

Commission on Poverty (CoP)
Task Force on Children and Youth
Meeting held on 28 July 2005
Gist of Discussion

The CoP Task Force on Children and Youth held its second meeting on 28 July 2005.

Item (1) Projects in Building Social Capital on Children and Youth (CoP/TFCY Paper 2/2005)

2. The Meeting was briefed on the latest developments of the “Mentorship Fun” Project, which seeks to nurture social capital through encouraging voluntarism and sense of care within the education sector and noted that the project would be officially launched in October this year. Members also took note of the genesis, objectives and rationale of the “Adopt-A-School” Project, which can help make the best use of the experience and resources of the private sector, as well as using school as a platform in fostering the development of the younger generation.

3. Members commented on the two projects and recognized that they represented a new mode of collaboration involving different sectors, not only the Government and social work agencies, but also the private sector and schools in tackling intergenerational poverty. They also supported building on voluntarism in the community through these projects.

4. The Meeting agreed that the Secretariat would prepare guidelines for the projects taking into account the relevance to addressing intergenerational poverty.

Item (2) Presentation by Social Welfare Department

5. Members were briefed on the Understanding Adolescent Project and the P.A.T.H.S. to Adulthood, in particular their relevance to tackling intergenerational poverty. Members noted that all students from participating schools, regardless of their family income and background enjoyed equal access to the projects, and special development needs of students, especially those from disadvantaged background would be adequately and specifically catered for under the programmes.

Item (3) Existing Services for Children and Youth Relevant to Intergenerational Poverty and Proposed Focus of Work of the Task Force (CoP/TFCY Paper 1/2005)

6. The Meeting discussed the existing programmes relevant to reducing the risks of intergenerational poverty by adopting a life-cycle approach and focussed on the risk factors contributing to poverty, the screening mechanism in place and the specific measures used in tackling the high risk factors.

7. While keeping in view the salient developments of the existing programmes, Members put emphasis on measures that improve the existing programme interface so that different programmes and policies were better integrated to ensure the wholesome development of children and youth. Members were aware of the need to share information on children's specific needs and other development problems among agencies with a view to facilitating a better coordination of services and earlier intervention. The Meeting agreed that the Secretariat would further explore its feasibility with the Privacy Commissioner and other relevant parties.

8. Lastly, Members considered it desirable for the Secretariat to elaborate further on the conceptual framework on how to promote joint community efforts in tackling intergenerational poverty and conduct further fact-findings on the correlation between poverty and various development aspects of children and youth by working with other bureaux.

Commission Secretariat

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