Social Development in Hong Kong:

Development Issues Identified by Social Development Index (SDI)

Hoi-wai CHUA[1]

Anthony K.W. WONG[1]

and

Daniel T.L. SHEK[2]

1. The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

2. Department of Applied Social Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Abstract

Surviving the aftermaths of the Asian Financial Crisis and SARS in 2003, Hong Kong's economy has re-gained its momentum and its economic growth has been quite remarkable too in recent few years. Nevertheless, as reflected by the Social Development Index (SDI), economic growth in Hong Kong does not seem to have benefited the people of the city at large as we see social qualities such as cohesion, security, equity, and empowerment are gradually eroded. This paper aims to summarize the current state of social development in Hong Kong based on the SDI-2008 and identify the major social, political and economic challenges that are confronted by Hong Kong. Based on the findings, a range of policy options are proposed for promoting a more balanced approach to social and economic development are discussed. The article illustrates the utility of social indicators research such as the SDI in assessing quality of life and assisting related social planning initiatives in Asian communities such as Hong Kong.

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Introduction

Hong Kong's achievement in economic development has been remarkable over the last few decades, with an increase of more than 80 percent in real GDP from 1981 to 1998.   Nevertheless, being one of the top 30 most advanced societies in the world (UNDP, 2003), many people in Hong Kong generally do not experience social development as impressive as its economic development. Largely predominated by the economic concern, little room has been available for Hong Kong to pursue social development in accordance with the principle of making human beings "the centre of concerns" as stated in the Agenda 21 and the assertion of treating economic development, social development and environmental development as interdependent components for development expressed in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development (UNCED, 1992; United Nations, 1995). In the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, full participation of all people in a society to promote social progress, justice and the betterment of the human condition and integration of economic, cultural and social policies are emphasized.   Besides, it is maintained that family is a basic unit of society and it has a significant role to play in social development.

Of course, the attainment or non-attainment of social development in a society must be objectively assessed. Without proper assessment, it would be difficult, if not impossible to chart social changes and to identify gaps in social policies. This paper reports the role of the Social Development Index (SDI) developed by The Hong Kong Council of Social Service (hereafter referred to as 'the Council') in the process of informing, promoting and guiding social development of Hong Kong (Estes, 2005a,

2005b). The SDI is also a tool for assessing quality of life indexed by official statistics in Hong Kong.

Leveraging the opportunity of the World Summit on Social Development convened by the United Nations at Copenhagen in 1995 and its outcome, Copenhagen Declaration, the Council identified a gap of social reporting for the advocacy for social development in Hong Kong. The idea of constructing the SDI for Hong Kong was first proposed in 1999. Before the establishment of the SDI, social development of Hong Kong was usually measured by economic measures such as GDP per capita which failed to account for many other aspects of development of Hong Kong. For example, as an economically advanced city with high GDP ranking among the top in the world, its Gini coefficient (which measures income disparity) has been problematically high in the past decades. Thus, a more holistic approach to assess social development of Hong Kong is necessary. Against this background, a Board of Consultants was appointed by the Council comprising key figures in the Hong Kong SAR government, academics from universities in Hong Kong and other community leaders to develop a measure that can reflect social development in Hong Kong. The Council also invited a Panel of Experts with over 40 local experts in various areas of social development under the Board to give their expert views on the SDI. The research team of the SDI project was led by Richard J. Estes, an internationally renowned scholar in social development index construction, from the University of Pennsylvania.

As agreed by both the Panel of Experts and the Board of Consultants, the SDI included 14 sectors and the development of five disadvantaged population groups which should be regarded as adequate in reflecting the general social development of Hong Kong. In order to maximize the advantages of indicator system and indexing,

a composite index (SDI) and an indicators system (Social Development Indicators System) were constructed to measure social development of Hong Kong over a period from 1981 to the present.

Since the first report published in 2000, the SDI report was updated bi-annually. In addition to the SDI-2000 report, four more reports have been published, including SDI-2002 published in 2003, SDI-2004 published in 2005, SDI-2006 published in 2007 and SDI-2008 published in 2009. The first release of the SDI was made in 2000, tracking social progress of Hong Kong from 1981 to 1998. Viewing through the broadest possible social lens, substantial social progress took place in Hong Kong between 1981 and 1998, with a net gain on the SDI of some 75% between 1981 and 1998. From then onward, the SDI recorded a gradual increase of 31.8% from 1998 to 2006 (Figure 1). However, the overall progress slowed down in the recent years as the SDI showed an increasing trend at a decreasing rate as in Figure 1.

Despite such positive performance, Hong Kong's pace of social development was not uniform for all time periods studied or across all sectors of development (i.e., patterns more characteristic of *asynchronous* and *asymmetric* development). In addition, considerable variation occurred in the development performances of each of the SDI's 14 sectors, with some of which varied dramatically. For example, in the first release of the SDI, both Science and Technology Sub-index and Education Sub-index made remarkable progress during the period from 1981 to 1998, as measured by the respective sub-index cores (+107 and +102) (The Hong Kong Council of Social Service, 2000). However, a very substantial social loss was recorded on the SDI's Family Solidarity Sub-index (-166) — the only basic SDI Sub-index for which substantial net social losses were recorded. The patterns remain unchanged in the ensuing years since the first release of the SDI. In all the previous

releases since SDI-2000, some of the Sub-indices (e.g. Family Solidarity Sub-index) consistently appeared to be among the slowest in progress (The Hong Kong Council of Social Service, 2007: p.26).   In contrast, other indices such as Science and Technology Sub-index consistently appeared to be among the top (The Hong Kong Council of Social Service, 2007: p.26).

On the other hand, considerable variation existed in the social development performances of Hong Kong's historically vulnerable population groups.   As shown in the report *Social Development Index 2006*, although the social trend data showed positive changes for women and the elderly since the first release of the SDI, negative social trend findings for three additional population groups (i.e., low-income households, youth and children) were very disturbing (The Hong Kong Council of Social Service, 2007: p.28).   Actually, in all previous releases of the SDI until SDI-2008, trend data for women and the elderly have always been positive and have always been making progress, where trend data for low-income households, youth and children have always been negative.   Sub-indices like Children Sub-index have not recorded any gain in any of the previous releases (The Hong Kong Council of Social Service, 2007: p.28).

