

**2007 World Development Report
Youth Consultation
December 14, 2005-12-16**

Summary Report

A Youth Consultation Meeting was organized and facilitated by the All-China Youth Federation on December 14, 2005. The meeting, which lasted for 3 hours, was attended by 13 participants, six male and seven female and aged from 21-24. Some of them work in a gym, some work in a local supermarket, some work with local government agencies, some work with community service center and one participant is currently unemployed. Nine participants are from Beijing and four are from other regions but living in Beijing now. All of them are university graduate. They discussed FIVE topics: finding a job, leaving home and starting a family, being a citizen, globalization and going to school. Below is the summary of the participants' discussion:

TOPIC 1 FINDING A JOB

Q1: How did you feel when you left school and looked for a job?

- I feel perplexed. Knowledge learnt from school does not seem to be useful in job hunting. I don't know what kind of job I can do. I am totally lost.

Female, 23, from Suburban Beijing, working for a domestic retail company

- I found a job based on my interest. My parents are also in Beijing. They are financially secure. They support me a lot and take good care of me. I don't have much pressure.

Female, 22, from Beijing, working for a local government agency

- I was confronted with a lot of realities in the job hunting process, such as resident registration, finding a place to live, etc.. I was offered an interesting job, but I could not take it, because they would not provide residency registration in Beijing. I ended up taking a less interesting job with the employer providing Beijing's residency permit.

Male, 23, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic retail company

- I have a friend who comes from a rural family. He is working now. He thinks of going for postgraduate study all the time. However, he has to support his family. So his dream of further education will never come true.

Male, 22, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic gym

Q2: What factors are important for you in choosing a job?

- My interest and thoughts

All participants

- My parents' idea

Female, 22, from Beijing, working for a local government agency

- Teachers' advice, especially teachers in Careers Advisory Service

Female, 21, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic gym

- Alumni's career choice

Female, 21, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic gym

- Other restrictions: such as residency registration, renting apartment

Male, 23, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic retail company

Q3: Where do you get job information?

- Job Fair

All participants

- Family

Female, 22, from Beijing, working for a local government agency

Female, 23, from Suburban Beijing, working for a domestic retail company

- Alumni

Female, 21, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic gym

Q4: What is important in a job?

- Future Development

Female, 23, from Suburban Beijing, working for a domestic retail company

Female, 21, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic gym

Male, 23, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic gym

- Quality of Colleagues

Female, 23, from Suburban Beijing, working for a domestic retail company

- My Interest

Female, 22, from Beijing, working for a local government agency

Female, 21, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic gym

Q5: What do you think about the Career Advisory Service provided by the government and school?

- The community hires trained people to provide career advisory service. However, the jobs they introduce do not have good pay.

Male, 23, from Beijing, working for a community advisory service center

- Young people don't have much knowledge about career advisory service, labor law and social security system. Many of them don't care about it. So they don't come over and ask for information.

Male, 23, from Beijing, working for a community advisory service center

Q6. Do you have friends currently unemployed?

- I am currently between jobs. I don't think I am unemployed. I took my first job. Finally figure out this job was not right for me. And I wanted to find a better job. I decided to resign from my current job. I spent one month having fun, and one month to take a break. I will try as many jobs as possible before 28. I think this would be helpful for my long term career development.

Male, 24, from Beijing, previously worked for a joint-venture shopping mall

- Some of my friends feel puzzled and don't know what to do. They follow other's advice to compete for "good" positions. Unfortunately they failed. Still they are not willing to take those basic jobs. Finally they end up without a job.

Female, 24, from Beijing, working for a local government agency

TOPIC 2 LEAVING HOME, STARTING A FAMILY

Q1: What do you think about marriage? When is appropriate to get married?

- I got married last year. It's my own decision. Of course I asked my parents for their opinion.

Male, 24, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic gym

- My friends in Southern China all get married young and they have kids soon.

Male, 24, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic gym

- I don't want to rush into marriage. I will get married if I meet someone suitable for me.

