

主旨:

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Comments:

I would like to comment on the topic of 'Increase the quantity of the labour force by drawing more people into the labour market'

Firstly, it is believed that high living cost in Hong Kong(HK) is one of the significant contributing factors of low baby born rate in HK. Raising a new family member will be result in a double in the living cost, like the money spent on milk formula, baby clothes, medicinal care etc. Also, there is a Chinese word saying that 'you will be worry about your children at least 99 years when they are about to live 100 years.' Therefore, it is not news to realize that many young couples decide not to give birth to a child due to the heavy economic and psychological burden of raising a child.

Secondly, the new generation focuses more on the balance between living standard and work than their older generation due to the promotion of individualism and materialism. As the young may have to work very hard and toughly to make ends meet if they decide to raise a child. Then what are the reasons that they give up the higher living standard they originally have in order to raise a child. If they don't raise a child, the money saved may be enough for them to enjoy a movie or take a drink in Starbucks per week. Therefore the low baby born rate in HK is also attributed to the higher living standard the young will have if they don't raise a child.

Based on the above reasons mentioned, I come forward with the following suggestions.

Firstly, for short term method, I suggest the government to provide more subsidies to the young couples who have raised a child, so as to reduce the economic burden of the young couples. More children they raised, more subsidies will be given. However, this subsidy is not direct money subsidies, but a coupon subsidy. The government will provide some milk formula coupon or medical care coupon to the new young parents. Due to the coupon subsidies, there will be less chance for people to earn money illegally by raising a baby or create a virtual record of giving birth to a baby in hospital. By this coupon subsidy, there is a bigger motivation for the young couples to raise children and thus there will be more labour available in the labour market in the future.

Secondly, for long term method, the government can also cooperate with the NGOs in HK to teach the young couples about real value of raising a baby. The government and the NGOs can hold some Talks or Carnival to lead the young couples to have a deeper insight about the joyful and responsibility of giving a

birth and also encourage them to give a birth. These Talks and Carnival will aim to remind the young couples not to focus too much on the individualism and materialism but focus more on their social responsibility and idealism. We all know that education will be an uphill battle but I believe the mind of the young will finally change under the long time education towards them.