

S. Chan

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## 1997 does not worry pupils

By JULINA CHAN 24-25

Only about one-tenth of junior secondary school students in Hongkong expressed interest in the "far away" 1997 topic, according to a survey's finding.

But 80 per cent said they were deeply concerned and worried about their "own and immediate" fate after completion of form three.

Sixty-one per cent lacked confidence over whether they would be promoted to form four.

And fewer than one per cent of them said they would turn to their teachers for advice on personal problems.

These were some of the findings of a questionnaire survey on 1,440 students, conducted in March.

The opinion test, designed by a subsidiary social service group under the Hongkong Young Women's Christian Association, was aimed at obtaining a better understanding of the effects of the nine-year free education system on young people.

The results reflected the

general tendency that Hongkong's youths nowadays were more concerned about their personal and family-related issues (about 65 per cent) compared to problems on their studies (35 per cent).

And the discussion of personal problems was found to be the most popular conversation among the younger generation (33.4 per cent).

Television entertainment, meanwhile, was found to be a highly popular pastime.

Talking about TV programmes was very common in their leisure time (31.4 per cent), and watching television became their major activity at home (49 per cent).

On favourite pastimes, TV entertainment was top of the list (27.9 per cent), followed by movie-going (11.8 per cent), and reading (13.4 per cent).

The survey findings also revealed Hongkong's young students seldom communicate with their family. The family was found to play a minor role in their social life.