

Department of Applied Social Sciences
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Funding Source : The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong

Project Title : Evaluative Research on “Service for Empowering & Networking SEN Families in Community”

Funded Amount : HKD 1,000,000

Period of the Study : 1 Jan 2020 – 31 Dec 2020

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Abstract : Children/adolescents with SEN are easily labelled (or self-labelled) as “losers”, “trouble-makers” and “unpopular persons”. However, these children and adolescents need more understanding from the community in order to build up their confidence, competencies and aspirations. The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong (BGCA) has initiated a 3-year community-based project entitled “Service for Empowering & Networking SEN families in Community (SENCO)” , which adopts a strengths-based approach to deliver a wide range of developmental programs designated for the children/adolescents with SEN. The research project is to evaluate the effectiveness of SENCO Service Project.

Social Impact : Evidence-based research is important in informing social work practice. The study aims at examining the effectiveness of SENCO Project in promoting the wellbeing and psychosocial competence of the children/adolescents with SEN, which is important in understanding the “what” and “how” of a community-based social work intervention model using a strengths-based perspective can help these targets and their families. Moreover, the study also examines the changes of motivation and competencies of social workers in helping the SEN children/adolescent after training and/or direct intervention experience, which provides insights on the potentialities of expansion of the community-support services in Hong Kong.