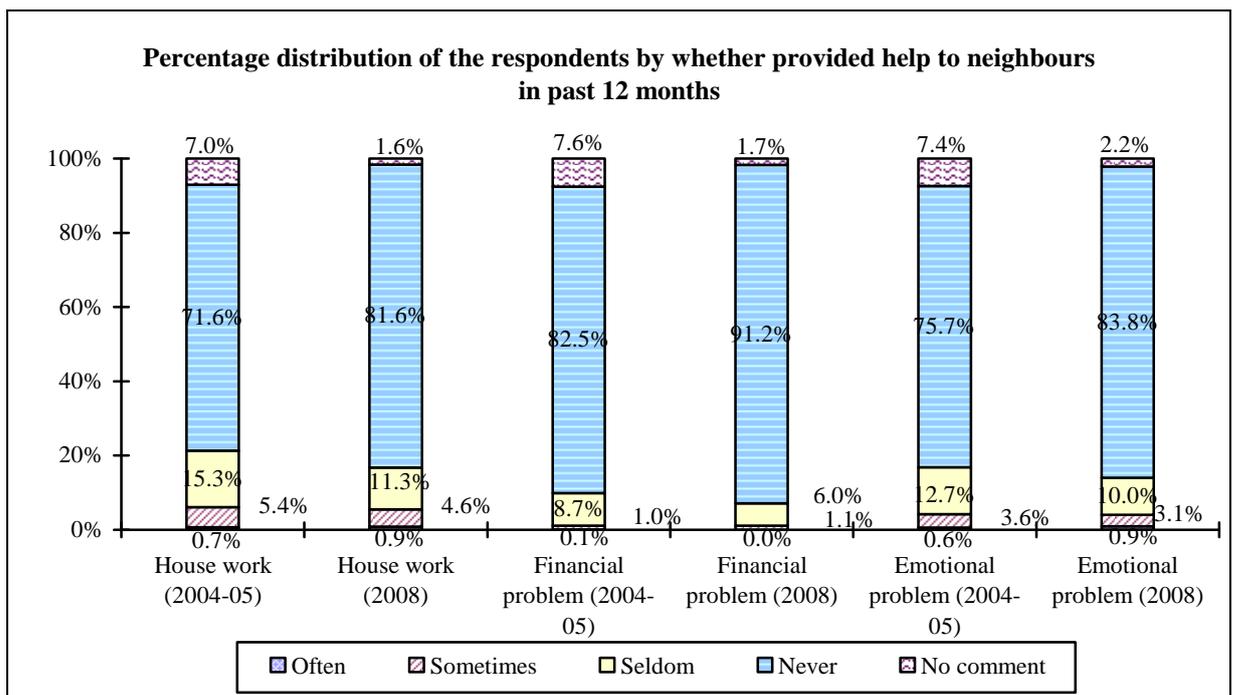
***Rendering help to friends and neighbours***

5.2.10 The majority of respondents (83.1% in 2008 and 89.0% in 2004-05) had provided help to friends on emotional problems in the past 12 months. The proportion who had provided help to friends on financial problems was lower, at 43.9% in 2008 (56.8% in 2004-05). About one-third (36.0% in 2008 and 47.5% in 2004-05) had provided help to friends on matters related to house work (e.g. taking care of children and elderly, cooking and purchase of food).



Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q42a-c]

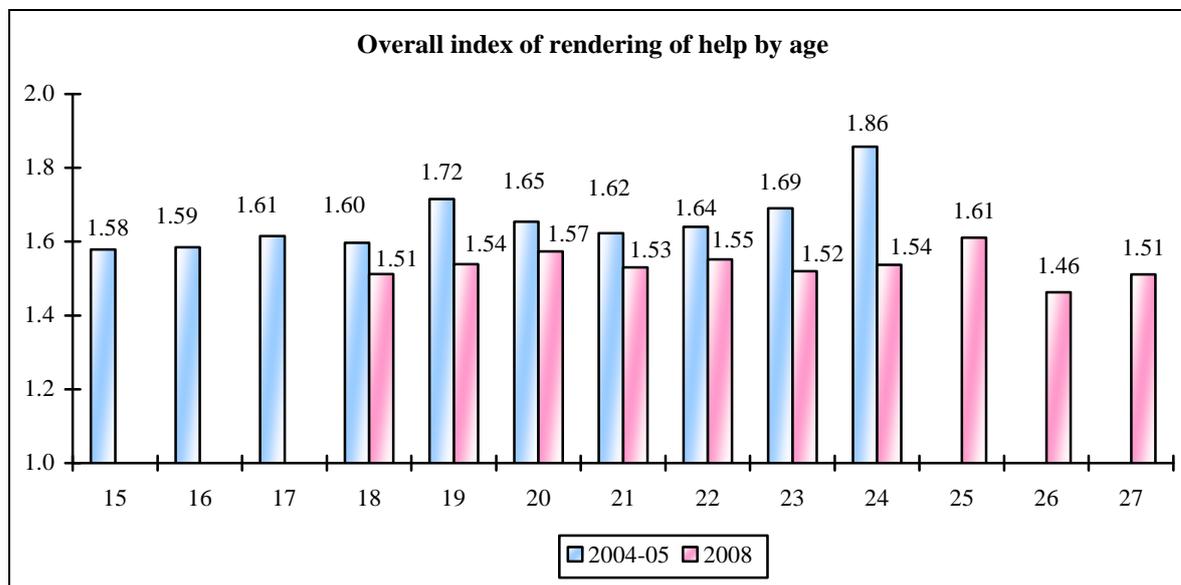
5.2.11 As regards help to neighbours, only a small proportion of the respondents (14.0% in 2008 and 16.9% in 2004-05) had provided help to neighbours on emotional problems in the past 12 months. The proportion who had provided help to neighbours on financial problems was lower, at 7.1% in 2008 (9.8% in 2004-05). About 16.8% in 2008 (21.3% in 2004-05) had provided help to neighbours on matters related to house work (e.g. taking care of children and elderly, cooking and purchase of food).



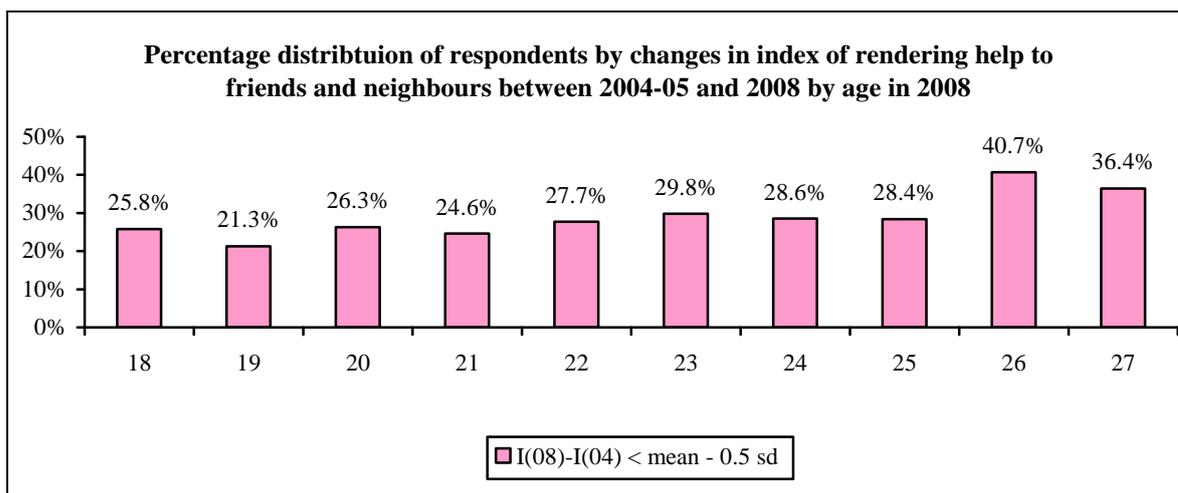
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q43a,-c]

5.2.12 Expressed in a Likert scale of 5, an index of rendering help to friends and neighbours may be compiled based on data obtained in the survey for the six questions above. The index was 1.54 in 2008 (1.63 in 2004-05), in the Likert scale of 5, indicating that on average youth seldom or never rendered help to friends or neighbours. The index was slightly lower for those who were employed, at 1.52 in 2008 (1.71 in 2004-05) and non-engaged, at 1.57 in 2008 (1.70 in 2004-05). On the other hand, the index remained more or less the same for those who were students, at 1.55 in 2008 (1.60 in 2004-05). Comparing the survey findings in 2008 and 2004-05, it may be worth noting that the index of rendering of help has decreased over time and with age.

5.2.13 When analyzed by age of the respondents, it may be seen from the chart below that the overall index of rendering of help was slightly higher for those in the older age groups and was relatively lower for those aged 26 and 27.

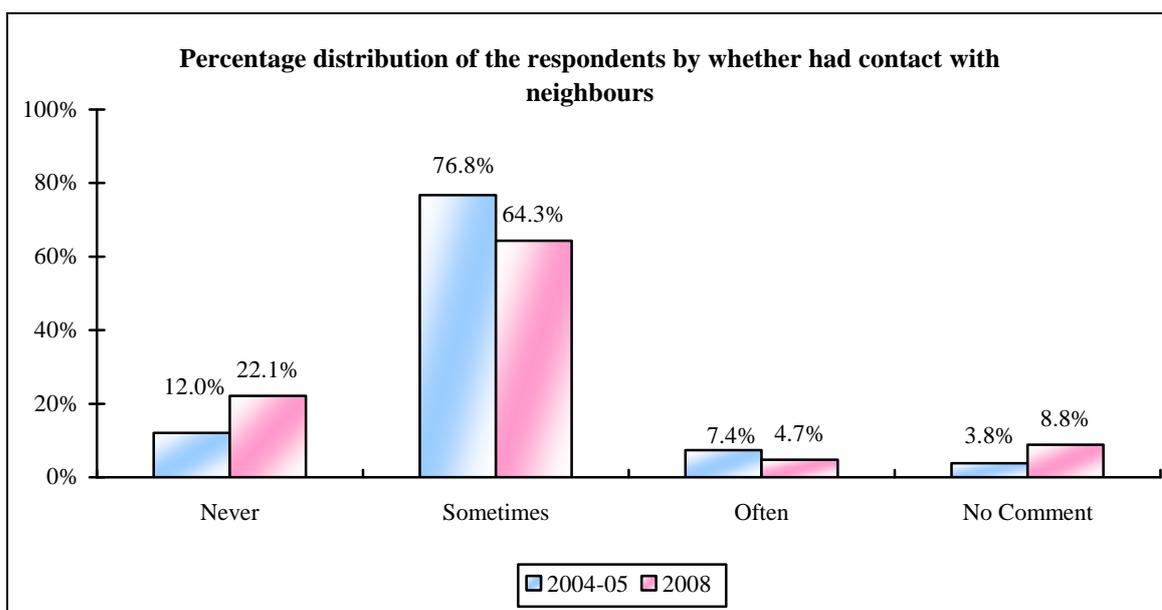


5.2.14 A closer analysis of the changes in the index of rendering of help to friends and neighbours by age has been conducted. It may be seen from the chart below that for a higher proportion of respondents (41%) in the age group of 23 in 2004-05, who would fall in the age group of 26 in 2008, their index had declined by more than difference between the mean change and half of the standard deviation of change (or more than 0.4). The corresponding percentage was also higher for those aged 24 in 2004-05 and 27 in 2008. In other words, for a higher proportion of youth in the age groups of 23 and 24, their index of rendering of help to friends and neighbours is likely to decline as they get older.



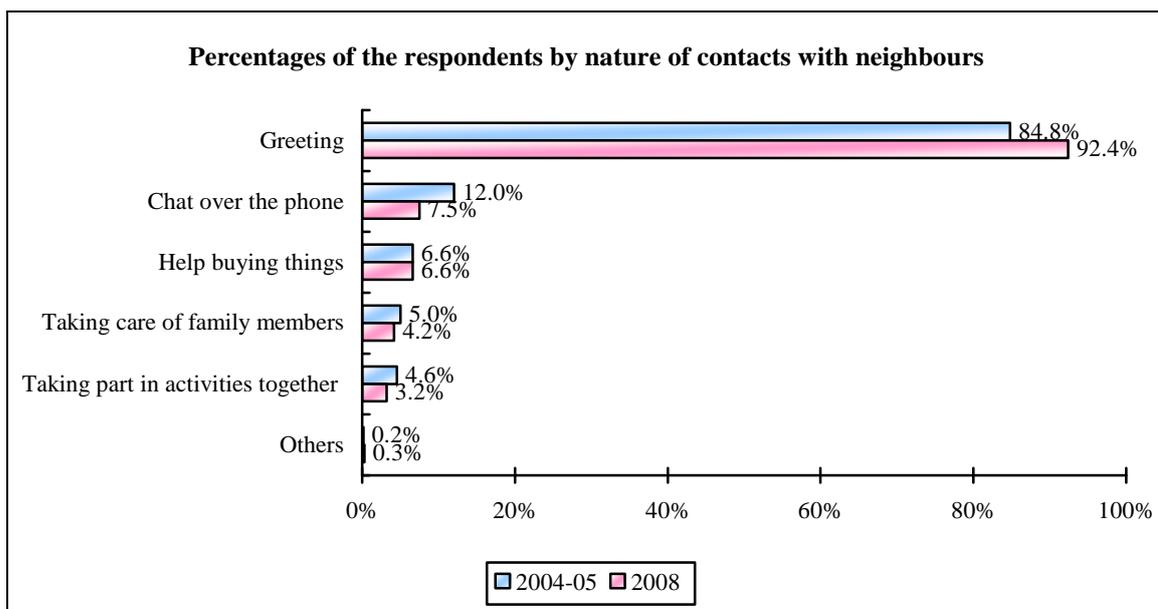
### *Contacts with neighbours*

5.2.15 More than half of respondents (69.1% in 2008 and 84.2% in 2004-05) had contacts with their neighbours. About 22.1% in 2008 (12.0% in 2004-05) never had any contact with their neighbours. In other words, the extent of contacts with neighbours has decreased over time and with age.



Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q37]

5.2.16 As regards the nature of contacts with neighbours, the great majority of the respondents (92.4% in 2008 and 84.8% in 2004-05) contacted their neighbours in the form of greetings, and about 7.5% in 2008 (12.0% in 2004-05) through chatting over the phone. Only a small proportion of the respondents contacted their neighbours through instrumental assistance rendered to each others in the form of buying things (6.6% in 2008 and 6.6% in 2004-05) or taking care of family members (4.2% in 2008 and 5.0% in 2004-05).



Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q38]

### 5.3 Observations

#### *Use of services*

5.3.1 As discussed above, the proportion of respondents who had used community services has decreased over time and with age. For respondents who were employed, the proportion of them who had used employment services or training programmes provided by government departments has decreased over time and with age. On the other hand, for those who were students and non-engaged, the proportion of respondents having used employment services or training programmes provided by government departments community services has increased over time and with age.

5.3.2 The study findings also show that use of community services has a positive impact of the social trust of youth, though participation in employment or training programmes does not seem to have such an impact. As remarked by several social workers interviewed, the present approach adopted by government is largely problem-based, with specific services mounted to help tackle problems of youth which catch the attention of the community and policy-makers. While such approach may be effective, at least over the short run, in helping youth at risk, they are not meant as preventive measures for the personal development of youth who are not yet at risk. There may be a need to place more emphasis on promoting community services to youth in general, packaging such activities in a format attractive to youth in general.

#### *Social support network*

5.3.3 For social support network, the majority of respondents would seek help from their parents or family members to help solve their financial problems. Nevertheless, it is of interest to note that the proportion of respondents who would seek help to solve their financial and emotional problems from parents, brothers or sisters has decreased over time and with age. On the other hand, the majority of respondents would seek help from their

good friends to solve their emotional problems. Furthermore, the proportion of respondents who would seek help to solve their financial and emotional problems from good friends has increased over time and with age.

5.3.4 Furthermore, while the index of availability of help remained more or less the same between 2004-05 and 2008, the index of rendering helping has decreased over time and with age. In addition, the extent of contacts with neighbours has decreased over time and with age. In other words, there are signs that the social support network of respondents has worsened in 2008, as compared with that in 2004-05.

5.3.5 When analyzed by age, it is of interest to note that for a higher proportion of youth in the age groups of 19 and 23 in 2004-05 (22 and 26 in 2008), their index of availability of help or support is likely to decline as they get older. This is probably the time when youth entering key transition stages as they progress from secondary education to post-secondary or other forms of technical or vocational education, or as they leave school and enter the world of work. These are also stages at which, as discussed above, other indicators of youth's civic engagement are also undergoing significant changes.

