

Meta-analysis of the Evidence-based Practices Research Reports in Social Services in Hong Kong (1998 – 2012)

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Evidence-based Practices Research is one of the main focuses of social services in Hong Kong. Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) publish research reports to present the service models they adopted and their effectiveness; the findings of their needs assessments on specific communities or service users. Although evidence-based practices research is an important tool for assessment and development of social service, we don't have a comprehensive and systematic database to contain these published reports or even abstracts. Besides, there are no further analysis based on the methodologies have been made among those reports. In this paper, meta-analysis is used to analyze those reports, which are selected by simple random sampling. There were three dimensions of the reports would be examined and analyzed. The first dimension is the basic research methodologies, which include the design of the study, degree of control over the social system, temporal dimension, sample, sample size, data source, data collection method, researchers and so forth. Another dimension is the size of the NGOs, which include the number of units, number of staff (general or professionals), sources of funding and the amount from different sources of funding. And the third dimension of analysis would be emphasized on the development of Social Welfare and NGOs in Hong Kong. This paper was prepared based on the captioned methodology; NGOs published over 1,000 reports from the Handover of Hong Kong to 2012. This paper studied 885 researches from 800 reports. Observations of their practices, researches and reports had been drawn. Studying evidence-based practices research methods and statistics are compulsory courses for the social work students in the tertiary institutions in Hong Kong, this presentation aimed at enhance their basic research abilities. Most importantly, I would like to provide them a holistic picture on the topics and trends on the evidence-based practices research reports in the Social Services sector in Hong Kong.

Key Words: Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), Research Methodologies, Research Abilities, Social Welfare Development.