Empowering a non-governmental organization to improve the oral health status of Non-Ethnic Chinese (ethnic minorities and migrant workers) in Hong Kong.

TEAM
Dr. Prasanna Neelakantan
Dr. Yiu Yan Leung
Professor C.H. Chu

Faculty of Dentistry, The University of Hong Kong
June 2020
## Summary of the Impact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volunteers</th>
<th>Impact</th>
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</table>
| 60 Undergraduate and Postgraduate Student Volunteers | • Complement students’ learning journey  
• Effectively hone clinical skills  
• Understand and apply basic concepts to identify dental issues in the limited time  
• Show professional understanding care and empathy to patients |
| 5 Non-Governmental Organization partners | • Create an avenue to determine the oral health status  
• Enhance communities’ self-care capacity  
• Understand the knowledge gap of dental health |
| 1169 service event participants | • Provide primary dental screening  
• Demonstrate effective brush & floss instructions  
• Distribute education informational materials |
| 2500 Non-Ethnic Chinese community members | • Information on maintenance & preventive care  
• Facilities available in dental emergency & non-emergency situations  
• Initiate self-care oral health measures |
| 7 dental health fairs & 1 online oral health talk | • Raise awareness of the importance of oral health  
• Reach out to the NEC community in different districts  
• Ensure effective event outcomes |
Underpinning Impact

**Teaching & Learning Impact**

- Awareness on dental health importance
- Professional care & empathy
- Basic concept application
- Developed clinical skills
- Wider patients pool
- Customize oral health knowledge
- Efficiently screen patients

**NGO & Community Impact**

- Develop self-care skills
- Correctly brush and floss
- Understand personal dental issues
- Awareness on dental health importance
- Potential to create a framework for policy
- Obtain preventive treatment knowledge
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Undergraduate Students</strong></th>
<th><strong>NGO Partners</strong></th>
<th><strong>Postgraduate Students</strong></th>
<th><strong>Service Participants</strong></th>
<th><strong>District Counsellors</strong></th>
<th><strong>Faculty Staff</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Interact with diverse patients  
• Screen 40 patients per fair  
• Demonstrate brush & floss effectively  
• Share fundamental oral health knowledge  
• Realize the community impact of their profession | • Awareness on the NEC Community needs  
• Inspire more efforts locally  
• Value the importance of dental health  
• Determine the oral health status of NEC community | • Mentor younger students  
• Guide them to improve their skills  
• Show various clinical examination styles  
• Exposure to the dental health situation in Hong Kong | • Exposure to facilities  
• Obtain information on treatment services for maintenance and preventive care  
• Receive free screenings to understand status of their health | • Create a framework for positive policy measures to enhance dental health access  
• Accelerate the translation of prevention research into a real community setting  
• Raise dental health awareness. | • Enhance students’ learning journey  
• Understand the gap of facilities available  
• Raise awareness of dental care importance  
• recommend measures for self-care  
• Determine the oral health status of NEC community |
Rewarding to connect and support the NEC community that lack knowledge and access for better oral health

Non-Cantonese & Non-Dental students can participate and take a lead role

Classroom learning is complemented with practical real-life application

Teaching & Learning

Specifically targeted at the NEC from the Indian Sub-continent

Ability to determine the oral health status of NEC community for policy making

Impact Innovation

Rewarding to realize the essence of dental health for service participants wellbeing and inspire efforts from the NGO partners in this initiative

Non-Ethnic Chinese Community
Engaging non-dental students
Guiding dental students
Mentoring dental students
Overseeing dental charts and treatment prescriptions
Discussing information on available facilities in Hong Kong
Screening by senior and junior NEC Community members

Impact Achieved

Event
Impact Achieved
Online Engagements with NEC Community

Total Page followers as of today: 404
Event published in media

Full page media coverage in Hong Kong Economic Journal
HKU Faculty of Dentistry provides
dental service to non-ethnic Chinese
Oral health talk webinar

The Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Hong Kong launched “Gateway to Dental Health” project in 2017 and has been working in hand with NGOs to provide free dental outreach service to Non-Ethnic Chinese (NEC).

This year, despite the postponement of our outreach dental services due to the pandemic, we will continue to provide oral care support to the NEC community. Together with the India Association Hong Kong, Pakistan Association of Hong Kong and Health in Action, a webinar will be held to share oral health tips, information on dental services and to respond to self-care questions.
Feedback from community organizations

Dr. Prasanna Neelakanta
Faculty of Dentistry
The University of Hong Kong

8 June 2019
By mail

Dear Dr. Prasanna,

Empowering non-governmental organisations to improve oral health of the non-ethnic Chinese communities in Hong Kong

We write in support of the initiative launched by The Hong Kong University to address the need to provide essential knowledge and awareness of the importance of oral health to the non-ethnic Chinese communities of Hong Kong. Access to oral health care and maintaining good oral health is essential and we understand the non-ethnic Chinese communities of Hong Kong are not fully aware of the oral health care support available to them in Hong Kong and how to maintain good oral health.

The India Association Hong Kong would like to support Dr. Prasanna and the HKU Faculty of Dentistry team in continuing their efforts. We have seen the positive impact generated through the seven dental health fairs organised over the last two years. We believe that the programme needs to continue in the existing districts and expanded to other districts in Hong Kong in order to achieve a sustainable long-term impact.

We will work with the HKU Faculty of Dentistry to disseminate dental health care information to the non-ethnic Chinese communities, coordinate with NGO partners and district councillors and help organize dental health fairs with the goal of promoting the need for better oral hygiene and improving access to oral health care.

We strongly believe this initiative needs to be continued in order to leverage the success of the initial programmes, to reinforce the benefits of good oral health and to reach more districts in Hong Kong.

