

*The Legislative Council
Subcommittee on Poverty
Poverty problems of ethnic minorities*

**Study on
“Poverty Situation of South and Southeast Asian
Ethnic Minorities in Hong Kong”
- Summary on findings**

Anthony WONG
Business Director, Policy Research and Advocacy, HKCSS

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Research background

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- There is increasing concern on how to improve social inclusion to ethnic minorities (EM) so that they can realize their potentials and participate fully in the society.
- There were cases showing difficulties for EM groups in their daily lives, education and employment, possibly because of the language barriers.
- There are also worries that the difficulty in Chinese language learning by EM children/ youth would hinder their study and career path and thus their upward mobility even they grown up in Hong Kong.
- The Council conducted the Study in order to enhance understanding on existing poverty situation of the EM groups in Hong Kong, which would help inform the relevant policy analyses and advocacy.

Research methodology

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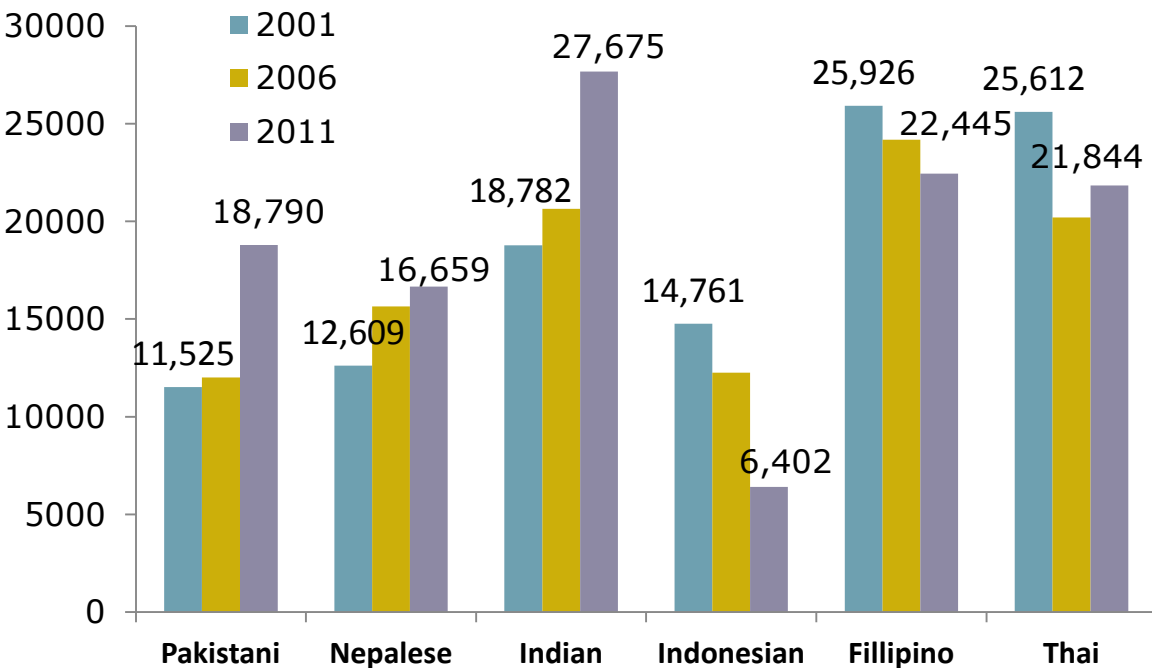
- Based on data from 2001, 2006 and 2011 Population Census, HKCSS uses poverty line (50% of median domestic household income) to analyze the poverty situation of 6 EM groups in Hong Kong.
 - 6 South and Southeast Asians ethnic minority groups in this study refer to **Pakistani, Nepalese, Indian, Indonesian, Filipino and Thai.**
- * Note: the present poverty analysis reflects pre-tax and post recurrent cash transfer income of households.

