



**Title: Study the social life of not yet married
females**

An Undergraduate Honours Project

Submitted to

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School of Social Work Gratia Christian College

Hong Kong

In partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Bachelor of Social Work Programme (Honours)

by

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Date of submission: 19/4/2022

Word count: 12,732

Content

Abstract		P.4-7
Acknowledgments		P.7
List of Abbreviations		P.7
Chapter 1	Introduction and Background	P.8
	Women and Men in HK Key Statistics 2021	P.9-11
Chapter 2	Summary of the Relevant Literature	P.12-17
Chapter 3	Research Objectives	P.18
	Research methods	P.18
	Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria	P.18-19
	Data Analyses	P.19
	Ethical Issues and Confidentiality	P.19
	Respondent Profile	P.20-21
Chapter 4	Finding and Discussion	P.22-44
Chapter 5	Social service needs	P.45-48
	Reflection on Erikson's theory and Maslow's	P.49-51
	Limitation	P.52-53
Chapter 6	Summary	P.54-55
	Suggestions	P.56-58
Reference		P.59-62
Appendix A	Consent Form	P.63
Appendix B	Questionnaire	P.64

Title: Study the social life of not-yet married females

Abstract

Objective

The present study focuses on not yet married women aged 35 to 44, exploring their unmarried life situations and the factors that affect their unmarried life. Secondly, to understand the difficulties they are currently facing unmarried and how to solve them. Finally, understand their need for social services.

Interviewee background

A qualitative method will be adopted and use snowball sampling, based on Reacher's friend/network of six aged 35 to 44 not yet married women, including living with parents or alone. The study was conducted between February and March 2022, with in-depth interviews with six unmarried women in the Zoom or Coffee shop, all living with their families and supporting their families. 2 of the respondents already have stable partners, and the remaining four respondents were single.

Finding and Discussion

Affect unmarried Factor

In general, respondents preferred to become unmarried, they were optimistic about unmarried life, and all respondents recognized that being single was happier than marrying. They had the right to self-determination without any restrictions, so they enjoyed unmarried life.

In addition, all respondents were satisfied with their financial situation, with an average monthly income of \$30,000, so they believed that they could cope with all expenses. They maintained a satisfactory quality of life without relying on others, making the financial security in the marriage dysfunctional.

Also, they had changed their traditional family values, believing that marriage did not ensure that couples could love each other forever and it did not improve their quality of life. Besides, all respondents were not willing to have a child, so getting married wasn't something they had to do in their lives.

The main reason for involuntary singles is that they had not yet found a suitable mate or some special reasons, have postponed marriage. Three respondents said they would not refuse to marry, such as a parent who last wishes to change their minds about marriage. Of the three respondents, two were more eager to get married, but unfortunately, they could not find a suitable mate. Now they could enjoy the benefits of being single in their unmarried life.

For the above reasons, unmarried people enjoyed the existing quality of life, which led them to be unmarried.

Unmarried needs

The unmarried factor was not single and fixed and usually contains many different factors, including emotional support from their parents and friends or a stable living place which can also affect why they are unmarried.

Most of the respondents socialize frequently and often meet friends, respondent satisfy in social needs. Half of those surveyed also pointed out that friends could support respondents' feelings and could replace emotional supported functions for their partners. And most of the respondents had a good relationship with their families, and some of them spent more time with their parents to get their parents to care. Although two respondents had brief negative emotions during the special holidays, most of the holidays had friends and family to accompany them so that they did not feel alone.

Only one respondent said she had a bad relationship with her mother, who did not accept her boyfriend, leading to the respondent rejecting her boyfriend's marriage proposal. Stable home While six respondents live with family, more than half expect to have their own home or private space. One of the interviewees, who already had a stable partner, said she was unmarried because she disagreed with her boyfriend on the place of residence. It can be seen that a stable living place could affect the cause of unmarried. Other individual needs, such as self-actualization and security, do not affect them as unmarried.

Challenge and solution

Although all the respondents have been pressured or discriminated against by others, they did not care too much about the other comments. Also, All respondents began to face marriage problems around 30, so parents or others would also intervene in their marriages

in different forms. One respondent believed that colleagues and clients discriminated against her. However, the pressure did not affect their emotions or cause them to change their thinking about marriage.

Social service needs

All respondents believed that welfare institutions did not provide services to unmarried people and did not believe they needed to receive social services. More than half of the six respondents are social workers who thought that NGOs mainly focus on providing urgent or remedial work. But more than half of respondents believe that unmarried have a chance to have emotional problems. Secondly, some respondents said their friends have fewer opportunities to know the opposite sex and can only meet online or participate in speed dating. Finally, respondents said that unmarried people need life planning as they get older, so they make the following recommendations

Suggestions

IFSCs needs to review its publicity strategy and promote its services. Second, IFSCs are advised to provide emotional support, counseling, and preventive or developmental emotional relief activities. Thirdly, Social activities are held to provide unmarried men and women opportunities to get to know each other and learn skills. The training can enhance unmarried social networks.

Fourth, IFSCs can design a life plan for unmarried people, including holding financial activities to learn financial knowledge and increase their wealth to enjoy their old age in peace.

At present, Hong Kong has less research on adolescents' sexual orientation or attitudes

towards marriage, so it has not been able to provide self-identification services in a targeted manner. It is suggested that ICYSCs can provide activities for the awareness and treatment of adolescent gender identity disorder so that adolescents can accept their sexual orientation or gender to accept their feelings and self-identification.

In addition to the fact that the Government could study the old-age living arrangements of singles to plan future elderly care services. It is also recommended that the Government improve housing policies for unmarried middle-class people and increase the tax exemption for singles

Acknowledgments

First of all, I would like to thank all the respondents for their assistance in completing this study.

Second, the research report is complete, thanks to the teacher's guidance.

Finally, I would like to thank the school for its support and assistance in completing the study.

List of Abbreviations

NGO: Non-Government Organization

IFSCs: Integrated Family Service Centres

ICYSCs: Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres

SWD: Social Welfare Department

HOS: Sale of Home Ownership Scheme Flats

Chapter 1

Introduction and Background

The marriage system is a unique system for human beings. Through marriage, husband and wife can form a family and share the same life. Human society also takes the family as the basic unit, making it easier to reproduce and reproduce in a stable life.

Institution of Marriage:

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS) quoted the United Nations stating that the family is a social organization consisting of relatives of marriage, descent, or adoption, so the relationship between the family and society and the among family members. (香港社會服務聯會, 2011) The marriage system itself can curb adultery or illegitimate children, establish parenting relationships, etc., reduce the cost of human mate search, reduce fraud through contract, and facilitate the establishment of heirs. These incentives allowed men to invest in the family, and women and future generations were also protected from them. (Bethmann & Kvasnicka, 2011)

To some extent, it explains the social and custom aspects of the marriage system, how to protect weaker women and children, and how to spread in human civilization to the present day. But the benefits of marriage were becoming less and less. In the past, marriages have provided women with a sense of security or financial security. With the increase in women's education and high incomes, women's ability to support themselves, and the influence of new ideas and culture, women were no longer in a hurry to enter marriage. Under individualism or social structure, men also choose not to marry. And in the past, women married to have children, but now women think that life without children is not empty or that having children does not necessarily require the concept of marriage. So modern men and women believe that marriage is not the only way of life. They would instead remain single or not marry than want

to be bound by marriage, rather than marry for procreation.

Women and Men in HK Key Statistics 2021 edition

To understand the factors influencing delay in marriage, I attempted to obtain data on educational attainment, income, working population, and marriage from the Hong Kong Census and Statistics Office for information.