Yours sincerely,
For and on behalf of
The India Association Hong Kong

Aadit Gidamal
Vice President
Significant Insights

Patients’ Background

7 Events across 5 schools (Yau Ma Tei Kaifong Association School, Delia Memorial School (Hip Wo), Yuen Long Catholic Secondary School, Islamic Kasim Tuet memorial College Chai Wan and CMA Choi Cheung Kok Secondary School), 2 Temple & Club (Khalsa Diwan Sikh Temple Wan Chai and India Club Hong Kong Jordan)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Evaluation Areas</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am happy to learn about how to maintain my teeth</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I understand more about the existing dental health support and facilities in Hong Kong</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am willing to come to more dental health outreach public programs</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will inform family and friends of dental support services</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I really enjoyed the dental health fairs</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Significant Insights**

NEC Community participants
Significant Insights
Service participants feedback & comments

It is really nicely organized for us and I appreciate your help to keep people healthy.
- Ms. Saumali, 29 years old

Helpful, was able to obtain information on what can be done by myself in order to check our teeth for any decay.
- Mrs. Khan, 40 year old

It was good to learn there are non-governmental organizations help Non-Ethnic Chinese community with their dental health
- Mr. Singh, 60 years old

Happy to know how to clean and take good care of my teeth
- Ms. Maya, 18 years old

I now understand what dental treatment services are available in Hong Kong. This means that I don’t have to wait to go back to India for treatments.
- Mrs. Malhotra, 51 year old

I am glad that my children can learn how to brush and floss their teeth properly from a young age. The presenter was very patient to explain the importance of this for best practices.
- Mr. Patel, 35 years old

I hope that these events can continue. It would be great if they can be conducted in other districts around Hong Kong, so I can invite my friends to join as well. I am sure that they will appreciate the efforts by HKU and partners.
- Mr. Farooqi, 45 years old
How many Dental Health fairs for Non-Ethnic Chinese communities have you helped in?
Has participation in the dental health fairs impacted your learning or research experience?

- Strongly Agree: 71.4%
- Disagree: 14.3%
- Moderately Agree: 14.3%

Have these fairs helped you enhance your university studies academically?

- Strongly Agree: 64.3%
- Disagree: 14.3%
- Moderately Agree: 21.4%

Have you become better at identifying dental issues that patients have?

- Strongly Agree: 57.1%
- Disagree: 14.3%
- Moderately Agree: 28.6%

Did you appreciate the opportunity to work with the teaching staff or seniors beyond the classroom?

- 100% Strongly Agree

Has this exposure to so many patients has helped you to become more efficient?

- Strongly Agree: 71.4%
- Disagree: 14.3%
- Moderately Agree: 14.3%

How has it effectively helped improve your clinical examinations skills?

- Strongly Agree: 64.3%
- Disagree: 21.4%
- Moderately Agree: 14.3%
More empathetic and more aware of different needs from patients of different walks of life and being exposed to different cases  
- Jasmine Chung, BDS Year 4 Student

Being able to experience treating patients outside Prince Philip Dental Hospitals  
- Chan Hau Chun, BDS Year 5 Student

To be able to work with seniors and to get in touch with a relatively large amount of patient in a short period of time  
- Alice Wu, BDS Year 4 Student

more empathetic, caring, better aware of the culture differences  
- Helena Lee, BDS Year 3 Student

I learn more about the clinical presentation and diagnosis of several common oral disease, how to give oral hygiene instructions to patients, patient communication and exposed me more to pediatric dentistry.  
- Gunjan Gupta, BDS Year 4 Student

Dental fair is wonderful learning opportunity for both dentists and participants, it should be continued to allow dental community to help ethnic minorities who may not be well aware of the resources available to take care of the oral health.  
- Asad Ali Badami, MDS Year 3 Student

It was a very enjoyable experience better aware of the culture difference  
- Mohammed Basabrain, PhD
**Faculty of Dentistry, The University of Hong Kong**

**Knowledge Exchange Impact Project**

NEC focused non-governmental organizations like Health in Action & Voices of Diversity

- Effectively offer dental information to the needed communities
- Expand their general health like BMI, blood pressure and diabetes check to engage in dental services.
- Determine the oral health status of NEC population and recommend government policies

Community Focused Organizations like The India Association of HK, Pakistan Association of HK & Nepal Social Services of HK

- Raise awareness on dental health importance
- Utilize networks and gain access to high dominance NEC locations
- Better understand the challenges faced by the communities.
Engagement Approach for Students’ Learning

- Demonstration by Faculty staff: Improvement in students’ methodology to conduct dental screenings.
- Junior BDS students paired with senior BDS or MDS students: Learn from observations and understand the degree of professionalism needed to work with patients.
- Faculty Professors recheck the dental charts and monitor performance: Receive immediate feedback and seek professional advices on areas of improvement.
- Effective handling of equipment: Learn to maintain dental hygiene and adapt to situations when interacting with patients.
- Open to the public events (Free): Exposed to a wide range of age groups, income level and ethnic backgrounds.
Innovation with the Engagement Approach

Teaching & Learning for students

- Dental students effectively apply their skills efficiently
- Interact and respond to the NEC community
- Non-Dental student volunteers can understand general health impact on the dental health performance
- Continuous feedback to improve performance

Non-Ethnic Chinese Community

- Customize information based on the participants needs
- Combination of both basic general and dental health checks
- Expand existing efforts of NGO partners to bridge the available facilities gap
- Engage the community through both online and offline efforts

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Acknowledgements

Knowledge Exchange, HKU

ER&KE Unit, Faculty of Dentistry

NGO partners
The India Association of Hong Kong
The Pakistan Association of Hong Kong
Health in Action
Voices of Diversity