



03 *DSEJ encourages young people to involve in volunteer work*

Preface

As per the youth affairs policy objectives for 2012 of the MSAR Government, students and youth will be further encouraged to partake in volunteer work to nurture their spirit of “helping-others” and “helping oneself”, and thereby help to create a healthier environment for the development of young people.

According to the data presented in the “civic duties and social participation” of the Macao Youth Indicators Social Survey 2010, with respect to social participation, 38.3% of the young respondents said they had taken part in social charitable activities in the past six months, which is similar to the findings of the 2008 survey. The findings of the 2010 survey also showed that more young people took part in the “discussion on youth policy” and “voting activities related to the Legislative Assembly election, 13.7% had voiced their opinion on youth policy, an increase of 4.8% compared to 2008; and 43.2% had participated in the voting in Legislative Assembly election, a significant rise of 11.5% compared to 2008.

Related Policies and Work Plan

Seeing that the abovementioned survey found an upward trend with respect to the participation of youth in the “social” arena in Macao, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) plans to create, in cooperation with schools, youth associations and all sectors of the society, a social environment for young people to participate in volunteer work and to promote volunteer work by implementing in an orderly manner the various plans proposed.

On the part of the school, in order to give full play to the educational function of the school, family and society, and actively promote moral and civic education, the “Social Service Ambassador” Competition will continue to take place, so as to foster the awareness of serving the society, sense of responsibility and positive values of students/youth through diverse learning modes and in a sustained manner, as well as such noble attitudes as readiness to help others and unselfish dedication. Besides, the DSEJ encourages schools to organise volunteer activities for students through applying subsidies for leisure activities under the “School Development Plan”, creating a school environment that supports and promotes students’ engagement in volunteer work.

In addition, the pilot project of “Experience the fun of volunteering together” is being launched in the academic year 2012/2013, which not only encourages schools and student associations’ initiatives to organise and undertake volunteer work, but also helps schools to compile the “volunteer work experience record” for students, pushing local schools to indicate the record of student participation in volunteer services in the report card, thus enabling engagement in volunteer work to become a complementary indication of students’ personal development.

In terms of youth affairs, the Youth Affairs Committee will set up a task force team to extensively collect opinions and suggestions on the development of volunteer work. At the same time, training will be improved. The DSEJ plans to cooperate with civic organisations to offer training and exchange activities, targeting at young people, young community workers, as well as school teachers and social workers respectively, so as to enable them to understand the core concepts and skills related to volunteer work.

On the community level, the DSEJ plans to expand and improve the existing conditions for subsidy schemes, offering more opportunities for young people to be involved in volunteer services; to integrate resources from various sources and create a web exchange platform on youth volunteer work. Furthermore, by launching the incentive scheme to encourage youth to engage in volunteer work and establishing a registration system, the DSEJ aims to promote young volunteers’ social recognition and sense of commitment, as well as to further support organisations that provide volunteer services and training.

How parents can guide and motivate children to participate in volunteer service

Young people should be encouraged to take initiative to do volunteer work, and to incorporate volunteering into their lives, and parents should assume a more proactive role.

In today’s competitive society, parents hope their children can be successful in their careers. With this in mind, they tend to promote the intellectual development of their children, while perhaps neglecting to foster the right social attitudes. Also it’s not common to see parents spontaneously encouraging their children to serve other people or participate in social affairs, which may explain why the younger generation sometimes gives the impression of being aloof and lacking sense of responsibility. In fact, parents’ affirmation and encouragement of children’s engagement in social volunteer services can help youngsters to develop a more positive and deeper understanding of volunteer work, offering them a best way to interact with and serve the society.

Therefore lately the DSEJ is attaching more importance to promoting home-school cooperation and organising parent-child activities, so as to encourage parents to spend more time with their children, thus becoming partners in their development. If parents undertake volunteer work together with their children, then the two generations can experience and share the fun of volunteering, which, besides enhancing the parent-child relationship, can also foster children’s sense of responsibility and readiness to contribute to the community, helping all those in need.

Division of Youth Organisations and Training

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