

# **2007 World Development Report**

## **Youth Consultation**

**December 16, 2005**

*Renmin University of China*

### **Summary Report**

Four groups of Youth Consultation Interview were organized and facilitated by the Center for World Bank Development Theory Research of Renmin University of China from December 11 to 14, 2005. Moreover, we conducted the consultation in other ways, such as telephone interview, scattered interview and internet investigation. The participants were 34, among them 16 male and 18 female, and aged from 18 to 24. Most of them are university students, among which 26 participants are studying in Renmin University of China and 5 from other colleges, three interviewees are security guards working for Renmin University of China. They discussed SIX topics: going to school, being healthy, finding a job, leaving home and forming family, being a citizen and globalization. Below is the summary of the participants' discussion:



## TOPIC 1 GOING TO SCHOOL

On this topic, we have interviewed twenty-three participants, eleven male and twelve female, aged from 19 to 24, including students, waiters or waitresses working in the restaurants and security guards working for house service.

### Part1. Undergraduates and postgraduates

#### Q1: How do you feel about your curricula and classes?

The curricula of the university are to build a framework, but only helped to establish a professional consciousness; we have to learn and understand lots of things on our own during these years in the campus.

——Yang Chao master student major in International Economics

My major is finance; the courses I learnt in school were very broad. After four years study, it seems that I know a lot about finance but not deeply. But maybe it is enough, because I picked up new knowledge about finance quickly. So I have a good sense of my major.

——Xie Jie master student major in Finance

The students in the same program are very close to each other. The friendship cultivated during university days is very pure and long-standing. For example, when we're approaching to graduation, father of one of our classmates from Guangxi got serious disease, all of us donated some money to him.

——He Qihong master students major in Agricultural Economics

#### Q2: What is the thing you want most in school? Have you got it?

I want to have the capacity to improve myself sustainedly . With this capacity I can adopt myself quickly whenever I move to a new position.

——Wang Bin master student major in Communication

The thing I want most in university is how to use the knowledge I have learnt into practice. During the course I'm searching for a job, a lot of interviewers expected to see such capacity.

——Yuan Xue grade 4 major in International Trade and Economics

#### Q3: What motivates you? What do you like best at school? What makes you want to work harder?

The motivation of going to school include that the attraction of knowledge, the belief that knowledge can change one's destiny, expectation that knowledge can bring me the wonderful life in the future, and the sense of responsibility for my family members.

——Zhuang Dandan, sophomore major in Fnance

I think that estimated benefits take 60%, and personal interest take 40%.The benefits include finding a good job after graduation and having a good salary. The interest came from understanding the world clearly.

——Yu Lei master student major in Enterprise Management

Maybe ten years ago, one student who got a bachelor degree was ok, but now, even you have a master degree that is not enough. So we're forced to get a higher degree.

——Mo Fengying master students major in Finance

**Q4: Why are so many people not in school? Have you known anyone who can't afford the tuition and drop out of school?**

There are two reasons for youth who drop out of school. One is that the student doesn't want to continue his study. The other is that the student's family is so poor that he can't afford tuition.

——Zhou Xiaoli master student major in Agricultural Economics

One of my middle school classmates, a girl, in my memory, she was diligent, and intelligent. But she had a younger brother; her family can't afford two children's tuition, so she had to drop out of school.

——Wang Mian from Sichuan Province, master student major in Agricultural Economics

There are a lot of things that need government to do in order to help the youngsters who drop out of school. For example, government should subsidy poor families to ensure children's access to compulsory education, especially in the poor regions. In addition, government should develop the vocational and technical education; provide more educational opportunities to youth.

——Yu Lei master student major in Enterprise Management

**Q5: What else do you learn, besides school itself? What do you think is important and what you learn or experience there?**

I have joined a series of training courses provided by Beijing New Eastern Institution for passing the CET 4/6 level (College Level English Proficiency), and the entrance examination for postgraduate.

——Yang Chao master student major in International Economics.

