

Child Development Fund

Further Study on the Long Term Development of Child Development Fund Project Participants

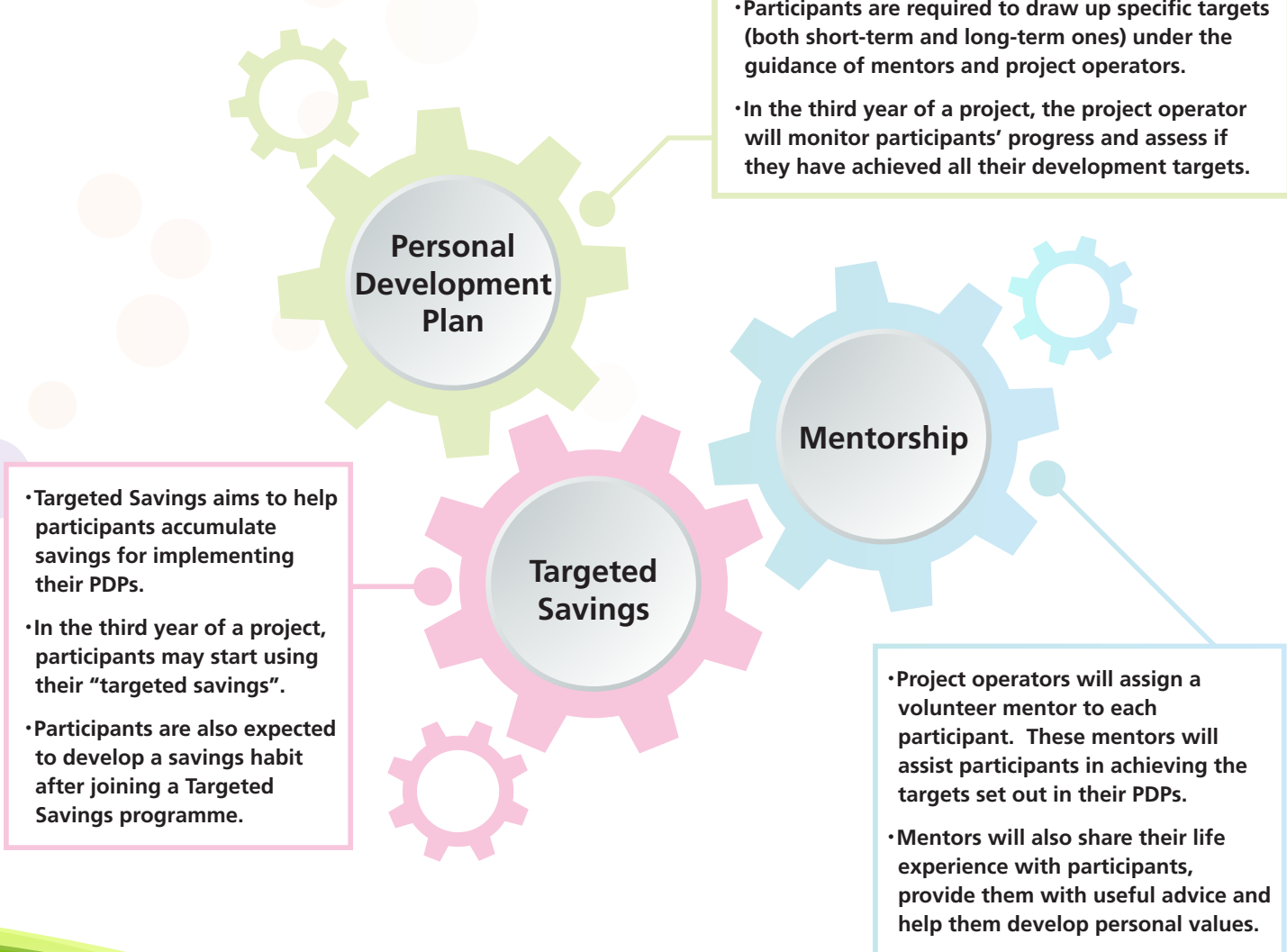
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Three Key Complementary Components of CDF Projects

Established in 2008, the Child Development Fund (CDF) has been providing personal development opportunities for participating grassroots children and youths. Through formulating and implementing personal development plans, the CDF seeks to help these children and youths accumulate savings and intangible assets (such as positive attitudes, personal resilience and capacities, and social networks, etc.) for their future development.

conduct a further study on the long term development of CDF project participants in 2018. The findings of the study show that the three key components of CDF projects, namely Personal Development Plan (PDP), Mentorship and Targeted Savings, are highly complementary to one another and each of them has its unique long-term impacts on participants. All three components are essential to CDF projects.



