A Patient-driven and Empowerment-focused Recovery Program (PERP) through Used Clothes Donation Project (UCDP)

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Introduction
A “Green Team” (GT) had been established in psychiatric out-patient unit (POPU) of OTD since 2008. The aims of GT were to promote a green culture in KH and provide job-training opportunities to patients with mental illness. A variety of wastes in hospital were regularly collected by GT. UCDP was the extension of GT service. A pilot exercise of UCDP was conducted in December 2015. A PERP through UCDP was launched in March 2016.

Objectives
1. Promote recycling culture in KH
2. Enhance patient’s recovery through gainful employment in specific training program
3. Facilitate patient-driven and empowerment in the recovery process

Methodology
UCDP was carried out on regular basis. Staff of KH was encouraged to donate used clothes to OTD twice a year. A simulated boutique was setup in POPU of OTD. Needy patients could collect the used clothes there. This boutique served as a good simulated work environment for work training purpose. New training posts of shop attendant, sales, store assistant and manager were created so as to increase work training diversity and enrich patients’ work experience. Patient could have choice in their work recovery process. They contributed their ideas in the design, setup & operation of the boutique, and evaluated the OT services.

Result
1. Conduct a patient satisfaction survey
2. Record patient's employment status and statistics on UCDP
3. Interview patient for qualitative feedback During March 2016 to March 2017, a total of 7 patients received work training in the boutique. 5 of them were able to get a job after the program. One of them was working in open employment whereas the other four patients were working in supported employment. According to the survey, all patients showed positive feedback on the effectiveness of work training in simulated boutique on work recovery as well as application of patient-driven and empowerment-focused element during work training. One of the
patients with successful employment also expressed his progress in communication and increased self-confidence in work recovery during the interview with media. Totally 3506 pieces of used items were collected and 2019 pieces were donated to the needy patients who received services in KH. PERP through UCDP not only enhanced patient’s recovery but also facilitated their work role resumption. Recycle services provided by OT also matched the promotion of green culture in KH.