## 6. Personal well-being and family functioning

### 6.1 Overview

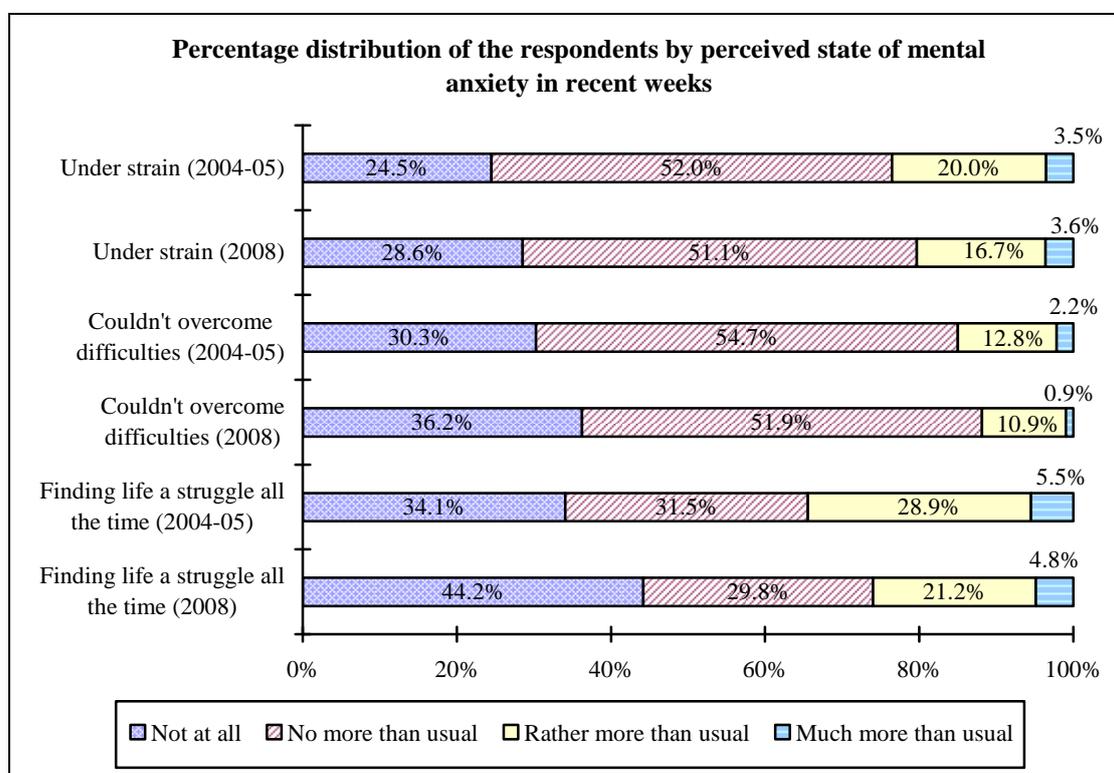
6.1.1 As discussed in above, social capital has an impact, positive or negative, on the personal well-being of individuals, including mental health and family functioning, or vice versa. In the survey, information on personal well-being including mental health, self-esteem and family functioning was collected and the data obtained are presented in this section. In addition, information on respondents' satisfaction with the environment and facilities in their districts of residence was also collated and presented below.

### 6.2 Mental health status

#### *Mental health*

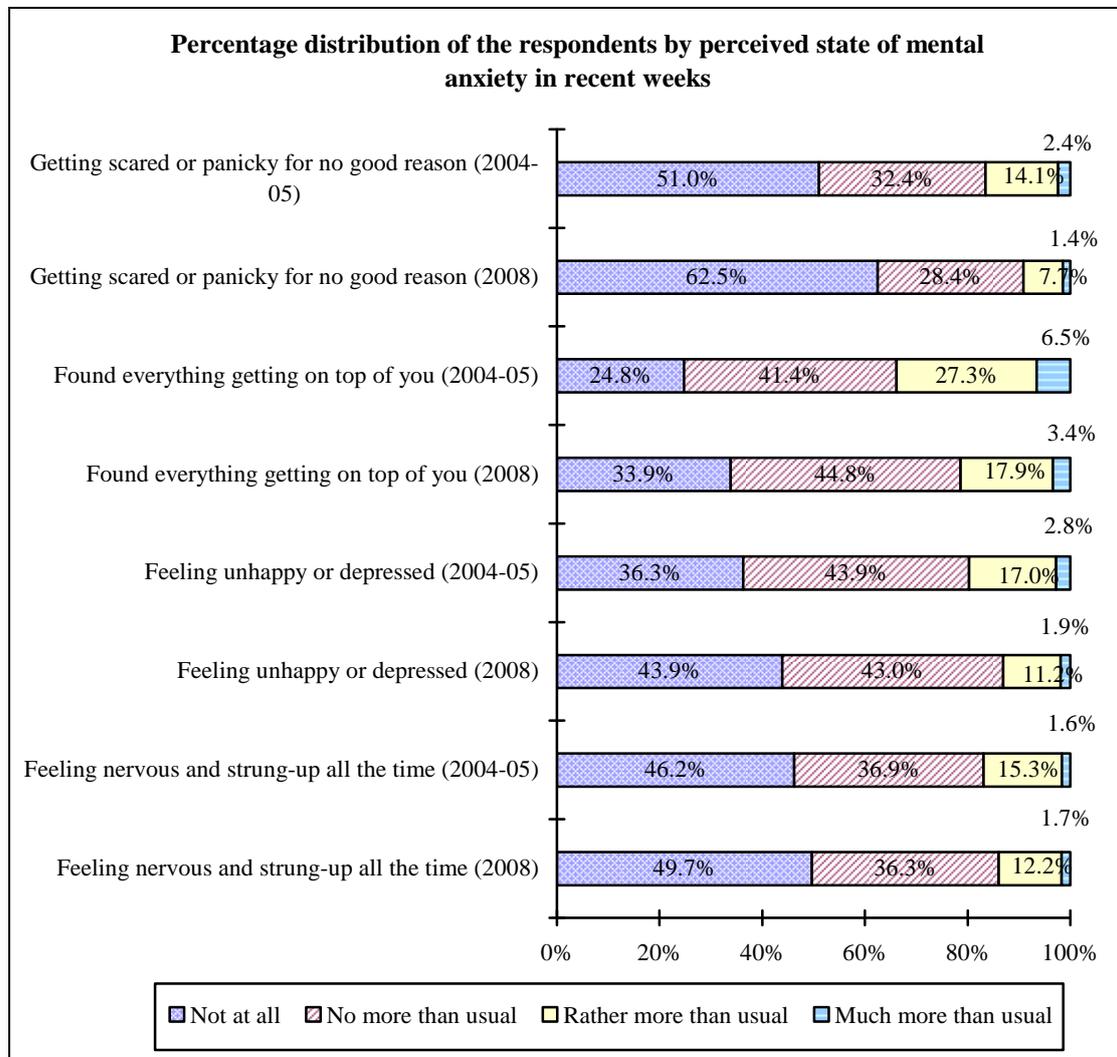
6.2.1 The Chinese version of the General Health Questionnaire was used in the survey to collect information on the status of mental health of respondents, covering aspects like anxiety, depression and inadequate coping. In addition, five questions were used to obtain information on respondents' perception of life.

6.2.2 The majority of respondents were satisfied with their state of mental anxiety in recent weeks. They were of the view of either not at all or no more than usual that they were constantly under strain (accounting for 79.7% of respondents in 2008, and 76.5% in 2004-05), that they could not overcome difficulties (88.1% in 2008 and 85.0% in 2004-05), that life was like a struggle all the time (74.0% in 2008 and 65.6% in 2004-05).



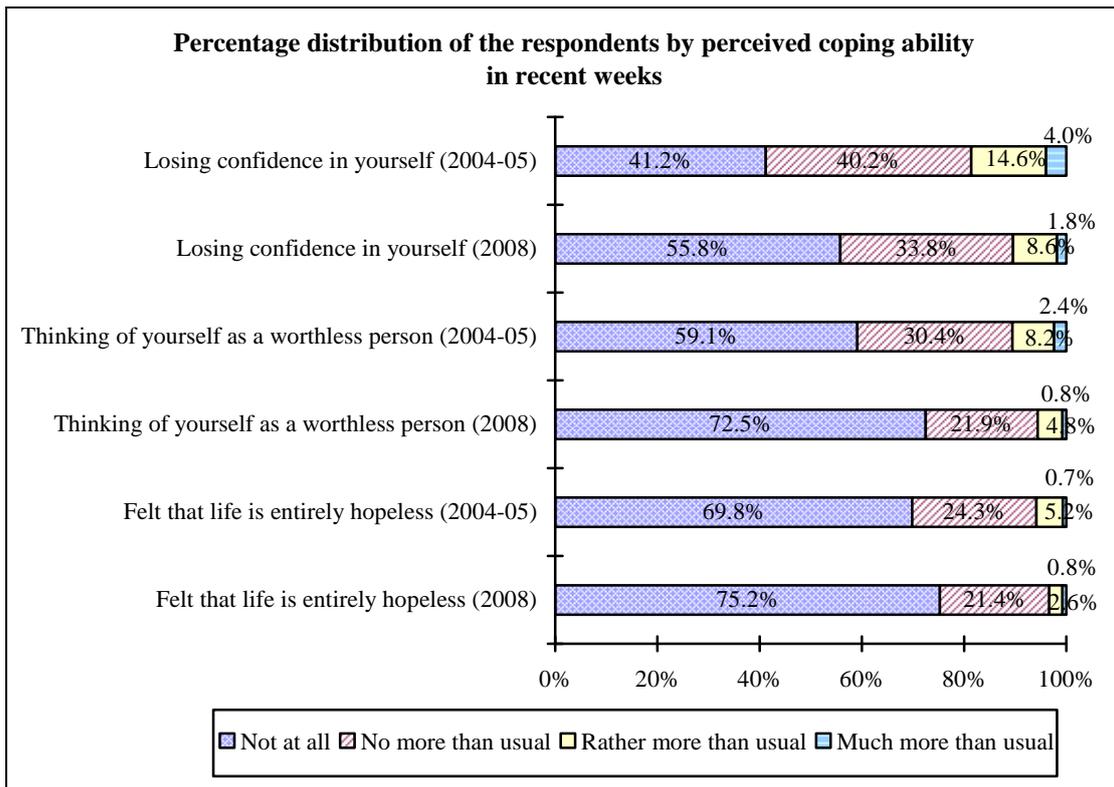
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q49-51]

6.2.3 Furthermore, the majority of respondents were also of the view of either not at all or no more than usual that they got scared or panicky for no good reason (90.9% in 2008 and 83.4% in 2004-05), that they found everything getting on top of them (78.7% in 2008 and 66.2% in 2004-05), that they felt unhappy or depressed (86.9% in 2008 and 80.2% in 2004-05) and that they felt nervous and strung-up all the time (86.0% in 2008 and 83.1% in 2004-05).



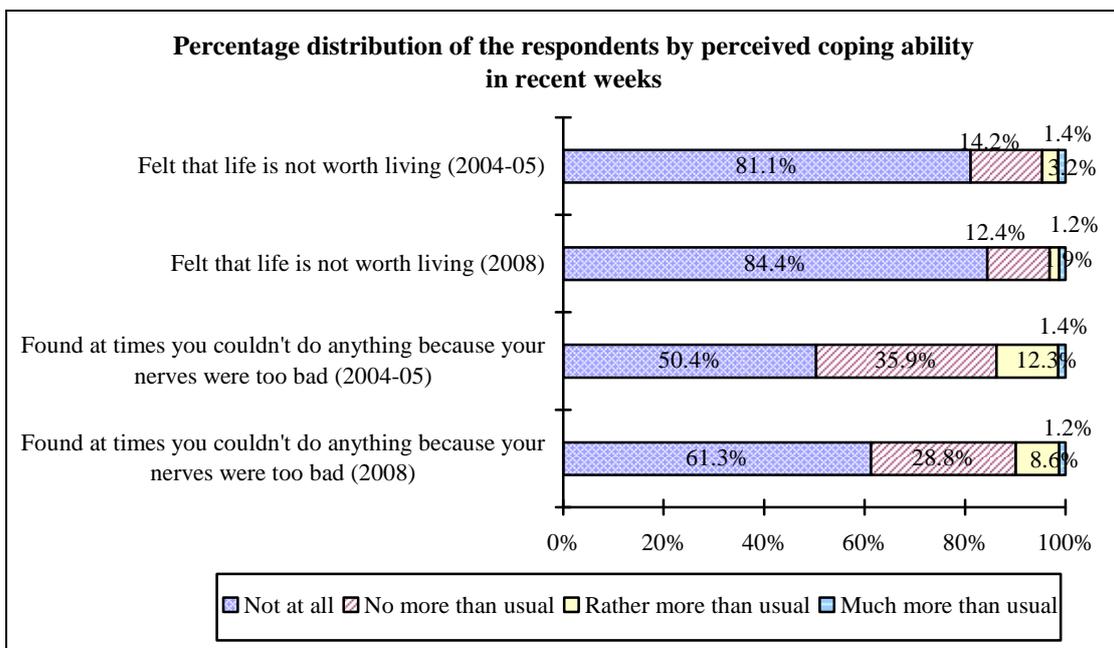
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q53-55, 61]

6.2.4 As regards the respondents' perception of coping ability, a relative higher proportion of the respondents were satisfied with their coping ability. The great majority were of the view that they had not lost their confidence or that their confidence was more or less as usual (89.6% in 2008 and 81.4% in 2004-05), that they were not thinking themselves as a worthless person or they thought themselves as a worthless person, or was more or less as usual (94.4% in 2008 and 89.5% in 2004-05) and that they did not feel life was entirely hopeless or their feeling of hopelessness, or was more or less as usual (96.6% in 2008 and 94.1% in 2004-05).



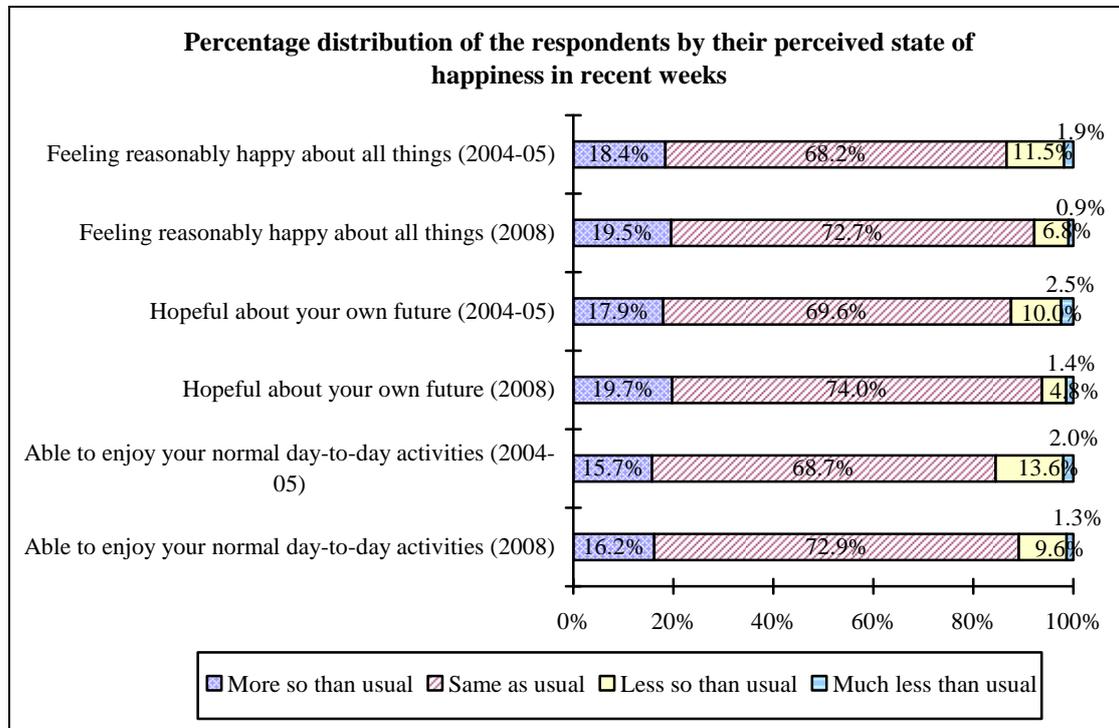
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q56-58]

6.2.5 Furthermore, the great majority were of the view that they did not feel life was not worth living or their feeling of worthiness of life, or was more or less as usual (96.8% in 2008 and 95.3% in 2004-05), and that they never found at times they couldn't do anything or sometimes couldn't do anything because their nerves were too bad, or was more or less the same (90.1% in 2008 and 86.3% in 2004-05).



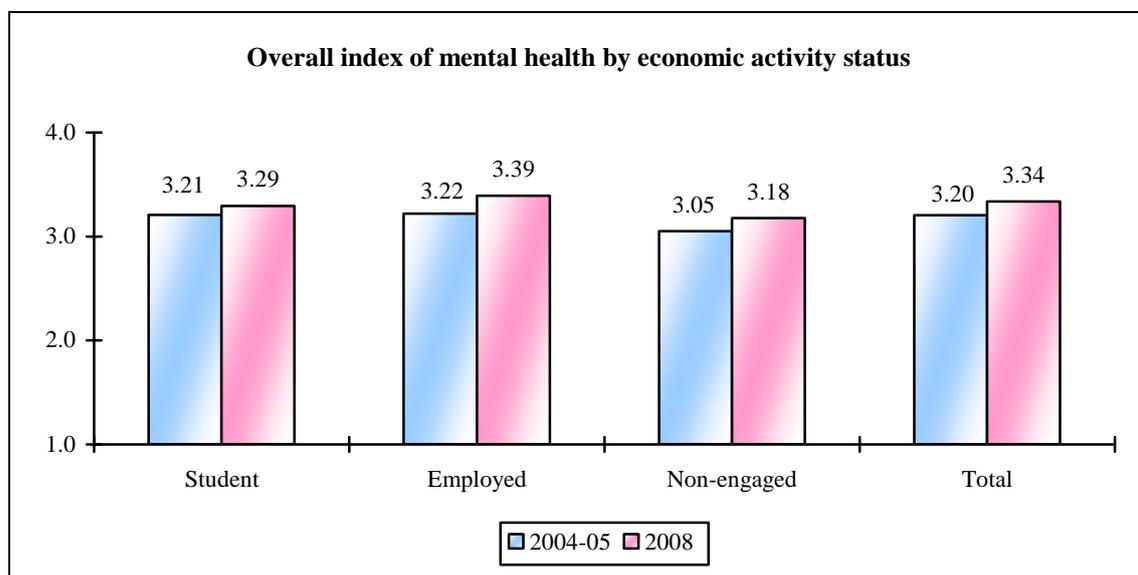
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q62-63]

6.2.6 As regards the respondents' perception of happiness, the great majority were of the view that they were able to enjoy their normal day-to-day activities, or was more so than usual or same as usual (89.1% in 2008 and 84.4% in 2004-05), that they were hopeful about their own future was more so than usual or was same as usual (93.7% in 2008 and 87.5% in 2004-05), and that they felt reasonably happy about all things was more so than usual or was same as usual (92.2% in 2008 and 86.6% in 2004-05).



