

Chapter 9

Consumption and Quality of Life



9.1 Housing Situation

Table 9.1a: Housing Situation of Young People for the Past Year by Type of Housing and Living Space (2004)

Type of Housing	A Room of his/her Own		Sharing Room with Brothers		Sharing Room with Sisters		Sharing Room with Siblings		Sharing Room with Parents/ Parents cum Siblings		Sharing Room with Relatives/ Relatives cum Brothers		Sharing Room with Friends/ Schoolmates		Sharing Room with Spouse cum Children		Total No.
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Private Housing	434	39.0	149	13.4	150	13.5	8	0.7	62	5.6	24	2.2	14	1.3	34	3.1	875
Budget Housing	69	6.2	59	5.3	40	3.6	0	0	23	2.1	5	0.5	1	0.1	8	0.7	205
School Dormitory	1	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	1.0	0	0	11
Corporate Staff Quarters	6	0.5	1	0.1	1	0.1	0	0	1	0.1	1	0.1	2	0.2	0	0	12
Others	2	0.2	1	0.1	1	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	0.1	1	0.1	0	0	6
Without Permanent Quarters	2	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1	0	0	3
Total	514	46.2	210	18.9	192	17.3	8	0.7	86	7.7	31	2.8	29	2.6	42	3.8	1112

Source: Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, pp.22 & 23.

Note: (1) All respondents are youths aged between 13 and 29.

For the past year, the majority of young people interviewed lived in “private housing”, with the number standing at 875 (78.7%). Amongst them, 434 (39%) had their own room, 307 (27.6%) shared rooms with brothers/sisters/siblings, 62 (5.6%) shared rooms with parents or parents cum siblings, 24 (2.2%) shared rooms with relatives or relatives cum brothers, 14 (1.3%) shared rooms with friends or schoolmates, and 34 (3.1%) shared rooms with spouse or spouse cum children. (Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.22)

The next common form of housing is “budget housing”, with the number of people living in such housing units standing at 205 (18.4%). Amongst them, 69 (6.2%) had their own room, 99 (8.9%) shared rooms with siblings/brothers/sisters, 23 (2.1%) shared rooms with parents or parents cum siblings, 5 (0.5%) shared rooms with relatives or relatives cum brothers, 1(0.1%) shared room with friends, and 8 (0.7%) shared rooms with spouse or spouse cum children. In addition, 12 (1.1%) of the respondents lived in staff quarters, 11 (1.0%) lived in school dormitories, and 3 (0.3%) did not have any permanent place to live. (Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.22)

Table 9.1b: Housing Situation of Young People for the Past Year by Type of Housing, Living Space and Sex (2004)

Type of Housing		A Room of his/her Own		Sharing Room with Brothers		Sharing Room with Sisters		Sharing Room with Siblings		Sharing Room with Parents/ Parents cum Siblings		Sharing Room with Relatives/ Relatives cum Brothers		Sharing Room with Friends/ Schoolmates		Sharing Room with Spouse cum Children	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Private Housing	No.	231	197	93	55	27	122	1	7	26	36	7	17	6	7	15	16
	%	44.1	34.3	17.7	9.5	5.2	21.2	0.2	1.2	5.0	6.3	1.3	3.0	1.1	1.2	2.9	2.8
Budget Housing	No.	38	30	42	17	6	33	0	0	9	12	2	3	0	1	5	3
	%	7.4	5.2	8.0	3.0	1.1	5.7	0	0	1.7	2.1	0.4	0.5	0	0.2	1.0	0.5
School Dormitory	No.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	0	0
	%	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.0	1.0	0	0
Corporate Staff Quarters	No.	4	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
	%	0.8	0.3	0	0.2	0	0.2	0	0	0.2	0	0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Others	No.	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
	%	0.2	0.4	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	0.2	0	0
Without Permanent Quarters	No.	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	%	0.2	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	0	0	0
No.		276	232	136	72	33	156	1	7	36	48	9	21	14	16	20	19

Source: Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.23.

Note: (1) All respondents are youths aged between 13 and 29, of which 524 are male, 575 are female.

