



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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The Secretary of the Legislative Council Panel on Education,
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central,
Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Catherina Yu)

Dear Ms Yu,

Inclusion of Indecent Content in Sharp Daily

The Education Bureau appreciates the concern of LegCo Members about the influence on youngsters brought by the content promoting pornography in Sharp Daily.

All along the Education Bureau attaches great importance to moral education. Through the curriculum of various subjects and diversified learning experiences, positive values and attitudes are instilled in students for their healthy development. Elements of sex education have been included in many subjects in the existing school curriculum of primary and secondary school (e.g. General Studies for primary school, Ethics and Religious Studies, Integrated Humanities and Liberal Studies for secondary school) like teaching students how to face erotic information and be prudent in making friends via the internet etc. Students are enabled to use critical thinking and rational attitude to understand the adverse impact brought by indecent sex concept and to analyse and judge the information obtained from media. To support schools in implementing moral education, media education and sex education, the Education Bureau always organizes professional training

programmes to enhance teachers' knowledge and skills in the teaching of concerned issues. The Bureau also produces and updates relevant learning and teaching resources to support schools. Through the school curriculum and life-wide learning activities, students are helped to avoid contact with erotic content, reject indecent ideas and handle information obtained from media with critical thinking skills when facing the challenges during puberty and being bombarded with obscene information.

Other than educating students through school curriculum, the Education Bureau has also reminded schools through various School Councils to remain vigilant on the problem of the adverse impact brought by indecent publications on youngsters. Based on information available, other than banning distribution of Sharp Daily in schools, hardly any schools allow students reading or circulating the newspaper in schools.

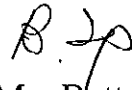
Furthermore, the Education Bureau has also closely liaised with the Committee on Home-School Co-operation and parent representatives to encourage parents to work together with the Education Sector to promote moral education by setting good examples and serving as role models for their children. Through various matters in daily life, parents can teach children to distinguish between right and wrong, instill proper attitude towards sex and establish positive attitudes and values. If parents spot any indecent content in publications, they can take the opportunity to teach their children to distinguish between right and wrong and not to be misled by the information. Parent representatives give strong support in this regard and they also take the initiative to organize seminar and briefing to share their experience with other parents in teaching children how to distinguish between right and wrong and how to prevent from being affected by indecent publications.

In short, the policy instruments available to the Education Bureau for countering the influence of indecent publications have been fully deployed.

To combat with the dissemination of indecent publications and countering the adverse impact brought by erotic content, the focus should not be narrowed down to schools and the school curriculum level nor limited to education policy since there are many channels to distribute indecent and obscene information. As Sharp Daily is distributed to the public free of

charge, youngsters can still obtain the newspaper, from various channels including the distribution in the street, even if distribution and circulation of the newspaper is not allowed in schools. We are of the view that the problem of inclusion of indecent and obscene content in free newspaper and its distribution arrangement could only be solved effectively from different policy angles together with the collaborative effort and co-operation of different stakeholders of the community. Hence, the issue should not be discussed solely from the angle and perspective of education policy.

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs Betty IP)
for Secretary for Education