In addition school, internship experience at some units was very helpful, which can provide us with a window getting to know the society, and a chance gaining some entry level experience.

——Yuan Xue major in International Trade & Economics

## **Part2. Waiters/waitresses and security guards**

I am 18. I left home and became a security guard just after I have finished grade 1 in high school.

——one female security guard in Zhixing building 3 of Renming University

I was born in 1982, other colleagues are younger than me, but I have been here for nearly five years after I graduated from junior secondary school.

—— one female security guard in Zhixing building No.1 of Renming University

**Q1: Why you did not choose to continue your studies but to go out for a job?**

I have one younger brother, one younger sister; they have to go to school. But my parents can not afford three children's tuition. My younger brother is a good student, so I have to give up to support my brother. I don't need to pay for my accommodation, so I almost send all my salary home.

——one waitress working for a restaurant

I came from Chifeng City, Inner Mongolia. I was born and grow up in the countryside. At that time, there was few teachers in our village school; I just spend 3 hours in each school day. When I went to junior middle school, I could not catch up with others. I felt very tired. I knew even I tried my best to continue to high school, I could not pass the college's entrance examination. So I dropped out of school and went out to find a job.

——one female security guard in Zhixing building No.3 of Renming university

### **Q2: Do you feel like to have any chances to study?**

I want to learn how to make dress.

——one waitress working for a restaurant

I want to learn how to fix a car. I definitely know I can not be a security guard in my whole life.

——one male security guard in Renming University

### **Q3 How about other youth in your village?**

In my village, there are few young people who have the chances to study in universities. Especially the girls, they have the same destiny with me, they always drop out of school very early and go out to find a job.

——A Waitress from Sichuan Province working for a restaurant

### **Part 3 pay attention to the migrant children**

In my hometown, almost all the strong labor force migrated from rural to urban areas. Migrant children usually changed their schools frequently as their parents moved from one city to other city. And migrant children usually can not access to good public schools.

——Deng Xian master student major in Finance from China Agricultural University

I read a story in a newspaper that Xiao Lan, a young girl migrated to shanghai along with her parent. She was looked down upon by her classmates and some teachers due to her low social status.

——Wu Mao master student major in Material Science of Beijing Science & Technology University

Educational problems of today is social problems of tomorrow, the importance of the youth education is obvious. Youth in China will take responsibility during the course of china's development. Hope this report provides useful reference, which reflected some ideas from Chinese youth on education, for policy researchers.

## **TOPIC 2 KEEPING HEALTHY**

When talking about keeping healthy, most of the Chinese youth have realized that it's very essential to have good health. Almost all of them know that health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. They think that the key to good health are optimistic attitude, enough exercise, healthy lifestyle, and so on. When it comes to their own constitution, only a few of them are sure that they are in good health, while others doubt about their health. The Chinese youth are still lack of information about health because of the limited ways to gain it, and they are facing some threats, such as the pollution, pressure and internet. They suggested that the government should pay more attention to the health of the youth, and adopt effective measures to help them to keep healthy. Below is the summary of the discussion:

### **Q1: Why do you think keeping healthy is very important?**

- Health is prerequisite for learning, working and living.
- Keeping healthy can reduce the worry from our relatives and friends.

### **Q2: What makes you care most about your healthy?**

- I think a good mental state is the most important, and enough exercise is also essential.
- Healthy lifestyle (including regular diet and good sleep) is the most important.
- Being optimistic (or having a positive attitude) to all the things around.

### **Q3: Do you feel healthy? If not, what do you most want to do or have to change that?**

- I think I am healthy.
- I am afraid that I am not in a good health. I may have to take more exercise, sleep and eat more regularly.
- Most of the youth may have some potential problems of health, because we are facing so many pressures from the society. We should be more optimistic and keep a positive attitude all the time.

