

# **Accompany and Empowerment: The Process of Co-Learning with Collaborative Communities in Hualien City**

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## **Abstract**

"Community-oriented social welfare flagship plan" has been pushing for nearly 10 years, but it has not yet received a subsidy in Eastern region of Taiwan. In order to encourage active application in Hualien City, the researcher organized graduate students to be a counseling team, with the county and city government persons drafted "flagship plan". This was a co-learning process with communities, from the beginning to recognize community's situation, evaluated communities capacity, explained basic concepts of collaborative communities, assessed community needs, discussed the contents of the community-based programs, and integrated the whole plan which were required to accompany and step-by-step advice. The researcher wish to organize and share this process what happened and provide a reference to help others who want to involve this plan.

This article was based on action research approach, with the main work of the project include: participation in three counseling meetings, executed an empowerment training workshop, five counselors into the community two times each, carried on one time experts counseling meeting, the researcher and assistants discussed the plan from time to time. At the end we gradually completed this plan.

After completed the plan, the researcher deep feeling was "not urgent", community growing was slowly which takes time to learn. Community also had its pace which too purposeful work was often difficult to match. Meanwhile, plans needed to incorporate more race and culture characteristics in Hualien City.

**Keywords: Flagship Plan, Collaborative communities, Action research,  
Community capacity evaluation**