The above survey showed that male youths have better living space and environment than their female counterparts. For example, 276 male youths have their own room (52.7% of total) while the corresponding figure for female youths is 232 (40.3%). The ratio between males and females having to share room with either siblings, parents or relatives is 215 (41.0%) to 304 (52.9%). (Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.23)

9.2 Income and Source of Income.....

Table 9.2a: Principle Source of Income and Average Income of Young People for the Past Month by Sex (2004)

Source of Income		No.								Average Amount (MOP)
		Male (524)			Female (575)			Total ⁽¹⁾		
		No.	%	Average Amount (MOP)	No.	%	Average Amount (MOP)	No.	%	
1	Parents	333	63.5	1055.3	363	63.1	685.2	703(7)	63.2	867.8
2	Own Work	255	48.7	2415.1	265	46.1	1651.3	527(7)	47.4	2024.7
3	Relatives	55	10.5	339.7	47	8.2	163.5	102(0)	9.2	244.6
4	Friends	28	5.3	93.5	31	5.4	112.2	61(2)	5.5	109.3
5	Others	17	3.2	24.8	19	3.3	45.2	36(0)	3.2	35.1
6	Husband/Wife	7	2.3	40.1	21	4.5	153.9	28(0)	2.3	98.5
7	Government Aid	11	2.1	31.5	13	2.3	33.9	24(0)	2.2	32.4
8	Charitable Organizations	4	0.8	3.8	5	0.9	4.3	9(0)	0.8	4.0
Total		-	-	4003.8	-	-	2849.5	-	-	3416.4

Source: Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, pp.7 & 8.

Note: (1) All respondents are youths aged between 13 and 29, totalling 1,112 persons; figures in parentheses refer to number of respondents of unidentified gender.

(2) Respondents may choose more than one answer.

Statistics on the income of young people interviewed show that the top sources of income, in descending order of prominence, are: 1. parents (703); 2. own job (527); 3. relatives (102); 4. friends (61); 5. others (36); 6. husband/wife (28); 7. government aid (24); and 8. charitable organizations (9). (Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.7)

The average principal income per month of young people interviewed is 3,416 Macao patacas (MOP). The amounts in descending order of magnitude are: 1. own job (MOP 2,025); 2. parents (MOP 868); 3. relatives (MOP 245); 4. friends (MOP 109); 5. husband/wife (MOP 99); 6. others (MOP 35); 7. government aid; (MOP 32); and 8. charitable organizations (MOP 4). (Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.7)

The principal source of income does not differ significantly between male and female; however there is quite a large gap in terms of the amount of income. The average monthly income of male respondents is MOP 1,154 more than that of female respondents. Analysis of individual sources reveals that young males on the average earn MOP 2,415 per month from their own job, while for young females, the corresponding figure is only MOP 1,651. Young males in general receive MOP 1,055 from their parents, while the corresponding figure for young females is only MOP 685. Young males receive MOP 340 from relatives, while for young females the corresponding figure is only MOP 164. By contrast, young females obtain more income from their spouse, friends, government aid, charitable organizations or other sources than their male counterparts. (Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.7)

Table 9.2b: Income (in MOP) Sourced from Parents, Work and Relatives for the Past Month by Age (2004)

Age	< 1,000 MOP			1,001- 3,000 MOP			3,001- 5,000 MOP			5,001- 1,0000 MOP			1,0001-2,0000 MOP			2,0001-3,0000 MOP			> 3,0000MOP		
	Parents	Work	Relatives	Parents	Work	Relatives	Parents	Work	Relatives	Parents	Work	Relatives	Parents	Work	Relatives	Parents	Work	Relatives	Parents	Work	Relatives
13	51	2	7	2	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	73	8	14	8	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	76	16	14	15	3	3	4	1	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
16	81	25	12	15	7	1	5	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	75	23	7	16	7	1	3	2	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	55	26	5	13	13	1	4	6	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	37	18	2	9	20	0	2	2	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	37	17	4	10	13	0	3	13	2	8	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	15	7	0	6	11	1	2	9	0	2	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
22	9	5	1	3	9	0	2	9	0	0	6	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	7	1	1	1	7	0	1	14	0	2	7	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	2	0	0	2	2	0	3	13	0	0	12	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	1	2	1	3	4	1	1	17	1	0	17	0	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
26	1	1	0	2	4	0	2	13	1	0	8	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	3	0	0	1	2	0	1	8	1	0	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	10	1	0	12	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	9	0	0	19	0	0	11	0	0	2	0	0	1	0
Total	524	151	68	106	107	9	39	128	10	22	98	6	9	38	5	0	3	1	1	2	1
%	47.1	13.6	6.1	9.5	9.6	0.8	3.5	11.5	0.9	2.0	8.8	0.5	0.8	3.4	0.4	0	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1

Source: Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.8.

Note: (1) All respondents are youths aged between 13 and 29, totalling 1,112 persons.

(2) Respondents may choose more than one answer.