### **Q4: Do you feel you know all you want to know about how you can keep yourself healthy? If not, how would it be easiest for you to know more? Who would you most like to learn from?**

- No, I don't have all the information about keeping healthy that I want to know. I usually acquire more information from my experience and the internet.
- No, I don't have all the knowledge about health. Usually, asking the people who have much experience is the most convenient way to acquire more.
- I acquire the information on keeping healthy from my mother.
- Sometimes I acquire the information from some magazines and books, and I'd like to learn from the person who does well in keeping healthy.

**Q5: What do you think is the biggest risk to the health of young people like you? What are you most concerned about?**

- In my opinion, the environmental pollution is the biggest risk to our health.
- The series of pressure from the society, such as going to school, finding a job, leaving home and starting a family, is the biggest risk.
- Smoking, drinking, making love without condom, and wasting time on the internet.

**Q6: What will help you keep healthy? For example, how much do you know about the AIDS?**

- I know a little about the AIDS. And I think it's important to know more about how to prevent it.
- We should give the patients more care and treat them more politely.

### **TOPIC 3 FINDING A JOB**

Whether I can find a job is not a big issue to me. I will wait a good chance coming.

----Wang Tongtong

I am positive for my future. I'm sure I will find a job sooner or later and the first job doesn't mean a job that I will do it in my whole life. The most important thing for me is to improve myself.

----Hao Xiangju

I am very pessimistic because my major is too narrow to find a good job.

----Li Ruiyu

I had a dream to be a compere when I was a child, but now I am more realistic with hope for finding a managerial position in a firm. I know that this is not easy to come true but I will try my best. I believe I will have a bright future.

----Zhuang Dandan

### **3.1 Postponement for finding a job**

As university students, we enjoy our days until it is the time for us to find a job. In the one hand, young people today has more opportunities to be educated than their parents so they postpone their age for finding a job. On the other hand, the youth is almost the only child of his/her family, so even after graduation from university they still live on their parents.

### **3.2 Parents' expectation for being a postgraduate student**

Being a postgraduate student is my dream, although my parents hope I can find a job after graduation.

----Xie Jie

My father believes the higher degree is the better based on his experience.

----Lu You

I'd like to gain the Master degree in order to find a good job.

There are thirty-two students in my class and about two thirds of them are willing to continue to study for higher degrees.

----Yao Chao

There are 70 percent of students of Qufu Normal University will take part in the entrance exam for postgraduate level. The admission cut – offs of the college Entrance Examination in Shandong is so high that many students can't go to the famous universities though they have got high marks. So they want to enter the famous universities in postgraduate days. In my class, there are three students who don't attend the entrance exam for postgraduate study because their parents helped them to have good jobs already.

----Liu Jingxiao

It seems that most of students pursue for higher degrees due to parents' expectation. Many graduates prepare for the next entrance exam for postgraduate study instead of finding a job. It's so-called potential unemployment.

### **3.3 The most popular occupation is government official**

It is stable with higher social status, more spaces for future development as a government official.

---- Liu Jingxiao

Working in governments can make me get to know more people, and this would be helpful if I will develop my business.

---- Li Jiakai

I want to work in international firms, but my father wants me to be a government official.

----Wang Wei

My first choice is government; the second choice is banking or financing industry. Since workload will not be heavy as a government official.

However, someone mentioned negative side working in government like little sense of accomplishment and complicated relationship.

### **3.4 Developing a business**

I think that it is unreasonable for university students to start a business as soon as we graduate from universities.

----Yuan Xue

Whether a business is successful or not depends on one's quality. I think factors like insights, courage, listening to others, and making prompt decision to seize opportunity will make difference.

---- Liu Zeming

I have two stores on the internet. Now I can live on myself, I even had my own house by mortgage. It doesn't matter if I can find a job or not. What matters to me is to have my own time.

----Wang Tongtong

I don't think I'm prepared to develop my business since I don't learn a lot during my university days. I have no confidence.

Heavy investment will prevent university students to start a business. And enthusiasm is the most important factor to make a successful undertaking.

