A Survey Of Hong Kong Clinical Psychologists: Training And Continuing Education

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ABSTRACT. A questionnaire survey was conducted to document the views of Hong Kong clinical psychologists on their training and continuing education. Fifty-seven clinical psychologists returned the questionnaires. The results showed no significant sex difference on the overall ratings of the training adequacy and need for continuing education. The present sample tended to rate their training programmes as inadequate in most areas and indicated that the programmes needed to be modified. Interestingly, foreign trained respondents rated their training significantly more positively than their local counterparts after the level of academic degree was controlled. The sample also indicated a need for continuing education in most surveyed clinical areas and a support for a central body to organize a continuing education programme for clinical psychologists. The survey results were discussed in light of the current situation of the profession in Hong Kong.

The growth of clinical psychology in the past twenty years in Hong Kong has been impressive. In 1969, the government first started to employ a clinical psychologist under the job class of "scientific officer" as there was no established classification for the profession. Currently, it is estimated that there are about one hundred established positions of clinical psychologists in various settings. Parallel with the growth in demand, there has also been a significant diversification in the work scope of the profession both in terms of activities and setting (Tang and Lee, 1996). Regarding training of clinical psychologists, the Hong Kong University in 1971 began to offer a 2-year masters programme in clinical psychology. Since 1988, the Chinese University of Hong Kong has also provided both masters

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