

Abstract

This evaluation project addresses the impacts of establishing an informal social support network in the lower income grassroots community during the outbreak of the fifth wave of COVID-19 pandemic in Hong Kong. Research found that one way to build informal social support networks for marginal and vulnerable groups is via the mediation of social service providers or non-governmental organisations. These institutions create opportunities to gather a group of people for community members to embed their own social networks with other participants and staff and establish their community resilience in this regard.

However, we know very little about the pattern of the newly established network, the mechanisms, and conditions which account for the network building process, the resources embedded in it and its impacts on the community members. To fill in these gaps, this study works together with the Wu Wu Cheng community support programme to identify and evaluate such impacts, uncover the structure of the social network generated by the project, and the network building process. The study will adopt the mixed method social network perspective in the investigation. The data collected can create a model of the informal social support network, consolidate knowledge for the planning, design, and implementation of future community projects, provide substantial indicators to measure the social impacts in terms of informal social support network, and create a measurement framework for the future community projects.