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A PILOT STUDY ON
DEPRIVATION IN HONG KONG

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A Pilot Study on Deprivation in Hong Kong

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Executive Summary

1. This is a pilot study on deprivation in Hong Kong, which aims at paving the way for a future research study to identify the deprived population.
2. Deprivation approach draws attention to aspects of poverty that are often neglected by conventional income approach. Rather than identifying the poor by drawing certain income poverty lines, deprivation approach is interested in finding out the customary standard of living endorsed by a majority in a society and identifying who are deprived of such standard of living due to lack of resources.
3. This research proceeded in two stages. In the first stage, focus group interviews were conducted with 71 participants, who were asked to decide which items on an initial list were essential for low income people to maintain a decent living. The 80 items on the list covered different aspects of daily life.
4. Items with more than 50% of participants considered as essential were taken in the first round of screening. After that, some items belonging to the same domains of life with similar nature were excluded. An item which was not on the list but highlighted by the participants was added. Finally, 54 items were selected for the second stage of study.
5. The second stage was a pilot survey, which was conducted to test a questionnaire based on the selected items. 3 questions were asked, including “Do you think this item is essential for Hong Kong people?”, “Do you have this item?”, “If you do not have it, is it because you cannot afford it?”
6. Different methods were used to conduct the survey. While 20 out of 34 self-administered questionnaires were incomplete, all 20 face-to-face interviews and those conducted over the phone were successfully done. Moreover, some technical problems related to wording of items and conducting of the survey were identified. Wording of items was further revised.
7. The present study recommends 54 items for the future research study on the population. By finding out which items are regarded as necessary by the majority in society, the future study can identify the socially acceptable standard of living and who are living in deprivation (i.e. people without such living due to lack of resources).

行政撮要

1. 本研究是一項關於香港社會匱乏情況的先導研究，目的是為日後進行有關識別香港匱乏人口的研究作準備。
2. 研究匱乏的手法所著重的貧窮面向為一般主流以研究收入的方法所忽略，它不以某些貧窮線來識別貧窮人口，而是先找出社會大多數人所認同的生活生平，再識別出什麼人是因為缺乏資源而不能達到此生活水平。
3. 本研究包括兩個階段。第一階段透過聚焦小組形式與71人進行訪談，研究人員給予參與者一張包括80個涵蓋日常生活不同層面的項目清單，邀請參與者決定列於清單中的那些項目為低收入人士要維持有尊嚴生活所必須的。
4. 接著是篩選項目的過程，第一階段的篩選選取了超過百分之五十參與者認為是必須的項目。然後剔除部份屬於相同生活範疇並有相同性質的項目，並新增一項不在原本清單中但參與者提及的項目。最後，有54個項目被選出作第二階段的研究。
5. 第二階段的研究為先導問卷調查，目的是測試以選出的項目擬定的問卷。問卷中提問三條問題，包括：「你是否認為這是每個香港人所必須有的東西 / 項目？」；「你有沒有這東西 / 項目？」及「如沒有」「是否因為你負擔不起？」。
6. 問卷調查以不同形式進行。34份問卷以自填形式進行，當中有20份未能完成；另20份以當面訪問或電話訪問形式進行的問卷，均能成功完成。此外，研究人員亦甄別到一些項目上的用字及調查進行時遇到的技術問題，項目的用字已作出修改。
7. 本研究建議54個項目以供未來識別本港匱乏人口的研究使用。透過找出什麼項目被社會大多數人所認同為必須的，未來的研究將可找出社會上所接受的生活水平是什麼，以及識別出什麼人生活於匱乏狀況(即因缺乏資源而不能達至該生活水平)。

Chapter 1 Introduction

Background of study: poverty and deprivation

Townsend's classic research on deprivation in the UK started a new approach to studying poverty. Rather than focusing on lack of income alone, Townsend defined people as living in poverty when they "lack the resources to obtain the types of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities which are customary, or at least widely encouraged or approved, in the societies to which they belong." (Townsend, 1979, p. 31) Although income is an important indicator of poverty, Townsend suggested there would always be a customary standard of living widely endorsed by a society and those without such living due to lack of resources should be regarded as the poor.

Townsend's concept of deprivation enriches the discussion on poverty by directing attention away from income to other factors that may affect the livelihood of the poor. Insufficient health care, limited education resources, poor living conditions or other undesirable factors may preclude people from the customary standard of living. However, they cannot be discovered solely by measuring income. As Saunder, Naidoo and Griffiths (2007, p.1) suggested, 'Some of those with low income can get by because they have access to other resources (e.g. savings, accumulated wealth, or access to support from family members) while some of those with higher incomes may have special needs and face high costs (e.g. people with disabilities, or newly arrived migrants) that cause them to end up in poverty.' The existence of deprivation may reflect these factors, thus help understand the actual experience of the poor.

Studies using the deprivation approach to poverty usually involve three stages. Firstly, a list of items that a majority of people in a society consider as necessary for a minimum level of acceptable standard of living should be identified. Secondly, those who do not have these items should be found out. Thirdly, those who do not have the items because they do not need them should be differentiated from those without them because they cannot afford them. People who cannot afford those items deemed to be necessary by a majority of a society will be regarded as the deprived.

Seeing previous studies of Australian poverty concentrated mainly on comparing people's income with poverty lines, Saunder, Naidoo and Griffiths (2007) conducted a research that related directly to people's actual living standard by drawing on the concept of deprivation and social exclusion. Two overlapping surveys were held, with one being completed by over 2,700 adult Australians drawn randomly,

and the other by 700 clients of welfare services. Participants were asked to answer a series of questions about whether or not a list of items were essentials that no one in the country should go without. Finally, 26 items that a majority of participants thought were essentials became indicators of deprivation. By asking who could not afford those items, deprived Australians were found out and pattern of deprivation was analyzed.

Deprivation studies in Hong Kong

In Hong Kong, poverty is recognized by the public as a major cause of social disadvantage and actions are called for to tackle it. While inadequate income of the poor is the core of attention in the mainstream discussion, there are very limited studies on deprivation.

In Hong Kong, the most comprehensive study on deprivation was conducted by Chow (1983), who proposed a deprivation index consisting of 9 items to analyze the extent of poverty in the city. A household with a deprivation score of over a certain threshold would be considered as living in a state in which conditions were even worse than those already receiving relative low income in the population.

Wong (2005a) proposed a list of basic needs to be covered by the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, the major security net of Hong Kong. Focus group discussion was conducted to understand what the participants thought should be the basic needs for a minimum level of acceptable standard of living. However, the list was used to calculate and suggest new rates of CSSA, rather than to identify the deprived.

Organization of the report

In order to understand the actual living standard experienced by the poor in Hong Kong, the present study aims at paving the way for a comprehensive research on deprivation. Its objectives are to suggest a list of items that people may regard as essential needs for a minimum standard of decent living. The list can be used in the future to survey on the population and to identify who are deprived.

This chapter provides the background of the study, followed by a review of literature on different concepts of poverty and previous deprivation studies in Chapter 2. Chapter 3 describes in details the methodology, research design and data collection process. In brief, a list of 80 items covering various aspects of daily life was discussed in focus groups. Feedback was taken into account when screening and revising the

items. After that, a questionnaire based on the selected items was prepared and tested in a pilot survey. Findings of focus group interviews and the pilot survey are presented in Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 respectively. Recommendations for the future research study are presented in Chapter 6.

Chapter 2 Literature Review

This chapter will discuss the methodology used in the measurement of poverty. It will firstly review the theoretical concept of absolute poverty and relative poverty and the advantages and disadvantage of absolute and relative measurement. Secondly, the chapter will introduce another dimension which is complementary to income in measuring poverty, namely by studying deprivation. The theoretical background of deprivation study will be discussed and past experience of using this concept in measuring poverty will be traced. Lastly, this chapter will review the Hong Kong experience of conducting deprivation studies.

Absolute poverty and relative poverty

Absolute poverty is based on subsistence, or a minimum standard required for survival. People without the necessities to live are said to be in poverty. The 1995 Copenhagen Declaration of the United Nations defines absolute poverty as ‘a condition characterised by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information.’

Under the concept of absolute poverty, a list of goods and services deemed to be necessary for survival needs to be identified for poverty measurement. This method originated from Booth’s poverty study in Britain in the 19th Century (Booth, 1899), which was later adopted by Rowntree to establish a poverty line. Taking nutritionists’ advice and his own observation, Rowntree (1901, 1941) identified a list of goods and services like clothes, food and heating as the minimum needs for living. By calculating the total price of the listed items, he proposed a standard budget. Households with expenses less than the standard budget would be regarded as the poor.

Supporters of the concept claim the subsistence level of living provides an objective standard for measuring poverty. However, what should be considered as minimum needs for survival can be ambiguous. For example, tea was included in Rowntree’s list of items, but its necessity for survival was questioned (Alcock, 1997:71). Rowntree’s list further expanded to include items like radio, newspaper and annual vacation. It reflected his standard to measure poverty changed with time and went beyond survival.

While absolute poverty pays attention to survival, relative poverty argues that people are poor when they are very much worse off than other people in their society. It is

suggested that, even if people manage to survive, some of them may have relatively low standard of living when compared with the others due to uneven distribution of resources. Relative poverty is measured by setting a relative poverty line, which shows how an individual's or household's income compares to the average. For example, the Irish government measures relative poverty by calculating the median income - the mid-point on the scale of all income in the country from the highest to the lowest - and setting the line at 60% of the median. People whose income falls below the line are said to be at the risk of poverty.

Comparing people's income with a relative threshold provides a comparatively simple statistical method to discover how many people are in need, who are affected and how the trend of poverty changes over time (Wong, 2005b). Moreover, relative poverty line is widely used to compare national poverty rates in international studies as it avoids the need to convert different currencies into a common monetary measure.

Relative poverty is a useful concept to capture income differences in society. However, it should be noted that income is only one of the factors determining standard of living. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) points out, 'Income measures do not provide a full picture of "command over resources": they neglect individuals' ability to borrow, to draw from accumulated savings, and to benefit from help provided by family or friends, as well as consumption of public services such as education, health and housing' (Boarini and d'Ercole, 2006, p. 10).