The crude marriage rates for females and males exhibited a generally decreasing trend from 1991 to 2001. Since then, the rates rebounded somewhat but had declined again in the past decade. In 2011, the crude marriage rates for females and males were 15.5 per 1 000 females and 17.6 per 1 000 males, respectively. The number of marriages in Hong Kong dropped by 37% in 2020 compared to the number under the COVID19 epidemic. Compared to the crude marriage rates of 10.8 per 1 000 females and 12.9 per 1 000 males in 2019, the corresponding rates dropped substantially to 6.8 per 1 000 females and 8.2 per 1 000 males in 2020. (Table 1)

Table 1

按性別劃分的粗結婚率 香港的女性及男性主要統計數字 2021年版
Crude marriage rate by sex

		按每千名人口計算的結婚數目 Number of marriages per 1 000 population								
性別	Sex	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2018	2019	2020
女	F	14.1	11.0	9.5	14.0	15.5	12.6	12.2	10.8	6.8
男	M	13.6	11.0	9.9	15.4	17.6	14.8	14.5	12.9	8.2
合計	Overall	6.9	5.5	4.8	7.3	8.2	6.8	6.6	5.9	3.7

資料來源：政府統計處人口統計組（一）（查詢電話：3903 6943；查詢電郵：population@censtatd.gov.hk）
Source: Demographic Statistics Section (1), Census and Statistics Department
(Enquiry telephone no.: 3903 6943; Enquiry e-mail: population@censtatd.gov.hk)

First marriage:

As increasingly more females and males stayed longer in education and started to work later, the median age at first marriage rose steadily for both females and males from 1991 to

2020. The median age at first marriage for females was 26.2 in 1991 and 30.4 in 2020, while that for males was 29.1 in 1991 and 31.9 in 2020. The increase in the median age at first marriage for both females and males indicated a trend of late marriage. (Table 2)

Table 2

按性別劃分的初婚年齡中位數
Median age at first marriage by sex

香港的女性及男性主要統計數字 2021年版

		歲 Year								
性別	Sex	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2018	2019	2020
女	F	26.2	26.9	27.5	28.2	28.9	29.4	29.7	29.9	30.4
男	M	29.1	30.0	30.2	31.2	31.2	31.4	31.5	31.6	31.9

資料來源：政府統計處人口統計組（一）（查詢電話：3903 6943；查詢電郵：population@censtatd.gov.hk）
Source: Demographic Statistics Section (1), Census and Statistics Department
(Enquiry telephone no.: 3903 6943; Enquiry e-mail: population@censtatd.gov.hk)

Income

In addition, the data shows that in the past ten years, the median monthly employment income of the 30-49 age group has increased

Analyzed by age group, females' median monthly employment earnings were lower than their male counterparts across all age groups. The difference in median monthly employment earnings between females and males was relatively more significant for 40-49. The difference in median monthly employment earnings between females and males among persons aged 30-49 significantly narrowed after excluding foreign domestic helpers.

"In Women and Men in HK Key Statistics 2021 edition "from the data, the age of first marriage has a particular relationship with median income and education level. The data show that the more educated women were, the higher their income increased effect, and the more significant their financial independence. Also, the data show HK their median age for the first marriage and monthly employment income increase simultaneously. Especially for

women in the 40-49 age group, the median monthly employment income for women in 2001 was \$8,500 to 2020, which will rise to 19,500, more than double the liter, which shows that women's revenue has increased dramatically. (Census and Statistics Department, HKSAR 2021) (Table 3)

按年齡組別及性別劃分的就業人士每月就業收入中位數（不包括外籍家庭傭工）
Median monthly employment earnings of employed persons (excluding foreign domestic helpers) by age group and sex

香港的女性及男性主要統計數字 2021年版

Table 3

年齡組別 Age group	性別 Sex	Sex	2001	2006	2011	2016	2018	2019	2020
15 - 19	女	F	6,000	5,000	6,000	3,000	3,000	3,500	3,000
	男	M	6,000	5,000	6,500	5,500	4,000	5,000	6,000
20 - 29	女	F	10,000	9,000	10,000	13,000	15,000	15,600	16,000
	男	M	10,000	8,500	10,000	14,000	15,500	16,000	17,000
30 - 39	女	F	13,000	13,000	14,500	18,000	20,000	20,000	20,300
	男	M	15,000	13,600	15,000	20,000	22,000	23,000	24,300
40 - 49	女	F	8,500	9,500	12,000	15,000	17,500	18,700	19,500
	男	M	13,500	14,000	15,700	21,300	25,000	25,000	25,000
50 - 59	女	F	6,500	6,500	8,500	12,000	14,000	14,800	15,000
	男	M	11,000	11,000	13,000	19,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
≥ 60	女	F	5,000	5,000	6,900	8,700	10,000	10,300	10,800
	男	M	7,600	8,000	10,000	13,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
合計 Overall	女	F	10,000	9,300	11,000	14,000	15,500	16,100	17,000
	男	M	12,000	11,500	13,000	18,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
合計 Overall	合計 Overall		11,000	10,500	12,000	16,000	18,000	18,600	19,000

資料來源：政府統計處住戶統計分析組（查詢電話：2887 5508；查詢電郵：ghs@censtatd.gov.hk）
Source: Household Statistics Analysis Section, Census and Statistics Department
(Enquiry telephone no.: 2887 5508; Enquiry e-mail: ghs@censtatd.gov.hk)

Non-marriage

From the above data, we can understand that the age of first marriage is gradually receding since women's delayed marriage due to stable and high income.

But this phenomenon of women's age of marriage in Hong Kong is constantly moving backward, as is the phenomenon in other Asian countries. According to 楊文山 (2008), 'Why young people do not get married: a study of future marriage trends in Taiwanese society,' it is pointed out that similar phenomena exist in places such as Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Hong Kong. A foreign scholar, Gavin. W. Jones also pointed out that more and more Asian women are late in marriage and may never marry. (Gavin. , 2005)

Chapter 2

Summary of the Relevant Literature

Definition of non-marriage:

Based on research by Chiu Ying et al. (2013), non-marriage is defined as delayed marriage, including current singles, late marriages, cohabitations, or marriage-phobic persons. This group of people can actively choose not to marry or passive choose not to marry such as they do not find a suitable mate. As this group of people has increased, scholars in different places have begun to study the phenomenon of non-marriage.

Research on non-marriage

Because of the increasing number of non-married groups, different places have begun to study this group from a psychological point of view. The following are scholars' studies and analyses of non-married groups from different places.

China, Taiwan, and Japan began to study this group of unmarried in a targeted manner. These include paying attention to changes in marital relationships such as living apart together (LAT) and cohabitation.

Taiwanese scholar 楊靜利 (2004) studied the issue of cohabitation in Taiwan and found that more and more unmarried will choose to live together because now all the benefits and benefits of marriage could be compensated by alternative alternatives to marriage.

Taiwanese scholar 楊文山 (2018) in Non-marriage phenomenon: The reality of the Chinese Society and its Potential Influences mentions that the existing research focuses on the definition of the concept of unmarried, The level of characterization, and preliminary analysis of the causes of their non-marriage. For example, some study people believe that unmarried

insist on being single or do not marry. Still, they have the opportunity to have a love partner or even a cohabitation partner and don't want to get married. (呂樹明, 2013)

Chinese scholars have also made different analyses. For example, 李楊等 (2009) analyzed the psychological level, the types of unmarried women in contemporary Chinese society were divided into freedom- and perfection-seeking or unmarried types. And researching the psychological pressure of marriage, the study found that the modern Youth Generation's fear of marriage and distrust led them to choose not to marry.

Secondly, 高岩 (2010) focuses on studying the specific group of unmarried who believe in love losers, self-conscious people, or materialists 2010. 李晨媚 (2012) believed that Japanese women's sense of economic independence has increased. It isn't easy to find the ideal object. The coexistence of work and family factors has led to the late marriage of Japanese women.

In addition to Taiwanese and Chinese scholars, foreign scholars have also studied groups that do not marry. Rook and Zettel's (2005) view that never-married adults may rely more heavily on other resources (such as personal mastery) to maintain or enhance their well-being because they have fewer close family ties.

Besides, Jamila Bookwala and Erin Fekete (2009) mention in "The role of psychological resources in the affective well-being of never-married adults" also found that the psychological resource of self-sufficiency played markedly different roles in the adverse effect of never-married versus married adults. Because never-married respondents with higher self-sufficiency experienced lower negative affect, self-sufficiency could be viewed as a protective factor in the affective well-being

of never-married adults. Jamila Bookwala and Erin Fekete (2009) pointed out that precisely, among never-married adults, higher levels of personal mastery and self-sufficiency were associated with significantly lower levels of negative affect. To the extent that these psychological resources could be enhanced, it would be helpful to workshops designed to boost these resources for never-married adults who score lower on personal mastery or self-sufficiency. This would be valuable in light of the tendency for never-married adults to feel less socially integrated and perceive family members as less supportive. Higher levels of personal mastery and self-sufficiency could compensate for the lower levels of social resources among never-married adults.

