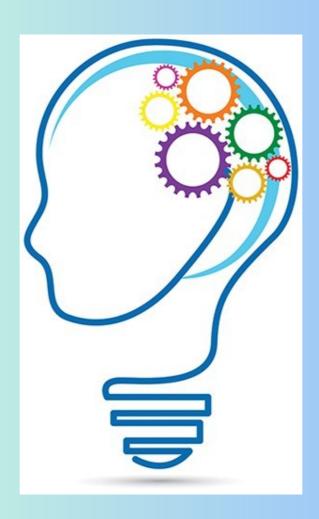
## MY MENTAL WELLNESS BOOKLET

NAME:



ETHNIC MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING PROGRAMME (MIND TO HEART) 2022-2023





## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The COVID-19 pandemic and many other local and global events have left a huge impact on the mental health of people including the migrant population all over the world. The ethnically diverse community living in Hong Kong is not an exception. The community is at great risk of poor mental health due to several challenges they have to face such as language and cultural differences, isolation, loneliness, financial struggle, etc. Recognizing the mental health needs of the ethnically diverse community in Hong Kong, The University of Hong Kong (HKU) has funded the project "Ethnic Minority Mental Health and Well-being Programme (Mind to Heart) 2022-2023" which was executed by the OkayMinds team and HKU students who were recruited and trained as Mental Health Ambassadors (MHAs) for this Programme.

This booklet is produced by a dedicated team of OkayMinds and MHAs to help the ethnically diverse community in Hong Kong with mental health-related knowledge, tips and techniques that are simple to use. The booklet is carefully produced incorporating the MHAs original ideas on various topics while drawing upon a wealth of relevant resources for the references and inspiration. For details of reference please see page 38.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the kind and continuous guidance of Professor Samson Tse, Dean of Student Affairs at The University of Hong Kong (HKU) and Ms Ada Leung from the Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS), HKU. I would also like to extend my thanks to MHAs for generously contributing to the content creation of the booklet. I would also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our editing team of Mr. Ameesh Kumar and Ms. Amrita Sanju Darayanai who worked tirelessly to shape this booklet as it looks now.

In this booklet, readers will find easy-to-understand write-ups and resources regarding the improvement of mental health and wellness. We believe that the mental wellness journey is unique for each of us so we have designed this booklet to give a personalized touch to readers with spaces to write their names and self-reflection. We hope this resource will benefit many and the readers will enjoy using it as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

Thank you for your support.

Regards,
Nimisha Vandan, PhD
Project Lead
Ethnic Minority Mental Health and Well-Being Programme 2022-2023
(Mind to Heart)
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### SECTION 1:SELF-LOVE

Foundation of self-love is self-care, self-compassion, positive thinking, being mindful and learn to relieve stress

Self - Reflection Corner



### What is self-care?

Self-care means taking time to do things that will help you live well and improve both your physical health and mental health.



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#### WHY IS SELF-CARE IMPORTANT?

Having an effective self-care routine has been shown to have many important health benefits. Some of these include:

- · Reducing anxiety and depression
- Reducing stress and improving resilience
- · Improving happiness
- · Increasing Happiness
- · Reducing burnout
- · Stronger interpersonal relationships

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#### TYPES OF SELF-CARE



#### Physical

- · Get good sleep
- Stretch
- Eat healthy
- Yoga
- Get rest

#### **Spiritual**

- Meditation
- Praying
- Being in nature
- Keep a journal
- · Spend time alone
- Listen to music



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**ME TIME** 

#### MYTHS ABOUT SELF-CARE



X Self-care is selfish



When you make time for yourself and get sufficient rest & exercise, you feel more energetic and will be able to do more - for yourself as well as for those around you



X Self-care is expensive



Self-care does not require you to spend a big chunk of money, it can cost zero dollars



Self-care is time consuming



Self-care can be done in or under 15 minutes

#### TYPES OF SELF-CARE

#### **Emotional**









Reflection

- · Setting boundaries
- Spend time with loved ones
- · Establishing positive relationships
- · Positive social media
- · Ask for help
- · Support systems

#### Mental

- Solve a puzzle
- · Read a book
- · Try a new activity
- · Declutter your wardrobe · Watch a movie

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According to Dr. Kristen Neff,

#### Self-compassion

refers to
compassion for our own selves,
which is similar to
how we have compassion for others.
(turning compassion inward)

#### It involves

- 1. noticing our own sufferings
- 2. feeling moved by the sufferings
- 3. having the desire to help the suffering person, which is 'ourselves' in this case

# Why is Self-compassion important?

Research indicates that self-compassion is one of the most powerful sources of coping and resilience we have available to us, radically improving our mental and physical wellbeing.

