

# Environmental knowledge and interest in environmental activities of HK elementary school students



Dr. Kara Chan

Associate Professor

Dept. of Communication Studies

Hong Kong Baptist University

# Source of funding



The Environment and Conservation  
Fund



# Method

Postal survey of

116 elementary schools

4,112 students grade 2-6

Local and international students

Conducted in February to May 2001



# Questionnaire design

Part 1: multiple choice questions about global and HK's environment

Part 2: interest in environmental activities

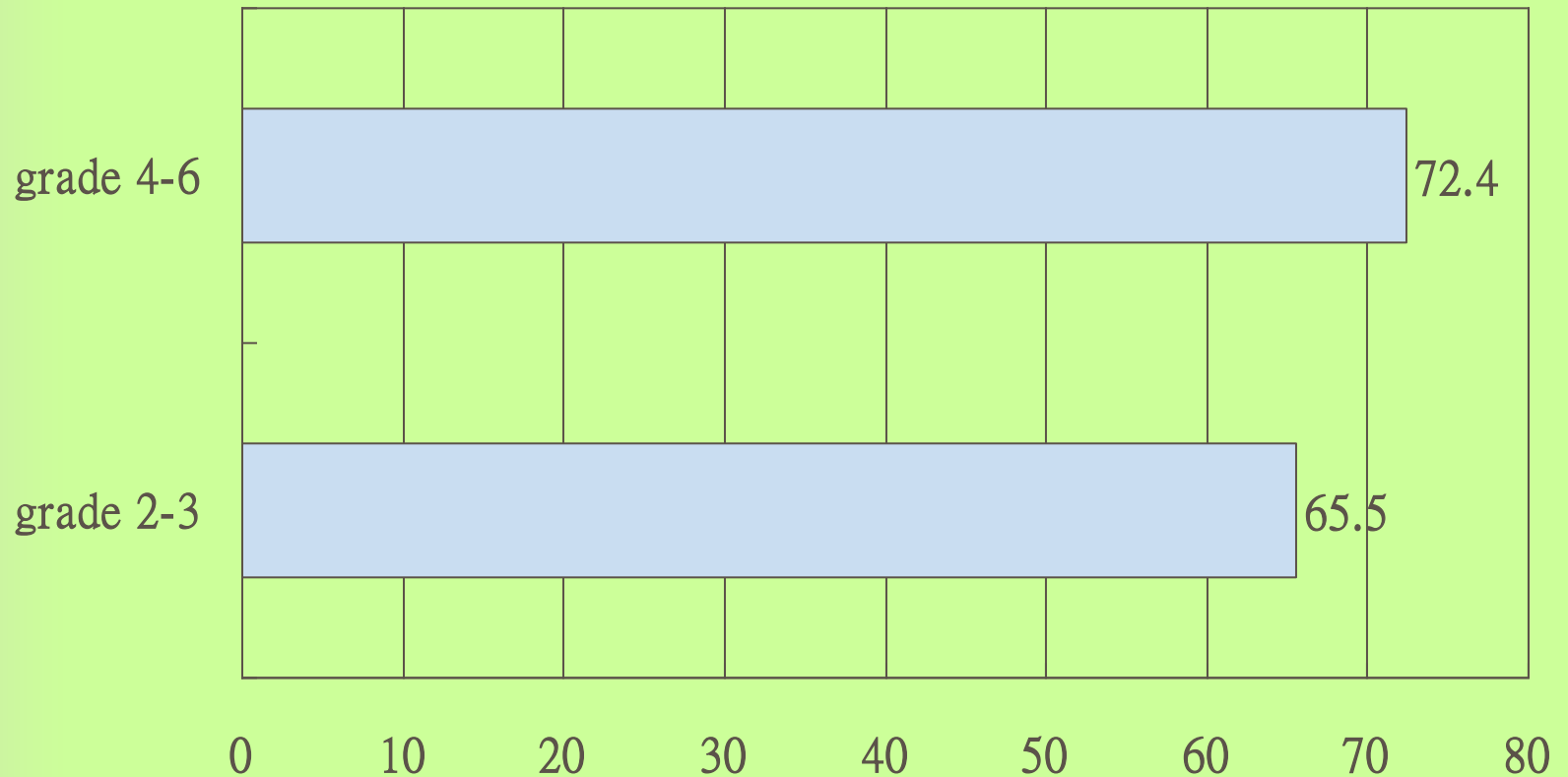
Part 3: demographic profile and source of environmental knowledge



