

### School Kids Are the Top Priority

Our school has recently planned to engage in a voluntary work project covering one of the two main areas, which are assisting either the impoverished elderly or primary school kids... nearly come from China. Generally speaking, it is quite reasonable for us to offer assistance to both of them, but I prefer the latter more, and would like to explain three concrete grounds from different perspectives.

As far as language is concerned, there is a language barrier between those Chinese pupils and the local ones, which has pushed them to a catch-22 situation. A majority of the school children, without a shadow of a doubt, speak Chinese rather than Cantonese. However, with our local mother tongue teaching, hardly can they interact with the local students who usually speak Cantonese or even the global language English. As a result, they will be ignored owing to the problems brought by the language barrier, so it is necessary to lend them a hand to get rid of this dilemma soon, for example, providing some language courses in a bid to help them master Cantonese as well as English. Not only can this promote the exchange of ideas between the new comers and the local schoolmates, but this can also effectively overcome their language barrier.

Another reason is adaptation. It is crystal clear that there are big differences between mainland China and Hong Kong, especially the lifestyle and the culture. For instance, we, as the locals, particularly value citizen education and often obey the traffic rules, realizing that jaywalking is a serious offense. Nevertheless, after reaching the territory, those pupils may find difficulties adapting to our culture since the phenomenon of violating the rules might be rampant in the mainland, so we have to conduct more workshops or talks in order to instill them knowledge about the local lifestyle and culture. It is certain that they will easily adjust to them.

Besides adaptation, discrimination against the new arrivers is also a reason why we should give them a hand. To my knowledge, most of the Chinese school kids are so diligent that they always place much focus on academic performance while rarely spending time on entertainment. Although this puts them in advantageous positions, there will be indeed more enviers will tease and taunt them and make them sink into nervous breakdowns. Therefore, we must guide the Chinese pupils how to cope with bullying and discrimination by providing them counseling and social advice. This enables them to deal with the predicaments positively and appropriately. If there had been no such assistance, the new comers would have horrible school lives.

As mentioned above, it is essential to show regard for and lend hands to the primary school kids from the motherland because of three reasons: to help them remove the language barrier; to assist them in adjusting to local culture and lifestyle ; and to provide counseling and social advice for them. Some people may argue that underprivileged senior citizens need our assistance more, but in fact there are many social services exclusively for them like pensions and Personal Emergency Social Service Link. It is hoped that my suggestion will be taken into consideration and approved.