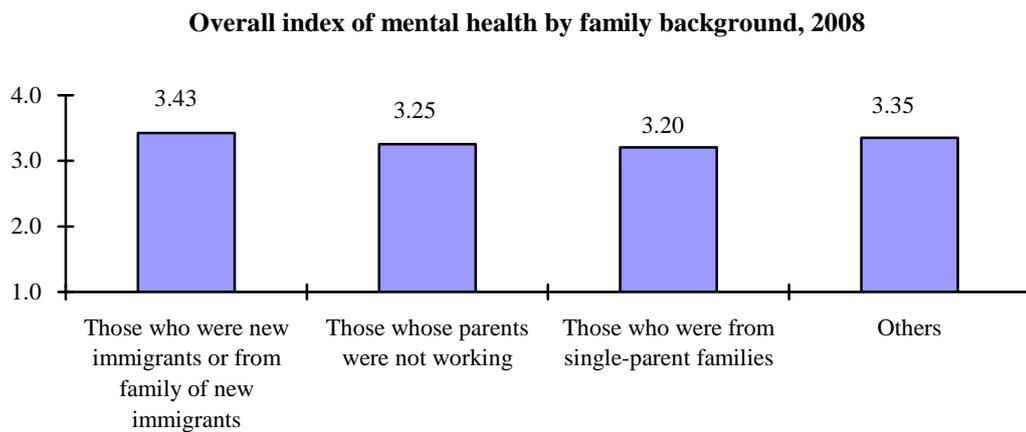
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q52, Q59-60]

6.2.7 Expressed in a Likert scale of 4, an index of mental health may be compiled from data obtained in the survey on the 15 items shown above. The index was 3.34 in 2008 (3.20 in 2004-05), in a Likert scale of 4, indicating that the respondents were in general quite healthy mentally.

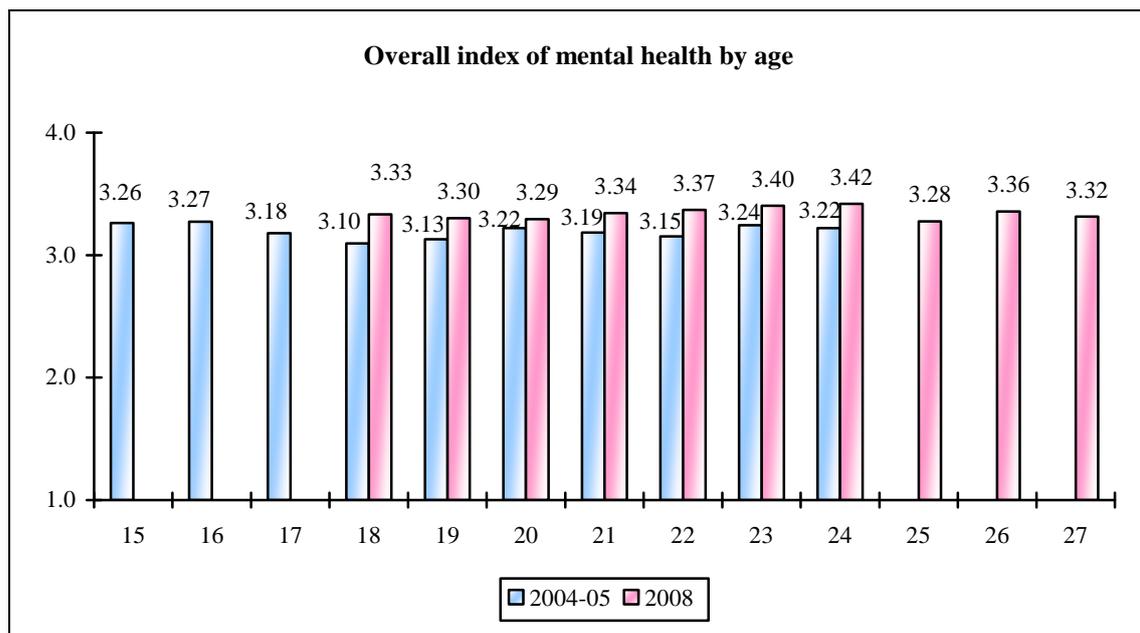


6.2.8 Comparing the survey findings in 2008 and 2004-05, it may be worth noting that the index for students, at 3.29 in 2008 (3.21 in 2004-05), employed, at 3.39 in 2008 (3.22 in 2004-05) and non-engaged, at 3.18 in 2008 (3.05 in 2004-05) increased over time and with age.

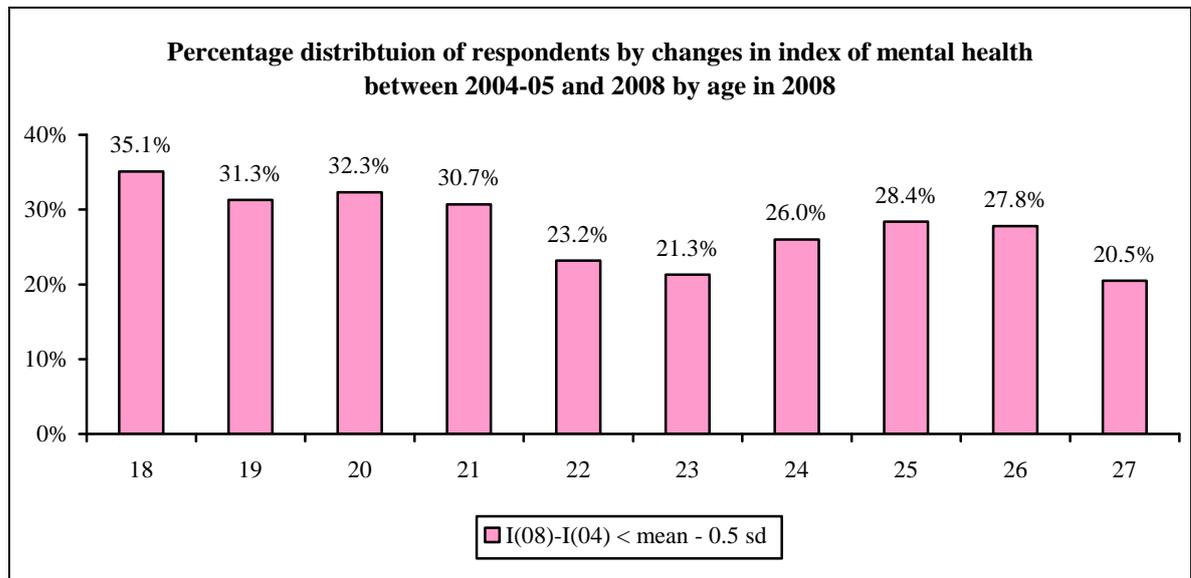
6.2.9 When analyzed by family background, in 2008, the index of mental health was lower for those whose parents were not working (3.25) and those who were from single parent families (3.20). On the other hand, the index was higher for those who were new immigrants or from families of new immigrants (3.43).



6.2.10 When analyzed by age of respondents, it may be seen from the chart below that the overall index of mental health was higher for those in the younger and older age groups in the age range of 18 – 27 for youth. The index was lower for those aged around 18 to 21, 25 and 27. The “double-dip” pattern may be observed from the chart below. Apparently, the pattern follows the cohort of youth as they grow older.

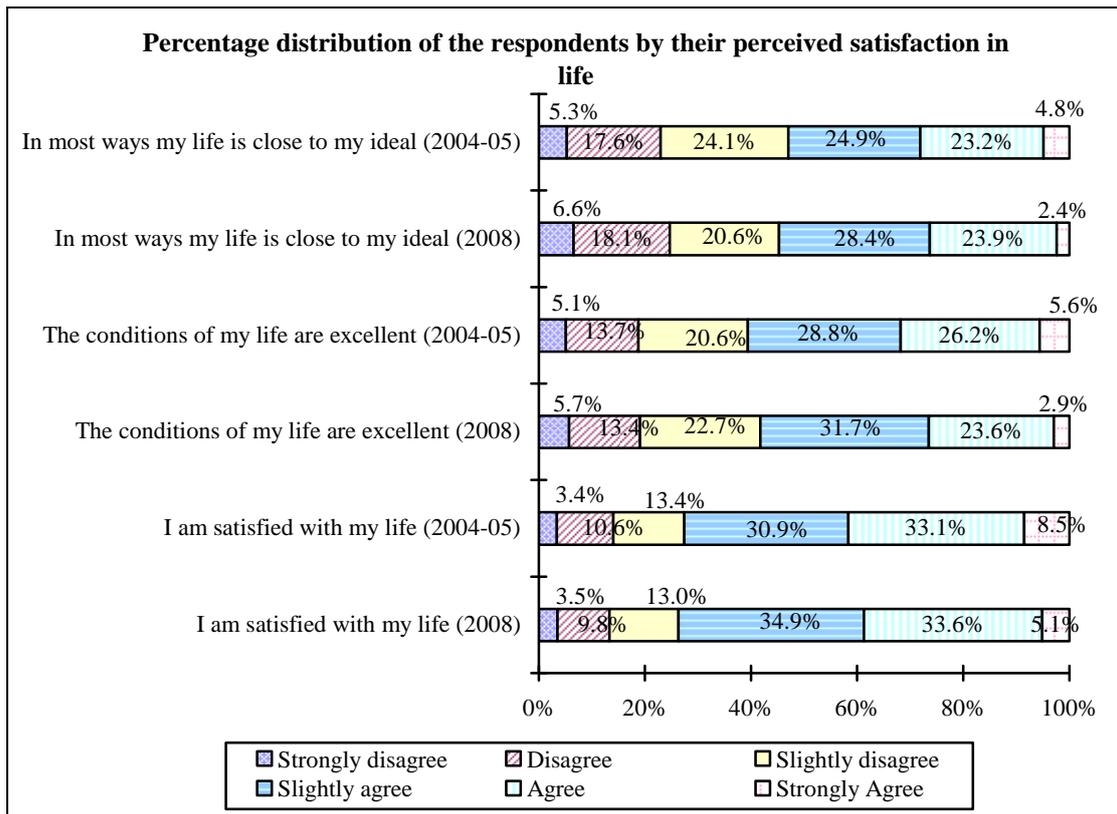


6.2.11 A closer analysis of the changes in the index of mental health by age has been conducted. It may be seen from the chart below that for a higher proportion of respondents (31% to 35%) in the age groups of 15 to 18 in 2004-05, who would fall in the age groups of 18 to 21 in 2008, their index had declined by more than difference between the mean change and half of the standard deviation of change (or more than 0.2). In other words, for a higher proportion of youth in the age groups of 15 to 18, their index of mental health is likely to decline as they get older.



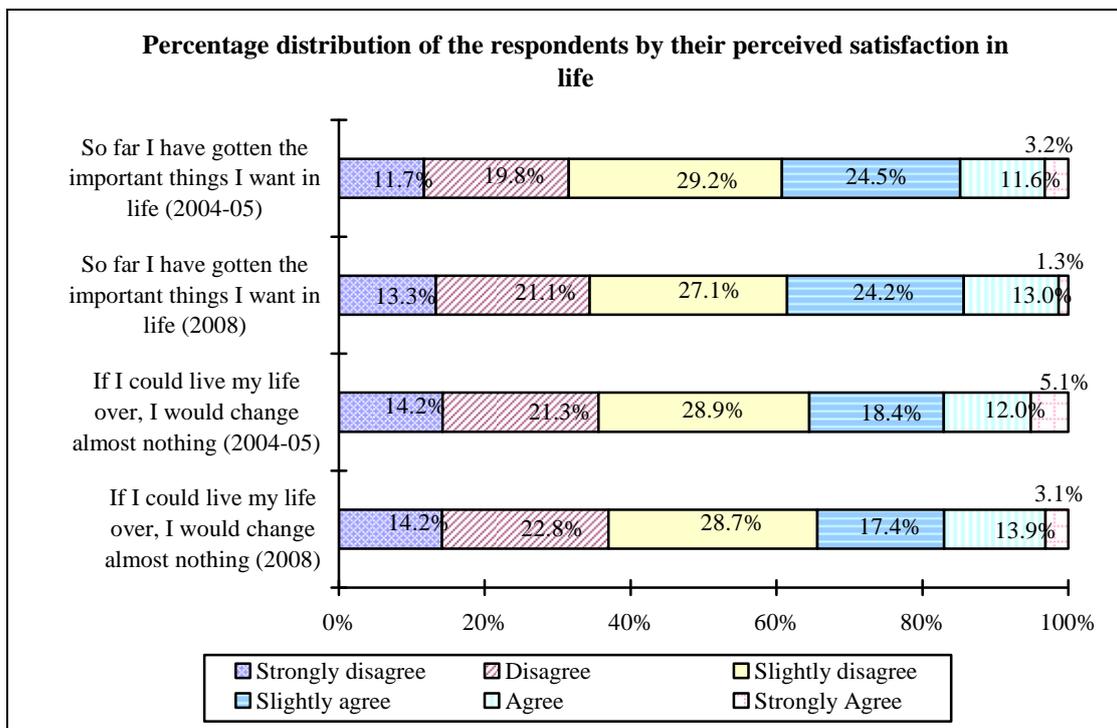
### ***Perception in life***

6.2.12 Five questions were asked in the survey on respondents' perception of life in general. It may be noted from the chart below that respondents were in general quite satisfied with life. More than half of them considered that their life was close to ideal in most ways (54.7% in 2008 and 52.9% in 2004-05), and that their living conditions were excellent (58.2% in 2008 and 60.6% in 2004-05). A higher proportion indicated that they were satisfied with life (73.6% in 2008 and 72.5% in 2004-05).



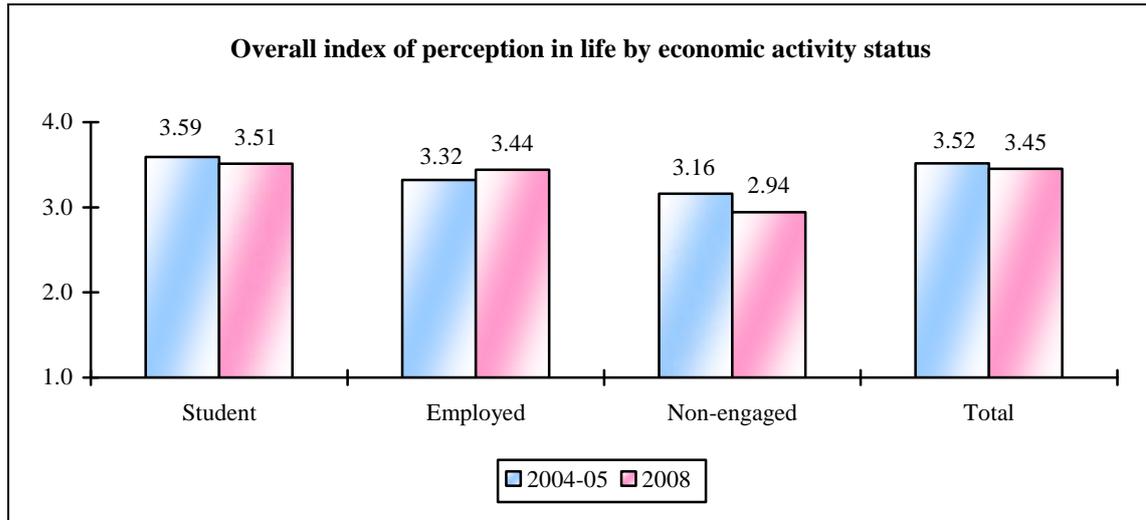
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q64-66]

6.2.13 As regards perceived accomplishments in life, about 38.5% in 2008 (39.3% in 2004-05) of the respondents were contented that they had already got the important things they wanted in life and about 34.4% in 2008 (35.5% in 2004-05) did not want to change anything if they could live their life over.

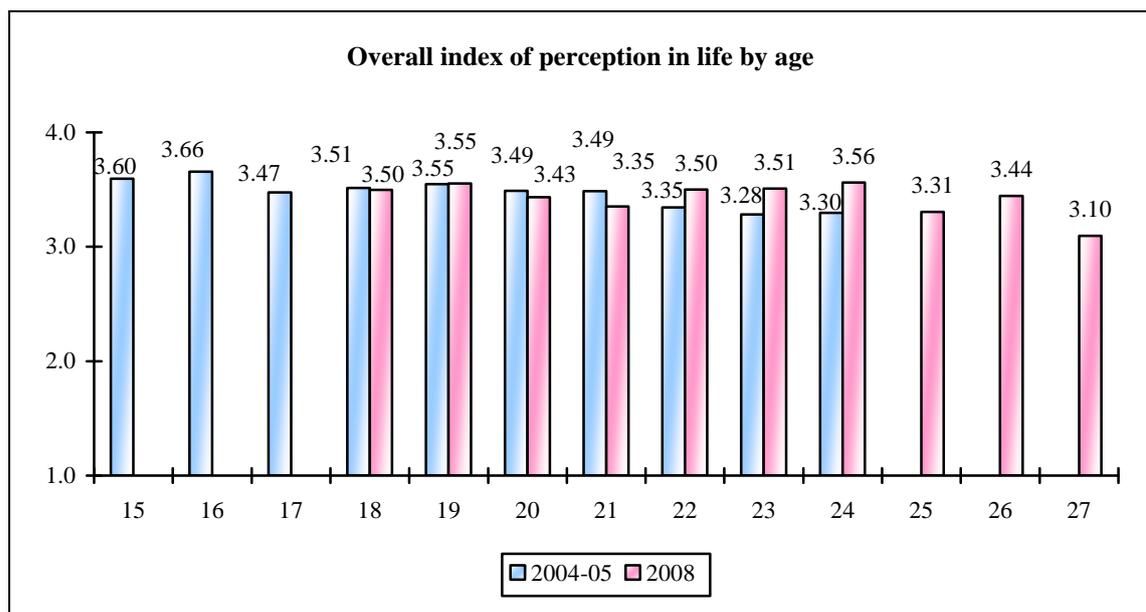


Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q67-68]

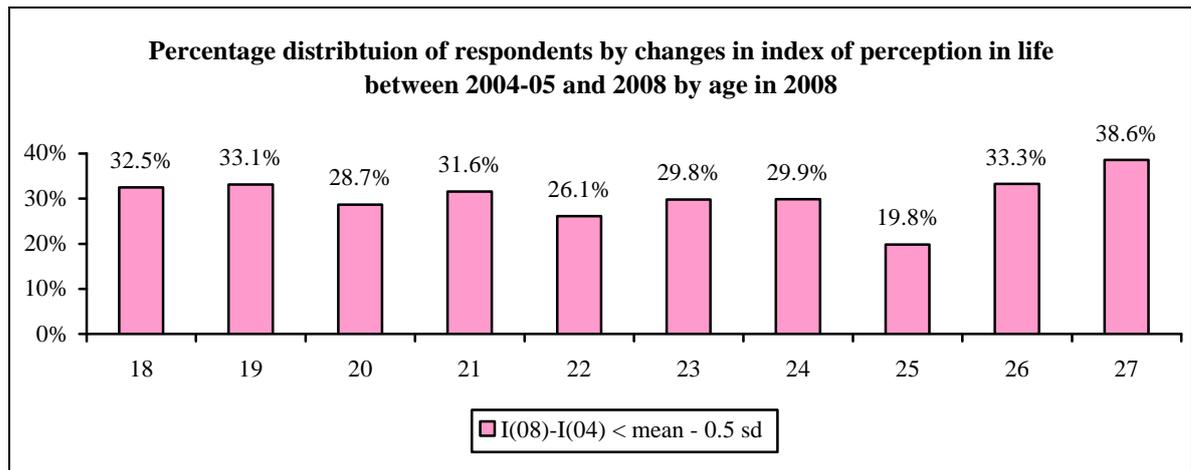
6.2.14 Expressed in a Likert scale of 6, with “1” denoting ‘strongly disagree’ and “6” denoting ‘strongly agree’, an index of perception of life may be compiled from data obtained in the survey on the 5 items shown above. The index was 3.45 in 2008 (3.52 in 2004-05), in a Likert scale of 6, indicating that respondents’ perception in life was about average. The index was higher for employed at 3.44 in 2008 (3.32 in 2004-05) but lower for those who were students 3.51 in 2008 (3.59 in 2004-05) and non-engaged 2.94 in 2008 (3.16 in 2004-05). In other words, the perception in life for respondents who were students and non-engaged decreased slightly over time and with age, but increased slightly for those who were employed.



