

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Future Camp HK 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2016

Bird Without Wings: the Development of Children at the Grassroots

Group	Problems Addressed	Implementations and Social Impacts
1	<p>Children in On Tat Estate have less learning opportunity to learn beyond On Tat Estate. Since the majority of residents are low-income families, in the meanwhile, the transportation cost is relatively high, due to the remote location of On Tat Estate and the underdeveloped transportation system.</p>	<p><b>On Tat 18</b> aims to broaden the horizon of children aged 9-12 in On Tat estate and give them a learning opportunity to learn beyond On Tat estate, by providing a series of affordable local learning tours in 18 districts of Hong Kong, such as visits to museums, cultural heritage and eco tours.</p> <p>In operation, the project team would connect children in low-income families through NGOs in that district, targeting at recruiting 25 participants at the first stage. The project team has already built up some connections with transportation company, which could sponsor the tour transportation; in the meantime, the team would recruit volunteers from different corporations and organizations as tour guides and helpers. Corporate staffs are encouraged to stick logo of their company on their clothes to promote both CSR practice of their company and increase the visibility of the tour. In order to attract more sponsorship, the team would invite media to for tasting.</p> <p>The tour will be organized once a month; there will be one main learning theme for each season, such as environmental conservation, tradition culture etc. Each participant would be charged \$20 per tour to subsidize the costs such as speaker fee, lunch for tour guide, tour worksheet etc. Each participant has to fill in the survey to collect their feeling and learning effectiveness at the end of the tour to evaluate the impact.</p> <p>The tour brings experience and knowledge to those participants, including local culture, environment and social context in order to broaden the horizon of On Tat Estate children.</p>

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2	<p>This project primarily aims to address the issues currently faced by children in On Tat, which are the lack of child-care services and the inadequate provision of extracurricular activities and training courses, which arise from the low availability of social services in the new community and the low affordability of the grassroots.</p>	<p><b>On Tat Community College for Kids</b> aims to serve the children aged 3 to 15 in the community and provide one-stop child-care services and training courses for the underprivileged. By organizing workshops held by some talented On Tat residents, children are given the opportunities to develop their own interests while acquiring crucial skills like woodwork and metalwork skills for their future. At a later stage, wide range of activities targeting non-On Tat residents will also be held and a publication <i>On Tat Life</i> will as well be produced and distributed within and outside the community by the College, which aspire to raising public awareness of the difficulties faced by the public estate residents and publicizing On Tat as the ideal model of housing estate.</p> <p>There are in total three phases in the implementation of <i>On Tat Community College for Kids</i>, during which activities of larger scale will be held and more stakeholders will get involved at later stages. In phase I, a series of free workshops, including creativity development (drama classes, music classes) and practical skills trainings (woodwork, metalwork, sports trainings and information technologies) will be held by local residents (Mentors) for children aged 3 to 15 in the On Tat Estate. The rationale is that due to keen competition among children in academic study, most grassroots children with lower abilities cannot catch up the learning progress and are being left out in schools. Through acquiring these practical skills, children can develop their alternative talents which may help them make a living and build up their future career. Mentors will be offered rewards in the form of daily necessities based on the number of volunteering hours (時分券). In phase II, non-On Tat residents can also participate in the project at normal price. In phase III, wider varieties of projects ranging from eco tour and ‘stairathon’ to a community publication <i>On Tat Life</i> will be launched.</p> <p>In short, this project not only addresses the issues currently facing children, that is the lack of child-care services and extracurricular activities; but also acts as a means to build up the community spirit and mobilize the public for social change.</p>

