

# Chapter 8

## Values



## 8.1 Attitude Towards Values in Life .....

**Table 8.1: Attitude Towards Values in Life (2004)**

Statement	Absolutely Agree	Agree to a Certain Extent	Disagree to a Certain Extent	Absolutely Disagree	No Opinion/ Don't Know	Decline to Answer	Mean
One must set goals in life before one can achieve anything.	57.2%	36.5%	3.4%	1.4%	1.1%	0.4%	1.5
Life is full of hopes.	37.7%	50.5%	5.9%	2.9%	2.9%	0.1%	1.7
I have set up goals for my studies/career.	32.1%	41.3%	15.4%	4.3%	5.9%	1%	1.9
Only an affluent life is meaningful.	6.1%	19.2%	46.2%	23.1%	4.8%	0.6%	2.9
I am enjoying a full and rich life at the moment.	32.2%	45.7%	16.2%	2.9%	2.6%	0.4%	1.9

Source: Sheng Kung Hui Macao Macao Social Service Centre, 2004, p.15.

*Note: (1) The mean is calculated by assigning different weights to the following: absolutely agree (1), agree to a certain extent (2), disagree to a certain extent (3), absolutely disagree (4). The total of the four items is then divided by 4. As such, the lower the average, the higher tendency to agree absolutely.*

The young people in Macao have positive attitude towards life. 93.7% of the respondents agree to the statement: “One must set goals in life before one can achieve anything”; whilst 88.2% agree that “Life is full of hopes”. The respective mean are 1.5 and 1.7. More than 70% agree to the other two statements: “I have set up goals for my studies/career”; and “I am enjoying a full and rich life at the moment”. 69.3% do not agree to the statement: “Only an affluent life is meaningful”, with the mean close to 3, indicating that the quality of life does not affect the respondents’ attitude towards the values in life. (Sheng Kung Hui Macao Social Service Centre, 2004, p.15)

## 8.2 Family Values .....

**Table 8.2: Attitude Towards Family Values (2004)**

Statement	Absolutely Agree	Agree to a Certain Extent	Disagree to a Certain Extent	Absolutely Disagree	No Opinion/ Don't Know	Decline to Answer	Mean
Siblings in a family can support one another.	41.8%	37.2%	11.2%	5.3%	3.5%	1%	1.8
Parents will help you out when you have problems.	34.1%	39.3%	18.3%	5.4%	2.6%	0.3%	1.9
Family matters more than anything else.	44.6%	42.6%	8%	2.2%	2.2%	0.4%	1.7
The thinking that "man should work to support the family while the woman should stay home and attend to household affairs" is correct.	4%	11.9%	37.5%	36.9%	8.8%	0.9%	3.2
Living with parents is a show of piety.	23.9%	42.1%	20.4%	6.3%	7.1%	0.2%	2.1
Every family member has his/her important role to play.	53.5%	38.9%	3.8%	2.6%	1.2%	0%	1.5
Single-parent families affect the development of their children.	31.4%	37.3%	17%	8.2%	5.1%	1%	2.0

Source: Sheng Kung Hui Macao Social Service Centre, 2004, p.15.

*Note: (1) The mean calculated by assigning different weights to the following: absolutely agree (1), agree to a certain extent (2), disagree to a certain extent (3), absolutely disagree (4). The total of the four items is then divided by 4. As such, the lower the average, the higher tendency to agree absolutely.*

Most respondents tend to agree to positive family values, with a mean of less than 2, showing that they have high regards for the family. Close to 80% agree that "siblings in a family can support one another", and 73.4% think "parents will help them out when they have problems". The results of these two statements indicate family members can be great supporters to the respondents. 87.2% agree that "family matters more than anything else", and more than 90% agree that "every family member has an important role to play in the family". The mean for this statement is 1.5 only, indicating a high percentage of young people agree to this. The mean values for the two statements: "living with parents is a show of piety"; and "single-parent families affect the development of their children" are both about 2, with over 60% concurring. (Sheng Kung Hui Macao Social Service Centre, 2004, p.14)

The only statement that most respondents tend to disagree is: "the thinking that 'man should work to support the family while the woman should stay home and attend to household affairs' is correct". The average value is 3.2; 15.9% of the respondents either agree to a certain extent or absolutely agree. This reflects that most young people feel that the role in the workplace should not be determined simply based on gender. (Sheng Kung Hui Macao Social Service Centre, 2004, p.14)