

隔牆有耳：社協記招 升呢唔草根

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■社協記招以往紮根舊唐樓(上圖)，今次同畢馬威會計師事務所合作，過海兼「上樓」見傳媒(下圖)，基層都大開眼界。



社協主任何喜華嘅日嘅英語學習嘅記招上自爆，細個好怕學英文，試過俾老師考起，惟有面懵話唔識答，驚到唔敢返學。畢業後跟社運界前輩陳立僑醫生做嘢，俾佢點醒咗，話學英文就好似學游水，越大越驚，咁就要快啲鼓起勇氣喇。

講番社協記招，以往多數嘅深水埗桂林街舊唐樓舉行，相當草根，今次就係同合作咗10年嘅畢馬威會計師事務所(KPMG)合作，即刻「升呢」過海到銅鑼灣希慎廣場KPMG新開嘅環保辦公室見傳媒，唔少基層學童都大開眼界。

機構辦課程 改善弱勢童英語

有機構關注基層學生學英語，去年起為他們推出補英文計劃。

其中有貧窮女生住在狹窄居所，日夜只能伏在地上做功課學英語，她在參加計劃後，成績獲得改善，她笑言夢想是成為能拉近貧富懸殊的女特首。

高小生不懂英文Yellow

負責設計該計劃課程內容的機構指，參與課程的學生英文程度大多較正常低兩、三個年級，有高小生連簡單英文生字如黃色（Yellow）、11（Eleven）、7（Seven）也不懂。

香港社區組織協會聯同畢馬威會計師事務所（KPMG），自去年起推行「基層學生英文學習及家庭支援計劃」，為期3年，對象主要為新移民、綜援或低收入家庭、及居住環境惡劣的學生，首年有212名讀小四至中學、英文基礎程度較弱的學生參加。

協助設計課程的智國集團區域總監施育曉指，基層學生遇問題時不敢在課堂上發問，而年紀愈大的，其自信心愈不足。他又以年齡約13、14歲的參與者為例，指他們屬心靈最脆弱一群。他又又認為，家庭資源不足是最影響基層生學英文。

劏房女生 立志做特首

家住劏房，只能伏在地上完成家課的李雪蓮，兩年前由內地來港讀小四，由起初英文成績只獲合格分數，到兩年後擢升至80分以上成績，現在更有信心自己可升大學；對前途滿懷理想的她笑言曾夢想當女特首。

新移民童望做特首



▲李雪蓮(黃啟安攝)

新移民童望做特首

志願 社區組織協會與畢馬威會計師事務所去年起推行基層中小學生英文「補底」學習計劃。協會訪問計劃的60名學生，發現他們不再抗拒英文課。住劏房的小六生李雪蓮說，兩年前從內地移居香港時，對26個英文字母「識寫唔識讀」，但經計劃訓練和苦讀後，現在校內的英文考試可奪取近90分佳績，並希望將來成為特首，幫助基層學童解決學習困難。🌐

Needy children benefit from English programme

SOCIETY

Needy children benefit from English programme

After eight months, a survey finds participants have much better skills and are more confident

Shirley Zhao and Jennifer Ngo

An English afterschool programme for underprivileged children has produced good results after only eight months.

A survey, released yesterday by poverty relief group the Society for Community Organisation (Soco), found 87 per cent of the children they surveyed who were in the programme recorded a 10 per cent improvement in their English skills.

The children took an exam in June and their scores had improved an average of 10 points in a 100-point marking system when compared with an exam taken in December last year.

The three-year HK\$3.6 million programme, which began in November, is co-funded by international auditor KPMG and the Social Welfare Department under the government's Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged scheme. Each year it aims to help at least 150 children from poor families to improve their English with after-school tutoring, online teaching and by improving the home environment of those who live in subdivided flats.

The survey, which was conducted last month and involved 60 pupils in the programme and 48 parents, defines poverty as a household earning less than

HK\$6,062 per month – half of the median income of all households in the city.

Some 212 children from families living under the poverty line are in the programme. More than 40 per cent live in subdivided flats and about a third are new immigrants from the mainland.

Lau Yip-sum, 11, came to

Hong Kong in 2004 with his mother and younger brother. They live with his father in a subdivided flat in Sham Shui Po, surviving on his father's wage of about HK\$10,000 a month. They pay about HK\$4,000 a month for rent and utilities.

Lau said he used to dislike English and did not understand what his teacher was talking about, but the programme got him to learn the basics again and he gradually became more interested in learning. His scores had improved from the lowest 23 to the latest 73. "Now I really want to learn English more," he said.

Soco director Ho Hei-wah said poor parents tended to be less educated and could not help their children study. They also did not have enough money to pay for extra classes. "In the past, poor children could change their fate through studying hard," said Ho. "But it's no longer possible with such a wide wealth gap."

In the past, poor children could change their fate through studying hard

HO HEI-WAH, SOCO DIRECTOR



Soco's survey found children were improving. Photo: Nora Tam