6.2.15 When analyzed by age of the respondents, it may be seen from the chart below that the overall index of perception in life was relatively higher for those in the younger age groups. The index was lower for those aged 25 and 27. The “double-dip” pattern may also be observed from the chart below.

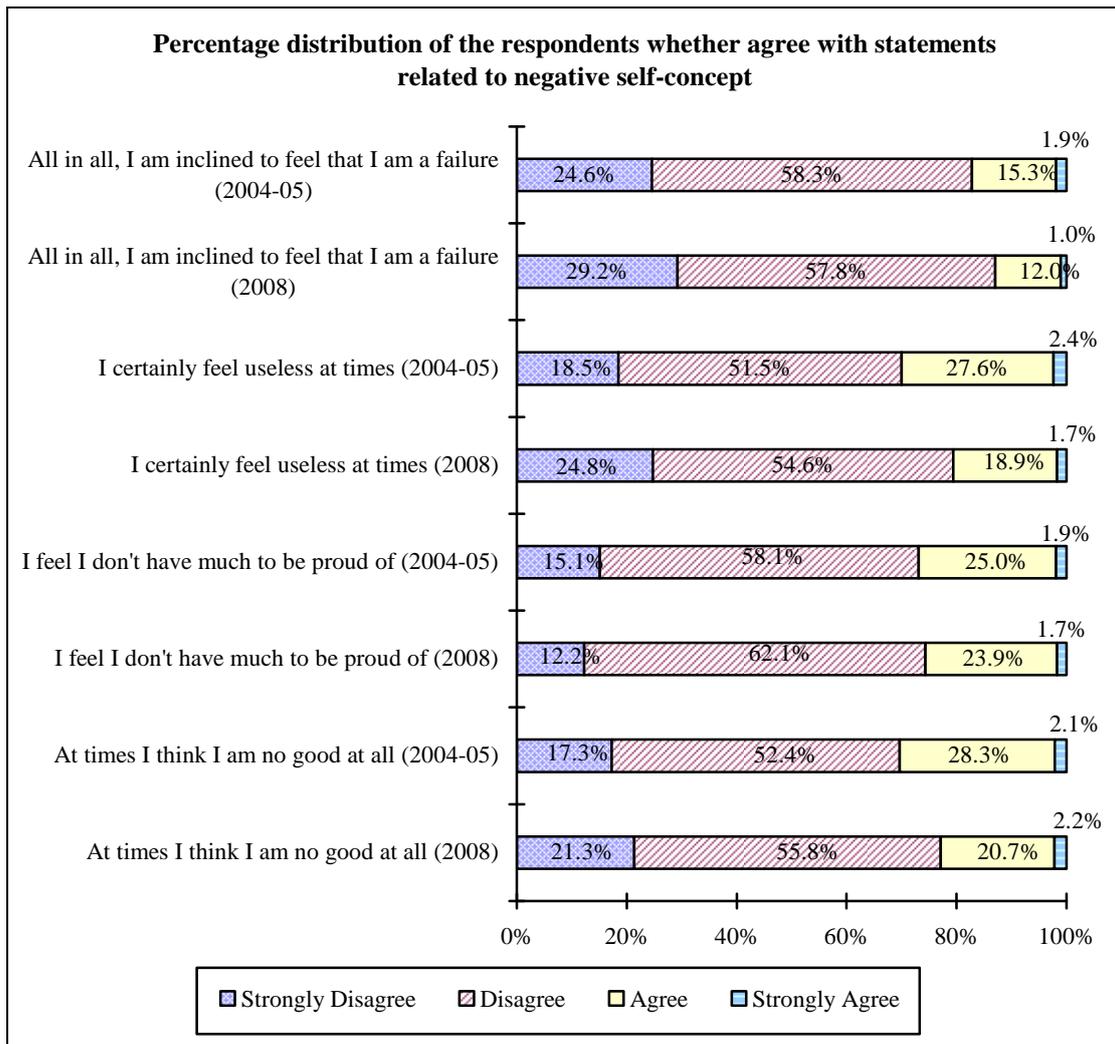


6.2.16 A closer analysis of the changes in the index of perception in life by age has been conducted. It may be seen from the chart below that for a higher proportion of respondents (32% to 33%) in the age groups of 15, 16 and 18 in 2004-05, who would fall in the age groups of 18, 19 and 21 in 2008, their index had declined by more than difference between the mean change and half of the standard deviation of change (or more than 0.7). The corresponding percentage was also higher for youth who were aged 23 and 24 in 2004-05 and aged 26 and 27 in 2008. In other words, for a higher proportion of youth in the age groups of 15, 16, 18, 23 and 24, their index of perception of life is likely to decline as they get older.



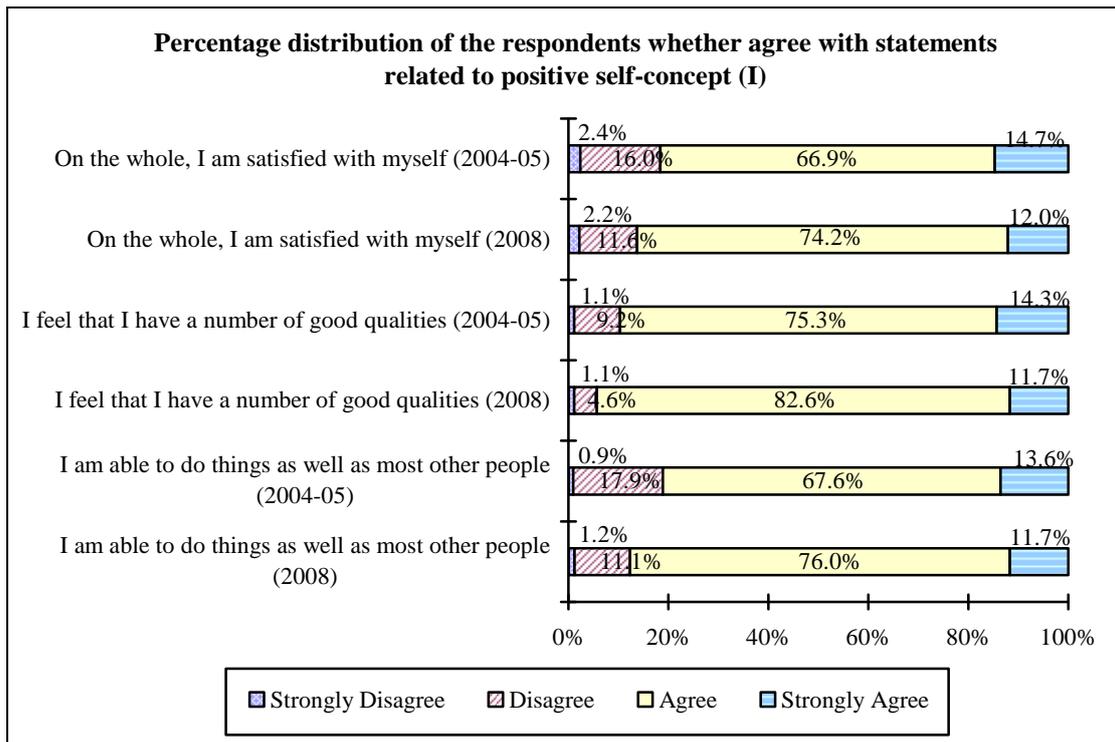
### 6.3 Self-esteem

6.3.1 The Chinese version of the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale, which comprises 10 items, was used to assess respondents' self-esteem. It may be noted from the chart below most respondents did not have a negative self-concept. The majority did not agree that they felt themselves no good at all sometimes (77.1% in 2008 and 69.6% in 2004-05), that they did not have much to be proud of (74.4% in 2008 and 73.1% in 2004-05), that they certainly felt useless at times (79.4% in 2008 and 70.0% in 2004-05) and that they were inclined to feel they were failure (87.0% in 2008 and 82.8% in 2004-05).



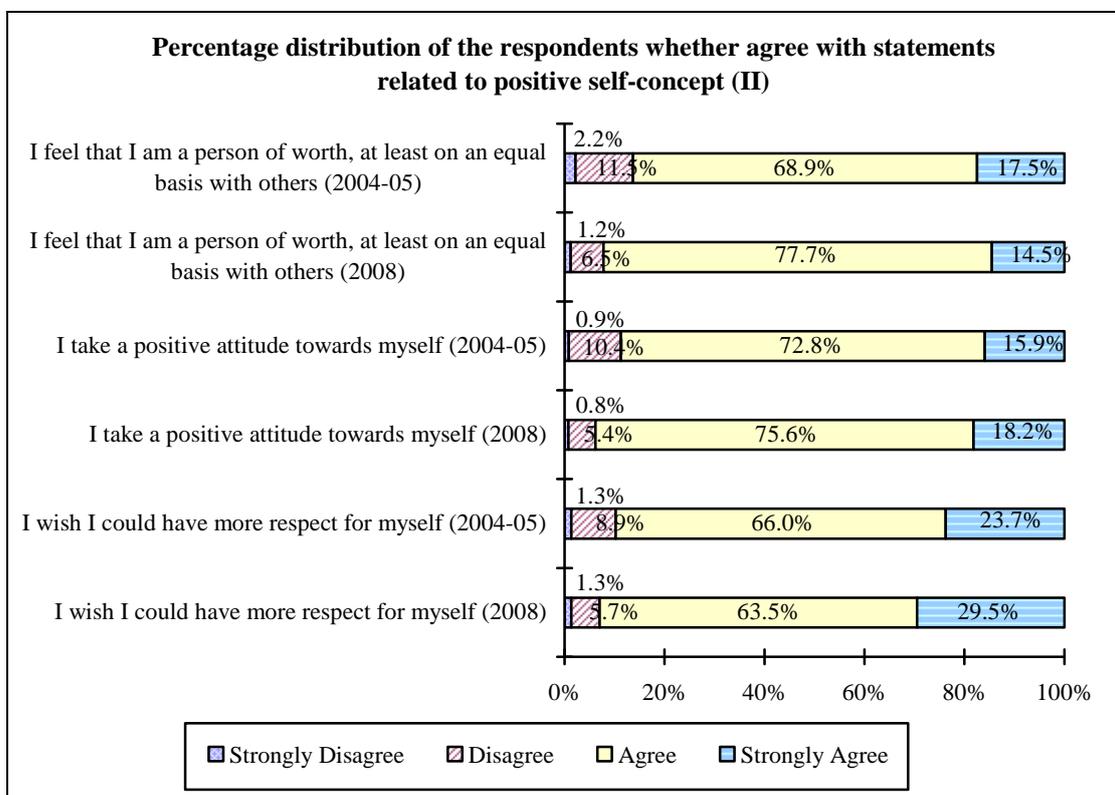
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q105, 108, 109, 112]

6.3.2 As regards respondents' perception of positive self-concept, the majority were satisfied with themselves (86.2% in 2008 and 81.6% in 2004-05), felt that they had a number of good qualities (94.3% in 2008 and 89.6% in 2004-05) and were able to do things as well as most other people (87.7% in 2008 and 81.2% in 2004-05).



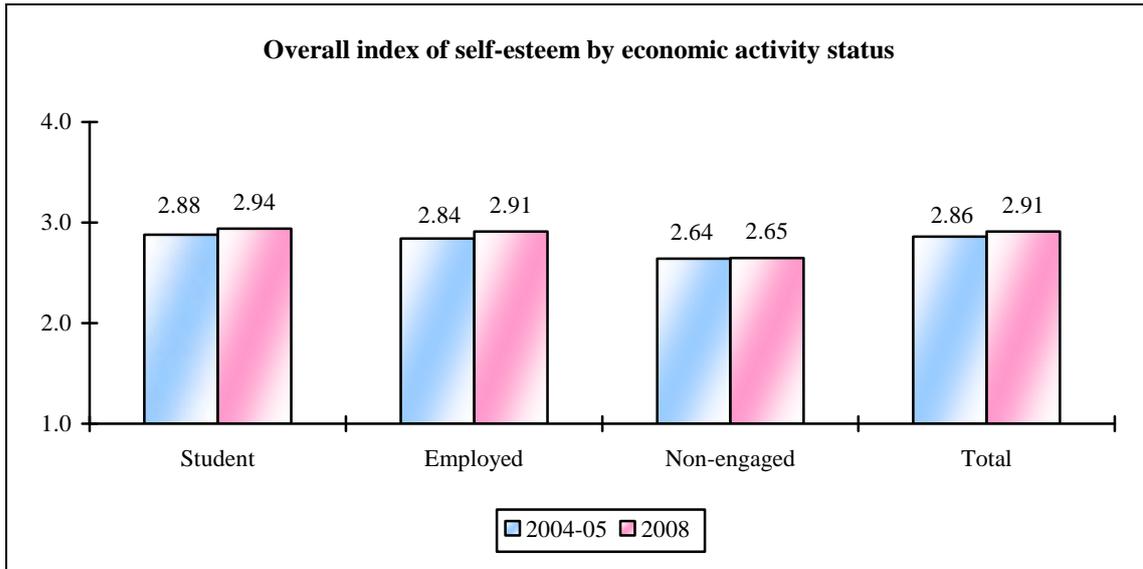
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q104, 106, 107]

6.3.3 Furthermore, the majority also felt that they were a person of worth, at least on an equal basis with others (92.2% in 2008 and 86.4% in 2004-05) and took a positive attitude toward themselves (93.8% in 2008 and 88.7% in 2004-05). The majority (93.0% in 2008 and 89.7% in 2004-05) hoped they could have more respect for themselves.

