



## **Press Release**

**(For immediate release)**

**16 May 2011**

### **The Law Society of Hong Kong Concerns Ethical Standards and Prosocial Behavior of Young People**

The Law Society of Hong Kong successfully held its project ‘Teen Talk’ for the first time in 2010, attracting more than 1,400 students to participate in a whole-day discussion of topics on societal and personal values. For a better understanding of young people’s views and opinions on personal and social values, The Law Society of Hong Kong in collaboration with The Hong Kong Polytechnic University has conducted a survey of students who participated in last year’s “Teen Talk”. 523 completed questionnaires were received.

The Law Society of Hong Kong and The Hong Kong Polytechnic University announced the survey findings today (16 May 2011). The survey examined young people’s moral standard, values, and pro-social behavior, as well as to identify the factors linked to the development of their prosocial behaviour characteristics. The survey findings revealed that the respondents think that the moral standard of young people is low (29%) or not high not low (40%). Over half (56%) of them think that the moral standard of young people is declining and are not interested in offering help to others or volunteering (prosocial behaviour).

The respondents of survey are Secondary 4 to Secondary 6 students from 32 different schools. The majority (69%) is female, and most (96.1%) are aged 15-18. The students who took part in the survey (as well as in the Teen Talk) were those with relatively good academic achievement and better conduct at school, and many of them also have greater interest in current issues.

Most participating students thought their own moral standard is not high and at the same time declining. 98.3% of them agree that one ‘should not break the law’, an 66.8% think ‘hard-working is the key to success’. On the other hand, 31.8% thought that ‘they can obtain happiness using money’ and 63.8% expected that ‘they would be

worried about money'; 48.2% anticipated that "they will be forced to follow what others do (morally) in order to prevent being rejected". 18.9% agreed that 'as long as the ways being used to make money do not cause any harm to others; it does not matter whether it is legal or illegal.'

President of the Hong Kong Law Society, Huen Wong believes Law Society could help to increase young people's knowledge about law and enhance a positive attitude toward law-abiding. In the Press Conference today, he said: "It is important for young people to acquire knowledge in school, but they must not ignore the importance of moral standards. Legal boundaries of social behavior serve as the baseline for ethical standards. Legal and ethical standards are closely related, and we believe that we could strengthen the legal awareness of young people, we could also help to raise their ethical standards.'

He continued: "The results of the survey shows the "Teen Talk' can impart legal knowledge to the younger generation, and address the importance of ethical standards and attitude toward law-abiding. The Law Society is now planning to hold 'Teen Talk' again in the coming November in order to further increase young people's legal knowledge.

Students who participate in the survey generally had very few anti-social behaviors and most of them agree strongly with pro-social norms. However, they did not seem to put their values in prosocial actions of offering help or volunteering. In the past year, the most frequent prosocial behavior was 'helping with household chores" (Median of 7-8 times), donating money (5-6 times), helping classmates with homework (3-4 times). The respondents seldom participated in volunteer work or contribute to the school (1-2 times). Young people who have more helping and prosocial behavior, are likely to have high empathy, are mature in their moral reasoning, and have high identification with prosocial norms (helping others and contribute to society), and tend to disagree with pragmatic values. The education level of their parents also tends to be high.

Professor Daniel Shek, Chair Professor of Applied Social Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University points out: "When we are pragmatic and mainly focus on our own interests, it will be difficult to understand the needs of others and the value of prosocial behavior and sacrifice for the society."

Young people's ethics and values largely reflect the prevailing societal standards. This study found that young people believed that their own ethical standard is not high and it is declining. They identified strongly with pragmatic values and are not too keen

about helping others or volunteering. It is likely that they could quickly ‘adapt’ their ethical standards and decisions in view of social pressure and incentives.

Dr. Andrew Siu, the principal investigator of the survey, said there is a need to re-examine the priorities we put on life education and the cultivation of prosocial behavior. To cultivate young people's ethical standards and prosocial behaviour, parents, teachers, and other institutions could help to promote empathy and moral reasoning in young people, guide them to identify with prosocial norms, and increase their the awareness and understanding of the law.