Deprivation

Deprivation considers other dimensions of poverty which are as important as income. The classic definition of deprivation is provided by Townsend, who suggests 'Individuals, families and groups in the population can be said to be in poverty when they lack the resources to obtain the types of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities which are customary, or at least widely encouraged or approved, in the societies to which they belong. Their resources are so seriously below those commanded by the average individual or family that they are, in effect, excluded from ordinary living patterns and activities.' (Townsend, 1979, p. 31)

Townsend's definition implies poverty is a relative concept. People are poor when they cannot enjoy the living conditions or participate in activities that are considered ordinary in society. Townsend argued individuals' lifestyles could be very different, but there were always social customs of lives that were enjoyed by a majority of

people and regarded as the minimum standard of living. A lack of resources is the underlying cause that excludes the poor from social customs of lives. In short, deprivation is an enforced lack of socially perceived necessities.

Therefore, income is not the only measure of poverty under the concept of deprivation. Instead, a list of goods and activities reflecting the customary living standard widely endorsed in society should be established before their absence can be defined as deprivation. Also, it should be confirmed that those without these items are constrained by a lack of resources.

Deprivation broadens the scope of poverty discussion by including factors other than income that also have impact on the situation of the disadvantaged. As Saunders, Naidoo and Griffiths (2007, p.1) suggested, 'Some of those with low income can get by because they have access to other resources (e.g. savings, accumulated wealth, or access to support from family members) while some of those with higher incomes may have special needs and face high costs (e.g. people with disabilities, or newly arrived migrants) that cause them to end up in poverty.' The presence of deprivation may reflect factors like limited access to public services, poor living conditions, lack of recreational facilities or other barriers that exclude people from taking part in ordinary activities practised widely in society. These factors are often connected to poverty but cannot be revealed by measuring income alone.

Moreover, deprivation helps understand the actual experience of the poor. Even though income is a significant determinant of standard of living, other factors have a role to play. It is important to measure poverty in terms of income and recognize the pressing need for raising income by the poor. However, it is also important to find out the situation the poor is actually confronting so that assistance responsive to their various needs can be offered. Deprivation does not focus attention solely on income inadequacy, but grounds its foundation in the actual living standards experienced by the poor (Saunders, 2005), keeping in touch with the lived realities of poverty (Lister, 2004).

To measure poverty in Britain in 1960s with deprivation approach, Townsend designed a set of indicators covering twelve areas, including diet, working conditions, education, household facilities, housing conditions etc. The study found out who were in poverty by asking respondents a series of questions, for examples, whether they had breakfast everyday, whether they had holiday from home in the past year, whether their house had central heating. However, Piachaud (1981) questioned the reliability

of Townsend's study because he could not tell if people went without the items due to personal choice or constrained resources. He also criticized that the indicators were decided subjectively by experts, failing to represent the acceptable standard of living perceived by of the public (Piachaud, 1993:117).

Improving the method developed by Townsend, Mack and Landsley (1985) tried to base their deprivation indicators on community consensus. They started with a national survey asking respondents to classify a series of consumption items and social activities as necessities or non-necessities. Then, they selected 14 items that most people considered as necessities to form a set of deprivation indicators. Anyone who could not afford any 3 of the items would be defined as the poor.

A recent study by Saunders, Naidoo and Griffiths (2007) about social disadvantage in Australia adopted a similar approach. They formulated a set of deprivation indicators by selecting 26 items that more than 50% of respondents regarded as essential needs in Australia.

Then, they paid attention to those who reported they did not have an item because they could not afford it. By doing so, they discovered the pattern of deprivation in the country. For example, they found that items where deprivation was highest related to steps that people would need to take to protect their longer-term security against unpredictable risk (e.g. adequate level of savings for use in an emergency, insurance coverage). Deprivation was less prevalent among those items relating to things people owned (e.g. a washing machine) than among those items reflecting different forms of participation (e.g. regular social contact with others, a hobby or leisure activity for children).

Deprivation Study in Hong Kong

In Hong Kong, the most comprehensive study on deprivation was conducted by Chow (1983), who proposed a deprivation index composed of 9 items, including (1) all members of a household have a permanent bed for their own use; (2) a household has a television set; (3) a household has a refrigerator; (4) members of a household usually consult private practitioners when ill; (5) a family goes out to celebrate on occasion; (6) a family eats fresh poultry apart from festivals; (7) a family presents gifts to relatives or friends on days of events; (8) household heads give out lucky money ("laisee") during the Chinese New Year and (9) household heads take friends now and then to a teahouse or restaurant. Chow decided that a household with a deprivation score of over 2.52 should be considered as living in a state in which

conditions were even worse than those already receiving relative low income in the population.

Seeing that the basis for calculating the rates of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, the major security net of Hong Kong, was not updated to reflect the minimum standard of living acceptable to the public, Wong (2005a) suggested a list of basic needs to be included in CSSA. Focus groups were conducted with citizens from all walks of life (e.g. CSSA recipients, non-CSSA recipients, the elderly, teenagers, the employed), who were asked what should be the basic needs for a minimum level of acceptable standard of living. Their opinions were concluded by the researcher and the group of experts decided the selected items in order to recommend new rates of CSSA. The selected basic needs included cereals, newspaper, a computer with internet access, reference books and magazines for students, transportation fees for social activities etc.

In this chapter, we have discussed the concept of absolute poverty and relative poverty. Absolute poverty analyzes whether people fulfill a minimum standard of living, while relative poverty measures whether some people are intensely worse off than the average people in the society. Usually, relative poverty used certain percentage of the median income as the bench mark.

However, measuring poverty by income has its limitations, some scholars consider using deprivation to measure poverty as a complement to measurement by income. Deprivation measurement can be more effective in reflecting the substantive life experience of the people living in poverty.

The first attempt of using deprivation in measuring poverty in Hong Kong was conducted in Hong Kong in 1983 by Nelson Chow. 9 items of deprivation were used in this study. As the list of items was derived 17 years ago, it would no longer be suitable for using in Hong Kong nowadays. A more recent attempt to derive a list of deprivation was by Wong Hung in 2005. However, the list was for suggesting new rates of CSSA, not for identifying the deprived. Another study should be conducted to identify an updated list of deprivation and for understanding the actual living standard experienced by the low income.

Chapter 3 Methodology and Research Design

The present study involves two stages. The first stage is focus group interviews for screening and revision of an initial list of 80 items that people may consider as essential needs for a minimum standard of decent living. The second stage is a pilot survey on deprivation for testing a questionnaire which adopts the items selected in the first stage.

Focus group interviews

An initial list of 80 items covering different aspects of life (e.g. housing, household daily goods, food, transport) was proposed as the basis of the study (see Appendix 1-in Chinese). To collect as many different views towards the list as possible, 11 focus groups were conducted with 71 participants from various background (see Table 1 for details).

Table 1: Details of focus groups

Group	No. of participants
Youth	14
Elderly	6
The new arrivals	11
The disabled and people with chronic illness	7
Low income family with children	4
Frontline social workers-1	5
Teachers -1	4
Frontline social workers-1	7
Teachers -2	3
The working poor	5
Scholars with knowledge in the poverty	5

Focus group discussion consisted of two phases. In the first phase, participants were asked to discuss the following two questions:

- What needs are essentials for maintaining a minimum level of decent living for the low income people in Hong Kong? (你覺得在香港低收入人士要維持最低限度有尊嚴的生活，有什麼是必須的?)
- What is the impact of failing to fulfill these essential needs? (如果滿足不到這些必須的需要，會有什麼影響?)

To facilitate discussion, interviewer suggested the following major areas of essential needs to the participants:

- financial resources
- housing
- transport
- education
- health and health care
- social and civic engagement
- care and support

In the second phase, each participant was given a copy of the list (see Appendix 1) and was asked to indicate whether he or she agreed each item on it should be essential for low income people to maintain a minimum level of decent living. For each item, 3 choices of answer (i.e. “yes”, “no”, and “don’t know/ no opinion”) were offered. Participants could choose the one which best described their opinion. After that, discussion was held on items where participants’ views were divided.

The aim of the free flow discussion was to see if the participants would raise any items that were not covered by the initial list and to understand why they considered certain needs were essential or not. In the second phase, attention was paid especially to controversial items because researcher had to make sure whether the items were truly controversial, or the wording induced different interpretations. Results of both parts would facilitate the revision and screening of the 80 items for subsequent use in the pilot survey.

Pilot survey

Based on the selected items, a questionnaire was drafted (see Appendix 2 – in Chinese) for the pilot survey. It consisted of three questions regarding each item:

1. Do you think this item is an essential for Hong Kong people?
(你是否認為這是每個香港人所必須有的東西 / 項目?)
2. Do you have this item?
(你有沒有這東西 / 項目?)
3. If you do not have this item, is it because you cannot afford it?
(如你沒有，是否因為你負擔不起?)

All respondents were asked to answer question 1 and 2, and only those who gave a “No” response to question 2 would be asked to answer question 3. While the first question was to see whether an item was perceived as an essential need, the others were to identify the deprived.

54 respondents were recruited mainly through social service organizations and different methods were used to conduct the survey. 10 respondents were interviewed face to face, 10 were interviewed over the phone while 34 were asked to fill in the questionnaire by themselves.

Rather than collecting data for statistical analysis, the pilot survey was to identify any problems with the questionnaire and to find out a suitable way to conduct the survey. Therefore, respondents were invited to give their opinions about the survey after completing the questionnaire.

Chapter 4 Findings of Focus Group Interviews

This chapter reports the findings from focus groups interviews. Participants' opinion about the minimum standard of decent living and their response to the initial list of 80 items are presented, followed by the explanation of the first screening and revision of the initial list.