It motivates us to make changes and reach our goals not because we're inadequate, but because we care and want to be happy.

## 3 Elements of Self-compassion:

1. Self-kindness vs. Self-judgdment

recognizing that being imperfect, failing, and experiencing life difficulties is inevitable, so we gentle with ourselves when confronted with painful experiences rather than getting angry when life falls short of set ideals

2. Common humanity vs. Isolation

recognizing that suffering and personal inadequacy is part of the shared human experience – something that we all go through rather than being something that happens to "me" alone.

3. Mindfulness vs. Over-identification

taking a balanced approach to our negative emotions so that feelings are neither suppressed nor exaggerated

observing our negative thoughts and emotions with openness and clarity



Ways of being Self-compassionate:

#### **Supportive Touch**

Activating our parasympathetic nervous system can help us feel calm, cared for and safe.



## Ways of being Self-compassionate:

#### **Self-Compassionate Journal**

Record the events and the feelings you feel. Try to process each event with mindfulness, a sense of common humanity and self-kindess, and make self-compassion part of your daily life!



Ways of being Self-compassionate:

#### Changing your critical self-talk

Be more encouraging and supportive to yourself. Remember that love is always more powerful motivator than fear!



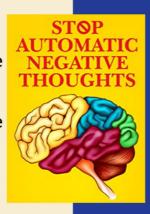


Recap of the suggestions/ solutions:

- 1) Do not exaggerate the seriousness of the matter
- 2) Remind yourself of past positive experiences
- 3) Affirm your own abilities and confidence
- 4) In line with reality
- 5) Accept yourself and don't blame too much

## ESCAPE FROM THE NEGATIVE THOUGHTS

- Build a flexible mindset
- 1) Use more words like "It seems", "possibly"
- 2) Think from multiple perspectives



## 5 UNHEALTHY MINDSETS YOU SHOULD AVOID



Using an unrepresentative sample to conclude a general rule. Stereotypes

#### HASTY Generalization

Taking a small or non Opposite of random sample to make Accident conclusions about a population

#### Example:

After trying sushi once and disliking it, a person claims that all sushi is terrible.

#### Frequently used words:

"Definitely", "Forever", "Everyday", "Every time", "All", "Must"

#### Solution:

Do not exaggerate the seriousness of the matter --> There are many forms and styles of sushi!

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#### No.2

#### Catastrophizing: thinking of the

worst possible outcomes in a situation



#### Example:

If I suddenly have a heart attack while going out, I will die!

#### Frequently used words:

"If", "In case"

#### Solution:

Remind yourself of past positive experiences → Last time when I got sick, I took the initiative to seek medical treatment. I am able to cope with accidents.

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#### No.3



#### HIDING GOOD AND PROMOTING EVIL

#### Example:

Other patients recovered quickly after the treatment, but why I am still feeling unwell?

#### Solution:

Affirm your own abilities and confidence → Everyone's situation is different and there is no need to compare. Although the progress is relatively slow, at least I am in good spirits.

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#### No.4



#### **SELF-STIGMATIZATION**

#### Example:

If I am not disable, I don't need to rely on others. Also, I can have a normal life and live independently.

#### Solution:

In line with reality --> Although I can't do some specific task, there are many other things I can do.

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#### No.5



#### **BLAMING OTHERS**

#### Example:

I don't smoke or drink and I always do exercise. But why I still suffer from cancer? It's impossible!

#### Solution:

Accept yourself and don't blame too much → Rather than obsessing about the cause of the illness, it is better to focus on recovery now and take good care of yourself physically and mentally.

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## What is Mindfulness?

