

Public Hearing on 27/2/2018

Seema's Speech

I am Seema from "We Superwomen Group". I am here to represent and talk on behalf of my group member. I want to focus more about Support Measures provided by EDB and School to apply for Student Financial Assistance Schemes for Primary and Secondary School Students. There is no leaflets available about SFA in different EM languages so most of the ethnic minorities may not even know about student Finance schemes. There is no introduction seminars or promotional activities are arranged by School or EDB. Then second step if I talk about those parents who know about Student Finance but they do not know how to fill up the form or go through the procedures. No assistance is available from EDB or School. Parents are left helpless, they suffer a lot without applying those assistance schemes. They need to borrow money from friends, spend less on food or other basic needs. Husbands need to do 2 jobs or long working hours in order to survive with all those educational expenses.

Secondly, those parents whose children are studying in Kindergarten, they even do not know about Fee remission scheme and recent KG Grant. The situation is even worst for Kindergarten that Fee remission scheme will be put in veil from parents till some parents luckily get information from outside. I want to insist EDB to promote Student Finance schemes on Kindergarten, Primary and Secondary School level proactively. Form filling sessions should be arranged in cooperation with schools during application period. EM enquiry hotlines should be arranged for parents to enquire about their application. Schools should be given clear guidelines to assist EM parents to apply SFA schemes and going through the whole procedures. Thanks a lot.