

'Post-80s' the generation of gloom

Scarlett Chiang

Members of the "post-80s" generation are less happy and more anxious than those of the older generation.

That's according to a survey by the Hong Kong Christian Service, which interviewed 400 respondents from September to November last year.

It found the happiness score for those between 20 and 28 is 4.14 points, compared to an average of between 4.5 and 5.5 points for the whole group.

The "happiness index" included the qualities of determination and strategy to strive for a better future. The "post-80s" group did better among the interviewees aged 20 to 63 on determination but not on strategy.

The survey also found 40 percent of respondents between 20 and 28 years old showed symptoms of moderate or severe anxiety, which was twice that of the older groups.

About 20 percent of those interviewed belong to the "post-80s" group, according to survey organizer Natalie Cheung Yu.

Cheung said most of the "post-80s" respondents received tertiary education and are unhappy with their jobs which have low salaries and long working hours. "They think they have high a education qualification but the salary is not satisfactory and the chance of promotion is slim."

She said the new generation feared worse than Generation X, those who

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were born between 1961 and 1980, when faced with salary cuts during the economic turmoil.

Another survey by the Hong Kong Research Association found that those of the "post-80s" generation are more pessimistic about the future.

Of the 1,075 members of the group interviewed by the association from January 7-13, 32 percent said they are pessimistic about the future — 8 percent more than those who consider themselves optimistic.

It also found that 43 percent are dissatisfied with the government's performance and only 14 percent said it is satisfactory.

In response to radical actions by the "post-80s" such as protesting in front of the Legislative Council building as the Finance Committee discussed the funding of the express rail link, 37 per-



Natalie Cheung said the 'post-80s' group did better for determination. SINGTAO

cent said they accepted their behavior while 39 percent said they did not.

The survey organizer said the result shows the "post-80s" have mainly negative feelings and urged the government to review the youth policy and provide more communication channels. scarlett.chiang@singtaonewscorp.com