

Title of Project:

(English)	A study of intergenerational solidarity and social exclusion of South Asian older people
(Chinese)	跨代團結和南亞老年人社會排斥的研究

Hong Kong is a relatively homogeneous society, with ethnic Chinese comprising around 91.6% of the total population. Among the ethnic minorities, Indians, Nepalese, and Pakistanis are the three major groups. Statistical data reveals a 93.8% increase in the number of older people aged 65 or above in these three groups from 2011 to 2021. This aging trend highlights the need to pay attention to their experience of growing old in a different cultural context. The literature review shows that ethnic minority older people have suffered from exclusion in various dimensions, leading to isolation, loneliness, and unequal access to social or healthcare services. Although there are ample global studies on ethnic minorities in later life, this issue is under-researched in Hong Kong. This is largely due to the assumption that South Asian older people are well looked after by their families and do not require much external support. Families are expected to play a key role in supporting them financially and emotionally, assisting with service applications, and most importantly, helping them integrate into society and reduce the impact of social exclusion on their everyday lives.

Given the changing demographic and socio-economic conditions, it is unclear whether intergenerational support can continue to fulfill the traditional roles, despite the cultural emphasis in South Asian communities on children revering their older family members. This study seeks to address this knowledge and service gap by exploring the experiences of social exclusion among South Asian older people, their views on the family's role in helping them cope with exclusion, the gaps between the expected and actual roles of the family in their care, and the challenges faced by their adult children in providing family care. The study will also provide policy recommendations and service delivery alternatives. To collect in-depth information on this topic, a qualitative approach will be used, based on semi-structured interviews with 45 South Asian older people and 45 adult children of the older interviewees from three South Asian ethnic groups – Pakistani, Nepalese, and Indian. This research will focus on older people who are 60 or over and live with or apart from their children in the community. Since this research is grounded in the perspectives of both older and younger generations, it can give a voice to these ‘seldom heard’ groups regarding policies and services related to their well-being.