



Engaging Ethnic Minority Youth - from Drug and Alcohol Prevention to Positive Youth Development

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KELY Support Group

Empowering young people to reach their full potential since 1991

Non-government funded bilingual organization

Providing support to youth aged between 14 and 24

KELY Support Group

3 core services :

**Prevention Education
and
Harm Reduction**

**Positive Youth
Development**

**Advocacy – public
education**

Education Attainment

- Dropout rates before F5 for Pakistani and Nepali students were **15.6%** and **20.6 %** respectively compared with just **6.4%** for Chinese students.

(Zubin Foundation, HKU Centre for Comparative and Public Law, 2011)

Happiness

- **84%** out of 254 Ethnic Minority youth indicated that they were happy all or most of the time, despite challenges faced.

(Zubin Foundation, HongKonger report 2018)

Ethnic Minority Youth at a Glance

Employment

- SAs and Southeast Asians mainly engaged in grassroots positions with proportions of elementary workers exceeding 30%

(Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report on Ethnic Minorities 2016.)

Limited opportunities

- In 2016, it was recorded that 1 in 5 Ethnic Minority families are living below the poverty line - lack of education & low skills to enter gainful employment.

(Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report on Ethnic Minorities 2016)

“A general feeling of acceptance of their circumstances - it's not quite optimism, more of a sense that there is nothing else to do, so instead, they find other areas of productivity (strength). This is why we see so many youth go into vocational trades”

“Social anxiety is apparent - language barriers are a contributor, but so is the limited opportunity to meaningful integrate and engage (wider discrimination)”

“There is a strong sense of community around some groups of Ethnic Minority youth - through extended family relationships or religious communities. This can provide a greater avenue of accountability and can lead to more positive ways of coping with stressors”

Wellbeing of our Ethnic Minority Youth

“Low self esteem is a concern - culturally it is not common to share feelings. As a result, we see maladaptive coping mechanisms including repression of feelings. This is further exacerbated by us not asking them, or giving them an opportunity to talk or share”

“Some do feel hopeless, and many don't cope well, turning to substances and other high risk behaviours, but not all are like this”

**CULTURAL
COMPETENCE**

PARTNERSHIP

**SOCIAL
CAPITAL**

CULTURAL COMPETENCE

- Awareness of cultural implications
- Team Readiness



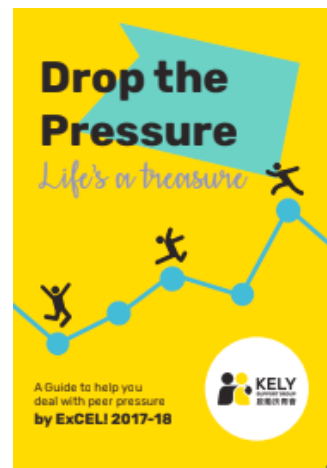
PARTNERSHIP



ExCEL! Express Communicate Educate Lead

My thoughts and understanding of drug use was that drugs are bad, drug dealers are even worse and drug users need help. I now think that people use or try drugs because they downplay the severity of what they are going through or the difficulties they face. Addiction plays a part in them continuing to use and they find themselves stuck in a cycle of decisions they made. When it comes to stress, young people need to know when to take a break and chill or find someone to share the burden with, our campaign emphasizes the importance of positive peer support as well.

- **Pensar, 17 years old; ExCEL! 2017-18 participant**



Social Capital

- Introducing **opportunities**
- Increase **networks, connectivity** and **trust** to the wider community
- **Preparing** “for the real world”

Valuable lessons so far

**Recognize that there is a cultural difference
and proactively work to bridge that gap**

**Invite them to share and listen to what they
have to say - involve them!**

**Champion opportunities for them to be more
connected / engaged in a meaningful way**

Own Voices : Breaking Stereotypes (2018)





Thank you.



kelysupportgrp

Kely.org