### **3.5 Requirements for working skills**

I will receive the offer whoever give me the offer.

----Yuan Xue

Finding a good job depends on us. I think during the course of finding jobs, luck, appearance, political background and experience are all important factors. During the first round of screening, the most importance is experience and the next is one's education background. If you want to enter a national enterprise, the photo on your résumé is also important.

----Hao Xianju

We university students must accumulate working experience and we should grasp the opportunities when employers make presentations at campus.

----Yuan Xue

The competition of finding jobs is the competition of more certificates. In order to find a good job, university students will take part in many tests to gain certificates on English, computer, insurance and accounting.

---- Li Jiakai

It seems that not many graduates find jobs matching their major.

### **3.6 Social relationship**

We must stand on own feet, and family just provide us with a good platform. We have to develop ourselves in the future.

Now I am an intern in CCTV. My professor helps me to get this chance, which is the privilege he thought he gave me. Hopefully I could work there after I graduate.

----Zhou Wenying

It is more unfair to look for job in a planning system(many years ago) because it depends more on social relationship. Nowadays, social relationship accounts for 50% in looking for job.

There are different comments for Career Centers of Universities. For Renmin University, Career Guidance Center work effectively, and make full use of internet resources. But for other universities like Yantai University, Career Center did not work well, just gave a seal.

### **3.7 Where to work**

I don't like Beijing very much because it is so crowded and its environment isn't good. But the infrastructure is good and the cultural activities is rich, which make me to look for a job here.

----Hao Xiangju

I don't want to look for a job in my hometown as soon as I graduate from the university. But I want to invest in my hometown when I have much money.

----Zhuang Dandan

I will look for jobs in better cities because my hometown lags behind others and I will go back to my hometown when good opportunities come to me.

----Liu Wenhui

### **3.8 The barrier for the female while looking for jobs**

The male always have more chances than the female though their marks are much lower than the female's.

---- Yuan Xue

It is true that boys are in favor of society. The ranking on possibility to find a good job in Beijing follows: boys but Beijing residents, boys without Beijing Hukou(resident identity), girls with Beijing Hukou, and lastly girls without Beijing Hukou.

----Wang Mian

It is easier for the undergraduate female to find jobs than the postgraduate female because of age.

----Mo Fengying

It's generally agreed that there is not the same opportunity for female, even some jobs are proper for female.

### **3.9 Child labor**

There are more child labors in the coal mines in Shanxi. Most of the workers are young people. The local owners of the small-scale coal mines prefer hiring workers

from other places and didn't contract with them. Usually, one mine would just hire one worker from one place and most of employees are children.

----Li Ruiyu

There are many seasonal child labors in my hometown. They are still live with their family and study at school. For example, they will offer their help when other families want to building houses.

----Wang Bin

There are many child labors in my hometown and they usually work in restaurants and house service industry.

----Wang Mian

I ever asked a young waitress why you did not go to school. She said she was not willing to go to school, she preferred to earn money.

----Wang Tongtong

The ability to learn new skills for child labors is weak and their attitude towards life is possibly pessimistic.

----Liu Wenhui

### **3.10 Employment for youth with disabilities**

Finding a job is difficult to the healthy people, so worse situation for disable youth. The government should encourage enterprises to provide positions for the disabled.

----Wang Mian

It's necessary to encourage the disabled youth to start their own business.

----Hao Xiangju

If I were an owner of firm, I would certainly not hire the handicapped although I sympathize with them very much.

----Li Jiakai

The nature of profit seeking makes enterprises unwilling to hire the handicapped. ... So government should do more in helping the disabled people.

----Zhou Wenying

## **TOPIC 4 Starting a family**

### **I Leaving home**

#### **Q1: When did you first leave home and live by yourself?**

I left home when I was 12 and began to go to the middle school in the town.

----Xie Jie

I left home when I was 15 as I went to senior secondary school.

----Yu Lei

The first time when I left home was to go to the university when I was 18.

----Shi Yulei

I think *live on myself* means real independence from parent.

