

Legislative Council Panel on Education

Evening Schools run by the Education Department

PURPOSE

This paper is to inform Members of the existing operation and future development of evening schools run by the Education Department (ED) for operating adult education courses.

EVENING SCHOOLS

2. ED has been providing much education opportunities for adults through different channels. Amongst others ^{Note}, ED runs evening school courses, following the syllabuses of subjects taught in day schools, to provide formal education opportunities for adults. The following three types of evening school courses are run by ED -

- (a) Adult Education Course (General Background) (AEC(G)) which provides education from primary three to six levels;
- (b) Government Evening Secondary School Course (GESSC) which provides education from secondary one to secondary six levels leading to the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) and the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE); and
- (c) English Course (EC) which provides English language education at primary (primary four to six), secondary (secondary one to five) and General Certificate of Education (Ordinary) (GCE(O)) levels. The latter two courses lead to the HKCEE and the GCE(O) Level Examination respectively.

^{Note} Apart from evening school courses run by ED, there is a subvention scheme in which ED provides subventions to non-governmental organizations for running a wide range of adult education courses such as career education, basic literacy and prevocational training.

3. Enrollment statistics of adult education courses run by ED for the 1999/2000 school year set out in paragraph 2 above are as follows -

<i>(Enrollment as at September 1999)</i>	AEC(G)	GESSC	EC
Capacity	1575	8340	3710
Number of students	1176	7616	2705
% of capacity	74.7%	91.3%	72.9%

FACILITIES FOR STUDENTS OF EVENING SCHOOL COURSES

4. The courses set out in paragraph 2 above are operated in the premises of government and aided schools. Currently, there are a total of 34 government schools and three aided schools making available their premises for the running of evening school courses.

5. Evening schools are operated on the basis of “sharing culture” with day schools. As far as possible, facilities of day schools are made available for use by evening school students. Teachers and students of evening schools could have access to various kinds of teaching aids and facilities to conduct lessons. Laboratories and overhead projectors etc are also available for their use. In particular, the recommended number of practical periods conducted in laboratories for science subjects at the HKCEE and the HKALE levels offered by evening schools is in compliance with the requirements of the Hong Kong Examinations Authority. In addition, all evening schools arrange one or two classrooms to be opened half an hour before the school starts so that students can have self-study if they arrive early.

WAY FORWARD

6. In line with the Government’s strategy to promote greater use of information technology (IT) in teaching and learning, ED plans to install computers in all the 16 evening schools running GESSC starting from the 2000/01 school year. Subject to site availability, about ten computers (on top of computers which have already been/will be provided to day schools under

Government's Five-year IT in Education Strategy) will be installed in each of these evening schools which can be shared by both day school and evening school students. Separately, to further improve the relevance of evening school courses run by ED to the prevailing needs of the society, the Department is now conducting a review of the course contents and curriculum of these courses.

Education Department
April 2000