

**Submission to the Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities**

**From**

**Parents Concern Group, CSL Concern Group and ToKwaWan Ekta Housing Concern Group**

**Purpose:**

We are group of South Asian parents; our children are either studying in kindergarten, primary and secondary schools or going to study in this coming academic year. Our groups of parents are merging of some highly educated, professionals, working parents, housewives, some less educated but with common dream of providing good education to our children like every parent does. We are no different than local Chinese parents. Our dreams are the same to work for our children's bright future. However, we are facing many difficulties together with our children to achieve their basic educational development need. Good education is the basic right of the children and we want to safe guard this right for our children.

**1) Better learning environment for our children:**

It is very important to have comfortable learning environment for children. Children can easily relate to the environment around them and learn by observing and feeling the surroundings. Not all of us can provide our children better living environment to develop their learning skills due to less resources and opportunities we have. However, if schools also does not provide good learning environment, our children are isolated, less confident, bullied, unmotivated and not capable to learn in unwelcomed environment. In that case, we do not foresee a bright future of our children. Schools should eliminate segregation and apply integrated learning environment for all students. We request education bureau to monitor the school environment and provide more teachers training

**2) Teachers Training is important**

In South Asian culture we believe teachers are the second parents of the child. At home children are taught to respect and obey their teachers as a gesture of reverence. However, it is known that our children are reluctant to communicate with their teachers in school here in Hong Kong. There are many reasons – our children are being ignored during classes, they are not given the time, attention they need. Our children are labeled as hyperactive, naughty, inattentive and lazy students in the school. We want to question the schools – Have they ever thought why our children are less motivated? We have so many examples

where our children are very active at home but less confident in school due to no support and encouragements from the teachers.

We kindly request EDB to promote cultural sensitivity trainings to the teachers in order to learn and respect students from different cultural background. It is important and beneficial for EDB to spare some funds for systematic professional teachers training. All education providers should understand the meaning of racial equality, diversity and equal education need for all children.

### **3) Equal Education rights for our children**

Under the human rights ordinance – education is the basic right for all children. There should be good support for all children when parents cannot afford children education. For example; children of those parents who are asylum seeker and not allowed to work in HK. They are told kindergarten education is not compulsory for all children when we see Chinese parents lining up overnight outside schools to apply for K1 seats.

### **4) Chinese as a second language implementation**

Currently, GCSE Chinese exam is too easy for our children who are studying in Hong Kong for the last 12 years. However, DSE Chinese is too difficult as our children are not getting enough Chinese learning support. There should be effective CSL curriculum with effect evaluation strategies. There should be more support for our children to learn Chinese language.

### **5) SEN assessment tool**

There are more and more special education need students. However, there is no SEN assessment tool for non-Chinese children.

### **6) Involvement of parents**

Schools should involve parents in all aspects of children education. Teacher's assistance should be only hired to assist parents with language barrier. School notice and school environment should be user friendly for all parents.

**South Asian Concern Parents for their Children Better Education**

**Parents Concern Group**

**Chinese as a second language Concern Group**

**ToKwaWan Ekta Housing Concern Group**