

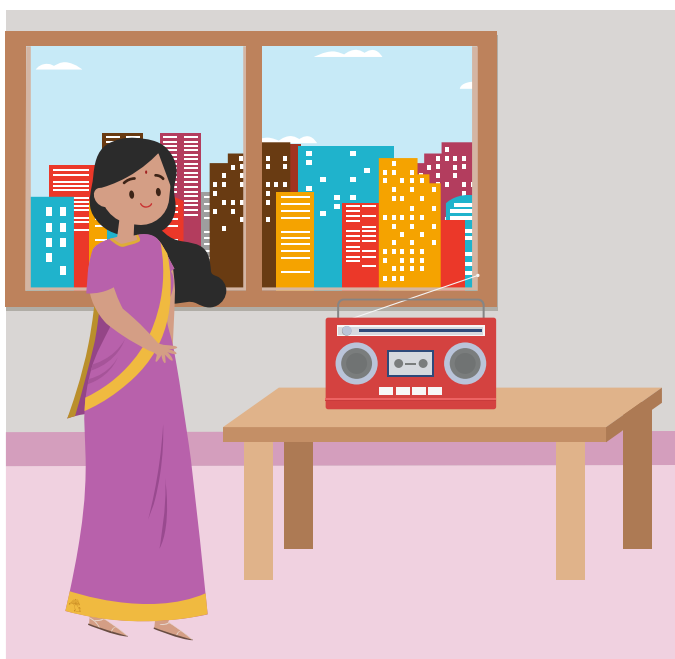
"Hong Kong Today" Module

Culturally Diverse Society

A culturally diverse society, or multiculturalism, refers to the acceptance, respect and coexistence of different races, traditions, customs, religions and lifestyles, etc. Many nations today promote cultural diversity, showing respect to people and granting equal rights to people of different ethnic or cultural backgrounds.

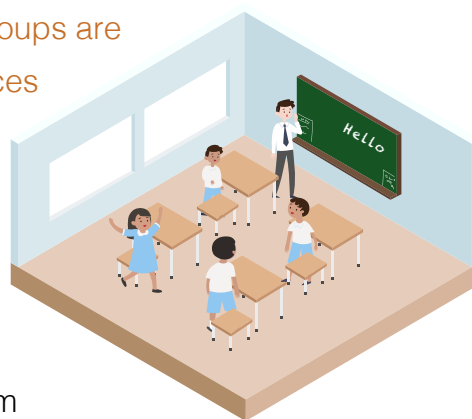


Hong Kong is a society of cultural diversity. Many Hong Kong people arrived from the Mainland, as the city was favoured by writers, artists and activities from the Mainland during the periods of turmoil in the 20th century. As a result, cultures, arts and customs from the Mainland became integrated with Hong Kong's cultures to carry forward. As an example, Cantonese opera in Hong Kong became integrated with local cultures and art forms, resulting in an opera combining local characteristics. Hong Kong's ethnic diversity can also be observed through ethnic groups. About 8% of the population were not of



Chinese ethnicity. People of many other nationalities and ethnic groups have contributed to the integration and coexistence of Hong Kong's diversified culture, which is celebrated through a variety of festivals of different religions and races throughout the year that enrich people's lives.

The establishment of a culturally diverse society requires a society to take care of the needs of people of different genders and ethnic groups by paying greater attention to and improving its existing cultures, systems and public facilities. For example, in order to address different physical needs of males and females, after reviewing the amendments to the subsidiary legislation of the Buildings Ordinance in December 2015, the Legislative Council decided to amend the ratio of male to female sanitary fitments in public places from 1:1 to 1:1.5, with plans to further amend the ratio based on the actual circumstances. With regard to ethnic minority groups, some local volunteer groups are committed to promoting the integration of different races and fighting for their rights and benefits. Some members of the society are of the view that children from ethnic minorities struggle to learn Chinese, which could limit their future choices for work and opportunities for upward social mobility. In light of the above, the Education Bureau has allocated about HK\$200 million per year from the 2014/15 school year to support non-Chinese speaking students to learn the Chinese language. In the 2015/16 school year, a total of 197 schools (including 112 primary schools and 85 secondary schools) received additional resources. Some people also believe that minority groups have the right to obtain information through their native tongues. However, Radio 3 of Radio Television Hong Kong is the only station that offers a 2-hour programme in Wikang Tagalog and a 1-hour programme in Urdu and Nepali each on Sundays. This is a shortage that calls for improvement to promote social integration and create a public space of greater equality.



In conclusion, Hong Kong prides itself on being a society of cultural diversity. It needs to offer support to people of different races and genders to help them find their own values, and allow them to realise their talents and make contributions to the society.

