

Social Innovation – A Way of Addressing Social Problems



Students found that learning Hindi (a main Indian language) was not easy.

There are many social problems in the world and conventional solutions can no longer solve them. In late August, the Department of Asian and Policy Studies (APS) organised a Social Enterprise Tour and a Social Innovation Boot Camp from which EdUHK students and staff learned about social innovation as a novel but practical way of addressing persistent problems such as poverty, ageing and social exclusion. They made numerous observations:

- 1) In a restaurant, a deaf waiter or waitress can pass on orders to the kitchen more quickly than a non-hearing-impaired waiter or waitress.
- 2) It is extremely hard for Chinese to learn the Indian language and it is therefore hard for Indians to learn Chinese.
- 3) It is natural for the elderly to have bad tempers due to the persistent physical discomfort resulting from deterioration of their organs.
- 4) An ordinary Hong Kong housewife can make a dressing that tastes like it came from a five-star hotel.
- 5) Making artificial flowers is difficult, but one migrant woman from the mainland is very skillful in this regard.

The aim was to inspire the participants to make positive changes to the society by using

innovative solutions, whatever their capacities. (Source: APS)



Students in a simulation learn what it is like to be an elderly person.



Students learn about social entrepreneurship through the art of artificial flower making.

Website: https://iconnect.eduhk.hk/issue44/article_19.htm