Opinion about decent living in Hong Kong

Regarding financial resources

Some participants mentioned that income should be the most important thing of all for low income people to maintain a minimum standard of decent living in Hong Kong. Adequate income was considered by them as the “pre-requisite” for other essential goods and services:

*“At least, you should have income to feed your family and maintain a basic living. When you have income, you need not depend on CSSA.”
(focus group of the youth)*

“I will say income is the most important. Without it, you need not think of anything else.” (focus group of disability and chronic illness)

Regarding housing

All groups of participants emphasized the importance of space. They thought over-crowded living environment would be harmful to the harmony of family life when people had to compete for use of space. Bedspace apartments (板間房) where people had to share facilities with strangers were unacceptable to the participants. They suggested each household having its own toilet and kitchen should be the minimum standard of decent living for low income people:

“Each household should have its own toilet. When I was a kid, I lived in a cubical apartment. I always waited for a long time for using the common toilet. The toilet was very smelly. No one cleaned it. My home was small already. I had to share the kitchen and toilet with the others. It was bothering. When I look back now, I find that my life in the past was indecent.” (focus group of the youth)

“Some children stay in cubical apartments. That's what their families can

afford. They do not have their own kitchen. They do not have their own toilet. They do not feel home when they go back. They do not have privacy. I think life like that is very indecent.” (focus group of teachers)

“People may suffer from mental problems if they lack of space. For example, three families share the same toilet. Even if a person is very polite and always let other people use it first, he will feel suppressed after some time. Inevitably, there will be conflicts.” (focus group of disability and chronic disease)

“People feel very unsatisfied when they live in cubical apartments. They have limited income. They have no choice but have to rent that kind of accommodation. In fact, they do not want to live there because they have to share toilets with other people. Then, there will be conflicts.” (focus group of social workers)

Apart from independent kitchens and toilets, some participants mentioned bedrooms would be important for protecting privacy. They pointed out some small apartments did not have bedrooms at all. That would cause inconvenience to family members, especially to female members:

“There should be at least one bedroom for each family. Otherwise, the ladies have no where to get changed.” (focus group of new arrivals)

“A bedroom is a must. There will always be male and female members in a family. Female members will feel more secure when there is a bedroom.” (focus group of the youth)

Regarding transport

All groups agreed affordable public transport would be essential for low income people to maintain a decent living. They all complained that high transport costs in Hong Kong limited the poor's choice of jobs.

“When I look for a job, I have to take transport costs into account. I cannot go far away to work. Even if a job in another district offers better salary, I cannot take it. What I earn will not be able to cover the transport costs.” (focus group of new arrivals)

“It is a paradox. Districts with the greatest number of low income people are usually remote areas. The poor living there have to pay a lot to travel to the city centre. Even if a job in city centre pays more, it takes more money to get there. Thus, the poor are forced to find jobs in their home districts. Their choices are limited.” (focus group of the youth).

Participants suggested high transport costs could even become a disincentive to work, trapping the poor in poverty:

“It costs 21.4 dollars one way to travel from Tin Shi Wai to Wan Chai. Return will cost almost 50 dollars. It is very expensive...A low income person does not earn much. If he works, he needs to buy lunch as well. When transport costs account for a proportion of his income, he will not have incentive to work at all.” (focus group of social workers)

“If you are on CSSA and if you get a job with a monthly salary of 4,000 dollars, the current policy requires 1,500 dollars to be deducted from your allowances. You actually earn 2,500 dollars. After deducting transport costs, there may be only a few hundred dollars left. That’s why many poor people would rather not to work”.(focus group of the working poor)

“Low income people should be able to pay for commuting to work. Otherwise, they will fall into the security net and rely on the government. If you want the poor to have a decent living, they must be able to stand on their own feet.” (focus group of teachers)

Participants also suggested high transport costs excluded the poor from social activities. The poor would stay in their home districts for most of the time and avoid meeting friends or joining leisure activities:

“Hong Kong’s public transport is expensive. If I want to go out with my children on holidays, I have to spend a lot. Therefore, I and my children always stay in the same area on holidays. If I want to travel to other areas, I have to check if there is money in my pocket first. Staying in the same area all the time is bad for my children. They know little about the world outside.”(focus group of new arrivals)

“The supporting network of many teenagers, women and mid-aged low

income people is weak because high transport costs prevent them from seeing their relatives and friends often.” (focus group of social workers)

“I stay in Sham Shui Po. My friend invites me to visit her in Fanling. I always refuse her, although she invites me only once a year. If I bring with my children, the transport costs will be very high. I always say I am busy. It is an excuse. The truth is I cannot afford the transport costs.” (focus group of low income families with children)

Regarding Health and medical care

Many participants mentioned timely medical services would be essential for a decent living. They complained public outpatient service could not meet the huge demand. The whole process of seeing a doctor could be frustrating:

“One time, I was sick suddenly. I called a public hospital to make an appointment, but the service had been fully booked. I had fever and had to see a doctor. Yet, I could not afford private medical service.” (focus group of the working poor)

“If you want to book public outpatient service, you have to call a hospital at mid-night in order to compete for a place with other patients. You can go for emergency service instead, but you have to stay in queue for many hours”(focus group of social workers)

“Seeing a public doctor make me feel insulted. Each time I spend 6 to 7 hours staying in queue. It takes me half an hour to wait for blood pressure test. Then, it takes me another 2 hours waiting to see a doctor. When I see him, he only spends 30 seconds on me. After that, it takes me another 2 to 3 hours waiting to get medicines. Each time is the same. It is horrible!” (focus group of disability and chronic disease)

Some participants described the long waiting lists for specialized services at public hospital were worrying:

“A few years ago, I got intestinal cancer. I would need to wait for a long time before doing the first medical check up at a public hospital. My daughter-in-law urged me to see a private doctor. It costs me a lot of money. If you do not have money, you can only wait for death” (focus

group of the elderly)

“My son has got eye diseases. He needs specialized service. He registered for the service at a public hospital in last December, but he was asked to wait until July 2012 to see a specialist. My son may become blind by that time!” (focus group of new arrivals)

Regarding Education

When talking about education, many participants pointed out extra-curricular activities were necessary for students because they were made part of the assessment in schools. However, the associated costs (e.g. tuition fees, transport fares) became a burden on low income families. Participants were also worried that academic performance of poor students might be affected and that they could not fully realize their potentials if they could not afford those activities:

“Originally, extra-curricular activities were not a must. Yet, due to progress of our society, they become necessary. Let’s say, a primary student has outstanding academic performance, yet, he has never joined any extra-curricular activities. Band-one secondary schools will not take him...” (focus group of teachers)

“My son is studying in elite class. There are lots of activities. In order to save face, he has to join. This time is hot-pot gathering. He pays. Next time is barbecue party. He pays. I try very hard to spend less and save money for him...I would rather not to eat, I still give him money to join activities.” (focus group of low income families with children)

“Poor families do not have much money for their children to join extra-curricular activities. This put poor children at disadvantage. Their competitiveness may be affected in the long run.”(focus group of social workers)

Participants also mentioned that computer with internet access was an essential need for students because e-learning was already built in school curriculum. As poor students might be unable to afford the hard wares or internet service, it could be difficult for them to finish school assignments:

“All assignments need to be done with internet, but it is hard for poor

family to pay internet service charges. Our centre provides computers. Everyday after 3 o'clock, a lot of students queue up for using them...Our centre closes at 10 o'clock at night. Some students are still here waiting after 9 o'clock."(focus group of social workers)

"Parents need computer to check students' assignments. Students are required to submit assignment by e-mail. Poor students may use computers at public libraries or community centres, but there are a lot of restrictions. For example, some computers at public libraries do not allow users to download any documents. It becomes difficult for poor students to do assignments." (focus group of social workers)

Regarding Care and Support

Some participants suggested that it was important to provide parents with affordable child care service. Otherwise, low income parents would have to give up working in order to look after children. Then, they would be trapped in poverty:

"It is difficult to find child care service in community, but it is an essential need. You need to pay 20 dollars per hour for using the service. Your part-time job may give you slightly more than 20 dollars each hour. If you only have one child, it is marginally affordable. If you have two children, you need to pay 40 dollars per hour. The hourly rate of your part-time job is 25 dollars. Should you do the part-time job or give it up?" (focus group of the working poor)

"I have the ability to work, but I have to look after my children. I want to work, but I cannot. I feel upset... It is difficult for me to find a part-time job. Working hours are not flexible. I have to take my children home after they finish classes. If there is child care service, it will be good for me."(focus group of low income families with children)

Regarding Social life and Participation

Meeting friends and relatives was regarded as an essential need by many participants. They said it was necessary to maintain social life and social network where low income people could seek support. They expressed concern about high transport costs which limited the poor's chances to meet friends and relatives.

"I am eager to meet my friends. I need someone to talk to. Yet, I do not

have money...I met a very good friend almost everyday when we were still in the Mainland. Now, I live in Tai Wo Hau and she lives in Sheng Shui. I seldom meet her. Transport costs are expensive.”(focus group of new arrivals)

“I live in Yuen Long. If my friends ask me to meet them in Mong Kok, I cannot do it. Transport costs more than 10 dollars one way. I go to Mong Kok only once or twice a year. I seldom meet my friends.”(focus group of low income families with children)

Some participants suggested a social service centre in a community could facilitate social interaction. It could also help the poor to build up supporting network:

“I hope there will be a social service centre in each community. The social workers can help people organize themselves to form supporting network. People can help one another whenever anyone is in need.”(focus group of disability and chronic disease)

“It is good for low income people to join recreational activities organized by community centres. They can make friends there. Social life is good for their mental health.”(focus group of teachers)

Response to the initial list of items

Participants of focus group interviews were given a list of 80 items and were asked whether or not each item was an essential need for low income people to maintain minimum standard of decent living in Hong Kong. The results are presented in Table 2, ranked by the percentage of participants who considered the item was an essential need.

Table 2: Ranked percentage of participants who regarded the item as an essential need for low income people to maintain a decent living in Hong Kong

Items	% of participants
1. have enough warm clothes for cold weather (天氣寒冷時有足夠的禦寒衣物)	100
2. have refrigerator at home (家裡有雪櫃)	98.6
3. safe living environment without structural dangers (居住環境安全，沒有結構性的危險)	97.2
4. can have hot shower in cold winter (天氣寒冷時可以沖熱水涼)	97.2
5. can pay for commuting to work or to school (能支付上班、上學的交通開支)	97.2
6. can buy new clothes when they are worn out (衣服鞋襪變舊或破爛，可	97.2