General situation (1)

Comparing 2011 to 2001, the population of South Asians increased

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No. of persons in households with South and Southeast ethnic minorities, 2001, 2006 & 2011



Year	No. of persons in the six EM households	% to Hong Kong population
2001	109,215	1.7%
2006	104,948	1.6%
2011	113,815	1.7%

* Households of South and Southeast Asians include households with at least 1 member of South or Southeast Asian ethnic minorities.

* Figures do not include foreign domestic helpers.

General situation (2)

A large proportion of EM households was with 4 or more members (except Indonesian households)

Number of domestic households by ethnicities and by household size, 2011

	1-person	2-person	3-person	4-person or above	Total
Pakistani	576 (12.5%)	618 (13.4%)	570 (12.4%)	2,840 (61.7%)	4,604 (100%)
Nepalese	546 (10.9%)	952 (19.0%)	1,277 (25.5%)	2,227 (44.5%)	5,002 (100%)
Indian	1,657 (17.7%)	2,146 (23.0%)	2,274 (24.3%)	3,262 (34.9%)	9,339 (100%)
Indonesian	485 (20.0%)	889 (36.6%)	455 (18.8%)	597 (24.6%)	2,426 (100%)
Filipino	1,535 (19.6%)	2,120 (27.1%)	1,713 (21.9%)	2,452 (31.4%)	7,820 (100%)
Thai	800 (11.3%)	1,911 (26.9%)	1,791 (25.2%)	2,605 (36.7%)	7,107 (100%)
Whole Population	422,676 (17.9%)	615,762 (26.0%)	613,468 (25.9%)	715,296 (30.2%)	2,367,202 (100%)

General Situation (3)

The median monthly income from main employment of the South and Southeast Asian groups (except Indian) was lower than that of the working population in HK

<u>Median monthly income from main employment by ethnicity and by sex, 2011</u>			
Ethnicities	Male	Female	Both sexes
Pakistani	10,000	10,000	10,000
Nepalese	12,000	8,000	10,000
Indian	25,500	15,000	22,500
Indonesian	15,000	7,000	8,000
Filipino	13,000	9,000	10,000
Thai	12,500	7,800	8,500
Working Population in HK	13,000	10,900	12,000

General situation(4)

The median monthly household income of Pakistanis did not increase substantially as household size increased

Median monthly domestic household income by household size of EM groups, 2011

	1-person	2-person	3-person	4-person or above
Pakistani	9,000	11,020	12,000	13,000
Nepalese	11,500	19,000	21,000	25,700
Indian	38,750	38,000	52,000	40,000
Indonesian	5,000	10,000	18,600	30,000
Filipino	10,000	19,500	32,750	30,000
Thai	9,000	13,000	18,000	20,600
Whole Population	8,500	16,040	23,000	28,000

Poverty line in Hong Kong (2011 Population Census)

1-person	2-person	3-person	4-person or above
\$4,250	\$8,020	\$11,500	\$14,000

* Low-income households refer to those domestic households with monthly household income less than or equal to half of the median monthly domestic household income of the corresponding household sizes

Poverty Situation (1)

In 2011, the poverty rate of South and Southeast Asian Households is higher than the whole population in HK

	No. of low income households (household poverty rate)	No. of persons in low income households (poverty rate)
Pakistani	2,207 (47.9%)	9,607 (51.1%)
Nepalese	731 (14.6%)	2,728 (16.4%)
Indian	940 (10.1%)	3,162 (11.4%)
Indonesian	885 (36.5%)	1,880 (29.4%)
Filipino	1,416 (18.1%)	3,834 (17.1%)
Thai	1,921 (27.0%)	5,989 (27.4%)
Total of above EM groups	8,100 (22.3%)	27,200 (23.9%)
Whole population	547,215 (23.1%)	1,356,593 (20.4%)

* Low-income households refer to those domestic households with monthly household income less than or equal to half of the median monthly domestic household income of the corresponding household sizes.