# Findings

- Elementary school students are knowledgeable about the environment


# Mean environmental knowledge score





# Knowledge is good for issues:


- Water
- Hazardous substance and nuclear waste
- Ocean, coast and wetland
- Local environmental problems



# Knowledge is average/good for issues:

- Food and agriculture
- Forest






# Knowledge is average/weak for issues:

- Biological diversity
- Desertification
- Solid waste and sewage




# Knowledge is weak for issues:

- World population
- Atmosphere and climate
- Energy



# Most popular environmental activities among students:

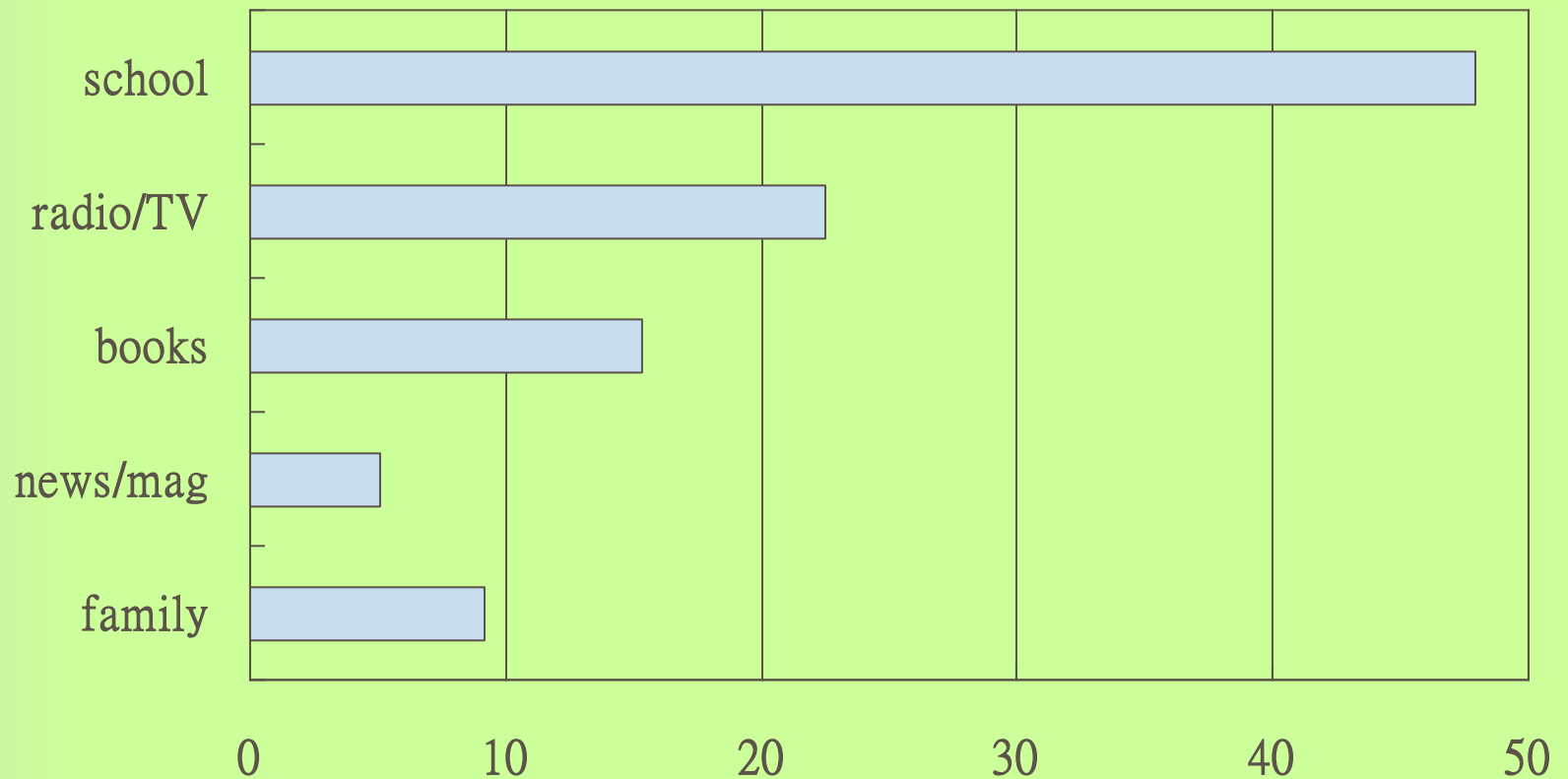
- Picnics at the country parks
- Plant trees
- Visit Botanical Gardens
- Grow crops and gardening
- Watch wild birds and insects
- Visit Mai Po
- Visit farms