Also, Bella DePaulo (2016) said, "What No One Ever Told You About People Who Were Single," points out research comparing people who have stayed single with those who have visited married shows that single people have a heightened sense of self-determination. They were more likely to experience "a sense of continued growth and development as a person." Other longitudinal research shows that single people value meaningful work more than married people do – and that those differences existed in high school before anyone got married or decided to stay single. Another study of lifelong single people showed that self-sufficiency serves them well: the more self-sufficient they were, the less likely to experience negative emotions. For married people, just the opposite was true.

Another scholar, DePaulo & Morris (2005), said that historically, "singles" (i.e., never-married adults) had been overlooked as a distinct group by relationship researchers who have focused on the concomitants and consequences of marital status. Koropecj-Cox (2005) points out that never-married adults have often been combined with those who were divorced or widowed when included in relationship research. Recently, however, several

researchers drew attention to the need for systematic research on the life circumstances and well-being of never-married adults to increase understanding of the extent to which and the explanations for why never-married adults may be at a higher risk for compromised mental health relative to their married counterparts (e.g., Byrne & Carr, 2005; Clark & Graham, 2005; Williams & Nida, 2005)

It can be seen that foreign scholars concentrated on unmarried's psychological situation or influence, so what is the case in Hong Kong?

Hong Kong's research is mainly from a domestic perspective. Apart from a study by the Ministry of Education of the China Christian Evangelists Association on the significance of marriage for single men in Hong Kong in 2011, Hong Kong does not directly understand the need for singleness. (中國基督教播道會總會教育部 2011).

Besides, in a study conducted annually by Women's commission on 「香港的女性及男性如何理解婦女在家庭、職場及社會的地位」", one of the results showed that the unmarried group said that the majority of people did not agree that women's lives were empty without children. Secondly, more than 50% of respondents could accept cohabitation. The study on "Attitudes towards Marriage in Hong Kong" is related. The questionnaire asks questions about the revision of the marriage system in Hong Kong. In the survey, it was found that about 55% (more than half) agreed with the current marriage system. Only about 15% of the respondents believed that the current marriage system in Hong Kong was outdated and conservative, projected onto the overall society. (婦女事務委員會, 2011)

Research Question

The third stage in Maslow's hierarchy of needs (1954) is the social stage, including interpersonal relationships. The social stage is not based on basic needs but on psychological or emotional needs. At this stage of development, the primary source of the behavior is the need for emotional connections such as friendships, family, social organizations, romantic attachments, or other situations involving interactions with others. Social needs refer to the need to have relationships with others once the physiological and safety needs have been fulfilled. Maslow considered the social stage an important part of psychological development because our relationships help reduce emotional concerns such as depression or anxiety.

On the other hand, as humans, we all need to feel loved and accepted by others. Intimacy versus isolation is the sixth stage of Erikson's theory of psychosocial development, which happens after the fifth stage of identity vs. role confusion. This stage takes place during young adulthood between approximately 19 to 40. (Erik H Erikson. ,1998)

The major conflict at this stage of life centers on forming intimate, loving relationships with other people. Success at this stage leads to fulfilling relationships. Struggling at this stage, on the other hand, could result in feelings of loneliness and isolation. The subjects of this study were 35-44 years old, which is precisely what Erikson mentioned in the sixth stage. According to Erikson's theory, they need to seek intimacy; otherwise, they will feel lonely.

Social life is essential for people to meet their social needs. A person's social life consists of the various bonds they form with others, such as family, friends, members of their community, and strangers. It can be measured by the duration and quality of the social interactions regularly, both in-person and online.

Although there were many studies, only a few studied not yet married women and their social needs in Hong Kong. What is the social life of not yet married 35-44-year-olds females? Do they encounter any difficulties meeting their social need, and how do they cope? What other difficulties will they have?

Chapter 3

1. Research Objectives:

This study focuses on not yet married women aged 35 to 44; a total 6 of women respondents were broadly divided into two categories: (1) single and (2) partners with the following objectives:

- Explore the factors that lead them to become not yet married, and
- To understand the views of not yet married women in Hong Kong on marriage.
- Explores the not yet married female's social life situation, needs/difficulties, and how they handle them.
- To explore what kinds of social services they need

2. Research methods:

- This research adopted the qualitative method and used the semi-structured interview to collect the data.
- Sampling: Snowball sampling, based on Reacher's a friend/network, six aged 35 to 44not yet married women, including living with parents.
- The study was conducted between February and March 2022, in-depth interviews with six unmarried women at Zoom or Coffee shops.

3. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria:

Recruitment:

Invitations phoned, called potential respondents, and sought their consent for the interview. Six unmarried people successfully interviewed the researchers, all of whom lived with their parents and 2 of whom already had stable partners. However, the researchers could not invite unmarried women living alone to visit. A list of general questions is attached with the invitation. At the same time, the researcher ensured that the conversation has kept

confidential. The respondents had the freedom to stop providing information at the interview stage.

Data Collection:

The researcher conducted two pilot tests to ensure the questions were relevant, appropriate, and friendly before the interviews. The researcher conducted the interview, which was used for around one hour in Chinese and recorded by a tape recorder. Transcripts have been prepared for data analysis.

Data Analyses:

The data had been analyzed basically through thematic content analysis. Thematic analysis is one of the most common forms of analysis within qualitative research. It emphasizes identifying, analyzing, and interpreting patterns of meaning within qualitative data.

During interviews between the researcher and respondent, the researcher, through observation, also explored whether the interviewee had special attributes or characteristics which were related to the study.

Ethical Issues and Confidentiality

The researcher ensured confidentiality and that written informed consent was obtained from the participants. The participants could withdraw at any time during the interview process. An information sheet was designed so that the participants would know exactly what they had consented. They also had a choice of venue for the interview. Respondents' identity concealed in the transcriptions. All data will be destroyed after the completion of the research project.

Ethics approval was sought from College's Ethics Committee.

Respondent Profile

All respondents lived with their families and had financial support for their families, with 2 of the six respondents already having stable partners and the remaining now single.

The detailed data is as follows:

Status

2.1 A total of six unmarried women aged 35-44 with a partner-to-single ratio of 1:3 were interviewed.

Economic activity and educational attainment

2.2 Nearly 90% of the sample were tertiary/university graduates (83%), professionals (e.g., doctors, lawyers) accounted for 67%, and the rest were service or self-employed.

Income

2.3 The survey results showed that most respondents earned more than \$30,000 per month. Two respondents earned more than \$50,000 per month. At the same time, only those who had graduated from secondary school had an income of less than \$20,000, which showed that the income was related to their working years and academic qualifications. (Table 2.1)

Table 2.1 Respondent Profile

1. Education	High school	1
	College/ Degree	5
2. Aged	35-40	4
	40-44	2
3. Property Type	Private	3
	Public housing	2
	Rental	1
4. Live with family	YES	6
5. Occupation	Professional	3
	Service industry	1
	Self-Employed	2
6. Financial support for their families	YES	6
7. Average working hours hours per week	40-47 hours/ week	5
8. Income	\$10,000-\$20,000	1
	\$20,000-\$30,000	1
	\$30,000-\$40,000	2
	\$50,000-\$60,000	2
9. Religious	Christian	1
	NIL	5

Chapter 4

Finding and Discussion

Unmarried life situations and the factors that affect their unmarried life

Based on research by Chiu Ying et al. (2013), non-marriage is defined as delayed marriage, including current singles, late marriages, cohabitations, or marriage-phobic persons. This group of people could actively choose not to marry or passively choose not to match, such as they do not find a suitable mate. The study results show that among the six respondents, the ratio of actively choosing not to marry to passively choosing not to marry was 1:3. In addition to financial independence, the main reason respondents were unmarried was the change in the concept of marriage and the enjoyment of unmarried life. Second, they were unmarried because they failed to find a suitable partner or they're in an insecure relationship. The last respondent, who already had a stable partner, did not choose to be unmarried due to a lack of ideal housing. Their main emotional support came from family and friends.

Independence Economic

Besides, Jamila Bookwala and Erin Fekete (2009) mention that never-married respondents with higher self-sufficiency experienced lower adverse effects, and self-sufficiency can be viewed as a protective factor in the affective well-being of never-married adults.

