

Project Title: Establishment of an active ageing index for Hong Kong: Re-inventing the lived experience and potential of older people

Abstract

Hong Kong has the highest global life expectancy and a low fertility rate, which raises concern as to whether its welfare system can sustain the long and active lives of older people. Given high density urban living and the residual welfare ideology, active ageing in Hong Kong is a challenging task of incorporating older people into society as assets. An active ageing index (AAI) developed across 28 European countries serves as a global quantitative effort to benchmark the diverse experience of active ageing and quantify older people's potential from three major categories of human capability- human assets, health capital, and human capital. It enables country comparisons to inform the social implications of rapid demographic changes and suggests ways by which older people's potential can be mobilized. The aim of this project is to adapt the European AAI in the Hong Kong context through the four core domains ("employment", "participation in society", "independent, healthy and secure living", and "capacity and enabling environment for active ageing"). The multi-step method, including focus group interviews, multi-disciplinary expert panel reviews, and population-based surveys, will incorporate additional elements that are essential for the lived experience of older Chinese people.