

A Partnership with Comprehensive Child Development Service (Kowloon East cluster) in combating Domestic Violence

Author: TSANG Wai-hung, Wallace

Institution: Harmony House Limited

Introduction

Domestic violence is a significant risk factor for pregnant women. Early identification for those at-risk women can reduce the adverse impact on the female victims and their children.

Purpose of the partnership

Comprehensive Child Development Service (CCDS) serves as a community-based platform which aims to ensure early identification of the various needs of children and their families so that appropriate services could be rendered timely. Since May 2009, Harmony House, which is an agency of combating domestic violence, has formed strategic partner with the CCDS (KEC) to render services for the women who has been experiencing violence in the families. The collaboration can serve as the useful mechanism to early identify those at-risk families, and to subsequently promote their healthy quality of life.

Content of the services

Since establishment of this collaboration, 12 women who were impacted by domestic violence, were identified from the CCDS (KEC) and were subsequently referred to Harmony House for counseling services. Need and risk assessment, safety plan arrangement, emotional counseling would be rendered for the women. Furthermore, case and group treatment might be offered to their intimate partners so as to educate them to use harmonious ways to handle their marital problems. Further counseling would be also provided to their children who have witnessed violence in the family.

Case management meetings with the pediatricians and nurses from CCDS would be set up regularly to share and review case intervention plan.

Methods of measuring the case prognosis

'Stage of Change' questionnaire was used to measure the women change in stage when they entered and exist the services of Harmony House.

Results

The average change in stages among the 12 women was 1.8, which denoted that the services offered to them could encourage them to think and act more concretely to protect themselves from being further abused by their partners.