----Wang Wei

**Q2: What changes do you have after you left home?**

I faced many problems which I never have when I was at home. But I think now my ability of solving problems is stronger than before. It takes some time of course. I have more friends now.

----Yuan Xue

I got to know more people, and actively involved in many activities organized by clubs. So I did not back home frequently.

----Yang Chao

I did not go home frequently, so I have time to make friends and make myself a key person in my network.

----Ni kai

I have improved my ability to live by myself and I know how to use my money now.

----Shi Yulei

**Q3: How do you think about the relationship between your parents and yourself after you left home?**

My parents were born in 1950s and I was born in 1980s. There is a generation gap between us and their thoughts are different with mine.

----Jiang Changjun

When I first left home, how happy I was and at that time I thought I was free. But as years passed, I become more and more concerned about my parents. I sometimes think that whether I should look for work in my hometown in order to be together with my parents.

----Shi Yulei

Kinship is everything. Although I won't go back to my hometown to work, I will let my parents live with me when I have good income in the future.

----Jin Xuejun

After I entered into university, both of us feel released. My parents began to enjoy their own life. They had supper at restaurants frequently and traveled a lot. It's nice to keep some distance with parent.

----Ni Kai

**Q4: How do you think about the relationship between you leaving home and starting your own family?**

When I graduate from university, I will go back to live with parent again. In my opinion, I won't rent a house to live until I get married.

---- Ni Kai

When I have a job, I will rent a house to live by myself, which is a free life, I think. But I won't marry immediately.

----Shi Yulei

In some rural regions in our country, many young couples will live with their parents because they will rely on their parents economically, and they should take care their parents. But for me, I will leave home first and won't get married until I am independent economically.

----Jiang Changjun

I won't live with my parents when I get married, but I'll try to find a house very close to my parent to take care of them.

----Zhuang Dandan

## **II Getting married and having children**

### **Q1: How do you think about the sequence of leaving home, getting married and having children?**

Most of my friends will follow the order on leaving home, getting married and having children.

----Yu Lei

In my hometown some girls were pregnant first, then got married without enough preparation. I think this is due to no knowledge of birth control in some rural regions.

----Jiang Changjun

### **Q2: What do you think about getting married and having a child? When is the appropriate time to get married and have a child? How do you make your decisions?**

Forming family is a very serious issue to me and I think we should think it over before we make the decision. This concerned not only for us but also for next generation. I am strongly against the opinion of *flash marriage* which is popular among young people currently.

----Zhuang Dandan

I will get married when I want to have a child and I think the purpose of marriage is to have children.

----Yuan Xue

I haven't thought about this question yet, but I think I will get married when my girlfriend and I both feel happy.

----Yang Chao

I want to have a child when I have the ability to bring him up.

----Wang Wei

I don't want to have a child because giving a birth and raising a child is too much.

----Mo Fengying

### **Q3. What are the factors that influence the youth's decision about when to marry and have a child?**

#### **(1) Affection between the couple**

Most female interviewees think that affection is the major factor to make these decisions.

#### **(2) Income**

Most male informants think that the economy ability is the decisive factor to make the decision when to marry, especially when to have a child.

#### **(3) Gender**

Most interviewees think female usually get married earlier than male because woman usually marry with someone elder than herself, and woman usually faces more social pressures. As she gets older, she will have less opportunity to find a good husband.

#### **(4) Going to school**

Today finding a good job is more and more difficult, which force students to obtain master degree, even doctor degree. This situation will postpone some young people's decision on marriage.

#### **(5) Opinions from parents**

Most interviewees think that when to get married and have a child should be determined by themselves and opinions from parents just for their reference.

#### **(6) Influence from peers**

In university days the influence from peers is an important factor to make these decisions.

#### **(7) Occupation**

Most interviewees think busy work will delay the time of marriage and bearing children.

#### **(8) Health**

Most female interviewees think they will have a child before they are 30 years old because this is the best period both for baby and mother.

