

Good afternoon everyone. I am Iqra Qunwal from Delia Memorial School (Broadway), currently a secondary 5 student. I am originally from Pakistan but I have been living in Hong Kong for a while.

Since Human Right of Children includes Right to development and participation, which includes equal education. I would like to talk about the education of ethnic minority which affects their future in Hong Kong, for example, the Chinese learning situation, the school support, difficulty for parents' involvement etc.

My younger brother goes to a mainstream Chinese school. He has problems in learning Chinese, the school provides after-school tutorials, but it isn't adequate. His Chinese ability is not only affecting his Chinese but also all the other subjects as they are all taught in Chinese. I also know that he is not the only one who is facing this problem, but also some of my cousins and friends who go to mainstream schools are also facing this problem. As language barrier is the main problem, it is also hard for the parents to know what is going on in their child's school, as all the notices are provided only in Chinese.

The Education Bureau should provide strict and concrete guidelines and resources to schools to help Ethnic Minorities to improve their Chinese.

The second problem we ethnics face in Hong Kong is that we rarely get an opportunity to mingle with locals as in DSS schools Ethnic minorities are the majority. There is the concentration of Ethnic minorities in these schools because mainstream schools don't accept Ethnic minorities. So it is not our CHOICE to study in these school. In these schools, we are taught an easy level of Chinese which is not adequate. Living in a place like Hong Kong we have to learn how to communicate with locals in their native language (Cantonese), as we might be working with or for them in the future. Learning Cantonese is not only about work opportunities but also crucial for us to integrate into mainstream society and to actively participate in society. Learning and growing up together with Chinese students will clear misunderstandings or any stereotypes which they have for each other. The Chinese and ethnic minority students will bond and learn about each other's culture and embrace one another.