Languages with no barriers - Fredie Hung sees the world in many ways

EDUPLUS.hk Learning Life

https://eduplus.hk/llm/article.php?artid=128&llmid=34&ieid=1&cindex=4&mid=16

The world is big, the most direct way to understand a country and its culture is to learn the language of the country. Learning foreign languages is the interest of many people, but it is not easy to learn about the history, culture and religion of a country through foreign languages. For Fredie Hung, learning modern Greek, ancient Indian Sanskrit, Cambodian and other languages that are not commonly studied by people is just the first step to get to know these countries. He believes that in order to understand the local history, culture and religion in depth, one must live and observe locally to discover the similarities and differences between the various ethnic groups in different countries.

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Apple human-interest story - Hong Konger learning Sanskrit Fredie Hung

Apple Daily 4th November, 2019

https://hk.appledaily.com/local/20191104/S7FZQCHOMT5SUGY536DI5US2MY/

In Hong Kong, few people have studied Sanskrit Fredie Hung is one of them. He is not a believer, but to read the New Testament, he studied in Athens and studied Greek; he went to India to study Sanskrit last year. There are 100+1 students in his class. He is the only Hong Konger, of which 9 out of 10 Indians, do not use Sanskrit. Even the staff of the Indian consulate in Hong Kong questioned it. It’s useless. Why learn it?

"If you do everything to be effective, is it useful to protest?" He admits he is naive, and he is really foolish. "If everyone knows more about different religions and races, there will be less disputes in the world."

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Hong Kong Story – the Quest of life To be, or not to be

RTHK 31st December, 2020

<https://www.rthk.hk/tv/dtt31/programme/hkstories46_eng/episode/722303>

Fredie HUNG started his interests in philosophy in his post graduate years. His Master’s Degrees in Anthropology and Religious Studies brought him closer to religion. As he wanted to understand more about different ethnic groups and religions, he started to learn foreign languages. He even went to the University of Athens to study Greek and India to study Sanskrit. Through learning foreign languages, he has a dream. He hopes that he can resolve the misunderstandings between different ethnic groups and religions, and be benevolent towards others.

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Mandatory universal testing - Lack of Information for Minorities

HK01 19th September, 2020 HK01

https://www.hk01.com/社會新聞/523592/全民檢測-少數族裔缺資訊-宣傳片僅得雙語-要另開文件睇字幕

Fredie Hung said that the accessibility of information is low ethnic minorities. He cited, that during the third wave of the epidemic in July, they were distributed with daily confirmed information and epidemic prevention tips. At that time, more than 100 cases had lasted for a while. But then received a lot of replies, "I was surprised that there were hundreds of confirmed cases," reflecting the obvious delay in receiving information from ethnic minorities. He also pointed out that he had received enquiries from Pakistani youths afterwards. How to classify the imported cases from local cases? "It is not because they are not willing to contact and understand, but because of the lack of information."

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Tenement Building (Tong Lau) Fire in Yau Ma Tei - Tenement Building Residents Moved to Chungking Mansion for Temporary Stay

Mingpao 16th November, 2020

<https://m.mingpao.com/ins/%E6%B8%AF%E8%81%9E/article/20201116/s00001/1605495254437/%E6%B2%B9%E9%BA%BB%E5%9C%B0%E5%94%90%E6%A8%93%E5%A4%A7%E7%81%AB-%E5%94%90%E6%A8%93%E4%BD%8F%E6%88%B6%E5%88%B0%E9%87%8D%E6%85%B6%E5%A4%A7%E5%BB%88%E6%9A%AB%E4%BD%8F>

A registered social worker Fredie Hung, who was present at the scene yesterday, said that the restaurant that caught fire was operated without a license, and sound insulation cotton was suspected to be burned during the fire. He said that a Nepalese told him that the soundproof cotton was used as a cover to prevent other residents from hearing the noise in the restaurant. According to Fredie Hung 's understanding, there are many similar unlicensed restaurants in the area, mainly operated by people of Nepalese or Bangladeshi. Due to their poor economic environment, they may take "slipping through legal cracks" to operate unlicensed restaurants in order to reduce costs.

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7 deceased came from at least 3 families. Nepalese women lost 3 relatives overnight.

Mingpao Canada 17th November, 2020

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/tor/htm/News/20201117/HK-gca2_r.htm>

A fire broke out in a tenement restaurant on Canton Road, Yau Ma Tei the night before, killing seven Nepalese men and women from at least three families, including the female proprietor of the restaurant, a 13-year-old girl and an 8-year-old boy. Some Nepalese women lost their husbands, brothers and sons overnight. The relationship between two other diners is unclear. Registered social worker Fredie Hung said that many ethnic minorities live in Yau Tsim Mong area. Due to language barriers, he and other ethnic minority community leaders provided support and assisted translation at various hospitals and fire scenes overnight.

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Free Flow Talk Free

Tenement Building fire in Yau Ma Tei kills seven, exposing flaws in fire control supervision

RTHK FM926 17th November, 2020

<https://www.rthk.hk/radio/radio1/programme/openline_openview/episode/716797>

Presenters: Chen Yanping, Ou Jialin, Chen Jingxiang, Lu Yuguang

Host: Lu Yuguang

Commentator: Chen Zhijie

Interviewee: Fredie Hung (registered social worker)

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Nepalese: Never thought that festivals would cause fatal fires

Now new 18th November, 2020

<https://news.now.com/mobile/local/player?newsId=413361>

The fire in the tenement house in Yau Ma Tei led to seven deaths. Friends of the family who died said that they had not accepted their departure. They also said that they had never thought that their festive customs might cause fatal fires, and that they might be replaced the candles to electronic candles in the future. Registered social worker Fredie Hung: "The economic situation of Nepalese in Hong Kong is not ideal. Many of them live in sub-divided or cubicle rooms. In small and narrow places, it is easy for sundry items, curtains or traditional clothing to accidentally catch fire and cause fire."

