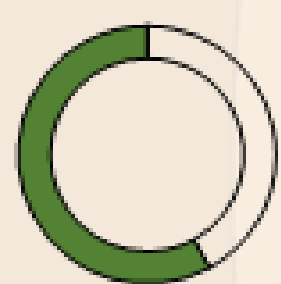


Intergenerational Cohousing Campaign

Background

From 2006 to 2016, the number of households with only senior residents had a 57% increase. Among these households:



The majority were elderly living alone

58%

With respect to the ageing population in Hong Kong, the burden of caring for senior residents increases at the same time. To cope with this challenge, we have introduced two pilot schemes with the aim to alleviate this problem and create a more harmonic society for elderlies to enjoy their late life.



Pilot Schemes

Pilot Scheme 1: Rental Services for Youth

Recruiting senior citizens with ready-to-rent vacant rooms and young adults (aged 18-35) as tenants, in which they will live with their senior landlord in the same house/flat but having their own personal space. Young adults can enjoy a rent much lower than the market price (e.g., $\frac{1}{3}$ of market price), on the promise that they will commit 10 hours per week doing house chores for their landlord and accompanying them in daily routines.

Pilot Scheme 2: Elderly Homes

With the similar idea as pilot scheme 1, this scheme is implemented in elderly homes instead. Within each elderly home, a few rooms are renovated for rental to young adults. They can enjoy a low rent on the promise they will uphold the same commitment as in the first scheme. Moreover, to complete their commitment, the young adults can choose to organize workshops and activities for the elderlies within the elderly home to join.

Since these two are pilot schemes with proof-of-concept, the scale should be kept small.

The ideas are as below:

Scheme No.1 = 10-20 pairs of tenant-landlords recruited

Scheme No.2 = 10-20 young adults will be recruited, to live in 2-3 elderly homes.

If the pilot schemes prove successful in terms of feasibility and effectiveness in improving elderly mental health, we can enlarge the scale to help even more singleton elderlies.



Aims

We hope that the low rent can serve as financial incentives to encourage active participation on the youth's part. Given that many youths in Hong Kong face the housing problem and struggle to finance a place to live, we believe the low rent would serve as a huge incentive. On the other hand, to ensure the quality of our project, we hope to recruit youths that are genuinely compassionate and willing to care for the elderlies. Therefore, a selection process must be implemented, young adults are selected based on personal traits such as kindness, compassion, communication skills, etc.; those with frequent experiences volunteering for elderly care are much preferred. Once the youths begin living with the elderlies, there will be social workers who will continuously monitor their relationships by conducting regular home visits and phone calls; if necessary, social workers will also resolve any quarrel between the two groups.

Group 10

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Reference list:

