



NO POVERTY

Research

Impact of Child Development Fund (CDF) Programme on Poverty Reduction

The government-initiated CDF programme is aimed to promote the long-term development of children from families receiving government subsidy and to reduce intergenerational poverty. The programme has three components: establishment of personal development plans, participation in mentorship programme, and cultivation of targeted saving habits.

In a survey led by Professor Edward K. L. Chan, Chair Professor of Child and Family Welfare at the Department of Applied Social Sciences, the long-term effects of CDF programme on participating children were examined. The study revealed that CDF participants reported a significant amount of monthly savings. A considerable number of families of the CDF participants were no longer reliant on financial assistance from the government. As such, the programme was found to be effective in assisting children in poverty from adolescence to young adulthood.

Education

Subject: Understanding Children in Poverty in Hong Kong

Hosted by the Department of Applied Social Sciences, this subject aims to nurture students' awareness of poverty issues and enhance their interpersonal communication skills. By engaging in direct volunteering activities and home visits and reviewing research studies, students gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and struggles faced by those living in poverty, including discrimination, marginalisation and structured inequalities. This understanding can help students develop empathy and social responsibility, leading them to a greater appreciation of the roles and responsibilities of citizens in addressing poverty-related issues.

Subject: Financial Literacy for Low-Income Youth in Hong Kong

This subject is hosted by the School of Accounting and Finance. Apart from attending lectures, students provide voluntary teaching in schools or non-governmental organisations (NGOs) on the topic of financial literacy or work with a young person from a low-income family to collaboratively formulate a plan in relation to financial literacy. Students also assist a mentor who guides a child under the CDF.

Engagement

Health-Focused Adaptive Furniture for Underprivileged Children

Leveraging ideas generated by the PolyU Jockey Club "Operation Solnno" Programme and incorporating interdisciplinary research inputs from the School of Optometry and the Department of Biomedical Engineering, the Jockey Club Design Institute for Social Innovation has joined forces with the PolyU School of Design and Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong to explore furniture designs that improve the study environment, health and well-being of children residing in subdivided units. With support from the Hongkong Land HOME FUND, scalable production solutions have been developed for an ergonomically designed, sustainable, movable and adjustable furniture set for **2,000 children** living in very constrained spaces, in order to improve their well-being, support healthy development and improve upward mobility.

Understanding Low-Income Elders who Live Alone or with a Spouse

A team led by Dr Crystal Kwan, Assistant Professor of the Department of Applied Social Sciences, has been

collaborating with the Hong Kong Church Network for the Poor (HKCNP) to study issues faced by low-income elders who live alone or with their spouse.

In June 2022, in collaboration with HKCNP, the team co-organised a research seminar "Understanding Low-Income Elders who Live Alone or with a Spouse Only: Their Voices". Issues faced by elders were reported on and participants were invited to share their experiences, thoughts and perspectives of being with the elderly, and to discuss possible solutions to the issues and identify services needed.

PolyU Students as Literacy Tutors for Primary School Children

Offering education and community engagement initiatives serving local communities, the English Language Centre collaborates with local NGOs, including the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, in offering senior citizens a "Practical English for the Elderly" course, focusing on conversation and building confidence. The Centre also provides consultancy for language programmes hosted by Po Leung Kuk and Hong Kong Rugby Union, which enhance the English proficiency of students from underprivileged backgrounds.



Policies and Operations

Financial Assistance and Scholarships

With funds donated by philanthropists, the Student Affairs Office administers a number of bursaries and interest-free loans, which aim to support local students who do not receive full study grants from government funding. The bursaries range from HK\$3,000 to HK\$10,000 while the loans range from HK\$10,000 to HK\$20,000.

Private organisations, professional bodies and individuals also donate scholarships and prizes which are awarded to students with outstanding academic and/or non-academic achievements (such as achievements in extracurricular activities and community services) during their studies at PolyU.

No. of students having received a scholarship covering a **minimum of 50%** of their tuition fees:

659

No. of students having received a scholarship covering **100%** of their tuition fees:

437



Library Study Spaces for Learning and Research

The PolyU Library provides a comfortable and inviting environment for learning and research. Various types of study spaces are available to support students' individual and group learning needs, including Quiet Study Areas, Group Study Areas, Online Meeting Rooms and Group Rooms. Outside normal Library opening hours, students may visit the 24-Hour Study Centre.