The majority of the younger respondents receive under MOP 1,000 from various sources of income. The principal income source is their parents. (Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.8)

More than half of the respondents aged 21 or above depend on work as their principal source of income, the average amount being in the range of MOP 3,000-10,000. (Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.8)

9.3 Expenses (Amount) and Allocation Ratios

Table 9.3: Principal Expenses and Average Expenses of Young People for the Past Month by Sex (2004)

Expenses Items	Number								Average Amount (MOP)
	Male			Female			Total ⁽¹⁾		
	No.	%	Average Amount (MOP)	No.	%	Average Amount (MOP)	No. ⁽²⁾	%	
1 Food and Drinks	468	89.3	538.7	518	90.1	407.1	998(12)	89.7	473.8
2 Personal Entertainment	428	81.7	420.0	396	68.9	224.3	831(7)	74.7	317.6
3 Clothing	299	57.1	160.9	444	77.2	233.4	748(5)	67.3	198.6
4 Transportation	365	69.6	215.6	349	60.7	121.3	721(7)	64.8	165.7
5 Reading Materials	120	22.9	23.3	159	27.7	29.1	281(2)	25.3	26.1
6 Studies Related	113	21.6	100.7	122	21.2	120.0	237(2)	21.3	110.4
7 Supporting Parents / Relatives	112	21.4	371.2	109	19.0	323.0	228(7)	20.5	351.2
8 Housing	98	18.7	284.4	55	9.6	114.3	161(8)	14.5	200.3
9 Donation	65	12.4	5.2	66	11.5	6.7	131(0)	11.8	5.9
10 Miscellaneous	69	13.2	63.2	54	9.4	36.2	123(0)	11.1	48.6
Total	-	-	2183.2	-	-	1615.4	-	-	1898.2

Source: Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.10.

Note: (1) All respondents are youths aged between 13 and 29, of which 524 are male and 575 are female, totalling 1,112 persons; 13 are of unidentified gender.

(2) Respondents may choose more than one answer; figures in parentheses represent number of respondents of unidentified sex.

There is some difference in principal items of personal expenses between young males and females. While the 5 top items of personal expenses are the same, the ranking in terms of amount spent is different for males and females. For male youths, the respective items in descending order of magnitude are: (1) food and drinks; (2) personal entertainment; (3) transportation; (4) clothing; and (5) reading materials. For females, the respective items in descending order of magnitude are: (1) food and drinks; (2) clothing; (3) personal entertainment; (4) transportation; and (5) reading materials. (Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.9)

The average personal expenses for the past month for the young people interviewed is MOP 1,898. The various items in descending order of average amount spent are: (1) food and drinks; (2) supporting parents/relatives; (3) personal entertainment; (4) housing; (5) clothing; (6) transportation; (7) studies related; (8) miscellaneous; (9) reading materials; and (10) donation. The average personal expense differs significantly between young males and females. For young males, the average personal expense is MOP 2,183.2, while the corresponding figure for young females is MOP 1,615.4. Male respondents spend more than females on the following items: food and drinks (MOP 539 vs MOP 407); personal entertainment (MOP 420 vs MOP 224); supporting parents/relatives (MOP 371 vs MOP 323); housing (MOP 284 vs MOP 114); transportation (MOP 216 vs MOP 121); and miscellaneous (MOP 63 vs MOP 36). By comparison, female respondents spend more on the following items than males: clothing (MOP 233 vs MOP 161); studies related (MOP 120 vs MOP 101); reading (MOP 29 vs MOP 23); and donation (MOP 7 vs MOP 5). In addition, younger respondents tend to spend less in all the above listed items of personal expenses than their senior counterparts. (Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, pp.9 & 10)

9.4 Family Commitment

Table 9.4a: Provision of Financial Support for Family by Sex and Age (2004)

Provision of Financial Support for Family	Male	Female	Age Group (N=1112)																
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Yes	136	128	1	1	5	7	5	9	13	19	12	15	19	22	35	23	22	24	38
(%)	26.0	22.3	1.7	1.1	4.7	5.9	4.4	9.5	16.0	21.3	22.6	35.7	48.7	59.5	70.0	71.9	78.6	85.7	82.6
No	374	436	57	90	100	106	106	85	68	68	40	27	20	14	11	9	3	4	6
(%)	71.4	75.8	95	96.8	94.3	89.1	93.8	89.5	84.0	76.4	75.5	64.3	51.3	37.8	21.6	28.1	10.7	14.3	13.0
Declined to Answer	14	11	2	2	1	6	2	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	5	0	3	0	2
Total	524	575	60	93	106	119	113	105	81	89	53	42	39	37	51	32	28	28	46

Source: Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.24.