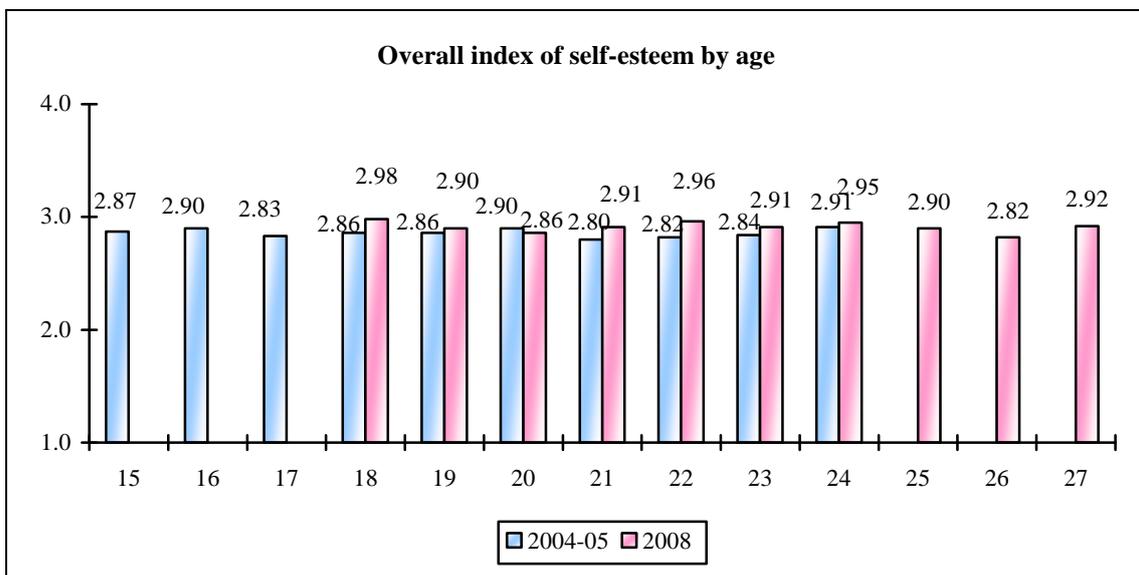


Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q110, 111, 113]

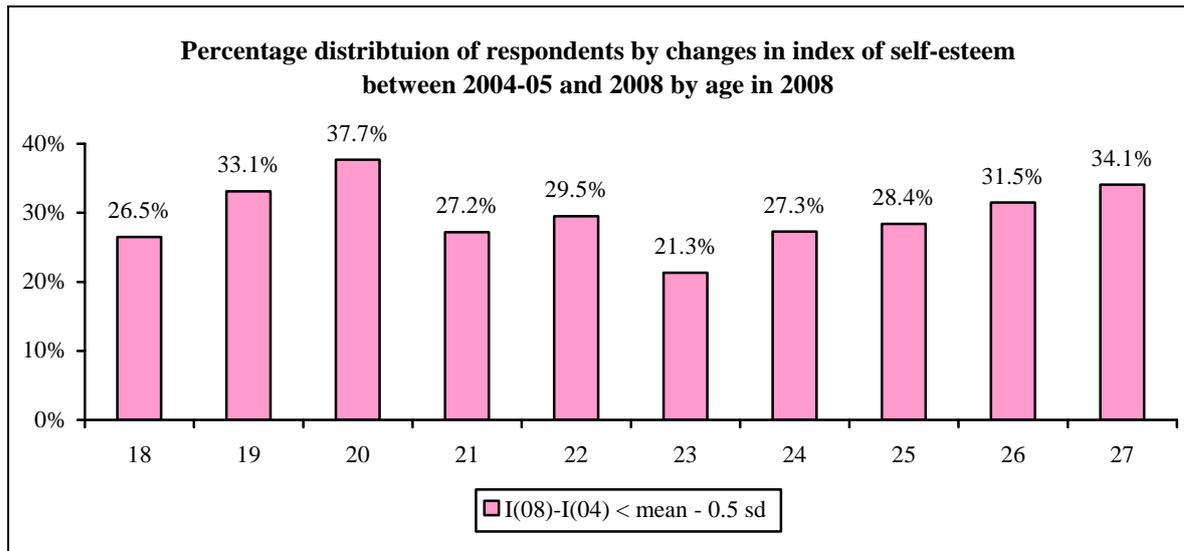
6.3.4 Expressed in a Likert scale of 4, an index of self-esteem may be compiled from data obtained in the survey on the 10 items shown above. The index was 2.91 in 2008 (2.86 in 2004-05), in a Likert scale of 4, indicating that respondents' self-esteem was quite high. The index was slightly higher for employed, at 2.91 in 2008 (2.84 in 2004-05). On the other hand, the index remained more or less the same for those who were students, at 2.94 in 2008 (2.88 in 2004-05) and non-engaged, at 2.65 in 2008 (2.64 in 2004-05). In other words, the self-esteem of respondents who were employed increased slightly over time and with age, and remained more or less the same for those who were students and non-engaged.



6.3.5 When analyzed by age of the respondents, it may be seen from the chart below that the overall index of self-esteem was relatively higher for those in the younger and older age groups in the age range of 18 – 27 for youth. The index was lower for those aged around 19-21, 23 and 25-27. The “double-dip” pattern may also be observed from the chart below. Apparent, the pattern follows the cohort of youth as they grow older.



6.3.6 A closer analysis of the changes in the index of self-esteem by age has been conducted. It may be seen from the chart below that for a higher proportion of respondents (38%) who were aged 17 in 2004-05, who would be aged 20 in 2008, their index had declined by more than difference between the mean change and half of the standard deviation of change (or more than 0.2). The corresponding percentage was also higher for youth who were aged 24 in 2004-05 and aged 27 in 2008. In other words, for a higher proportion of youth in the age groups of 17 and 24, their index of self-esteem is likely to decline as they get older.



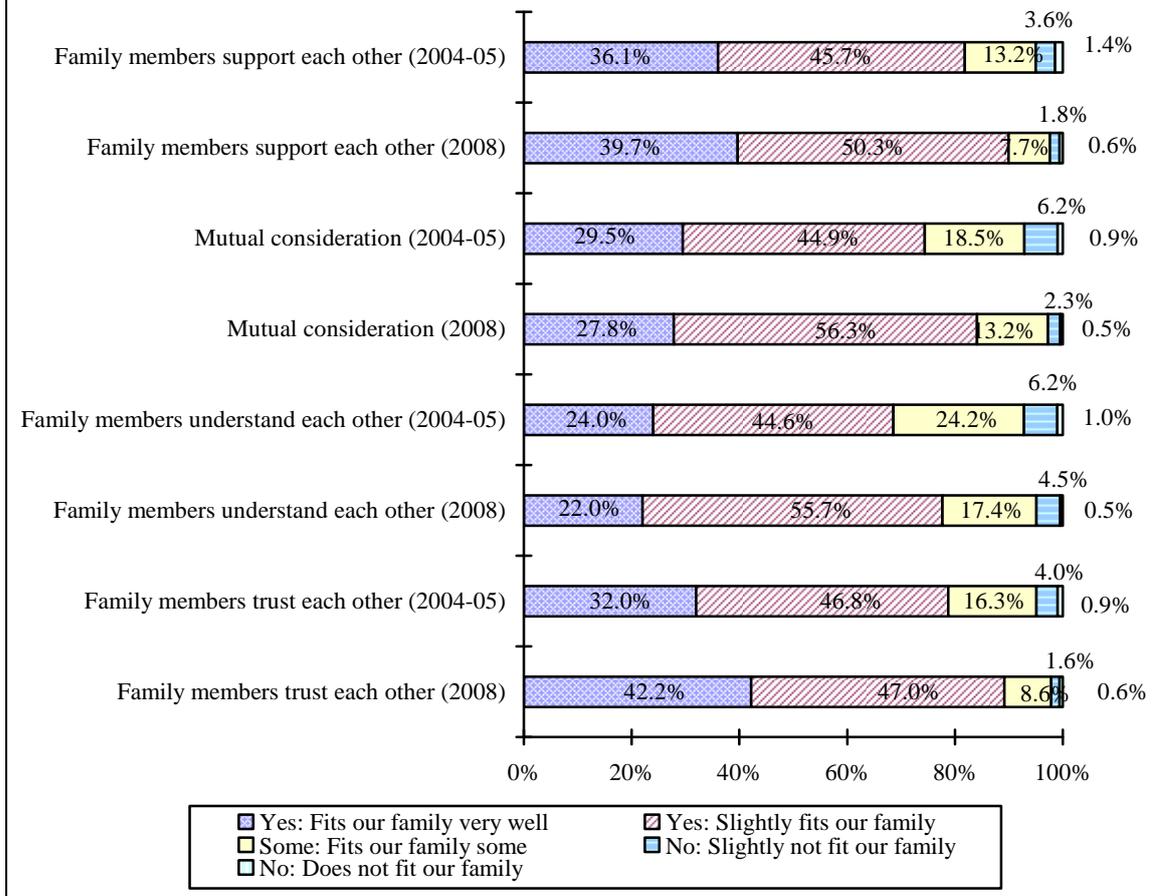
## 6.4 Family functioning

6.4.1 The 33-item Chinese Family Assessment Instrument (C-FAI) developed and validated by Professor Shek was used in the survey to assess family functioning of youth. In the following paragraphs, survey findings on different aspects of family functioning are presented.

### *Family relationship*

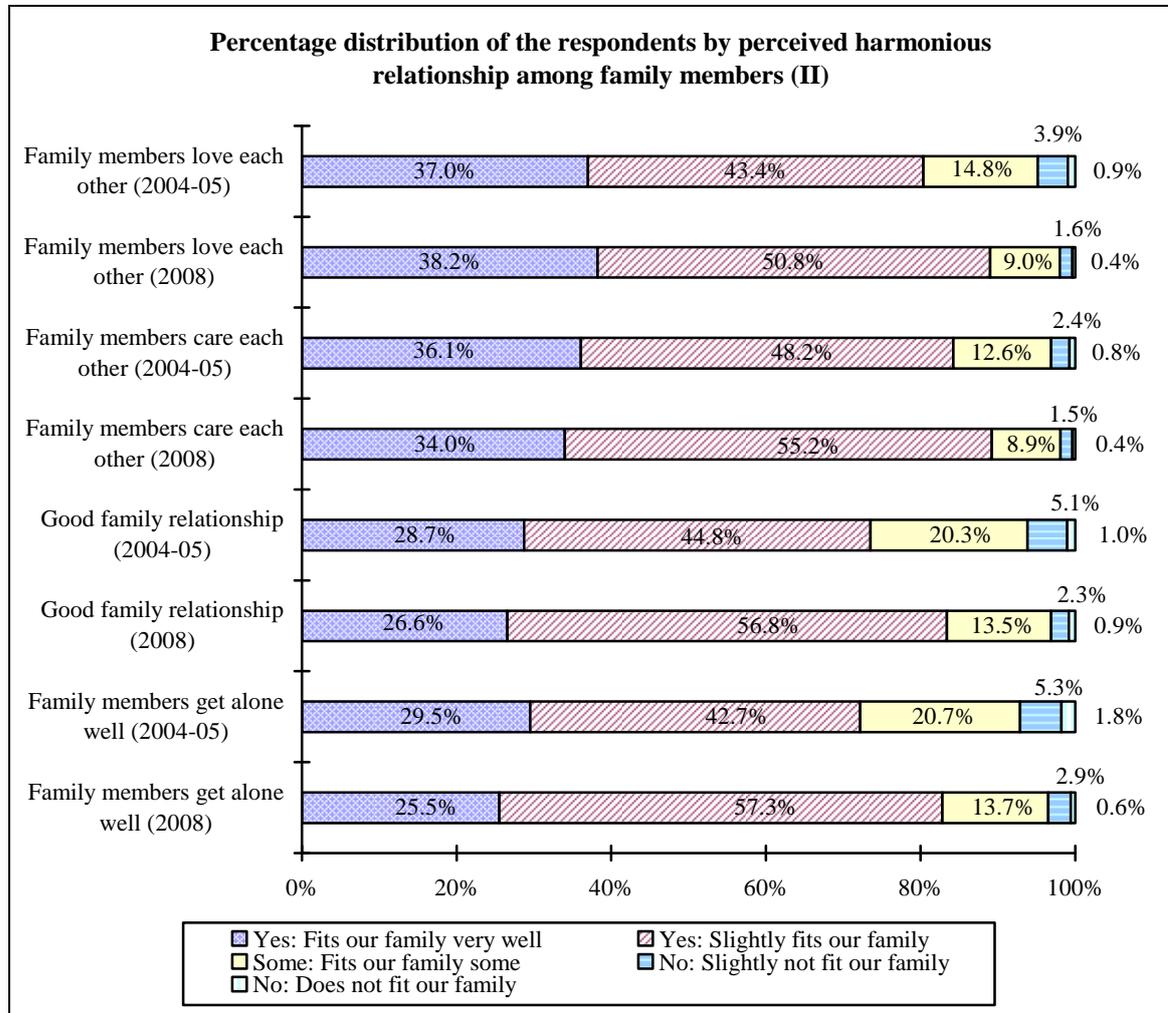
6.4.2 The majority of respondents considered that the relationship among family members was harmonious. Most of them indicated that their family members supported each other (accounting for 90.0% of respondents in 2008, and 81.8% in 2004-05), had mutually consideration (84.1% in 2008 and 74.4% in 2004-05), trusted each other (89.2% in 2008 and 78.8% in 2004-05) and understood each other (77.7% in 2008 and 68.6% in 2004-05).

**Percentage distribution of the respondents by perceived harmonious relationship among family members (I)**



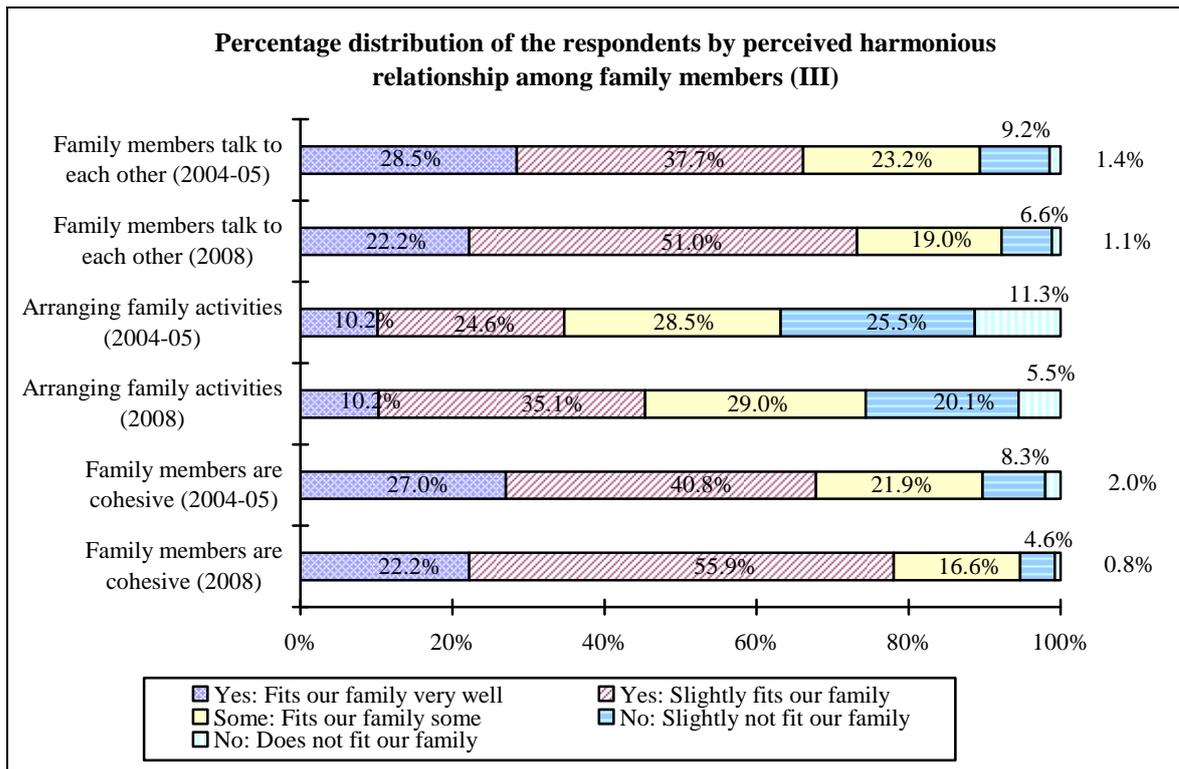
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q69, 73, 74, 89]

6.4.3 In addition, the majority of respondents also considered that the family members loved each other (89.0% in 2008 and 80.4% in 2004-05), family members cared about each other (89.2% in 2008 and 84.3% in 2004-05), the relationship between family members was very good (83.4% in 2008 and 73.5% in 2004-05), and got along with each other well (82.8% in 2008 and 72.2% in 2004-05).



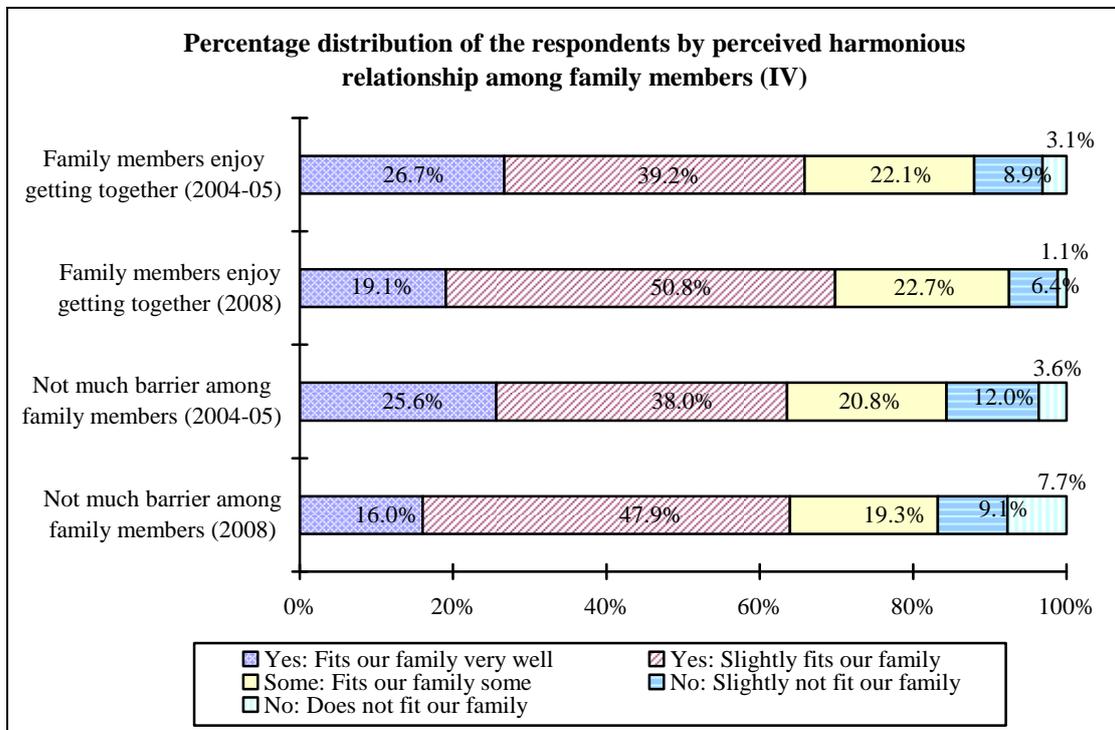
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q70, 72, 83, 85]

6.4.4 Furthermore, more than half of respondents also considered that their family members talked to each other (73.2% in 2008 and 66.2% in 2004-05) and were cohesive (78.1% in 2008 and 67.8% in 2004-05). About 45.3% in 2008 (34.8% in 2004-05) said that they had arranged family activities.



