

Hakka TV, Indigenous TV, Mother Tongue Education

- I think indigenous people in Taipei have the same rights as we do so I don't think there is any difference.
- Although indigenous people are different from us, they enjoy the same rights as others.
- I have a neighbor who is indigenous. I don't think his rights are suppressed.
- I think they are good. Although they were deemed disadvantaged, they were still able to do the best they could. Therefore, I think they are entitled to the same rights as us.

Why should Hakka TV and Indigenous TV exist?

- To pass on cultures and mother tongues and let other people know about these.
- I think the point is about promoting cultures. A dedicated indigenous TV channel helps others know more about their cultures.
- A dedicated Hakka TV channel helps not only non-Hakka people but also the Hakkas to know more about their culture. This is because some Hakkas are sinoficated like plains aborigines. A Hakka channel can help them to learn about their own culture and mother tongue.
- I have an indigenous friend who barely speaks his mother tongue but he thinks he should learn more about his own culture so that he can help others to understand his group of people. If he speaks his mother tongue well, he can help pass it on.
- We know that the older generation of indigenous peoples stay in the mountains while the younger generation migrate to big cities to earn a living. Second-generation aborigines in the big cities sometimes don't even know their identity or culture. They are told by the public about their culture and characteristics because they know so little about themselves. Therefore they need to take the initiative to learn more than what they learn from the media and they should be encouraged to interact with the older generation in the mountains.

What do we think about mother tongues and mother tongue education in school?

- My grandfather speaks better Chinese and Taiwanese than his Hakkanese but he insists speaking Hakkanese to us because he feels the responsibility to pass on the legacy. When one speaks one more language, one can have one more channel to communicate. Take myself for example, when I participate in Hakkanese events, I get to know other Hakka people who share many similarities.
- I am Hakka and I feel a sense of belonging, I feel home when I speak the language. But when I speak non-mother tongues, I don't feel I belong.

How is mother tongue education in your elementary school?

- I go to Wego Elementary School in Taipei and the school doesn't teach local languages like Hakkanese or indigenous languages. We only study Chinese classics and literature.
- My school doesn't provide Hakka language teaching and every student is required to study Taiwanese. I don't think this is a good idea because there are Japanese and African students in my class and they are not learning their native

language and culture.

How do you feel about not being able to continue to study your mother tongue in junior high school?

- I feel my rights are deprived because I don't get to continue to study the Hakka language. But others don't get to study Taiwanese either so my sense of deprivation is not so strong.

Based on the following reasons, we think mother tongue education should continue to junior high school:

- If you stop learning a language, you will get rusty very easily and that means the six years of learning in elementary school would be in vain. All your language competence and money invested would go down the drain. I suggest mother tongue education should continue all the way to university.
- Lack of practice makes the effort of the past six years in vain. Besides, if you want to compete in mother tongue contests, it'd be more difficult if you stop learning in junior high school.
- I think it's a real shame that mother tongue education is not offered in junior high. There are students who were born to a Taiwanese-speaking father and a foreign mother and it's a pity that they stop learning Taiwanese after six years.

Unpleasant Internet Experiences

Unpleasant experiences we encountered on the Internet:

- I came across an uncensored photo of a dying antelope killed by a hunter when I was browsing international news. There was blood in the picture and I felt quite uncomfortable.
- I entered a movie streaming website and I came across obscene photos, showing disgusting nudity GIFs.
- I've never seen nudity on the Internet but I've seen ads about sex toys.
- On the side of websites were revealing pictures of women. They were not complete nudity but they clearly exposed women's body.
- My younger brother frequents a game website where there are games for children as well as violent ones. I clicked on one of those games and I saw an ad which showed a girl's picture, asking whether you wanted to challenge her or take her body.
- I played a shooting game on the Internet and there were obscene pictures on the side. You cannot turn off the ads and they are always there next to your game.
- I saw half-naked porn ads on YouTube. I remember accidentally clicked on one of those ads when I was searching for information and I was directed to a Japanese porn website or a sex toy website. I couldn't return by pressing the back button. I had to click on the X on the upper right corner so I could exit the website.

The connection of pornography with life:

- Girls are disgusted by porn websites but boys get excited. The boys in my class enter those websites to imitate their moves. They are exposed to pornography because when they watch game broadcast, there are ads on the side. They perform what they see in those ads and claim they have good sexual skills. I think those ads encourage them to know more about sex.
- There are people who even recommend porn videos and imitate sexual acts publicly!
- I started hearing my classmates talking about pornography since the third grade.
- My classmates started to imitate sexual acts since the second grade. Your neighbor may talk about pornography all day long and you have no choice but to listen.

