

Private Tutoring of Students in Hong Kong

A poll survey with comparative data

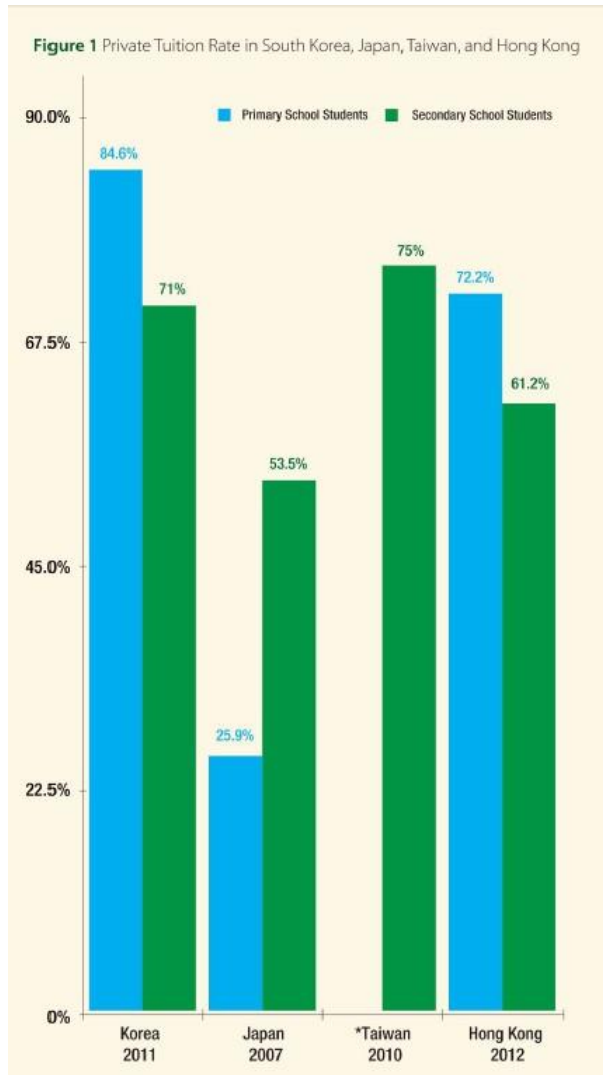
The HKFYG Youth Research Centre has long been concerned about the practice of students having private tuition, and surveys in this area were conducted in 1996* and 2009.** To follow up on the situation and update findings, the Youth Research Centre conducted a survey on a similar topic in December 2012. ***

Background

Hong Kong is a highly competitive society which is concerned about academic performance and examination results. Many students have private tuition in an attempt to obtain good academic results, making it a prevalent practice among students in Hong Kong. What are the latest phenomena of students in having private tuition? Is there any difference between students in Hong Kong and her neighbouring regions such as South Korea, Japan and Taiwan with regards to this area? This survey set out to discover the facts.

Major findings

Private tuition is prevalent in all other developed countries presented in the survey and both South Korea and Taiwan have a higher rate than Hong Kong according to the statistics. Dates of statistics for countries vary. (See Figure 1)



Sources

Korea

Survey of Private Education Expenditure

<http://kostat.go.kr/portal/english/surveyOutlines/8/3/index.static>

Japan

http://epaper.edu.tw/windows.aspx?_sn=1788;

