

**Social capital intervention with low
income families in Hong Kong:**

Sham Shui Po Child-friendly Community Network

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Evidence-based social work practice

- A review of 60 years – Hong Kong social work education celebrates her first “Jiazi”
- The evidence-based practice (EBP) movement and its advent in social work
- Sceptics of Evidence-based social work
- The pragmatic evidence-based social work – a framework for practice
- The praxis of social capital – making the theory-practice link

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The praxis of social capital: making theory-practice link

Definition, characteristics and functions of social capital:

- Social capital can be defined as “Networks of social relations that may provide individuals and groups with access to resources and supports” (PRI, 2005).
- Norms of reciprocity, norms of trust, social networks and civic engagement are dimensions of social capital. (Bourdieu, 1986; Coleman, 1990, 1988; Putnam, 1993b).
- Social capital could also be distinguished by its forms, namely bonding, bridging and linking social capital (Putnam, 2000; OECD, 2001; Woolcock, 2001).
- Social capital brings positive impacts on the well-beings to individual and community as a whole. Social capital is beneficial to the health, economy, education as well as child welfare (Cote & Healy, 2001; Putnam, 2002; Halpern, 2005).
- Social capital could be considered as a viable intervention strategy to address poverty.

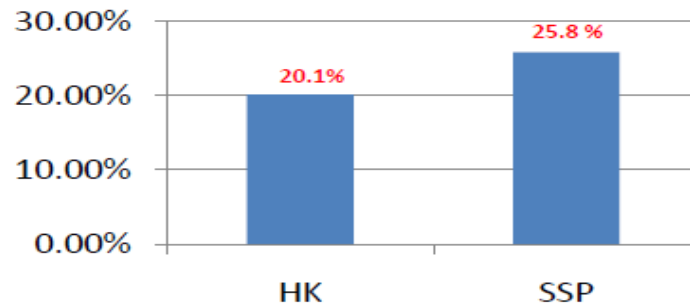
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Poverty in Hong Kong and Sham Shui Po

Percentage of low-income households

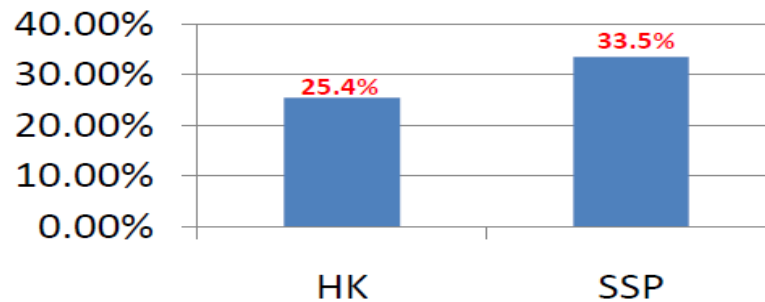


Overall Household (Population)	6,636,909	350,948
Low-income Household (Population)	1,336,873	90,640

Median of monthly income of a household (HK\$)

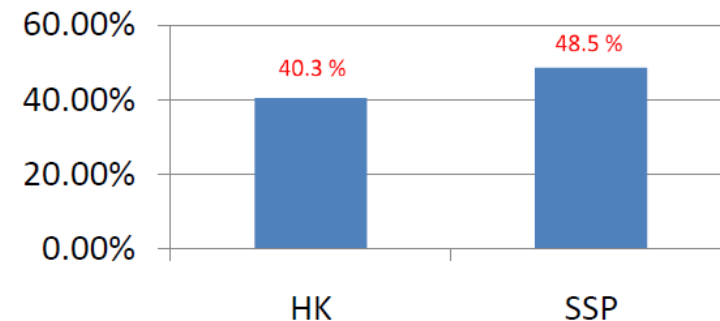


% of low-income children



Overall population of children	936,013	44,682
Population of low-income children	238,048	14,974

% of low-income new arrivals



Overall new arrivals	213,362	19,842
Low-income new arrivals	85,992	9,621

Remark: Definition of low-income households = those with a monthly household income less than or equal to half of the median income of corresponding household size.
(Source: Hong Kong Council of Social Services, 2010)

Poverty in Hong Kong and Sham Shui Po

Trends of low-income households in SSP (2001 vs 2006)

	2001			2006			
	Overall Household	Low-income household	%	Overall Household	Low-income household	%	
No. of Households	344,454	84,114	24.4%	350,948	90,640	25.8%	↑
Population of Children* Living in Single Family	3462	1834	53.0%	3441	2049	59.5%	↑
New-arrivals	25,172	10,946	43.4%	19,842	9621	48.5%	↑

*Children is defined as the age of 0 to 14.