Our opinions about porn websites:

- It's a matter of mindset. You will be exposed to porn websites sooner or later. You just have to have the right mentality. If you have wrong ideas about pornography, it'd still be the same no matter how late you are exposed to it. You just have to have a clear mind about it.
- Sex is not a bad thing. Sex exists for other species such as dogs as well. Without sex, we will not be able to produce the next generation.
- You may find it's okay to visit porn websites but you are just not allowed to watch porn whatsoever.
- I don't think it's a big deal because it's only a matter of time. It wouldn't hurt if I watch porn now and it can become a conversation subject among classmates.
- I think we should adopt an open attitude. The more you block them, the more people would want to watch.

- The more you block them, the more people would want to watch.
- I think porn websites are restricted to people 18 years of age and over because adults are more mature than curious children. Sex is taught in the school system and if you are exposed to sexual videos beforehand, you may develop a wrong idea about it. Children should learn about sex in a gradual way and that's why porn websites are R18.

School Curriculum

School start and end times:

- Normally it's 7:30am to 8:10pm. It's 7:30am to 8:30pm for the seventh grade; 7:30am to 9pm for the eighth grade; and school ends even later for senior high students, who have to go to school on Saturdays as well.
- It's 7:30am to 5:40pm for the seventh grade; for the eighth grade, it's 7:30am to 9pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and 7:30am to 5:40pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays; and 7:30am to 9pm for the ninth grade, who have to go to school on Saturdays as well.
- I have to arrive at school at 7:20am because I am responsible to clean areas outside of my classroom. School ends at 5:10pm for me.
- It's 7am to 5pm. You are only considered late after 7:30am.
- It's 7:30am to 4:45pm. All ninth graders are subject to stay for the ninth hour and the high achievers even have a tenth hour in order to be admitted to the best senior high schools for boys and girls in Taipei.

What do you think about school curriculum?

- The Civic Life and Ethics program for the first and second graders are very boring. They only teach you about the five food groups, how to brush your teeth and stuff. I have already learned the knowledge from my parents or watching *Shimajiro*. (Translator's note: Shimajiro is a tiger character in Benesse's videos for children and is very popular in Taiwan)
- The Civic Life and Ethics textbook left a strong impression on me because it mentions festivals such as things to do on the Dragon Boat Festival in addition to how to brush your teeth and stuff. The textbook also talks about culture and it helps students to learn Social Studies better for third graders and up.
- In terms of music education, I think some parts are useful while others aren't. For example, learning how to play the recorder. Unless you end up being a street performer in the future or you are really interested, it is not useful in your daily life. Singing is different though because it helps relax your mind and body and you can even join a chorus. I prefer singing than recorder playing.
- I think the number of hours for main subjects should be reduced so that students would actually do better in exams. My junior high school allocates so many hours for the main subjects because they hope that we can do better in exams than students in other schools. But they totally forget that having time off is really important.
- Counseling class is useless because we are taught how to deal with stress, how to study more effectively and how to take notes. But it isn't a one-size-fits-all solution for everyone and not all students are concerned with pressure.
- I think counseling class can be canceled because we are asked to write things like our profile, which is of little help. It is something we write in order to be admitted to senior high school and we wouldn't keep it afterwards. Adults always say that junior high students lack physical exercise but we are confined to school from 7:30am to 8pm. How are we supposed to get enough exercise? I think there should be more flexibility in the usage of the counseling class so we can study what really interests us.
- I think every class in junior high is important. I'd prefer to have more hours for performing arts, visual arts and audio arts.

- I have an issue with the eighth hour. Every student is required to participate so since everyone is around, teachers then use the time for teaching or quizzes. The eighth hour should be used for counseling purposes or as a time for relaxation but in the end it all turns sour. Seventh graders are still three years away from the entrance exam to senior high school but they start to feel the pressure with the existence of the eighth hour. When we were given a sheet asking whether we'd want to stay for the eighth hour, it said the hour was used for counseling purposes and not for teaching any school subject. But in reality, it is no different from any other hour during the day.

Human Rights Education

How is human rights education in your school?