Poverty Situation (2)

Comparing 2011 to 2001, the poverty rate of South and Southeast EM groups deteriorated

Year/ Ethnicities	2001	2006	2011	Comparing 2011 with 2001
Pakistani	27.4%	35.4%	51.1%	↑
Nepalese	3.7%	17.0%	16.4%	↑
Indian	7.9%	13.3%	11.4%	↑
Indonesian	31.9%	26.0%	29.4%	↓
Filipino	11.6%	16.8%	17.1%	↑
Thai	23.6%	22.8%	27.4%	↑
Overall of the South and Southeast Asian groups	17.3%	20.5%	23.9%	↑
Whole population	19.1%	20.5%	20.4%	↑

Poverty Situation (3)

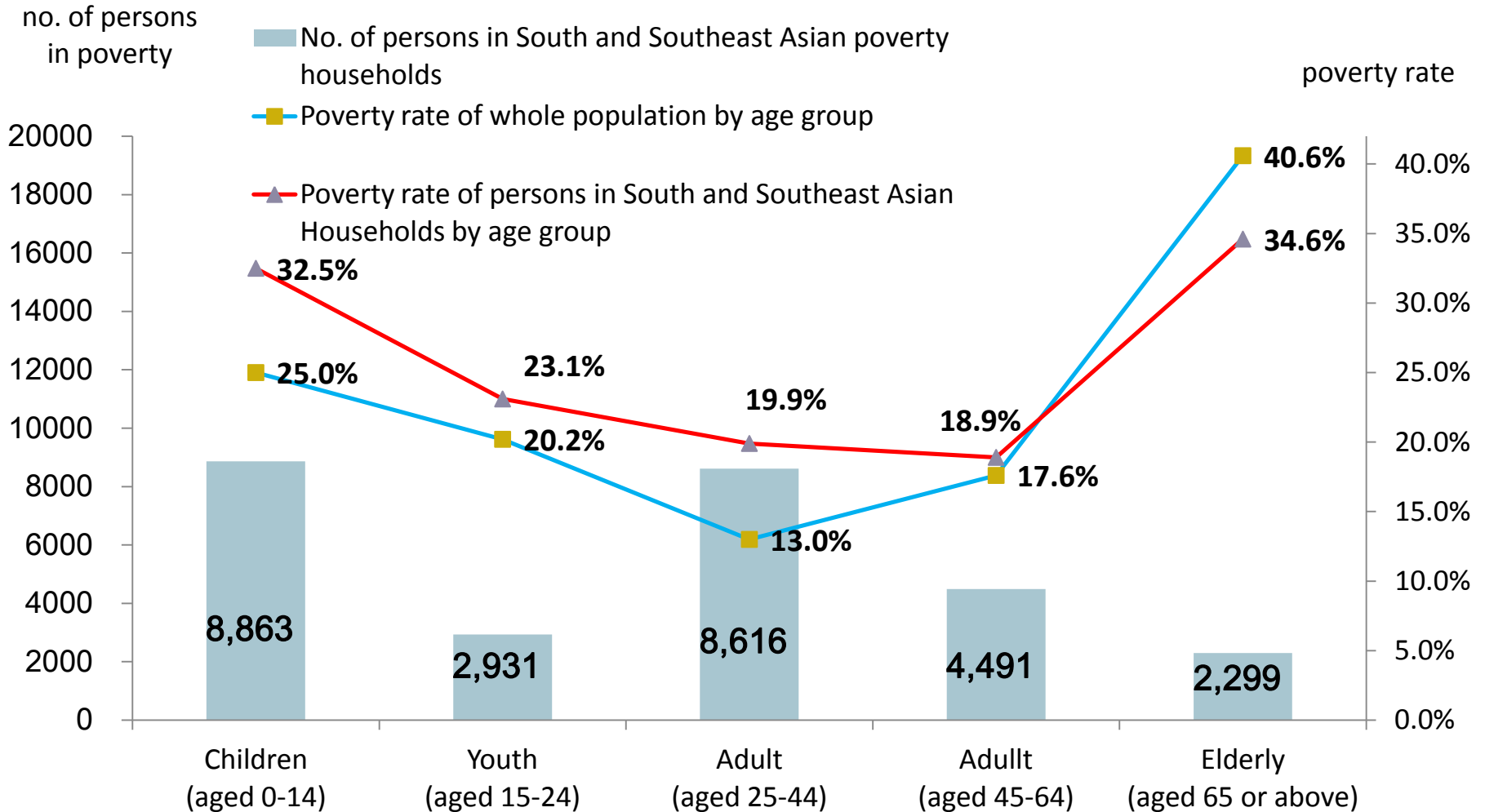
In 2011, the working poor situation of the EM groups was worse than that of whole population

