

16th ACMR
HKSAR Country Report

People with mental handicap would want to lead as normal a life as possible and to contribute to society as much as they can. Rehabilitation services in Hong Kong aim to acknowledge the equal rights of people with mental handicap to be full members of the community by assisting them in developing their physical, mental and social capabilities to the fullest possible extent and by promoting their integration into the community.

The estimated number of mentally handicapped persons in Hong Kong by degree of mental handicap up to 2002 in accordance with the four-tier classification of DSM-IV is set out in table below –

Degree of MH	2002
Mild	119684
Moderate	14080
Severe	4928
Profound	2112
Total	140804

The major rehabilitation services required by mentally handicapped persons include-

- (a) medical rehabilitation;
- (b) education;
- (C) social rehabilitation; and
- (d) identification and assessment services, vocational rehabilitation, housing as well as recreation and sports.

(a) Medical Rehabilitation

Infirmity service is provided for severely and profoundly mentally handicapped patients with the aim of maximising their self care abilities, improving their physical mobility, and treatment of associated medical and psychiatric conditions like epilepsy or challenging behavior through intensive medical nursing and rehabilitation care.

Community outreach services are provided with a view to supporting mentally handicapped clients living in residential or community settings. The scope of service include screening and assessment of patients on the Hospital Authority's waiting list for infirmity beds for severely and profoundly mentally handicapped persons; treatment of psychiatric disorders, emotional or behavioural problem; and the provision of care for mentally handicapped persons living in the community through counselling and support to their families.

(b) Education

School-age mentally handicapped children should receive education according to their specific needs caused by their disabilities. Mentally handicapped children are encouraged to receive education in ordinary schools as far as possible. Supportive services are provided either by the Education Department or by Schools as necessary to facilitate their integration. For those who cannot be integrated in ordinary schools, they are placed in special schools.

Mildly mentally handicapped children are encouraged to receive education in ordinary schools. Intensive remedial services are provided by the Education Department to facilitate their integration where necessary. These services include – resources classes, resource teaching centres, peripatetic teaching service and advisory service for teachers.

(C) Social Rehabilitation

Residential services are provided for those mentally handicapped persons who cannot live independently, those who cannot be adequately cared for by their own means or by their family members, and those who live in areas far from where they receive schooling, training or employment (open, supported or sheltered). To meet the different needs of mentally handicapped persons and to prepare them for integration into community to achieve normalization, six types of residential services are provided in Hong Kong. These include small group home for mildly mentally handicapped children, supported hostel, hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons, hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons, hostel for severely physically handicapped persons with mental handicap as well as care and attention home for severely disabled persons.

Day activity centre (DACs) provide day care, life skills and simple work training to people with severe mental handicap whose disabilities do not permit them to benefit from vocational, sheltered, supported or open employment. These centre help them become more independent in their daily living and prepare them for progression to sheltered or supported employment whenever feasible.

In 2002, Hong Kong government had introduced the concept of community-based approach for service to persons with mental handicap. Two main projects include Home-based training and support service and seven community-based projects.

Home-based training teams are extended to become Home-based Training and Support (HBTS) service. The total of 20 team aims to provide home-based training and establish support network for people with disabilities and their families through utilization and integration of rehabilitation services and community resources.

The following range of services are provided:

- (a) training and support services for mentally handicapped persons and their families including the provision of appropriate Individual Training and Support Plans;
- (b) occupational therapy service for people with disabilities;
- (c) network support service for people with disabilities and their families; and
- (d) Day Activity Centre (DAC) service.

The objectives of New Community Support Projects for People with Disabilities and Their Families emphasize on strengthening carers' caring capacity, relieving their stress, as well as providing people with disabilities and their families a better quality of life. The new community support projects include:

Holiday Care Service

Holiday Care Service for People with Disabilities provides a short-term day care service on a full-day or half-day basis in Hostels for People with Disabilities, Day Activity Centres, Sheltered Workshops, Parents Resource Centres and Social & Recreational Centres. People with disabilities can be given appropriate care during long school holidays, on public holidays, Saturdays and Sundays when their parents/carers are unable to look after them.

Home Respite Service

Home Respite Service provides a day care service for people with disabilities charged on an hourly basis at the home of the service user. People with disabilities can be given appropriate care temporarily when their parents/carers are unable to look after them because of certain commitments.

Share Care Project

The project is provided by The Salvation Army. It offers support service to adult mentally handicapped persons living in the community and strengthens the capability of the families through networking them in a Club. The families registered as Club members of The Salvation Army in Lai King Home will be helped to build partnership between members. Members may obtain carers support services including counseling, parent-child activities, social functions, home care service and residential respite service to strengthen their caring skills and to relieve their caring duties.

Link Project - Support Link & Respite Link

The services of the Project include:

Support Link

- to provide concern and support to parents/carers of newborn babies with disabilities through individual counseling, support group and concern visits by parents of children with disabilities in order to

strengthen the confidence and capabilities of parents in caring the newborn babies with disabilities

Respite Link

- to provide day care service during long school holidays (Holiday Care) and temporary respite care service in a family setting to these parents/carers (Family Respite) so as to enhance their capabilities in caring the people with disabilities

Extended Care Service

Extended Care Service for mentally handicapped persons provides an extended day care service in Day Activities Centres (DACs) during weekdays. People with mental handicap can be given appropriate care regularly/temporarily when their parents/carers are unable to look after them.

Day Care Service for severely Disabled Persons

Day Care Service for Severely Disabled Persons provides day care service in Care and Attention Home for Severely Disabled Persons. The service aims at strengthening the caring capability of carers of people with disabilities so as to increase the opportunity of disabled persons living in the community.

Gateway Club

By organising a number of cultural and recreational activities for the joint planning and participation of volunteers, parents and mentally handicapped persons, the Adult Gateway Club aims to enhance the social skills and independence ability of the mentally handicapped persons to facilitate their integration into the community.

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