"The awareness that emerges through paying attention on purpose, in the present moment, and non-judgmentally to the unfolding of experience moment by moment" – Kabat-Zinn (2003)





#### What's Good about Being Mindful?



- ◆ Awareness of experience
- ◆ Acceptance of emotions ◆ Emotion regulation ability
- ◆ Stress management ability ◆ Psychological well-being and life satisfaction ◆ Positive affect and quality of life
- ♦ Immune functioning
- ♦ Sleep

#### What's Good about Being Mindful?

#### Reduced:

- ◆ Automatic cognitive processes of evaluation (e.g. "dislike" or "bad") ◆ Negative thoughts, rumination and
- self-judgment
- ◆ Emotional and physiological reactivity
- ◆ Depressive symptoms
- ◆ Pain reactivity
- ◆ Food craving and emotional eating





Therefore, be mindful, be present with the happiness, As well as the painful experiences. No denying of them, nor fixated on them, Slow down, and appreciate their existence. We need to be present with our feelings, Before we can be kind to ourselves

> See them, feel them, and let them go



1. Be Nonjudging: witness the present moment in an impartial way, and reduce evaluation or categorization







#### Ways of Being A Mindful Person



3. Non-striving: refrain from forcing things to happen, and remain unattached to certain outcome or achievements.

#### Ways of Being A Mindful Person

- 4. Be Patient: allow things to unfold in their time.
- 5. Be Trusting: trust one's own body, emotions and intuitions; believe that life is unfolding as it supposed to
- 6. Letting Go: not to hold on to thoughts, feelings, or experiences.



#### Ways of Being A Mindful Person

- 7. Be Gentle: be considerate to others
- 8. Be generous: indulge to the present moment with love and compassion. Get rid of attachment of gaining or thoughts of return

## Ways of Being A Mindful Person

- 9. Non-reactivity: refrain from evaluating and getting caught up to certain thoughts or obsessions
- 10. gratitude: appreciate and being thankful to the present moment













## SECTION 2: WELL-BEING BOOSTERS

These boosters are Sleep Hygiene, Green and Mental Health and Art and well-being

Self - Reflection Corner



















## How does nature affect mental health?

 Being in nature has been shown to reduce stress and anxiety, improve mood and cognitive function, and increase physical activity levels..

- B

## What is a green environment?

 Green environments refer to natural spaces such as parks, forests, and gardens.



## Ways to incorporate nature into daily life

- Spend time in green spaces such as parks or forests.
- Bring plants or flowers into your home or workspace.
- Listen to nature sounds or use nature-inspired decor in your surroundings.

M

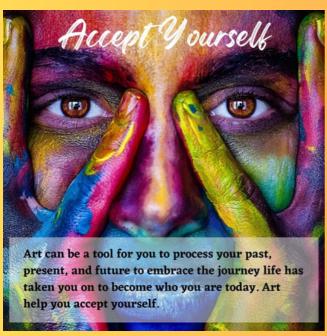
# tips for creating a green environment • Adding plants to your workspace can help reduce stress and anxiety levels. • Choose low-maintenance plants like succulents or spider plants.

# • Studies show that being in nature can reduce stress and improve mental health. Green therapy is a promising approach to boost well-being.



# Well-being & Art ART-MAKING CAN ENHANCE EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING







Making arts give you an opportunity to engage in a creative progress to foster imagination, innovation and originality. You can become more open, curious, and creative to your inner world. Art help you to discover your personality traits and strengths.





### SECTION 3:RELATIONSHIPS

Building Healthy Couple Relationships, Integrating in New Environments, Understanding Psychological Manipulation (Gaslighting), DARVO and ghosting to protect yourself from toxic relationships

#### Self - Reflection Corner

## Healthy Couple Relationship



#### Empathy

Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another person and is an essential element in emotional intimacy and connection in relationships.



- Offering emotional support
- Putting yourself in their shoes
- · Practicing compassion

#### Communication

Effective communication is essential for building trust, resolving conflicts, and fostering intimacy in relationships.

Here are some tips for effective communication in your relationship:

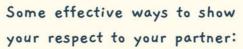
- Active listening
- · Using "I" statements
- Avoiding blaming or criticising
- · Practicing empathy



#### Respect

m

Respect is essential for maintaining healthy relationships and involves treating your partner with kindness and consideration.