以買新的替換)	
7. can pay for housing expenses (能支付住屋的開支)	93
8. there is space at home so that one needs not stay on bed all day (家裡有活動空間，不用整天「屈」在床上)	93
9. have at least one window at home (家裡最少有一個窗口)	93
10. children have a pair of sport shoes (兒童擁有一對波鞋)	91.5
11. children can have their own place at home to do homework (兒童在家中可擁有自己做功課的地方)	91.5
12. can have one set of decent clothes (可以有一套體面的衣服)	91.5
13. no need to share toilet with other families (在家裡，不用和其他家庭共用洗手間)	90.1
14. can pay for spectacles (能支付配戴眼鏡的費用)	90.1
15. students have school uniforms of proper size every year (學生每年有合身的校服穿)	90.1
16. buy prescribed medicines (購買醫生處方的藥物)	90.1
17. most of lunches and dinners in a week have vegetables in the meal (一星期內大多數午餐及晚餐中有新鮮蔬菜)	90.1
18. have fresh fruits once a week (一星期吃一次新鮮水果)	90.1
19. no need to share kitchen with other families (在家裡，不用和其他家庭共用廚房)	88.7
20. can pay for maintenance when household electric appliances are broken (家裡的電器壞了，可以支付維修費用)	88.7
21. can keep general medicines like Chinese medicated liquor for bruising, cough syrup, panadol at home (家中可以備有跌打酒、咳水、退燒藥等一般藥物)	88.7
22. have a better meal during the Chinese New Year (過年時吃一頓比平日豐富的飯餐)	88.7
23. seek dental treatment when needed (如有需要，向牙醫求診)	88.6
24. public transport near to home (屋企附近有公共交通接駁)	87.3
25. students can join extra-curricular activities (學生能夠參加課外活動)	87.3
26. have breakfast everyday (每天有早餐食)	87.3
27. can offer a gift of money on occasion of funeral (親友過身時能夠支付帛金)	87.3
28. can use body lotion or face cream in dry weather (天氣乾燥時，可以用面霜和潤膚露)	86.3
29. students can use computer and internet at home (學生可在家中使用電腦及互聯網)	85.9
30. have opportunity for learning computer skills (有機會學習使用電腦)	84.5
31. can buy incense sticks and flowers for worshipping ancestors (拜祭先人時，能購買香燭、鮮花等所需的物品)	84.5
32. adult and children have their own beds (無論成年人或小孩，擁有自己的睡床)	83.1
33. have television at home (家裡有電視機)	83.1
34. can consult private doctor in case of emergency without waiting for public outpatient service (有急病時，不用輪候街症，可向私家西醫求診)	83.1
35. can offer a gift of money on occasion of wedding (親友結婚時能夠支付賀禮)	83.1
36. can give red pockets during the Chinese New Year (過年時能夠封利是給親友)	83.1
37. can pay for transport costs for visiting relatives and friends (能支付探望)	81.7

親友的交通開支)	
38. have savings to meet emergent needs (有積蓄應付突發事故)	81.7
39. can join leisure activities on holidays (放假時可以參與餘暇活動)	81.7
40. working parents can use child care service when needed (在職家長如有需要，可使用托兒服務)	80.3
41. most of lunches and dinners in a week include fish or other kinds of meat in the meal (一星期內大多數午餐及晚餐中有魚或其他肉類)	80.3
42. can have money to visit relatives in mainland when needed (有需要時，可以有錢回鄉探親)	80.3
43. have washing machine at home(家裡有洗衣機)	78.9
44. students can buy reference books and supplementary exercises (學生能夠購買課外書、補充練習等)	78.9
45. have mobile phone (有手提電話)	77.5
46. can get help from relatives and friends when in need (有需要時，得到親友的支援和幫助)	77.5
47. periodic dental check up (定期檢查牙齒)	74.6
48. can buy one or two pieces of new clothes in a year (一年可以買一至兩件新衫)	74.6
49. can travel to and back from hospital by taxi in case of emergent sickness (有急病時，可以乘坐的士往返醫院)	70.4
50. can attend vocational training (修讀提升工作技能的課程)	69
51. consult Chinese medicine practitioner when needed (如有需要，向中醫求診)	69
52. can travel to another district by transport once a week (一個星期可以乘坐交通工具跨區活動一次)	67.6
53. every child has two toys (兒童有兩件玩具)	67.6
54. implant artificial teeth when needed (如有需要，釀假牙)	67.6
55. have radio at home (家裡有收音機)	66.2
56. eat at "tea restaurant" or fast food shop sometimes (間中到茶餐廳或快餐店吃東西)	66.2
57. can join fee charging activities organized by community centre or social service organization (可以參與社區中心或社會服務機構與辦的收費活動)	62
58. can have periodic haircut at saloon (定期到理髮店剪頭髮)	60.6
59. go to tea house sometimes (間中到茶樓飲茶)	56.3
60. have air-conditioner at home for cooling in hot weather (天氣炎熱，家裡有冷氣機降溫)	54.9
61. have camera in the family (家庭中有一部照相機)	52.1
62. cook Cantonese traditional soup sometimes (間中煲老火湯飲用)	49.3
63. students can join tutorial classes (學生能參加補習班)	49.3
64. children can go to McDonald's sometimes (兒童可以間中去麥當奴食野)	49.3
65. periodic scaling (定期洗牙)	47.9
66. drink herbal tea sometimes (間中飲用涼茶)	44.3
67. can afford to buy newspaper everyday (可以負擔每天買報紙的費用)	43.7
68. can lend money to relatives & friends when they are in need (親友有緊急需要時，可以借錢給他們)	40.8
69. have soft drinks or packed juice sometimes (間中飲用汽水、包裝果汁等飲品)	39.4
70. have afternoon tea sometimes (間中外出飲下午茶)	38
71. buy magazines sometimes (間中購買雜誌)	36.6

72. can dye hair when it turns white (頭髮白了，可以染黑頭髮)	36.6
73. buy products for keeping appearance tidy (e.g. hair gel, cosmetics) [可以買整理儀容的用品(如化妝品、髮乳)]	36.6
74. leave HK to other places (including China) for vacation once a year [每年可以離港(包括內地)旅行一次]	32.4
75. have DVD or VCD player at home (家裡有 DVD 或 VCD 機)	29.6
76. have heater at home for keeping warm in cold weather (天氣寒冷，家裡有暖爐取暖)	29.6
77. possess private medical insurance (購買私人醫療保險)	26.8
78. buy supplements like vitamins, cod liver oil and Ensure Power when needed (如有需要，購買維他命丸、魚肝油、加營素等健康食物)	25.4
79. can go to cinema once or twice a year (一年可以有一、兩次到電影院看電影)	25.4
80. keep small pets (e.g. fish, birds) [飼養小型寵物(如:魚、鳥)]	8.5

61 items on the list were regarded by more than half of participants as essential needs for maintaining a decent living. Some of the items were mentioned by participants during free-flow discussion, including:

- “can pay for commuting to work or to school”
- “can travel to another district by transport once a week”
- “no need to share toilet with other families”
- “no need to share kitchen with other families”
- “students can join extra-curricular activities”
- “students can use computer and internet at home”
- “can consult private doctor in case of emergency without waiting for public outpatient service”
- “can join fee charging activities organized by community centre or social service organization”

18 items were considered by more than 90% of respondents as essentials. Some of them were related to housing (e.g. “can pay for housing expenses”, “safe living environment without structural dangers”), food (e.g. “most of lunches and dinners in a week have vegetables in the meal”, “have fresh fruits once a week”) and clothes (e.g. “can buy new clothes when they are worn out”, “can have one set of decent clothes”). The item of “have enough warm clothes for cold weather” got unanimous consensus. 100% of participants agreed it was an essential need for a decent living.

First screening and revision of the list

Deprivation approach defines socially perceived essentials as those items that a majority of respondents consider as essential and people who cannot afford them will be regarded as the deprived. Therefore, it is decided that 50 per cent cut-off should be

used for selecting items from the initial list. 19 items with less than half of participants considering as essentials should be taken out.

Among the selected 61 items, some belong to the same domain of life with similar nature (e.g. 7 items are related to housing, 6 items are related to electric appliances, 4 items are related to social customs). Some do not involve the issue of affordability (i.e. whether a person has the items or not does not depend on his resources at all), thus cannot be used to identify the deprived population. Taking these considerations into account, it is decided that the following items should be taken out, further reducing the list to 53 :

- “have washing machine at home”
- “public transport near home”
- “children have a pair of sport shoes”
- “each child has two toys”
- “implant artificial teeth when needed”
- “have a better meal during the Chinese New Year”
- “get help from relatives and friends when in need”
- “can buy incense sticks and flowers for worshipping ancestors”

Moreover, wording of some items should be revised as focus group participants reflected they caused confusion:

- “can travel to another district by transport once a week”(一個星期可以乘坐交通工具跨區活動一次)

Some participants pointed out the phrase “once a week” sounded like people had to travel to other districts at fixed time intervals in order to maintain a decent living, which they thought unnecessary. Yet, they agreed very much that people should be able to leave their home districts sometimes. Therefore, it is decided that the item should be rephrased as “can travel to another district by transport when needed” (有需要時可以乘坐交通工具跨區活動).

- “can travel to and back from hospital by taxi in case of emergent sickness”(有急病時，可坐的士往返醫院)

Some participants said the phrase “urgent sickness” were vague and induced very different interpretations. It is decided that the item should be revised as “can travel to and back from hospital when needed”(有需要時，可坐的士往返醫院).

- “can have periodic haircut at saloon” (定期到理髮店剪髮)

Some participants pointed out the term “periodic” sounded like people had to go to a saloon very regularly. They did not agree to that, although they thought people would need to have haircut at saloon sometimes. Therefore, it is decided that the item should be rephrased as “have haircut at saloon when needed” (有需要時到理髮店剪頭髮).

- “children can have their own place at home to do homework”(兒童在家中可擁有自己做功課的地方)

Some participants suggested the phrase “their own place” might mean different things like a study room, a desk used for study only, a table for multiple purposes etc. People with different understandings might have very different answers to the question. Considering the crowded living environment of Hong Kong, they thought a table should be a minimum for children to study at home. It is decided the item should be revised as “children have a table at home to do assignments”(兒童在家中有枱做功課).

Participants mentioned bedrooms would be essential for people to maintain a decent living. However, this item is not included in the initial list. To respond to their feedback, it is decided that one more item should be added: “family with children should have at least one bedroom at home” (有孩子的家庭，家裡最少有一間睡房).

Chapter 5 Findings of the Pilot Survey

Based on the 54 items selected in the first stage of study, a questionnaire (Appendix 2-in Chinese) was drafted for pilot survey. Result is presented in Table 3. Columns marked with “Not answered” indicate the percentage of respondents who did not answer the questions.

Self-administered questionnaires

It can be seen from Table 3 that percentages of respondents who did not answer question 2 (“Do you have this item?”) and question 3 (“If you do not have this item, is it because you cannot afford it?”) were much higher than those who did not answer question 1 (“Do you think this item is an essential for Hong Kong people?”). Most respondents who skipped question 2 and question 3 were those asked to fill in the questionnaire themselves. In fact, among the 34 self-administered questionnaires, 20 were incomplete, with either question 3 or both question 2 and 3 being left blank by respondents.