Subsequent to the first release (SDI-2000), Estes (2005a) reported that there was substantial social progress occurred in Hong Kong between 1981 and 2000 (SDI-2002), with vulnerability in some populations in the society. The situation can be reflected in the following conclusion:

> "Hong Kong appears to have already developed into four distinct and
> unequal societies: 1) the "well off" whose social positions and development
> status are largely immune from swings in the local economy; 2) the "socially

secure" who occupy important positions of influence and who have been able to more or less insulate themselves against all but the most extreme development shifts occurring in Hong Kong; 3) the "socially insecure" who are employed and are "making it"…but with difficulty; and 4) a growing "underclass" of more or less permanently impoverished persons who possess limited means of extricating themselves from poverty. This study suggests that the harsh social conditions that exist for too many in Hong Kong today could dramatically swell the numbers of Hong Kong's underclass in the decade just unfolding." (Hong Kong Council of Social Service, 2000, pp.6-7)

As SDI-2002 reported by Estes (2005a) only covered social trends between 1981 and 2000, there is an obvious need to examine social changes up to recent years. Building upon Estes (2005a) findings, the focus of the present paper is to examine the latest social trend data beyond those covered in SDI-2002.

Method

The status of social development in Hong Kong was assessed by the SDI developed by the Council. The details of the methodology in developing the SDI and the structure of the database can be seen in Estes (2005a, 2005b). Appendix 1 outlines the steps involved during the construction process of the indicator system and related indices. The SDI is composed of 47 social, political and economic indicators divided across the 14 sectors of development (Appendix 2).   An additional 31 indicators are used to assess changes over time in social development patterns among each of the five vulnerable population groups of special concern to the Council (Appendix 3). According to Estes, the project proved to be a successful one in both measuring the

performance of Hong Kong in terms of various aspects of social development and drawing people's attention to the importance of social development (Estes, 2005a, 2005b).

Results

Current Social Development of Hong Kong Revealed by the SDI-2008

The current social development of Hong Kong can be summarized by the latest SDI figure (SDI-2008) which is 170 for 2006 (Figure 1). It represents 70% gain as compared to that of base year (Year 1991=100), and 7.5% increase as compared to SDI-2006 in our last release. In spite of this overall gain, people's livelihood in terms of their very basic needs fulfillment does not seem to have any relative improvement. Several examples substantiate this conclusion.

The quality of family life, the very basic support as highlighted in the Copenhagen Declaration for Social Development and literature on social capital, is severely jeopardized. Findings in Figures 2 and 3 as well as Table 2 show that Family Solidarity Sub-index has always been a negative figure since its first release. It has dropped very rapidly in the most recent release of SDI-2008, where we observed -535, which is around 150% drop as compared to the previous release in 2006 (Figure 3). The figure generally means that it is now 5.35 times worse than that of the base year in 1991. In previous decades, what constituted the poor performance in family solidarity seems to be a gradual drop in the number of marriages while the number of divorces is on the rise. But in recent years, the major factor that accounts for the drop of the Sub-index is domestic violence. From 2004 (measured by SDI-2006) to 2006 (measured by SDI-2008), the reported cases of domestic violence per 100,000 households had doubled. Figures of spouse abuse,

8

elder abuse and child abuse are all on sharp rise (The Hong Kong Council of Social Service, 2009).

Another example is that the material well being of people is also not any better, although Hong Kong economic achievement is always well acclaimed.   A closer look at our Economic Sub-index (Figure 4 and Table 3) provides a more comprehensive picture of how our economy has been performing.   There is a clear indication that in spite of the economic growth measured in terms of GDP, fruits of success have not been adequately shared by people at the grassroots level over the years, as measured by the indicator on percentage of total household income earned by the bottom 50% of households (Table 3).   This trend has gone further worse in the latest release (SDI-2008), where a negative development of -11 is recorded (The Hong Kong Council of Social Service, 2009).

A further example is that the need for shelter seems not being attended to as it was before.   The Housing Sub-index (Figure 5 and Table 4) has recorded significant improvement since SDI-2000 till SDI-2004, as compared to the previous observations. The latest trend, however, has been very worrying.   Our latest release of SDI-2008 shows an 18% percentage drop in this Sub-index, furthering a slight drop started in the previous release in 2006 (1.7%) (The Hong Kong Council of Social Service, 2009).   Those most hard hit seem to be, again, the people at the grassroots level when we look into the constituent component of the Sub-index.   The waiting list for the public housing has been on the increase.   According to the figures supplied by the Housing Authority for 2007, a growing queue of 110,842 applicants waiting for public housing flats was reported.

Finally, the findings based on SDI-2008 showed that there were uneven developments in different sectors in Hong Kong. Although there was positive

development in some of those economic-related aspects, some groups in the society were left out of the social progress and economic prosperity being enjoyed by others. Our latest findings showed that although negative values were recorded for Low Income Sub-index (-43) and Youth Sub-index (-19), some improvement has been achieved as compared to that in the previous release (-103 and -50 respectively). The magnitude of loss as compared to the base year of 1991 has reduced by at least half (Table 1 and Figure 6).   The Children Sub-index (Table 1 and Figure 7) stood at the negative value of -235. This represents a drop by around 46% as compared to the previous release and the figure has been sliding throughout the past decade. Generally speaking, the findings in Table 5 show that (1) the percentage of children living in low-income households has gone up to over 25.3%; (2) number of reported cases per 100,000 of child abuse has increased by 33.3%; (3) more and more children are grown up in single-parent families; and (4) children are more vulnerable to death after being born than they were before (Table 5).