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3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Even though On Tat Estate has a child population of more than 1200, there is a lack of childcare facilities available. This causes their parents to have to return to take care of their children after school, thus hindering their working opportunities.</li> <li>2. As On Tat Estate is a newly established public housing estate, children in the area have a low sense of belonging and need to build friendships with their neighbours in order to have a healthy childhood. Building healthy friendship bonds will also lessen the chance of these children joining local triads.</li> <li>3. The World Health Organization states that children aged 5-17 years old need at least an hour of vigorous exercise each day, but most Hong Kong children do not get this amount of exercise; as such, this scheme aims to give them this opportunity.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Running Kids</b> is a pilot trial, which aims to instill a running culture in On Tat Estate by providing underprivileged children ranging from 8 to 12 years old the opportunity to learn how to run from a professional trainer through an eight week long scheme. At the same time, the project will give the children a sense of belonging at On Tat Estate, solve problems of low self-esteem, and also prevent children from joining triads in the area.</p> <p><b>Implementations</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Seek sponsorships from large sporting brands for gear and cash support</li> <li>2. Recruit trainers and assistants to run the project</li> <li>3. Collaborate with SEs such as Feeding HK to do regular bread runs to On Tat Estate</li> <li>4. Collaborate with local stores to provide groceries to the elderly and join the rewards redemption scheme for grassroots children</li> </ol> <p><b>Social Impact</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Working parents will be able to work at ease as they will not have to leave work early to pick their children up from school.</li> <li>2. The community bonding can be strengthened at On Tat Estate, as a network of children will be established, building friendships with one another.</li> <li>3. Corporate can fulfill their social responsibility by sponsoring such a meaningful project, which will bring them good publicity.</li> <li>4. Grassroots children will be able to strengthen their health and athleticism, as well as their confidence and self-recognition.</li> </ol>

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4	<p>Competition between children is keen in society nowadays. They are required to acquire lots of skills and outstanding academic performance.</p> <p>However, children in On Tat Estate are lack of learning opportunities for capacity building, while parents are usually with low educational attainment and lack of financial resources to support children's extra learning. Thus, they hardly will proactively teach/transfer appropriate social values for their children.</p>	<p><b>A New Runway for On Tat Children</b> is a project aims to tackle two issues (1) weak self-recognition of children who lived at On Tat estate; (2) On Tat parents weak in transfer social value education to children. Concepts of social enterprise and resource redistribution are used. It aims at providing alternatives for children in On Tat Estate to discover their talents and unlock their potentials in various aspects, apart from academic study. Through this project, a new runway is created for On Tat children, so as to boost their self-esteem by equaling their learning opportunities with others. To a larger extent, it is hoped to redefine the societal value of success, so that the competition between children in Hong Kong is no longer a vicious one.</p> <p><b>Implementation</b></p> <p>Upon the sponsor ration of 1:5, 5 affordable students are going to support tuition fee of 1 low income children. The project will call for the support from learning centres in Kwun Tong. Children are able to participate in various interest classes such as musical instrument classes, craftsmanship making, sports training, etc. to acquire useful skills and develop their own interests; they can also attend tutorials to improve their academic performance.</p> <p>A large-scale campaign will be held to endorse and appreciate the corporate participating in the project. There will be an annual prize presentation ceremony co-organised with Kwun Tong District Council which joined organisations can receive a certificate of recognition.</p> <p>Children acquiring skills other than academic study can explore their talents and unlock their potentials at various aspects. This can boost their self-esteem by equaling their learning opportunities with others. Also, the children's parents can redefine their value of success.</p> <p>Kwun Tong District Council will be approached to gain their support and extend the recognition of the programme. Different media will be approached to publish and share the experience of grassroots children in On Tat Estate.</p>



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5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. First, there is lack of reading habit of underprivileged children in On Tat Estate while their parents are too busy to do reading with them.</li> <li>2. Second, children of On Tat inaccessible to public library nearby.</li> <li>3. Third, On Tat is a new public housing estate; neighborhood network remains weak as well as sense of mutual help and support.</li> </ol>	<p><b>BoBo Books</b> is a platform to promote reading for aged 2-12 children and cultivate their reading habit as well as sense of lifelong learning. Books are collected from donation. Reading buddies are recruited from secondary schools, universities and On Tat Estate. As expected On Tat children seldom have parent reading time since their parents have to work for long hours. Books are selected upon criterion of promoting ethics and values; children will have chances to better literacy development.</p> <p><b>Implementation</b>          A first batch of 80 children will be approached. After one year of launching, 200 children are expected to be reached with a book supply of about 1000. First, books are collected from donation from the communities, universities and public libraries with focus on ethics and values education, such as treasure their life, problem solving mind, stress resistance manner, life goal setup and paying efforts to love and care the community, etc.</p> <p>Reading buddies will be recruited from secondary schools, universities or even in On Tat Estate to accompany the children to read and serves as a role model for them. For instance, mentorship scheme can be held which senior-form students and university students can read aloud with those children. They can also earn voluntary work hours and reward with recognition certificate.</p> <p><b>Social Impacts</b>          This project aims to empower the underprivileged children by expanding their knowledge and develop correct values and morals in life through the power of reading. It also helps to build up a network of trust and love amongst the underprivileged children at the Estate.</p>

