

Evidence-based Policy Advocacy

C.K. Law

Researches in the old days

1975 – Rent increase in PRH (success not so much because of the evidence, but the mobilization and organization)

1980 – MTR HKI line extension to Chai Wan (success mainly due to evidence of demand)

1983 – Transportation needs of PWD (success in arousing policy interest)

Poverty studies of HKCSS and academics - late 1980s – early 2000s (CoP 2005-07, 2012-)

Example 1: urban renewal strategies (URS) in other cities

Suggested by researcher

Commissioned by Development Bureau in 2008

Studied the URS of Seoul, Tokyo, Singapore, Taipei, Shanghai, Guangzhou

Later added: South Bank of London

Field visits, interviews, and documentary review

Important lessons taken on board

the importance of political, social and cultural contexts in the formulation of urban renewal strategies (w.r.t. how and why)

Involvement of NGOs in conservation

Speeding up of private sector involvement in urban redevelopment, particularly, related to older buildings (>50 yrs old)

Public engagement in district level

Example 2: Social welfare premises planning process

Suggested by researcher

Background: Lack of premises

- Community resistance (NIMBY), particularly, for sensitive services
- Long duration for development completion
- Competing for limit land and space in HK

Example 2: Social welfare premises planning process

Objectives:

- to examine the effectiveness of the existing planning process;
- to review the efficacy of the departmental setup for the planning process;
- to identify critical factors that may contribute to/ hinder an effective planning process; and
- to make recommendations on how the planning process can be strengthened to cope with the increasing service demand.

Methodology

Interviews of stakeholders

- Supply side: Housing Department, Planning Department, Government Property Agency, Lands Department, Home Affairs Department, Social Welfare Department, Urban Renewal Authority, NGOs
- Demand side: SWD, NGOs

Documentary review and process audit

17 Case studies

Recommendations taken on board

HK Planning Standard and Guidelines

Review of Schedule of Accommodation of service units

Long term social welfare planning (ESPP and RPP)

NGO land – Special Site Scheme

Closing Remark

research study independency

research internal and external validity

making study report public

understanding system operations

understanding stakeholders

provide workable and palatable solutions,
not problems

why, how, who