

Dear Sirs/Madam,

According to the Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report on Ethnic Minorities 2014, the poverty rate of South Asians stood at 22.6 percent, based on data from the 2011 Population Census and the Survey on Households with School Children of South Asian Ethnicities, The rate was even higher at 30.8 percent for South Asian families with children. The study found that the poverty rate among Pakistani families was as high as 50.2 percent. Their median monthly income is only HK\$10,600 (US\$1,367) while there are 5.4 members in each family on average.

Among South Asians, Pakistanis had the highest poverty rate in 2001 (49.1 percent) and 2011 (59.6 percent). Nepalese saw a surge in poverty rate between 2001 (9.1 percent) and 2011 (23.2 percent).

South Asians are often at a disadvantage in terms of education and employment due to language and cultural barriers, but this issue has still not been resolved by our Government in the past twenty years since the return of Hong Kong to China. The poverty issue is a result of the the failure of Government policies and it proves the Government have ignored, neglected and have not done enough to help Ethnic Minorities integrate into the society.

The Government is aware of the specific problems faced by Ethnic Minorities, but keep a blind eye and a deaf ear. The HKSAR Government have no specific measures to reduce poverty among Ethnic Minorities.

Low education level is only one of the factors, but there are more important factors that the Government is avoiding to mention, which is racial discrimination and non-acceptance of non-Chinese. There are jobs that South Asians are not recruited basically of their race and skin color. The Government has took the lead to stereotype South Asians and not to recruit South Asians. The society have got a misconception that South Asians are dirty, have a body smell, lazy, uneducated, cannot communicate.in Chinese.....and only entitled to labour force, construction workers.

To make the situation more worse for South Asians, the Government and media are intentionally or unintentionally linking and mixing South Asians to fake refugees, fake asylum seekers, gangs, criminals, and rapists. Employers are not willing to employ South Asians.

The Government is taking the lead not to employ non-Chinese, and making different excuses of language barriers, while on the other habd Government is lacking translation services to South Asians.

At USA, UK airports we can see people of different race, nationality working at Immigration, retail stores and outlets, fast food shops, restaurants, and police officers. At Hong Kong airport, all are local Chinese.

Before 1997, South Asians were recruited as Gurkhas, Police, Correctional Services, but after 1997 since the handover to China, HKSAR Government only recruited a few of the South Asians.

If the Government are not hiring South Asians, the private sector are not employing South Asians, what jobs are left for South Asians? How many South Asians are working in the Police Force, Immigration Department, Border Control areas, Correctional Services, other Government departments as civil servants?

Other than those businesses run by South Asians in Tsim Sha Tsui at Chung King Mansion, Mirador Mansion, how many South Asian are employed at other retail industry, food industry run by non South Asians? This is plain discrimination. Government is taking the lead and have taken no measures to encourage the private sector to hire non-Chinese (ethnic minorities).

The Government is promoting One Belt One Road (OBOR), and rather than inviting people from distant places, there are these people living in Hong Kong who can speak their native languages, and understand the culture of those OBOR countries and can contribute to OBOR, but are neglected.

HKSAR Government education policies in the past twenty years, creating designated schools, segregation of Ethnic Minority at schools ruined the lives of at least a generation of young Ethnic Minority, their future and created further intergenerational poverty. Still South Asians are refused to education even at kindergartens, not to mention mainstream schools at primary and secondary education. South Asians are only encouraged and left to study at designated schools, band five schools. Is this not discrimination and segregation?

What policies have the HKSAR Government introduced to assist Ethnic Minority to make their own living with dignity, and what measures have the HKSAR Government taken to reduce poverty, especially intergenerational poverty among Ethnic Minority families?

Maybe the aim of the HKSAR Government is to force these non-Chinese to unable to make a living in Hong Kong and force them to leave the territory.