

Transforming The Youth Working Poor

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2018 HKCNP Poverty Forum

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I. Knowing the Youth Working Poor

1. Working Poverty on the Rise for the Youth

2. A Study on Young Working Poor in Hong Kong by HKFYG in 11/2014

- ☞ Definition: with reference to the calculation method of the Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme, i.e. the monthly salary and asset limit of individual is less than \$8,315 and \$79,500 respectively.**
- ☞ There are 104,300 youth working poor aged 15 to 34 who earn less than \$8,500 per month, 10.3% of the same working aged group.**

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- ☞ Among the 500 interviewees, the reasons of being poor: 29.8% stated expensive housing, 25.4% low education, 24.9% slow in sector business/limited job selection, 21.1% high living cost, and 18.1% affected by contract/out sourcing/ unstable job.
- ☞ They commonly agree that youth nowadays is lack of good development
- ☞ 40% of them agree that they are working poor and are mainly working in service and retail sectors, and as assistant to professionals, 30% needs 5 to 15 years to get away from poverty, and 10% believe that they will be poor forever.

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II. Middle Level Youth Working Poor

1. Middle Level(e.g. White Collar, Professionals)
2. With higher Education---**Problem Solving Ability**
 - ✓ Rely on himself or own social support system
 - ✓ **Surface need(find job, financial living problem), usually by himself or in need of limited support.**
 - ✓ Seldom approach traditional social service
3. A busy group with multi-roles
 - ✓ **Taking care of parents, family, superior/subordinate relationship, fake middle class, actually poor**
 - ✓ **A survey indicates that HK has the longest working hours in the world, over 50 hrs. per week, 38% higher than the world average**

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4. Cimigo : survey/508 young working people

- ☞ **84% suffer from weariness e.g. with shoulder, neck, back and muscle pain; aware of affecting daily work, families, personal emotion.**
- ☞ **94% need to work even with weariness, to give better life for family**
- ☞ **The stress behing the busy group:**
 - **In the changing society, afraid of losing self market value**
 - **Afraid of losing job, cannot support self or family**
 - **Serious mental problem(anxiety, depression, shut-up)**

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5. Survey Finding of Ming Pao on 17/1/2010

- ☞ The Sense of Hope of the 80's was LOW
- ☞ 63% of the employees with low Sense of Hope as compared with those born before the 80's
- ☞ Their happiness index was lower than average
- ☞ 40% appears with medium to high anxiety level, 100% high than other age group
- ☞ Conclusion: They need to learn problem solving method and way with positive attitude in facing life challenges.

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III. Needs of Middle Level Youth Working Poor

- ✓ **Attacked by big economic change, very stressful, fake middle class, actually poor**
- ✓ **Long working hours, great life pressure, weak social support network, always feel physically and spiritually tired**
- ✓ **They need support but very limited assistance to them from the society.**
- **Do not approach traditional social service due to stigmatization**
- **Intervention mode: not problem oriented**

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IV. Service Direction

1. Start with Three Relationships

- With Others (multi-roles)**
- With Self (Self Value, Value System...)**
- With God (spiritual 、 Life direction...)**
- Reaching the goal of Energizing Soul and Life**



2. Service Strategies

- Methodist City Space- A Ministry and Service Platform**
- Serving Christian in business sector**
- Integrated Service for Working People**

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3. Methodist City Space

Church Ministry Objective: nurturing Christian in business sector	Social Service Objective: Linking working people with church through social service
Meeting the need of working people Exploring and knowing self such as dreams, life goal, needs, interest, value and skills	
	
Cell groups in companies 1) Christians → forming groups, sharing platform for information or support, 2) spiritual workshops, evangelical functions etc..	Working People : 1) Contact companies : HR or recreational group 2) Service: Positive psychology, emotional support, team building, health information, enhancing caring culture 3) Christian Counselling Service: Seminar, counselling 4) Networking: Central Gospel, Alpha become partners 5) City Oasis: various activities, Café, prayer room, hall, functional rooms, to rest and nurture their souls
	
Integration: 1) Sharing church mission: Encouraging b/s to join activities with service target e.g. hiking 2) Pastoring : a) service users to use their skills to service the community b) empowerment: having own life with dignity and choice	

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V. Future Development

- 1. Support the physical and spiritual needs of both working Christian and non Christian in the business sector.**
- 2. Service for younger working people**
- 3. Support to young working parents**
- 4. Volunteer opportunities to serve grassroots**