

## Take The Initiative, Safeguard His Future Now!

**F**rom that first cry, to that first tooth, to your baby's first step, you want to be there with your child every step of the way. You want to ensure that his immediate needs are well taken care of, but most of all, you want to be sure that his future is, too. But, what if something went wrong, something that would interfere with your child's journey in life. Are you prepared for the unexpected?

### **Education is the Key to his Future**

During our parents' time, it was easy to make do with just a PSLE certificate. Our time, a decent 'O' Level pass was enough to get by. By the time it comes to your kid, however, even a university degree may not be enough to start him off to a good job.

A good education is, therefore, not only important, but also very necessary. It can get so incredibly expensive though. Tuition fees alone at a local university can amount to about \$6,000 a year at today's rates, not to mention the cost of books and stationery, food, transportation and personal expenses which may bring the total cost of education to \$13,500, and that is just for one year. Multiply this by four, assuming it is a four-year course, and you are looking at \$54,000!

No worries you say. You are strong and healthy and you have a good job that pays well. You will be around for a long time and you will be able to provide for

him until he is comfortably settled in a well-established career.

Unfortunately, sometimes, even the best-laid plans can go awry. What if something happened to you and you can no longer provide for your child? If anything were to happen to you, he would be left stranded without the financial means to continue his education. He would have to worry about how and from where he is going to obtain the funds he needs to pay for his tuition, books, etc. or he would have to give up his dream ... and his future. Does he not have enough in his hands without having to worry about that too!

### **Preparing for the Unexpected**

That is why as a parent, you need to secure his future by safeguarding his education now so that he does not have to put his dreams on hold just because he lacks the funds to see it through.

Setting up a "college fund" is an excellent idea. However, with the cost of education rising rapidly – on the average, about 3 per cent each year for the past 15 years – due to inflation, a \$54,000, four-year education in a local university today can easily turn into a \$100,000 one by the time your child enters university, which would be in about 20 years' time. Are you ready for this?

Even at a 2.5 per cent annual interest rate, you are still looking at setting aside about \$300 a month for his "college fund" for the next 20 years for. For some families, this monthly saving for their child's education is not an issue. However, for many, it is. It can get quite worrying especially in a family where there is more than one child.

Of course, there are many financial assistance plans, bursaries, scholarships, loans, etc. out there and there are also the insurance education plans. With the latter, you are truly providing the best for your child's future because it is a two-in-one plan. It has both the savings component as well as the insurance component because while saving for your child's education you are also providing him with insurance coverage. And, there is so much flexibility too in terms of features and benefits each scheme offers that it makes choosing a suitable plan so very easy.

So, plan now, if you want to realise your child's potential, don't wait until it is too late. Safeguard his future now.

When it comes to your children, never leave anything to chance and never settle for anything but the best. At Great Eastern, we understand what good parenting is all about and that is why we believe in working hand-in-hand with you to make your parenting life a smooth and fulfilling journey.



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