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Good afternoon, I'm Mehvish Zafroon. I'm Pakistani born in Hong Kong currently studying English Professional Communication in City University. Today I am here to talk about the issues of teachers in Ethnic Minorities EM schools and problems students are facing after graduating from secondary schools.

Studying in an EM school myself, I found primary school teachers would teach us basic Chinese where we learn 'how to read and write some really basic leaflets and poems.' But once I reached secondary school. My Chinese started to break down. Literally everything we learnt in primary school was being repeated in my secondary school. It was super easy to pass Chinese and it was not helpful at all. The school teachers tried their best to teach us Chinese, but it was never enough to improve our language. I believe it is not the teachers' fault, they were not properly trained to teach us Chinese as our second or third language. There is no system that teaches us the language from basic to advanced level. It just repeats itself. Usually schools assume we will not know Chinese because it is very hard for us but in fact, neither Chinese nor English is our 1st language so how can schools assume our English is better than our Chinese. If we are treated the same way as Local students, then our Chinese would have been improved as well as their English. From the beginning the schools gave up on us. They separate Chinese and non-Chinese students in different classes which is unfair and not equal. Why would schools do that? Is separating Non-Chinese students from Local students and teaching us simple Chinese beneficial to us and is this the right way for us to be treated like this because we are also going to be a part of Hong Kong Society in the future!!!

Later we have this GCSE Chinese after passing the school exams. The certificate does not hold much value itself. It is not a good measure to just lower Chinese requirements for EM students because our mother tongue is not Chinese. In order to improve please provide teaching in the mainstream education system, so that we can learn a higher level of Chinese. As for the CSL curriculum, which includes a suitable way to teach non-Chinese speaking students which could help their Chinese upgrade to the same level as Chinese students, teachers' trainings, teaching materials and stage learning objectives so that the Chinese level taught to students will not be too different across schools.

The EDB could provide schools with teachers' guidance booklets that can be used to teach EM students. A manual should be provided to all teachers teaching them step by step teaching us Chinese as a second language, by introducing them to the different cultural backgrounds, things to be aware of, offering them guidelines and helping them to adjust to possible cultural shock and most importantly knowing the CSL needs to teach from very beginning to the end. All EM schools should follow the same system to teach Chinese. Moreover, EDB should get the final result whether the system is working or not, so they could improve it as needed. Thirdly, without Chinese DSE it makes impossible for EMs to reach higher posts in some fields because they require Chinese DSE level and mostly internships for university students coming in Chinese catalogues. Even after doing GCSE it's not worth it. I hope EDB could help us out to improve Chinese studies for EM students. That's all for me. One more thing is that local students can get five stars at maximum which is seven points in DSE whereas us the highest score is A star and the points we can get at maximum is three only, is this fair? There are many times when local people criticise us ethnic minorities that we cannot speak their language but they don't know that their system is actually being unfair to us and not letting us to embrace Chinese language. When local students are weak in English they are given loads of practices loads of past papers but when it's our turn to study Chinese we are differentiated from the local students and are moved into a non-Chinese class and you expect us to learn in such environment whereas this is the reason some students give up their studies all because we are not being treated equally.

Thank you for your listening .