- I've never had an hour of human rights education.
- I can only remember a teacher playing a video about the history of human rights in a morning assembly. Human rights were developed after certain incidents and then kept improving. The teacher also gave us a sheet stating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- I remember my Civics teacher once mentioned civil associations.
- In accordance with the school curriculum, the first sectional exam will cover human rights in the Constitution such as rights of personal freedom and equality, and the second exam will cover the rights in the Civil Code. You have to memorize the types of questions for each right in order to get a good score.
- My teacher made handouts for us. The content of the handouts came from the essence of the textbook with many examples on the side. There were more examples in the handouts than the textbook. There were many blanks in the handouts and you had to pay attention in class to fill out the blanks.
- I don't remember having any course about human rights.
- The textbook didn't explicitly talk about human rights but my teacher touched on the idea when he talked about the UN helped improve girls' literacy in Afghanistan.

Information Searching (Tools + Savviness)

Our access to information includes:

- The Internet
- Libraries
- School teachers

Problems encountered when searching for information at school:

- There is no access to information at school because mobile phones are not allowed in my private school. Only electronic dictionaries are allowed so there is no way for us to look for information.
- We can register to use the computer lab during lunch time so if we need to search for information, print materials or type our homework, we can get them done in the lab. However, all electronic devices are prohibited in the classroom. If we want to use an electronic dictionary, we have to get the teacher's permission first.
- We cannot use electronic devices in our elementary school and if we bring a device to school, it has to be kept off. But if we are required to turn in an essay or a report, the teacher will take the whole class to the computer lab. So there is no problem getting access to information.
- The school library keeps mainly novels and very few encyclopedias. Popular books and picture books are placed in the front of the bookshelves while information books are put in the back. But the back is usually dirty, dusty, stinky and smells like urine. The books there are also old and broken so no one would want to go to the back.

Problems encountered when searching for information in the library:

- Children's books and novels are placed in the front of the bookshelves in the municipal library while reference books are old and limited in number. But it may be very important for some people to have easy access to quality reference books so I hope the library can improve in that regard.
- I remember I once went to a library which said the book I wanted to borrow couldn't be checked out and there was no copier either. So I had no choice but to jot down the information I needed.
- A librarian told me where I could find the reference book I was looking for but the reference section was so outdated. Sometimes I saw new books like *The United States will Perish in 25 Years* but they are useless for me. Maybe they are useful for others but not for me. The reference section is just of little help to me.

Problems encountered when searching for information on the Internet:

- When I am in a hurry to find information, I may forget to use multiple keywords. For example, I wanted to research the August 23 Artillery Battle and I was desperate to find answers. So I used the same keyword to search for information and I was only able to find little information.
- Sometimes what we are looking for only has English information. When we try to search with Chinese keywords, very little information is available. This is maybe because not many Taiwanese people are involved in that particular field and therefore not much Chinese information can be found online. In that case, we need to use English keywords to find more information but we have no idea

what the English keywords are.

- Many sources of information contain very similar content and you have to try very hard to find unique information. For example, I was working on a report of dinosaurs and then I went to Wikipedia, which only contained content like their height and weight. There wasn't much useful information.
- The Internet only provides international news from long ago and it's difficult to find information about the latest news or things I don't know or haven't seen. I tried to resort to newspapers in the library but there was a lot of nonsense and I wasn't able to get what I wanted. I wanted to know more about breaking news but all I found was just old data.

Why do we think it's important to know how to find information on the Internet?

- The Internet is a sea of information which provides useful data if you know the right keywords whereas it's difficult to look for information from books because you have to read all the pages. I am a fan of Harry Potter and I am able to get information on the Internet, which makes me a more loyal fan.
- Some people are not used to using consumer electronics and they need to get an instructor to learn better. Others are digital natives and they just learn faster than the digital immigrants. If I need help, I can go see more websites and find other keywords to help me get more information.
- I think some people know it better than others as to know what keywords will work. This is just like studying for quizzes: it's impossible to memorize the whole textbook and you will just have to know the key ideas. Some people know how to drill down to the essence of a text while others cannot distinguish insignificant from significant.
- You have to keep developing your computer literacy such as using the right keywords.

Internet Experiences (Internet Usage + Internet Experiences)

When did you start using the Internet?

- From the third grade.

Is there any difference to your life since you started using the Internet?

