

Project No : 0128-02
Project Title : Forging a Better Tomorrow –
A Self-help and Mutual-Help Project for Multi-Ethnic Vulnerable groups
Name of Organization: SKH Lady Macle hose Centre
Grant Approved : HK\$737,238

Project Highlights:

This project will work through the networks and partnerships of various local stake-holders to discover and fortify the “helping” and “giving” power of the targeted vulnerable groups.

- The groups often labeled as vulnerable include Pakistani Hong Kong residents, new arrivals from mainland China, and local youth at-risks.
- By harnessing and building on the hidden potentials among the above-mentioned vulnerable groups, this project would facilitate them to help each other in overcoming difficulties such as language barriers, adjustments to local livelihood, and social and communal integration.
- Through this project these “vulnerable” groups will evolve from mere service recipients to become active and productive contributors to the community, while forging a strong basis for social capital building through mutual-help and caring networks amongst the targeted vulnerable groups.
- In due course they would be linked up to local residents’ groups and organizations, fostering better social integration through mutual contacts, co-operations, and providing direct social services to other community members in need.
- Eventually, strong ties would be formed among the vulnerable groups’ networks and local residents’ organizations along the line of mutual help, social benefits, and good will, which could perpetuate the effects of this project in the long run.

Brief Description of Programmes to be organized:

- a. Pioneers of Multi-Ethnic Integration : volunteers from the targeted vulnerable groups will be trained to boost their helping attitudes, increase their sense of social integration, and enhance their volunteers’ skills through actual practice. Such that they could assist in the planning and execution of the “Hong Kong is My Home” scheme and provide social services for people-in-need during the later stages of this project.
- b. You Speak I listen — Language-Learning Assistants Scheme : to help train volunteers of Pakistani, mainland China, and local origins to become Language-Learning Assistants so that they can initiate courses for English language, Mandarin, and Cantonese respectively.
- c. Hong Kong is My Home : The “Pioneers of Multi-Ethnic Integration” would organize various services and activities to help Pakistani residents and new arrivals from mainland China to know more about the local livelihood and diversities in culture and social customs, while accepting each other in the process. This would have the twin benefits of fostering the vulnerable groups’ local integration while building acceptance and understanding among residents from different ethnic groups as well.
- d. Providing Social Services for People-in-need : The targeted vulnerable groups would become active helpers instead of passive service recipients by providing a range of social services for people-in-need among the mainstream local communities. This would help change the biased views among some local residents toward members of vulnerable groups, thus fostering better social integration, harmony, and acceptance in the process.

Unique Features of the Project:

Vulnerable groups' members in many regular social services are often treated as passive social welfare recipients, their self-motivation may become suppressed. This type of conventional services attitude would risk turning them into social burdens in the long run. According to our frontline working experiences, we have discovered that there are actually various promising potentials harboured among Pakistani residents, new arrivals from mainland China, and local youth-at-risk. By harnessing these potentials through collaborations with various social resources' partners, we could facilitate these vulnerable groups to help each other in overcoming difficulties in language learning, social adjustments, as well as community integration. In the process those members of different vulnerable groups would become active helpers instead of passive service recipient, providing social services for people-in-need. And in the long run their co-operations with various local residents groups would enable them to forge long-term partnerships to share and accumulate still more social capital and resources.

Project Duration: 36 months (from January 2004 to December 2006)

Target Groups : Pakistani residents, new arrivals from mainland China, and local youth-at-risk.

Location of the Project: The main areas of services are in Kwai Chung, Tsing Yi, and Tsuen Wan

Expected outputs and outcomes:

I. Indicators for Establishing Social Capital (Short-term basis)

- **Increased Social Resources :** Recording the increase of volunteers' services hours.
- **Community Participation promoted:** Recording the number of targeted vulnerable groups who turn into volunteers and volunteers' leaders.
- **Increased Social Integration and Harmony Among People of Different Ethnicity and Social Strata :** Creating opportunities of social exchange and co-operations among Pakistani residents, new arrivals from mainland China, and local youth-at-risk, to record the size and number of such networks, the numbers of new participants each year, the frequencies and forms of co-operation.

1. II. Indicators for Establishing Social Capital (Long term basis)

- **Improved Self-Help and Mutual Help Capabilities of the Targeted Vulnerable Groups:** Using pre and post social surveys and focus groups, to gauge the positive changes among the Pakistani residents, new arrivals from mainland China, and local youth-at-risk before and after they participate in this project. These changes include language abilities (listen, talk, read, and write), ability in adjusting to local livelihood (knowledge of local community resources), self-confidences, and helping behaviours (number of times, duration, and role).
- **Strength of the relationships and functions of the networks built amongst people from different social backgrounds, and the effectiveness of cross-sectoral collaboration developed.**
- **Increased Degree of Social Integration Between the Targeted Vulnerable Groups and their Local Mainstream Communities:** Using pre and post social surveys and focus groups, to gauge the positive changes among relationships between vulnerable

groups such as Pakistani residents and new arrivals from mainland China, and the residents of mainstream communities they lived in. These changes include: the degree of social relations (number of times of contact, forms of contacts, topics, and degree of co-operation); changes in understanding and impressions (Objectively, knowledge towards each others' traditions, culture, and religion; subjectively, image and impressions; and strengths in the networks formed.