



鼓勵生兒育女 先解深層矛盾

Solving deep-rooted conflicts is key to encourage childbearing

原文

香港婦聯的本港生育意願調查發現，有近六成受訪者不願意生育，當中逾九成人認為育兒經濟壓力大是主因，數字比2019年高。受土地房屋、貧富懸殊等深層次矛盾困擾，再加上本港生活負擔高踞全球前列，年輕人向上流動機會漸減，難免窒礙生育意願，勢必加速本港人口老化，削弱整體競爭力。政府應推出布局長遠的規劃，營造安居樂業的環境，才能提升港人生兒育女、建設美好家園的意願。

港人生育意願持續下降，其實是本港經濟民生矛盾積重難返、生活壓力與日俱增的一種折射。眾所周知，香港樓價全球最貴，年輕人「上車」越來越難，立法會秘書處《自置居所對香港社會經濟的影響》

報告顯示，35歲以下的年輕人士於1997年成為自置業主的機會較高，當時有多達19.81萬名這類年輕戶主，佔自置戶主總數的22.1%；而由於置業負擔能力不斷下降，首次置業人士的平均年齡，於2019年已推遲至44歲。年輕人為供樓「搏殺」，只能推遲生育時間，甚至打消生育念頭。

另外，本港基尼系數於2016年擴闊至0.539，居於全球最高之列；《經濟學人智庫》公布的「2020年全球生活成本」排名，統計了全球133個城市的生活成本，結果顯示，即使在疫情下，香港生活成本繼續排名全球第一，除了高樓價、高租金外，本港其他日常生活開支、用餐費用、食材價格都名列世界前茅。

生活負擔有增無減，而本港經濟

結構單一，產業未能向創新、多元轉型，導致年輕人向上流動的通道和台階減少，實際收入遠跟不上樓價、通脹的升幅，令年輕人對未來前景預測悲觀。生育培養下一代的付出和責任重大，奧運冠軍李麗珊多年前有一經典廣告台詞——「養大一個孩子要400萬」，計及通脹，如今養育一個孩子恐怕遠超400萬，年輕人對此難免避而遠之。

本港已呈現人口老化的趨勢，若生育率長期低迷，公共財政、醫療福利將承受更大壓力，勢必出現類似日本的「少子化」問題，影響經濟、社會可持續發展。要提振本港的生育率，僅靠強化家庭的友善政策效果不大，關鍵還在於解決深層次矛盾，為市民減負降壓，讓年輕人對前景充滿信心。

今年兩會期間，國務院副總理韓正參加全國人大香港代表團審議時強調，中央政府全力、全方位支持特區政府及市民，在防疫抗疫、金融領域、創新科技、服務業、航運業等方面，支持行政長官和特區政府一起做好長遠規劃，解決貧富懸殊、住屋等問題。

在中央大力支持下，特區政府應彰顯行政主導，與社會各界齊心協力、迎難而上，下決心有擔當解決土地房屋的難題，改善居住環境；積極融入國家大局、把握粵港澳大灣區機遇，加快本港經濟轉型升級，拓展港人的發展空間，推出更多鼓勵生育的家庭政策，消除年輕人生兒育女的後顧之憂，讓香港煥發生生不息的活力。

(摘錄自香港《文匯報》社評 2021-5-11)



●育兒經濟壓力大，導致港人不願生育。 資料圖片

Exercise

- 1. 基尼系數 2. 人口老化 3. 社會流動 4. 可持續性 5. 貧富懸殊

- 1. Gini coefficient 2. population ageing 3. social mobility 4. sustainability 5. income disparity

Answer

譯文

A survey conducted by the Hong Kong Women Development Association has revealed that nearly 60 per cent of the respondents do not want to have a baby. Over 90 per cent of them cited financial pressure as the main reason, which is higher than the corresponding figure in 2019. Younger generations in Hong Kong have been suffering from the consequences of deep-rooted problems such as land, housing, and income disparity. Coupled with the facts that Hong Kong is among the least affordable cities in the world and that social mobility is declining rapidly, the young people of Hong Kong will inevitably be less willing to have children. Population ageing and weakened competitiveness will surely follow as a result. To encourage childbearing and build a better Hong Kong together, the government should focus its long-term plans on creating a stable environment where people can work and live in peace.