“Teen Talk” was firstly introduced by the Law Society of Hong Kong last year. Over 1,400 Form 4 or above students from HK Island, Kowloon and New Territories had participated in the event. They discussed topics on societal and personal values under the guidance of over 200 solicitors and professionals. The Law Society of Hong Kong hopes to arouse secondary school students’ concerns on the society and to increase their debate and presentation ability.

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#### **About the Law Society of Hong Kong**

The Law Society of Hong Kong is a professional body of solicitors in Hong Kong vested with the statutory powers to regulate the professional conduct of solicitors. It establishes and promotes professional standards and the solicitors' code of conduct and practice and ensures its compliance. The Law Society assists its members to promote Hong Kong legal services and offers its views from time to time on legal issues that are of public concern. For more information, please visit: [www.hklawsoc.org.hk](http://www.hklawsoc.org.hk)

# 青少年的道德水平與公德

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## 簡介

- 香港的家教及教育都十分重視學業成績，「品學兼優」就是錦上添花
- 反映我們對德育的注重不足？
- 過去有不少有關年青人反社會行為的研究，如偏差行為、吸毒、自殺等
- 較少有關品德及公德的研究，如怎樣培育助人、義務工作、捐助、隊工等行為

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## 簡介

- 年青人的道德水平及公德，是個人及社會發展的重要指標之一，反映年青一代是否願意為家庭、社群或社會作出貢獻
- 有研究顯示，公德（親社會）行為較多的學生，通常學業成績及社交能力較好、生活滿足感較高

## 研究目標

香港的年青人：

- 是否願意奉公守法？是否樂於助人？
- 認為自己的道德水平如何？是正在上升還是正在下降？
- 是否很「實際」？對實用主義的看法如何
- 什麼個人及社會因素影響年青人的（如個人的同理心、道德推論的成熟程度、家庭背景及教育等）

## 研究對象

- 超過1000位TEEN TALK參加者
- 由學校推薦或通過學校報名參與
- TEEN TALK每年由香港律師會主辦，律師會的義工會引導學生用一整天討論社會關注的議題
- 學校較多挑選學業成績較好、品德較好、對時事議題較有興趣的同學參加
- 截至4月15日，收回523有效問卷

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## 參加者

- 參加者來自32間中學，中四至中六的學生
- 163 (30.6%) 男，363 (69%) 女
- 年齡：平均16.2歲 (SD = 1.1)，大部分介乎15至18歲 (96.1%)
- 大部分是獨生子女 (72.2%)，24%有一個兄弟姊妹
- 76%在香港出生，23%在內地出生
- 只有小部分(7.2%)家庭正接受綜援

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## 參加者

- 參加者的反社會（違規）行為偏低
- 過去一年只有**1至2次**（中位數）括：
  - 學習及功課有關：
    - 不交功課、抄襲他人功課、上課時偷看其他讀物 (例如: 連環圖、小說)、說粗言穢語
  - 與父母相處：
    - 不聽父母的話、當面抗拒父母的命令、說謊欺騙父母

## 問卷調查

- 共**219題**，分**6部分**：
  1. 青少年正面發展問題 (Shek, Siu, & Lee, 2005)
  2. 青少年行為問卷 (Ma, 2006)
  3. 親社會道德推論測驗 (Carlo, 1992)
  4. 同理心指數 (Siu & Shek, 2005)
  5. 實用主義價值觀問卷 (香港青年協會, 2000), 青少年與性研究報告 (香港家計會, 2006)
  6. 個人及家庭背景資料

# 年青人的 道德水平與實用主義

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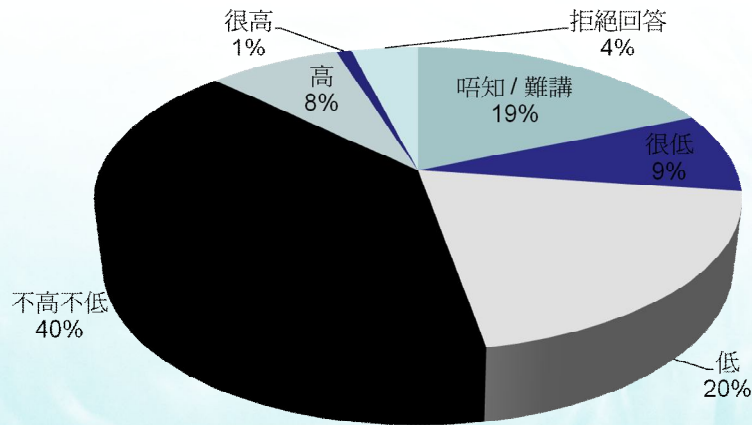
## 道德水平