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Participants' Sharing

Pivotal Role of Mentorship

Each of the three key components of CDF projects has its unique long-term impacts on participants. The findings of the study confirm that mentorship is a pivotal component in asset building programmes.

Under the guidance of mentors, participants will develop a savings habit and learn to use their savings for personal development. Throughout the process, participants can have access to more social support while exploring their career aspirations. With positive future orientation, they will become more motivated to pursue studies and lead a more disciplined life, resulting in better health with fewer behavioral problems. Parent-child relationship can also be improved as participants are more committed to fulfilling their PDPs. These benefits are vital to their future success.

Former Participant Encouraging Newcomers to Pursue Their Dreams

participation in a CDF project. With the "targeted savings" accumulated under the project, he was able to take part in relevant overseas exchange activities. The wide array of courses arranged by the project operator not only broadened his horizons but also equipped him with practical experience through hands-on training.

While a great step was taken towards achieving his goal, Kei-yeung admitted that he had suffered setbacks in the past which made him feel lost and unsure about the future. "At that time, my mentor gave me the greatest support and encouragement. He also helped me get more life experience. Because of him, I was able to regain my confidence and carry on. I am very grateful to him," he said.

At the Child Development Fund 10th Anniversary Ceremony - Celebrating 10 Years of Dreams for Future held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre last year, Kei-yeung emceed the event with a fellow graduate and two social workers. Speaking cheerfully and wittily with great confidence before an audience of over 1 000, he left a lasting impression on the guests.

Inspired by his own changes, Kei-yeung has signed up for CDF projects again, as a volunteer mentor this time, in the hope of sharing his experience with the newcomers and encouraging them to pursue their dreams.



WANG Kei-yeung / Aged 19
Graduate of the fifth batch of
NGO-run projects
Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service

Realising Dreams by Setting Goals and Translating Learning into Actions

ZHANG Hong-yu had been practising Chinese martial arts since childhood. After starting secondary school, he came to realise that the movements of Chinese martial arts have their limitations, whereas those of boxing were, on the contrary, less restrictive and more flexible. Inspired by the success story of professional boxer Rex TSO, and with the encouragement of his mentor and family members, Hong-yu started to learn boxing when he was in Form 2.

"Through the CDF project, I've set a clear goal for myself to pursue university studies and become a professional boxer. For the latter, I've bought some boxing equipment with my 'targeted savings'. More importantly, my mentor and social worker have continuously offered me valuable advice and guidance. With their support, I've drawn up a concrete plan for realising my dream step by step," Hong-yu said.

Hong-yu worked hard not only on boxing but also on academic studies. He has been among the top students in school throughout the years and even came first in the exam during the first term of Form 3, laying for himself a good foundation for achieving his goals.



ZHANG Hong-yu / Aged 16
Graduate of the third batch of
school-based projects
S.K.H. All Saints' Middle School

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Companionship through Difficult Times Sets a Good Example of Selfless Contribution

YIU Kim-ming (Jimmy) still remembers the day when his A-Level examination results, which fell short of his expectation, were released. He recalled, "At that time, the three-year CDF project I had joined was over. But when I called my mentor telling him of the disappointing results, he immediately rushed from his home in Tsuen Wan to my school in Sham Shui Po, and accompanied me in search of a suitable school place."

Too ashamed to face his parents alone, Jimmy was lucky to have his mentor whose presence helped ease the awkward atmosphere so that everyone could calmly discuss his future.

"Even now, my mentor is still much inclined to offer me advice on my studies and work. When I graduated from university, he was there at the ceremony to show support."