Although there were instructions for filling in the questionnaire, many respondents overlooked them. They said they did not understand what they were expected to do with the questionnaire. Some misunderstood that they were only required to answer question 1 and the other questions were optional. Some said they did not notice that they would need to answer question 3 when they said no in question 2.

Face-to-face interviews and telephone interviews

Although all face to face interviews and those conducted over the phone were successfully completed, a number of problems were discovered. On average, each interview took about 15 minutes to complete.

1. *Wording of question 2*

After asking whether a respondent thought an item was an essential for Hong Kong people, interviewer would ask “Do you have this item?” Many respondents felt hesitant and asked the interviewer to repeat the item. Some respondents explained they often forgot what “this item” was referring to. Some said they felt confused when the item was about doing something [e.g. “go to tea house sometimes” (間中到茶樓飲茶)] while the question was asking whether they had something (i.e. 你有沒有這一樣東西?). Then, the respondents needed more time to digest the question before they could decide their answer.

2. *Answer to question 2*

Some respondents said they were uncertain about the answer when the interviewer asked whether they had an item because sometimes they had it but sometimes they did not. For example, a respondent was asked if he had the item of “students can join extra-curricular activities”. She said she did not know how to answer. Her children had joined extra-curricular activities before but sometimes they could not join certain activities when the charges were too high.

3. *Items about whether a person would be able to do something*

A lot of items in the questionnaire were about whether a person would be able to do something, for examples:

- can pay for housing expenses (能支付住屋的開支)
- can pay for spectacles (能支付配戴眼鏡的費用)
- have opportunity for learning computer skills (有機會學習使用電腦)
- can pay for transport cost for visiting relatives and friends (能支付探望親友的交通開支)
- can pay for commuting to work or to school (能支付上班上學的交通開支)
- can give red pockets during the Chinese New Year(過年時能夠封利是給親友)

Some respondents said they were not sure about the answer when the interviewer asked whether they had these items. The problem they encountered was that they were not doing what were described in these items at that moment, but they believed they would be able to do so in the future when they needed to. For instance, one respondent said he was not learning computer skills. Yet, he thought he could afford to learn them if he wanted. Then, he did not know whether he should answer yes or no when he was asked whether he had the opportunity to learn computer skills.

4. *Items relating to children or students*

A number of items in the questions related to children or students, including:

- students can buy reference books and supplementary exercises(學生能夠購買課外書、補充練習等)
- students have school uniforms of proper size every year (學生每年有合身的校服穿)
- students can use computer and internet at home (學生可在家中使用電腦及互聯網)
- students can join extra-curricular activities (學生能夠參加課外活動)

- children have a table at home to do homework (兒童在家中有枱做功課)

Two major problems regarding these items were encountered by respondents. Firstly, some respondents were not sure if the questions should apply to themselves or to their family members when they were asked whether they had these items. For example, one respondent said he was not a student, so he should answer no if the questions only apply to him. However, he wondered whether he should answer yes if the question did not apply to him only because there were students in his family.

Secondly, some respondents gave inconsistent answers to questions relating to these items. For example, a respondent said she was not a student when interviewer asked whether she had the items of “students can buy reference books and supplementary exercises” and “students have school uniforms of proper size every year”. However, she answered yes when interviewer asked whether she had the item of “students can use computer and internet at home”. The respondent explained the item about internet reminded her that she studied for a master degree a few years ago and she searched resources from the internet very often.

5. *Problems with individual items*

- “family with children should have at least one bedroom at home” (有孩子的家庭，家裡最少有一間睡房)

This was not on the initial list of 80 items but added in response to opinions raised by focus group participants. Some respondents of pilot survey misunderstood this item as “children have their own bedroom”

- “can join leisure activities on holidays”(放假時可以參與餘暇活動)

When asked whether he had this item, one respondent said he joined leisure activities sometimes, but there was no difference between holidays and working days for him because he was not employed. The interviewer was not sure if this respondent should be considered as having this item.

Totally, 54 items were selected for the subsequent stage of the study.

Table 3: Result of pilot survey - self administered survey, face to face interview and telephone interview (n=54)
 (# Only respondents who said no to question 2 were counted in question 3)

	1. Do you think this item is an essential for Hong Kong people?			2. Do you have this item?			3. If you do not have this item, is it because you cannot afford it? #		
	Yes (%)	No (%)	Not answered(%)	Yes (%)	No (%)	Not answered(%)	Yes (%)	No(%)	Not answered(%)
can pay for housing expenses	87.0	9.3	3.7	57.4	20.4	22.2	72.7	0	27.3
safe living environment without structural dangers	88.9	9.3	1.9	57.4	14.8	27.8	25.0	37.5	37.5
there is space at home so that one needs not stay on bed all day	90.7	5.6	3.7	53.7	18.5	27.8	40.0	20.0	40.0
no need to share kitchen with other families	83.3	14.8	1.9	61.1	9.3	29.6	20.0	20.0	60.0
no need to share toilet with other families	81.5	16.7	1.9	59.3	11.1	29.6	33.3	16.7	50.0
adult and children have their own beds	85.2	13.0	1.9	55.6	13.0	31.5	28.6	42.9	28.6
have at least one window at home	96.3	3.7	0	68.5	1.9	29.6	0	0	100
family with children should have at least one bedroom	79.6	13.0	7.4	50.0	13.0	37.0	42.9	28.6	28.6
have television at home	87.0	9.3	3.7	70.4	3.7	25.9	50.0	50.0	0
have air-conditioner at home for cooling in hot weather	70.4	25.9	3.7	64.8	9.3	25.9	40.0	0	60.0
have radio at home	72.2	22.2	5.6	61.1	14.8	24.1	12.5	62.5	25.0
have camera in the family	68.5	27.8	3.7	64.8	11.1	24.1	50.0	0	50.0
can pay for maintenance when household electric appliances are broken	87.0	11.1	1.9	61.1	9.3	29.6	60.0	0	40.0
have refrigerator at home	92.6	3.7	3.7	66.7	7.4	25.9	50.0	0	50.0
can have hot shower in cold winter	94.4	1.9	3.7	75.9	0	24.1	-	-	-
can pay for spectacles	90.7	3.7	5.6	63.0	13.0	24.0	57.1	28.6	14.3
have mobile phone	81.5	14.8	3.7	72.2	3.7	24.1	0	0	100
have opportunity for learning computer skills	75.9	20.4	3.7	64.8	11.1	24.1	66.7	0	33.3
can attend vocational training	64.8	27.8	7.4	50.0	22.2	27.8	16.7	33.3	50.0
can pay for transport costs for visiting relatives and friends	85.2	11.1	3.7	64.8	9.3	25.9	60.0	0	40.0
can pay for commuting to work or to school	88.9	7.4	3.7	61.1	20.4	18.5	18.2	63.6	18.2

can travel to another district by transport when needed	85.2	11.1	3.7	68.5	7.4	24.1	50.0	0	50.0
can travel to and back from hospital by taxi when needed	70.4	27.8	1.9	63.0	9.3	27.8	33.3	33.3	33.3
students can buy reference books and supplementary exercises	77.8	18.5	3.7	50.0	29.6	20.4	12.5	68.8	18.8
students have school uniforms of proper size every year	85.2	13.0	1.9	51.9	25.9	22.2	13.3	80.0	6.7
students can use computer and internet at home	83.4	13.0	3.7	53.7	25.9	20.4	14.3	64.3	21.4
students can join extra-curricular activities	83.3	9.3	7.4	57.4	22.2	20.4	20.0	73.3	6.7
children can have their own place at home to do homework	88.9	5.6	5.6	51.9	24.1	24.1	26.7	60.0	13.3
periodic dental check up	79.6	14.8	5.6	50.0	22.2	27.8	42.9	14.3	42.9
seek dental treatment when needed	85.2	7.4	7.4	55.6	14.8	29.6	50.0	20.0	30.0
consult Chinese medicine practitioner when needed	75.9	16.7	7.4	53.7	11.1	35.2	50.0	37.5	12.5
can consult private doctor in case of emergency without waiting for public outpatient service	74.1	20.3	5.6	59.3	11.1	29.6	62.5	0	37.5
buy prescribed medicines	75.9	18.5	5.6	48.1	18.5	33.3	50.0	33.3	16.7
can keep general medicines like Chinese medicated liquor for bruising, cough syrup, panadol at home	87.0	7.4	5.6	63.0	7.4	29.6	50.0	0	50.0
have savings to meet urgent needs	85.2	9.3	5.6	48.1	20.4	31.5	61.5	7.7	30.8
working parents can use child care service when needed	79.6	14.8	5.6	27.8	42.6	29.6	24.0	52.0	24.0
go to tea house sometimes	64.8	27.8	7.4	48.1	18.5	33.3	30.8	46.2	23.1
eat at "tea restaurant" or fast food shop sometimes	70.4	22.2	7.4	53.7	14.8	31.5	40.0	30.0	30.0
have breakfast everyday	83.3	11.1	5.6	55.6	9.3	35.2	57.1	28.6	14.3
most of lunches and dinners in a week have vegetables in the meal	90.7	3.7	5.6	63.0	7.4	29.6	66.7	16.7	16.7
most of lunches and dinners in a week include fish or other kinds of meat in the meal	85.2	7.4	7.4	64.8	5.6	29.6	60.0	0	40.0
have fresh fruits once a week	87.0	7.4	5.6	64.8	5.6	29.6	40.0	20.0	40.0
can buy one or two pieces of new clothes in a year	77.8	16.7	5.6	61.1	7.4	31.5	83.3	0	16.7

have haircut at saloon when needed	83.3	13.0	3.7	59.3	9.3	31.5	57.1	0	42.9
can have one set of decent clothes	87.0	11.1	1.9	59.3	9.3	31.5	57.1	0	42.9
have enough warm clothes for cold weather	92.6	3.7	3.7	64.8	3.7	31.5	75.0	0	25.0
can buy new clothes when they are worn out	87.0	9.3	3.7	66.7	3.7	29.6	75.0	0	25.0
can use body lotion or face cream in dry weather	85.2	11.1	3.7	64.8	5.6	29.6	60.0	20.0	20.0
can join leisure activities on holidays	81.5	11.1	7.4	59.3	9.3	31.5	42.9	28.6	28.6
can join fee charging activities organized by community centre or social service organization	75.9	20.4	3.7	50.0	20.4	29.6	38.5	46.2	15.4
have money to visit relatives in mainland when needed	87.0	9.3	3.7	46.3	27.8	25.9	23.5	58.8	17.6
can offer a gift of money on occasion of funeral	90.7	5.6	3.7	53.7	13.0	33.3	56.6	33.3	11.1
can offer a gift of money on occasion of wedding	85.2	13.0	1.9	55.6	9.3	35.2	75.0	12.5	12.5
can give red pockets during the Chinese New Year	88.9	7.4	3.7	53.7	13.0	33.3	33.3	55.6	11.1

