

Support to the caregiver and the caregiving process have garnered increasing attention from the public and academic sector. For example, caregiving burden (Bedard et al, 2001), as well as positive aspects of caregiving (Lou et al, 2015) have been explored that the caregiving is both arduous but rewarding, yet at the same instance, loneliness among the older Chinese is also prevalent in the community (Liu et al, 2020). With the recent focus on exploring the effectiveness of virtual community in supporting the social welfare sector, including caregiving (Romero-Mas et al, 2020), Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service (YMMSS) has started to launch the “Meeting on the Rainbow” (“the service project”) initiative to create a virtual social space to support the social isolated carer in the community.

While the “Meeting on the Rainbow” project may have promising outcomes to support the caregivers, empirical evidence on the implementation and the outcomes could be enhanced through the proposed research study. In this regard, this proposed research study aims to fill in the current gap by mixed methods study through quantitative survey and qualitative interview and focus group. The findings are expected to shed light on the design and implementation of the service project and provide empirical evidence for future practice.

The research team (the principal investigator and the co-investigators) comprised of research expertise on caregiving, health social work, and psychology¹ will be responsible to implement the evaluation study (“the research study”) from research conceptualization, design, data collection, analysis, as well as impact dissemination, in response to the 3 project goals:

- a. To identify the hidden carer and encourage carer to participate the online interaction program
- b. To establish an effective virtual connection network for the carer in order to reduce the problem of social isolation & loneliness
- c. To increase the social capital of Wong Tai Sin to support the carer who care for elderly and their caring elderly.