



Lifelong learning blocks and hurdles

Participation in continuous learning is declining, especially in 18-34 year-olds. What's the explanation?

There's a mismatch between belief and reality according to the findings of this survey. The majority of respondents believe in the value of continuous learning and about a third recognize the importance of upgrading and adding value to skills. However, during the past five years only a third of respondents had enrolled in a course and 46% had no plan to do so in future. Expensive tuition fees and making time for courses were the main problems.

Support not available?

Over 60% of those who had taken courses in the past five years had not received support from the Continuing Education Fund, usually because the courses chosen were not subsidized. At present the Fund offers reimbursement for recognised courses if applications are made within four years of commencement of study. The ceiling is HK\$10,000 per course.

Details of subsidized courses
wfsfaa.gov.hk/cef/intro.htm

Comments

Employers need to be open to the needs of all employees and educational institutions could be more flexible with schedules and e-learning.

Janis Tong, group member *"Subsidies could be doubled to HK\$20,000 and the range and number of course sectors could be increased to encourage lifelong learning."*

Mac Chan, group member *"Tax concessions could be offered to employers who support employees' continuous learning. Flexible timetables and online courses would be convenient for those with irregular working hours."*

Report No. 12 HKFYG Youth I.D.E.A.S. Education and Innovation group. "Young People's Views on Continuous Learning." 527 18-39 year-olds were polled in a territory-wide random survey. 20 were interviewed as were four specialists.

Full details [in Chinese]
yrc.hkfyg.org.hk/news.aspx?id=93aad322-639a-49b9-b087-59458af5c46f&corpname=yrc&i=9587