Table 4: Result of pilot survey- self-administered survey (n=34)

(# Only respondents who said no to question 2 were counted in question 3)

	1. Do you think this item is an essential for Hong Kong people?			2. Do you have this item?			3. If you do not have this item, is it because you cannot afford it? #		
	Yes (%)	No (%)	Not answered(%)	Yes (%)	No (%)	Not answered(%)	Yes (%)	No(%)	Not answered(%)
can pay housing expenses	85.3	8.8	5.9	47.1	20.6	32.3	71.4	-	28.6
safe living environment without structural dangers	82.4	14.7	2.9	38.2	17.6	44.1	16.7	33.3	50.0
there is space at home so that one needs not stay on bed all day	85.3	8.8	5.9	35.3	20.6	44.1	14.3	28.6	57.1
no need to share kitchen with other families	82.4	14.7	2.9	38.2	14.7	47.1	20.0	20.0	60.0
no need to share toilet with other families	79.4	17.6	2.9	35.3	17.6	47.1	33.3	16.7	50.0
adults and children have their own beds	85.3	11.8	2.9	38.2	14.7	47.1	20.0	60.0	20.0
have at least one window at home	97.1	2.9	-	50.0	2.9	47.1	-	-	100.0
family with children should have at least one bedroom	85.3	5.9	8.8	38.2	8.8	52.9	33.3	33.3	33.3
have television at home	91.2	2.9	5.9	55.9	2.9	41.2	-	100.0	-
have air-conditioner at home for cooling in hot weather	73.5	20.6	5.9	50.0	8.8	41.2	33.3	-	66.7
have radio at home	76.5	14.7	8.8	52.9	8.8	38.2	33.3	-	66.7
have camera in the family	76.5	17.6	5.9	55.9	5.9	38.2	50.0	-	50.0
can pay for maintenance when household electric appliances are broken	82.4	14.7	2.9	47.1	8.8	44.1	33.3	-	66.7
have refrigerator at home	85.3	5.9	8.8	50.0	8.8	41.2	33.3	-	66.7
can have hot shower in cold winter	91.2	2.9	5.9	61.8	-	38.2	-	-	-
can pay for spectacles	85.3	5.9	8.8	50.0	11.8	38.2	50.0	25.0	25.0
have mobile phone	82.4	11.8	5.9	55.9	5.9	38.2	-	-	100.0
have opportunity for learning computer skills	76.5	17.6	5.9	50.0	11.8	38.2	50.0	-	50.0
can attend vocational training	61.8	26.5	11.8	38.2	20.6	41.2	28.6	14.3	57.1
can pay for transport costs for visiting relatives and friends	82.4	11.8	5.9	50.0	8.8	41.2	33.3	-	66.7
can pay for commuting to work or to school	82.4	11.8	5.9	50.0	20.6	29.4	14.3	57.1	28.6
can travel to another district by transport when needed	79.4	14.7	5.9	52.9	8.8	38.2	33.3	-	66.7
can travel to and back from hospital by taxi when needed	73.5	23.5	2.9	44.1	11.8	44.1	40.0	20.0	40.0
students can buy reference books and supplementary exercises	82.4	11.8	5.9	50.0	23.5	26.5	12.5	50.0	37.5
students have school uniforms of proper size every year	82.4	14.7	2.9	50.0	20.6	29.4	25.0	62.5	12.5

students can use computer and internet at home	82.3	11.8	5.9	50.0	23.5	26.5	12.5	50.0	37.5
students can join extra-curricular activities	79.4	8.8	11.8	58.8	14.7	26.5	16.7	66.7	16.7
children can have their own place at home to do homework	82.4	8.8	8.8	52.9	20.6	26.5	14.3	57.1	28.6
periodic dental check up	70.6	20.6	8.8	41.2	20.6	38.2	14.3	14.3	71.4
seek dental treatment when needed	79.4	11.8	8.8	44.1	14.7	41.2	40.0	20.0	40.0
consult Chinese medicine practitioner when needed	73.5	17.6	8.8	47.1	11.8	41.2	50.0	25.0	25.0
can consult private doctor in case of emergency without waiting for public outpatient service	73.5	17.6	8.8	47.1	14.7	38.2	40.0	-	60.0
buy prescribed medicines	70.6	20.6	8.8	41.2	14.7	44.1	40.0	20.0	40.0
can keep general medicines like Chinese medicated liquor for bruising, cough syrup, panadol at home	82.4	8.8	8.8	47.1	11.8	41.2	25.0	-	75.0
have savings to meet urgent needs	76.5	14.7	8.8	38.2	20.6	41.2	42.9	14.3	42.9
working parents can use child care service when needed	73.5	17.6	8.8	29.4	35.3	35.3	16.7	41.7	41.7
go to tea house sometimes	70.6	20.6	8.8	41.2	14.7	44.1	16.7	33.3	50.0
eat at "tea restaurant" or fast food shop sometimes	70.6	20.6	8.8	44.1	14.7	41.2	20.0	20.0	60.0
have breakfast everyday	79.4	14.7	5.9	44.1	8.8	47.1	33.3	33.3	33.3
most of lunches and dinners in a week have vegetables in the meal	88.2	2.9	8.8	52.9	5.9	41.2	50.0	-	50.0
most of lunches and dinners in a week include fish or other kinds of meat in the meal	82.4	5.9	11.8	50.0	8.8	41.2	33.3	-	66.7
have fresh fruits once a week	79.4	11.8	8.8	52.9	5.9	41.2	-	-	100.0
can buy one or two pieces of new clothes in a year	79.4	11.8	8.8	52.9	5.9	41.2	50.0	-	50.0
have haircut at saloon when needed	79.4	14.7	5.9	44.1	11.8	44.1	25.0	-	75.0
can have one set of decent clothes	88.2	8.8	2.9	44.1	11.8	44.1	25.0	-	75.0
have enough warm clothes for cold weather	88.2	5.9	5.9	50.0	5.9	44.1	50.0	-	50.0
can buy new clothes when they are worn out	85.3	8.8	5.9	52.9	5.9	41.2	50.0	-	50.0
can use body lotion or face cream in dry weather	85.3	8.8	5.9	52.9	5.9	41.2	50.0	-	50.0
can join leisure activities on holidays	79.4	8.8	11.8	47.1	8.8	44.1	33.3	-	66.7
can join fee charging activities organized by community centre or social service organization	82.4	11.8	5.9	47.1	11.8	41.2	50.0	-	50.0
have money to visit relatives in mainland when needed	82.4	11.8	5.9	44.1	23.5	32.4	25.0	50.0	25.0
can offer a gift of money on occasion of funeral	88.2	5.9	5.9	44.1	8.8	47.1	33.3	33.3	33.3
can offer a gift of money on occasion of wedding	85.3	11.8	2.9	44.1	8.8	47.1	66.7	-	33.3
can give red pockets during the Chinese New Year	88.2	5.9	5.9	50.0	5.9	44.1	50.0	-	50.0

Table 5: Result of pilot survey- telephone and face-to-face interview (n=20)
 (# Only respondents who said no to question 2 were counted in question 3)

	1. Do you think this item is an essential for Hong Kong people?			2. Do you have this item?			3. If you do not have this item, is it because you cannot afford it? #		
	Yes (%)	No (%)	Not answered(%)	Yes (%)	No (%)	Not answered(%)	Yes (%)	No(%)	Not answered(%)
can pay housing expenses	90.0	10.0	-	75.0	20.0	5.0	75.0	-	25.0
safe living environment without structural dangers	100.0		-	90.0	10.0	-	50.0	50.0	-
there is space at home so that one needs not stay on bed all day	85.0	15.0	-	85.0	15.0	-	100.0	-	-
no need to share kitchen with other families	85.0	15.0	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-
no need to share toilet with other families	85.0	15.0	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-
adults and children have their own beds	85.0	15.0	-	85.0	10.0	5.0	50.0	-	50.0
have at least one window at home	95.0	5.0	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-
family with children should have at least one bedroom	70.0	25.0	5.0	70.0	20.0	10.0	50.0	25.0	25.0
have television at home	80.0	20.0	-	95.0	5.0	-	100.0	-	-
have air-conditioner at home for cooling in hot weather	65.0	35.0	-	90.0	10.0	-	50.0	-	50.0
have radio at home	65.0	35.0	-	75.0	25.0	-	-	100.0	-
have camera in the family	55.0	45.0	-	80.0	20.0	-	50.0	-	50.0
can pay for maintenance when household electric appliances are broken	95.0	5.0	-	85.0	10.0	5.0	100.0	-	-
have refrigerator at home	100.0	-	-	95.0	5.0	-	100.0	-	-
can have hot shower in cold winter	100.0	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-
can pay for spectacles	100.0	-	-	85.0	15.0	-	66.7	33.3	-
have mobile phone	80.0	20.0	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-
have opportunity for learning computer skills	75.0	25.0	-	90.0	10.0	-	100.0	-	-
can attend vocational training	70.0	30.0	-	70.0	25.0	5.0	-	60.0	40.0
can pay for transport costs for visiting relatives and friends	90.0	10.0	-	90.0	10.0	-	100.0	-	-
can pay for commuting to work or to school	100.0	-	-	80.0	20.0	-	25.0	75.0	-
can travel to another district by transport when needed	95.0	5.0	-	95.0	5.0	-	100.0	-	-
can travel to and back from hospital by taxi when needed	65.0	35.0	-	95.0	5.0	-	-	100.0	-

