

Hello everybody!

My name is Dane Izz Reyes. My nickname is Icy.

First, I want to thank you for inviting me here today to have a speech with you guys. The reason why I am really here is to discuss about the right of the ethnic minority. As you can see Hong Kong is filled of different ethnic groups, like myself, a Filipino.

Like me, they are having a hard time learning Chinese. We should talk about the situation of children. Children who are living in Hong Kong are also the future of Hong Kong. But if they don't know the language that we always use, Chinese, they won't be able to communicate with Hong Kong citizens.

And if they don't know how to communicate, they can't work when they grow up because they don't know Chinese language. We need to change that. We need to help the ethnic minorities improve their Chinese so that they can work for Hong Kong.

Take me as an example. When I first came to a Chinese kindergarten, I could not chat with my classmates. I could not even answer their questions. It was hard but when I went to primary school, it was more challenging.

First, it was about fitting in. Like I said, my Chinese was not that good so no one wanted to be friends with me. I did not feel accepted by my Chinese classmates. I don't want the ethnic minorities to feel what I have felt.

So my advice is, when the ethnic minorities enter a Chinese kindergarten, if they don't understand what their teacher teaches in class, the teachers should explain it to them in a way they can understand. In that way, they can learn Chinese without stressing out. Then maybe that will solve problem number one.

So now we move to problem of acceptance. They learn Chinese and they face classmates, we know at a very young age, they sometimes don't mind other people's feelings and say what they want to say. It sounds fine to them but the ethnic minorities sometimes feel sad and hurt to know what they are really thinking.

So what I'm trying to say is that I don't want any separation from normal children and ethnic minorities. If that happens, the ethnic minorities can't work in groups or activities. They will be sitting in corner watching their classmates play. That will affect the future of their lessons. They will be set aside, just like as if they are a broken pencil.

So I'm hoping that you will listen to my advice and decide to help these children, like myself. This is the end of my speech.