



*Converging*  
**PROFESSIONAL WISDOM**  
**FOR** Family Well-Being

**> 2019 <**  
*Happy new year*

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## Message From Mrs. Patricia CHU, Chairperson CIFA



As we approach the end of 2018, the year in which we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of CIFA, it gives us a chance to recollect the achievements of this regional platform throughout the past decade, and in particular, the Asian Family Summit which turns out to be a great success gaining formal recognition from the United Nations and the HKSAR Administration, attracting 560 participants from 17 countries/regions, mainly from Asia, breaking the record of all CIFA Symposiums. A full version of the AFS video is now available at <http://www.socsc.hku.hk/afs> and has been forwarded to the United Nations with a view for it to be uploaded onto its portal.

With the staunch support from the Wofoo Social Enterprises since the inception of this regional initiative in 2010, we have organised the 3A Project for 5 rounds. Altogether we have received 180 entries from 80 organisations in 7 countries/regions. A 3A Brochure has been produced and distributed at the AFS. Adjudicators and Award Winning teams of previous rounds have been invited to join the Gala Dinner cum Award Presentation Ceremony of the 3A Project to share the joy. We are also excited to inform, that, to take forward the idea of 'From 3A to 4A', action is in hand, with the support and assistance of Dr. Vivian Lou of The University of Hong Kong, to compile and analyse data on the social impact assessment of the 3A Project, and throw light on the way forward for the 4th A, i.e. 'Alliance'.

In this issue, we have included an abstract of Prof. Daniel Shek's keynote presentation on 'Family Impact Assessment in Policy Formulation-The Hong Kong Experience'. We are pleased to note that following the announcement of the formal adoption of FIA checklist in mid August, the checklist and the user manual have been uploaded to the Cyber Learning Centre Plus, the portal providing government officers with one-stop access to the latest training and development information and learning resources. This is indeed a significant step forward in building the capacity of government officers in taking the family perspective in policy formulation!

The Gold Award Winning team on BeNetwise-Educational Project for Media Literacy is sharing the objectives, operation and sustainability of this project which touches upon a very important and emerging issue facing young people and their parents in the internet age. Sharing by various stakeholders will explain why this project is able to become the Champion in this round of competition! More upcoming CIFA events in 2019, including the site visit to Taiwan and the Charity Concert on Family Harmony can be referred on the last page.

May I take this opportunity to wish all a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful, Joyful, Healthy and Fulfilled 2019!

# Family Impact Assessment in Policy Formulation – The Hong Kong Experience



**Prof. Daniel SHEK, SBS, JP**

Chairman, Family Council

Associate Vice President (Undergraduate Programme),  
Chair Professor of Applied Social Sciences, &  
Li and Fung Professor in Service Leadership Education  
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

*Prof. Shek delivered a keynote speech on Family Impact Assessment during the Asian Family Summit on 21 August 2018.*

Policy impact assessments are formal and structured procedures that assess the effects of public policy from various perspectives. They help policy makers to examine complex situations, gather support for their ideas and finally justify the policy decisions. Amongst all such impact assessments, family impact assessment (FIA) has a relatively short history which could only date back to 1970s in the United States the earliest. According to the research conducted by the Department of Social Work and Social Administration, The University of Hong Kong<sup>1</sup>, no formal FIA mechanism is observed in Asian economies. Hong Kong is playing a leading role in applying FIA to policymaking in Asia.

## Development of FIA in Hong Kong

In the 2007/08 Policy Address, the then Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) announced the setup of the Family Council, and that “supporting and consolidating the family will be the primary consideration of our social policy and social services planning, and the family will be promoted as a core social value.”<sup>2</sup> At that time, policy makers might, under the Sustainable Impact Assessments mechanism developed by the then Sustainable Development Unit<sup>3</sup>, give considerations to the impact of their policies on families.

At its first meeting in December 2007, the Family Council agreed that priority should be accorded to fostering family perspectives amongst policy makers, for example, by introducing family impact assessment in policy formulation in the long run. It was of the view that considerations of family perspective could help the Government balance competing priorities in formulating policies which might in turn enable major policy proposals to gain support from the community more readily.

<sup>1</sup> A Consulting Team of the Department of Social Work and Social Administration, The University of Hong Kong was commissioned by the Family Council, through the then Central Policy Unit, to conduct “A Study on Family Impact Assessment in Hong Kong : A Checklist Approach” on 1 June 2016.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.policyaddress.gov.hk/07-08/eng/p84.html>

<sup>3</sup> It is now the Sustainable Development Division of the Environmental Bureau.

