



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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Pre-vocational Training Program For Adolescents with psychiatric illness

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Introduction

Adolescents with age over 15 could have their choice in schooling. They are looking for the direction in continuity of schooling or transition to worker role. Successful transition to adulthood could reduce burden in adult psychiatric service. Occupational Therapy aims at enhancing adolescents in recognizing their life role, maximizing their functional competency in being a student or worker, and preparing them to transit to worker stage successfully. Adventure Program is a pre-vocational training program for adolescents with child psychiatric illness. It is commenced in Nov 2012. Collaboration with erb and NGO enhance the successful transition to worker role and job sustainability in community.

Objectives

The aims of Adventure Program are to enhance self-awareness and life exploration, to assist adolescents to formulate life goal, and to prepare them in transition from school life to work life.

Methodology

Adolescent clients aged over 15 are recruited into Adventure Program. They are referred from child psychiatrists with psychiatric illness like Autism, ADHD, Depression, Anxiety and Psychosis etc. Habituation training workshops and work skill training groups are provided to establish their work habit and consolidate their work skills. On-site job trials are arranged to facilitate exposure to different scopes of work e.g. CAFÉ DE CORAL, Laundry Department and ISS Cleansing services. Collaboration between different community partners e.g. erb, VTC and NGO could facilitate the successful engagement into the job market.

Result

30 patients were recruited into Adventure Program. 25 patients were successfully completed the program with 5 dropped out. 8 of them continued study in school or vocational training centers. 9 of them referred to vocational training program at QEH collaborated with erb. Job placements were given to these 9 adolescents with 6 of them successfully sustained their jobs till now. Regular follow up was given to those who still couldn't formulate their work plan or life plan. Different outcome measures

were adopted and improvement in self-efficacy, work readiness, work adjustment and work related social skills were addressed.