Discussion

Quality of Life Challenges and the Quest for a Balanced Social Development

Although it is not the main purpose of the SDI to identify factors which contribute to the above-mentioned observations highlighted by SDI-2008, a brief discussion of the key societal conditions contributing to the above-mentioned challenges is in order.   In the previous releases of the SDI (e.g., The Hong Kong Council of Social Service, 2000, 2002), considerable effort has been devoted to tracing the factors which contributed to the rapid decline of family solidarity in Hong Kong.   These factors include the creation of stressful labour market and working environment because of the intense competition due to globalization, acceptance of

family unfriendly jobs due to escalated fear of unemployment in the competitive environment, normalization of long working hours, an increased number of working population leaving the local families for career development in the Mainland due to the increasing social and economic integration between Hong Kong and the Mainland in the past two decades, an elevated tension within individual families because of the social and economic stress, and an increased tolerance for and use of domestic violence (Shek, 2005). Likewise, the drop in Housing Sub-index clearly reflects a process of policy fault and its ensuing remedial actions of the Government in the last decade, namely the sudden expansion and abrupt contraction of housing (and land) supply policies (policy faults). The drop was perhaps not a direct result of the policy fault itself, but its impact on the housing market that makes affordable housing less and less accessible to the lower-middle class and the grassroots. As concluded by Chiu (2005), "keeping housing prices at an affordable level despite a recovering or recovered economy is irrefutably a real challenge to the government" (p. 168).

In the first release of SDI-2000, the Council's report concluded that disparities in social development are pronounced among various population groups. Our latest findings have shown that in the last 8 years, since the first release of SDI-2000, our social conditions have swelled the numbers of Hong Kong underclass. Gains in some area do not seem to be able to offset losses in other areas. While the poor adults at the grassroots are striving to make their ends meet, the future of next generation is jeopardized. Given the size of these disadvantaged populations in Hong Kong and the complexity of their social development requirements, clearly a new agenda must be launched in response to the social development needs. Past initiatives simply have not succeeded in reversing the highly negative conditions in which too many of Hong Kong's low-income households, youth and children find

themselves.

Given the development patterns uncovered in the preceding analysis, the Hong Kong society could benefit from a re-examination of the premises used to guide its development—especially the almost exclusive preoccupation with the economic dimensions of development by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Since the first release of the SDI in Hong Kong, the Council has been advocating for a balanced approach to development. There are several key assertions in the advocacy for a balanced social development in Hong Kong. First, it is argued that social and economic developments are equally important and inter-connected. On the one hand, economic growth provides opportunities for improving people's quality of life. On the other hand, social development, as reflected by better health, education, social protection, sustainable environment, and cultural diversity and so on forms the basis for furthering economic development. Second, it is maintained that excessive focus on any one aspect of development (such as economic development) at the expense of others is detrimental to the development of the society. Finally, the Government should assign equal importance to the social, economic, cultural and environmental development as they are four cornerstones of integrated or balanced social development. While this is the general line to take, a number of policies and measures are suggested to rectify the imbalances that we have identified from the assessment of social development in Hong Kong by SDI-2008.

The first measure is to develop a family-friendly policy such as improvement of the living environment of grassroots families by increasing the construction of public housing and subsidized housing, provision of rental subsidy for those on the waiting list, improvement of community facilities to provide more open space for family activities, and adoption of family impact assessment in all public policy making

process and identify impacts of these policies on families. The second measure that should be considered is family-work balance including provision of policy incentive (such as tax reduction measures) to encourage corporations to implement family-friendly measures, such as setting up minimum wage, standardizing working time and providing paternity leave. Empirically, research findings support the benefits of adopting family-friendly policies. In their study of costs, savings and health gains of paternity leave in Sweden based on an examination of paternal leave in 1978-1979 and male mortality during 1981-2001, Mansdotter, Lindholm and Winkvist (2007) found that fathers who took paternity leave had a statistically significant decreased death risk and there were health gains. Grover and Crooker (1995) also showed that employees with greater access to family-responsive human resource policies had higher organizational commitment and lower intention to quit their jobs.

Finally, work and family reconciliation policies and family outcomes were described in the Babies and Bosses reviews of OECD based on data collected in Australia, Denmark and the Netherlands (OECD, 2002), Austria, Ireland and Japan (OECD, 2003), New Zealand, Portugal and Switzerland (OECD, 2004), and Canada, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom (OECD, 2005). In the press release for the integrative volume on these series of reports (OECD, 2008) on the website, it is stated that "getting family-friendly policies right will help reduce poverty, promote child development, enhance equity between men and women and stem the fall in birth-rates".

As the findings in the SDI-2008 suggest that children development in Hong Kong has consistently been deteriorating over the past decade, improvement of child care services to promote healthy growth for children is another policy direction that should be considered. These include shortening the waiting time for residential

services for children, providing school social work service in kindergartens and childcare centres, strengthening family life education and marital counselling and enhancing parenting skills for single parents as well as re-married couples. For children to grow up and develop in the 21st century, it is important to help children acquire multiple intelligences, in addition to providing formal education. As such, implementation of "Head Start" programs to promote language competence, social skills, cultural horizon, self confidence and self-image of children should be developed, particularly for those in the grassroots who can only afford the cost of formal education (Commission on Poverty, 2005). Finally, development of economic support measures should be attempted. These include adjustment of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance, a poverty relief scheme in Hong Kong, such as re-assessment of the level of assistance (especially in terms of food and housing), exploration of the possibility of setting up the child birth allowance, introduction of negative income tax to support low-income families and raise the level of tax exemption for children to help families nurture their children (Commission on Poverty, 2007).

Use of the SDI in Social Reporting and Policy Advocacy: Conceptual and Methodological Considerations

Social development is a broad concept that has to be clearly spelled out in terms of more concrete constructs. However, readily available tool in this regard is rare (Shek & Lee, 2007). In Hong Kong, with a few exceptions (e.g., Chan, Kwan & Shek, 2005), little effort has been made in conceptualizing social development in a more holistic and systematic way. The Council's SDI is unmistakably a well-acclaimed project that attempts to build a framework to measure social

development in a more comprehensive manner.   As shown above, the SDI has enabled us to assess how Hong Kong is performing in social development, to identify challenges and critical issues that may hinder a more balanced development, and to propose a consistent set of policy suggestions. The previous releases of the SDI reports have been able to stimulate debates and discussions in the public and they also provide useful pointers for government officials and policy makers.

