

LEARNING IN LATER LIFE: LISTENING TO THE VOICES OF ELDERS FROM HONG KONG

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Abstract

This paper presentation is about views and experiences of later life learning shared and reported by two groups of Chinese elders in Hong Kong by way of a survey (N=519) and face-to-face interviews (N=39). Research findings include the elders' conceptualizations of learning, involvement in later life learning, and important learning issues including interests, needs, motivations, as well as, barriers that might inhibit their participation in learning.

More specifically, the objectives are to:

- Describe and conceptualize the meaning of learning as Hong Kong elders experienced it in later life;
- Identify important learning issues for older learners, including their interests, motivations, and learning preferences;
- Identify the barriers to participation and discuss how they could be alleviated to encourage lifelong learning.

Both quantitative and qualitative findings will be reported to shed light on later life learning experiences, which contribute to the global understanding of later life learning and serve to inform the development of policy and practice geared to the planning and provision of opportunities to keep learning at the later stages of life.