students can buy reference books and supplementary exercises	70.0	30.0	-	50.0	40.0	10.0	12.5	87.5	-
students have school uniforms of proper size every year	90.0	10.0	-	55.0	35.0	10.0	-	100.0	-
students can use computer and internet at home	85.0	15.0	-	60.0	30.0	10.0	16.7	83.3	-
students can join extra-curricular activities	90.0	10.0	-	55.0	45.0	-	22.2	77.8	-
children have their own place at home to do homework	100.0	-	-	50.0	50.0	-	50.0	50.0	-
periodic dental check up	95.0	5.0	-	65.0	35.0	-	71.4	14.3	14.3
seek dental treatment when needed	95.0	-	5.0	75.0	25.0	-	60.0	20.0	20.0
consult Chinese medicine practitioner when needed	80.0	15.0	5.0	65.0	35.0	0	28.6	71.4	-
can consult private doctor in case of emergency without waiting for public outpatient service	75.0	25.0	-	80.0	5.0	15.0	100.0	-	-
buy prescribed medicines	85.0	15.0	-	60.0	25.0	15.0	80.0	20.0	-
can keep general medicines like Chinese medicated liquor for bruising, cough syrup, panadol at home	95.0	5.0	-	90.0	10.0	-	100.0	-	-
have savings to meet urgent needs	100.0	-	-	65.0	20.0	15.0	50.0	50.0	-
working parents can use child care service when needed	90.0	10.0	-	45.0	55.0	-	45.0	55.0	-
go to tea house sometimes	55.0	40.0	5.0	75.0	25.0	-	20.0	80.0	-
eat at "tea restaurant" or fast food shop sometimes	70.0	25.0	5.0	70.0	25.0	5.0	60.0	40.0	-
have breakfast everyday	90.0	5.0	5.0	75.0	20.0	5.0	75.0	25.0	-
most of lunches and dinners in a week have vegetables in the meal	95.0	5.0	-	80.0	20.0	-	75.0	25.0	-
most of lunches and dinners in a week include fish or other kinds of meat in the meal	90.0	10.0	-	90.0	10.0	-	100.0	-	-
have fresh fruits once a week	100.0	-	-	95.0	5.0	-	66.7	33.3	-
can buy one or two pieces of new clothes in a year	75.0	25.0	-	90.0	10.0	-	50.0	50.0	-
have haircut at saloon when needed	90.0	10.0	-	85.0	15.0	-	100.0	-	-
can have one set of decent clothes	85.0	15.0	-	85.0	15.0	-	100.0	-	-
have enough warm clothes for cold weather	100.0	-	-	90.0	10.0	-	100.0	-	-
can buy new clothes when they are worn out	90.0	10.0	-	90.0	10.0	-	100.0	-	-
can use body lotion or face cream in dry weather	85.0	15.0	-	85.0	15.0	-	66.7	33.3	-
can join leisure activities on holidays	85.0	15.0	-	80.0	20.0	-	50.0	50.0	-
can join fee charging activities organized by community centre or social service organization	65.0	35.0	-	55.0	45.0	-	33.3	66.7	-
have money to visit relatives in mainland when needed	95.0	5.0	-	50.0	50.0	-	20.0	80.0	-

can offer a gift of money on occasion of funeral	95.0	5.0	-	70.0	30.0	-	66.7	33.3	-
can offer a gift of money on occasion of wedding	85.0	15.0	-	75.0	25.0	-	80.0	20.0	-
can give red pockets during the Chinese New Year	90.0	10.0	-	55.0	45.0	-	33.3	66.7	-

Chapter 6 Recommendations for the Future Research Study

As the first step towards a comprehensive research on deprivation in Hong Kong, objective of the present study is to suggest a list of items that people may consider as essential needs for a minimum standard of decent living. The list can be adopted in the future to identify the deprived population. Those who cannot afford the items that are considered to be necessary by a majority in society should be regarded as the deprived.

Focus groups were conducted with 71 participants from various sectors of the community. Their feedback was considered for screening and revision of an initial list of 80 items. After that, a pilot survey was conducted to test a questionnaire based on the 54 selected items. Different methods were used to conduct the survey. 10 respondents were interviewed face to face. 10 were interviewed over the phone. 34 were asked to fill in the questionnaire by themselves. A number of problems with the questionnaire were identified.

In response to the findings of the present study, the following recommendations are proposed for the future research study on deprivation in Hong Kong:

1. Method for conducting the research study

Among the 34 self-administered questionnaires, 20 were not fully completed. Many respondents overlooked the instructions printed on the questionnaire and did not understand how to fill it in. On contrary, all interviews conducted face to face and over the phone were successfully completed.

It is recommended that the future formal research study on deprivation should be conducted by face to face interview or telephone interview. Providing more instructions will help minimize the problem arising from self-administered questionnaire.

Cost and research quality are the two factors that have to be considered in selecting telephone interview or face to face interview. Using telephone interview is less costly. However, in the pilot study, it took more than 20 minutes to complete the list of 54 deprivation items. The rejection rate will rise significantly for conducting such a lengthy telephone interview. If telephone interview is chosen, the deprivation list should be shortened to e.g. not more than 30 items. On the other hand, there will be more flexibility in the number of deprivation items to be included if the study is conducted by face to face interview and the response rate will probably be higher, but more resources has to be committed in the study.

Table 6: Advantages and Disadvantages of conducting the survey by different methods

Survey Method	Face to face interview	Telephone interview
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More questions can be asked in the survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower cost
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher rejection rate • The list has to be shortened to, say, no more than 30 items

2. The question for finding out who does not have an item

As mentioned before, studies using the deprivation approach should firstly identify a list of items that a majority of people in a society consider as necessary. Then, those do not have these items should be found out. Finally, people going without the items because they cannot afford it will be regarded as the deprived.

In the pilot survey, question for finding out who do not have the item was phrased as “Do you have this item?”. However, during face to face interviews and telephone interviews, many respondents got lost and could not remember what “this item” was referring to.

If the future research study on deprivation is conducted face to face or over the phone, it is recommended that the interviewer should mention the item in the question for finding out who does not have it. For example, if the item is “go to tea house sometimes”, the interviewer should ask the respondent directly, “Do you go to tea house sometimes?” This may help respondents focus their attention on the question.

Also, some respondents of the pilot survey found it hard to decide their answer when asked whether they had that item. Sometimes, they had it, sometimes, they went without it. In the future study, instructions should be given to the interviewer to deal with this situation. The interviewer should be instructed to ask further whether a respondent goes without an item for most of the time when he or she cannot give clear and distinct answer. If a respondent goes without an item for most of time, he or she should be regarded as not having that item.

3. Items specific to children or students

Many respondents of the pilot survey found it difficult to answer whether they had an item relating to children or students. They were not students themselves, but they had been students in the past, or some of their family members were children or students. They were not sure whether the question also applied to their previous identity and their family members.

To clear the confusion, it is recommended that before dealing with these items, the future interviewer should ask if a respondent is a student and if there are children or students in the household. When a respondent is not a student and there are no children or students in the household, the interviewer only needs to ask whether he or she agrees that these items are essentials. When a respondent is a student, the interviewer should also ask whether he or she has these items. When a respondent is not a student but there are children or students in the household, the interviewer should ask the respondent whether the children or students in the household have these items.

4. Items suggested for the future survey

The present study recommends the following 54 items to be included in the future study on deprivation. They are basically the same with those adopted in the pilot survey of this study, but some of the wording is further refined.

In the pilot survey, confusion arouse when respondents were asked whether they had an item which was about a person’s ability to do something. To solve this problem,

terms like “can” are erased as indicated below. In this way, when respondents are asked whether they have an item, they will know they are asked whether they are currently doing it or not, rather than whether they will be able to do it in the future.

1. pay for meet housing expenses (支付住屋的開支)
2. safe living environment without structural dangers (居住環境安全，沒有結構性的危險)
3. there is space at home so that one needs not stay on bed all day (家裡有活動空間，不用整天「屈在床上」)
4. no need to share kitchen with other families (在家裡，不用和其他家庭共用廚房)
5. no need to share toilet with other families (在家裡，不用和其他家庭共用廁所)
6. adults and children have their own bed (無論成年人或小孩，擁有自己的睡床)
7. have at least one window at home (家裡最少有一個窗口)
8. a family should have at least one bedroom (一個家庭最少有一間睡房)
9. have television at home (家裡有電視機)
10. have air-conditioner at home for cooling in hot weather (天氣炎熱時，家裡有冷氣機降溫)
11. have radio at home (家裡有收音機)
12. have camera in the family (家庭中有一部照相機)
13. pay for maintenance when household electric appliances are broken (家裡的電器壞了，支付維修費用)
14. have refrigerator at home (家裡有雪櫃)
15. have hot shower in cold winter (天氣寒冷時沖熱水涼)
16. pay for spectacles (支付配戴眼鏡的費用)
17. have mobile phone (有手提電話)
18. learn computer skills (學習使用電腦)
19. attend vocational training (修讀提升工作技能的課程)
20. pay for transport cost for visiting relatives and friends (支付探望親友的交通開支)
21. meet transport cost for commuting to work or to school(支付上班上學的交通開支)
22. travel to another district by transport when needed(有需要時乘坐交通工具跨區活動)
23. travel to and back from hospital by taxi when needed(有需要時坐的士往返醫院)
24. students buy reference books and supplementary exercises (學生購買參書、補充練習等)
25. students have school uniforms of proper size every year (學生每年有合身的校服)
26. students use computer and internet at home (學生在家中使用電腦和互聯網)
27. students join extra-curricular activities (學生參與課外活動)
28. children have a table at home to do homework (學生在家中有枱做功課)
29. periodic dental check up (定期檢查牙齒)

30. seek dental treatment when needed (如有需要，向牙醫求診)
31. consult Chinese medicine practitioner when needed (如有需要，向中醫求診)
32. consult private doctor in case of emergency without waiting for public outpatient service(有急病時，不用輪候街症，可向私家西醫求診)
33. buy prescribed medicines(購買醫生處方的藥物)
34. keep general medicines like Chinese medicated liquor for bruising, cough syrup, panadol at home (家中可以備有跌打酒、咳水、退燒藥等一般藥物)
35. have savings to meet urgent needs (有積蓄應付突發事故)
36. working parents use child care service when needed (在職家長如有需要，使用托兒服務)
37. go to tea house sometimes(間中到茶樓飲茶)
38. eat at "tea restaurant" or fast food shop sometimes (間中到茶餐廳或快餐店吃東西)
39. have breakfast everyday (每天有早餐吃)
40. most of lunches and dinners in a week have vegetables in the meal (一星期中大多數午餐及晚餐中有新鮮蔬菜)
41. most of lunches and dinners in a week include fish or other kinds of meat in the meal (一星期中大多數午餐及晚餐中有魚或其他肉類)
42. have fresh fruits once a week (一星期吃一次水果)
43. buy one or two pieces of new clothes in a year (一年買一至兩件新衫)
44. have haircut at saloon when needed (有需要時，到理髮店剪頭髮)
45. have one set of decent clothes (有一套體面的衣服)
46. have enough warm clothes for cold weather (天氣寒冷時有足夠的禦寒的衣物)
47. buy new clothes when they are worn out (衣服鞋襪變舊或破爛，可以買新的替換)
48. use body lotion or face cream in dry weather (天氣乾燥時，可以用面霜和潤膚露)
49. join leisure activities in free time (有空時參與餘暇活動)
50. join fee charging activities organized by community centre or social service organization (參與社區中心或社會服務機構舉辦的收費活動)
51. visit relatives in mainland when needed (有需要時回鄉探親)
52. offer a gift of money on occasion of funeral (親友過身時支付帛金)
53. offer a gift of money on occasion of wedding (親友結婚支付賀禮)
54. can give red pockets during the Chinese New Year (過年時派利是給親友)