The continuous decline in the willing-

ness of Hong Kong people to have children is, in fact, a reflection of the city's grave socio-economic issues and ever-increasing pressure in life. For instance, it is already well-known that property prices in Hong Kong are the most expensive in the world, and it is becoming more and more difficult for young people to become homeowners. According to the Legislative Council Secretariat's research report "Socioeconomic implications of home ownership for Hong Kong", it is easier for younger people aged under 35 to become a homeowner in 1997. At that time, the number of these young homeowners was as high as 198,100, accounting for 22.1 per cent of total homeowners. As housing affordability continues to drop, the average age of first-time home buyers has already risen to 44 years old in 2019. For the younger generations, childbearing can only give way to their struggle for home ownership. Some of them might even give up on having a baby altogether.

Rising to 0.539 in 2016, Hong

Kong's Gini coefficient is also among the highest in the world. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit's "Worldwide Cost of Living 2020" report, Covid-hit Hong Kong is still the most expensive city to live in the world after comparing the costs of living of 133 cities around the globe. Apart from expensive home prices and rents, other daily living expenses such as the costs of meals and food ingredients are also among the highest in the world.

Apart from the ever-rising costs of living, Hong Kong's failure to innovate and diversify its uniform economic structure has led to a lack of upward social mobility for the younger generations. This has resulted in real income levels that cannot catch up with rising home prices and inflation for young people, and has in turn made many pessimistic about their future prospects. Raising children is a great responsibility that requires much sacrifice. Olympic gold medalist Lee Lai-shan once said in a classic TV commercial that "it costs 4 million dollars to raise a child".

As it would most likely cost more than that in today's terms after taking inflation into account, it is understandable if young people would back off from having children.

Signs of population ageing are already showing in Hong Kong. The city's public finances and healthcare system will be under even greater pressure if the fertility rate remains low. Like Japan, problems stemmed from sub-replacement fertility will eventually hamper the sustainable development of both the economy and society. Focusing solely on family-friendly policies will have little effect in remedying the situation. The key to boosting the fertility rate in Hong Kong is to resolve the current deep-seated contradictions. The burden on the public needs to be relieved, and young people's confidence in the future must be restored.

In a meeting with the Hong Kong delegation during China's "two sessions" this year, Vice Premier Han Zheng emphasised that the central government fully and comprehensively sup-

ports the Hong Kong government and citizens in areas such as epidemic prevention, the financial sector, innovative technologies, the service industry, the shipping industry, etc. The central government also offers support to the Chief Executive and the Hong Kong government in making long-term plans to resolve socio-economic problems such as income disparity and housing.

With the strong support of the central government, the Hong Kong government should demonstrate its leadership and work together with the community to solve the problems of land and housing in Hong Kong. The authorities should also seize the opportunities that are presented by the development of the Greater Bay Area and accelerate the transformation and upgrading of Hong Kong's economy. More family-friendly measures that encourage childbearing should also be rolled out. By eliminating the obstacles that lie in the young people's path to having children, the vitality of Hong Kong will truly be restored.

走進「重慶森林」 研究民族互動

歷史今昔

港人認識的重慶大廈，大多來自王家衛導演的《重慶森林》，該電影共兩個故事，首個故事取景於尖沙咀重慶大廈，穿插於破落擁擠的印度食店和賓館之間；第二個故事則落在港島蘭桂坊一帶。電影雖然講男女的相遇、分離、復合，或再錯失機會，但王家衛把電影拍得非常浪漫和鬆散，展現出一種莫名的美術吸引力。這點與重慶大廈神秘而吸引的魅力特性不謀而合。

事實上，重慶大廈的吸引力並不局限於影視及通俗文化印象，學術界也有專業且認真研究著作。例如《世界中心的貧民窟：香港重慶大廈》一書，就寫到重慶大廈能反映「全球交匯處的民族誌，能顯示全球化在我們耳聞目見的作用，也能表現出有血有肉的人如何在文化交流上交流取舍。」換句話說，重慶森林是全球其中一個交匯處，透過這裏能了解全球化下不同民族如何互動和交流。

