

ANNEX: SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE RESEARCH PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THE MRS LEE CHOON GUAN ENDOWED RESEARCH FUND MANAGED BY NUS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

	Organisation and research project	Description
1	<p><u>KK Women's and Children's Hospital</u></p> <p>Experiences of living with eczema: a multi-method qualitative study</p>	<p>Hospital social work involves supporting adolescents to cope successfully with demands arising from living with a chronic medical illness such as eczema. Eczema, a common skin condition affecting one in five school-going Singapore children, can have a profoundly negative effect on the quality of life of young people. Children and adolescents with eczema also face challenges in their psychosocial functioning due to stigmatisation from visible marks on their skin. One of the limitations in the current literature regarding young people's experiences is the exclusion of their perspectives.</p> <p>Understanding adolescents' first-hand experiences of the challenges they face living with eczema, its impact on their daily lives, and their support needs will help tailor social work interventions to address these issues.</p> <p>This study aims to gain insights into adolescents and their family members' experiences of living with eczema. In particular, it will focus on the impact of eczema on their lives, their coping strategies and support needs.</p>
2	<p><u>Lakeside Family Services</u></p> <p>Perspectives of long-term low-income clients in Family Service Centre</p>	<p>Family Service Centres (FSCs) in Singapore serve a plethora of low-income clients with various needs. These low-income clients would receive various forms of financial assistance. Their presenting financial need is often a symptom of more complex underlying issues, leading them to require social services for many years, thus remaining in the system. This has been a ubiquitous trend observed in FSCs, with few families getting out of requiring continued help from social services.</p> <p>This research aims to explore the perceptions of long-term low-income clients receiving assistance from the FSC. Firstly, the project seeks to understand the self-perceptions of long-term low-income clients while being served by the FSC for more than three years. Secondly, it seeks to understand long-term low-income clients' perceptions of the FSC. This is a crucial research topic as it helps FSC social work practitioners understand clients' experiences when interacting with the social service system and gives insight into issues which may be preventing clients from becoming independent. There has not been any local research done on this topic.</p> <p>The findings in this study may help to surface the issues and interactions that are perpetuating client's long-term retention within the social service system. This may help FSC practitioners increase their awareness and reflexivity</p>

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		<p>as workers, guiding them to rethink and adjust intervention plans to be more strategic in working with long-term low-income clients.</p> <p>The results will be discussed with other social service practitioners, in the hope of enhancing the FSC's processes and service delivery to clients, in order to empower and further enable the positive functioning of low-income clients.</p>
3	<p><u>SHINE Children & Youth Services</u></p> <p>School attendance in low-income families and children: Beliefs and strategies</p>	<p>Students who leave school prematurely are at risk of unemployment or unstable employment, lower earnings, and financial strain. Since research has found poor attendance in elementary school to be predictive of dropout and later school completion, it is crucial for intervention to begin early. From practice wisdom and organisational statistics, students with poor attendance tend to be predominantly from low-income families. Hence, this study will focus on children in Primary 3 to 6 who are from low-income families.</p> <p>Given the lack of research into school attendance in Singapore, the study aims to investigate the motivations, beliefs and attitudes of low-income families and children towards education and school attendance. The team also aims to elicit the strategies used to help children attend school regularly, and understand which strategies are effective.</p> <p>This study hopes to capture and learn from the attempts, challenges, successes, and failures of local low-income families in relation to school attendance.</p>
4	<p><u>Samaritans of Singapore</u></p> <p>Evaluation of suicide survivors counselling & support services of the Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) Programme in Singapore – A pilot study</p>	<p>Suicide survivors are individuals who are bereaved by the suicide deaths of loved ones. The Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) programme of the Samaritans of Singapore (SOS) is currently the only outreach and counselling service specially catered to suicide survivors in Singapore.</p> <p>The LOSS programme renders one-stop emotional support and grief counselling services to suicide survivors through outreach, face-to-face counselling, phone call follow-up, care card and messages, and a mutual support group. Between 2016 and 2017, the LOSS programme sent out its outreach team for 104 cases of suicide deaths. About 240 suicide survivors and their families received grief support through phone calls and 58 of them, who showed more severe grief reaction, received face-to-face counselling.</p> <p>This research aims to study and compare the effectiveness of different levels of LOSS interventions with respect to the improvement of bio-psycho-social well-being and grief reactions of these survivors.</p>

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5	<p data-bbox="293 264 548 328"><u>South Central Community FSC</u></p> <p data-bbox="293 368 548 496">Building assets via home ownership: An evaluation of KeyStart initiative</p>	<p data-bbox="571 264 2042 400">A stable home has been cited as a critical ingredient in breaking the poverty cycle, by providing a base for families to achieve their goals without worrying about shelter. Studies have also shown the positive outcomes of home ownership and moving out of low-income neighbourhoods. In light of this, South Central Community Family Service Centre started the KeyStart home ownership pilot initiative (“KeyStart”) to support home ownership.</p> <p data-bbox="571 440 2042 703">The practice research project seeks to gain practice insights through KeyStart interventions from the perspective of beneficiaries (i.e. low-income families) and social workers. Information collected through structured interviews and reflective practice will be crafted into a practice training toolkit to help asset-building with low-income families. The toolkit seeks to establish clarity by looking at motivations and aspirations of low-income families in moving from public rental housing to purchased homes. It also looks at cultural values behind money that guides behaviour of low-incomes families and explores options that help make the most financial sense and instil? stability. The toolkit will be used to train social workers to help families make more informed decisions and choices in their home ownership journey.</p>