<http://edu.big5.enorth.com.cn/system/2008/08/26/003654618.shtml>

Taiwan

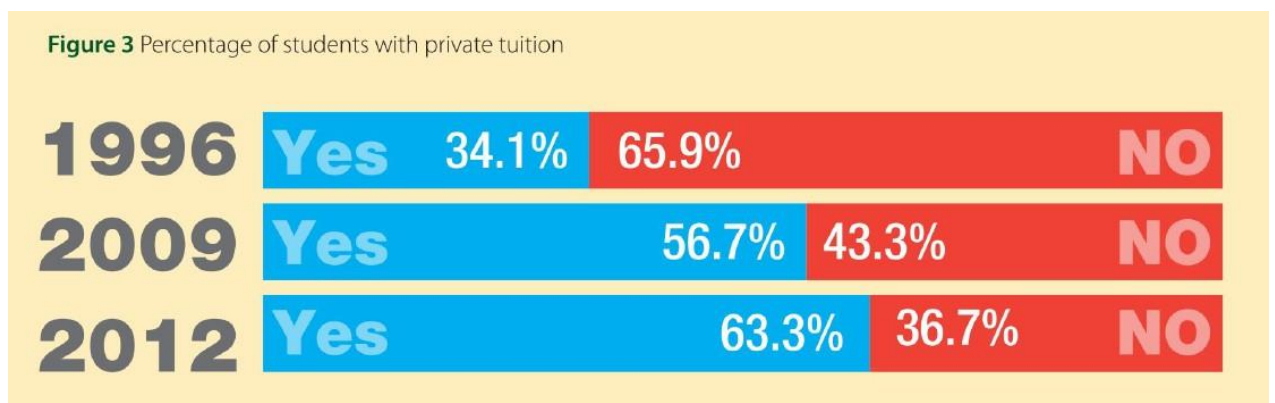
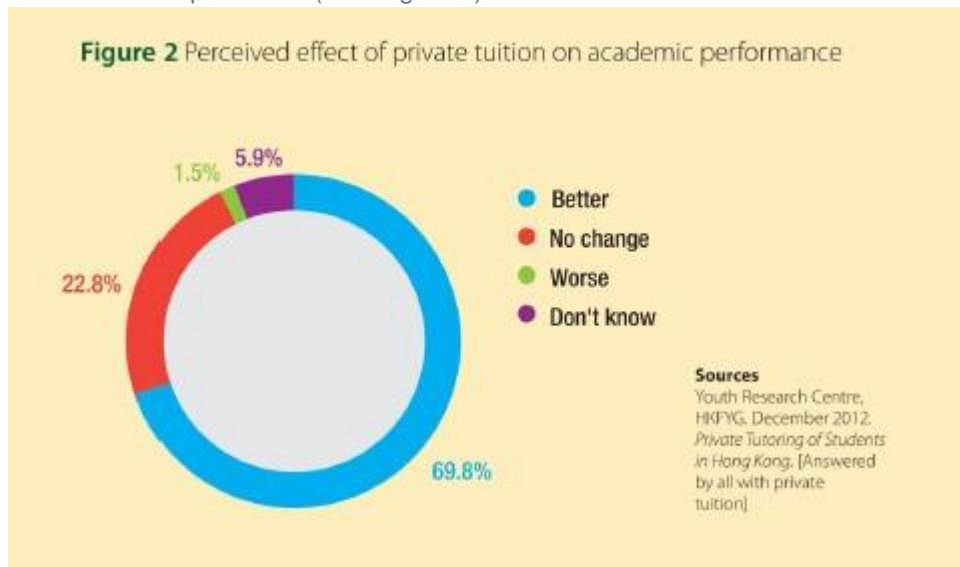
<http://www.bctest.ntnu.edu.tw/20101224news.pdf>

http://mag.udn.com/mag/campus/storypage.jsp?f_ART_ID=290591

*No recent relevant data about primary students in Taiwan.

Nearly 70% of participants in the 2012 survey considered their academic performance improved

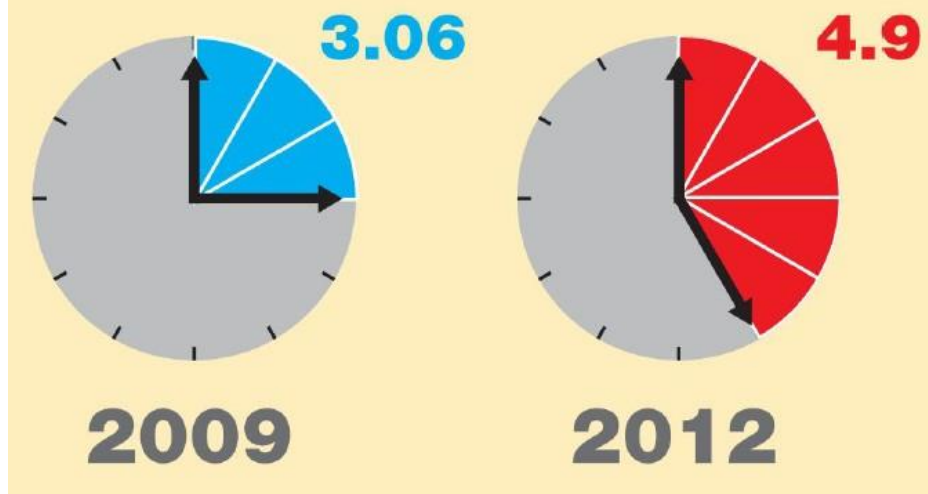
by extra-curricular tuition. (See Figure 2). The percentage of students in Hong Kong who receive private tutoring has almost doubled since 1996, from just over 34% to over 63%. (See Figure 3). The time spent in private tuition has also risen rapidly since 2009, from just over 3 to almost 5 hours per week. (See Figure 4).



Sources

Youth Research Centre, HKFYG. May 1996: *Students and Private Tutoring*; August 2009: *Students' Participation in Private Tutoring*; December 2012: *Private Tutoring of Students in Hong Kong*.

Figure 4 Time in private tuition 2009-2012



Sources

Youth Research Centre, HKFYG. August 2009: Students' Participation in Private Tuition; December 2012: Private Tutoring of Students in Hong Kong. [Answered by those with private tuition.]