- 參加者較多認為年青人的道德水平是
  - 不高不低（40%）
  - 低或很低（29%）
- 超過一半（56%）認為道德水平正在下降
- 樣本的反社會行為很少，但親社會行為亦不算多

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# 你覺得香港年青人道德水平 係高抑或低呢？

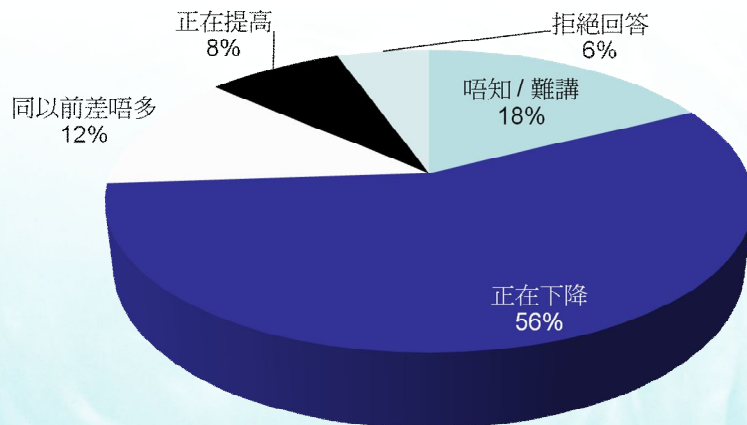


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# 你覺得香港年青人道德水平 係高抑或低呢？



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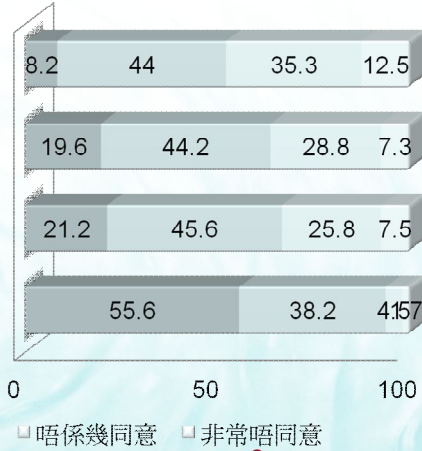
## 實用主義價值觀 (較同意項目)

為避免被排擠，做人難免要隨波逐流

生活上好多煩惱都同錢有關

一個人只要肯挨苦，就一定會成功

市民係應該奉公守法



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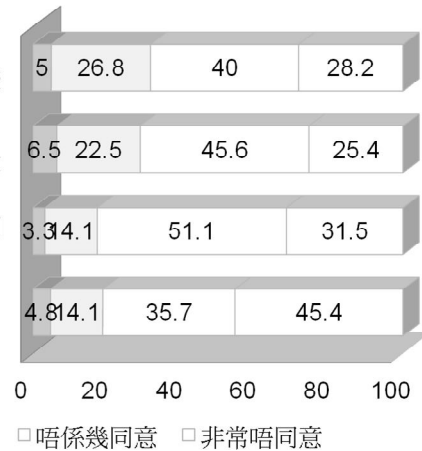
## 實用主義價值觀 (較不同意項目)

