

4B Cheng Le Wah

From: Miss Joe Chan

Dear Peter,

How are you? Thanks for your last letter to me. The photos and the information in the last letter really help me a lot. It's great to hear from you and I'm sorry if I have been slow to answer. I had to complete an important project at school so I was very busy a while back. Since I have completed the project now, I have more spare time to write to you. Anyway, I'm delighted to hear that you have won the piano competition. Keep up the good work!

I'm writing to examine three reasons for child poverty. I also want to discuss the impacts of this on our children.

Recently, I have become the Chairperson of my school's Social Awareness Group, and I feel shocked after learning about the facts of child poverty. Because you are constantly involved in helping those who are in need in the society, I'd like to discuss this topic with you. You know much more than me on the topic of child poverty, don't you?

I believe that one of the causes of this phenomenon is single parent family. In these families, children only live with his father or mother. They are usually in a condition of working poor – working people whose income fall below the poverty line. Although they are employed, they can't earn enough for the family. As a result, child poverty emerges in single parent families.

While single parent family is one of the causes, fewer job opportunities are also another reason for child poverty. There aren't enough job opportunities in Hong Kong, so it is hard to find a job. When parents can't find a job, they have no income for the family and can hardly make both ends meet. Thence, the family will be living in poverty, and child poverty will also appear.

The government is also responsible for child poverty. The problem of child poverty is very serious in Hong Kong, but the government hasn't paid attention to the problem. It has set up commissions for different categories such as the elderly and the youth, but not for children. The government hasn't tackle the problem well, so the problem remains unsolved in Hong Kong.

As for the impacts of child poverty on children, it will surely affect children's growth, daily life and mental health. Children suffering from poverty may have malnutrition – a condition that results from eating an unbalanced diet. In order to thrift money, their choice of food is limited. They'll also have a low quality of life because they can't get what they really want. They are not satisfied with their life. Last of all, they are more likely to have low self-esteem since it is obvious for them that they are living in poverty and have a harder life than others.

I guess I have to stop here. Please give my best wishes to everyone in your family. Take care and remember not to work too hard. Do write to me again when you have time. I am always looking forward to hearing from you.

Best Wishes,

Chris