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Future city: old building fire hazard, new technology flexible problem solving?

Ol Mingpao 22th Nov, 2020

https://m.mingpao.com/ldy/cultureleisure/culture/20201122/1605984672575/未來城市-舊樓火災隱患-新科技靈活解難

Registered social worker Fredie Hung went to the hospital on the night of the fire to assist the families of the dead and injured, and released translation messages to the Nepalese ethnic group. Although he did not know the dead and injured directly, "I visited some relatives of the deceased and injured. They all lived in old-style tenement buildings. It is mainly rented. As far as I know, they are all short-term leases. They have always moved from time to time.” There are 80,000 South Asians in Hong Kong, mainly Indians, Pakistanis, and Nepalese. Among the ethnic communities, Indians have the best economic situation. They have been in Hong Kong for three or four generations. They are mainly businessmen. Many Nepalese do catering and security. The living environment or economic situation is not as good as that of Indians. Pakistanis have it more difficult their jobs mainly are construction site workers, security guards, and recycling workers Due to their customs and religious beliefs they have a high birth rate. It is quite common to see 6 to 10 people in a household, it is a more crowded situation."

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Lockdown Jordan Area - No food for elderly lady and ethnic minorities don’t know the arrangements. Summary: The dissemination of public information needs improvement

HK01 25th January, 2021

https://www.hk01.com/社會新聞/579075/佐敦封區-婆婆無飯食-少數族裔不知安排-總結-需增強資訊發放

Social workers say that the government’s announcement is chaotic

Fredie Hung, a social worker serving ethnic minorities, said that the Nepalese residents he contacted believe in Hinduism and their diet has not been affected too much. However, they felt that the information from the authorities was not clear. They learned about the arrangement very late. Some did not know until 9:00 last night that residents with negative test results could enter and leave the area, and some only learned about this at 3 a.m. this morning when will the lockdown end. He said that as a local person who knows both Chinese and English, he also finds the news confusing, making it more difficult for ethnic minorities.

As for the Yau Ma Tei Fruit Market and Sham Shui Po, which have been reported to have many confirmed cases, they may become the next lockdown area. Yau Tsim Mong District Councilor Li Ao-ran pointed out that Sham Shui Po also has many ethnic minorities. The authorities must pay attention to information release and circulation, as well as cultural differences. They should not distribute pork to Islam and shoudn’t distribute Indomie noodles to the elderly.

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Curfew and forced inspection – Yau Ma Tei lockdown, social worker Fredie Hung helps ethnic minority residents “I am so scared!”

立場新聞 23rd January, 2021

<https://www.thestandnews.com/society/禁足强檢-圍封油麻地-少數族裔受影響-社工熊百祥收居民求助-i-am-so-scared/>

The outbreak in Yau Tsim Mong District continued. The government announced at 4 a.m. today (23rd) that the "restricted area" in Yau Ma Tei has been closed off for more than 15 hours, affecting approximately 10,000 residents, including ethnic minorities.

Fredie Hung, a social worker who often serves ethnic minority communities, started watching media live broadcasts and government announcements, collating materials, translating them, and turning them into simple and easy-to-understand pictures, letting 1,600 ethnic minorities know about the "Lockdown". Up to this moment, Fredie Hung is still replying to their messages: "The government announcement is too long and very detailed, no one would read it. The picture is too small, and it is hard to understand the street names in Chinese, so they have to ask me to explain." Among 1,000 plus ethnic minorities that Fredie Hung has contacted, nearly half of them live in the Yau Tsim Mong district. Most of them are of Nepalese, and a small number of Bengali.

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A social worker makes “information kits” to facilitate ethnic minorities to understand the epidemic

Bastille post 15 Feb, 2021

https://www.bastillepost.com/hongkong/article/7967237-有社工製作「懶人包」%E3%80%80

Facilitate ethnic minorities to grasp the epidemic

An epidemic broke out in Jordan and Yau Ma Tei at the beginning of last month. Some ethnic minority residents in the area said that it is difficult to obtain information on the epidemic due to language barriers. A social worker makes “information kits” to facilitate the minorities in the district to grasp the epidemic.

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Minorities say the epidemic is difficult to grasp because of language barriers - social work makes convenient tips of COVID info

<https://news.rthk.hk/rthk/ch/component/k2/1575723-20210215.htm>

Fredie Hung, a social worker who mainly serves ethnic minorities, said that the Chinese and English versions of the government’s initial press release on the lockdown area were issued with a time difference of almost five hours, which delayed the ethnic minorities from grasping the most accurate information, so he made a “information kits” on Lockdown info or a summary of the number of confirmed cases in a week. This will be sent to the ethnic minorities through Whatsapp.

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All current affairs - How does the travel ban affect local domestic helpers and employers?

Now news 20th April, 2021

<https://news.now.com/home/local/player?newsId=431742>

In order to prevent the imported cases, the government banned the entry of flights from India, Pakistan and the Philippines for a period of 14 days. Due to the epidemic, it is harder to hire foreign domestic helpers in Hong Kong. What impact will the travel restriction bring to domestic helpers and employers?

Guest: Social Worker Fredie Hung