However, it is noteworthy that a social development index of this kind is bound to be a general measure that may not be able to fully account for the related complex phenomena.   Furthermore, although the main purpose of the SDI aims only at reporting the social challenges that Hong Kong faces, it may not be able to describe the particular conditions that give rise to these phenomena. Conceptually and methodologically, the 14-domain structure does not consist of any explanatory factors; only descriptive domains are used to track different aspects of social development of Hong Kong.   Even for a general level of description, the lack of empirically verified conceptual model of social development, which specifies the internal relationships among the constructs or domains of development, prevents us from identifying both the sources of any problems highlighted and the effects that these problems may produce.   This limitation may reduce precision in the process of policy advocacy and suggestion.   However, this should not undermine its power in providing directions for in-depth and detailed policy analysis and policy making.   As an NGO in Hong Kong, the Council is concerned with how to involve people from the general public to pay attention to social development.   However, as social development is a very broad concept that remains unfamiliar to most of the people, it is very hard to advocate social development without reducing it to the more intelligible constitutive sub-domains of the SDI.

The adequacy of measurement indicator of some Sub-indexes should also be given due consideration. For example, that the Family Solidarity Sub-index consists of only 3 indicators has been one of the key debates since its inception. While acknowledging the limitations of this Sub-index, in terms of both the number of indicators and the quality of these indicators, it is also noteworthy that indicators such as marriage and divorce rates are very often used in other social development measures, in spite of their limitations. This is more an inherent challenge of social indicator research that researchers have to balance between the principles of parsimony and comprehensiveness of the related measures. Nevertheless, it is noteworthy that the methodology underlying the SDI is commonly used to chart global (Estes, 1988, 1998) as well as regional social development (Estes, 1996, 1999, 2004) which can appropriately be used in a city like Hong Kong (Estes, 2005a, 2005b).

Besides, based solely on official statistics, the SDI may leave out some important but hard to be objectively observable domains for policy advocacy. These domains include what many people talk about in recent years such as social inclusion, trust, harmony and so forth. These are important social qualities that any NGOs or Hong Kong people would like to see in Hong Kong. Without any accurate measures or precise proxies in measuring these qualities, the SDI is unable to provide any insights into whether the government should, for example, put more resources in building more trust among people. With specific reference to this limitation, it is exactly the reason why official statistics, survey data and qualitative data are included in some of the alternative frameworks of social development such as the CUHK Quality of Life Index (Chan, Kwan & Shek, 2005). Wong, Wong and Mok (2006, p.405) also argued that "social policy needs to pay more attention to the study of subjective

well-being" .

Although there may be intrinsic limitations in the SDI, the attempt of social reporting with the SDI has so far been quite successful.   The study of the SDI in Hong Kong shows that economic growth does not automatically lead to overall development in the social arena.   It also shows in general how imbalance Hong Kong's social development is, and thus helps alert people to looking into the people's livelihood and their quality of life behind the common doctrine of economical or material advancement.

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Appendix 1: Steps involved in the development of the Social Development Index

Step 1: Professor Estes briefly laid down a conceptual framework for understanding social development. As an initial task to kick the project off, this briefing meant to stimulate further discussion on how to conceptualize social development of Hong Kong in more specific terms.

Step 2: A series of methodological decisions was made.   In any study of this kind, the following methodological issues must be addressed seriously and carefully. They include:
- Composite Index v.s. Indicator System: Both were used.
- Objective v.s. Subjective Indicators: Mainly objective indicators.
- Comparability: Not as important as local relevance.
- Weighting Method: At the beginning, it was thought that statistical factor analysis could be used to assign weighting. As the research evolved, experts' opinions became the basis of weighting.

Step 3: Facilitated by Professor Estes, brainstorming sessions were held among the members of the research team to: 1) identify the major areas of social development as well as the vulnerable population groups to which we would like to give more attention; 2) list the potential indicators for each area of social development identified.

Step 4: Selection of major areas of social development and, more importantly, indicators which were deemed to be highly relevant to Hong Kong according to the following criteria:
- A few minimum scientific criteria: face validity, representativeness, accuracy;
- Availability of data;
- Reflecting development patterns of advanced post-industrial society;
- Outcome measures, instead of investment, input, throughput and process indicators;
- Indicators for which more than one missing observation point of the five points within the time frame existed.

Step 5: The initial conceptual framework was revised and finalized.   It was decided that the SDI-2000 would be concerned with the state/level of development Hong Kong had achieved at one point of time as compared to those at other preceding moments.   "Development" would therefore refer to the outcomes at present as compared to those at other preceding times.   It was conceptualized as a process in which a given society tried to make progress or to avoid regress as manifested by the outcomes at various points in time. Also, a more concrete specification of the word "social" was laid down given its broad coverage.   We did not mean to distinguish "social" from "economic", "political", "cultural", historical" and the like.   We used the word "social" as a more general term covering almost every aspect of life that was deemed to be important for human development and growth.   It would therefore include economic development as well as political development.   It would cover cultural development as well as ecological development.   The project of SDI-2000, therefore, aimed at evaluating the performance of Hong

Kong in various areas of concern of social development and identifying areas where progress had been made or regress had been resulted for further actions.

Step 6: Based on the framework, data were collected according to the methodological specifications.   Initially, a big database was constructed, called Databank, to record data for over 350 indicators.

Step 7: Led by Professor Estes, we proceeded to index construction.   A total of 47 indicators were selected as the core indicators for the construction of the basic SDI-2000 and its components, i.e., the subindexes.   These 47 indicators were deemed to be able to represent each area of social development included in our conceptual framework.   Indicators were also selected for the construction of five subindexes for five historical vulnerable groups.

Step 8: Statistical analysis was performed, including standardization of measurements, weighting and statistical indexing.