Female, 24, from Beijing, working for a local government agency

- Financial stability is critical for start a marriage. Marriage needs things such as an apartment.

Male, 23, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic retail company

Male, 24, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic gym

- Family background, education level and social status affect my choice of a spouse.

Female, 24, from Beijing, working for a local government agency

- I have some friends who are living with their boyfriend/girlfriend without marriage. Their parents are not happy about it. However, they are doing it.

Female, 23, from Suburban Beijing, working for a domestic retail company

- I think it's appropriate for girls to get married around 26.

Female, 23, from Suburban Beijing, working for a domestic retail company

Q2: Have you think of having a child? If yes, when?

- I am married. We haven't considered having a child. It costs a lot of money to raise a child. We will think about it.

Male, 24, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic gym

- I will consider having a child a few years after I get married. I want to spend some time only with my spouse. A child may change the quality of our life.

Female, 24, from Beijing, working for a local government agency

- Having a child would affect career development, especially for a woman. Also it stops you from getting further education.

Female, 23, from Suburban Beijing, working for a domestic retail company

Q3: Do you live with your parents? What is your opinion on this?

- I am from outside Beijing. I left my parents and lived on my own when I was very young. I began to do part time job and pay for my tuition and living expenses by myself from college years. I think this experience is very important for my ability of independence, and psychological development.

Male, 24, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic gym

- I am from Beijing. I live with my parents. When my friends get married, they may move out, but still go back every night and have dinner with their parents. After that, the couple will leave for their “small” home. Or, the couple still lives with their parents even when they are married.

Female, 22, from Beijing, working for a local government agency

- I am from Beijing. I moved out with my parents a few years ago. My parents still give me money every month. I share an apartment with some friends. It’s great experience. I feel that I have learnt a lot, improve my independence and get closer with my friends.

Male, 22, from Beijing, working for a domestic gym

TOPIC 3 BEING A CITIZEN

Q1. Do you participate in any group, organization, or association?

- I am interested in various social activities. However, I only hang out with my classmates and friends. The reason is that I don't know where to find such groups and no one tells me.

Female, 21, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic gym

Q2. Do you participate in social life political life?

- My friends and I don't really care a lot about politics. We learn about what is going on through the media such as TV and newspapers. However, this is a passive reception instead of active participation.

Male, 22, from Beijing, working for a domestic gym

- We don't talk a lot about politics, although sometimes we talk about the Taiwan issue.

Male, 24, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic gym

- I took part in activities such as protests when I was in school. But I no longer do that after I started working.

Male, 23, from Beijing, working for a community advisory service center

Q3. What makes you feel that you are a full citizen of your country?

- China's successful bid for the Olympics

Male, 23, from Beijing, working for a community advisory service center

- Chinese embassy in Yugoslavia was bombed.

Male, 22, from Beijing, working for a domestic gym

- I watched international sports games.

Male, 23, from Beijing, working for a community advisory service center

- People participate in "No Japanese Product" campaign.

Male, 23, from Beijing, working for a community advisory service center

Q4. Do you think that young people in other part of your country share the same view on this with you?

- I came from a small city. People there are relatively poor. They don't pay much attention to nor care about domestic or foreign developments.

Female, 21, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic gym

- I have a friend who comes from Qinghai. She loves Beijing. I think they share similar views with me.

Female, 23, from Suburban Beijing, working for a domestic retail company

Q5. What do you think of military or other national service? Is it good experience in your country, or a bad one?

- I think the army has a positive image in my mind. Some young people are happy to join the army. The country has good policy for them after they demobilize.

Female, 21, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic gym

- The PLA is good. They go to dangerous places and do good things.

Male, 22, from Beijing, working for a domestic gym

Q6. Do you think there are situations where it is justifiable to use violence to achieve political or social goal?

- People have different understanding of the meaning of violence. Chinese culture does not encourage violence. I am against al-Qa'ida. They killed a lot of people

Male, 24, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic gym

- I am with al-Qa'ida. They are the weak.