Nearly nine respondents graduated from college/university (83%), and their average income was higher than \$30,000, and only one respondent who graduated from high school had a maximum monthly income of only \$20,000. Nevertheless, all respondents said that there was no financial pressure. They did not need to rely on the financial assistance of others to live and did not need to rely on the protection of the marriage certificate, which shows that the

marriage certificate lost its security function. A stable high income could protect the happiness of the respondents.

As a respondent Miss T:

"If I haven't gotten married, I believe I could cope with all the expenses and financial support for my family. I can get freedom and keep a high quality of life ."

As a respondent Miss L:

"At present, I have no husband or children and do not have to bear their living expenses. And I can only take care of my family and my own life, making my single life more flexible and less worried. If I suddenly become pregnant, I can take care of my children without a husband."

As a respondent Miss C:

"Some people need a marriage signature as a guarantee, but I don't. My job is stable, and my income is sufficient to cover expenses. There is a gap in my income with my boyfriend, and my salary is higher, so I am not prepared to support my boyfriend financially."

As a respondent Miss M:

"I can earn enough to cover my expenditure without any financial pressure."

As a respondent Miss S:

"I have a good income and don't have to worry about the economy."

Change of view of the traditional family

The marriage system could curb adultery or illegitimate children and establish parenting relationships. These incentives allow men to invest in the family, and women and future generations were also protected from them (Bethmann & Kvasnicka, 2011). However, all respondents distrusted the marriage system, believing that marriage does not guarantee their partner will always love them. Some respondents even said that they do not need marriage as protection. Some of them were influenced by their original families and former partners, losing their marital significance.

Modern women have a change of view of the traditional family, believing that there was no need to marry and refuse to have a child. The result was the same as a study conducted annually by the Women's commission on 「香港的女性及男性如何理解婦女在家庭、職場及社會的地位」 and respondents' lives were not empty without children. All respondents also wanted to get married before 35, whether they were already with a stable partner or single. However, their plans failed for different reasons. After the age of 35, they had no desire for marriage, and all the respondents had not planned to have children, and they distrusted the meaning of marriage, which shows a change in traditional family concepts. The findings of Taiwanese scholar 台灣學者楊文山 (2018) were the same.

李楊等(2009) believes that the types of unmarried women were divided into the pursuit of freedom and perfection has led to the fear of marriage and distrust, leading them to choose not to marry. Among the six respondents, it was agreed that the promise of marriage was not guaranteed that divorce would occur even after marriage, so the marriage certificate lost its meaning. Although two respondents already had stable partners who had been betrayed by their partners or were distrustful of their current boyfriends, they would instead remain

unmarried than get married.

The results show that the change in the concept of marriage for unmarried people and the failure of the marriage system had kept them unmarried.

As a respondent Miss T:

"I'm not too resistant to marriage, but I believe that I don't have to get married in life. And marriage may not improve my life, and nobody can guarantee that I will not divorce in the future or that my husband can take care of me. Instead, I have the opportunity to take care of him. So I can't find any reason to get married."

As a respondent Miss S:

"I have no plans to have a baby, so I am not in a hurry to get married."

As a respondent Miss K

"When I was young, I planned to get married and refuse to have a child in the future. I also took the initiative to meet boyfriends around the age of 30. Until the age of 37, I don't think it's necessary to get married for my life unless I meet a suitable mate. And I don't want to spend much time meeting the opposite sex, So I can't find any reason to get married. "

As a respondent Miss L:

"I didn't believe in marriage since secondary school. At the age of 31, I had the idea of getting married, and then I thought cohabiting was better than getting married. Marriage is a promise, and if you can't ensure that it lasts forever, I don't want to get married. Also, I often deal with children's problems at work, and I understand that educating children is troublesome, so I don't want to have children."

As a respondent Miss C:

"I was 35 years old and thought it was marriageable age, so I planned to marry my previous boyfriend. Then I discovered that he had an affair with other, so I left him. Now I have no idea about getting married, and I don't have the urge to get married anymore. This marriage certificate does not mean that the other person can love you forever. So I believe being unmarried is not a problem. Plus, I have no plans to have a baby. I can live independently and don't need any marriage protection."

As a respondent Miss M:

"After 30 years old, I no longer expect to get married. My boyfriend has been divorced two times and has children, so I don't want to have a baby. And I am worried that I will divorce him after I marry him. He has not been able to give me enough trust to marry him. Although my boyfriend has proposed marriage because he wants to give me some protection and commit to me, I don't need protection,"

Enjoy unmarried life

Bella DePaulo(2016)points out that unmarried had a heightened sense of self-determination. All respondents enjoy their unmarried status because they can decide everything about themselves, including scheduling their activities at any time. Respondents were now working and spending time with family or boyfriends. Their private time is insufficient. After marriage, they also spend time with their husbands and handle housework, resulting in their lack of me-time.

Unmarried states had autonomy, decision-making power, and time Half of the respondents also planned to spend alone time each week doing things that interest them or relaxing. Even people who had a partner arranged to be alone once a week, which shows the importance of alone time for unmarried.

Enjoy single life

As a respondent Miss T:

"Because of the working relationship, I need to spend a lot of energy dealing with the work. After work, I need to spend time with my family, so that I won't have time. I need to go out to enjoy my private time. And I can't enjoy solitude time after marriage. I need to spend time with my family."

As a respondent Miss S:

"I will arrange to take care of personal matters and enjoy solitude on Tuesdays. Such as resting or taking the dog out and going to the coffee shop to enjoy coffee or watching TV and dinner with mother is required in the evening."

As a respondent Miss K

"I don't like others interfering in my life and taking up my private time. So I'm reluctant to spend time on speed dating or need to understand him."

As a respondent Miss L:

"I am unrestrained, and I can arrange my time."

Enjoy a relationship more than marriage

Even the respondents who had a stable partner enjoyed an unmarried life. One of the respondents failed to accept the change of identity and responsibilities after marriage. The other respondent enjoyed being in love, so both enjoyed the unmarried life situation.

As a respondent Miss C:

"I will give one day a week to enjoy being alone, such as reading, reflecting on my

affairs, or developing my interests. After I get married, I need to pay more attention to the family, such as housework. I don't expect to change my role. I disagree that life is perfect for getting married or having a baby."

As a respondent Miss M:

I enjoy the first flush stage, which makes me very happy. But in recent years, our life together became a symbiotic period, and the feeling of dating slowly faded away. I don't want to lose, fall in love feeling, and I want to receive surprises every day. Now I will stay at my boyfriend's house two days a week, like a vacation. I can do my private on weekdays, so now I enjoy this state."

Individual factors that affect unmarried

Half of those surveyed said there was no reason she might get married. But three single interviewees said they would not resist marriage. one interviewee wasn't eager to marry, and the others were eager to get married. However, the partner was required to have a good personality. Until now, two single had not been able to find a suitable mate to marry. It was the same with 李晨媚(2012)believed that Japanese women's sense of economic independence had increased. It wasn't easy to find the ideal object. The coexistence of work and family factors has led to the late marriage of Japanese women. One of the respondents had attended speed dating before she was 35, but unfortunately, she failed.

We know that some singles were eager to get married, but she has never been able to find a suitable mate. In this case, they look for the benefits of being single so that they can enjoy being single. A suitable mate was a factor that affected their change of marriage attitude. In addition, the family's last wish was also to change their attitude towards marriage. About 30% of the respondents would match to fulfill the parent's last wish wishes. It could be seen that a parent's previous desire and a suitable mate could affect the willingness of the unmarried to marry.

Parent's last wish

As a respondent Miss T:

"If my parents are last wish and I can get married. I will actively get to know the opposite sex to make them leave in peace."

As a respondent Miss S:

"I rush to get married when my mother expects me to get married so much, or it is her last wish."

Not find a suitable mate

As a respondent Miss S:

"I haven't had a partner for 2-3 years, and I want to get married. But this person must be reliable, but I have not been able to find this person."

As a respondent Miss K

"It's just that I haven't met a suitable mate. When I was 30-35 years old, I participated in speed dating, and after participating in the left three to four times, I found that I couldn't find the type of man I liked, so I didn't participate again. If the suitable mate proposes, I will get married."

