



VIVIAN

Hong Kong
Diocesan Girls' School

GLOCAL SERVICE PROJECT

TITLE

EdQuity

WEBSITE

edquity.site

SUMMARY

EdQuity is an initiative to promote educational equity in Hong Kong. The project aims to promote mutually beneficial relationships between students from different age groups and socio-economic backgrounds, as well as to provide opportunities for them to dive into social issues so as to arouse participants' interests in learning. EdQuity provides mentorship and discussion-based learning sessions to promote understanding.

HOW MIGHT WE?

How might we arouse students' interest in studying while narrowing the gap between different social classes?

AUDIENCE

Grade 1-10 students in the Yau Tsim Mong District of Hong Kong.

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

Goal #4 Quality Education

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Problem 1:

Public schools in Hong Kong are commonly stigmatized as “school for the poor”. Students studying there have no equal access to opportunities and resources compared with students from private school. This has undermines education equity has they cannot reach their full potentials due to financial limitations.

Problem 2:

All students in Hong Kong face heavy academic burdens due to high social expectations. Monster parents pack their children’s schedule with tutorial classes and activities to enhance their competitiveness. Therefore, students cannot understand the meaning of education and do not enjoy studying.

SOLUTION STATEMENT

This program provides a unique opportunity for interactions between students from the two completely opposite social classes and at the same time arouse their interests in learning. It is planned to be implemented in July next year for schools in Yau Tsim Mong district that are interested.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE?

There has been a significant rise in student suicide cases across all social classes in Hong Kong due to their heavy academic pressure and hopeless towards their futures. By arousing their interests towards studying, they may find learning less of a burden and therefore lessen their academic pressure while promoting their learning progress and efficiency.

Furthermore, achieving educational equality in the Yau Tsim Mong district, which is the district with the most severe disparity in Hong Kong, could promote social harmony and at the same time nurture more talents, even from a lower social class, for the future.

PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

- My friends will act as facilitators in discussion-based learning sessions
- My school will hopefully provide venues for the activities of this program (I’ll reach out to my school principal in January)
- Mr. Steven Lin, a Phillips Exeter Academy graduate who lives in Hong Kong and is an expert in Harkness and the space of education. It is my greatest pleasure to be put in touch with him by Yumi as she believes that Mr. Lin could offer advice for holding discussion-based learning sessions

KEY RESOURCES

My mentor, Katherine Wang, who kindly offers me advice.
The Hong Kong-based NGO Agents of Change.

SUCCESS METRICS

The project would be successful if friendly relationships are established between mentors and mentees after this project; and if participants find the discussion-based learning sessions engaging and fun.

WHAT IS THE VISION FOR THIS PROJECT? HOW WILL IT BE SUSTAINABLE?

The vision for this project is to promote mutual understanding between students from different socio-economic backgrounds, so as to arouse social awareness concerning educational inequality. It also aims at engaging students in learning by exposing them to knowledge outside of school curricula and actively forming their opinions towards controversial issues.

I hope this project will be organized once a year by recruiting previous participants as organizing committee each year. I believe that with their help, this project can be sustainable and benefit more students in the years to come.

HOW IS THE PROJECT UNIQUELY SITUATED TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF THE TARGET COMMUNITY?

Currently, there isn't any opportunity for students to get to know students from other schools, especially students with a different socio-economic background. This project allows less-privileged students to receive help and care from those receiving a more resourceful education, which could hopefully eliminate their sense of helplessness.

Furthermore, Hong Kong students are not given the opportunity to develop their own stances towards issues, and the exam-oriented culture has numbed their thinking. The discussion-based learning session would provoke students' thinking towards real-life issues, and inspire them through the back-and-forth questioning between members in the group. Hence, students could develop their analytical skills, communication skills, and critical thinking skills which are essential for their futures.