CHALLENGES FACED BY THE GRASS-ROOT CHILDREN UNDER THE OUTBREAK OF CORONAVIRUS IN HONG KONG

ABOUT UNICEF
UNICEF concerns the rights of every child including the children and adolescents.

STATISTICS IN HONG KONG
Hong Kong has about 92,700 sub-divided units
Number of poor children in Hong Kong: 170,400
About 37,487 poor children lived in an area of 62.4 square feet (Census and Statistic Department, 2013)

HOW THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS HARMS THE CHILD RIGHTS OF THE GRASSROOT CHILDREN

1. The living environment is unhygienic - the shared kitchen and toilet increase the risk of disease transmission
2. The price of antiviral products sanitizers and 23,000 antiviral leaflets were distributed in the first month.
3. Most classes held online > lack of electronic gadgets > cannot join the classes > affected their right to be educated
4. Poor living environment shows to others > being labeled by the others > discrimination > lower self-esteem of the children
6. Social distancing = school and youth centre closed > cannot participate in outdoor activities

WHAT UNICEF PROVIDES TO HELP WITH THE CHALLENGES

Distribute
- Distribute free hygiene products & disinfection services for the disadvantaged children and their family in Hong Kong

Cooperate
- Recruited over 30 local NGOs to help
- Cooperated with over 30 local NGO in Hong Kong

Educate
- Educate the communities + E-education to help the local space
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LIMITATIONS OF THE CAMPAIGN
- Cannot address the structured problems in HK (e.g., housing problems, poverty problems)
- The services and visits are once-only
- Cannot expose to every grassroot family due to the lack of promotions
- Due to the limited resources and manpower, how to utilize the materials and help with the needy are challenges faced by UNICEF
- Besides, UNICEF also need to concern and prioritise the global and local agenda to spread their missions and visions

WHY DO CHILD RIGHTS ISSUES DESERVE OUR CONCERNS?

1. The invisibility of the grassroot children
   - Children want to spend most of the time at home due to e-learning arrangement
   - They are difficult to play outside (The hygiene concerns outdoor)
   - Parents concerned about kids over being isolated is greater than stay at home
   - Many of the children are forced to stay at home
   - Under prolonged hours living and studying in the overcrowded space
   - Children lack the opportunities to interact with their peers and engage with physical activities
   - Some child physical and mental anti-social (Solari & More, 2012)

2. Social harms faced by the grassroot children
   The outbreak of coronavirus brings several harms that negatively affecting children in various aspects.

REFERENCES