

Views on Ethnic Minority Education
**Submission to the Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities
on 12 December 2016**

*A group of concerned ethnic minority parents from **Yau Ma Tei***

We care about our children education and this is what we experience and the problems we are facing now:

1. It is hard to learn both Chinese and English well

The English level of Chinese school is not very good. If my child goes to Chinese school then their English learning will be less, but it does not mean then he can learn Chinese well; if my child goes to English school then their Chinese level is low.

2. We do not know much about the school information

Many of the parents are not local educated so we do not know much about the education system. We do not know school have banding and don't know how to find out unwritten school information like the amount of homework, students' discipline, reputation etc.

3. Tutorials are not very useful

Most tutorials in NGOs help with homework but we want our children to learn more Chinese in tutorials. The quality of tutorials is not guaranteed. Not every student gets equal attention because there is only one teacher but many students in one class.

4. There are very less help in Chinese schools

We are worry if we cannot speak Cantonese and do not know Chinese then we cannot help with children's study in Chinese school. We will not be able to understand Chinese notice too. Because of this we do not dare to put our children in Chinese schools. We do not have much choice so at the end we can only ask our friend/ neighbor/ relatives which school is good and put my children there.

5. We do not know much about the current measures

We heard that there are Saturday classes or after school Chinese classes by the government but we do not know much about the information. We do not know how to find extra resources to help my children in learning. If we know we will put our children in these classes.

We think:

6. There should be more integration in schools

Schools should have measures like asking Chinese and non-Chinese students sitting together for them to help each other. School should not group Chinese and non-Chinese students into different classes to make sure they have interaction and can speak the language.

7. Non-Chinese students in all the school should learn the same level of Chinese

Our children use the same number of years in education as the Chinese students, so at the end they should be able to learn the same Chinese. If children cannot pass the Chinese subject in one year then they can repeat the class. Now if one student fail in any subject like mathematics or English the school would not let them promote to another class too, so why in Chinese they do not do the same? If our children are weak at the beginning then give them extra class or more time in Chinese so that they can catch up. It is not fair and not good if each school teaches different Chinese.