The selfless contribution of his mentor has motivated Jimmy to keep participating in CDF activities. "I may not be mature enough to shoulder the weighty responsibilities of a mentor, but I do very much hope to contribute to CDF projects in one way or another. Through the arrangement of the centre, I have been appointed chairman of the graduate association. Apart from liaising with the graduates, I also take part in organising and emceeding major events as well as experience sharing at mentors' gatherings."



YIU Kim-ming / Aged 27
Graduate of the first batch of
NGO-run projects
The Industrial Evangelistic Fellowship

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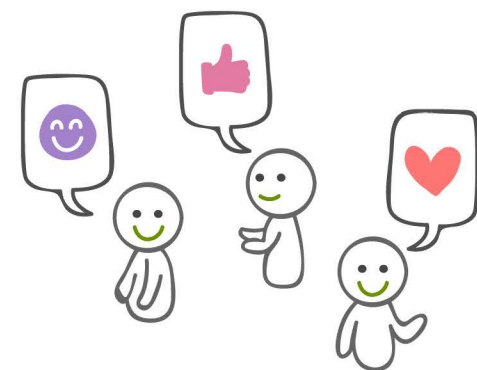
Positive impacts on alleviating inter-generational poverty

The Further Study on the Long Term Development of Child Development Fund Project Participants revealed that projects launched by the CDF were effective in helping grassroots children and youths improve their social skills, enhance their abilities in problem-solving, resource management and future planning, and develop a positive learning and working attitude as well as a persistent savings habit in the long run, thereby creating positive impacts on alleviating inter-generational poverty.

Social skills and abilities in future planning were notably improved

Participants' social skills were notably improved

- Participants received higher levels of social support. They also had better mental health with less emotional problems, behavioral problems and peer problems.



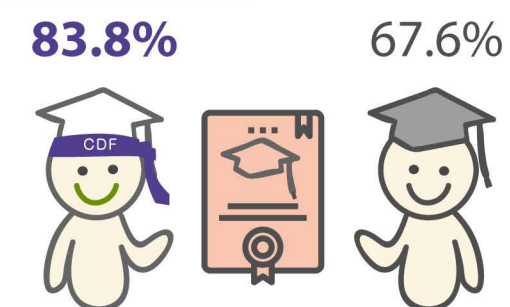
A great majority of the participants perceived that CDF projects had been helpful in their personal development



- A great majority of the participants (**94.0%**) perceived that CDF projects had been helpful in fulfilling their PDPs (in areas such as academic studies, physical education, arts, career and social life, etc.).

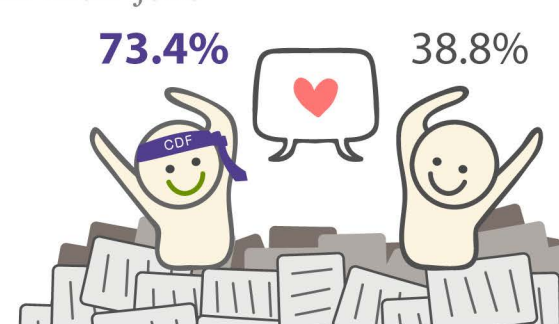
Effective in developing a positive learning and working attitude

More participants attained higher education levels



- 83.8%** of working participants had attained a sub-degree course or above, which is more than that among working non-participants (67.6%).

More participants had more interest in their jobs

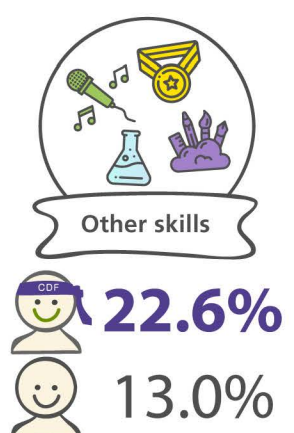


- The working participants (**73.4%**) had more interest in their current job than the non-participants (38.8%).