	Pakistani	Nepalese	Indian	Indonesian	Filipino	Thai	Overall of South and Southeast Asian groups	Whole Population
(a) Low income households with at least 1 employed member	1,513	514	555	504	817	1,196	5,099	224,324
(b) No. of low income households	2,207	731	940	885	1,416	1,921	8,100	547,215
Rate of low income household with at least 1 working member (a) / (b)	68.6%	70.3%	59.0%	56.9%	57.7%	62.3%	63.0%	41.0%

Poverty Situation (4)

Child poverty population and poverty rate in South and Southeast Asian households were worse than the whole population

Poverty rate and number of persons in South and Southeast Asian households
by age group, 2011



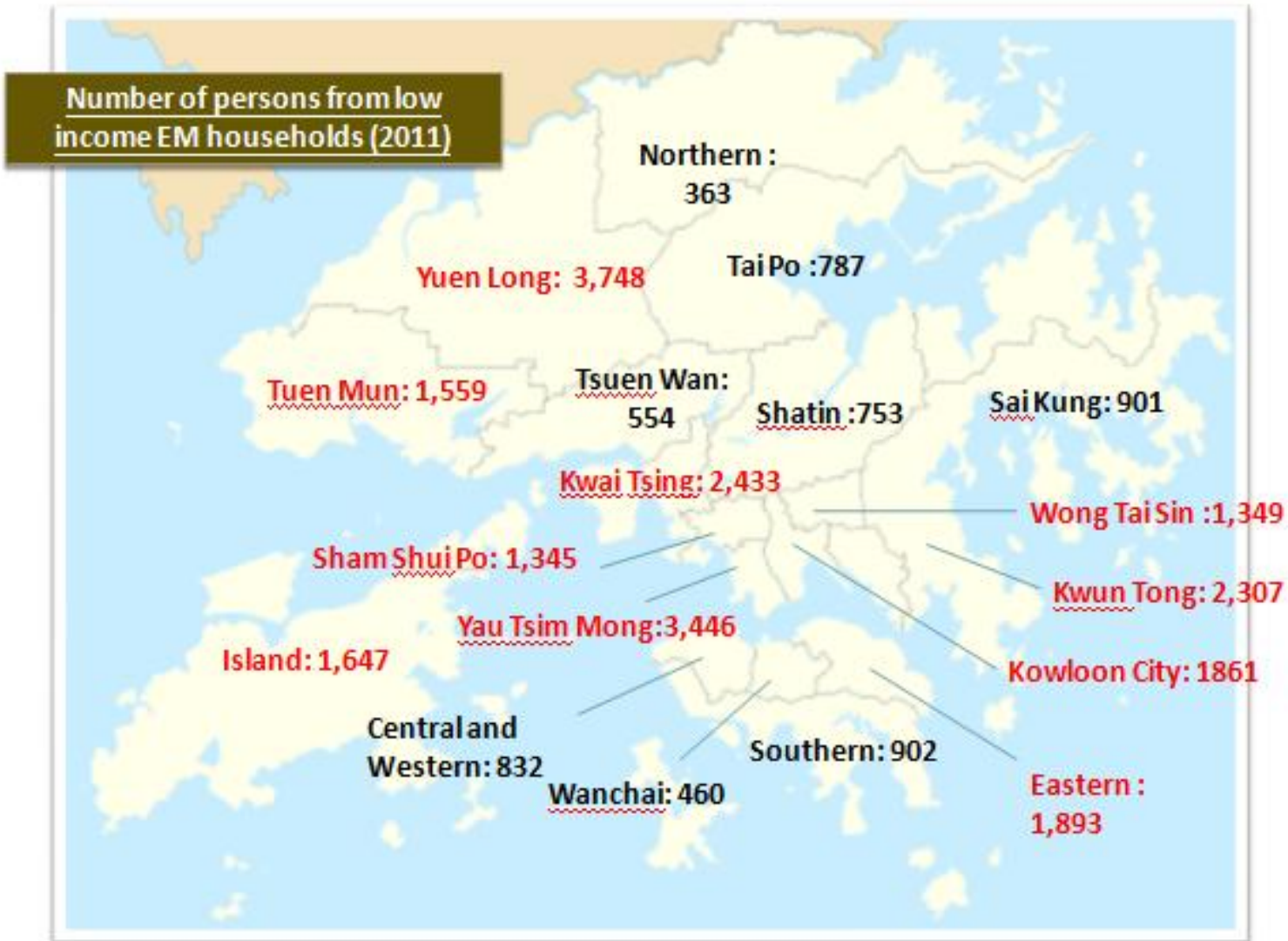
Poverty Situation (5)