Appendix 2: List of Subindexes and Indicators that constitutes the SDI

STRENGTH OF CIVIL SOCIETY SUBINDEX
No. of charitable institutions and trusts qualifying for tax exemption (+)
Private charitable donations as % of GDP (+)
Ratio of private charitable donations to government subventions (+)
% of work force affiliated with trade unions (+)

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION SUBINDEX
Turnout rate in most recent District Board elections (+)
Ratio of District Board candidates to District Board offices (+)
% of District Board candidates with political party affiliations (+)

INTERNATIONALIZATION SUBINDEX
No. of countries to which residents of Hong Kong can travel without visa (+)
No. of registered companies incorporated outside Hong Kong (+)
No. of international conferences held in Hong Kong (+)

ECONOMIC SUBINDEX
Per capita GDP at constant 2000 market prices (+)
Gross international reserves (months of import coverage) (+)
% of total household income earned by the bottom 50% of households (+)

ENVIRONMENTAL QUAILTY SUBINDEX
% of gazetted beaches ranked as poor/very poor (-)
Per capita square metres of public open space (+)
Per capita cubic metres of annual fresh water consumption by domestic sector (-)
% of municipal solid waste recycled (+)

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SUBINDEX
No. of buildings and archaeological sites declared as monuments (+)
No. of films produced locally (+)
No. of books and magazines first published in HK (+)
Attendance at museums & cultural venues per 100,000 population (+)

SPORTS AND RECREATION SUBINDEX
No. of public sporting facilities (+)
Average utilization rate of public sports facilities (+)
Size of delegation participating in major games (+)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY SUBINDEX
No. of patents granted to Hong Kong entities (residents + non-residents) (+)
No. of scientific publications in refereed publications (+)

EDUCATION SUBINDEX
% of people aged 20+ with upper secondary educational attainment (+)
% of people aged 15+ with tertiary education attainment (+)
No. of adults registered in continuing education courses per 100,000 population aged
15+ (+)

HEALTH SUBINDEX
Average life expectation at birth (+)
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live born (-)
Tuberculosis cases per 100,000 population (-)
No. of adults smoking per 100,000 population aged 20+ (-)
No. of deaths from coronary heart diseases per 100,000 population (-)
Adult suicides per 100,000 population aged 20+ (-)

PERSONAL SAFETY SUBINDEX
No. of reported food poisoning cases per 100,000 population (-)
No. of occupational fatalities per 100,000 workers (-)
No. of traffic fatalities per 100,000 population (-)

HOUSING SUBINDEX
% of expenditure on housing as share of total household expenditure (-)
No. of waiting list applicants for Housing Authority rental flats (-)

CRIME & PUBLIC SAFETY SUBINDEX
No. of reported violent crimes per 100,000 population (-)
No. of reported non-violent crimes per 100,000 population (-)
% of population reporting victimized by violent crimes (-)
No. of corruption crime convictions per 100,000 population (-)

FAMILY SOLIDARITY SUBINDEX
Marriages per 100,000 people aged 15+ (+)
Divorces as % of marriages (-)
Reported domestic violence cases per 100,000 households (-)

Appendix 3: List of Subindexes for 5 Vulnerable Groups and Indicators

WOMEN STATUS SUBINDEX
% of women in low income households (-)
Married women labour force participation rate (+)
Median women's wages as a % of median men's wages, all ages (+)
% of female administrators and managers (+)
% of District Board positions occupied by women (+)

LOW INCOME SUBINDEX
No. of people in low-income domestic households per 100,000 population (-)
% of household expenditure on housing and food for the low-income households (-)
Unemployment rate in low-income households (-)
Real Wage Index of wage workers (+)
Homeless people per 100,000 population (-)

CHILD STATUS SUBINDEX
% of children aged 0-14 in low-income households (-)
% of children living in single-parent households (-)
Under-five child mortality per 100,000 (-)
Children (aged 2-6) enrolled in kindergarten or childcare centers per 100,000 (+)
Child abuse cases per 100,000 population aged 0-17 (-)
% of children fully immunized against diphtheria, tetanus and whopping cough (+)
No. of children aged 10-15* arrested per 100,000 (-)

YOUTH STATUS SUBINDEX
% of youth aged 15-19 in low-income households (-)
% of youth aged 15-19 attaining S4 or above (+)
% of people aged 15-24 studying full-time courses at tertiary education (+)
Youth unemployment rate, aged 15-19 years (-)
No. of youth arrested for violent crimes per 100,000 population 16-20 (-)
Prevalence of drug use among youth aged 15-19 per 100,000 population aged 15-19 (-)
Youth suicide rate, aged 10-19 years (-)

ELDERLY STATUS SUBINDEX
% of people aged 65+ in low-income households (-)
Years of life expectation at age 65 (+)
% of elderly with lower secondary educational attainment (+)
Turnout rate of elderly voting in most recent District Board election(+)
% of elderly as members of social centre or multi-services centre for the elderly (+)
% of elderly aged 65+ living alone (-)
Elderly suicide rate per 100,000 (-)

Figure 1: SDI-2000 to SDI-2008
(Base Year 1991=100)

Year (SDI)	Value
1998年 (SDI 2000)	129
2000年 (SDI 2002)	139
2002年 (SDI 2004)	144
2004年 (SDI 2006)	158
2006年 (SDI 2008)	170

