

**Group:** Community Service and Ministry in Action Research and Model Development (ARMD) Team

**Objectives:** Based on research in advocacy and concrete work done, promote and share the experience of the practical “Discipleship-driven Cross-cultural Mission”

**Research writer:** Dr Eddie Ng / Leung Wai Sze

- **Ministry Position of HKCNP:**

**1. Caring for the poor and community transformation:** HKCNP does not mainly provide service directly, it plays the role of promotion and support, and with the partner organizations from various sectors, it assists the front-line organizations such as churches and Christian organizations to find out the needs of the people in the communities they are in. At the same time, **the Christians who take part in the activities can implement the principles of gospel, the life of a disciple can be molded.**

**2. Network-building and unity:** HKCNP acts as an intermediary to lead various sects and allocate resources, it can also promote various ways of resource allocation and advocate poverty-alleviation actions and policies among churches, the government, business sector and various organizations.

- **Action Research: Love in Action and Mentorship Program**

**1. Love in Action:** HKCNP has assisted churches in liaising with partner organizations (including non-government organizations and the business sector) to obtain related materials, such as food, and provide organizational administrative and case referral support since 2009, so churches can start to serve the poor. The churches participated in were responsible for providing venues and volunteers, which allows the members to take care the psychological needs of the residents during material distribution activities, and further actions such as home visits could be taken. **Besides the cultural gap between different classes of the society, HKCNP also bridge the cultural divide between Chinese-speaking and English-speaking churches.**

**2. Mentorship Program:** The mentorship program started with HKCNP’s partner churches in 2007, when there was a problem of intergeneration poverty in Hong Kong. In 2008, the government adopted the format of the program and added “Mentoring” as a core element during the implementation of Child Development Fund (CDF). The program was implemented on a time-limited basis for three years, which paired up 10-to-16-year-old children from low-income families with mentors. The mentors would help the teenagers to set their individual development plan as well as encourage targeted saving at their early age, while the children’s ability of resource management and future planning could be enhanced. It was also a significant step towards alleviating and tackling the problem of intergeneration poverty. In order to promote the participation of partner organizations, HKCNP matched funds to support various organizations and worked with them in more than 20 schemes to serve up to 2000 children. At the same time, HKCNP liaised with numerous sects, so far up to 3000 Christians have become mentors. The program also provided the mentors who participated in with a unique chance of personal growth, they influenced another lives with their own lives and manifested the spirit and vitality of faith.

- **Serving the Poor and “Discipleship-driven Cross-cultural Mission”:**

The ministry of HKCNP values the participation of Christians. Those projects are only tools for the organizations to start helping the poor. Only when Christians walk with the poor with the love from Christ, **life of the poor could be transformed.** In the various projects of “Love In Action”, through visiting, distributing materials and liaising with the residents by Christians, only resources from all sides can be transferred to the poor. By taking part in the “Mentorship Program” and work as mentor, one’s words and acts can directly affect the life quality of the youth.

- **The Possibility of “Sustainable Development”:**

HKCNP was founded by three major Christian organizations, which have HKCNP a solid foundation with many potential partners. As the impact of the HKCNP ministry depends on the extensiveness of the network, the more the partner organizations, the more the resources can be shared and used to satisfy the needs of the poor, therefore the number of potential partners can prove that sustainable development is possible for HKCNP.

- **Development Plan:**

By taking part in poverty alleviation projects to build a disciple life is the most needed and suitable discipleship training in the 21st century. HKCNP takes the building of cross-cultural network and disciple life transformation as its core poverty alleviation format, though the format is now still in the stages of implementation, testing and deepening. This report is a valuable chance for the organization to summarize the experience of the implementation and share it with the Christians all over the world. It is hopeful that this report can help motivate Christians to think about the direction and contributions could be made by the church on poverty alleviation work.