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6	<p>The project attempts to strengthen the neighborhood bonding and the sense of belongings of On Tat by using the efforts from children in On Tat Estate aged 10 – 20. A Radio Office of On Tat (ROOT) will be set up, to provide dual channel services. For internal, ROOT will announce the most updated news and information of On Tat community to the residents in On Tat Estate. For external, It will be the official channel to promote On Tate Estate to the outsiders.</p> <p>ROOT will be run by residents in On Tat Estate independently. Jobs range from producer, writer, host, sound engineer etc., all will be occupied by student volunteers. This radio will definitely increase students’ sense of belongings to On Tat and the radio broadcast will definitely attract more people to come to On Tat for better economic development.</p>	<p><b>Another Gateway</b> attempts to strengthen the neighborhood bonding and the sense of belongings of children aged 10 – 20, to On Tat. A Radio Office of On Tat (ROOT) will be set up, which is cooperated by a group of students at On Tat, age between 10-20 and professional DJ.</p> <p><b>Implementation</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ROOT will be a FM radio, which is free of charge, specialized for the residence at On Tat. On Tat Village internal radio channel is a live radio accessed through mobile phone application. Everybody is free to download the application. RTHK will support the frequency spectrum. ROOT will announce the most updated news and information of On Tat community; e.g., where to buy the cheapest goods nearby, the inflow and outflow traffic condition of Oh Tat, etc.</li> <li>2. ROOT will serve as a channel for both internal use and external use of On Tat Village. Internally, ROOT will provide an effective channel for sharing important information within this isolated estate. Externally, the radio will served as an external channel for outsider to listen to the local story of On Tat residents e.g., the hiking experience at On Tat, trip of running scene, etc.</li> <li>3. In long run, ROOT will provide opportunities for students aged 10 - 20 to take positions in different programs of the radio. Children who are interested in the social, media, communication or broadcasting industry can have the chances to cultivate and train their skills through ROOT.</li> </ol> <p><b>Social Impact</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Children can develop their interests as DJ and manager of a radio office, thus, increase their confidence and the sense of belongings to On Tat.</li> <li>2. The sharing of news through the radio will strengthen the bonging between neighborhoods and increase resource accessibility.</li> <li>3. Additional channel to let outsiders know more about On Tat Estate, and attract them to make use of facilities and resources (both artificial and natural) so as to power up this newly built area.</li> </ol>

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7	<p>Children from low income family usually weak in literacy development. Many researches prove that there is a word gaps between poor and affluent children. In term of time exposure towards literate reading, the former must be longer than the latter.</p> <p>Regarding this impartial learning opportunity, Mandarin and English learning will be the focus. Language enrichment courses will be the mean to enhance their language learning through interaction with native speakers.</p>	<p><b>On Tat Mutual Help Network: Belt and Road</b> is project aims to improve the language development of On Tat Estate by using domestic resources. This project attempts to organize professional English and Mandarin enrichment courses to 3-8 years old low-income children in On Tat Estate. For English learning, it will be an e-learning, native English tutor will be recruited worldwide with referral of university. For Mandarin learning, , it will be interpersonal interaction, new arrival residents from Beijing, Shanghai, etc will be recruited from On Tat Estate or referred from NGOs.</p> <p>Course content will consult education professionals. The project targets to recruit 6 students for English and 6 students for Mandarin group as a pilot scheme to test the learning effectiveness. Course will be conducted at Youth center at the initial stage and extend to home tutoring in later stage.</p>



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8	<p>There are more than 7,000 families in the estate with mostly low-income groups. These families are with limited resources (both monetary and manpower) to train up their children as most of the parents (esp. Fathers) are having long working hours job.</p>	<p><b>On Tat Brothers</b> would like to link up IT professionals to provide IT hardware and coding courses for On Tat children aged below 12 to break through the physical barrier. By cooperating with local NGOs, children can enjoy free IT hardware and coding courses in the centre. However, children are not merely takers of the programme; they have to provide IT services for other residents of On Tat Estate to earn credit points for advance learning. It is expected the skills can be cultivated and brought to the future career eventually and built up their sense of commitment and responsibility.</p> <p><b>Implementation</b>          Funding (e.g. SIED Fund) will be applied to start the project and corporations will be engaged for the donation of IT equipments or other funding supports. IT experts will be invited through some professional bodies (e.g. The Hong Kong Computer Society). A pay and get system will be formed. After training, it is expected children from On Tat Estate can take over the role of teaching IT courses to the juniors. Thus, the role of volunteers can be faded out gradually.</p>