

Healthy, happy children need their playtime

This article is about a UNICEF survey on Hong Kong. It called on parents here to allow their children to have more playtime. It proposed a need to let children have outdoor activities and breathe in fresh air. Yet, teachers, tutors and parents in Hong Kong are giving more and more homework to kids. Nowadays, many children aren't allowed to play outside if they haven't finished their homework, even if they beg for a break.

I think the reason for this problem is the local social atmosphere. As a result of the Government's policy, there are only eight universities in Hong Kong, and Hong Kong students are studying hard to enter a local university. Only 18 percent of S6 students can go to university each year. Most companies demand university degree holders to be their employees. Students who do not have a degree would have difficulty competing in the community. Students who cannot enter a university often go to study at an institute of vocational education and get ready for joining the workplace. So, schools and parents are very nervous about their students' and children's academic achievement. They want to make sure their students and children will be able to go to university. They prepare a large amount of tutorials and homework for them at the expense of their game and rest time.

Under such a competitive atmosphere, the pressure of students in Hong Kong cannot be released, leading to more and more children having psychological problems. So, I think the Government should increase the number of university places for young people and provide those people who do not have a university degree with more career opportunities.