

# **China's efforts to eliminate poverty through education policy formulation and implementation**

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# Summary

1. Concepts and Theories
2. Achievements and experience
3. Recent policies and measures
4. Main Challenges and Difficulties
5. Developmental goals and strategies of 2020 compulsory education



# I. Concepts and Theories

Consensus has been reached by Chinese government and the people, that basic education is the cornerstone of the national education system, the key to increase the comprehensive national strength and to improve citizen's quality, the foundation of social justice and a humorous society, and an important way to eliminate poverty

# Concepts and Theories

**The main objectives of Chinese education reform and development are to improve the overall quality of the labor force continuously, to increase the strength and competitiveness of the nation and to shift from a big country in term of its huge population to a powerful country in term of its advanced education system.**



## 2. Achievements and experience

Chinese GDP per capita reached **\$3,200 in 2008**. This figure, according to the World Bank's classification, marks China's leap from a low income country to a lower-middle income country.



## **. Achievements and experience.**

**China has basically universalized 9-year compulsory education and has achieved free compulsory education in both urban and rural areas. In 2008, the net enrollment rate of primary education reached 99.5%.**



# Achievements and experience

Enrollment gap between boys and girls has been closed. Progression rate from **primary school was 99.7%**, and the national gross enrollment rate of lower- and upper-secondary school **reached 98% and 66% respectively**. The average years of schooling of the population above 15-year-old **is 8.7 years** now, 3.5 years higher than the figure in 1982, and the average years of schooling of the newly added labors has exceeded **11.5**.



# Achievements and experience

**Basic education development plays an active role in mobilizing rural population, enriching farmers, reducing poverty and narrowing the gap between different regions, especially between urban and rural areas.**



# Achievements and experience

According to the *Human Development Report, China 2007/08* published recently by UNDP, the government's investment in public service industries such as education will bring more benefit. **Every one Yuan investment increased in rural education will yield 8.43 Yuan in the production value in return.**



# Achievements and experience

The nation's investment in rural compulsory education has brought considerable economic benefit to its people in the rural area.



## 3. Recent policies and measures

To increase public investment in basic education rapidly. **Chinese basic education budget had been increased by 84.5% from 2002 to 2007.**



## Recent policies and measures

**To offer free compulsory education in both urban and rural areas. The expense of compulsory education has been included and secured within the range of public fund.**



# Recent policies and measures

Focus to **solve the rural education problems** in depressed areas by key projects and committed investment. A series of projects, such as the

*National Project of Depressed Area Compulsory Education, the Rural Primary and Secondary Schools Dilapidated Building Renovation Project, the Western Area “Two-basic” Universality Breakthrough Project, the Rural Primary and Secondary Boarding Schools Project, Project of Modern Distance Education in Rural Primary and Secondary Schools, the Rural Teacher Special Posts Project and the pilot project of Free Normal Education* have been implemented.



# the Rural Primary and Secondary Boarding Schools Project

China has carried out “the Rural Primary and Secondary Boarding Schools Project,” which has improved the school-running conditions and the learning environment of compulsory education in poor mountainous and traffic hard areas. By 2007, China had established 7,651 new lodging schools, offering basic accommodation for the newly increased 2.07 million lodging students in the west.



# **Project of Modern Distance Education in Rural Primary and Secondary Schools**

**China has complemented “Project of Modern Distance Education in Rural Primary and Secondary Schools”. By 2007, 360 thousand rural primary and secondary schools in the middle and west regions had been equipped with 440 thousand sets of display facilities, 265 thousand sets of satellite-receiving facilities, 40 thousand sets of computer-classroom facilities. High quality educational resources have been transferred to rural primary and secondary schools in the middle and west China, which greatly improved their environment of educational informatization.**



## Recent policies and measures

**To promote enrollment of the migrant workers' children, assuring their right to compulsory education.**



## 4. Main Challenges and Difficulties

The overall human capital development level is still lower than developed countries.



# Main Challenges and Difficulties

**The quality and comprehensiveness of the nationwide universality of 9-year compulsory education are still low, and the difficulties of extending the coverage and preventing the potential dropout are immense.**



# Main Challenges and Difficulties

**There is still an uneven distribution of the limited education resources.**

**Education quality among regions and schools, between rural and urban areas is still disparate. Rural compulsory education is still a weakness.**

**Infrastructures and equipments in a considerable amount of rural schools cannot meet the national standards.**



# Main Challenges and Difficulties

**With the speedup of urbanization process and the increase in rural migrant labors, it becomes more and more urgent to guarantee the migrant children's (both moving with their parents to cities and being left in the countryside) right to education.**



# Main Challenges and Difficulties

The quality of the education is also compromised by outdated educational ideas and methods, which cannot meet the demand of the fast changing society and the international competition. Heavy student's workload, cramming, lack of sleep, de-emphasis on PE and social practice have seriously influence the overall development of the children and their health.

# strategies of 2020 compulsory education

By 2020, the coverage of the compulsory education should be extended and its quality should be increased further. The regional development should be balanced. Quality compulsory education for every school-age child should be guaranteed.



**in a few years**

**To set up national quality standards for compulsory education and to establish a monitoring system. To complete the school standardization process step by step by 2020.**



**in a few years**

**To balance the educational resources of teachers, educational equipments, library and books, school buildings and so on. To transform the weak schools, improving the quality of their teachers and establishing a teacher and school principle mobility mechanism.**



# **Policies and measures in a few years**

**To establish an urban-rural-integrated compulsory education development mechanism. To prioritize public funds toward the countryside and to offer special treatments in policies such as new school planning and teacher resource allocation in rural area.**



## **Policies and measures in a few years**

**To guarantee the migrant children's right to compulsory education, with full-time public schools shouldering the main response. To assure the schooling of every school-age child irrespective of the obstacles such as family economic condition, learning difficulties and travelling difficulty, eliminating dropout phenomenon.**



# **Policies and measures in a few years**

**To reduce the burden of the students, adjusting the curriculum and the textbooks, rationally lowering the difficulty level. To reform the examination systems and to explore new student assessment mechanisms.**



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Thank you !

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