錢可以買到快樂

而家呢個社會，忠忠直直終需乞食

而家呢個社會，做人係應該事不關己，己不勞心

只要唔係傷天害理，任何搵錢方法，唔理合唔合法都可以用



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## 實用主義

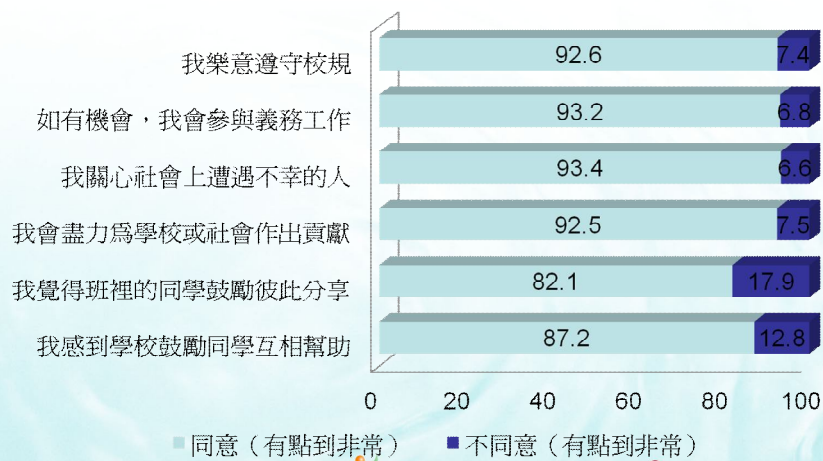
- 93.8%認為必須奉公守法，不可不擇手段 (81.1%)
- 82.6%不認同「事不關己，己不勞心」
- 66.8%認為成功須苦幹
- 63.8%預期會因為錢而煩惱
- 48.2%預期自己會因實際情況而隨波逐流
- 31.8%認為錢能買到快樂
- 18.9%認為只要唔係傷天害理，任何搵錢方法，唔理合唔合法都可以用

## 道德與「實際」

- 年青人普遍認為（自己）的道德水平不算高，亦有下降趨勢
- 高中學生已十分「實際」
  - 看錢十分重要，會因為有錢有錢而快樂或煩惱
  - 一半人認為自己會為免被排擠而隨波逐流
  - 有18.9%認同「只要唔係傷天害理，任何搵錢方法，唔理合唔合法都可以用」
- 這是反映年青人所學會的社會價值觀、生存之道？

# 公德與親社會行爲

## 對親社會規範的認同



## 公德及親社會行爲

行爲	過去一年曾 做次數 (中位數)
幫忙做家务 (例如: 煮飯、洗碗、掃地)	7 – 8
捐款給慈善團體 (包括賣旗)	5 – 6
原諒別人做了對不起你的事	3 – 4
做錯事後向人道歉	3 – 4
幫同學溫習功課	3 – 4