(Horizontal axis: 0, 20, 40, 60, 80, 100, 120, 140, 160, 180, 200)
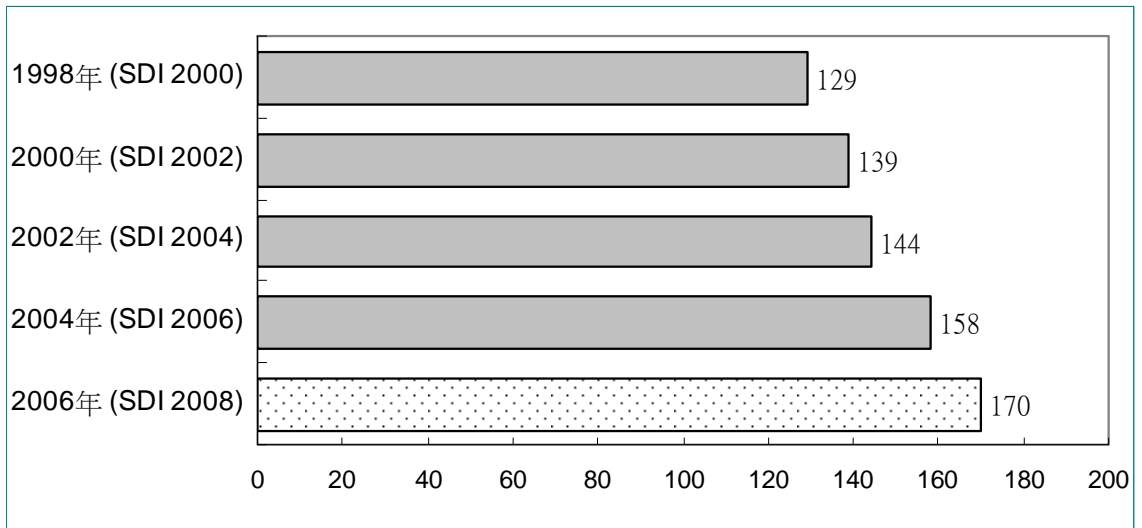
Figure 2: Social Development Index-2000: Sub-index Score
(Base Year 1991=100)

Sub-index	Score
Science & Technology	107
Education	102
Arts & Entertainment	80
Internationalization	75
Health	59
Personal Safety	55
Strength of Civil Society	49
Political Participation	39
Housing	39
Crime & Public Safety	30
Economic	23
Sports & Recreation	23
Environmental Quality	14
Family Solidarity	-161

(Horizontal axis: -200, -150, -100, -50, 0, 50, 100, 150)

26
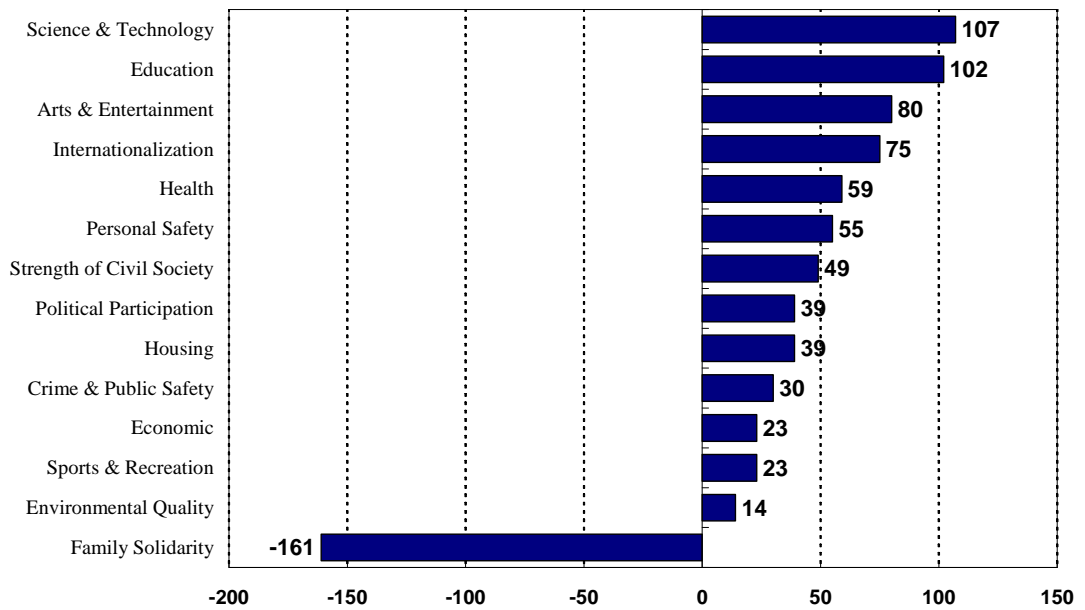
Figure 3: Family Solidarity Subindex 2008

(Base Year 1991=100)

Family Solidarity Subindex

- -93 — 1998 (SDI 2000)
- -81 — 2000 (SDI 2002)
- -158 — 2002 (SDI 2004)
- -215 — 2004 (SDI 2006)
- -535 — 2006 (SDI 2008)

(axis: -550, -490, -430, -370, -310, -250, -190, -130, -70, -10, 50)
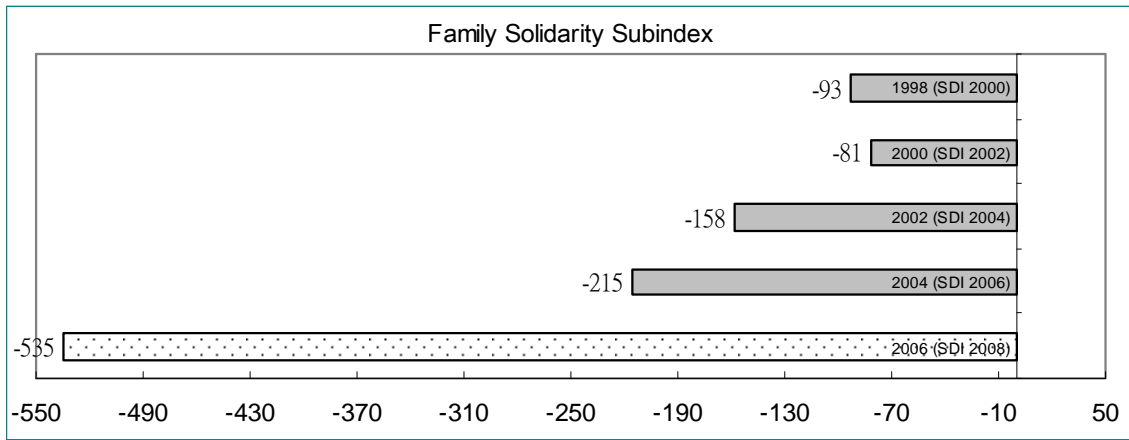
Figure 4: Economic Subindex 2008

(Base Year 1991=100)

