

## HONG-KONG CHINESE

### Primary Values

*Social Approval.* The Chinese of Hong Kong value group approval. They need to be totally sure that the team accept, respect and value their contribution. They will consider how their actions will affect others in the team. Group confirmation is important.

*Loss of Face.* Society in Hong Kong is based on respect. They do not like to 'lose face' and thereby lose their respect. This fear often prevents them from giving suggestions or receiving correction especially when facing strong-willed, outspoken co-workers. There may be a reserve to express views and feelings at a field conference. To avoid confrontation is to avoid losing face. A gentle, respectful and loving attitude in a direct talk is far better than using an intermediary or taking an indirect route.

*People-Oriented.* Brought up in close-knit families in a highly urbanised society means that a person from Hong Kong is used to having people around them. Relationships are of prime importance.

*Task-Oriented.* The pace of life in Hong Kong is very fast. Time is money. Only the fittest survive. Prosperity by hard work is the goal of the majority who strive for the highest.

*Respect of Authority.* Rank and authority positions are held in high regard in Hong Kong. The older person, the leader or the person in charge is held in respect and loyalty is expected. However, if that leader cannot prove himself or lacks the quality of leadership and does not gain the trust of his followers, then respect for him may be only superficial.

### Priorities

*Responsibility Toward Parents.* Regardless of whether or not the parents are in urgent financial need, those from Hong Kong feel an obligation to offer financial support. If the parents are sick and ageing, it is expected that the children care for them. This tremendous sense of responsibility is a means of expressing gratitude for all the years of upbringing. To be absent from the funeral of a parent would be a sign of disrespect.

*Friendship.* Growing up in a family-centred society means that even overseas, the person from Hong Kong will seek out meaningful friendships. Minimal emotional support is given from home churches. Parents are often illiterate and generally the people of Hong Kong do not write letters. Therefore team members are looked upon not merely as co-workers but as family. Those from Hong Kong look for true and deep friendships.

*Fear.* Many home churches put unrealistic demands upon their overseas workers. They expect quick results. This may result in fear of loss of face if expectations are not met.

### Strengths

- Willingness to adapt.
- Polite
- Hard-working
- Often has pre-field experience in ministry.
- Sensitive towards the needs of others.
- Mindful and respectful of the team.

## **Weaknesses**

*Prone to Insecurity.* Family members and even church members may not understand the Christian worker's desire to serve overseas. Little emotional support is given. Struggling to fit in with a predominantly Western mission, the worker from Hong Kong may be prone to feelings of insecurity in the initial stages on arrival on the field.

*Competitive.* Hong Kong is a competitive society. School and work environments are competitive hot-pots. It is hard for the Christian worker overseas not to display such tendencies among his fellow-workers.

*Language Limitation.* Limited opportunity to use English within Hong Kong often means that new workers are not very fluent in this language. This can pose problems on the field even limiting an effective ministry.

## **Attitudes**

*Toward Conflict.* Direct confrontation is avoided in public. However, they do not mind talking directly to the persons involved within an atmosphere of love and gentleness. Hurts and feelings are not easily expressed so it is vital that workers from Hong Kong are given listening ears in privacy.

*Toward Children's Education.* Educational opportunities are very limited for the children of Hong Kong workers. Correspondence courses in Chinese are not available. The worker may deem it important for their children to learn Chinese because of returning to the highly competitive educational system back home.

*Toward Furlough.* The worker from Hong Kong will not find furlough an easy period to handle. Demands upon his time by the local church may be high, making 'rest' difficult. It may therefore be best to rest in another country en route. The concept of 'three months rest period' would seem 'lazy' in the eyes of local church leaders. Finding suitable accommodation may also be another problem of the furlough period.

## **People from Hong Kong like:**

- Having close friends.
- Working in a team.
- Being accepted and respected by others.
- Humble leaders of spiritual calibre.
- Good communication between field, sending base and home church.
- Efficient field administration.

## **People from Hong Kong dislike:**

- Superficiality in fellowship.
- Individualistic attitudes.
- Racial discrimination.
- Too much isolation.
- Leaders who strive for power and fame.