- Validating your partner's feelings
- Actively listening to their perspective
- Treating them with kindness and patience



Trust is the foundation of any healthy relationship and is essential for building intimacy and connection.

- Building trust involves being honest, reliable, and consistent in your words and actions
- Rebuilding trust after a breach requires open communication, accountability, and a willingness to make amends.
- Setting and respecting boundaries is important for maintaining a sense of safety and trust in relationships.



#### Conflict Management

It is natural to encounter conflicts in your relationship and it is important to learn to manage it constructively.

Some Tips to develop empathy:

- · Finding a compromise
- · Seeking mediation
- Taking a break to cool down before continuing the discussion



#### Benefits from Healthy Relationship

Healthy relationships can lead to greater happiness, reduced stress, and improved mental health. Research shows that people in healthy relationships tend to have better overall well-being



















## Psychological Manipulation (GASLIGHTING)

#### **GASLIGHTING**

Gaslighting is a form of psychological manipulation that **intentionally** erodes your sense of reality and self. It involves tactics like **denial**, **distortion**, and **manipulation** to make you doubt your own perceptions and experiences.

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01

#### **IMPACT**

Gaslighting chips away at your **self-esteem**, causing **anxiety**, **self-doubt**, and **a loss of trust in yourself.** 

Remember, you are not alone in this journey. Reach out to supportive communities, therapists, and helplines to heal, regain your strength, and reclaim your authentic self.

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03

#### **EXAMPLES**

Gaslighting can manifest in various ways, such as someone

- · dismissing your feelings
- twisting facts
- · making you question your sanity

It's crucial to trust your intuition and seek support from trusted friends or professionals who validate your reality.

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O2

#### STRATEGIES FOR SELF-VALIDATION AND HEALING

- · Trust your instincts: Your feelings are valid.
- Seek support: Reach out to trusted friends for validation and guidance.
- Set boundaries: Establish clear limits to protect your well-being.
- Practice self-care: Engage in activities that nourish your mind.
- Educate yourself: Learn about gaslighting, narcissism, and healthy relationship dynamics.

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04

Remember, by raising awareness and supporting one another, we can create a world that rejects gaslighting and narcissism, fostering empathy, understanding, and healthy relationships.

Together, let's empower and uplift each other.



# DARVO

How Narcissists Use DARVO to Escape Accountability?

#### What is DARVO?

DARVO is an acronym for Deny, Attack,
Reverse, Victim and Offender. It is a defense
mechanism used by manipulators when they
are confronted for their actions to evade
accountability.

DARVO is a fusion of gaslighting and blame-shifting.

How Narcissists Use DARVO to Escape Accountability?

What does it look like?

Step 1. Deny. Step 2. Attack.

Step 3. Reverse Victim and Offender.

The language used by perpetrators and their supporters during DARVO campaigns may sound like this:

I didn' t do anything, but if I did, it wasn' t that bad.
 It never happened, but if it did, it wasn' t that bad.

At the local level, this strategy is common among perpetrators of sexual offenses, emotional abuse, and domestic violence.

Who gets targeted for DARVO?

For DARVO to occur a power imbalance must exist.

Similarly, it is particularly effective when the abuser has

more social capital than the survivor.













## SECTION 4: MENTAL HEALTH SKILLS

**Understanding Mental Health First Aid and Therapy** 

Self - Reflection Corner













6. Safety First: If your personal safety is being threatened, you should call the police and/ or seek professional help





5. ENCOURAGE OTHER SUPPORTS

-encourage the person to seek support from family, friends and others.

problems





Therapy refers to the help given
by a professionals on mental
health issues by having
discussions about what you
worry recently

But of course, you can always trust the people who love and care about you!

Take care!









