

# SAHK

Citation: Fung, J. C. M. (1997). *Supported Employment for Cerebral Palsy and Their Prospect*. Book of Abstracts of Hong Kong International Occupational Therapy Congress (pp. 171). Hong Kong.

The changing economic restructuring in Hong Kong has led to many workshops being unable to secure sufficient job orders from traditional manufacture business. Most sheltered workers earnings were very low, 80% earned below \$500 a month (SWD, 1995). From a territory-wide survey on the profile of 4180 sheltered workers by SWD in 1994, it was found that 23% of existing sheltered workers could move on for open or supported employment with adequate support and service management. For the existing support employment units, majority of them are catered for ex-mentally ill and mental handicapped clients, only minority are for physically handicapped. Among these units, only the Spastics Association of Hong Kong (SAHK) is mainly catered for cerebral palsy. All clients with cerebral palsy are suffered from multiple handicaps, thus they are usually classified as moderate to severe physically disable. There are different models of Supported Employment in Hong Kong, such as supported competitive employment, enclave in industry, mobile work crews and small business efforts. For SAHK, we take the model of small business efforts to run a laundry shop in a public estate. The Government have set performance indicators to evaluate individual SE unit. They are: monthly income should be \$ 1500 at least together with 30% per year of closing/discharge rate for physically handicapped. For the income indicator, it is not a matter to achieve. However, for the discharge rate – it is an impossible mission with respect to the unfavourable socio-economic environment to the multiple handicapped persons. Thus an alternative outlet for the cerebral palsy should be considered – self employment. All subvention for the supported employment programs is \$17800 per capita per year for cerebral palsy. Training is basically emphasised on the routine operation of the laundry shop, and then pinpointed on the individual problems, such as social skill training and assertive training. Other training packages such as clerical training, messenger and document delivery training are also provided. As manpower is limited, co-operation with outside agencies such as the Vocational Training Council is needed. This includes co-operated programs on “Running a small business” and “Application on computers”, aiming at empowering the clients as well as preparing the road for self-employment – to run a laundry shop by themselves.



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