

Institute for Social Science Research - PhD Student Project

ISSR Impact Area: Health

Title: *Adverse childhood experience and the health risk behaviour, cognitive development and social integration: a socio-ecological approach of child development across the life course*

Supervisor/s: [Dr. Nam Tran](#), [Associate Professor Abdullah Al Mamun](#)

Funding:

Student Scholarship required, top-up funding may be available to suitable candidate

Project description:

Exposure to adverse childhood experiences, including physical or emotional abuse or neglect, deprivation, or exposure to violence is associated with health risk behaviours such as substance use disorders, mental health disorders, school bullying, and suicidal behaviour. Adverse childhood experiences negatively effects on cognitive development and social integration. Less is known about the mediating effect of cognitive development and social integration in the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and health risk behaviours in adolescents. The aim of this project is to discover the mechanism of how adverse childhood experiences increase the possibility for substance use disorders, mental health disorders, and school bullying through its adverse consequences on cognitive development and social integration.

This PhD will build on work undertaken through on-going collaborations with partners. The study will employ a longitudinal data from childhood to adolescence and a socio-ecological approach as it generates the opportunity to examine and control the impacts of individual, family, and school factors as well as determine their interactions through the life span. Information from this project will provide a scientific evidence to design effective intervention program to reduce the proportion of substance use disorders, mental health disorders, and school bullying among adolescents.

The candidate:

We are seeking a candidate who has some experiences in quantitative data analysis and publication. A potential candidate will have an excellent academic record and a particular interest in the topics. High level of quantitative data analysis and writing skills with a strong background in statistics, public health, or sociology will be prioritising.

Achievable Outcomes:

- A PhD from the UQ in relevant area
- Multiple scientific papers in high impact research journals
- Experience with oral/written presentations at national/international conferences
- Interact with an interdisciplinary team of researchers in order to optimise research outcomes