Note: (1) All respondents are youths aged between 13 and 29, totalling 1,112 persons.

(2) 13 respondents did not specify their gender but just provide age information. This contributes to the discrepancy between the total of all age groups and total of two sexes.

270 (24.3%) of the young people interviewed need to provide financial support for their family. More young males have to do so than young females (26.0% vs 22.3%). The percentage of respondents required to support their family financially shows an uptrend with increasing age. For each of the 13-18 age groups, the corresponding percentages are all below 10%. (Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.24)

Table 9.4b: Young People Sharing Family Tasks by Types of Task and Average Hours Per Day (2004)

Family Tasks		Number of Respondents Sharing Family Tasks						Time Spent				
		Highest		Lowest		Total ⁽¹⁾		Most		Least		Average Time (Minutes)
		Age Group	%	Age Group	%	Number	%	Age Group	Time (Minutes)	Age Group	Time (Minutes)	
1	Cleaning/ General Housework	18	64.2	20	31.4	587	52.8	27	53	23	22	37
2	Chores Before and After Meals	13	45.0	28	7.2	375	33.7	24	37	27	8	19
3	Looking After Younger Siblings	19	33.3	23	7.8	274	24.6	17	52	29	6	31
4	Buying Food at the Market/ Cooking/ Shopping	23	35.9	29	13.5	238	21.4	26	46	28	5	16
5	Tutoring Younger Siblings	22	38.4	26	3.1	235	21.1	20	37	26	1	26
6	Looking After Parents/ Elderly Family Members	28	46.4	14	4.3	151	13.6	28	61	14	1	16

Source: Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p. 25.

Note: (1) All respondents are youths aged between 13 and 29, totalling 1,112 persons.

Principal family tasks undertaken by the young people interviewed, in descending order of prominence, are: (1) cleaning/general housework; (2) chores before and after meals; (3) looking after younger siblings; (4) buying food at the market/cooking/shopping; (5) tutoring younger siblings; and 6. looking after parents/elderly family members. (Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.25)

Analysis of the average amount of time spent on various tasks, young respondents spend the greatest amount of time each day on “cleaning/general housework” (37 minutes), with the 27 age group spending the most time (53 minutes), and the 23 age group spending the least time (22 minutes). The second task is “looking after younger siblings” (averaging 31 minutes), with the 17 age group spending the most time (52 minutes), and the 29 age group spending the least time (6 minutes). The third item is “tutoring younger siblings” (averaging 26 minutes), with the 20 age group spending the most time (37 minutes), and the 26 age group spending the least time (1 minute). The fourth item is “chores before and after meals” (averaging 19 minutes), with the 24 age group spending the most time (37 minutes), and the 27 age group spending the least time (8 minutes). The fifth item is “buying food at the market/cooking/shopping” (averaging 16 minutes), with the 26 age group spending the most time (46 minutes), and the 28 age group spending the least time (5 minutes). The sixth item is “looking after parents/elderly family members” (averaging 16 minutes), with the 28 age group spending the most time (1 hour 1 minute), and the 14 age group spending the least time (1 minute). (Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.25)

Female respondents spend more time than their male counterparts in two tasks, viz. “buying food at the market/cooking/shopping”; and “chores before and after meals”. Male respondents on the other hand spend more time in “maintaining and repairing household appliances”. (Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.25)

Analysis of the participation rates in various family tasks by age groups shows the following results: 1. For the task “cleaning/general housework”, the highest participation rate is recorded by the 18 age group (64.2%), while the lowest figure is observed in the 20 age group (31.4%). 2. For “looking after younger siblings”, the highest participation rate is recorded by the 19 age group (33.3%), while the lowest figure is recorded by the 23 age group (7.8%). 3. For “chores before and after meal”, the highest participation rate is observed in the 13 age group (45.0%), while the lowest is recorded by the age group of 28 (7.2%). 4. For “buying food at the market/cooking/shopping”, the highest participation rate is recorded by the 23 age group (35.9%), while the lowest is recorded by the 29 age group (13.5%). 5. For “tutoring younger siblings”, the highest participation rate is observed in the 22 age group (38.4%), while the lowest is recorded by the 26 age group (3.1%). 6. For “looking after parents/elderly family members”, the highest participation rate is recorded by the 28 age group (46.4%), while the lowest is registered by the 14 age group (4.3%). (Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, 2004, p.25)