

Dear Chairperson :

As a parent of non-Chinese children living on Hong Kong Island, I would like to make the following points on the present education provision for my children:

1. Integrative education
Idea is good but there are many problems in implementation. The major problem is the medium of instruction. The primary schools have not sufficiently prepared non-Chinese students for integration in CMI secondary schools. As places in EMI schools are limited and concentrated on Kowloon side, children living on Hong Kong Island are deprived of equal opportunity of education.
2. Choice of schools of the same religious affiliation:
Christian parents, Catholic parents, Buddhist parents, and even Taoist parents can have a choice of EMI and CMI schools of the same religious affiliation, but not Muslim parents. For equity reasons, Muslim students should have more school choice, especially those living on Hong Kong Island.
3. Choice of schools
At the moment, many Muslim students end up going to DSS secondary schools such as Delia or Government secondary school such as Sir E K in spite of the policy of integrative education. This is because EMI schools are highly competitive and CMI schools do not usually offer enough support measures for the few non-Chinese students who are admitted through central allocation. Moreover, non-Chinese parents should be able to choose subsidized schools for their children as well as DSS and government secondary schools. The present situation is not satisfactory for the ethnic minority children.
4. School nets
As Islamic Kasim Tuet Memorial College is sponsored by a Muslim organisation, Muslim parents should be allowed to choose it for their children. The school nets in the Secondary Schools Places Allocation should make the necessary provision for the equitable choice of Muslim parents.
5. Mix and mingle with Chinese students
Speaking for myself and my children, I think my children can have more opportunity to mix and mingle with Chinese students in Islamic Kasim Tuet Memorial College than ever before. This is because there are two classes of Chinese students and two classes of non-Chinese students in Islamic Kasim Tuet Memorial College. The school is able to maintain a nice balance between the two cultures and promote ethnic harmony. I can see the school is moving in the right direction.
6. As a parent of non-Chinese children, I urge the EMB to take a more realistic view of the educational provisions for the ethnic minorities in Hong Kong and make it possible for secondary schools such as Islamic Kasim Tuet Memorial College to really help implement the policy of 'integrative education' in the true sense of the words.

Gul Rooz
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