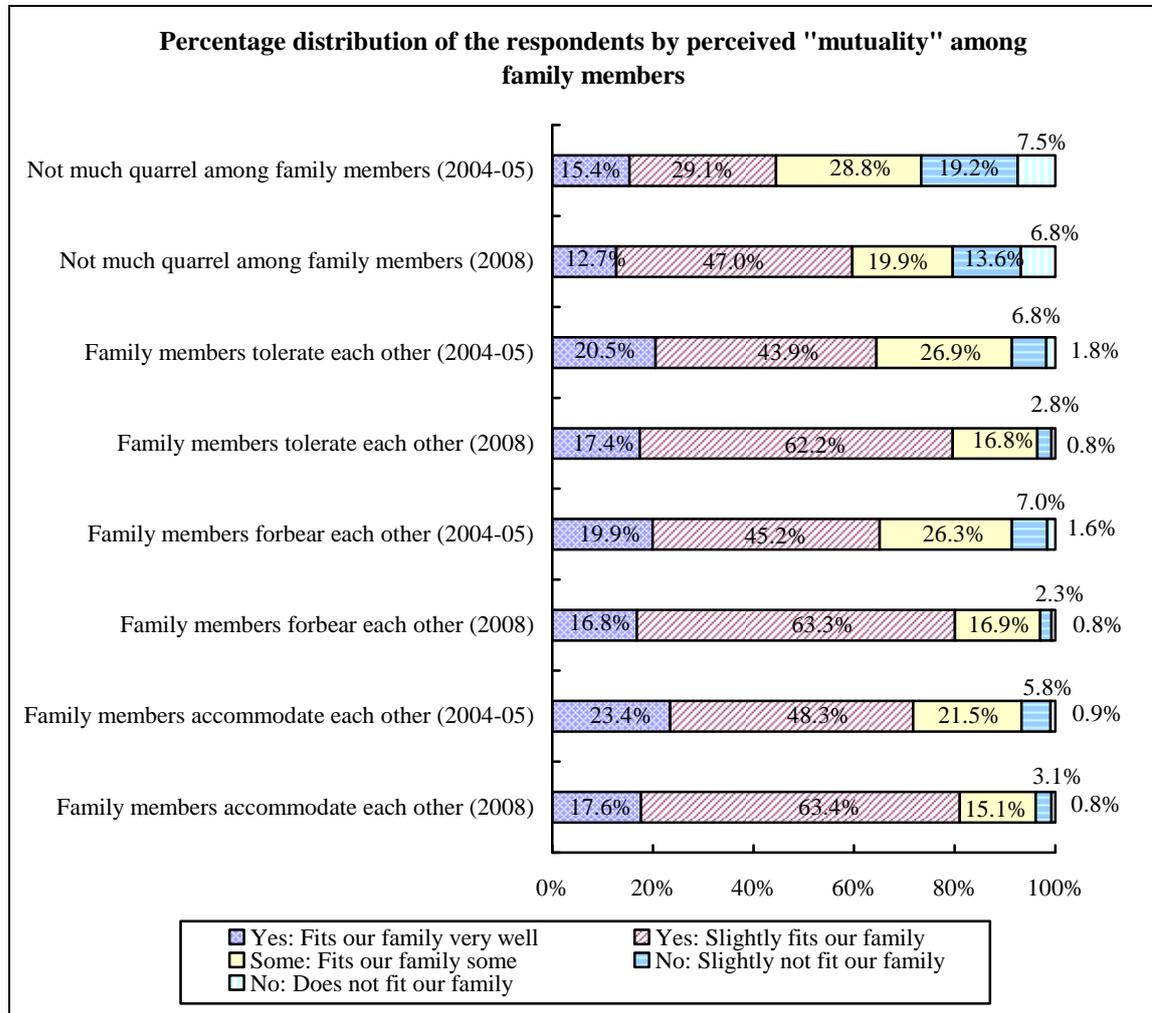
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q75-77]

6.4.5 In addition, more than half of respondents enjoyed getting together (69.9% in 2008 and 65.9% in 2004-05) and were of the view that there was not much barrier among family members (63.9% in 2008 and 63.6% in 2004-05).



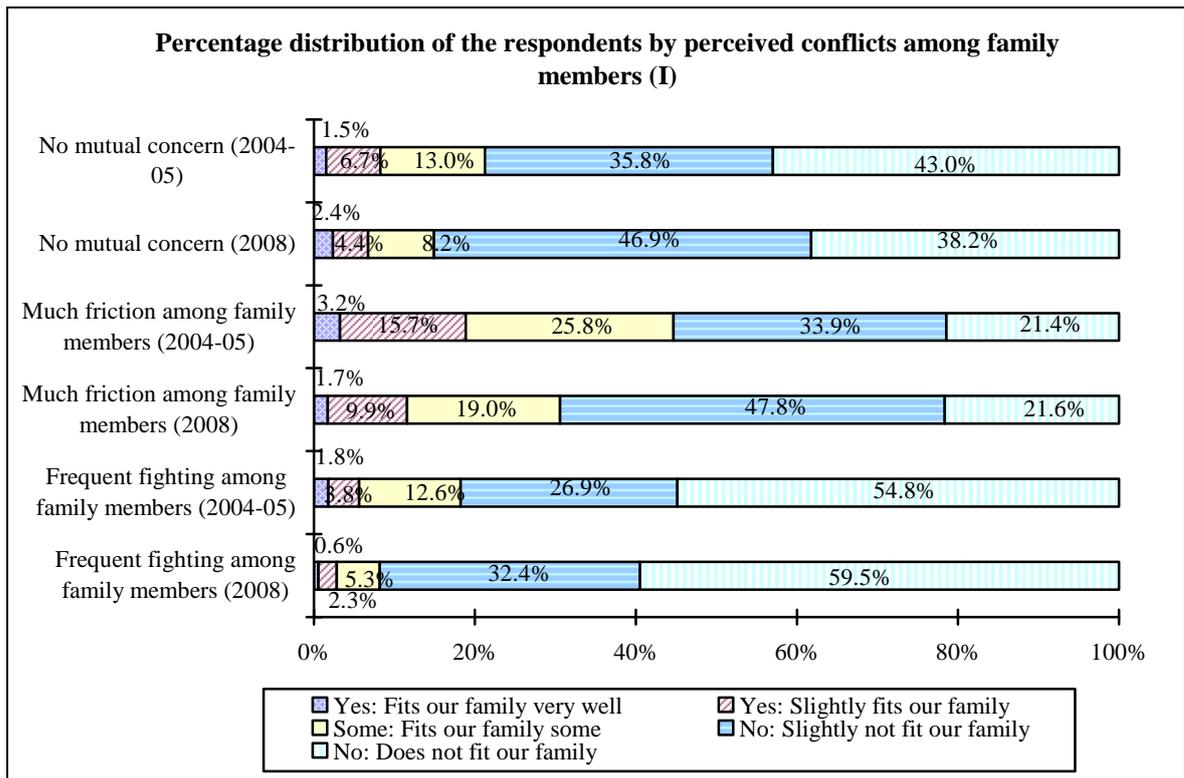
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q78-79]

6.4.6 More than half of the respondents indicated that family members were tolerant each other (79.6% in 2008 and 64.4% in 2004-05), forbore each other (80.1% in 2008 and 65.1% in 2004-05) and accommodated each other (81.0% in 2008 and 71.7% in 2004-05). About 59.7% in 2008 (44.5% in 2004-05) said that there was not much quarrel among family members.



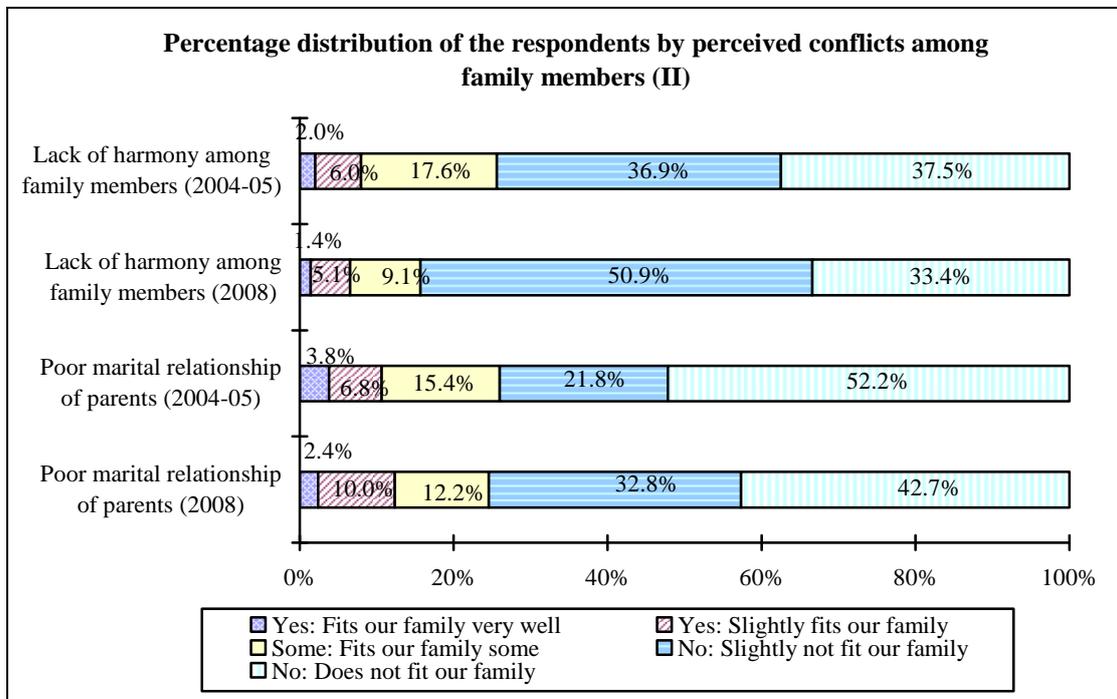
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q82, 86-88]

6.4.7 As regards conflicts among family members, only a small proportion of the respondents indicated that family members were no mutual concern (6.8% in 2008 and 8.2% in 2004-05), that there was frequent fighting among family members (2.8% in 2008 and 5.6% in 2004-05), that there was much friction among family members (11.6% in 2008 and 18.9% in 2004-05).



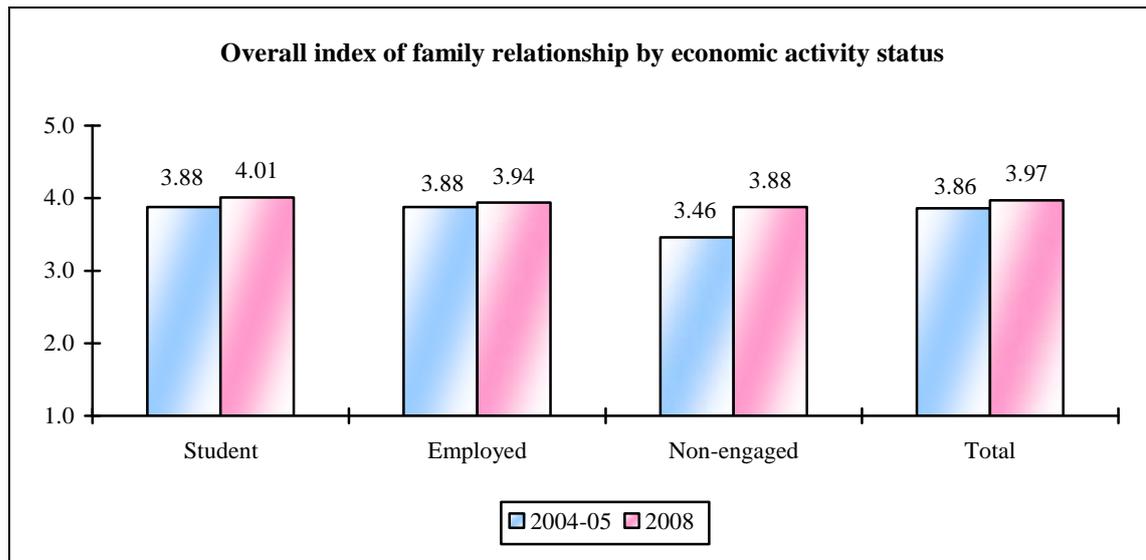
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q71, 80, 81]

6.4.8 Furthermore, only a small proportion of the respondents indicated that there was a lack of harmony among family members (6.5% in 2008 and 8.0% in 2004-05). Only 12.4% in 2008 (10.6% in 2004-05) said that the marital relationship between their parents was poor.

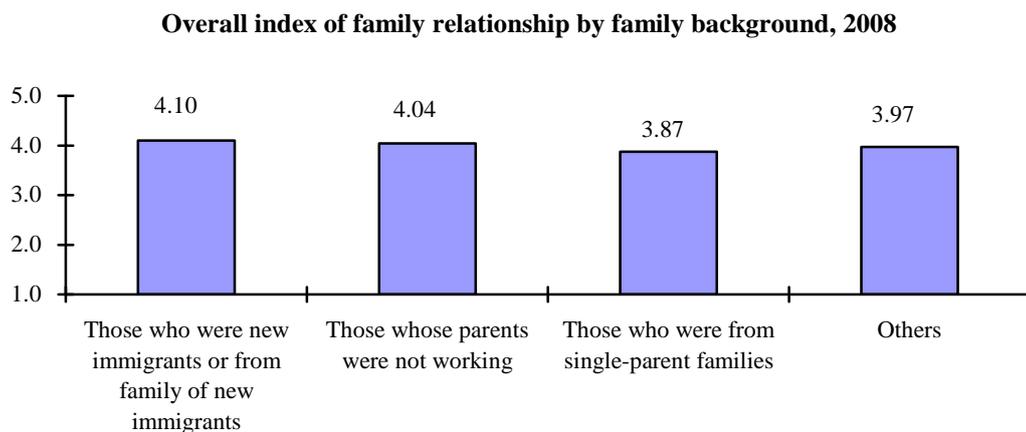


Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q84, 101]

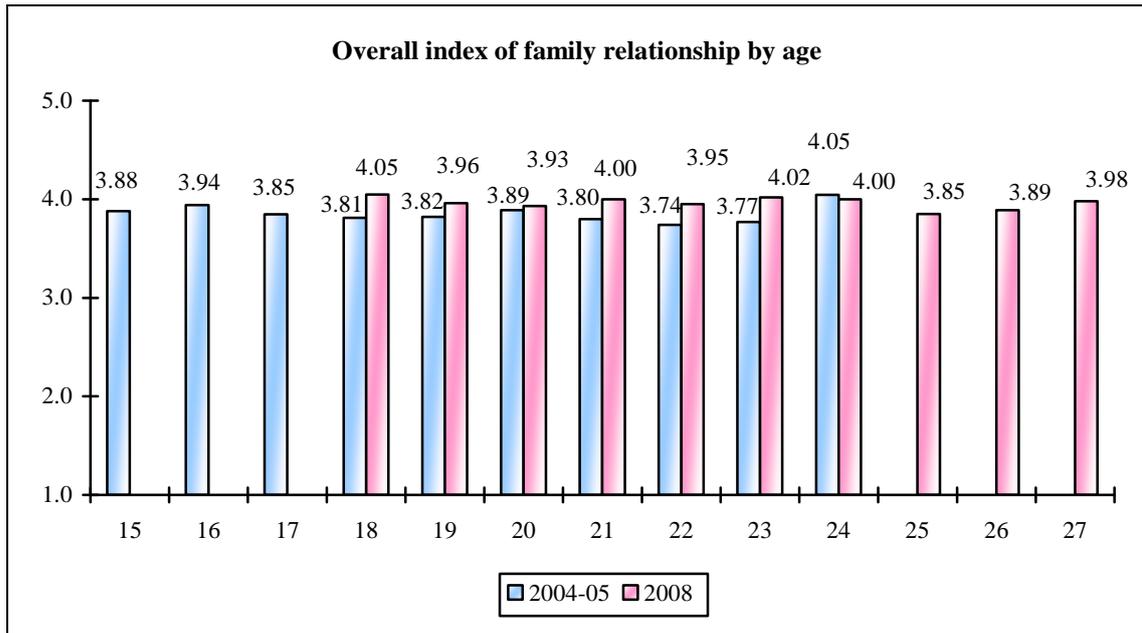
6.4.9 Expressed in a Likert scale of 5, an index of family relationship may be compiled from data obtained in the survey on the 22 items shown above. The index was 3.97 in 2008 (3.86 in 2004-05), in a Likert scale of 5, indicating that respondents' perception of their family relationship was quite good. The index was higher for students, at 4.01 in 2008 (3.88 in 2004-05) and non-engaged, at 3.88 in 2008 (3.46 in 2004-05). On the other hand, the index remained more or less the same for those who were employed, at 3.94 in 2008 (3.88 in 2004-05). Comparing the survey findings in 2008 and 2004-05, it may be noted that there was an improvement in family relationship over time and with age.



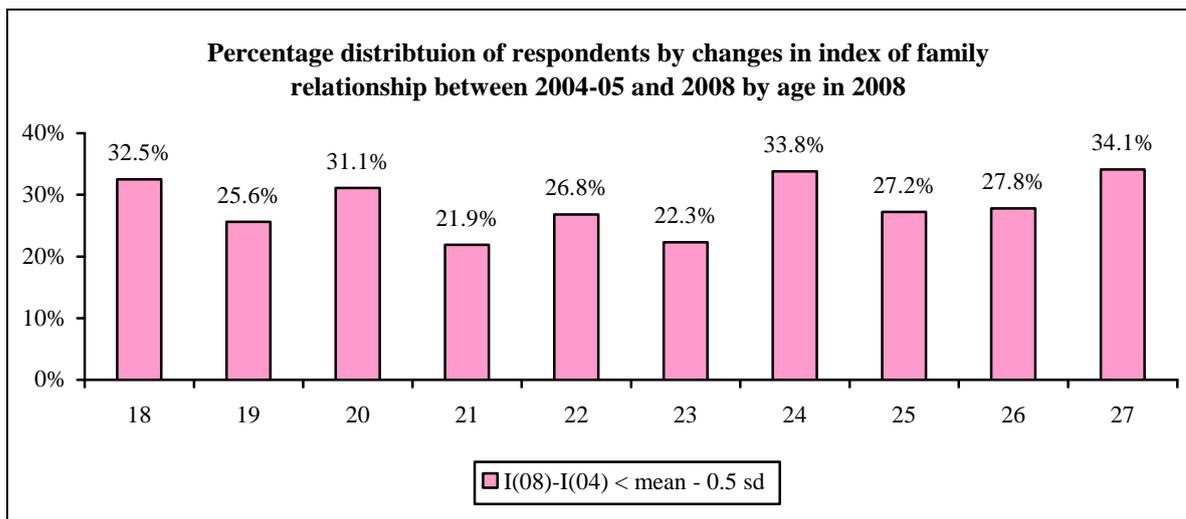
6.4.10 When analyzed by family background, in 2008, the index of family relationship was lower for those who were from single parent families (3.87). On the other hand, the index was higher for those who were new immigrants or from families of new immigrants (4.10).