# SECTION 5: AWARENESS OF MENTAL ISSUES

Understanding Mood Disorders, Phobias, Bipolar Disorder, Post-Partum Depression and Schizophrenia

Self - Reflection Corner

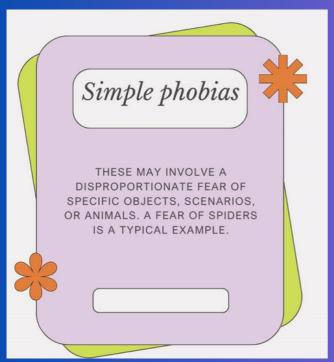


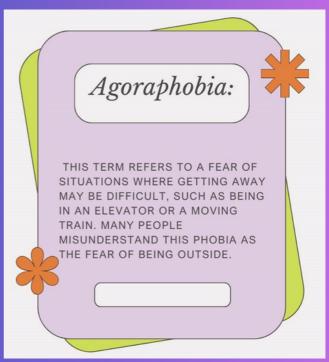


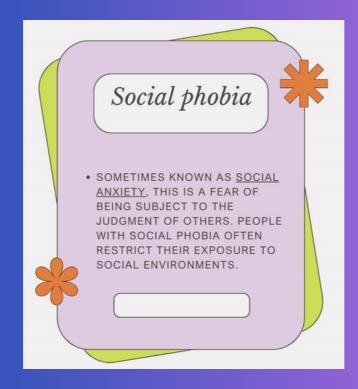






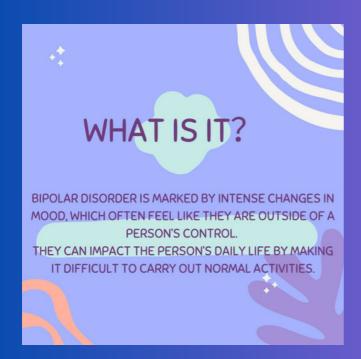


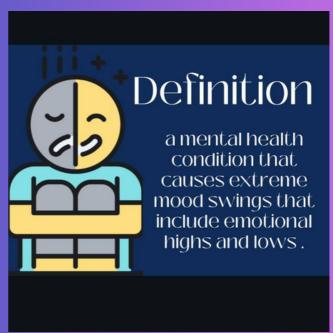






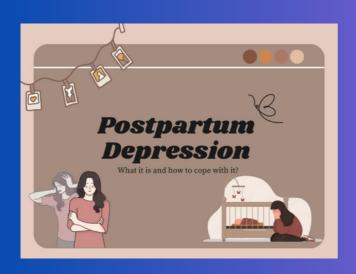


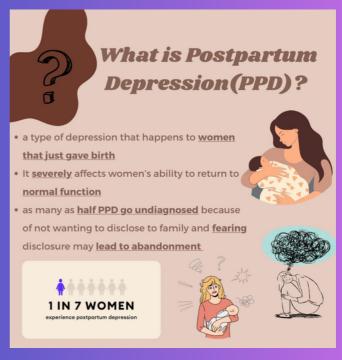
















#### PREVALENCE AND RISK FACTORS

approximately 1% prevalence in hong kong

Genetics, Childhood Trauma, Substance abuse, and Urban environmentsrisk Factors



#### SCHIZOPHRENIA IS A COMPLEX DISORDER.



SCHIZOPHRENIA: A COMPLEX MENTAL DISORDER WITH SYMPTOMS LIKE HALLUCINATIONS, DELUSIONS, DISORGANIZED THINKING, SOCIAL WITHDRAWAL, AND IMPAIRED COGNITION.

#### EARLY INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT ARE CRUCIAL.

PROFESSIONAL HELP, TREATMENTS,
THERAPIES, COMMUNITY SUPPORT, AND
DESTIGMATIZATION AID RECOVERY,
IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE.



#### YOU are not alone; Help is available.

LOCAL SUPPORT ORGS AND HELPLINES: MIND HK, THE SAMARITANS, THE MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG.

SERVICES FOCUSING ON ETHNIC MINORITY: SOUTH ASIAN MENTAL HEALTH ALLIANCE, SOUTH ASIAN WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT ASSOCIATION.





# RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT

<u>Hospital</u>
<u>Authority</u>
Mental Health
Direct

24667350

Caritas Family
Crisis Support
Centre
totline Service
(Family Crisis)

18288

The Samaritans
Multi-Lingual
Suicide Prevention
Hotline

28960000

USEFUL

<u>Richmond</u>
<u>Fellowship of Hong</u>
<u>Kong - Justone</u>
Hotline Service

35122626

Suicide
Prevention
Services
Hotline Service

23820000

Social
Welfare
Department
Hotline
Service

23432255

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## Please provide your valuable feedback to help us improve this booklet



https://forms.gle/rDKiQh2Rn9nQwtYv9



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