

## **Hong Kong's NEETs**

**(by Tang Pak Hei F.6B)**

NEETs are young people who are not in education, employment or training. This social issue is getting more and more serious in Hong Kong. They usually spend their time at home playing video games or surfing the Internet. If this problem is not solved, there will be fewer and fewer workers in the society because these young people stay at home and do not work. Also, they do not have enough income to support their daily lives but take money from their parents. These families may need the government's help to maintain their living. Therefore, NEETs are a waste of government resources and there will be insufficient social resources for people who work hard.

There are many reasons for the increasing number of NEETs in Hong Kong. The first reason is that the education system is too exam-oriented. It does not prepare Hong Kong teenagers for future challenges. In schools, teachers help students to gain more knowledge but not to find their targets. Many students do not know what to do after they finish their school life. They know nothing about themselves, what they like to do and what they are good at. They just stay at home and wait for someone to make decisions for them. It is one of the reasons why there are more and more NEETs in Hong Kong.

The second reason is that technology has become more common in recent years. Nowadays, teenagers can get their own smart phones and computers easily. It means they can surf the Internet all the time. They can play video games, watch videos on Youtube and browse websites for the whole day if no one stops them. Some of their parents have to work for a long time every day and cannot stay at home for most of the time. These

teenagers will consider playing games and surfing the Internet to be their favourite activities and spend a lot of time on them. They do not want to study or work anymore.

We have a few ways to help NEETs get back into education or employment. Firstly, we can help them join different training courses. Some NEETs do not have any hobbies. Through trying different training courses, they can find what they like to do or what they are good at. It will provide a target for them to learn and work.

Secondly, we can also send social workers to talk with NEETs about how they spend their time. Many NEETs spend too much time playing games and surfing the Internet. The social workers can help them to set a timetable for their daily lives and reduce the time they spend on computers and smart phones. After that, they will have more time to do other things which are more meaningful and they will be more willing to learn and work when they have more free time.

This social issue can affect everyone if we ignore it. We must help these young people now!