6.4.11 When analyzed by age of the respondents, it may be seen from the chart below that the overall index of family relationship was relatively higher for those in the younger and older age groups in the age range of 18 – 27 for youth. The “double-dip” may also be observed from the chart below.



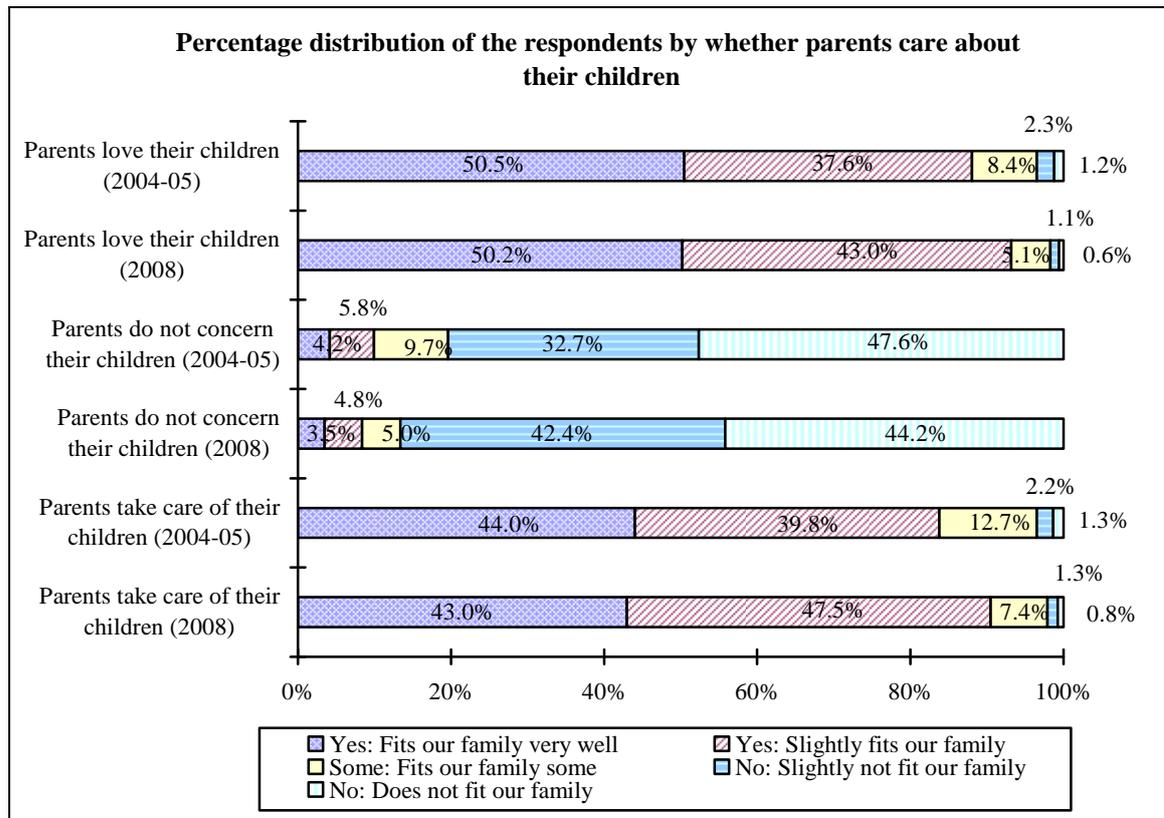
6.4.12 A closer analysis of the changes in the index of family relationship by age has been conducted. It may be seen from the chart below that for a higher proportion of respondents (31% to 33%) in the age groups of 15 and 17 in 2004-05, who would fall in the age groups of 18 and 20 in 2008, their index had declined by more than difference between the mean change and half of the standard deviation of change (or more than 0.3). The corresponding percentage was also higher for youth who were aged 21 and 24 in 2004-05 and aged 24 and 27 in 2008. In other words, for a higher proportion of youth in the age groups of 15, 17, 21 and 24, their index of family relationship is likely to decline as they get older.



**Parent-child relationship**

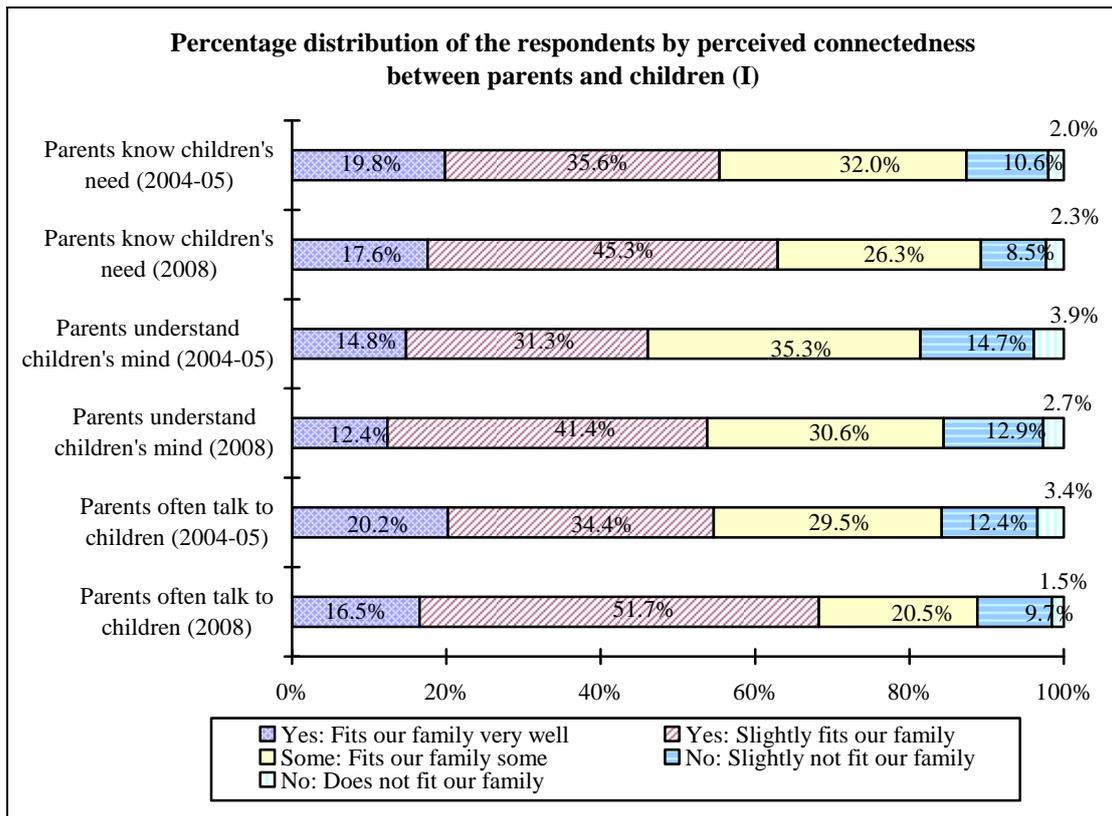
6.4.13 The majority of respondents considered that their parents loved their children (93.2% in 2008 and 88.1% in 2004-05) and took good care of their children (90.5% in

2008 and 83.8% in 2004-05). Only about 8.3% in 2008 (10.0% in 2004-05) said that their parents did not concern their children.



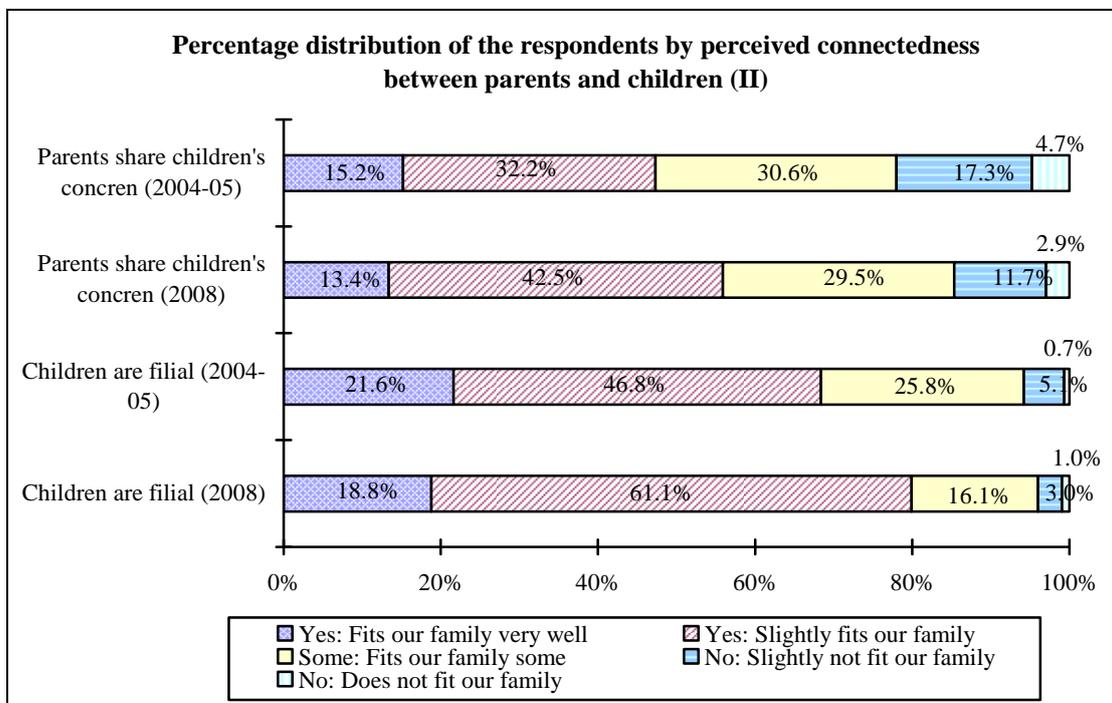
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q90-92]

6.4.14 As regards connectedness between parents and children, more than half of respondents considered that their parents knew children’s need (62.9% in 2008 and 55.4% in 2004-05) and often talked to children (68.2% in 2008 and 54.6% in 2004-05). Slightly more than half considered their parents understood children’s mind (53.8% in 2008 and 46.1% in 2004-05).



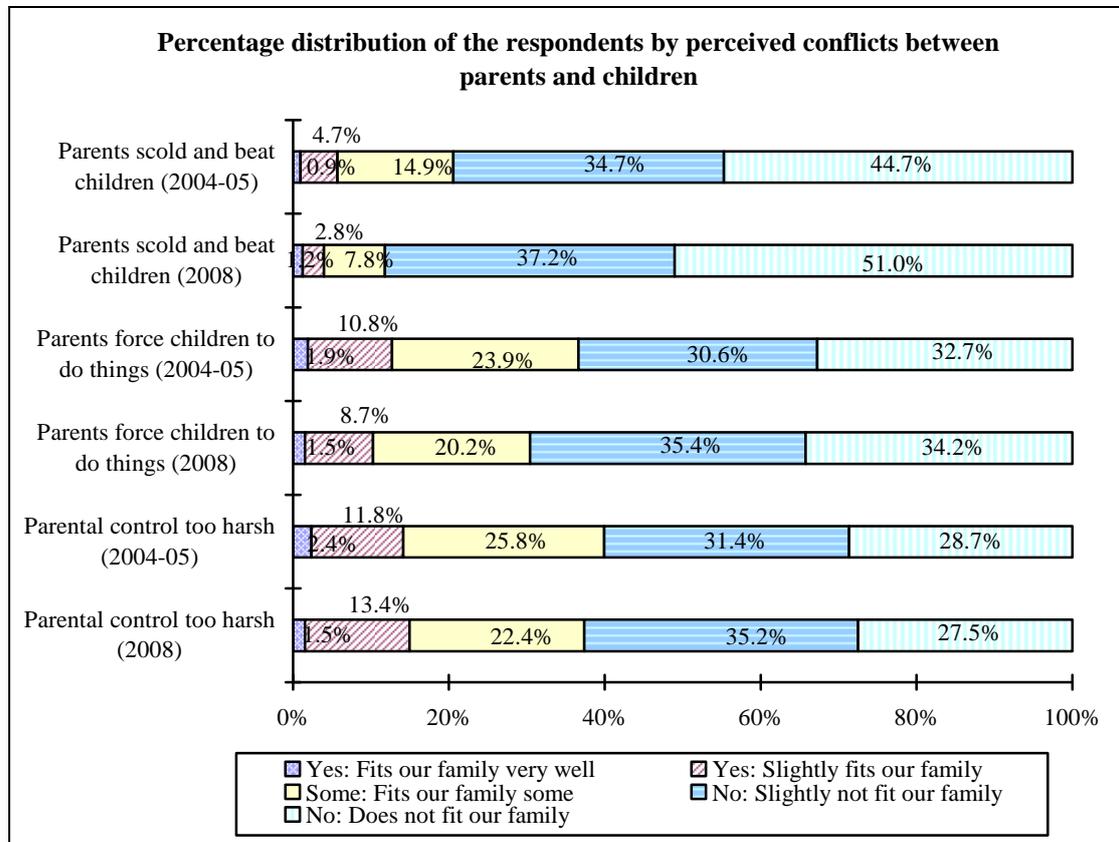
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q93-95]

6.4.15 Furthermore, slightly more than half considered their parents shared children's concern (55.9% in 2008 and 47.4% in 2004-05). The majority (79.9% in 2008 and 68.4% in 2004-05) of respondents indicated that children were filial.



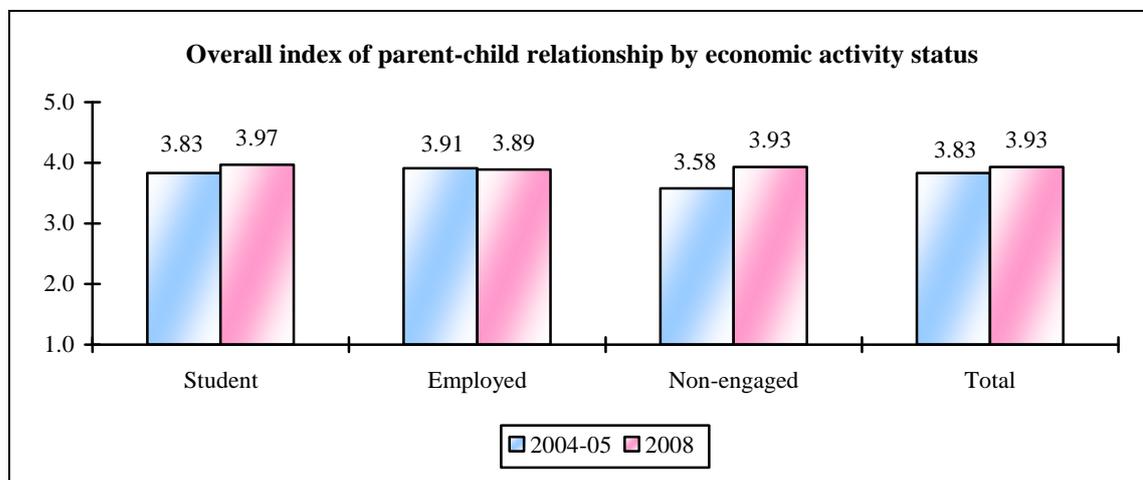
Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q96, 100]

6.4.16 As regards conflicts between parents and children, only a small proportion of the respondents indicated that their parents scolded and beat children (4.0% in 2008 and 5.6% in 2004-05), forced children to do things (10.2% in 2008 and 12.7% in 2004-05) and controlled too harsh (14.9% in 2008 and 14.2% in 2004-05).



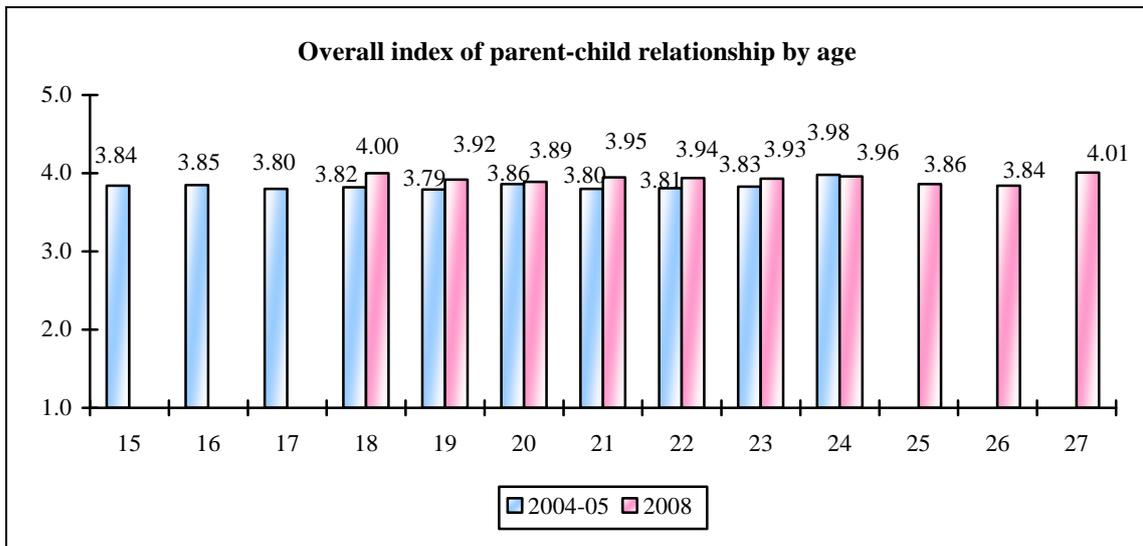
Base: All respondents (N=1054) [Ref: Q97-99]

6.4.17 An index of parent-child relationship may be compiled from data obtained in the survey on the 11 items shown above. The index was 3.93 in 2008 (3.83 in 2004-05), in a Likert scale of 5, indicating that respondents' perception of their parent-child relationship was quite good. The index was higher for students at 3.97 in 2008 (3.83 in 2004-05), and non-engaged at 3.93 in 2008 (3.58 in 2004-05) but remained more or less the same for employed at 3.89 in 2008 (3.91 in 2004-05).

