

Tin Ka Ping P.A.T.H.S Project in mainland China: Dissemination of related experiences

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Abstract

A systematic literature review revealed that there are few validated youth prevention and positive youth development programs in different Chinese societies. To promote the holistic development of young people in Hong Kong, we developed, implemented, and evaluated the P.A.T.H.S. Project in Hong Kong. Based on the successful experience of the P.A.T.H.S. Project in Hong Kong, Tin Ka Ping Foundation supported the development of Tin Ka Ping P.A.T.H.S. Project in mainland China based on the original P.A.T.H.S. programs. Besides adapting the programs to fit the socio-cultural context of mainland China, we also trained teachers, supported the implementation, and evaluated the developed programs. Besides the junior high school programs, we also voluntarily deployed additional financial and manpower resources to develop senior high school programs. To help colleagues understand the project details, we have documented the project, including curriculum manuals, book chapters, journal articles, and conference papers. In this paper, we present the publications arising from Tin Ka Ping Project in mainland China.

Keywords: Hong Kong, P.A.T.H.S. Project, Tin Ka Ping P.A.T.H.S. Project, curriculum development, training, evaluation; dissemination, China

Introduction

To promote holistic adolescent development in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust initiated a project entitled “P.A.T.H.S. to Adulthood: A Jockey Club Youth Enhancement Scheme” (Project P.A.T.H.S.). With the involvement of academics of five universities in Hong Kong, we developed the curriculum materials, trained teachers and allied professionals, provided support in the implementation process, and conducted systematic evaluation work. Because of the positive impacts of the Project P.A.T.H.S., Tin Ka Ping Foundation decided to

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transplant the project to mainland China in 2011. Besides making adaptations of the curriculum materials, we also trained the potential implementers, provided support for the implementation, and evaluated the programs during the period between 2011 and 2018. To help colleagues understand the project and to provide pointers for future work, we have prepared a publications list in this paper.

Chinese books and manuals

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Discussion

In this paper, we give a comprehensive list of publications arising from the Tin Ka Ping P.A.T.H.S. Project in mainland China. This initiative is important for several reasons. First, the publications serve as a vehicle for sharing experience amongst academics and practitioners. From the published work, colleagues can appreciate the experience of developing PYD curriculum materials, training potential implementers, maintenance of quality implementation, and evaluation. Second, the published work generates evidence for the impact of the Tin Ka Ping P.A.T.H.S. Project. This is important because there are few validated youth prevention and PYD programs in China (1). Besides, we need evidence to justify the use of the developed program because “feeling good” about the developed programs is simply not enough. Third, the published works showcase the good practices in PYD program development and implementation. Fourth, publications record success and failure in our work as well as the contributing factors. Such information is important for future PYD work in this area. Fifth, we can understand the challenges and difficulties intrinsic to the development and implementation of PYD projects. Sixth, the published works provide pointers for the future of PYD programs in China. Such work is important for researchers and practitioners to move on to the field of positive youth development. Finally, published work, especially those that document the positive impact of the project can help to empower researchers, program developers, program implementers, and policy makers. In conjunction with the published works on Project P.A.T.H.S. in Hong Kong (2-11), we can conclude that the Project P.A.T.H.S. programs and its adapted version (Tin Ka Ping P.A.T.H.S. programs) are promising programs which promote the holistic development of Chinese adolescents in different Chinese societies. In fact, in the recent Research Assessment Exercise in Hong Kong, the Project P.A.T.H.S. was rated by the Assessment Panel as “world-leading” in promoting adolescent development and well-being.

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