Project Title: A collaborative forum for the enhancement of social work practicum education in Hong Kong

Leading Institution: City University of Hong Kong

Participating Institution(s): The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The University of Hong Kong

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In view of the lack of coordination and low degree of transparency in the provision of social work practicum education in various institutions, combined with the lack of exchange and collaboration between local and overseas social work institutions, the project aims to establish links between local and overseas institutions, facilitate the exchange of knowledge and practices related to the issues and trends of practicum education, and incorporate international trends and practices into local social work education via an international conference, theme-based local institutional seminars and an e-forum. Objectives of the project are -

1. To review existing practices and assess the pros and cons of practicum models in various institutions within Hong Kong, so as to improve transparency;
2. To learn from the best practices of overseas and local institutions that excel in practicum education;
3. To explore a collaborative learning fieldwork practicum model in Hong Kong, thus developing innovative, best practices; and
4. To facilitate the ongoing discussion and exchange of knowledge, information and experiences amongst educational institutions and social welfare agencies worldwide

The international conference will cover the following themes: supervision models,
fieldwork supervision and practicum education, student learning and outstanding student projects, collaboration of various stakeholders including social welfare agencies, teachers and students, cultural sensitivity and fieldwork practicum, assessment and evaluation in fieldwork practicum, use of technology in practicum education, internationalization of practicum education. Renowned overseas experts and local experts will be invited to present in the conference.

Local seminars will be held in various institutions to discuss the effectiveness of practicum teaching and learning through the incorporation of international trends and practices. Teachers, students from different academic institutions and professionals from social welfare agencies will be invited to participate in the seminars to explore a collaborative fieldwork practicum learning model in Hong Kong.

The e-forum will comprise four sections, namely, the Practice Forum, Supervision Forum, Research Forum and Career in the Helping Professions Forum, covering former students’ practicum work and records, instructors’ supervision practices, research ideas related to practicum learning and teaching, and guidance for students on developing their professional identities and careers in the helping professions, respectively.

Sustainability of the project will be attained by incorporating a collaborative learning fieldwork model in practicum education, continuous exchange of new information and innovative practices via the e-forum, and organisation of international conferences and local seminars in the future.