#### **(9) Custom**

This is the last factor might influence young people's decision. For example, according to old Chinese culture, some certain lunar year like rooster is not good for marriage.

#### **Q4: For those who have children when they are young, what should we do to help them to continue their study or to find a job?**

First of all, we should change people's mentality to reduce stigma for them.

We all should help them, government and NGOs should take more responsibilities in this regard. Their parents would be very helpful, and some social services will reduce their household burden.

#### **Q5: Which approach do you use to get the knowledge about bearing and fostering children?**

I always get this kind of knowledge through internet.

I get knowledge from textbooks and from communication with my classmates.

I get little information about bearing and fostering children from my parents and teachers, but from my classmates, some programs conducted or funded by NGOs and government, and from internet as well.

#### **Q6: Do you think whether the information about bearing and fostering children you have obtained is enough?**

I don't think it is enough, and we can't obtain them from school and family. The knowledge should be transferred to us in school just like we are taught enough information and knowledge about traffic.

----Ni Kai

## **TOPIC 5 BEING A CITIZEN**

### **Q1. What makes you feel that you are a full citizen of your country?**

When some big events concerning foreign affairs occurred or our country is compared with any other countries in the world, I can feel the citizenship deeply.

----Jiang Changjun

When we deal with foreigners, we should demonstrate our high quality as Chinese citizen, so as to honor our country and make the foreigners feel that Chinese are nice people.

----Yu Lei

Whenever I heard our national song, especially China won the bid for Olympics in 2008, I felt very excited.

When I was abroad, watched international sports games, heard some bad news to our country like Chinese embassy in Yugoslavia was bombed, I felt I'm Chinese.

For the benefit of group, we ever organized a parade and demonstration. As a citizen of our country, we also have the duty to take part in the public services which is of great benefit to the masses, such as disseminating information on HIV/AIDS prevention.

----Jiang Changjun

In my daily life, I don't have a sense of full citizen. Especially my personal rights and interests had been infringed.

----Jin Xuejun

### **Q2. Did you vote? What's your experience?**

All citizens who have reached the age of eighteen have the right to vote. Most of the participants had attended formal voting. But it is generally agreed that there are many limitations during the process of vote.

We were asked to vote among the given candidates that we didn't know at all.

The person selected may be already confirmed in advanced, and the vote is only a show.

It doesn't make sense and I don't want to waste my time on these things.

I didn't care about it. So I voted one of the candidates randomly or for the personal preference.

If only I have the opportunity, I would make good use of my right.

I believe the situation would be improved if everyone uses their right of voting carefully and effectively.

### **Q3. Do you participate in any group, organization, or association?**

Compared with the graduates, there are more undergraduates who participate in groups, organizations, or associations. Some students take part in several groups; others enroll in different group at different stage.

I participated in several groups, especially at the beginning of my university days.

At the beginning, I took part in several groups as I have many interests. But later, due to limited time, I decided to choose one of them.

I think we should actively involve in activities organized by different clubs. Because young people with same hobbies and interests gathered together was really very nice, and these are very happy memories in our life. I would feel so pity if I didn't have these experiences.

I took part in different groups not only out of interest but also aiming to enrich my college life. In addition, I could enjoy the sense of belonging to group.

I usually participate in the professional associations. These kinds of leagues are good to my study, and I can apply the knowledge to practice. During the process, I've not only extended my outreach, but improved various abilities.

If you can't be a leader of the group, it wastes your time.

I gain a lot from participating in clubs. I become more self-confidence and more open to express myself.

I had participated in "spring breeze" club whose function is to take care of the elderly. I felt those activities made great sense. I could help the others, and could learn more about the society as well.

Participating in groups is complementary to my study, and it doesn't play an important role in my daily life.

### **Q4. Do you think it matters where a person lives how involved they become in their communities?**

Where a person lives matters a lot. There are great differences in many respects, such as economic environment, cultural atmosphere, living habits, consuming ideas, etc.

