**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ( )**

**Tuesday English News Report**

*Revealed:* ***heartbreaking******plight*** *of 40,000 Hong Kong children* ***stunted*** *by life in tiny flats ... and it’s getting worse*

Broadcast Date: 12th January

**Underprivileged** children often live in cramped conditions in subdivided flats. More than 40,000 Hong Kong children are living in such cramped conditions that their physical, psychological and emotional development is being stunted **massively**, according to a major new study on top concerns of underprivileged children.

The number is up by more than 10,000 from last year. Housing continues to top the list of worries for the children who took part in the only targeted exercise **canvassing** views of underprivileged children in Hong Kong.

“Various studies have shown how **detrimental** living in such tight places can be to children. Even sleeping could be a problem – many children say that they couldn’t even sleep well because of the bed bugs and the bad air,” said Sze Lai-shan from the Society for Community Organisation, which has done this report for the 11th year.

Of the 1,800 underprivileged children who took part in the discussion and voting on the top 10 concerns of 2015, 70 per cent live in subdivided flats, said the community organiser.

Subdivided flats – units sliced out of an apartment, usually in old tenement buildings – can range in size from 60 square feet to 130 square feet, which could house a whole family.

Housing Authority figures estimated that around 170,000 people lived in subdivided flats in 2013, with the number increasing to 190,000 this year as rents continue to rise.

Over half a million people are queuing up for public housing flats – with over 102,000 being under 18 years of age – as the government continues to build 15,000 new flats a year, stating that land is “hard to find”.

Nine-year-old David Wong Hung-to, who moved from a shelter to a subdivided flat a year ago, said there is nowhere to do homework – the only table is a folding one brought out for meals.

Wong said there have been no mid-term to short-term measures, such as rent control or **subsidies**, to help families in these housing situations.

These tight living spaces affect the children’s school performance, and psychologically and socially also **cripple** them, said Sze. There is no privacy, no place to play, and they are **excluded** socially as they can never bring friends home.

[](http://cdn4.scmp.com/sites/default/files/styles/980w/public/images/methode/2016/01/01/bea52ec6-afa6-11e5-86ff-b7a34a11666b_1280x720.jpg?itok=b1VXip3N) A subdivided flat

1. What do you think?
2. Vocabulary

*Fill in the blanks in the sentences below using words from the box.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| heartbreaking | plight | stunted | underprivileged |
| massively | canvassing | detrimental | subsidies |
| cripple | excluded |  |  |

1. John felt \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at his new school. No one spoke to him apart from his teachers.
2. Mary was terribly neglected by her parents. They gave her no love and attention and little food. Consequently her physical and mental growth was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. The population of China has grown \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the last 50 years.
4. I find it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when I see images of dead children in the media.
5. More \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ should be given to schools to aid the teaching of minority groups.
6. When leaders fail to care for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ members of their society, social unrest is sure to follow.
7. Smoking is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to your health.
8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ means asking for opinions or votes.
9. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of civilians living through the conflicts in the Middle East is highly disturbing.
10. Massive corruption will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (severely damage) any economy.

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**ANSWERS**

1. Vocabulary

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1. John felt **excluded** at his new school. No one spoke to him apart from his teachers.
2. Mary was terribly neglected by her parents. They gave her no love and attention and little food. Consequently her physical and mental growth was **stunted**.
3. The population of China has grown **massively** in the last 50 years.
4. I find it **heartbreaking** when I see images of dead children in the media.
5. More **subsidies** should be given to schools to aid the teaching of minority groups.
6. When leaders fail to care for the **underprivileged** members of their society, social unrest is sure to follow.
7. Smoking is **detrimental** to your health.
8. **Canvassing** means asking for opinions or votes.
9. The **plight** of civilians living through the conflicts in the Middle East is highly disturbing.
10. Massive corruption will **cripple** (severely damage) any economy.