

Class : 6E

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Topic : Report on NEETs

Jeff, a typical Hong Kong NEET who hides himself at home and locks himself in a closed area, uses the computer and cellphone around the clock. Jeff revealed that he was aged 20 and had no motivation to be what he wanted to be in society in the future. I am convinced that Jeff is not the first case of being a NEET, nor will he be the last. In this report, I am going to take a closer look into the reasons why NEETs are increasing in numbers across the territory. And some remedial methods to contend with the problem.

The reasons why NEETs are prevalent nowadays are fourfold, with the devastating setbacks they face being the most patent one. The vast majority of NEETs are at the age of 20. To put it differently, they are the graduates of secondary schools but they failed miserably at the final stage to enter a new world – the HKDSE. They might at first think they were nothing but a social loser. This slowly builds a stumbling block to their career development. Adding fuel to the situation are the NEETs' fragile hearts. Given the fact that teenagers have not gone through many hurdles before, they are usually not tough enough to overcome obstacles. When time passes by, the stumbling block will turn into frustration, resulting in them falling into a boundless abyss.

What also casts light on the phenomenon is the general public's lack of sympathy for teenagers. Little do we know about their feelings. The days when the entire family sit on the sofa and watch AFVs are long since gone. Nowadays, parents need to fight against their heavy workload around the clock. Other than that, teenagers need to live up to their parents' expectation. It is indisputable that youngsters face a lot of arduous words. However, what is more deplorable is that parents cannot maintain intimacy with their children. The helpless feeling creeps out and pushes teenagers over the edge. Once when they can no longer withstand the pressure, they opt out and choose to be a NEET, feeling desperate and self-abandoned.

Apart from the helpless feeling and insurmountable setbacks, the cut-throat competition in the metropolis also wastes a lot of talents. In this competitive city, only those talented talents will be the centre of attention. The community keeps shaming the weaker students albeit they are still talented. It is public knowledge that

the higher the expectation, the more painful the feeling is. When students face obstacles, they would have this thought in their mind, "If it had not been for the fierce competition in this metropolis, my talent could have been spotted and I could have triumphed most students by now." With this thought, they lose faith and give up fighting to be one of the best students.

Nonetheless, it is still not too late to reverse the deteriorating situation. There are two stakeholders who need to hold responsibility to bail the NEETs out of the abyss. First and foremost, it is of paramount importance for the government to provide spiritual support to the NEETs. As we have already noticed that NEETs lack self-esteem, they do not have much motivation to reinvigorate themselves. They are very much dead fishes wishing to be alive. Thus, the government should offer them support, ranging from home visits to moral education. Their assistance can definitely help those NEETs to rekindle their enthusiasm.

Alongside the spiritual support, parents can strike a better work-life balance so as to seize the opportunity for more face-to-face communication with their children. At the age of 20, teenagers are nothing but a bird without wings. They may need mental support when they have no idea how to tackle the problems related to the HKDSE or coping with stress. However, with more interaction and heart-to-heart talks, they can get to gain more knowledge.

By and large, the situation of NEETs, although formidable, is in no way insurmountable. Not only do parents and the government hold the responsibility to ameliorate the problem, teenagers themselves also need to put their best foot forward. This can mend their broken hearts and rebuild their self-esteem, paving the way to the journey of triumph.