這些研究著作固然值得關注，但筆者始終是歷史愛好者而非人類學專家，一直很希望從歷史角度認識重慶大廈。可惜重慶大廈沒有一篇

與之對應的歷史文章可以參考，只能依靠零星的舊報紙報道及人類學家所做的口述歷史。雖然如此，但仍盼此機會向讀者略談重慶大廈的歷史。

鄰近清真寺 吸引南亞人

重慶大廈建於1961年，從一開始便有大量的南亞居民，此原因應是當時港英政府僱用大量印度人作警員和士兵，而尖沙咀附近又建立九龍清真寺，距離重慶大廈只有兩個街區，這無疑大大增加了重慶大廈周圍的南亞人口。

上世紀六十年代末，越戰爆發，尖沙咀周邊地區成為了美國水兵造訪的紅燈區，重慶大廈自然成為提供廉價賓館及服務的地點。與此同時，重慶大廈所提供的廉價賓館也吸引不少背包旅行客入住。

消防不理想 屢歷大火災

令人遺憾的是，重慶大廈的消防系統並不理想，不論是負荷過重的電路系統還是走火通道的堵塞都是釀成火災的重要原因。大部分有關重慶大廈新聞均與火災有關，如在1966年及1971年就曾發生五級大火。不過，頻頻火災也沒有促使業主立案法團有效改善防火系統，火

災問題依然持續，到了1988年更有丹麥旅客因火災而喪生，此時甚至引起國際的關注。

背包旅客在上世紀九十年代逐漸減少，但印度、巴基斯坦和尼泊爾背景的南亞人士卻愈來愈多，這些南亞人士或來港從商，或原受僱於港英政府及其親戚，或來港尋求避難，但這些均與香港較寬鬆的簽證系統有關。除了南亞人士聚集於重慶大廈，非洲團體也同樣來到重慶大廈。

非洲客的來臨源於香港與中國內地的商業機會，對於非洲團體而言，香港穩定而健全的法律體制的確較值得他們信賴，以此為基地與中國內地聯繫和做生意是絕佳地點。

個人遊政策實施之後，港人或會留意到大廈出現不少內地旅客。尖沙咀是香港著名景點，適逢節日或特定日子，維多利亞港定必舉行不同的活動，而重慶大廈的廉價房租是該區難以尋覓的，這結果也成了內地旅客的落腳點之一。

單憑上述簡介，便涉及了多個民族和地區，但此大廈卻坐落香港最繁忙的旅遊區尖沙咀，光從此點而言，重慶大廈便具備很多話題性和吸引力。



●路燈型自動氣象站。 影片截圖

路燈型自動氣象站

氣象萬千

表面上它是一支路燈，實際上它還是一個自動氣象站。天文台幾年前開始試驗這種路燈型自動氣象站，最初安裝在九龍灣零碳天地，之後繼續改良，並於2020年12月成功取得自動氣象站設計專利。

天文台為了可以收集更貼近我們日常活動地點的氣象數據，近年研究怎樣可以將氣象站設計成更能融入環境之內，而路燈就是一個實用且沒有違和感的設計。

從樣本中可以看到，頂蓋有太陽能板，整個燈柱的運作就是透過它收集的太陽能驅動，而圓形就是紫外線指數感應器，下面有一個數據處理

器，旁邊有氣壓感應器，底部就有一個氣溫和濕度測量的感應器。

整個設計放在百葉箱的頂蓋中，這樣可以阻擋太陽直接照射，又能提供通風效果，作準確的氣象測量之用。

這麼大的設計，當然不是一個人做出來啦！這個氣象站的設計看起來很簡單，但背後充滿很多電子、能源、機械工程的知識，例如學生團隊一開始設計3D打印外殼，裏面的電路版、訊號測試，直至放到街上，作太陽能板能力和防水測試，面對了很多次失敗，成功，再失敗，所以這件成品充滿着很多一點一滴累積下來的經驗。

其中，最難忘的經驗就是要根據實際不同發生的情況，例如看到有雨水滲漏就有豐富經驗的導師討論，不斷改良設計。

●布安東(歷史系博士，興趣遊走於中西歷史文化及古典音樂。)

●香港天文台(本欄以天文台的網上氣象節目《氣象冷知識》向讀者簡介有趣的天氣現象。詳情可瀏覽天文台YouTube專頁：<https://www.youtube.com/user/hkweather>。)