As a respondent Miss T:

" I don't think antipathetic to get married, but it is not necessarily happening. I can live as a single. It all depends on fate. "

Unmarried needs

All respondents were satisfied on economic, unmarried life, and social levels. All of the respondents lived with their families. In addition to one respondent's dissatisfaction with his mother's discipline, the rest often communicated with their parents and received their parents' care. In this study, the support of family and friends was significant for unmarried. It could also be shown in terms of the frequency of social interaction and festivals. All respondents received psychological or emotional needs through the support of family, friends, or partners. In addition to two respondents who had a partner, the remaining four respondents believed that friends were willing to support them emotionally. Even if they do not have the comfort and support of their partner when they are depressed, most of the respondents could soothe their emotions in life with the help of friends and family. In particular, two respondents felt that the work pressure was high, leading them to fail to achieve work-life balance. Fortunately, both respondents understood the impact of work stress on them, so they adjusted their social life to improve their emotions.

The result was the same with the third stage in Maslow's hierarchy of needs (1954), the social stage, and Erikson's theory of psychosocial development. Good family relationships were important to respondents. In addition to living with their families, their parents were their source of emotional support, so respondents maintained a good relationship with their families. One of the interviewees had a bad relationship with her mother, and she refused to marry her boyfriend to avoid conflict with her mother. Other respondents often spend time with their parents, which shows that they attach great importance to family relationships. In addition, in social life, it was reflected that family and friends emotionally support respondents. Single people had friends or family on holiday and didn't feel lonely. Moreover, some respondents believe that friends could replace the functions of boyfriends and that

friends could provide emotional support when they were depressed. Two respondents discovered that socializing could improve their emotions, increasing social life to soothe their spirit to improve their work-life balance.

While some respondents had housing needs, they now lived with their parents and would not threaten their lives. So basically, their physiological and safety requirements were met. It could be seen that socializing was essential for unmarried people, and friends and family could support their emotions of unmarried. It was just that a few respondents failed to meet Maslow's needs for safety, belonging, and self-actualization needs. Four of them had housing needs, and two respondents could not meet their goals. Three other respondents were insecure.

One of the interviewees also said that she could not reach a consensus with her boyfriend on the location of residence, so it affected her marriage. The home was a place to organize the family, and the lack of a stable living makes the interviewee feel a sense of belonging, which affects her willingness to marry. The other respondent, as mentioned earlier, did not get her mother to accept a boyfriend. The interviewee did not get her mother's approval, resulting in the marriage proposal boyfriend failed. The above were some of the factors that affect marriage.

Emotional need

Family support

All respondents lived with their families and were the primary financial support for their families. One respondent mentioned a poor relationship with their family, and other respondents had a good relationship with their family. Some respondents spend time with their families for dinner or go out shopping. Even the respondents were willing to celebrate

with their families on special holidays, which shows that they had a good relationship with their families.

As a respondent Miss T:

"I'm sure my parents listen to my unhappy thoughts, and every year on my birthday celebrate with them."

As a respondent Miss S:

"I will arrange to be alone and spend time with my family every Tuesday."

As a respondent Miss L:

"Due to my supervisor's uneven work assignment, I often work late into the night. I also handle work from home during the holidays. But now, I would refuse to accept a new task, giving private time to meet with friends. Since covid-19, I have rarely gone out, usually alone or with my family go out. Second, since this year, in September, I need to study, so I stay at home to do homework during the holidays. But I think my family and friends now have been able to give me care or emotional support. If I am unhappy, my classmate could listen to me and support me. "

Social Life

Social was the primary source of emotional support for respondents, and frequent social interactions made them emotionally supportive. Except for one respondent who did not meet with friends regularly, other respondents gathered with friends once a week and exchanged views on their lives. They mainly eat out and do not specify an area.

As a respondent Miss T:

"I am very unsatisfied with my work, and the work pressure is very high, which leads to unbalance in life. Now I've adjusted to my social life. I have dinner with friends on the 2days per week. I meet the same group of friends once in about 2-3 months. I have a lot of unmarried friends, so it is easy to have friends to accompany me to go out or enjoy eating. Even we went on a trip. When I was unhappy, I had friends to support. So I think friends can replace the function of a partner, and friends can comfort and support me, so I do not feel lonely in life."

As a respondent Miss S:

"Because of my work relationship, I can meet many friends. Although I am single, I always meet friends. Including mountains, board games, family gatherings, etc., I have my family's company, and I have three best friends who support me emotionally, so I satisfy my life."

As a respondent Miss K

" I will invite friends to dine out on Fridays or holidays when the Covid-19 epidemic was not serious. The open rice app will search for food restaurants, so there was no specific place to eat."

As a respondent Miss C:

"Usually go to exhibitions with my boyfriend or watch movies and dine ou. In addition to my boyfriend, I also Dine out for dinner with friends, an average of three times a month. And the location is not specific. Most of the Internet to find a restaurant. Secondly, I volunteer with friends, such as environmental work or Muppets stories."

As a respondent Miss M:

"In addition to being with my boyfriend regularly, I dine out with friends 8-10 times a month, there is before Covid-19 fifth wave of the epidemic, and I sometimes go hiking with friends or do some Water sports. So I'm enjoying the social life because friends will meet me regularly and help me when I seek help."

Special holiday arrangement

Most respondents did not experience loneliness or negative emotions during special holidays, and only a few had temporary negative emotions affected by special days. On special days, they usually celebrate happily with friends and family, and some respondents had no particular feelings about the holidays, believing that they were holidays for them to rest.

As a respondent Miss T:

"I don't want to celebrate even if I have a partner now. During the holidays, I will celebrate with my parents at home and be happy to be able to get off work early or rest at home."

As a respondent Miss S:

"Now I'm happy to celebrate with my friends. So there is no feeling of loneliness or envy."

As a respondent Miss C:

"I celebrate my birthday with my family, Valentine's Day, and Christmas with my boyfriend. I think I have a perfect relationship with my family and boyfriend."

As a respondent Miss L:

"The Lunar New Year is a day to respect the elders and congratulate them. Many people think Christmas is something to celebrate with their partner, but I don't think it's necessary. I enjoy the time with my family. Sometimes when celebrating birthdays with my boyfriend in recent years, there were often quarrels, so I am not enjoying the special holiday. This year, I found Valentine's Day that she had an affair with others, so I left him. Although I feel lonely sometimes, I enjoy living alone."

Two of the respondents (33%) had a small amount of envy or loneliness on special holiday days. One was envious of seeing colleagues receive flowers on Valentine's Day; Another experienced loneliness because her boyfriend needed to work during the holidays and could not accompany her, but respondents said the feeling quickly disappeared. It could be seen that these two interviewees did not cause depression.

As a respondent Miss K

"A bunch of flowers from her husband on Valentine's day, which was enviable. Other days. I can date friends to celebrate or have dinner together, and I am happy to celebrate with them."

As a respondent Miss M:

"My boyfriend is very career-oriented, and the holidays are usually needed to work. I would accompany him to work or alone, without special celebration. Sometimes when I see others e with boyfriends, I feel a little lonely. But I quickly understood that my boyfriend needed to work so he couldn't accompany me. The negative feelings disappear. And I usually celebrate with friends near special holidays, and I don't mind not celebrating the holiday."

Stable living in a place

Although the six respondents lived with their families, more than half of the respondents expected to have their house, whether they were buying private housing or applying for public housing. One of the four respondents who did not have a home said the Government had failed to assist middle-class singles in buying a house, reducing their opportunity to promote upward social mobility. That is a failure to meet the safety needs of Maslow's hierarchy of conditions and the need for self-fulfillment.

As a respondent Miss T:

"I have very little time to be alone. Due to the small area of the current residence, I did not have the space to be alone. Therefore, I prefer to go out or watch movies alone and increase my private time."

As a respondent Miss L:

"It is challenging for us to promote upward social mobility opportunities or develop stable families. In Hong Kong, regardless of the allowance or the application for PRH, the family is used as a family. The Government has no support to help this group of high-income and single buy houses, and everything has to be handled by themselves. A single with a monthly income of only \$10,000 and waiting for public housing, the waiting time is very long. This is my brother's example, who has been waiting for almost ten years since he was 18 years and is no longer eligible for income requirements, but he cannot afford the high property prices. If you don't live with your family, you need to rent a poor place to live."

