

## **Project C.A.R.E.: Children and Adolescents at Risk Education**

### **Date of Submission**

26-Feb-2012

### **Department**

Applied Social Sciences

### **Principal Investigator**

Dr Fung Lai Chu Annis

### **Project duration**

01 September 2006 - 31 August 2011

### **Source of funding**

Quality Education Fund

### **Link**

<http://www6.cityu.edu.hk/projectcare>

### **Description**

Project C.A.R.E.: Children and Adolescents at Risk Education received total \$11 million of three-round funding from the Quality Education Fund of the Education Bureau for a period from September 2006 to August 2012. 52 secondary and 25 primary schools took part in the project, 128 secondary schools and 135 primary schools are on the enrolment waiting list. The project was an evidence-based therapeutic project to tackle the problem of school bullying and promote "Harmony schools" in Hong Kong. It aimed at 1) reducing the aggression and other related symptoms of teenage aggressors; 2) reducing the negative symptoms resulting from victimization; 3) increasing the awareness of students on school bullying and equipping them with the handling skills when facing bullying situations as a victim or bystander; 4) training the student trainers to be "Anti-bullying Ambassador" for implementing peer education and wide spread training at schools; 5) training the teacher trainers to be "Teacher Anti-bullying Expert" for intervening and preventing from school bullying; 6) training social workers, counsellors and other helping professionals to acquire specific counselling skills to deal with teenage aggressors and victims; 7) enhancing the parenting skills to promote family harmony and in turn reduce children's aggression; and 8) promoting and sustaining the therapeutic professional training manuals, educational packages both with DVDs, and international journal papers developed in the project to contribute locally and all over the world. The transfer of knowledge was guaranteed by organizing continuous training workshops for teachers, social workers, and parents. Training manuals, educational manuals, information kits and newsletters will also be published to distribute to the above target groups. To further gather the experience and knowledge from all the related parties, anti-school bullying forums and an anti-school bullying committee with expertise on this issue will be set up to enhance the multi-system collaboration and partnership.

### **Expected outcomes**

The project won the Outstanding Project Award presented at the QEF Projects Exposition

2008 Opening Ceremony on 9 May 2008. The QEF, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary, was established to finance projects for the promotion of quality education in Hong Kong. The QEF Steering Committee named 20 Outstanding Projects from more than 7,000 recipients of QEF funding. The project provided opportunities for 320 undergraduates across colleges to make an original discovery and innovation. This is in line with CityU's strategic plan and the academic developmental goal of the Discovery-enriched Curriculum to transform the CityU undergraduate experience. CityU's Provost, Professor Arthur Ellis, cited the study as an outstanding example in his speech on "Re-defining the Teaching-Research Nexus: Building the CityU Discovery-enriched Curriculum", presented on 12 September 2011. The project was selected by the Dean (CLASS) to be presented on Building Successful School Partnerships at the Knowledge Exchange Conference, jointly organised by eight UGC-funded institutes on 5 December 2011. The project involved 39,746 students, 5,883 teachers and 6,246 parents in five years in total, which is the largest ground-breaking research, using quantitative and qualitative approaches in longitudinal studies, on the specific interventions for reactive and proactive aggressors as well as passive and aggressive victims of school bullying in the world. 23 publications have been successfully published, including four (Q1), two (Q2) ISI international top journal publications. 178 presentations and workshops have been locally conducted and across Western and Eastern countries. As a PI of the project, played a leadership role in organising an overseas-held symposium on Aggression in Hong Kong: Experiences of Children, Youth, and Adults at the American Psychological Association (APA) Annual Convention, Washington DC, US in August 2011. 5 press release conferences, 13 on-air radio and television programs, and 37 published interviews in different newspapers have been successfully completed.