I came from a little town whose economy is just above the average, where people have more enthusiasm and capital to attend social events, but the ordinary people still have little intervention to the government administration.

People living in city are more active in social and political events, than those living in rural or remote area. They care more about basic demands and have to struggle for their living.

I came from Anhui province. At Hefei, capital of Anhui, even if you're in the best university, you cannot get so much information like Beijing's colleges. There are much more opportunities in Beijing.

For me, this is a question of atmosphere. If the people around me don't care about the political issues, neither will I.

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

I admire soldiers very much and I feel so sorry that I couldn't become a soldier.

Whenever I saw the soldiers standing on Tian An Men Square, I would salute them from my heart.

If I have a chance, I would like to experience the life in the army for a few months.

In my mind, most young people will choose to go to college firstly and if they couldn't pass the entrance examination, they would consider other approaches, such as joining the army.

Joining the army is one of ways to change one's life.

To me, the opportunity cost is too high.

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

Using violence to achieve political or social purpose certainly will cause damage to the lives and property of the people. Nobody hopes to see such unpleasant result.

It isn't necessary. It will cause self-injury, and make trouble for government. We should apply other means to solve problems.

## **TOPIC 6 Youth in a globalized world**

In the context of the globalization, ideas and behaviors of the youth in China had been influenced by the trend. At the same time, as a vigorous, inclusive and creative group, they are also active participants of globalization. Therefore, we present this part in two aspects: youth as a follower and as a participant.

We organized the information gained from interview and questionnaire, as following

1. Youth and globalized consumption;
2. Youth and immigration, studying abroad, traveling overseas;
3. Youth and understanding outside world;
4. Youth and culture.

### **6.1 The international flows of commodities: Youth and globalized consumption**

#### **6.1.1 More choices bring happiness or depression?**

The economical globalization brings more choices of commodities and services to every country. Whether the youth feel happy or depressed is closely related to their consuming capacity. The diversification of consuming choice is a kind of happiness to the youth who have certain consuming capacity. But to those who cannot afford it, they often feel depressed to the globalized consumption.

It's annoying if there are too many choices. More choices mean more regrets. More choices let me feel embarrassed because I cannot afford it at present. On the other hand, but I'm happy for the bright future.

I wouldn't feel depressed. If the price was high, I wouldn't buy it.

Facing excessive choices, one doesn't know how to make choice and feel at a loss.

#### **6.1.2 The choice of the oversea commodities**

In our interview, taking the consuming of mobile phone as an example, we investigated the preference of the interviewees in choosing the domestic commodities and oversea commodities. Only one interviewee's mobile phone is domestic brand, all the others used oversea brand, such as Nokia, Motorola, Samsung and Sony-Erission, etc.

### **6.2 The international flows of the personnel: How does the youth regard the migration, study abroad and traveling overseas?**

#### **6.2.1 Migration**

I had ever considered migration, but had been rejected by my parents afterward. Though the decision of going abroad or not is made mainly by myself, I have to consider the related influential factors, such as my family. It is no merely a question of money; moreover it is a question of concept, such as my parents' social circle and ideology, and so on. If we emigrated to US or Europe, they would be unable to adapt

that kind of life. They have witnessed the Cultural Revolution, many people of their generation have special complex to China.

----Yang Chao

My parents live in my hometown and their social circle is also here. I should take care of my parent in the future as I am the only child of my family. If I settled overseas with my parents, they would not adapt to the environment. Even if our social security system is good enough for them, I will not choose emigration. It is mostly a question of psychology. My father and mother have worried about me since I studied at Beijing alone. And they will feel more uncomfortable if I go abroad by myself. Moreover the communication between us will become more inconvenient.

----Yuan Xue

Migration means a lot of changes like language, environment, custom etc. It's difficult for me. At home, I've some friends and we can help with each other.

----Ni Kai

It is said that "If parents are still living, the children should not take a long journey". I want to stay with my parents without thinking of settling abroad.

