

Youth Work in Asia: Theory and Practice

Understanding and Working with Young People In Asia and Hong Kong

Peter Newbery

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This book is dedicated to the countless number of individuals and organizations who have given so generously of their time, energy and support to improve the quality of life of the young people in Hong Kong and throughout Asia.

The Author

Peter Newbery has been serving Hong Kong young people for all of his working life, initially as a teacher and school counselor and later with the Correctional Services. He has qualifications in Social Work, Criminology, Counseling and Education.

In 1991, he was instrumental in setting up a new and innovative service for marginal youth for which he has been honored by the government of the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong with the Bronze Bauhinia Star. He has also been honored by the British Government and the United Nations for his work with youth and has received Honorary Doctorates from two Hong Kong Universities.

He is a graduate of the University of Hong Kong and has been an honorary lecturer at the University of Hong Kong for many years. He was a recipient of the Outstanding Alumnus Award in 2010.

Other Books by the Same Author

Letters from the Street: Runaway Kids on the Streets of Hong Kong
Dealing with Delinquent Students
Gangs in Schools
A History of Youth Work in Hong Kong
Nuts & Bolts – A Practical Guide to Group Leadership
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Preface

Many books dealing with the topic of Adolescent Development and youth work are written by scholars in what are usually termed "Western" countries and cover theories and research which have for the most part been developed in those same countries and deal with factors influencing adolescent development from that perspective.

However, scholars in Asia have begun building up a body of work in the social sciences which focus more directly on Asian issues, examining how much of the more common theories and approaches are applicable to Asia. It is hoped that this book, particularly the first part, can make a contribution in this area.

Hong Kong is a large international metropolis but its day-to-day social life is firmly embedded in Chinese culture. The territory has a long history of professional social work dating back to the establishment of Hong Kong as a colony in 1842. This book describes the development of four major areas of youth work which have the longest history in Hong Kong. These areas have evolved as Hong Kong itself has evolved socially and economically over decades in response to real, practical needs and the unique background of Chinese culture.

Much of what has been developed over the years in the area of youth work in Hong Kong can provide a useful reference point to other countries and cultures in Asia, particularly those which have been influenced by Chinese culture where insights and programs developed in Hong Kong can be adapted to local needs.

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