Subsequently, the Home Affairs Bureau, as the Family Council Secretariat, issued in April 2009 a circular memorandum to remind Bureaux/Departments (B/Ds) to include family perspective as a factor in policy formulation. The circular mapped out a broad and simple framework to facilitate policy makers to adopt a family mindset in policy formulation. Some guiding principles closely knitted to the three family core values (i.e. Love and Care, Respect and Responsibilities, Communication and Harmony) were set out with a view to providing the policy makers with more pointers in the assessment process. This voluntary approach was later turned to a mandatory assessment of family implications in all policy submissions including Legislative Council briefs in April 2013.

Over the years, FIA had become an integral part of the policy making process. In general, B/Ds were required to consider if their policies had given proper regard to the family core values as well as the impact on family's structure and functions. B/Ds were also required to clear the paragraph on "family implications" with the Family Council Secretariat when they circulated the draft policy submissions for inter-departmental consultation.

In August 2014, the Family Council reviewed and agreed to commission a consultancy study with a view to developing a more comprehensive and elaborated checklist tool to increase the robustness of the FIA process. The Department of Social Work and Social Administration, The University of Hong Kong was later commissioned to conduct the FIA Study in June 2016. Through conducting literature review and data collection, group interviews with representatives from B/Ds as well as public forums, the Consulting Team prepared a draft checklist tool and put it into trial run from 2 May to 30 September 2017. The FIA checklist was later fine-tuned in the light of the feedback of users and put into formal use by the HKSAR Government in August 2018.

## The FIA Checklist

The FIA checklist adopted by the HKSAR Government structures the evaluation process into three major steps: (a) determining which family type(s) might be affected; (b) evaluating the family impact alongside 24 questions set under six principles covering four main dimensions of family responsibility, family stability, family relationships and family engagement; and (c) summarising the assessment and reflecting on appropriate mitigating measure(s) in case negative impact is identified.

The family types listed in the FIA checklist serve as a general reference to trigger the policy makers' consideration of the possible impact of their policy proposals on diverse types of families in Hong Kong. The 24 checklist questions are designed to guide the policymakers to identify the potential impacts on four aspects, to consider the significance of impact and the types of impacts (i.e. positive or negative, direct or indirect, intended or unintended), as well as to explore respective mitigation measures in case negative impact is identified. They reinforce and embrace the three family core values identified by the Family Council.

## Example of Application of FIA Checklist

The primary objective of a FIA checklist is to implant an explicit family perspective to the policy making process. The effectiveness of the FIA checklist is not simply counted on its user-friendliness and applicability, but more importantly, the timely application of FIA in the policy formulation process. In the example of InnoCell development proposal, policy maker noted, after application of the draft FIA checklist, the possible negative impact of the "on-campus" accommodation on family harmony in terms of reducing the time the tenants spent with their families, and incorporated in the building design a mitigating measure of provision of some family units to cater for the needs of family tenants as and when required.

Over the past nine years or so, the adoption of FIA has gained considerable momentum. It gradually evolves from a voluntary approach to a mandatory and structured methodology in the form of a checklist tool. While taking pride of Hong Kong being a forerunner amongst its Asian neighbours, the Family Council hoped that the application of FIA checklist would firmly implant family considerations in the policy making process, thereby reinforcing the functioning and core values of family which would be conducive to the sustainable development of the community.

# Wofoo 3A Project 2018

## Gold Award:

### BeNetWise - Educational Project for Media Literacy Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups

Teenager's healthy development is core concern of a family. Nowadays, teenagers are netizen, growing up in a digital world flooded with online information. Apart from the family system, their psychosocial development is somehow affected by the norm and values of the internet world. They are likely to expose to various online risks such as fake news, cyber-bullying, cyber-crime and social media traps, etc. Instead of being passive recipients of online information, they also actively provide contents to various online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and forums. Teenagers may suffer from online risks unless they have sufficient media literacy which enables them to access, analyse, evaluate and create media message with critical thinking, proper attitude and positive values.

BeNetWise Project is a two year project aimed at enhancing media literacy of secondary students through development of comprehensive curriculum and cross-sector collaboration. The three objectives of our project are: cultivating young people's media literacy by enhancing their knowledge of new media, critical thinking and positive values towards massive media information; enhancing parents' understanding on trend and culture of new media and promote parent-child relationship utilising new media tool; and supporting teachers to implement media literacy education in schools.

#### Comprehensive curriculum of media literacy

A curriculum of media literacy was developed with topics such as the architect of internet, decoding of online message and online risks. Students were trained to analyse online messages and challenges by using an analytical framework.

#### Multi-system intervention

Major systems including family and school played a significant role on nurturing media literacy for teenagers, thus workshops were designed for both parents and teachers to enhance their understanding of the importance of media literacy and their skills of carrying out education in family and school. Educational materials were also uploaded to website for self-learning.

