

# **Practice issues in the P.A.T.H.S. Programme (a large-scale positive youth development programme for junior secondary school students)**

Chairpersons: Prof. Daniel T. L. Shek and Dr. T. Y. Lee

## **Presentation 1: “Applying the participative method to involve secondary school teachers in the formation and implementation of a positive youth development programme (the Project P.A.T.H.S.)”**

By Charles CHAN, Service Director, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council.

The project “PATHS to the adulthood” is a positive youth development programme for secondary schools in Hong Kong since 2005. This paper illustrates how the social work team applied the participatory method to maximize collaboration among teachers in four secondary schools. With precise process and scarce resources, social workers engaged school personnel during the process of needs assessment, programme identification, programme formation, implementation and evaluation. The outcomes were not only on students’ growth and development, but also the active involvement and satisfaction of teachers. The method puts a positive experience to future application, research and evaluation in similar service.

## **Presentation 2: “A process review of programme logic, implementation and evaluation of a positive youth development programme (the Project P.A.T.H.S.) for junior secondary school students in Hong Kong”**

By Bobo KWOK and Johnny IP, social workers, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council.

The Project “PATHS to the adulthood” is a positive youth development programme funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. One of the key requirements of the Project is to provide evidence-based social work services to junior secondary school students with greater psycho-social needs. This paper summarizes the practical experience of a social work team which delivered the programme during the past four years. It includes a logical roadmap of needs identification, screening, programme formation, implementation, record (with data-collection) and evaluation. The work process becomes a sustainable and efficient cycle for the social work team to deliver the programme and serves as a practical reference for social workers working with junior secondary school students with greater psycho-social needs.

## **Presentation 3: “The Impact of a positive youth development program (Project P.A.T.H.S.) on non-Chinese students living in Hong Kong”**

By Keith K. F. Wun, MPhil candidate, Department of applied social Studies, City University of Hong Kong.

**Objectives:** To demonstrate the effectiveness of a positive youth development program on some non-Chinese students living in Hong Kong. The study aims at 1) understanding the developmental needs of grade seven (S1) non-Chinese students in Hong Kong; 2) exploring the effectiveness of the project P.A.T.H.S. among them; and, 3) exploring the critical factors for successfully fostering positive development among them.

**Method:** A qualitative study has been implemented in three designated secondary schools for non-Chinese in the academic year of 2007-2008. In this study, 21 class observations and 36 in-depth interviews have been made.

**Results:** Developmental needs as well as critical factors for successful implementation have been identified. The impact seems to be positive from different perspectives.

**Acknowledgement:** The preparation of this study was financially supported by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.