Second, two respondents who already had stable partners also needed housing. One of the interviewees disagreed with her partner on purchasing the house, failing to find a regular

place to live and marry. Another respondent with a stable partner hopes to apply for public housing and learn to independently successfully."

As a respondent Miss C:

"I can get married, but I'm not in a hurry, and I don't want to have kids. Because we do not have a long-term stable place to live, we hope to have our house to decorate."

As a respondent Miss M:

"I hope to successfully apply for public housing to be independent and not depend on my parents."

Lack of security with a partner

Maslow's hierarchy (1954) social needs point out that people need to be loyal, belong, and fraternal. Three of the interviewees were insecure due to their families of origin and the betrayal of their former partners.

Two of the six respondents were influenced by their families of origin, resulting in great insecurity. One of the interviewees was caused by her parent losing confidence in the marriage. Another interviewee grew up without her mother's approval and attention, making her still hope that her mother would accept her boyfriend before marrying or supporting all her decisions. The last interviewee was betrayed by her Ex-boyfriend, which affected her trust in the marriage in the future.

As a respondent Miss L:

"Based on the original family relationship, I often saw my parents arguing when I was a child. After my parents divorced, it made me unbelieving in the promise of marriage. Sometimes I envy my friends for having a partner to support them. I must say that this is an impulsive rebuttal unless that man can give me a sense of security, but I think it's a difficult thing to do."

As a respondent Miss M:

" Although the boyfriend has proposed marriage two times, I expect my mother to accept the son-in-law. I don't want to conflict with my mother. Usually, she son preference, and I often quarrel with unpleasant ones. Although I had frequent quarrels with my mother, I was able to talk to my parents. It's just that I'm not satisfied with my mother's discipline of me, often managing me to go out for time or time limits to come back and not agreeing with my boyfriend."

As a respondent Miss S:

"I've been with my previous boyfriend for eight years, and I've identified him as my family. Later, I found out that my boyfriend had betrayed me, so I broke up with him. This relationship hurts my heart. And it also has a psychological impact on me to shoot and drag in the future. Besides, the original family had an influence, my parents had a bad relationship, and my father left us. I wish my partner would be tolerant and loyal to me, but I find such simple conditions difficult. "

Self-actualization

Maslow's hierarchy of the fifth needs (1954) is self-actualization needs. Two of the six respondents mentioned the meaning of life. One of them said that she hoped to be a volunteer

in the mountains after retirement, but she could not handle her retirement life now. Another respondent noted that the Covid-19 epidemic was related to the failure to travel abroad, making her waste time.

As a respondent Miss S:

"I wanted to be a philanthropist, I could go to the mountains to teach, but I can't do it now, and I hope that I can do it in retirement."

As a respondent Miss K

"Sometimes I feel that life is boring, and there is a lot of time after the Covid-19 epidemic. I only dine out, watch TV, surf the Internet, etc. Life has no meaning and is boring. Of course, I don't know if life will become meaningful after marriage and improve my life. When I went on trips, I would spend a lot of time planning the trip's details, so I didn't have time to do anything else. However, I can't travel now, and I have a lot of leisure time."

Challenge and solution

All respondents faced the problem of marriage around the age of 30, which was a marriageable age; whether single or had a partner, they were still unmarried, so family members or others will also intervene in the marriage of their children in different forms the respondents. Even some respondents plan to get married. By 35, all respondents had changed their minds about marriage, believing that marriage was unnecessary.

Nevertheless, discrimination in Hong Kong was not as severe as on the Mainland. Mainland Chinese traditionalism was heavy, and unmarried people after 30 were discriminated against, so respondents hired a "cowherd" to avoid discrimination when they attended banquets. The sister-in-law of another interviewee also felt the same way, believing

that a woman should get married and have children. However, respondents live in Hong Kong without feeling very stressed. They were single, but it did not affect their life or work promotion issues. Even if some respondents feel discriminatory or stressed in their lives or work, they had a solution. Respondents faced parents forcing respondents to get married, and there were more ways to deal with the problem without affecting their mood or causing them to get married.

Parents push the interviewee to get married

Respondents' parents were concerned about the most important event of one's life, and all but one of the respondents were parents pushing the interviewee to get married before the age of 35. Respondents, on the other hand, usually responded perfunctorily. One of the interviewees argued with her parents, and her parents had no choice but to accept their daughter's decision. Another interviewee admitted to her parents a blind date. The interviewee received the arrangement four times in 5 years but failed to find a suitable mate.

As a respondent Miss T:

"When I was 30-35 years old, my parents and relatives pushed me to get married ten times, which was very annoying. At that moment, I wanted to marry a stranger casually to conclude. I would initially respond perfunctorily. I once debated with my parents whether the marriage would make my life better and what I wanted to get married for. After that argument, I often didn't go home for dinner or didn't come home late at night. I did not communicate with them. My parents then found themselves unable to convince me, and they understood that I could not be forced to get married. When I meet relatives and friends on traditional Chinese holidays, my parents will say they do not need to interfere with my marriage."

As a respondent Miss S:

"Usually, my mother will express wanting me to get married as soon as possible in Lunar New Year, which makes me a little stressed. I will respond with I will."

As a respondent Miss K

"When I was about 30 years old, my parents were worried about unmarried, so they arranged a blind date for me and accepted their arrangement. They arranged the dating around ten times. I accepted the arrangement about 3-4 times. But in the end, I couldn't find a suitable mate, so I asked my parents not to arrange it anymore, and they all accepted my request."

As a respondent Miss L:

"Mother is a divorced lady, so she thinks unmarried is not a problem. And my mother understands that the daughter is someone who doesn't want to get married, so she won't worry about me being unmarried."

As a respondent Miss C:

"Every year during the Lunar New Year, our relatives and friends ask when to get married. I usually respond perfunctorily to their "yes" or "consideration."

As a respondent Miss M:

"Since the age of 30, my mother-in-law will ask me every New Year when I will get married? I will respond perfunctorily."

Social Discrimination and Pressure

Except for one respondent who did not feel any social discrimination or pressure, the other respondents had experienced discrimination in their lives. One of the interviewees needed to hire a temporary male companion present at a banquet to avoid bias by others. She did not have a partner to accompany her while working on the Mainland. The remaining two respondents were discriminated against by their sisters-in-law and colleagues. Respondents said their sisters-in-law often used words to discriminate against respondents who were not married, but the respondents ignored their sister-in-law's speech. Their mothers would help to block their sister-in-law's discrimination. Another interviewee, on the other hand, believed that the respondent was unmarried, had more free time, and could accept more new tasks. As a result, respondents lacked the private time and were more stressed due to their working relationships. Respondents now learn to refuse unnecessary work and ask their supervisors to rearrange their colleagues' workloads.

As a respondent Miss T:

"There are no difficulties or discrimination at work, but society has pressure. Because friends may pressure me in the form of jokes, for example, the Lunar New Year's receive red packet will say to me, Don't receive a red packet next year. Now that some family gatherings or expect friends to ask me about a relationship, I choose not to attend the event. So some friends I would avoid not meeting"

As a respondent Miss S:

"This situation does not occur in Hong Kong, but on the Mainland may be a little more stressful. Once, I needed to go to Shanghai to attend a company banquet, usually accompanied by a male companion. At that time, I was single and went to Shanghai to work,

so I didn't have a male partner to go to the company banquet. They hired a "cowherd" to accompany me to the event when the company knew about me. Therefore, if you attend these banquets on the Mainland, you will be discriminated against if you go alone. And in Hong Kong, I try to go alone, no special problems."

As a respondent Miss K

"I never felt social discrimination. My unmarried friend didn't feel the pressure either. There may be this discrimination problem on the Mainland, and living on the Mainland, unmarried women over the age of 30 will be stressed, but this situation is not available in Hong Kong. New Year's colleague gave Red Packet would advise me to date someone, but I don't care and don't mind their talk. Instead, I think they're worried that I have not in a relationship with someone."