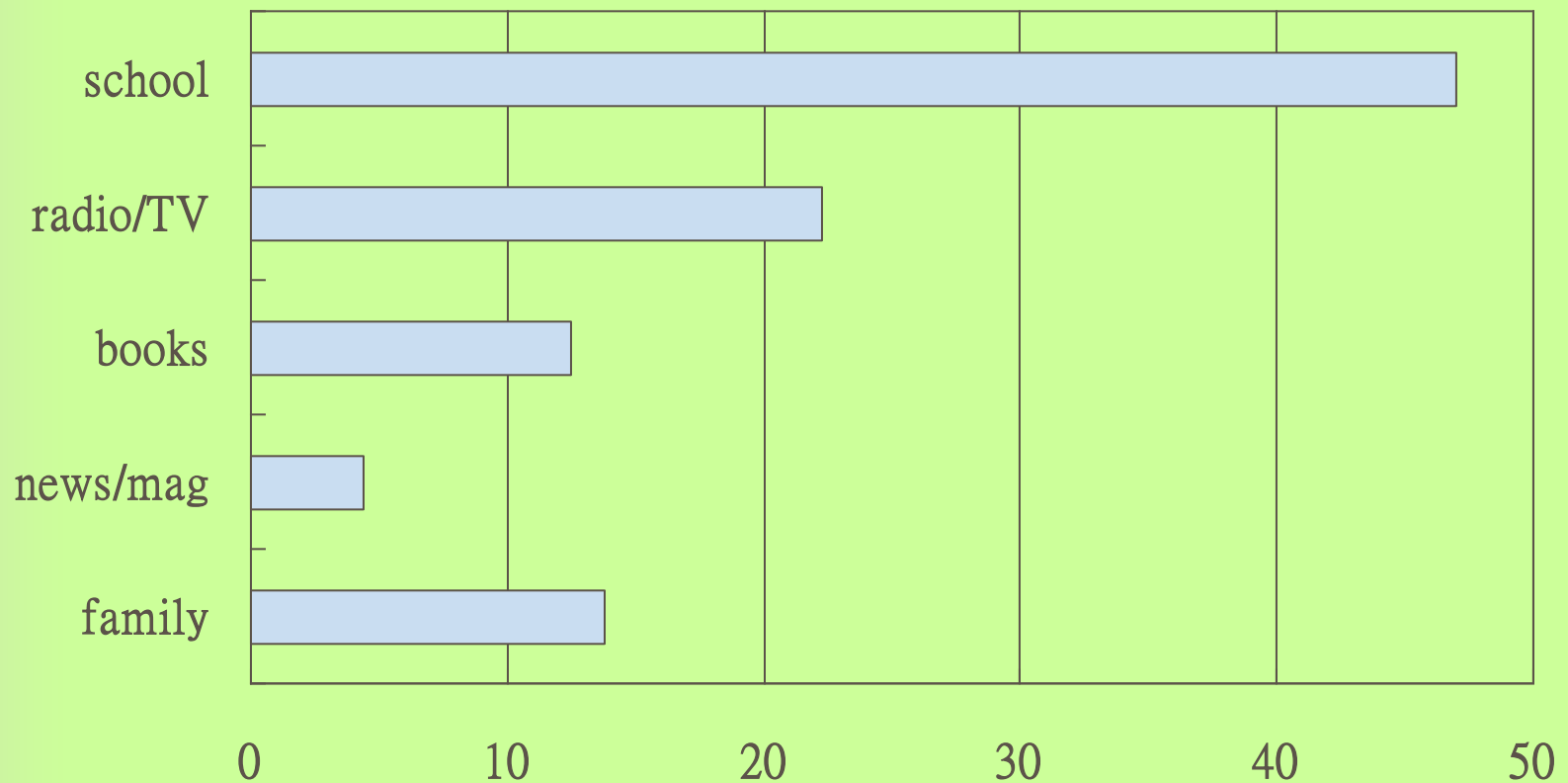
# Least popular environmental activities:

- Visit factory
- Produce display boards
- Measuring noise and air pollution
- Collect rubbish at country parks

# Major source of environmental knowledge, grade 4-6



# Major source of environmental knowledge, grade 2-3





# E-knowledge by sex

- In grade 2-3: boys and girls share similar environmental knowledge level
- In grade 4-6: boys have higher environmental knowledge than girls





# E-knowledge by source

- Students reporting families as their major source of environmental information have lower environmental knowledge scores than students reporting other sources





# Full report

- Title: Environmental knowledge and interest in environmental activities of Hong Kong elementary school students
- Available at public libraries in Hong Kong

The end, thank you.