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## 公德及親社會行爲

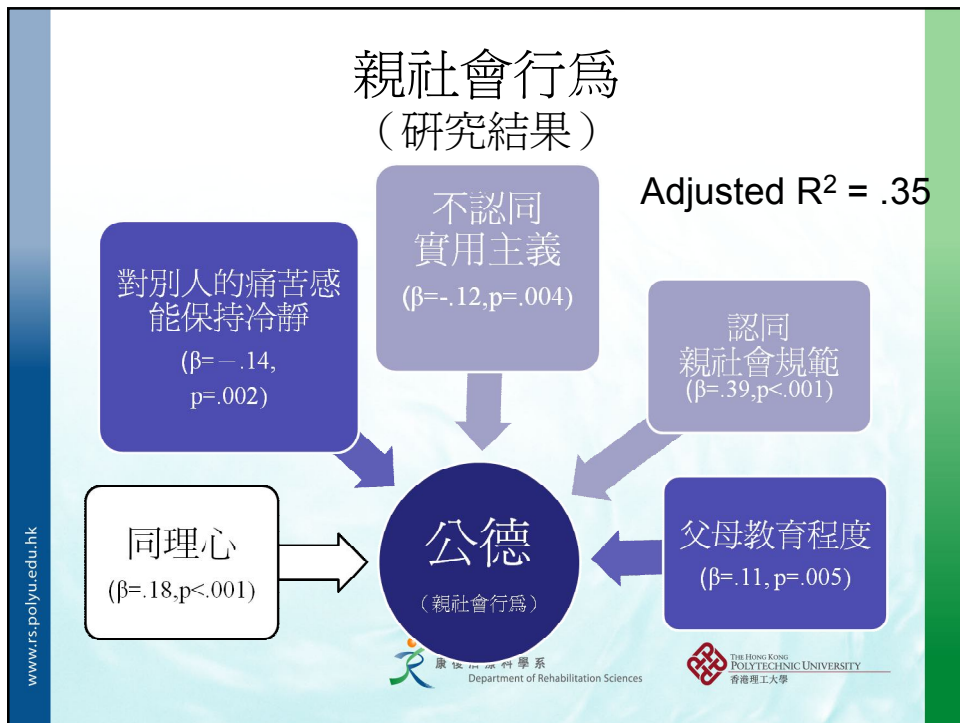
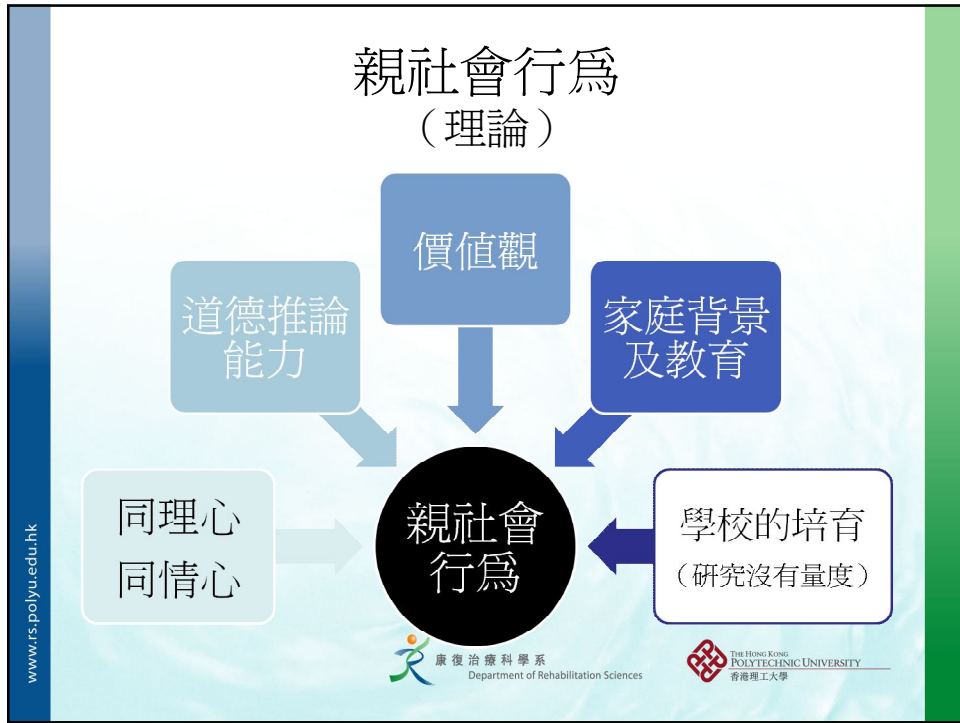
行爲	過去一年曾 做次數 (中位數)
乘坐交通工具時讓座給老弱婦孺	3 – 4
送禮物給父母; 做義務工作 (義工); 參加慈善機構籌款運動; 代表學校參加公開比賽; 在任何一科考試或測驗得滿分或全班最高分; 在學校表現良好而被老師或校長讚賞	1 – 2

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# 公德

- 參與本研究的年青人一般較少違規行爲，但親社會行爲（公德）亦不算多
- 過去一年，最多是協助做家務7–8次、捐款5–6次、幫同學溫習功課幾（3–4）次，較少參與義務工作
- 高中生的親社會行由14至17歲都一直增加，到18歲後卻有回落跡象

## 發展因素 公德（親社會行爲）



## 親社會行爲

- 親社會行爲較高的年青人：
  - 同理心(Empathy)較高
  - 對別人的痛苦感到苦惱(Personal distress)較低  
(或能保持冷靜)
  - 較認同親各種社會規範(Prosocial norms)
  - 較不認同實用主義(Pragmatic values)
  - 父母的教育程度較高
  - 道德推論(Prosocial moral reasoning)較成熟

## 結論

- 年青人普遍認為（自己）的道德水平不算高，亦有下降趨勢
- 高中學生基本上認同要奉公守法、要勤勞才可成功，另一方面已十分「實際」，會因為有錢有錢而快樂或煩惱、會隨波逐流
- 較擔心的是不少認同「只要唔係傷天害理，任何搵錢方法，唔理合唔合法都可以用」



## 結論

- 參加的同學普遍較少違規行爲，但對公德並不熱衷，對助人、義務工作的參與並不高
- 這就是年青人所學會的社會價值觀、生存之道
- 我們的家教及教育有幾多重視品德的培養，鼓勵年青人的公德行爲？
- 要培養品德及公德，可從小注重同理心、道德推論的能力及對親社會規範的認同