----Hao Xiangju

The foreign country is attractive to me. But I don't think I can survive there. Language constraint is one of the reasons that I am not willing to go abroad.

----Lu You

I am willing to emigrate temporarily. Because I feel when I become very old with grey hair, I prefer living in my native country.

----Zhuang Dandan

### **6.2.2 Study abroad**

I will choose to go to the United States for studying, because the economic development there is the highest.

I have the desire to go abroad. I can absorb new ideas and broaden my mind.

My classmates from Beijing all went out to study abroad. Family background is important.

From junior to senior secondary school, a lot of my classmates had gone abroad. I keep in touch with around thirty of them. The countries they moved to include USA, England, Canada, South Africa, Singapore, Malaysia, and Sweden and so on. (a graduate student from Beijing)

Among my high school classmates, those who went abroad were basically those who

don't do well at school. It's a trend. The excellent students also will go abroad. At my high school, if the excellent students couldn't pass the entrance exams of Tsinghua University or Peking University, they would go abroad if their family can afford them.

My parents encourage me to go abroad. Because going abroad is a matter of honor in our small town. In fact, going abroad is not easy. But they do not think it over deeply and just think it is a good thing.

Having overseas relatives and friends will stimulate young people's motivation of studying abroad.

I had prepared to go abroad when I was a college student. At that time, one of my relatives worked in the US, so I want to go to study in America. But later, he returned to China, and my plan has changed. Now I chose to continue my graduate study in China.

The students going abroad are those whose family economic conditions are quite good. So long as school is good, they will not care about the scholarship. Studying abroad in England will spend 200,000 Yuan for a year. The ordinary family couldn't afford it.

### **6.2.3 Traveling overseas**

Traveling overseas is a dream of the youth. Although no one who attended the interview has the experience of traveling abroad, everyone wish they would travel abroad if possible. Most interviewees put Europe and America as the first choice for the destination of the overseas traveling.

I will choose to go to Europe. But if I have more opportunities and more money, I will go more places.

I will go to Switzerland and Denmark, to enjoy different culture of other countries.

None of the interviewees had passport, although they would like to study or travel abroad. And they knew little about the process of application for the passport.

I don't have passport and don't know how to obtain it at present. I will look up the information through Internet if necessary.

It seems that we should go to the Foreign Affairs Board or somewhere to apply for passport. I heard it is quite convenient. (Note: In fact, applying for passport in Beijing should go to the Division of Aliens and Exit-Entry Administration of the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau.)

## **6.4 Youth and culture**

### **6.4.1 Impact of Globalization on national culture**

The interviewees worry about the possibility that Chinese culture would be attacked and even destroyed by globalization. Therefore they think national culture should be protected. “Fundamental curriculum such as the traditional culture, the Chinese literature and the Chinese history should be provided on campus” is consensus.

Nowadays many people can speak foreign languages very well, but their native language is not good. If this trend goes on, some years later, our culture would disappear. How can we stick to own tradition but learn from others? Government should guide young people by proper policy. Something must be done to change this trend.

### **6.4.2 Cultural conflict between different generations**

Indeed there are cultural conflict between generations as the youth and their parents born and grew up in quite different environment. It is not strange that young people and their parent face conflict in daily life.

For instance, I often see the foreign movies at home during vacation or holidays. Sometimes some scenes were unacceptable by my parent, that made my parent angry; and then we had argument or dispute.

### **6.4.3 Culture feedback**

QQ (an online instant message tool which is widely used by Chinese young people) is an important tool by which my family members contact with me. It is much cheaper than the long-distance telephone call. ... .. Indeed, there are many parents who learn to use computer and internet in order to keep in touch with their children. Usually young generation can change their parents.

I taught my parents to access to internet. They were willing to learn it.

My father was glad when I taught him how to use the computer. It's a pity I can not affect my grandfather and grandmother. They are afraid of the computer. I put the computer on the table, but they do not dare to touch it.

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