

Dear Sir/Madam,

Good Morning.

Am writing to you in expressing my view on how to entice Hong Kongers in having more children.

Just a bit about my background, my wife and I are both Hong Kongers and we moved to work in Singapore back in 2010 due to a better job opportunity. My two children were born in Hong Kong and they will be turning five later this year.

I noted yesterday that Chief Secretary Lam highlighted that even with all the freebies that the Singapore government had throw in recently that the birth rate there is still pretty much the same as Hong Kong. While statistically I agree with her view, I do want to share my humble observation which I had made during my stay in Singapore so far.

Younger Singaporeans in general, especially the ethnic Chinese are more westernized than their counterpart in Hong Kong. Hence, their sense of self center/indulgence are more evident here (i.e. a married couple would choose to buy a car first before having their first child bearing in mind that price of a car is 3x more expensive than Hong Kong.

If you take the Malays and the Indians out of the statistics, the birthrate in Singapore is likely to be at 1 or perhaps even below 1.

National Service delays most Singaporean men from marrying by 2-3 years.

Given on the cultural, social and demographical differences between Singapore and Hong Kong, I believe that a similar "Birth Enticement Pill" given by the Singapore government might have a slightly more positive effect in Hong Kong as I believe that the "Inner Want of having Children" of an average HK couple are higher than in Singapore.

Even though our family does enjoy living in Singapore vey much but our hearts are in Hong Kong and we wish Hong Kong the very best!

Sincerely,

Simon

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