

Volunteerism

Chairperson: Dr. Elaine Au

Presentation 1: Exploring the School Social Work Development model in mainland of China: an practice-informed research

By: Leng Qin

Based on the experience that the author took part in a program which is organized by China Youth Development Foundation (CYDF) and China Association for Social Work Education (CASWE) ----- “The Voluntary Social Service Served at Schools In Disaster Areas” as a social work-volunteer, this article describes which services the social workers did in the school which is in Sichuan disaster area. And by summarizing and rethinking the services that have been done by social work-volunteers and the whole program, the author tries to put forward some proposals and expect to contribute a share for exploring and summing up a model of school social work which is fit for the local areas and promoting the development of school social work in the mainland China.

Presentation 2: Measuring Volunteering Empowerment and Competence in Shanghai

By: Chau-kiu CHEUNG, Tit-wing LO, Elaine Suk-ching LIU, Chau-kiu CHEUNG

Volunteering, supposedly, is a way of empowering volunteers by its organizer. However, neither the process nor outcome of empowerment through volunteering has been an explicit measure in relevant research. A study of the measures and their relationship is therefore necessary. Data of the study came from a survey of 449 volunteers originating from Shanghai, China. The data for analysis included those of volunteering empowerment, volunteering, and general self-efficacy. Specifically, the measurement of volunteering empowerment involved a second-order factor model comprising four first-order factors, decision making, managing, upgrading, and confronting. Results showed the convergent validity and discriminant validity of items measuring the three concepts. Moreover, results upheld predictive validity by demonstrating the causal paths from self-efficacy and volunteering empowerment to volunteering competence. Also indicative of discriminant validity was the lack of a significant effect from self-efficacy to volunteer empowerment in general. Subgroup analyses furthermore generated meaningful results about the generalizability and specificity of the measures. Overall, results endorse the usefulness of the measures of volunteering empowerment and competence for assessing volunteering processes and outcomes.

Presentation 3: A confirmatory factor analysis of the Volunteer Function Inventory with Hong Kong university students

By: Joseph WU, Elaine AU and Wing LO

Are people motivated to engage in voluntary work for just one or more than one reason? Anchored on the functional theory of volunteerism, Clary and colleagues (Clary, Synder, Ridge, Copeland, Stukas, Haugen, & Miene, 1998) proposed a multidimensional approach to understanding and assessing the motives behind volunteerism. Six functions potentially served by volunteerism were identified and an instrument (Volunteer Function Inventory; VFI) was designated to assess these functions. In examining the dimensionality underlying this instrument, Okun, Barr & Herzog (1998) proposed four measurement models that could be tested by data on this instrument and evaluated these measurement models in two samples of older adults. In the present study, to extend Okun et al.'s study beyond the boundary of Western culture, these measurement models were evaluated on a sample of Hong Kong university students using a Chinese version of the VFI. Via confirmatory factor analysis, the closest fit of the data was obtained with a 6-factor model, which concurred with results of Okun et al.'s study. Findings from the present study provide further evidence to support the use of a multidimensional approach in understanding and assessing the motives behind volunteerism. Theoretical and practical implications are discussed.