

## Discussion Guide for Micro Film - Under the Thumb of Greed

### Purpose:

Upon completion of the discussion, the students should be able to:

1. understand the evils of corruption; and
2. adopt a zero tolerance attitude towards corruption.

### Target Groups:

Secondary students

### Time Allocation:

About 40 minutes

### Discussion Guide:

- Watch “Under the Thumb of Greed”. Play the video up to 6’29” and let students discuss the following issues:
  1. If you were Ho Man, Would you pay bribe for an academic qualification?
  2. What would be the impacts on individuals and society if someone is allowed to “buy” a university degree?
- Continue to play the video from 8’11” till the end and let students discuss the following:
  3. If you were Ho Man, would you pay bribe for medical services when seeing your relatives seriously injured?
  4. If one could not obtain medical services without paying bribe, what would be the impacts on individuals and society?

*(Refer to [attachment 1](#) for suggested discussion points)*

### Conclusion/Key Messages:

- If we tolerate corruption in our daily lives, fairness and the rule of law in the society will be impaired. Eventually, our lives will be adversely affected and the public will suffer.
- Corruption had become a major social problem in Hong Kong in the 60s and 70s impairing social order, fairness in society and depriving citizens of their rights to obtain public services. Examples included, ambulancemen solicited ‘tea money’ from patients on their way to hospitals; the sick had to tip hospital staff to get a glass of water or a toilet pan; money had to be offered to government officers when applying for public housing, school admission and other public

services; and corrupt policemen harboured criminal activities endangering the life and property of residents.

- Corruption would impair fairness and justice in society. All of us should adopt a zero tolerance attitude towards corruption.

## **Attachment 1 Suggested discussion points (for reference only)**

**1. If you were Ho Man, would you pay bribe for an academic qualification?**

Students are free to give their answers.

**2. What would be the impacts on individuals and society if someone is allowed to “buy” a university degree?**

- Compromising on personal values such as honesty and fairness
- Causing injustice to other students
- Damages the university’s reputation
- Breaking the rules in fair competition

**3. If you were Ho Man, would you pay bribe for medical services when seeing your relatives seriously injured?**

Students are free to give their answers.

**4. If one could not obtain medical services without paying bribe, what would be the impacts on individuals and society?**

- Threatening health and life
- The public would lose faith on the medical system and the government
- Causing public injustice
- The prevalence of corruption would affect people’s livelihood