

Furthering our understanding of youth social capital formation in Ottawa

Collaborative Services in Ottawa's Pinecrest-Queensway Community

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Résumé de recherche

Des études récentes, menées dans diverses villes du monde, ont démontré que les relations de collaboration entre les agences telles que les organismes communautaires, les écoles, les institutions gouvernementales et autres sont essentielles dans l'accroissement du capital social chez les jeunes. Les partenariats stratégiques aident à bâtir un meilleur réseau de ressources qui mène à une diminution de la criminalité chez les jeunes, ainsi qu'une augmentation du taux de réussite à l'école et sur le marché du travail. Pathways to Education (*Passeport pour ma réussite*) est un programme innovant dans le quartier Pinecrest-Queensway à Ottawa qui offre un soutien académique, social et financier aux jeunes du secondaire vivant dans des logements à faible revenu. Ce projet de recherche examine l'impact qu'a ce programme sur la vie des jeunes ainsi que les partenariats et acteurs principaux qui contribuent au bien-être et au succès des jeunes. L'étude de ce programme nous aidera à mieux comprendre la dynamique qui existe entre les différents agents qui composent la vie des jeunes et nous permettra de déceler des approches semblables qui pourraient être appliquées dans d'autres quartiers d'Ottawa et potentiellement dans d'autres pays.

Introduction

Recent case studies on youth social capital formation, conducted in various cities, have shown that the relationships between agencies such as community organisations, schools, governmental institutions and others are critical in increasing youth social capital. Strategic partnerships help build a stronger network of resources available to youth which leads to a decrease of youth crime and allows young people to succeed in their schooling and to find jobs. In Ottawa's Pinecrest-Queensway neighbourhood, the Pathways to Education Program is a community-based initiative that offers academic, social and financial support to youth living in low-income housing in the community. This small research project examines the impact this program has on youth and what partnerships with other organisations and key participants contribute to the success and welfare of young people.

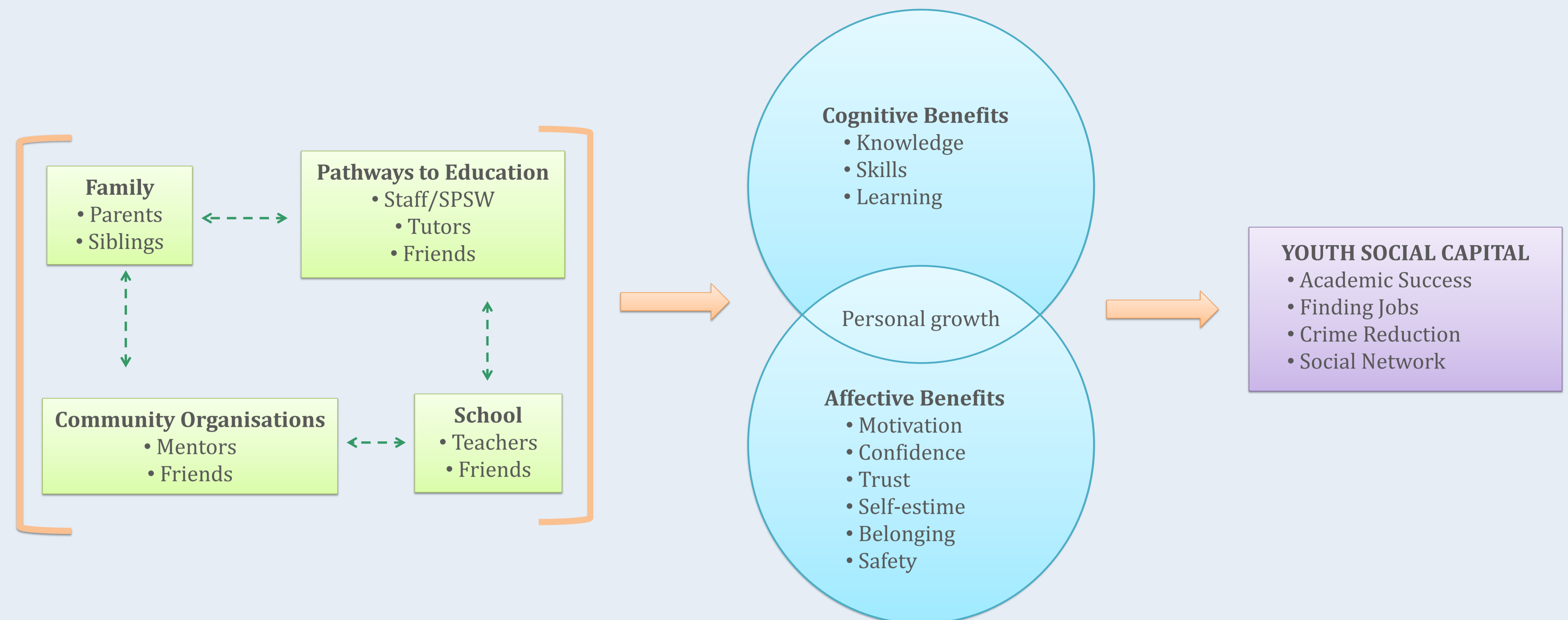
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Special thanks to:
Professor Richard Maclure
Staff at Pathways to Education
Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre
Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program

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Results



Methodology

The qualitative data for this project was collected through general observation and discussion with staff and students of the Pathways to Education program. In order to allow a substantial integration to the program and to build relationships with staff and youth, informal observations were conducted during tutoring sessions.

Conclusion

This project has contributed to a better understanding of how Pathways' services and its collaborative work help to improve the chances for youth in the community. Evaluating the project's outcomes can further understanding of youth social capital formation in some key areas, such as the gaps and needs that may exist in support services; how the services of partners and Pathways come together to provide youth with a *continuum of supports*; and how these approaches can inform service development in other Ottawa communities, and potentially in other countries.

