

小孩不壞

A Child Not Bad



成績與品行問題令興仔（化名）成為了學校的「問題學生」，麥太不時收到學校的投訴電話，至今她仍記得學校電話號碼的首四個數字，以及收到電話時的緊張。回望過去，麥太曾哭過，興仔亦曾迷惘過，但一路上，他們感激有一個人一直在旁與他們同行，「她不僅是一位社工，反而更像朋友。」

Hing-chai (alias) became a 'problematic student' due to his academic results and conduct. Mrs. Mak received complaint calls from the school at times. Till now, she still remembers the first four digits of the school's telephone number, and how nervous she was when she received the calls. Looking into the past, she had cried and Hing-chai had been perplexed, yet they were grateful that a person has always been there with them along the way. 'She is not only a social worker, but also more like a friend.'

家中弱者 校內霸王

二十七歲的興仔身材高大，皮膚黑黝黝，想不到曾是家暴受害者。麥太說，或許是因為丈夫學識少，寄望兒子能夠考上大學。面對理想與現實的落差，丈夫選擇以打罵的形式「教仔」。中一時，興仔被父親打了一頓後，不想張揚的他卻被老師發現了身上的傷痕，被送到社工室，造就了興仔與駐校社工許姑娘的第一次接觸。

有一次，麥先生又對興仔大打出手。麥太說，兒子從不會敞開心扉跟她說內心的感受，尤其擔心兒子一念之差做傻事。那時當麥太發現兒子不在家，便連忙聯絡許姑娘，請求她找找興仔，「許姑娘幫了我很大的忙，她馬上找了興仔，與他傾談，了解他的想法。」事後許姑娘聯絡麥太，向麥太解釋興仔的情況，穩定麥太緊張的情緒。

對於家庭的情況，興仔已經麻木：「不开心當然有的。但我從小就被打，我已經麻木，沒有情緒。」多年間，興仔從沒有還手。興仔家中儼如弱者的角色，回到學校卻作一百八十度的轉變，成了學校霸王——欺負老師、同學，「人總是要找平衡的，不然該如何生存下去？」

曳而不壞

不願被人察覺自己的軟弱，興仔從不與朋友說起家庭的狀況，更何況並非同輩的社工。但隨著多年的接觸，興仔對許姑娘建立了一份信任，而社工室亦成了興仔的避難所：「有時候想避開某些課就會去社工室」。興仔形容自己冥頑不靈，但每當許姑娘跟他說母親的難處，他便會動容：「媽媽夾在我和父親之間真的很難受。所以我開始反思，知道我不能再如此下去，但我又該如何是好呢？」於是，他為自己訂立了一條底線：「我可以曳，但不可以變壞。」

我可以曳，但不可以變壞。

I can be naughty, but not bad.

Becoming the Weak at Home but a Bully at School

The twenty-seven-year-old man, Hing-chai is tall with his dark skin, making it difficult to imagine he was a victim of domestic violence. Mrs. Mak said perhaps it was because her husband was not well-educated, and hoped his son could go to university. Facing the gap between expectation and reality, her husband chose to 'teach' his son with the means of physical and verbal violence. In Form one, after Hing-chai got beaten up by his father, the hidden scars on his body was discovered by a teacher. He was sent to the social worker's room, and that was the first time he met Miss Hui, the social worker at his school.

Once, Mr. Mak beat Hing-chai again. Mrs. Mak said her son never opened his heart and told her what he felt deep down, so she was worried that he would hurt himself when she found him not at home. She immediately contacted Miss Hui and asked her to look for her son. 'Miss Hui was such a big help that she found Hing-chai straight away. She talked to him and understood what he thought,' she recalled. After that, Miss Hui contacted Mrs. Mak to explain her son's situation and calmed her down.

Hing-chai was numbed with the situation at home. 'Of course, I was unhappy. But I got beaten since I was small. I am used to it. No emotion,' Hing-chai said. Throughout the years, Hing-chai never fought back. He was playing the role of the vulnerable at home. At school, it was the complete opposite; he was the 'boss'—bullying teachers and students. 'People look for balance, or else how can you survive?'

Naughty but Not Bad

Not wanting people to notice his feebleness, Hing-chai never talked about his family with his friends, not to mention to a stranger who was a social worker. But with years of keeping in touch, trust has been built up between Hing-chai and Miss Hui and the social worker's room has become a shelter for the boy. 'Sometimes I went there when I wanted to skip classes,' he said. He described himself as a stubborn person, but he was touched whenever Miss Hui told him about his mother's difficulties. 'My mom was feeling really bad to stand between me and my father so I started to reflect and I knew I couldn't be like that anymore. But what should I do?' At last, he drew a bottom line for himself— 'I can be naughty, but not bad.'

中三選科時，由於興仔成績欠佳，未能入讀文科班，對理科毫無興趣的他選擇轉讀另一間學校。入讀幾天之後，興仔心感不妙，「大件事！那些人是變態的。老師就睡覺，而學生不是讀書的，再這樣下去我會玩完的。」興仔開始擔心自己會被同化，超越自己訂立的底線，於是與母親討論轉校事宜。麥太知道了新學校的情況後，內心極其無助，於是主動與舊校老師和許姑娘聯絡，麥太記得自己流著淚求學校給興仔一個學位。那時候學校剛好有學生退學，多方溝通下，興仔成功重返舊校繼續讀書。

啟發社工夢

高中後，興仔選擇到內地修讀社工課程。興仔說，他從未想過修讀社工，但高中時他開始思考社工的意義：「因為她，我對社工感到興趣，並不是說幫助其他人，而是出於好奇。老實說，她只是學校社工，沒有必要為我做這麼多，無須應酬我和我媽媽。為什麼在毫無回報的情況下，她仍願意幫我？」，再加上修讀社工更具職業前景，於是他選讀了社工的課程。

麥太異口同聲地表示，許姑娘的付出超越了學校社工的範疇：「即使她放工了，她仍然會打電話給我，關心我兒子的情況。甚至當我遇上與丈夫之間的問題，她也會安撫我，當一個聆聽者。她不僅是一位社工，反而更像一位朋友，聽我訴說所有事。」

When it came to choosing subjects in Form three, Hing-chai was performing poorly in school and he could not get into the art class. Having no interest in science subjects at all, he decided to transfer to another school. After a few days in the new school, he already realized how bad it was. 'Oh no! Those people were insane! The teachers were sleeping and the students were not studying at all. I would have been in a big trouble if that had carried on,' Hing-chai said. He was worried that things might cross his bottom line. Therefore, he talked to his mother about changing school again. Knowing the conditions of the new school, Mrs. Mak felt helpless and she could only try to contact the teachers in the old school and Miss Hui. She still remembered how she had begged the school, with tears on her face, to giving Hing-chai a place. By chance a student quitted school at that time. After communicating with multiple parties, Hing-chai successfully went back to his old school to continue his studies.

Igniting a Dream to be a Social Worker

After completing senior forms, Hing-chai decided to study social work in the Mainland. He said he had never considered the programme until senior forms. He started to think about "the meaning of being a social worker". 'Because of her (Miss Hui), I grew interest in social work, not in a sense that I wanted to help people, but out of curiosity. Indeed, she was just a social worker at school; she didn't have to do that much for me; she did not have to deal with me and mom. Why was she willing to help me with no returns?' he said. Other than that, studying social work will give him a career path, so he went ahead.

Mrs. Mak agreed with her son that the hard work Miss Hui has done was beyond the duties of a social worker. 'Even after she was off work, she would still call me and talk about my son. Even when there were problems between me and my husband, she would comfort me and be my listener. She is not only a social worker, but also more like a friend who is willing to listen to me about anything,' said Mrs. Mak.

