

Contribution of Community Organizations in Social Capital Building
社區組織對社會資本的貢獻

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Abstract

The concept of social capital, being popularized by Putnam in the US in early 1990s, was introduced to Hong Kong at the turn of the century. Since then, government, NGOs, human services professionals and community activists alike eagerly use the 'new found' terminology to give meaning to their work at the community/neighbourhood level. Very often, these professionals and community leaders belong to various kinds of organizations that are based in the community. This phenomenon arouses our interest to examine the intricate relationship between social capital and community organizations.

In this paper, the author would like to firstly give an overview on the concept of social capital and the local initiatives pertinent to the development of social capital since 2000. Then the constellation of organizations in two communities, one old and one new in Hong Kong, namely, Shamshuipo and Tung Chung, will be presented as examples to illuminate the features and characteristics of these organizations. Subsequently, the role, process and mechanism of these organizations in the building and sustaining of social capital will be examined in the context of Hong Kong communities. Finally, the implication of 'social capital intervention' for pol