- E N D -

Appendix 1: Questionnaire for Focus Group Interviews

香港社會服務聯會
香港社會困乏境況的先導性研究

香港低收入人士要維持最低限度有尊嚴的生活所必須的東西

你認為下列各項，哪些是香港低收入人士維持最低限度有尊嚴生活所必須的東西？
請圈出代表你意見的答案。

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----|---------|
| 1. 能支付住屋的開支 | 是 | 不是 | 不知道／沒意見 |
| 2. 居住環境安全，沒有結構性的危險 | 是 | 不是 | 不知道／沒意見 |
| 3. 家裡有活動空間，不用整天「屈」在床上 | 是 | 不是 | 不知道／沒意見 |
| 4. 在家裡，不用和其他家庭共用廚房 | 是 | 不是 | 不知道／沒意見 |
| 5. 在家裡，不用和其他家庭共用洗手間 | 是 | 不是 | 不知道／沒意見 |
| 6. 無論成年人或小孩，擁有自己的睡床 | 是 | 不是 | 不知道／沒意見 |
| 7. 家裡最少有一個窗口 | 是 | 不是 | 不知道／沒意見 |
| 8. 家裡有電視機 | 是 | 不是 | 不知道／沒意見 |
| 9. 天氣寒冷，家裡時有暖爐取暖 | 是 | 不是 | 不知道／沒意見 |
| 10. 天氣炎熱，家裡時有冷氣機降溫 | 是 | 不是 | 不知道／沒意見 |
| 11. 家裡有 DVD 或 VCD 機 | 是 | 不是 | 不知道／沒意見 |
| 12. 家裡有收音機 | 是 | 不是 | 不知道／沒意見 |
| 13. 家庭中有一部照相機 | 是 | 不是 | 不知道／沒意見 |
| 14. 家裡有洗衣機 | 是 | 不是 | 不知道／沒意見 |
| 15. 家裡的電器壞了，可以支付維修費用 | 是 | 不是 | 不知道／沒意見 |
| 16. 家裡有雪櫃 | 是 | 不是 | 不知道／沒意見 |
| 17. 天氣寒冷時可以沖熱水涼 | 是 | 不是 | 不知道／沒意見 |
| 18. 能支付配戴眼鏡的費用 | 是 | 不是 | 不知道／沒意見 |
| 19. 有手提電話 | 是 | 不是 | 不知道／沒意見 |
| 20. 間中購買雜誌 | 是 | 不是 | 不知道／沒意見 |
| 21. 可以負擔每天買報紙的費用 | 是 | 不是 | 不知道／沒意見 |

22. 有機會學習使用電腦	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
23. 修讀提升工作技能的課程	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
24. 能支付探望親友的交通開支	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
25. 能支付上班、上學的交通開支	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
26. 屋企附近有公共交通接駁	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
27. 一個星期可以乘坐交通工具跨區活動一次	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
28. 有急病時，可坐的士往返醫院	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
29. 學生能夠購買課外書、補充練習等	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
30. 學生能參加補習班	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
31. 學生每年有合身的校服穿	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
32. 學生可在家中使用電腦及互聯網	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
33. 學生能夠參加課外活動	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
34. 兒童可以間中去麥當奴食野	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
35. 兒童擁有一對波鞋	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
36. 兒童擁有兩件玩具	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
37. 兒童在家中可擁有自己做功課的地方	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
38. 定期檢查牙齒	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
39. 定期洗牙	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
40. 如有需要，向牙醫求診	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
41. 如有需要，鑲假牙	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
42. 如有需要，向中醫求診	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
43. 有急病時，不用輪候街症，可向私家西醫求診	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
44. 購買私人醫療保險	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
45. 如有需要，購買維他命丸、魚肝油、加營養素等健康食品	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
46. 購買醫生處方的藥物	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
47. 家中可以備有跌打酒、咳水、退燒藥等一	是	不是	不知道／沒意見

般藥物

48. 有積蓄應付突發事故	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
49. 有需要時，得到親友的支援和幫助	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
50. 親友有緊急需要時，可以借錢給他們	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
51. 在職家長如有需要，可使用托兒服務	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
52. 間中煲老火湯飲用	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
53. 間中到茶樓飲茶	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
54. 間中到茶餐廳或快餐店吃東西	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
55. 每天有早餐食	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
56. 間中飲用涼茶	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
57. 一星期內大多數午餐及晚餐中有新鮮蔬菜	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
58. 一星期內大多數午餐及晚餐中有魚或其他肉類	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
59. 間中飲用汽水、包裝果汁等飲品	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
60. 一星期吃一次新鮮水果	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
61. 過年時吃一頓比平日豐富的飯餐	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
62. 間中外出飲下午茶	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
63. 一年可以買一至兩件新衫	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
64. 可以有一套體面的衣服	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
65. 天氣寒冷時有足夠的禦寒衣物	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
66. 衣服鞋襪變舊或破爛，可以買新的替換	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
67. 頭髮白了，可以染黑頭髮	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
68. 定期到理髮店剪頭髮	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
69. 可以買整理儀容的用品(如化妝品、髮乳)	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
70. 天氣乾燥時，可以用面霜和潤膚露	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
71. 放假時可以參與餘暇活動	是	不是	不知道／沒意見

72. 每年可去離港(包括內地)旅行一次	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
73. 一年可以有一、兩次到電影院看電影	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
74. 可以參與社區中心或社會服務機構舉辦的收費活動	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
75. 有需要時，可以有錢回鄉探親	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
76. 親友過身時能夠支付帛金	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
77. 親友結婚時能夠支付賀禮	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
78. 飼養小型寵物 (如: 魚、鳥.)	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
79. 過年時能夠封利是給親友	是	不是	不知道／沒意見
80. 拜祭先人時，能購買香燭、鮮花等所需的物品	是	不是	不知道／沒意見

- 完 -

Appendix 2: Questionnaire for Pilot Survey

香港社會服務聯會
香港社會困乏境況的先導性研究

你認為下列那些東西 / 項目是每個香港人所必須有的，你是否有該東西 / 項目，又如果你沒有，是否因為負擔不起。

請在適當位置劃上 √ 號	你是否認為這是每個香港人所必須有的東西 / 項目？		你有沒有這東西 / 項目？ <i>如沒有</i>		如你沒有，是否因為你負擔不起？	
	是	否	有	沒有	是	否
1. 能支付住屋的開支						
2. 居住環境安全，沒有結構性的危險						
3. 家裡有活動空間，不用整天「屈」在床上						
4. 在家裡，不用和其他家庭共用廚房						
5. 在家裡，不用和其他家庭共用洗手間						
6. 無論成年人或小孩，擁有自己的睡床						
7. 家裡最少有一個窗口						
8. 有孩子的家庭，家裡最少有一間睡房						
9. 家裡有電視機						

請在適當位置劃上 √ 號	你是否認為這是每個香港人所必須有的東西 / 項目？		你有沒有這東西 / 項目？		如你沒有，是否因為你負擔不起？	
	是	否	有	沒有	是	否
10. 天氣炎熱時，家裡有冷氣機降溫						
11. 家裡有收音機						
12. 家庭中有一部照相機						
13. 家裡的電器壞了，可以支付維修費用						
14. 家裡有雪櫃						
15. 天氣寒冷時可以沖熱水涼						
16. 能支付配戴眼鏡的費用						
17. 有手提電話						
18. 有機會學習使用電腦						
19. 修讀提升工作技能的課程						
20. 能支付探望親友的交通開支						
21. 能支付上班、上學的交通開支						
22. 有需要時可乘坐交通工具跨區活動						
23. 有需要時時，可坐的士往返醫院						
24. 學生能夠購買課外書、補充練習等						
25. 學生每年有合身的校服穿						
26. 學生可在家中使用電腦及互聯網						

請在適當位置劃上 √ 號	你是否認為這是每個香港人所必須有的東西 / 項目？		你有沒有這東西 / 項目？ <i>如沒有</i>		如你沒有，是否因為你負擔不起？	
	是	否	有	沒有	是	否
27. 學生能夠參加課外活動						
28. 兒童在家中可擁有自己做功課的地方						
29. 定期檢查牙齒						
30. 如有需要，向牙醫求診						
31. 如有需要，向中醫求診						
32. 有急病時，不用輪候街症，可向私家西醫求診						
33. 購買醫生處方的藥物						
34. 家中可以備有跌打酒、咳水、退燒藥等一般藥物						
35. 有積蓄應付突發事故						
36. 在職家長如有需要，可使用托兒服務						
37. 間中到茶樓飲茶						
38. 間中到茶餐廳或快餐店吃東西						
39. 每天有早餐食吃						
40. 一星期內大多數午餐及晚餐中有新鮮蔬菜						
41. 一星期內大多數午餐及晚餐中有魚或其他肉類						
42. 一星期吃一次新鮮水果						
43. 一年可以買一至兩件新衫						

請在適當位置劃上 √ 號	你是否認為這是每個香港人所必須有的東西 / 項目？		你有沒有這東西 / 項目？ <i>如沒有</i>		如你沒有，是否因為你負擔不起？	
	是	否	有	沒有	是	否
44. 有需要時，到理髮店剪頭髮						
45. 可以有一套體面的衣服						
46. 天氣寒冷時有足夠的禦寒衣物						
47. 衣服鞋襪變舊或破爛，可以買新的替換						
48. 天氣乾燥時，可以用面霜和潤膚露						
49. 放假時可以參與餘暇活動						
50. 可以參與社區中心或社會服務機構舉辦的收費活動						
51. 有需要時，可以有錢回鄉探親						
52. 親友過身時能夠支付帛金						
53. 親友結婚時能夠支付賀禮						
54. 過年時能夠封利是給親友						

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