As a respondent Miss L:

"I've always felt my colleagues discriminate against me. My colleagues think I didn't have a boyfriend or was unmarried, so they believe I had more free time to get the job done. This is how the average person feels compared to a single. Even if I don't have a partner, why did they often ask me to handle the work, and the supervisor can't distribute it fairly? It's subconsciously bullying me. If there is not enough workforce or there is a need to deal with official affairs, I will agree to deal with it. Otherwise, I will refuse to accept the work arrangement. Second, I think society discriminates against single, and job seniority affects salaries. But social welfare policy has no support for us. Single is difficult to apply for housing and the waiting time is very long. Finally, I'm a family case social worker. The client will think I'm married or ask how many children I had. When the client knows I'm unmarried. The client distrusted my profession and became suspicious. Even though I have relevant work

experience, clients think I won't understand their situation, so I guess it's all discriminated against or pressured."

As a respondent Miss C:

"My sister-in-law is a mainlander who has the traditional Chinese idea that women must get married and be married to continue with family. So she sometimes asks me when I'm married? and she thinks it's weird that I'm still unmarried, but I don't mind what she says."

Chapter 5

Social service needs

Based on respondents' economic, social and respectful needs satisfy. Also, their high ability to solve problems could face and solve difficulties. They did not need to receive social services and believed that NGOs were not providing services to unmarried.

Except for one respondent who believed that NGOs did not need to provide services, the rest thought that NGOs needed to provide services to unmarried. The primary respondents thought that the religious or matchmaker company provided awareness of the opposite sex's activity.

Under the SWD, the Integrated Family Service Centres need to serve this group of people. However, all respondents felt that IFSCs do not currently provide services to them, and some were even less aware that IFSCs provided services for them. It can be seen that the IFSCs ignore the needs of unmarried people or has no plans to serve them.

Furthermore, as most respondents were social workers who understood social services, some could clearly state that social workers mainly provided remedial services and, therefore, lacked development or prevention activities for unmarried people. While respondents understand that resources need to be focused on emergency services, they expect IFSCs to provide mental health services to the unmarried. It can be seen that IFSCs need to re-examine their service strategy and cannot ignore the needs of the unmarried.

IFSCs has not provided the social services they need

As a respondent Miss T:

"I found no social services available to unmarried, and my nearby live NGOs do not

provide services for us. Of course, I didn't have the service needs. But believe that other people may need to receive services, such as my friend is unmarried and needs to take care of her family, but is not included in the carer status, so she cannot receive any services."

As a respondent Miss S:

"I'm not quite sure what type of service an NGO can offer, but satisfied with my life."

As a respondent Miss K

"I don't know the type of service NGOs can provide. Isn't IFSCS for married people? But I don't need to accept any services, and speed dating already has a matchmaker company to provide services, and it doesn't need to be provided by NGOs, so NGOs don't need to provide services to us."

As a respondent Miss L:

"NGOs do not provide social services for us. Of course, I didn't need to be served. We don't have a pressing need, so there is no service for our group of unmarried. If a single needs services, they need to have other identities to provide services, such as disabled, carers, etc., and will not only provide services for middle-aged unmarried."

As a respondent Miss C:

"I understand that there is no service for unmarried, such as the service for knowing the opposite sex. I know Carita provides pre-marital counseling services but no other services. The service of meeting the opposite sex is mainly provided by religious or matchmaker companies. Currently, SWD only provides remedial work. Prevention and development services are not provided. Because of insufficient resources, we can only focus on remedial

services. "

As a respondent Miss M:

"I don't need services from NGOs at the moment, and none of the NGOs near my residence provide services to us."

- **Lack of social group**

As a respondent Miss C:

"I know a single teacher who wants to know the opposite sex. The NGO does not provide social activities for single to meet the opposite sex. Also, NGOs do not offer to learn to get along with the opposite sex, so she can only meet or participate in speed-dating or online to meet the opposite sex

- **Lack of counseling services and prevention mental health group**

Respondents believe that unmarried also had emotional needs, so NGOs need to provide counseling services and prevent mental health activities for unmarried.

As a respondent Miss T:

"Everyone has emotions, and we need emotional support, but NGOs ignore our needs. None of the IFSCs offered services to our group."

As a respondent Miss C:

"I would like to attend services related to mental health, such as self-development group or stress reduction group. However, at present, IFSCs mainly provide single parent activities or activities related to depression."

As a respondent Miss M:

"I look forward to providing a service of emotional counseling services. Because some people quarrel with their partners and expect someone to listen to them, it is good to have these services."

- **Lack of life planning group program**

Some respondents believe that unmarried need to plan their lives as they get older, including retirement and financial planning

As a respondent Miss S:

"I think single need to plan their lives, and unmarried need to plan their retirement life plans as they get older, such as retirement, medical security, and living care. I know that foreign churches will provide life support services for us, helping them plan elderly care arrangements and medical plans. In addition, some single people lack social activities, and they may experience loneliness."

- **Failure to benefit from welfare policy**

Finally, a middle-class single is not benefited from welfare policies, such as personal allowances or housing policies.

As a respondent Miss L:

"Government failure provides unmarried with opportunities for upward mobility. We need some social policy support, such as increasing housing policies or singles subsidies. Can the number of single applicants be expanded, or can it be easier to apply? Social welfare is less for single people than for families."

Reflection on Erikson's theory and Maslow's theory

Erikson's psychosocial theory

Erikson thinks early adulthood (age of 20-40) is concerned with intimacy vs. isolation. However, if other stages have not been successfully resolved, young adults may have trouble developing and maintaining successful relationships with others. Erikson said that we must have a strong sense of self before developing a successful intimate relationship. Adults who do not form a positive self-concept in adolescence may experience feelings of loneliness and emotional isolation.

The changing times, and the independence of women, made the theory out of date. The respondents were over the marriageable age and said that marriage was not an essential part of life planning. Some respondents were more likely to take a natural approach to find a boyfriend, so this group did not complete the establishment of intimate relationships. They did not have isolated emotions and could meet their current unmarried situation. In addition, marriage deprives women of much of their time and freedom. Because women usually lose the freedom to pursue their self-actualization after marriage. All respondents currently enjoy a life of unmarried life, and they appreciate their private time and the right to self-determination. Respondents with stable partners mentioned spending more time with their husbands and handling household chores after marriage, so they were reluctant to get married.

Moreover, China values family relations, unlike Western culture. Almost all respondents had a good relationship with their mother, but some of the parent's relationships influenced respondents and led them to distrust marriage. It can be seen that Erikson ignores the development theory of the influence of the family.

In addition, according to Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, people were satisfied from the lowest level and last fulfilling the self-realization level.

Maslow's hierarchy of needs

The third stage in Maslow's hierarchy of needs (1954) is the social stage, including belonging and love; people who need friends' support and want to fall in love.

But according to, Maslow's theory is not absolute. It can not apply to all cultures and not necessarily to everyone. Maslow explores human motivation and studies human behavior from the perspective of human needs. This theory can be applied to business management and human growth. Because it is widely used in academia and business, it has not been able to apply to the needs of the unmarried. Just as all respondents distrusted marriage, it means they were insecure about marriage. While respondents failed to meet the second level of security needs, they could meet other stages. Some of the respondents were unable to find a suitable mate. Still, they were satisfied with their unmarried life and the right to self-determination, which shows that Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory mentions that one needs were completed and then pursued the next need has not been applied to unmarried life situations.

In addition, Chinese and Western cultures are different. Traditional Chinese culture is a comprehensive analysis of an overall worldview formation, paying more attention to intuition and experience. Therefore, people's needs are difficult to divide into levels. In addition to pursuing basic needs, people can also pursue other needs simultaneously. Or, when the needs of the bottom layer are not met, the upper layer can also be satisfied. Some people value the

practice of personal value more than their safety, and in some cases, people's decisions may not necessarily follow the hierarchy of needs theory.

Limitation

Inability to express opinions honestly

This group of unmarried females has passed the marriageable age. Still, because of Chinese cultural relations, when they mention some sensitive topics, they had the opportunity to take care of their face and fail to openly or frankly disclose their ideas or their situation, so the results were somewhat wrong.

A non-random sample doesn't provide a representative result.

The information researcher received from a non-random sample doesn't reflect how a generalized population group feels about anything specific. That means the feedback received was helpful from an individualized standpoint, but it cannot offer information about an entire group of people. The result often involves over-representation, but there can also be issues with under-representation with non-random sampling.

Besides, these respondents lived with their families and had good relationships. However, the researcher failed to look for unmarried females living alone and could not study the needs of unmarried females living alone. Unmarried females living alone had the opportunity to have different outcomes due to estrangement from their families.

