

立法會 CB(2)1137/17-18(04)號文件
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According to the 2016 Population By-census, excluding Foreign Domestic Helpers (FDHs), Ethnic minorities(EMs) increased at a rate of 3.3% per annum on average to a total of 264 000 in 2016. The relative proportion of EMs in local population thus increased from 2.4% in 2001 to 3.6% in 2016. In 2016, South Asians (comprising Indians, Pakistanis and Nepalese) was the largest group of EMs in Hong Kong, with some 76 000 persons and taking up 29% of EM population. However, South Asian youngsters aged 19-24 registered a school attendance rate of 26.4% in 2011, much lower than the respective rate of 44.4% in Hong Kong. Analyzed by status of economic activity, 62.7% of South Asian participated in the labour market, higher than 59.0% in overall population, but a larger proportion of South Asians are in lower-skill occupations, as manifested in 32.3% of South Asians working in elementary occupations in 2011, compared with 26.9% in overall population. As to median monthly employment earnings, it was HK\$12,500 for South Asians in 2011, compared with HK\$12,000 for all workforce in Hong Kong, accounting for half of poor population amongst EMs¹.

The following factors are hindering ethnic minority job placement, language barrier, skills training and also lack of flexibility in university admissions which lead to students not being able to go to university. International students or even local students taking A levels or IB are not required to have Chinese requirements, yet EM students who are new arrivals taking the HKDSE cannot go to university without Chinese language proficiency. Furthermore, information on workshops, skills training, job shadowing and internship are scattered and most cater to Chinese students. We call on the EDB to reconsider the language requirement and include languages in Category C such as Arabic and Urdu as an alternative in the case of students who only came to Hong Kong within three years before taking the HKDSE exams.

The recent changes in the Chinese Language requirement for Civil Service², while it looks promising, does not actually address the reality that EMs will not be able to reach even this level. We request that the Education Bureau(EDB) look into ways to implement a true mother tongue policy such as what Singapore³ espouses. Also to ensure that the Chinese as a Second Language policy be implemented in a manner that answers the needs of the EMs the EDB can consider hiring EM speakers in a to teach Chinese instead of having to filter from Chinese to English to their native tongue with disastrous results. Considering educators' suggestions to teach in Mandarin rather than Cantonese would greatly ease this burden, as I know from personal experience⁴.

Also, as a teacher in charge of career development I can cite numerous cases and can provide documentation of the difficulties we face guiding students.

¹ <https://www.legco.gov.hk/research-publications/english/1617fs08-poverty-of-ethnic-minorities-in-hong-kong-20170608-e.pdf>

² <http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/education/article/2136746/struggle-real-chinese-language-rule-eased-more-hong-kong>

³ <https://www.moe.gov.sg/admissions/returning-singaporeans/general-information-on-studying-in-singapore>

⁴ <http://www.scmp.com/comment/insight-opinion/article/2134112/hong-kongs-battle-over-language-ethnic-minority-children>

As an example of our EM difficulties attaining higher qualification:

1. One student is unable to take Higher Diploma in Social work due to the language requirement (but we do have NGOs who need EM's), why not allow them a bridging program?
2. One EM student still cannot have admission to Chinese medicine, he has been pursuing studies in nursing and now being offered overseas studies instead from his nursing school here in HK, possibly contributing to the brain drain⁵.
3. It took more than 2 years to find a lifeguard training program for English speakers, and even now, even with this qualification, coaching program for EM students in English seem not available.

Given the role that Hong Kong is poised to play in the One Belt One Road (OBOR) Initiative of China, EM's can play a significant role in assisting Hong Kong. In this regard the United Muslim Association of Hong Kong would like to request the government to consider setting up a one-stop information hub and training centre dedicated to the EMs that will fully utilize their knowledge and skills to answer the need for youth education and skills training⁶, as well as provide opportunities for Hong Kong community to have more interaction with the countries involved, order for Hong Kong to *serve as an effective "super connector"*⁷.

We hope that the Hong Kong government can consider partnering with us as well as other ethnic minority groups to provide training(language and skills) and opportunities(bridging programs) for those trained overseas to be accredited in Hong Kong, or assist EM's pursue further studies locally in occupations which are in demand such as education, health care and finance industry.

Similar to the Foundation Diploma program of Early Childhood Education in Edu HK, more programs in Applied Learning for the Senior Secondary school can be opened for EM in English for Early Childhood and other programs.

Better employment opportunities can only come with a better set of skills. We hope that the HK Government can help us to make HK a better home for the ethnic minority by 'adopting an inclusive and holistic strategy to help minorities integrate from schooling to employment, and leverage the social, cultural and economic links of its non-Chinese residents to re-energise Asia's world city.'⁸

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⁵ Doctors leaving Hong Kong in droves as emigration hits five-year high - <https://sc.mp/2sPKRsl>

⁶ <http://www.scmp.com/comment/insight-opinion/article/2097617/hong-kong-needs-youth-power-its-role-belt-and-road-super>

⁷ <http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/economy/article/2094257/hong-kong-delegates-get-front-row-vip-seats-belt-and-road>
<https://www.ambition.com.hk/blog/2017/02/2020-hot-jobs-prediction-what-will-be-the-most-in-demand-roles-in-hong-kong>
<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/health-environment/article/2062371/hong-kong-faces-serious-lack-health-care-worker>

⁸ <https://www.hongkongfp.com/2018/03/25/hong-kongs-ethnic-minorities-not-burden-opportunity-government-ignoring/>