Male, 23, from Beijing, working for a community advisory service center

- If it would take violence to bring Taiwan back, I would agree.

Male, 22, from Beijing, working for a domestic gym

TOPIC 4 GLOBALIZATION

Q1. Does this make you happy that you have more options available to you, or do you feel frustrated that many of these products are unaffordable?

- Globalization is two-edged sword. It brings us more choices. On the other hand, many domestic firms lost their market shares or even went bankrupt due to globalization. Many Chinese firms ended up in the lower value added supply chain.

Male, 23, from Beijing, working for a community advisory service center

- Young people's best career option is to work for a multinational company.

Male, 22, from Beijing, working for a domestic gym

- The government should do more to improve the competitiveness of Chinese firms in various fields.

Male, 23, from Beijing, working for a community advisory service center

Q2. Have you ever used internet? If so, how often did/do you use it? For what purpose? Are they useful? Do you have any difficulty using them?

- I surf on internet both at home and at work. I enjoy reading news and chatting on internet. On internet I can read diverse opinions and understand issue from a broader view. I love to say what I want on internet.

Male, 23, from Beijing, working for a community advisory service center

Female, 23, from Suburban Beijing, working for a domestic retail company

Male, 23, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic retail company

- I visit interesting websites with news and information. I don't visit government websites, because it's too official and too positive, I don't want to hear just one voice.

Male, 22, from Beijing, working for a domestic gym

- There is one kind of government website that I like: interactive website with online policy answer.

Female, 23, from Suburban Beijing, working for a domestic retail company

- I have some friends who don't watch TV at all.

Male, 22, from Beijing, working for a domestic gym

- I have some friends with lower education level surf on internet as well, but I think they have different interests.

Female, 23, from Suburban Beijing, working for a domestic retail company

Q3. What other communication tools do you frequently use (telephone, letter, mobile phone, etc.)

- I use email and mobile phone. But I don't write letters. My friends and I all use online chat such as MSN messenger.

Male, 23, from Beijing, working for a community advisory service center

Female, 23, from Suburban Beijing, working for a domestic retail company

Male, 23, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic retail company

Q4. Have you traveled abroad? Do you have passport?

- I have passport and have traveled abroad. It's a business trip arranged by my employer. (Two out of 13 have been abroad, both on business trips)

Female, 23, from Suburban Beijing, working for a domestic retail company

Female, 24, from Beijing, working for a local government agency

- It's difficult and takes a lot of time and effort to obtain a Service Passport.

Female, 24, from Beijing, working for a local government agency

Q5. Have you think of migration? If you travel abroad, where do you want to go?

- People in some specific region, such as South China, have a fever for migration, but I haven't thought about it.

Male, 24, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic gym

- I would want to go to the US or Europe.

Male, 24, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic gym

Male, 22, from Beijing, working for a domestic gym

Q6. Do you think globalization have an impact on your culture?

- Yes. China has lost a lot of great cultural heritage in recent years such as the traditional skills and practices. Many Chinese try to learn from western culture and lost the original tradition.

Male, 23, from Beijing, working for a community advisory service center

- The fever for western culture is a temporary thing which would happen in every society. Most young people have a Chinese culture complex in their heart. In the future we will cherish our culture.

Female, 24, from Beijing, working for a local government agency

TOPIC 5 GOING TO SCHOOL

Q1. How do you think of your school life?

- I sometimes felt upset at school, but now it's a great time for me.

Female, 21, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic gym

- It's a great experience for me, but a lot of pressure for entering the job market.

Female, 23, from Beijing, working for a local government agency

Q2. Are you satisfied with your teacher?

- They are ok.

Female, 21, from outside Beijing, working for a domestic gym

- I had a horrible experience with my first teacher in primary school. She had negative opinion on me. All the time she discriminated against me. This unhappy experience made me feel inferior for a long time.

Male, 23, from Beijing, working for a community advisory service center