On the other hand, the researcher did not ask questions about the interview's sexual orientation. The respondents did not disclose their sexual orientation, so we did not know whether they were heterosexual, bisexual, or lesbian, affecting the study results. It is suggested that unmarried people's sexual orientation and sexual needs can be studied in the future. Besides, the need for unmarried living alone can be studied in the future compared with this study.

Impact of covid-19

Due to the pandemic, researchers could not collect data directly from respondents in some interviews. It was challenging to understand feelings or conversations from respondents' facial expressions or body language.

Chapter 6

Summary

The findings suggest that modern women no longer need to rely on marriage to gain a sense of security due to their financial independence. Besides, some respondents were still single, and family and friends could support their emotions. Even on special holidays, accompanied by friends and family, unmarried did not feel lonely.

In addition, respondents changed their views on family, believing that women didn't have to be married and had children to be perfect, so being unmarried was not a problem either. Also, respondents distrusted marriage commitments and did not need marital protection, so marriage became meaningless. Some respondents were also suspicious of marriage because of family or emotional harm. In contrast, two respondents with stable partners were more willing to remain unmarried because they did not trust marriage.

More importantly, the unmarried enjoyed the single life, giving them more self-determination power to arrange a private time. However, individuals needed to have the opportunity to make them change their attitude toward marriage. Half of the respondents did not resist marriage if family wishes, and finding a suitable mate could change their marriage attitude. Second, the need for housing and the sense of security also affected why respondents were unmarried. In addition, individuals need include fail to achieve self-goals, but this is not enough to change the attitude toward marriage.

All of the respondents could not find a purpose or reason to get married, so they chose to live unmarried. Living unmarried in Hong Kong did not make them feel a lot of stress. Even if they were discriminated against or pressured by relatives, friends, or colleagues, they could cope with it and did not bother them.

Under SWD, IFSCs need to provide services to this group of people. Respondents met economic, social, and respectful needs, and they are highly problem-solving skills. This group of respondents believes that they didn't need the services provided by social workers now. Still, most of the respondents believe that IFSCs ignore their needs and that the welfare policy ignores the needs of singles, so they make the following recommendations.

Suggestions

Improve IFSCs promotion

IFSCs can provide emotional support services for unmarried. NGOs currently focus on urgent or remedial services due to resource problems and neglect preventive and developmental services. There is no organization to offer services to the unmarried without another status, such as disability or carer status. The only IFSCs that could provide did not provide services for unmarried. Therefore, all respondents believe that NGOs have not provided any services to them, and even they are not clear about the type of services that IFSCs can provide, which shows that the agency is not promoting enough. IFSCs should use more channels to promote the organization, let more residents in the area know about their service

Provide mental health services

Second, all people have the opportunity to experience emotional distress due to their life situation, and in addition to counseling services, preventive activities can be provided to support their emotions. At present, respondents could obtain emotional support due to the support of their families and friends. Still, some single lack social life and did not have access to emotional support. Therefore, it is proposed that in addition to counseling, IFSCs also need to provide emotional relief groups and interest classes to reduce stress to improve their mental health.

Provide Social service

Third, single currently lacks channels to get to know the opposite sex and could only meet the opposite sex online or participate in speed dating. Therefore, it is recommended that

IFSCs organize social groups to give unmarried the opportunity to learn to get along with the opposite sex. Also, IFSCs should provide some social activity to enhance single social networks.

Research and activity on life planning for single

Fourth, institutions can research single people's life planning and understand their retirement arrangements, including financial planning, medical care, and life care arrangements. Research reports can help us understand the needs of future elderly living alone, thus formulating long-term welfare policies. In addition, if this group of unmarried remains single, they will have to face the problem of retirement as they grow older. Therefore, IFSCs need to provide life planning services to unmarried and assist them in planning to take care of themselves in their later years.

Provide financial education and Improve unmarried social welfare policy

A highly educated and unmarried group with many years of work experience will increase their salary with seniority. However, the property prices are high, and single with a general income of about \$30,000-40,000 cannot afford the expensive first installment. Still, they are not eligible to buy HOS houses, so it is challenging for them to buy their own home. For the unmarried to enjoy their autumn years in peace, the Housing Policy needs to be amended to help them become an opportunity for unmarried to be upward and gain a sense of security. Second, IFSCs can provide some financial activity. Let the unmarried learn financial knowledge, increase wealth, and enhance the opportunity for unmarried to be upward.

ICYSCs provide self-identification service

At present, Hong Kong has less research on the sexual orientation or attitudes toward a

marriage of young people, so it has not been able to provide targeted self-identification services. Erikson's stage theory pointed out that the main task of adolescence is to develop self-identification. Reactions of others often accompany the process of adolescent self-acceptance. It is suggested that ICYSCs can provide activities for recognizing and solving teenage gender identity disorders so adolescents can accept their sexual orientation or gender and accept their feelings and self-identity. So the service can provide a positive and healthy way to identify with yourself and enable the adolescent to achieve good condition.

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宏恩基督教學院
社會工作學院

Study the social life of not yet married females

參與研究同意書

本人 _____ 備悉上述研究計劃目的在了解 35-44 歲未婚的女性社交生活情況。本人亦知悉此研究負責人來自宏恩基督教學院之社會工作學士學位課程學生胡潔盈

本人知悉所提供的資料將根據香港法例第 486 章《個人資料(私隱)條例》加以保護。而此研究所得的資料將會被錄音及可能被用作日後的研究及發表，但該研究及發表中亦不會包含能夠識別本人身份的細節。本人的私隱權利會得以保留，本人的個人資料不會被公開。

研究人員已向本人清楚解釋列在所附研究程序上的資料，本人明瞭當中涉及的利益及風險；本人自願參與研究項目，並同意參與提供個人意見。

本人知悉本人有權就程序的任何部分提出疑問，並有權隨時退出而不受任何懲處。

參與者簽署 : _____

參與者姓名 (正楷) : _____

家長或監護人 (如適用) 簽署 : _____

家長或監護人 (如適用) 姓名 : _____

研究人員簽署 : _____

研究人員姓名 : 胡潔盈

日期 : _____

備註： 就有關上述研究細則，可聯絡宏恩基督教學院社會工作學院 (何潔雲導師)
電話：5804 4140 (內線：260)

基本資料：(請在各項中，圈出合適的答案)

10. 學歷	中學畢業	高中畢業
	大專/ 大學	碩士
	博士	
11. 年齡	35-40	40-44
12. 住居	居屋	私人
	公屋	租屋
13. 與家人同住	是	否
14. 您目前的職業	行政人員	專業人士(如醫生、律師)
	服務行業	銷售/市場部
	電腦/工程	待業
	自僱	其他
15. 是否家庭的經濟支柱?	是	否
16. 平均工作時間 小時/週	40-47 小時	48-54 小時
	55-60 小時	61 小時以上
17. 月入	\$10,000 以下	\$10,000-\$20,000
	\$20,000-\$30,000	\$30,000-\$40,000
	\$40,000-\$50,000	\$50,000-\$60,000
	\$60,000 以上	
18. 宗教信仰	佛教	基督教
	天主教	道教
	沒有宗教	

訪問內容：

1. 您現在通常放假有何活動?(社交情況)如剛過去的周末及周日去了那裡或做甚麼活動。或者不用工作的時間(如放工之後)通常有何活動?而這些活動是獨自或與他人一起參與?而且活動地點在那?
2. 有何原因驅使您仍未結婚。(想唔想結婚?)
3. 有沒有曾試過有結婚的衝動?或希望能夠結婚?
4. 請想想有甚麼原因會使您即時想結婚/希望能盡快結婚(或希望尋找伴侶結婚)?
5. 若父母或其他人曾催婚? 如何應對?
6. 在特別日子，如新年、情人節或聖誕節如何渡過?心情如何?
7. 生活有否遇到困難/歧視情況(受社會可能存在的壓力)? 如何解決?
8. 您對自己現在未婚的生活滿意嗎? (原因?)如滿意，請問那方面使您生活滿意及為何令您滿意。若不滿意，那方面使您不滿意及為何不滿意? 您有否計劃打算改善不滿地方及如何改善?
9. 您認為有沒有社會服務能提供給您們嗎?您希望能提供甚麼服務給您/滿足您需要? 若不需要提供服務?為何不需要呢?