Life Buddies Mentoring Scheme

政務司司長辦公室

Chief Secretary for Administration's Office

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Background

Commission on Poverty

- Chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, with 20 non-officio members and 4 ex-officio members

- Serve as an important policy platform to promote a tripartite partnership among the community, the business sector and the Government to
  - Monitor the local poverty situation through the poverty line framework
  - Advise on appropriate policy measures to alleviate poverty

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Life Buddies

Life Buddies Mentoring Scheme

- A cross-sectoral youth upward mobility campaign launched by Commission on Poverty in October 2015

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Life Buddies

Life Buddies Mentoring Scheme

- We hope to inspire the younger generation to
  - improve the life skills
  - enhance exposure
  - develop a vision for future
  - prepare for achieving education, training and career goals

⇒ Help youth from disadvantaged background move upward in society, and thereby reducing intergenerational poverty

友·導向 Life Buddies

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Life Buddies

Key Programmes under Life Buddies

School-based Mentoring Programme

Job Tasting Programme

"Be a Government Official for a Day" programme

School-based Mentoring Programme

- Launched in 2016/17 school year
- Provide early workplace exposure to youth from disadvantaged background
- Government departments/corporates/organisations form mentoring teams to interact with senior secondary students for at least one year
- A non-governmental organisation is engaged to provide training and support services for the mentoring teams
- Conduct recruitment during summer each year; inviting interested departments/corporates/organisations and schools to join

School-based Mentoring Programme

- Mentoring teams conduct career-focused mentoring activities for students, like
  - ✓ Goal setting
  - ✓ Financial planning and management
  - ✓ Site visit and experience sharing

School-based Mentoring Programme

- Since its launch in 2016/17 school year, more than 73 Government departments, corporates, and organisations have participated in the programme, engaging approximately 7 000 students from 85 local secondary schools

- In 2020/21 school year, there were 40 mentoring teams partnering with 43 local secondary schools with over 640 student participants

School-based Mentoring Programme

- Feedback from students:
  - >80% considered the programme useful in helping them to explore their life planning
  - >80% would recommend this programme to their peers

Mentors are really friendly and patient!

This programme allowed me to gain more insight into the work of the Fire Services Department!

We often ask them questions about the our future career!

School-based Mentoring Programme

- Feedback from teachers:
  - >80% considered the programme useful in deepening students' understanding on industries
  - Around 2/3 considered the programme useful in helping students explore life planning

This programme is meaningful as it provides students with opportunities to know more about jobs and career choices!

The volunteers from the Treasury are very kind and good role models for students!

School-based Mentoring Programme

- Feedback from mentors:
  - Around 80% considered the programme useful in deepening students' understanding on industries
  - >70% considered the programme useful in helping the students to explore their life planning
  - >80% considered that the mentors deepened their understanding of our young people

School-based Mentoring Programme

- Challenges brought by the pandemic
  - Social distancing measures

- Holding online activities to stay connected, though meeting face-to-face is still more desirable

Job Tasting Programme

- Launched in 2016 summer
- Government departments / corporates / organisations to offer job tasting opportunities to students during summer holidays
- Participating organisations can design activities for 2 days
- Provide opportunities for secondary students to have hands-on work experience in real-life work settings

Job Tasting Programme

- Provided about 3 100 job opportunities with support from 115 Government departments, corporates, and organisations for four consecutive years since 2016

- Feedback from students:
  - >80% considered this programme useful in helping them explore their career interests and plan for the future
  - >70% thought that their understanding on the real-life work settings has been enhanced

- The programme has been suspended since 2020 because of the pandemic

“Be a Government Official for a Day”

- Launched in summer 2018

- Senior secondary students are offered an opportunity to shadow a senior government official at work for one day
  - ✓ Students: gain hands-on experience of an official’s work and a better understanding of the Government’s operation
  - ✓ Officials: share their work experience; learn students’ insights on different issues

“Be a Government Official for a Day”

- Aim: Inspire students to
  - ✓ Develop positive values
  - ✓ Multi-perspective thinking
  - ✓ Strive to realise their potential
  - ✓ Seize opportunities for upward mobility

- Students are identified through open application and selection process

- A non-governmental organisation is engaged to conduct briefing and sharing sessions with students

“Be a Government Official for a Day”

- In 2018, 34 students participated in the programme shadowing 16 senior officials
- In 2019, two rounds of the programme were held with a total of 140 students participated, shadowing 68 senior officials
- The programme was suspended in 2020 because of the pandemic and resumed in summer 2021. There are 40 student participants this year, shadowing 20 senior officials

“Be a Government Official for a Day”

- Feedback from students:
  - Close to 90% of the students learnt how to view things from different perspectives after the programme
  - Close to 80% were inspired in their life planning

The official shared with me his life experiences and encouraged me to pursue my dream!

An invaluable opportunity. I will definitely recommend fellow students to join!

Shadowing the official broadened my horizon and was hugely beneficial!

Other Programmes Under Commission on Poverty

- Commission on Poverty also has other youth upward mobility programmes :
  - ✓ Future Stars – Upward Mobility Scholarship since 2014
  - ✓ Future Stars Mentoring Programme (one-on-one mentorship) since 2019

Thank you

Q&A