- 1998 (SDI 2000) — 38
- 2000 (SDI 2002) — 32
- 2002 (SDI 2004) — 55
- 2004 (SDI 2006) — 38
- 2006 (SDI 2008) — -11

(axis: -20, -5, 10, 25, 40, 55, 70)
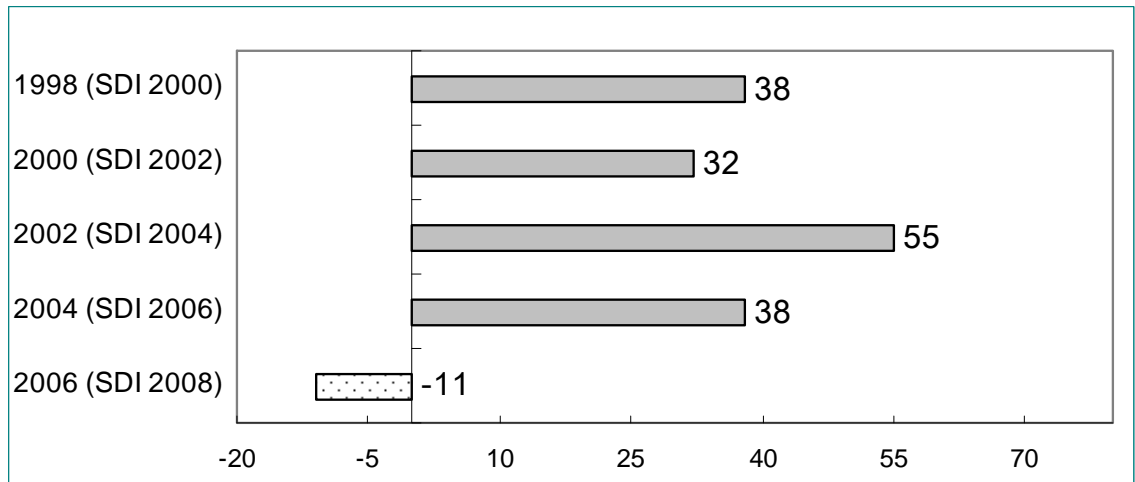
Figure 5: Housing Subindex 2008

(Base Year 1991=100)

Year	Value
1998 (SDI 2000)	39
2000 (SDI 2002)	79
2002 (SDI 2004)	120
2004 (SDI 2006)	118
2006 (SDI 2008)	97

Figure 6: Social Development Trends for Hong Kong's Five Population Groups
(1998, 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2006)

(Base Year 1991=100)

	Child	Youth	Low Income	Women	Elderly
1998 (SDI 2000)	-64	-45	-68	93	21
2000 (SDI 2002)	-82	-58	-80	171	112
2002 (SDI 2004)	-121	-77	-122	237	197
2004 (SDI 2006)	-160	-50	-103	295	269
2006 (SDI 2008)	-235	-19	-53	339	365

Figure 7: Children Subindex 2008

(Base Year 1991=100)

Children Subindex

Year	Value
1998 (SDI 2000)	-64
2000 (SDI 2002)	-82
2002 (SDI 2004)	-121
2004 (SDI 2006)	-160
2006 (SDI 2008)	-235

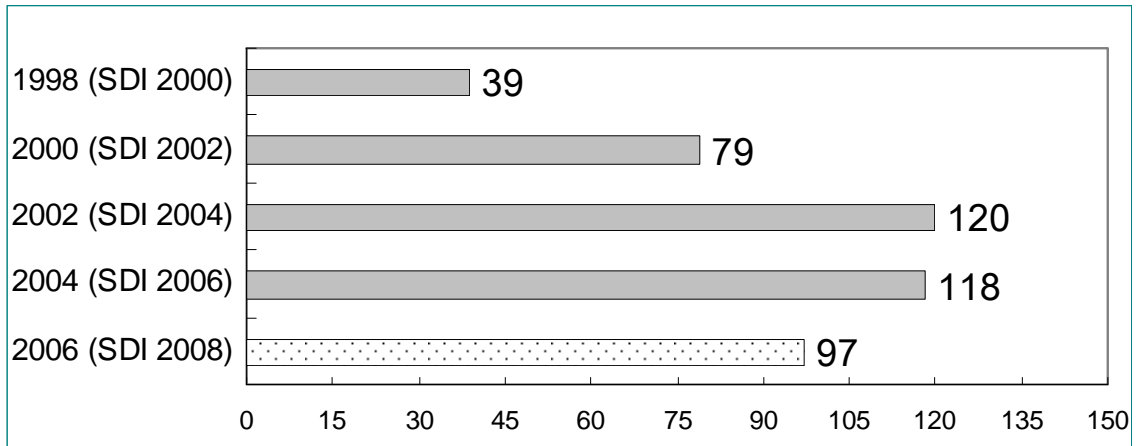**Table 1: Social Development Trends for Hong Kong's Five Population Groups**
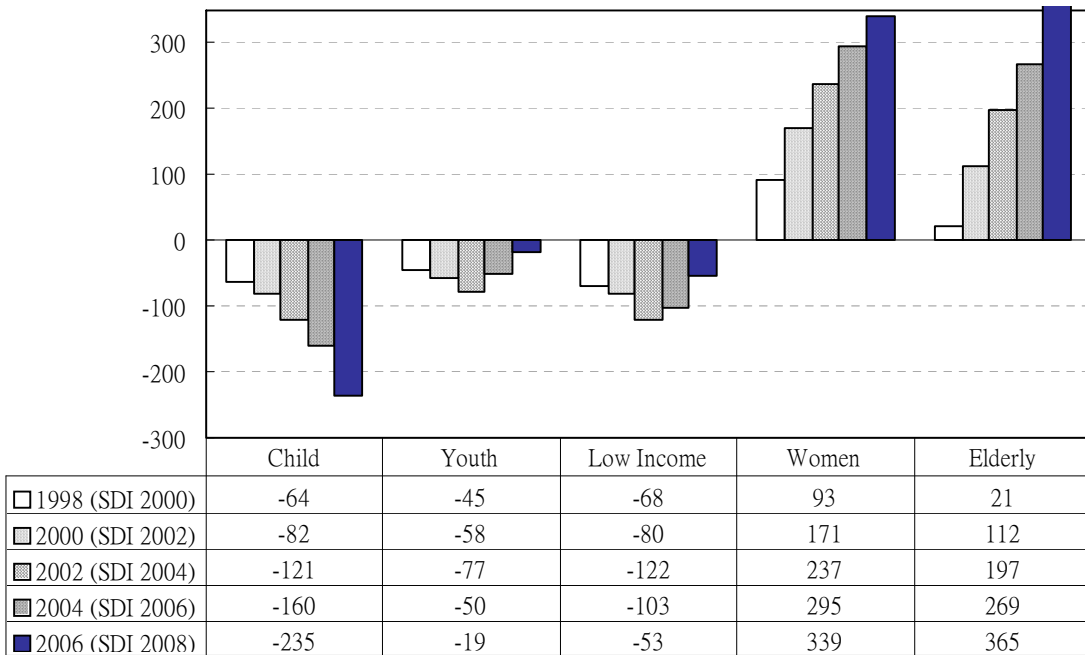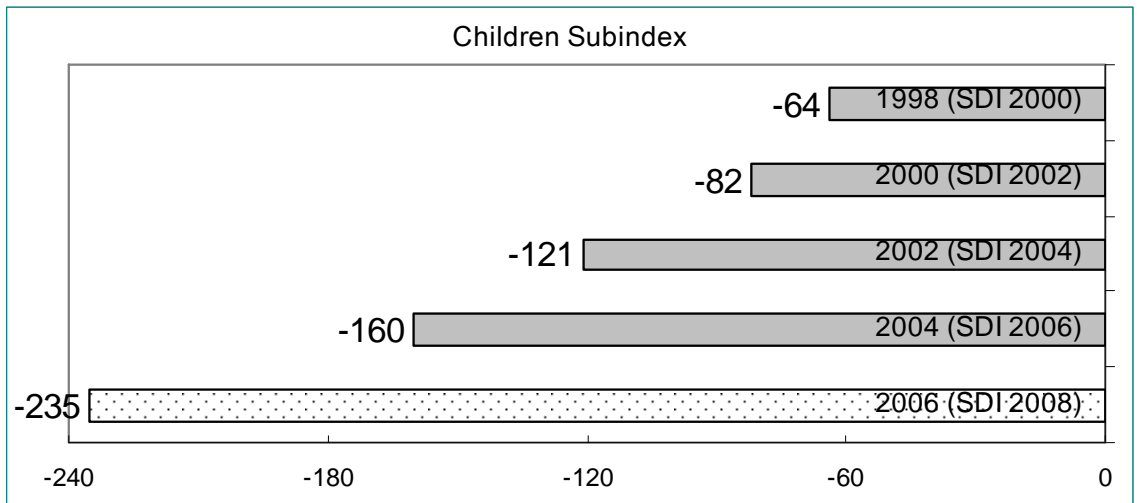〔**1998, 2000, 2002, 2004 & 2006**〕
(Base Year 1991=100)

