

1 NO POVERTY



SDG 01

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK) recognises that education is the cornerstone of social mobility and one of the most potent tools for eradicating poverty in all its forms. Our commitment to reducing poverty is embedded in a multi-pronged strategy that addresses both the immediate needs of students facing financial hardship and the long-term, systemic causes of intergenerational poverty within our community.



14

7



Researchers



Research
Outputs

14

FWCI:1.72

732
participants



Outreach

3
events

Developing a Critical Understanding of Global Challenges

The University equips students with a global perspective on sustainable development through dedicated courses such as '**Economic Growth and Sustainable Livelihood in China**'. This undergraduate module offers a comprehensive analysis of the nation's development, examining its rapid economic growth alongside associated social challenges and environmental impacts. Furthermore, it provides critical insights into the complex relationship between poverty and historical and contemporary development processes, placing China's experience within a global context.

Research Spotlight: Leveraging Big Data to Enhance Anti-Poverty Governance

Research undertaken at the University has examined how big data technologies can be deployed to overcome endemic challenges in poverty alleviation programmes, such as corruption and information asymmetry. The study's findings highlight the critical role of an 'information commons'—a shared data resource accessible to all policy stakeholders—as a key mechanism for improving outcomes. This innovative approach creates a platform that translates raw data into policy-relevant information and, ultimately, into actionable knowledge. The research demonstrated that this process significantly enhances bureaucratic competence by improving the accuracy of policy implementation and the efficiency of coordination between different agencies. Furthermore, it strengthens accountability by making it easier to investigate and prevent corruption. The conclusions were drawn from extensive field interviews in a Chinese province that has pioneered the country's first big data platform for monitoring anti-poverty policies, illustrating the profound importance of the data-information-knowledge chain in advancing effective governance for poverty reduction.

Source: Zhu, J., Xiao, H., & Wu, B. (2024). From big data to higher bureaucratic capacity: Poverty alleviation in China. *Public Administration*, 102(1), 61–78.

Promoting a Culture of Reuse and Resource Sharing



In partnership with local non-governmental organisations, the University hosts a regular programme of on-campus events that encourage a circular economy. These initiatives provide opportunities for students, staff, and the wider campus community to donate and exchange pre-loved items, such as books and clothing. This fosters a strong sense of community and promotes sustainability by encouraging reuse, while also improving access to resources for those in need.

Enhancing Social Mobility through Language Education

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (HKSAR) is home to a rapidly growing and diverse population, with many residents from various cultural backgrounds now into their second or third generation. As this population expands, their empowerment and integration have become a key societal priority, particularly as the average annual growth rate of poverty for ethnic minorities has been significantly higher than for the whole population. For many, Chinese language proficiency presents a major barrier to social inclusion, as well as to academic and career progression, highlighting the critical need for effective language support from an early age.

In response, the University, through its Centre for Child and Family Science, is playing a leading role in this area. The 'C-for-Chinese@JC' project, led by Professor Kevin Kien Hoa Chung and funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, is a collaborative initiative designed to foster a culturally responsive and inclusive educational environment for kindergarten pupils. The project works with partner universities and non-governmental organisations to implement its unique 'home-school-community' model.

This model aims to enhance the Chinese language proficiency of non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students while simultaneously improving the social competence of their Chinese peers. Building on its initial success, the project's second phase began in 2022, introducing a set of 'Culturally Responsive Education Benchmarks'. This practical framework seeks to improve language and social-emotional skills for all children, smoothing their transition to primary education. By 2026, the project aims to have supported 42,000 kindergarten students, making a significant and lasting contribution to social integration.



Ensuring Access to Digital Learning Tools

To foster an inclusive learning environment, the University is committed to eliminating technological barriers that may hinder academic progress. Through our Centre for Learning, Teaching and Technology and the Office of the Chief Information Officer, the University offers a free and accessible loan service for essential digital devices. This service provides students with equipment such as laptops and tablets, ensuring that all learners, regardless of their economic background, can fully participate in online and technology-enhanced learning activities. By providing the necessary hardware, this initiative directly supports students and promotes the digital literacy that is vital for modern education.

Pioneering AI-Powered Tutoring Support



To bridge educational attainment gaps, the University has developed an innovative AI-driven tutoring application specifically designed to support pupils from low-income families. This initiative, developed in collaboration with partners and launched in 2024, provides personalised learning assistance, interactive exercises, and tailored feedback. The system, known as AceiTeach, features a question bank of over 10,000 items and uses AI to generate new questions based on a student's performance, allowing them to learn at their own pace and build academic confidence. This application aims to provide sustainable and high-quality educational resources, making a significant social impact by addressing the specific needs of underprivileged students in Hong Kong, China.

Ensuring Equal Access through Comprehensive Financial Support

Our foremost commitment is to ensure that financial hardship is never a barrier to accessing or succeeding in higher education. We provide a comprehensive suite of financial aid, actively assisting students in applying for government funding and offering a wide range of University-administered bursaries and loans as follows:

- **Government Grants and Loans:** The university actively assists students in applying for government schemes such as the Tertiary Student Finance Scheme – Publicly-funded Programmes.
- **University Bursaries and Loans:** A wide range of bursaries and loans are administered directly by the University to assist students facing financial challenges. This support is tailored to specific needs, with dedicated bursaries available for general living costs, hall residence, language immersion programmes, and for students with special educational needs.
- **Emergency Financial Assistance:** For students who encounter sudden and unforeseen financial difficulties, emergency grants and loans are available for application throughout the academic year, providing a crucial safety net.
- **Special Support Bursary:** A dedicated bursary is also in place to provide targeted support for students experiencing exceptional personal or family-related hardship.