(Source: Hong Kong Council of Social Services, 2010)

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Sham Shui Po Child-friendly Community Network

- Funded by **Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (CIIF)**
- **Agency-university collaboration:** BGCA & APSS
- **Objectives:**
 1. Enhance the community well-being of Shum Shui Po through creating a sustainable network that builds primarily on a child-friendly community network initiative;
 2. Mobilize resources within the community to solve its own problems and develop itself into a child-friendly community.
- **Project duration:** June 1, 2005 to September 30, 2008
(3 years and 3 months)
- **Participants:** 90 low income families (30 per project year)
- **Parties concerned:**



Residents and resident groups in the community

Government, NGOs, Schools



Children and Families in Sham Shui Po



Commercial Sector

Sham Shui Po Child-friendly Community Network

- **Family-focused programmes:** to facilitate the well-development of low-income families and their young children in the community.
 - After school guidance programme for children
 - Parents' Group: child care training, information exchange session and recreational activities
 - Parents' Club: self-organized recreational activities and voluntary services



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- **Community-focused programmes:** mobilize the various parties of the public, private and informal sector to become aware of the importance of the caring for the younger generation by providing support to the community in general and families with young children in particular.
 - Schools: story-telling programme; parents' sharing programme, English playground
 - Small business vendors: community visit
 - Business corporate partner: pen friend scheme and volunteer services

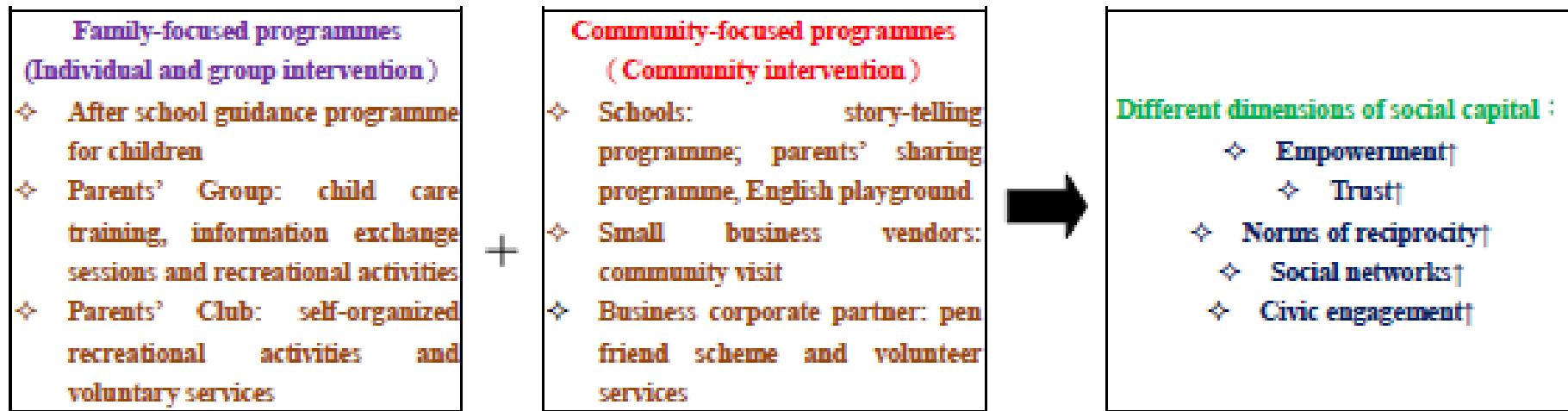
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Project outcome and mechanism of social capital development:



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Project evaluation and practice-based research

- Collaborative and longitudinal study
- Objectives of the study:
 - To evaluate the effectiveness of the project (and the various programme components) on the development of social capital among members coming from low income families
 - To identify the process and the mechanism through which social capital could be built.
 - To explore the success/failure factors which affect the development of social capital among project participants
- Mode of inquiry: quantitative (questionnaires), qualitative (in-depth interviews and participant observation)
- Participants of the study: 30 participants, 2 representatives from the business corporate partner, 2 small business vendors, 2 social workers, supervisor, director of the NGO.

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Contribution to evidence-based social work practice

- Monitoring the development of the project and examining the project's effectiveness
- Emphasizing on project participants' involvement in providing feedback to the project operators (including social work practitioners)
- Social workers had the opportunities to review and consolidate their intervention experiences and their intervention could have ongoing improvement
- The development of an indigenous social capital intervention model for people from low income family/community.

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Q&A
Thank You!



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