More participants had obtained professional qualifications and other skills

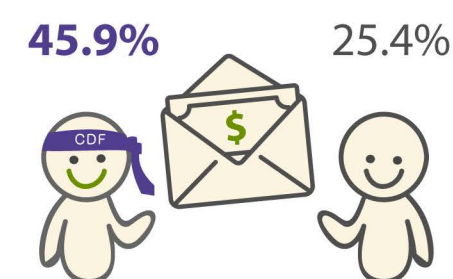


- 26.6%** of working participants had obtained professional qualifications including registered nurse, social worker, surveyor and teacher, compared to only 9.1% among working non-participants.



- 22.6%** of working participants had obtained other skills in areas such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), arts, sports, music and leadership, compared to 13.0% among the working non-participants.

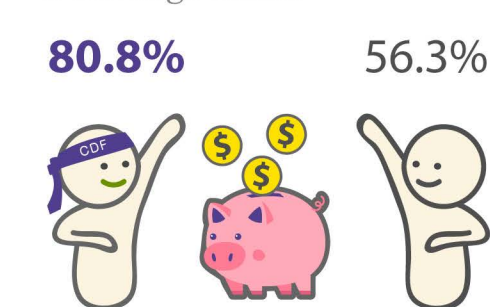
Participants earned more



- 45.9%** of participants earned \$15,000 or above per month, compared to only 25.4% among the non-participants.

Successful in developing a persistent savings habit and resource management ability

More participants had a savings habit



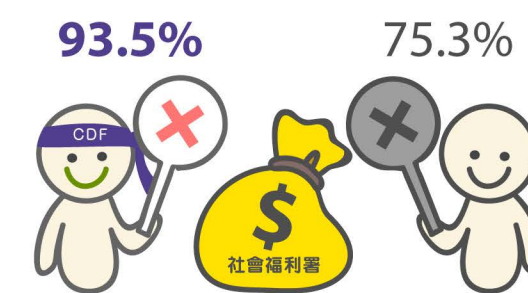
- The CDF participants (**80.8%**) were more likely to have a savings habit than the non-participants (56.3%), such that most participants maintained the habit after project completion.

Participants saved more per month on average



- Working participants saved **\$2,836** per month on average, which was substantially more than that of the non-participants (\$1,623 per month on average);

More participants' families did not require any financial assistance under the Social Welfare Department



- More families of working CDF participants (**93.5%**) did not require any financial assistance under the Social Welfare Department, compared to 75.3% among the non-participants.

Background

The Government has commissioned consulting teams to evaluate the effectiveness of CDF projects on three occasions since the launch of the first batch of the pioneer projects in 2009. The findings of the studies have all along been positive.

Study Title	Consultancy Study on Child Development Fund Pioneer Projects	Study on the Longer Term Development of Child Development Fund Project Participants	Further Study on the Long Term Development of Child Development Fund Project Participants
Findings	CDF laid a good foundation for promoting children's development and enabling them to secure the tangible and intangible assets required to give them a more promising future, thus combating poverty.	The three key components of CDF projects could effectively enhance participants' abilities in resource management and future planning, expand their personal networks and help them develop a persistent savings habit.	CDF projects were effective in helping participants develop a positive learning and working attitude, improve their social skills, enhance their abilities in problem-solving, resource management and future planning, and develop a persistent savings habit, thereby creating positive impacts on alleviating inter-generational poverty.
Year of Completion	December 2012	March 2017	February 2020
Commissioned Organisation	Department of Applied Social Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Department of Social Work and Social Administration, The University of Hong Kong and Policy 21 Limited	Department of Applied Social Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Objective	To evaluate the effectiveness of the first batch CDF pioneer projects	To explore CDF projects' longer-term impacts on participants	To keep track of the development of CDF participants and non-CDF-participants who took part in the Second Study, and examine the situation of CDF participants four to seven years after project completion
Methodology	Questionnaire surveys and focus group discussions	Questionnaire surveys, focus group discussions and in-depth interviews	Questionnaire surveys and in-depth interviews
Target	CDF pioneer project participants, their parents and mentors, project operators and eligible children who did not participate in the pioneer projects	CDF project participants, their parents and mentors, project operators and eligible children who did not participate in the projects	CDF participants and non-CDF-participants who took part in the Second Study, their parents and mentors, project operators and a supporting organisation

For detailed findings, please refer to the full study reports.