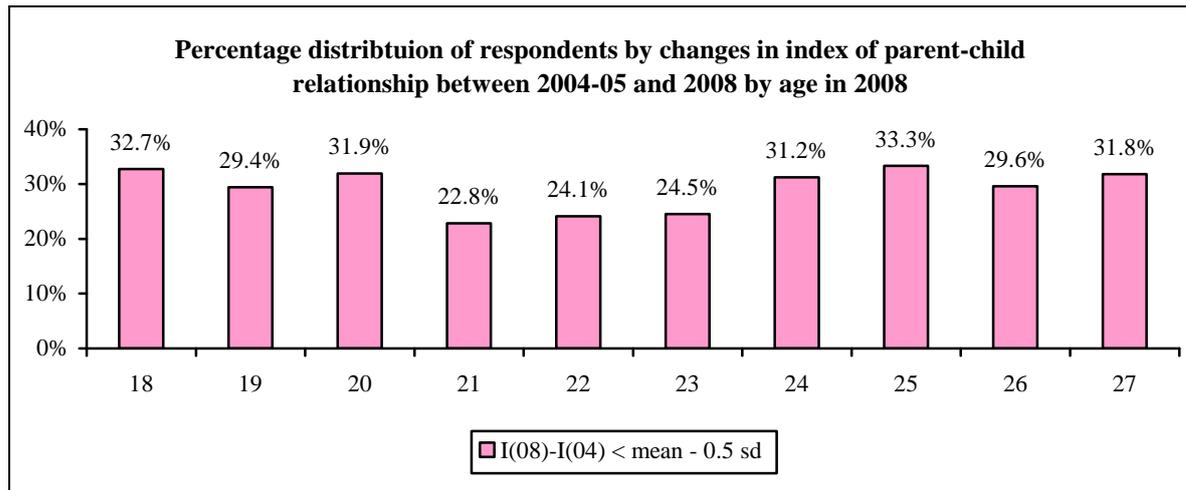


6.4.18 Comparing the figures of 2004-05 and 2008, it may be of interest to note that the index of parent-child relationship for respondents who were students has increased slightly and for those who were non-engaged increased significantly over time and with age. On the other hand, the index remained more or less the same for those who were employed.

6.4.19 When analyzed by age of the respondents, it may be seen from the chart below that the overall index of parent-child relationship was relatively higher for those in the younger and older age groups in the age range of 18 – 27 for youth. The “double-dip” pattern is also observed from the chart below.

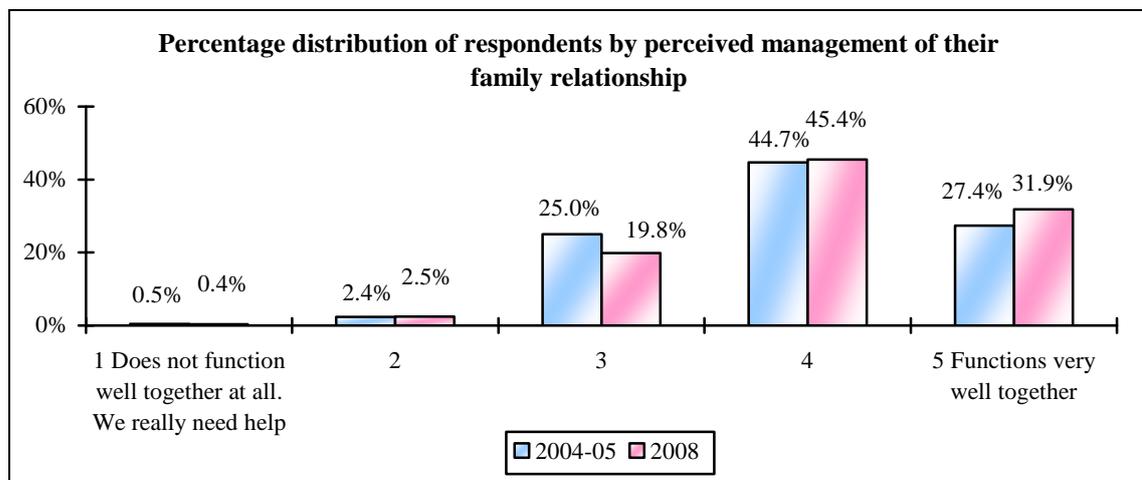


6.4.20 A closer analysis of the changes in the index of parent-child relationship by age has been conducted. It may be seen from the chart below that for a higher proportion of respondents (32% to 33%) in the age groups of 15 and 17 in 2004-05, who would fall in the age groups of 18 and 20 in 2008, their index had declined by more than difference between the mean change and half of the standard deviation of change (or more than 0.3). The corresponding percentage was also higher for youth who were aged 21 to 24 in 2004-05 and aged 24 to 27 in 2008. In other words, for a higher proportion of youth in the age groups of 15, 17 and 21 to 24, their index of parent-child relationship is likely to decline as they get older.



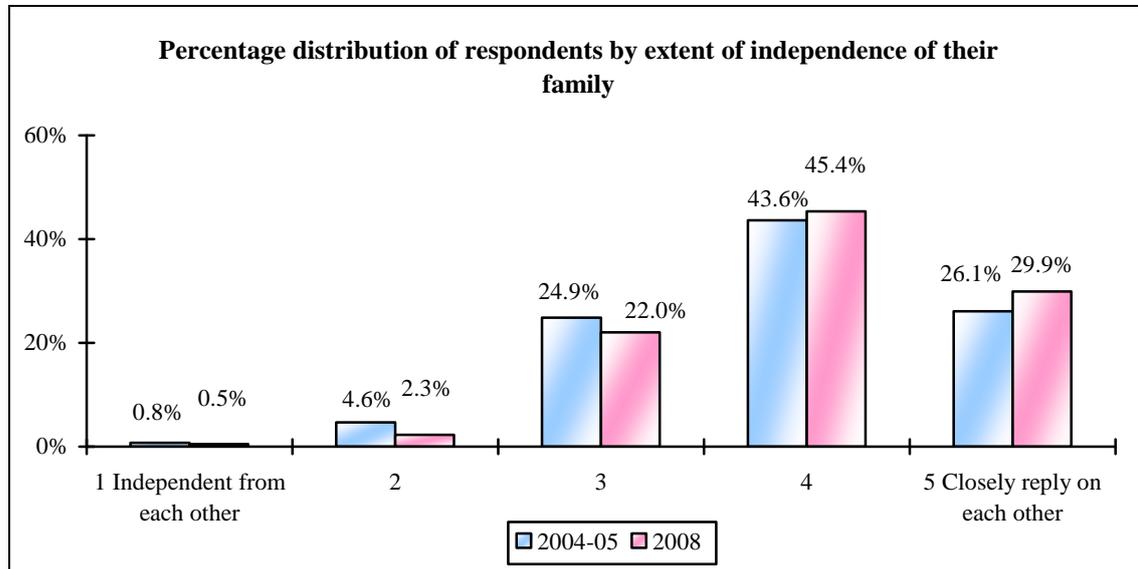
***Family functioning in general***

6.4.21 Respondents were asked in the survey to indicate their perceived management of relationship in their families, using a Likert scale of 5, with “5” indicating functioning very well together and “1” indicated not functioning well together and the respondents required help. The majority of the respondents 77.3% in 2008 (72.1% in 2004-05) gave a score of 5 or 4, indicating that they considered their family relationship functioning very well.



Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q102]

6.4.22 Respondents were also asked in the survey to indicate their perceived interdependence among family members, using a Likert scale of 5, with “5” indicating dependent and “1” indicating independent. The majority of the respondents 75.2% in 2008 (69.7% in 2004-05) gave a score of 5 or 4, indicating that they considered that there were close among family members.



Base: All respondents (N=1 054) [Ref: Q103]

## 6.5 Observations

### *Mental health status and self-esteem*

6.5.1 Two measures were used in the study to assess the respondents’ mental health status, namely the index of mental health and perception in life. As discussed above, the index for students, at 3.29 in 2008 (3.21 in 2004-05), employed, at 3.39 in 2008 (3.22 in 2004-05) and non-engaged, at 3.18 in 2008 (3.05 in 2004-05) increased over time and with age. As regards perception in life, the index for respondents who were students and non-engaged decreased slightly over time and with age, but increased slightly for those who were employed.

6.5.2 For self-esteem, the index for respondents who were employed increased slightly over time and with age, and remained more or less the same for those who were students and non-engaged.

### *Family functioning*

6.5.3 Comparing the survey findings in 2008 and 2004-05, it may be noted that there was an improvement in family relationship over time and with age. For parent-child relationship, it may be of interest to note that the index for respondents who were students has increased slightly and for those who were non-engaged increased significantly over time and with age. On the other hand, the index remained more or less the same for those who were employed.

## 7. Conclusion

7.1.1 The present longitudinal study is a follow-up to the first benchmark study - the Benchmark Study on Civic Engagement and Social Networks of Youth in Hong Kong (the Benchmark Study) - conducted in 2004-05. The Longitudinal Study helps track the changes in civic engagement, social networks and other related characteristics of youth, and identify related factors affecting their civic engagement and social networks.

7.1.2 Findings of this survey indicate that more than half of respondents in 2008 were either continued schooling (accounting for 46% of respondents) or working (18%). A further 27% left schools and became employed and about 1% of those previously employed resumed schooling. About 5% were non-engaged in 2008, little changed from the level in 2004-05. In other words, for this panel of respondents, the proportion of them who were non-engaged was apparently not affected by changes in economic conditions between 2004-05 and 2008.

7.1.3 What is also worth noting is that the proportion of youth aged 18 – 26 who were non-engaged in 2008 hovered at around 3.8% to 5.6%. This group is likely to be the non-engaged youth who were not helped by improved economic and employment conditions in 2008. They would probably remain non-engaged as they grew older. Apparently, it would be useful to find out from this group of non-engaged youth factors affecting their ability or willingness to seek job or continue school, with a view to exploring the types of training and employment services that could help them become engaged.

7.1.4 Moreover, as high as 10% of respondents were only employed in temporary or part-time jobs, or were previously unemployed in the 12 months prior to enumeration. Furthermore, in addition to 5% of respondents who were non-engaged, a further 2% were potential dropouts.

7.1.5 When analyzed by family backgrounds, it appears that those who were new immigrants or from families of new immigrants were less likely to be become non-engaged or to be working in temporary or part-time jobs or were previously unemployed in the 12 months prior to enumeration. On the other hand, those whose parents were not working or who were from single parent families were more likely to become potential dropouts or to be working in employed in temporary or part-time jobs or previously unemployed in the 12 months prior to enumeration.

7.1.6 In respect to civic engagement and social networks, the survey explored the network qualities, network structure and network transactions of the respondents. Regarding the network qualities which refer to the extent of social trust youths have on the community, the survey findings show that the strength of bonding social capital extended to family members, friends, classmates and neighbours has increased over time and possibly with age. Similar to the findings for 2004-05, a “double dip” pattern may also be observed for findings in 2008, with the index of trust in people lower in the 20 – 21 and 25 - 26 age groups. It seems that the double-dip phenomenon follows the cohort of youth as they get older.

7.1.7 The percentage of respondents totally trusted or quite trusted various institutions in Hong Kong, apart from the local mass media, was higher in 2008. In other words, the survey findings indicate that the strength of linking social capital extended to institutions in Hong Kong has increased over time and possibly with age. The index of trust in institutions has increased over time and possibly with age. In short, what may be observed from the survey findings is that network qualities of respondents have increased in 2008, as compared with 2004-05. Similar to findings for 2004-05, a “double dip” pattern may also be observed from the chart, with the index of trust in institutions lower for those aged 24 - 26. It seems that the double-dip phenomenon follows the cohort of youth as they get older.

7.1.8 The double-dip phenomenon revealed in the 2004-05 data follows the cohort of youth as they get older, the social trust of a higher proportion of youth in the age range of 15 to 18 and 21 to 23 is likely to decline as they grow older. To a certain extent, this confirms the earlier observations that as youth faces key transitions in their life from studying to employment, or as their schooling and working environments, their trust in people and institutions would be adversely affected, as these are the ages during which a higher proportion of youth would face critical life choices over further studying versus finding employment, or as they progress from secondary education to other forms of technical or post-secondary education.

7.1.9 Regarding the network structure which encompasses namely associational involvement, diversity of friendship and informal socializing, the survey findings appear that associational involvement and the extent of informal socializing have declined over time and with age by comparing survey findings in 2008 with 2004-05. While the extent of informal socializing for respondents on weekly basis for students slightly declined from 83.3% in 2004-05 to 81.8% in 2008 but for non-engaged youths, the extent increased from 50.0% in 2004-05 to 57.1% in 2008. Similar to the findings in 2004-05, the “double-dip” pattern was also observed in 2008 for diversity of friendship.

7.1.10 On the other hand, apart from ex-prisoners and drug addicts, the proportion of youth willing to make friends with people of different backgrounds has increased over time and with age. In other words, the extent of diversity of friendship for those who were students has increased slightly over time and with age.

7.1.11 Regarding the network transactions which encompass four areas of civic engagement and social networks, including conventional politics, civic rallies, giving and volunteering and faith-based engagement, it is worth noting from the survey findings that the extent of informal socializing, participation in conventional politics and civic rallies, participation in volunteering and donation for respondents who were students and employed has declined over time and with age. On the other hand, the extent of informal socializing for respondents who were non-engaged has increased over time and with age.

7.1.12 Furthermore, the index of attitude towards volunteering for respondents who were employed has declined over time and with age. On the other hand, the index of attitude towards volunteering for respondents who were non-engaged has increased over time and with age. Similar to the findings in 2004-05, the “double-dip” pattern was also observed in 2008 for index of attitude towards volunteering.

7.1.13 In addition, the extent of faith based engagement has declined over time and with age.

7.1.14 As a variety of services targeted at youths are organized by different community organizations and government departments, use of services and social support network help the youth enhance their civic engagement and raise their social capital. The proportion of respondents who had used community services has decreased over time and with age. Similar to the findings in 2004-05, a “double-dip” pattern was also observed for the 2008 findings. Apparently, the pattern follows the cohort of youth as they grow older.

7.1.15 For respondents who were employed, the proportion of them who had used employment services or training programmes provided by government departments has decreased over time and with age. On the other hand, for those who were students and non-engaged, the proportion of respondents having used employment services or training programmes provided by government departments community services has increased over time and with age.

7.1.16 The study findings also show that use of community services has a positive impact of the social trust of youth, though participation in employment or training programmes does not seem to have such an impact. As remarked by several social workers interviewed, the present approach adopted by government is largely problem-based, with specific services mounted to help tackle problems of youth which catch the attention of the community and policy-makers. While such approach may be effective, at least over the short run, in helping youth at risk, they are not meant as preventive measures for the personal development of youth who are not yet at risk. There may be a need to place more emphasis on promoting community services to youth in general, packaging such activities in a format attractive to youth in general.

7.1.17 For social support network, the majority of respondents would seek help from their parents or family members to help solve their financial problems. Nevertheless, it is of interest to note that the proportion of respondents who would seek help to solve their financial and emotional problems from parents, brothers or sisters has decreased over time and with age. On the other hand, the majority of respondents would seek help from their good friends to solve their emotional problems. Furthermore, the proportion of respondents who would seek help to solve their financial and emotional problems from good friends has increased over time and with age.

7.1.18 Furthermore, while the index of availability of help remained more or less the same between 2004-05 and 2008, the index of rendering helping has decreased over time and with age. In addition, the extent of contacts with neighbours has decreased over time and with age. In other words, there are signs that the social support network of respondents has worsened in 2008, as compared with that in 2004-05.

7.1.19 When analyzed by age, it is of interest to note that for a higher proportion of youth in the age groups of 19 and 23 in 2004-05 (22 and 26 in 2008), their index of availability of help or support is likely to decline as they get older. This is probably the time when youth entering key transition stages as they progress from secondary education to post-secondary or other forms of technical or vocational education, or as they leave school and enter the world of work. These are also stages at which, as discussed above, other indicators of youth's civic engagement are also undergoing significant changes. Similar to the findings for 2004-05, the "double-dip" pattern was also observed for the 2008 data. Apparently, the pattern follows the cohort of youth as they grow older.

7.1.20 Since social capital has an impact, positive or negative, on the personal well-being of individuals, including mental health and family functioning, or vice versa. In the survey,

information on personal well-being including mental health, self-esteem and family functioning was collected.

7.1.21 Two measures were used in the study to assess the respondents' mental health status, namely the index of mental health and perception in life. The index of mental health has increased over time and with age. Comparing the survey findings in 2008 and 2004-05, it may be worth noting that the index for students, at 3.29 in 2008 (3.21 in 2004-05), employed, at 3.39 in 2008 (3.22 in 2004-05) and non-engaged, at 3.18 in 2008 (3.05 in 2004-05) increased over time and with age. The "double-dip" pattern may be observed. Apparently, the pattern follows the cohort of youth as they grow older.

7.1.22 As regards perception in life, the index for respondents who were students and non-engaged decreased slightly over time and with age, but increased slightly for those who were employed.

7.1.23 For self-esteem, the index for respondents who were employed increased slightly over time and with age, and remained more or less the same for those who were students and non-engaged.

7.1.24 Comparing the survey findings in 2008 and 2004-05 in respect to family functioning, it may be noted that there was an improvement in family relationship over time and with age. For parent-child relationship, it may be of interest to note that the index for respondents who were students has increased slightly and for those who were non-engaged increased significantly over time and with age. On the other hand, the index remained more or less the same for those who were employed.