

Project Title : Special educational needs empowerment project for pre-service teachers

Leading University : The Education University of Hong Kong

Participating UGC-funded University(ies) : Hong Kong Baptist University

Project Leader(s) : Professor SIN Kuen-fung, Professor, Department of Special Education and Counselling, Faculty of Education and Human Development, The Education University of Hong Kong

Government statistics indicates the increasing number of SEN students in the mainstream primary and secondary schools. Local report revealed that the majority of in-service teachers lacked training in SEN, leading to teacher frustration, ineffective teaching, and the suffering of SEN students and their peers (Equal Opportunities Commission, 2012).

This project therefore aims at strengthening the training in special education in the current BEd and other undergraduate curriculum in both EdUHK and HKBU, by constructing a comprehensive and in-depth framework of inclusive education teacher training at different levels. This 2-year project will systematically and purposefully nurture committed pre-service teachers to become competent special educational needs (SEN) teachers through a ‘horizontal’ and ‘vertical’ ‘Service Learning Model’. The project will support teacher training in inclusive education, prepare undergraduate students for an SEN-focus career development, and provide them with the necessary service-learning exposure to meet the contextual needs and challenges in inclusive education development.

With the support from the partner NGOs, special schools, SEN practitioners and scholars, the final project outcome will be a sustainable framework for an effective ‘Service Learning Model’ in SEN. This framework will be possibly integrated as one

of the Co-curricular Learning (CL) Courses in the UGC-funded BEd or other undergraduate programs at EdUHK and HKBU for the sustainability thereafter.