Figure 5 Spending on private tuition 1996-2012



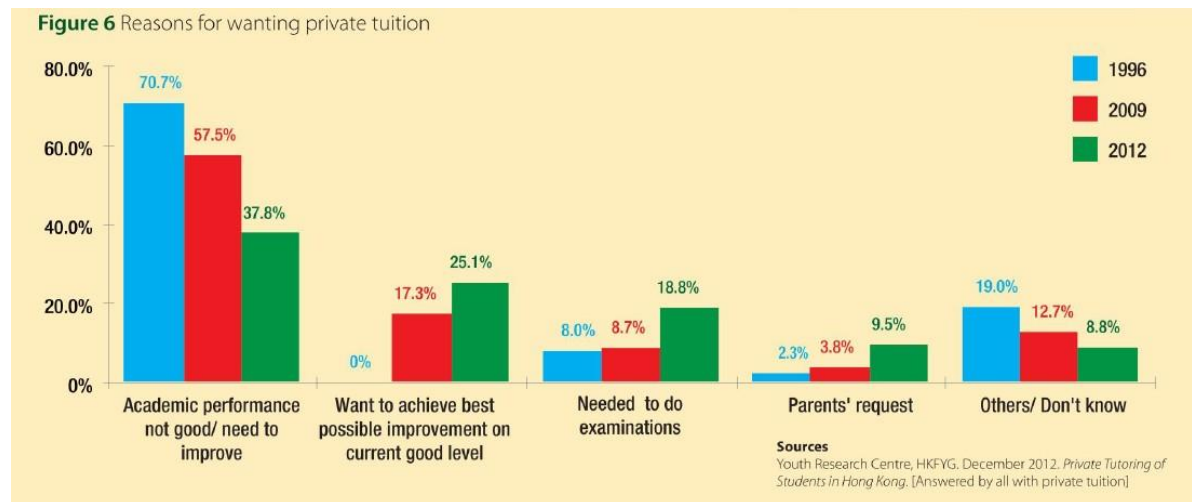
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Youth Research Centre, HKFYG. May 1996: Students and Private Tuition; August 2009: Students' Participation in Private Tuition; December 2012: Private Tutoring of Students in Hong Kong. [Answered by all with private tuition.]

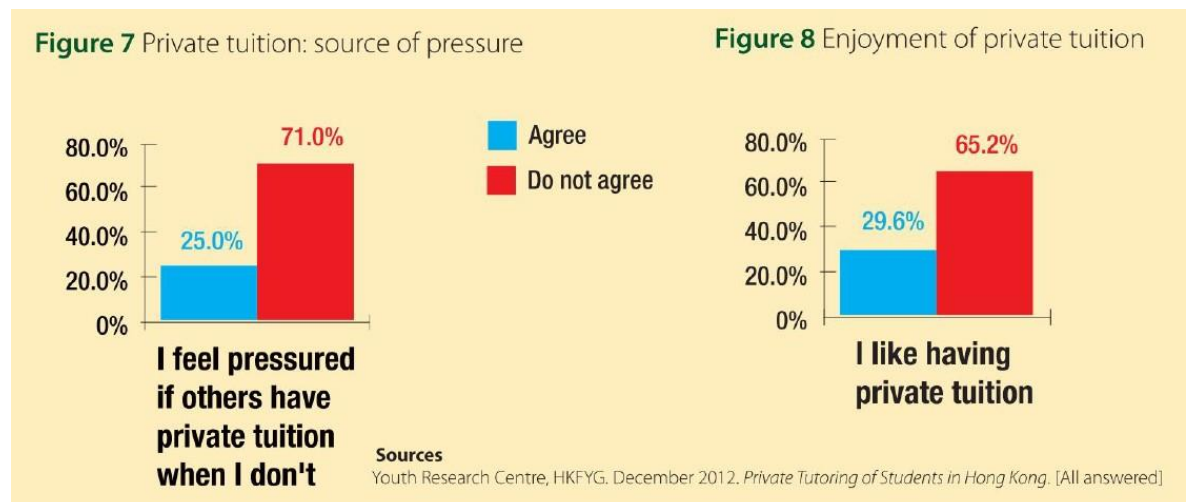
Note: Amounts not adjusted to reflect inflation or changes in GDP.

Reasons for private tuition are also changing. A very significant increase was found in respondents who say they want such tuition in order to achieve their best possible academic

performance rather than just to improve. The number has gone from 0% in 1996 to 17.3% in 2009 and 25.1% in 2012. The proportion who say they want the tutoring simply “to improve academic performance” was still the largest at 37.8%, but less so than in either 1996 or 2009 when it was 70.7% and 57.5%, respectively. (See Figure 6).



Most Students do not find private tutoring enjoyable. They say it causes peer pressure because of the prevalence of private tutoring among primary and secondary school pupils today in Hong Kong. 25.0% said that if others took private tuition while they did not it put pressure on them to confirm. (See Figure 7 and 8).



Notes on participation

Participants polled successfully via territory-wide telephone surveys.

*1996 507 students aged 10-19

**2009 521 students entering Primary 5 to Form 7 in forthcoming academic year

***2012 524 students in Primary 5 to Secondary 6 in a random sample survey from 7-30 December 2012. Telephone numbers were drawn randomly from mobile telephone numbers based on the numbering plan for telecommunications services in Hong Kong published by Office of the Communications Authority.

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Article from Youth Hong Kong, March 2013 (Volume 5 Number 1) p.39-41