- I didn't spend much time on the computer or mobile phone before I started using Facebook. Before I had my own Facebook account, I used my dad's and his Facebook feeds were boring. But since I have my own account, I stay connected to it all the time. I follow some Internet celebrities and I never miss their posts.
- Since I have Internet access on my mobile phone, Line message notification sounds keep bothering me. My father doesn't want me to mute it because I will miss his messages. But I just cannot concentrate on my reading anymore.

How do you feel about being able to get information on the Internet?

- The keywords "Harry Potter and actors" led to a lot of web pages. I clicked on the pages and read behind-the-scenes stories, which made me really happy and excited because I was able to know how the characters felt when acting for the movie. In one of the stories, I saw an antagonist using an Apple computer, which made me feel quite interesting.

- I was reading *Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard* by Rick Riordan, the author of *Percy Jackson*. The new book is based on Norse mythology. I finished reading the book first and I searched for more information in Norse mythology such as Thor's hammer. I was amazed by the search results, which allowed me to know more about the things I read in the book.
- I think YouTube is really powerful. I like listening to Western songs. I often search for a particular singer's songs on YouTube and then I may end up landing on many pages and subscribe to channels featuring different singers. This is because when a song is about to finish, YouTube will play another one immediately. The Autoplay feature recommends music that I like based on my viewing history. Although sometimes the music is not appropriate for my age, I still enjoy listening to the recommendations.

What's the difference between getting information on the Internet and learning knowledge from school?

- It depends. If you like studying, you may feel the same between the two. However, if you don't like studying, you may feel amazed by the information available on the Internet. I have a classmate who is interested in a shooting game *Overwatch*. He spends his off-school time looking for information about the game and he is way more attentive off-school than in-school. This is because he has found his interest.
- I remember a substitute Chinese teacher taught *Rush* by Zhu Ziqing. The teacher quickly went through the text without explaining why the author wrote this article. But when I resorted to the Internet, I understood his state of mind and what he wanted to convey in his words. But the substitute teacher just made the article so boring.

How does being a Participant of the Award-winning Hakka TV Show Affect You? (Translator's note: this program sends out children as journalists for interviews and discusses issues from children's point of view)

- It broadens my horizons and my understanding towards the world.
- I would be exposed to things I normally wouldn't know. For example, as an audience, I wouldn't be interested in knowing more about the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant and its related documentaries because it's just not relevant to my life. However, because of the show, I watched a documentary interviewing a group of old people. This was something I wouldn't do as an audience.
- It's easier for me to become a leader in group discussions in class. Normally students stay quiet or go off-topic during discussions. I didn't know how to talk during discussions and I tried to be quiet as much as possible because my classmates always insisted on their own opinions and wouldn't listen to what I said. However, things changed after I joined the show and now I am able to influence my classmates.
- I have learned a lot in the show. The things that I learned support me to have different opinions from my classmates. The show allows us to freely express our opinions. I know some TV programs prep the attendees about what to say but this is not the case here. We always make impromptu remarks during the show and I never have to plan in advance.

How does it affect your life?

- I think mass media tend to make untruthful reports in order to attract more viewers. It'd be great if the public are willing to listen to what children have to say.
- Once I interviewed a dietician about breakfast and I learned a lot from that experience. Taiwanese people don't consider breakfast an important meal but it is in fact quite the contrary. If one doesn't eat enough for the first meal after sleep, it will affect one's energy level and nutrition. It's also important to have enough vegetables for breakfast because if you only eat meat and fat, it will be bad for your health.

How does it affect your relationship with your classmates?

- I shared with my close classmates about what I learned in terms of air pollution. I also changed my behavior. Now I wear a mask if the air quality is bad and I wear a mask during the whole winter as well.
- There is a boy in my class who never turns in his homework and he doesn't pay attention to teachers. There was a time the whole class bullied him and the teachers also made unpleasant statements against him. Then I told my class to watch a particular episode and things changed for the better afterwards.
- Some of my classmates criticize some boy in next room by saying he is sissy. I don't think it's a good idea to do so. Although he is a soft person, it doesn't mean it's okay to verbally abuse him. There is a term called "gender expression" which tells us men are not necessarily masculine while women are not always soft. Therefore we shouldn't describe a boy as sissy.
- I think it's better for my classmates to stay as audience because the TV show is the essence of our work and the audience don't need to spend as much time as we do in order to understand an issue. If you want to become a journalist in the

show, you have to have extensive knowledge. I don't encourage my fellow classmates to participate in the show because I am afraid they will find it time-consuming and they cannot get much out of their time. It will be better for them to stay as audience.