#### Emphasis on value education

The ultimate goal of project is to help students acquire a set of value and ethic including empathy, respect of privacy, law-abiding, being modest and prudent, which they can uphold and face with the ever-changing online environment.

#### Cross-professional collaboration

To increase the practicability of the curriculum, teachers were invited to design course material, give advice on teaching method and assessment collaboratively with the project team. Train-the-trainer workshops were held to equip teachers with the skills of implementing media literacy education in schools.

#### Development of assessment tool and evidence-based evaluation

New Media Literacy Scale (NMLS) was developed for measuring students' level of media literacy objectively. An evaluation study was also implemented to investigate student's change of literacy level after the project by Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong.

Within two years, 19,847 student and 1,132 parents had participated in our project respectively. A total of 718 teachers had participated in train-the-trainer workshops.



## Achievement of the project

### Significant improvement on media literacy

The findings of evaluation demonstrated that students had their level of media literacy improved, particularly in consuming and producing media message critically.

### Model development

A sustainable model of media literacy education was established with a comprehensive and systematic curriculum for secondary schools on media literacy. A Media Education Portal ([medialiteracy.hk](http://medialiteracy.hk)) was also built to provide reference and share interactive and educational resources with teachers.

### First Localised assessment tool

The first localised assessment tool NMLS was developed for measuring students' level of new media literacy to inform educators the education needs of students and facilitate planning media literacy education in future.

### Arousing public awareness

A survey on students' online literacy was conducted revealing that students are lacking awareness on privacy and authenticity of media messages/information. This was widely reported by media. General public's awareness of the importance of media literacy was successfully aroused.



## Sharing by concerned stakeholders

**Principal Mr. Lau Chun Hong of Lok Sin Tong Yu Kan Hing Secondary School, one of the serving schools of BeNetWise Project appreciated the impact of our project.**

*"The Internet world changes tremendously. Teachers in schools can hardly keep abreast of the latest trend of internet. Through joining the BeNetWise Project, teachers could acquire the latest social media information by observing in the lessons conducted by social worker, enabling them to handle and teach internet related issues. With better understanding on the Internet trend, teachers will be well-equipped to plan and design curriculum of media literacy."*

**Mr. Man Ho Wai, one of the co-working teachers in BeNetWise Project observed that BeNetWise Project could provide support for parents to prevent children from online risk.**

*"Enhancing parents' skill of "digital-parenting" helped them to educate their children to refrain from online risks. When children encountered internet related problems, parents were able to give advice and handle properly. This helped parents do preventive work at home. Parents were confident to allow children to expose to new media because children were well-prepared to cope with online risks and make use of social media properly."*

**Mr. Mark Lee, Chairman of the Parent-Teacher Association of SKH Lam Kau Mow Secondary School shared,**

*"Through participating in the BeNetwise Project, parents in our school reflected that they had learnt lots of new knowledge, especially the attitude towards new media. Parents get to know more in the era of information explosion. As a parent, we can provide more suitable education and nurturing for them referring what they received from new media."*

## Sustainability of Project

### Expanding Media Literacy Education to primary school

Value education better begins early. In the second phase of the project, we have launched media literacy education for the students in elementary schools. The curriculum for primary students' includes subjects of safe usage of media device, self-discipline and respectful online behaviors. Early education of media literacy is necessary to help them build up a healthy habit on internet usage. To facilitate media literacy education in home, we will also publish a board game for family called "Internet Treasure". Both parents and children can enjoy in their leisure time and learn media literacy in a funny way through play.

# Wofoo 3A Project 2018

# Upcoming events in 2019

## Regional Symposium 2020 in Taipei, Taiwan

Several Council members led by Mrs. Patricia CHU, the Chairperson, will visit Taipei in late February 2019 to meet Prof. Joyce Feng, the representative of the co-organisers of the 6th CIFA Regional Symposium to be held at the National Taiwan University in November 2020. The purpose of the visit is to meet co-organisers, see the venue for the symposium and accommodation for overseas participants.

## Charity Concert for Family Harmony 2019

On 16 April (Tuesday), CIFA will co-organise the "Charity Concert For Family Harmony 2019" with the Hong Kong SAR Philharmonic Orchestra for the 5th time. CIFA is very pleased to have renowned performers at the concert. CIFA wishes to appeal to all member organisations for their support by attending the concert and /or making a donation/pledging a sponsorship. We look forward to seeing you all and enjoy the wonderful musical performance while doing a good cause!

Date : 16 April, 2019 (Tuesday)

Time : 7:15 pm – 10:00 pm

Venue : Concert Hall, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui

*Wish you all a Merry Christmas  
and a Peaceful, Joyful,  
Healthy and Fulfilled 2019!*

**2019**  
HAPPY NEW YEAR