	Children	*Youth*	*Low Income*	*Women*	*Elderly*
1998 (SDI-2000)	-64	-45	-68	93	21
2000 (SDI-2002)	-82	-58	-80	171	112
2002 (SDI-2004)	-121	-77	-122	237	197
2004 (SDI-2006)	-160	-50	-103	295	269
2006 (SDI-2008)	-235	-19	-53	322	365

Table 2: Family Solidarity Subindex Indicators 2008

	Raw Figures				
Family Solidarity Subindex Indicators	**1998 (SDI2000)**	**2000 (SDI2002)**	**2002 (SDI2004)**	**2004 (SDI2006)**	**2006 (SDI2008)**
Marriages per 100,000 people aged 15+ (+)	578	552	562	714	849
Divorces as % of marriages (-)	42.2	43.4	40.6	37.8	34.7
Reported domestic violence cases per 100,000 households (-)	*58.5*	*52.6*	*79.2*	*105.7*	***211.9***

Table 3: Economic Subindex Indicators 2008

	Raw Figures				
Economic Subindex Indicators	**1998 (SDI2000)**	**2000 (SDI2002)**	**2002 (SDI2004)**	**2004 (SDI2006)**	**2006 (SDI2008)**
Per capita GDP at constant 2000 market prices (+)	197559	197697	189397	190451	215779
Gross international reserves (months of import coverage) (+)	*17.1*	*18.0*	*22.6*	*21.1*	***18.6***
% of total household income earned by the bottom 50% of households (+)	*19.2*	*18.6*	*18.0*	*17.8*	***16.0***

Table 4: Housing Subindex Indicators

Housing Subindex Indicators	Raw Figures				
	1998 (SDI2000)	2000 (SDI2002)	2002 (SDI2004)	2004 (SDI2006)	2006 (SDI2008)
No. of waiting list applicants for Housing Authority rental flats (-)	*131160*	*109633*	*91578*	*92556*	***106575***
% of expenditure on housing as share of total household expenditure (-)	31.0	32.2	32.2	32.2	30.6

Table 5: Children Subindex Indicators 2008

Children Subindex Indicators	Raw Figures				
	1998 (SDI2000)	2000 (SDI2002)	2002 (SDI2004)	2004 (SDI2006)	2006 (SDI2008)
% of children aged 0-14 in low-income households (-)	*26.2*	*25.9*	*25.5*	*24.2*	***25.3***
% of children living in single-parent households (-)	*5.1*	*5.5*	*6.7*	*7.5*	***7.98***
Under-five child mortality per 100,000 (-)	*73.6*	*71.9*	*57.9*	*54.6*	***72.3***
Children (aged 2-6) enrolled in kindergarten or childcare centers per 100,000 (+)	*56,576*	*60,381*	*62,718*	*63,153*	***57,722***
Child abuse cases per 100,000 population aged 0-17 (-)	*28.5*	*33.8*	*36.5*	*45.2*	***62.44***
% of children fully immunized against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough (+)	90.7	89.4	85.9	76.1	95
No. of children aged 10-15* arrested per 100,000 (-)	1,090.7	1,164.5	983.4	953.7	907.8