Hong Kong's South Asians hurdles for minority groups

Minority groups in Hong Kong suffer from exclusion and communication problems. This survey asks what is the way forward.

South Asians – including Indian, Pakistani and Nepalese people – make up over 30% of Hong Kong's ethnic minorities and are the largest such group, excluding foreign domestic helpers (see table). However, only about a third of respondents to this survey had any contact with them in the past year and almost two-thirds say they understand them poorly. Meanwhile, difficulties for South Asians learning Chinese, finding jobs and making friends with Chinese youngsters are common.

Hong Kong population of non-Chinese ethnic groups (Excluding foreign domestic helpers)192,400



Note Foreign domestic helpers = 254,000

Source Census & Statistics Dept, HKSAR in Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report on Ethnic Minorities. povertyrelief.gov.hk/eng/pdf/2014_EM_Report_Eng.pdf

Comments

Better intercultural understanding and proficiency in Chinese are needed for ethnic minority groups to become fully integrated.

Justen Li Group convener "Contact with members of ethnic groups at intercultural festivals in places like Yau Tsim Mong and Yuen Long would help to decrease prejudice, improve attitudes and promote harmony."

Calvin Lam Group member "Some Hong Kong Chinese people even think ethnic minorities are untrustworthy and that they exploit public benefits. Positive media coverage can reduce such negative stereotyping."

Ronald Chan Group member "Practical, government-produced Chinese e-learning material at all levels should be widely available and the government should consider designing a Chinese language test specifically for minorities."

Report No. 14 HKFYG Youth I.D.E.A.S.

Society & Livelihood group

Published title: "Challenges Faced by Ethnic Minorities in Hong Kong"

520 15-34 year-olds took part in a territory-wide random sample phone poll in July 2016. Face-to-face interviews were held with 20, both Chinese and non-Chinese. Six experts or academic specialists were also interviewed. **Full details** [in Chinese]

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World Values Survey

The World Values Survey is a longitudinal, ongoing, international study covering about 100 countries. It indicates that Hong Kong people are more prejudiced against incomers than people in other countries. Here are some indicators.

What kind of neighbours do you not want?	People of different race	Speakers of other languages
Australia	5%	9.9%
Hong Kong	18.8%	16.2%
18.8%	10.5%	6.6%
16.2%	8.4%	10.2%
Taiwan	8.4%	7%
US	5.6%	12.9%

Source worldvaluessurvey.org/wvs.jsp