

Project No : 0032-05
Project Title : Tai Po Family Network
Name of Organisation : The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council Tai Po
North Integrated Children & Youth Services Centre
Grant Approved : \$900,000

Project Aims and objectives :

Tai Po Community

According to 2001 census,¹ increasing divorce and separate cases create more and more single parent family. Tai Po population profile is still younger than general, children and youth ratio is still high. Household income is lower than general. Unskillful worker ratio is also higher than general.

Increase social inclusion by developing human capital

Urbanization, high unemployment rate and nuclear family are contemporary phenomenon. These are unfavorable situation for groups like new arrivals, low income group, low education background, unskillful workers or mid-age. They are able bodies but being stigmatized as unemployed, social burden, social wanderer. Only under a label-free environment can their strengths being properly developed. They give and take among each other, interpersonal network being enhanced. Confidence is enhanced. Community's human capital of the community is created.

This project intervenes in personal, familial and community levels. Sense of belongings are enhanced, reciprocity and caring community is to be developed.

Objectives

1. Consolidate family strength; enhance mutual help within and among families.
2. Establish family network to reach social inclusion and solidarity.

Project Duration :

3 years, from June 1 2005 to May 31 2008

¹ 2001 Census Report, HKSAR

Target Groups :

1. Trained women are being appointed as “Inclusion Instructor” and implement “Family cadet” in a group.
2. Primary students recruited and selected into the “Family cadet”.
3. Elderly and youth assist the instructor.

Location of the Project :

5 selected areas in Tai Po. Residential estates such as Fu Heng Estate, Chung Nga Court, Ting Nga Court, Treasure Garden as well as suitable schools are venues for the operation of the “Family cadet”.

Unique Features of the Project :

A) Family Network

“Family cadet” operates daily from Monday to Saturday. “Life shapes life”, this is a place where participants and instructors established caring relationship.

The 9 months life education provided not only on homework, but also on multiple intelligence. Parents have to participate on Saturday or after work. Instructors and parents develop partnership to coach the children. “Caring soup”, “Family garden”, etc are means to reach the community and carry messages such as care and reciprocity.

B) Community Network

“Inclusion instructors” develop supportive network with different parties in the community. Organizations such as Tai Po Environment Association, Salvation Army and Tai Po Baptist Church Social Service Centre joined different parts of this project. More organizations are to be invited to support these ‘Inclusion instructors’.

First circle: Mutual support network

- “Inclusion instructors” have to operate the cadet together, thus, their group identity is great. Sharing session, camp, etc help to facilitate their team spirit.

Second circle: Volunteer network

- Support from youth and elderly centre’s volunteer groups, teachers from schools as well as different organizations are solicited. These networks are resources which help the “Inclusion instructors” develop different tasks.

Third Circle: Community network

- Mass community services mainly include publicity and promotion of caring community and demonstrate family strengths. Participation of local organizations develops further resources for “Inclusion instructors”.

Expected Outcomes :

(1) Family Network - ”Family cadet”

- a. Enrolled students : 180 persons
- b. Enrolled “Inclusion Instructor” : 60 persons
- c. Parent-Instructor session participants : 60 persons
- d. Teacher participants : 24 persons, each person participate 10 times
- e. Youth and elderly participants: 50 persons, each person participate 10 times
- f. Housing estates involved: 5

(2) Community Network

- a. “Inclusion Instructor” held mass community service programs: 6 times, 1200 participants
- b. Cross age group program sessions: 30 times, 600 participants