

# SAHK

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Implementing supported employment in Hong Kong was started in 1988 by the Social Welfare Department as a pilot study to widen the employment opportunities for disable persons. There are four common models of supported employment: Supported Competitive Employment, Enclaves in Industry, Mobile Crews and the Small Business Effort. Little attention has previously been paid to the small business model of supported employment. A laundry shop running in the small business model was studied. The objectives of this study were to study the meanings and values of supported employment for both staff and workers in the laundry shop, to investigate the extent and nature of job satisfaction of the workers, to identify the service needs and expectations of the supported employment and, finally to describe the impact of supported employment on the workers and staff. Focus groups, semi-structured interviews and participant observation were employed in the study. The data were analysed by an inductive method through a process of coding and content analysis. The processed data were categorised in a systematic way and the analysed patterns were discussed. The study revealed that clients and staff have different perceptions of supported employment. It was found that there were different expectations among the staff on the ultimate aims of the Small Business Model, which may affect the direction of the running of the unit. Suggestions were made to improve the existing service.



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