Compared poverty rate of different age groups of South and Southeast Asian households in 2011 to 2001, the poverty situation was worsen

<u>Poverty rate and number of persons in South and Southeast Asian households by age group, 2001, 2006 &2011</u>				<u>Whole Population</u>
	2001	2006	2011	2011
Children (aged 0-14)	5,706 (23.7%)	6,613 (27.6%)	8,863 (32.5%)	204,383 (25.0%)
Youth (aged 15-24)	2,124 (14.0%)	1,934 (18.2%)	2,931 (23.1%)	170,486 (20.2%)
Adult (aged 25-44)	6,574 (14.1%)	7,011 (16.0%)	8,616 (19.9%)	257,326 (13.0%)
Middle-aged (aged 45-64)	3,255 (17.5%)	4,039 (19.2%)	4,491 (18.9%)	375,141 (17.6%)
Elderly (aged 65 or above)	1,209 (26.1%)	1,921 (34.7%)	2,299 (34.6%)	349,257 (40.6%)
Overall of South and Southeast Asian groups	18,868 (17.3%)	21,518 (20.5%)	27,200 (23.9%)	1,356,593 (20.4%)

Poverty Situation (6)

In 2011, there are 10 districts with South and Southeast Asian poverty population of over 1,000



Summary of Findings (1)

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- The poverty situation of South and Southeast Asian Households was worse than that of the whole population. Comparing figures of the past decade (2011 to 2001), there was increase in both the number of poverty population and poverty rate.
- The working poor situation among South and Southeast Asian households is serious. Low wage and larger number of dependents make these families more difficult to move out from poverty situation, even they have member working.
- Among the South and Southeast Asian households, children is the group with highest number of poverty population (the child poverty rate was 32.5%). For many EM students in Hong Kong, an effective learning and career ladder can enhance their upward mobility. However, Chinese language learning is a major challenge to them.

Summary of Findings (2)

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- For example, the University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded undergraduate programmes admitted 104 non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students (i.e. local students whose ethnicity and/or spoken language at home are not Chinese) via the Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS) in 2014; only 39 of them are from other parts of Asia*.
- Ethnic groups lived in different districts. Districts with more than 1,000 South and Southeast Asian poverty population include: Eastern, Yau Tsim Mong, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon City, Wong Tai Sin, Kwun Tong, Kwai Tsing, Tuen Mun, Yuen Long and Island district.

* In 2014, 12,302 HKDSC candidates received JUPUS offers.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2015-16 Controlling Officer's Reply-Secretary for Education Question
Serial No. 4467 Reply Serial No. EDB606 & Question Serial No. 3334 Reply Serial No. EDB527