

**Project Title:****Understanding and Educating those Left Behind – The Sexually Active Deaf, Blind and People with Physical Disabilities (Project Code: PPE 632PJ)****Executive Summary:****Aim and Objectives**

1. To conduct a pioneer research project to understand the sexual behavior amongst the Deaf, Blind and People with Physical Disabilities population in Hong Kong, and evaluate the related HIV infection risk.

2. To provide the first HIV education program for the Deaf, Blind and People with Physical Disabilities in Hong Kong; and

3. To set up the first barrier-free VCT services for the Deaf, Blind and People with Physical Disabilities in Hong Kong.

1. To conduct a pioneer research project to understand the sexual behavior amongst the Deaf, Blind and People with Physical Disabilities population in Hong Kong, and evaluate the related HIV infection risk;

2. To provide the first HIV education program for the Deaf, Blind and People with Physical Disabilities in Hong Kong;

3. To set up the first barrier-free VCT services for the Deaf, Blind and People with Physical Disabilities in Hong Kong, and provide 200 VCT services to the disabled community;

4. To train 14 Hong Kong Sign Language Interpreters (HKSLIs) will be trained as HIV/AIDS educators and counselors;

5. To train 36 people living with disabilities as peer HIV/AIDS educators and counselors;

6. To hold 4 AIDS education seminars with a sign language interpreter for the Deaf community; and

7. To conduct 80 support group meetings for sexually active people in the Deaf, Blind and People with Physical Disabilities communities.

**Project design**

A first ever sexual behavior survey targeting People with Disabilities population in Hong Kong was conducted in this project.

HIV intervention measures conducted in this project include AIDS Training Course for Sign Language Interpreters and Peer Educators, Barrier-free VCT services, AIDS Seminars and Mutual Group Support Meetings.

### **Target population**

The Deaf, Blind and People with Physical Disabilities in Hong Kong

### **Main achievements**

Survey results show that People with Physical Disabilities can be sexually active. Among 202 people with disabilities completed the questionnaire, 80% had vaginal sex in the last 6 months, only 5% of them reported using a condom every time. Amongst the 135 people who had vaginal sex with their relationship partner in the last 6 months, 41% reported that they had never used a condom in this relationship. 54% reported having participated in one-night-stand sexual experiences; 38% of 99 male subjects in the survey reported having sexual experience with other men (MSM); 56% people reported having sexual experience with a non-Hong-Kong resident; 21% reported paying for sex; and 19 people (9%) reported providing sexual services for money.

177 people (88%) reported never having received a HIV testing service.

The main reasons they selected from the questionnaire were:

Éwithout having sign language translation, difficult to communicateö (36%)

Énot knowing where to receive this kind of serviceö (29%)

Énot knowing such service existsö (25%)

### **Conclusions**

Before this project, there has never been any HIV intervention service providing sign language interpretation service in Hong Kong. It was like providing education without language to convey the messages. Because there is not enough education support for the Deaf community, most Deaf people in Hong Kong are illiterate.