Development of Education in Western China: Current Status, Challenges & Strategies

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56% territory  28% population
## Current Status of Education

### Student Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Higher Education</th>
<th>Senior High School</th>
<th>Junior High School</th>
<th>Primary School</th>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Post Graduates</td>
<td>University Students</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nationwide</td>
<td>1,540,000</td>
<td>22,300,000</td>
<td>46,700,000</td>
<td>52,800,000</td>
<td>99,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>175,000 (11.4%)</td>
<td>4,650,000 (21%)</td>
<td>13,000,000 (28%)</td>
<td>16,450,000 (31%)</td>
<td>30,720,000 (31%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Figures of Higher Education Institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>211 Project universities</th>
<th>Other universities</th>
<th>Vocational colleges</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nationwide</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>616</td>
<td>1347</td>
<td>2087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>463</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Rate of Qualified Teachers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Senior High School</th>
<th>Junior High School</th>
<th>Primary School</th>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nationwide</td>
<td>94.8%</td>
<td>98.7%</td>
<td>99.5%</td>
<td>96.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>91.5%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>99.3%</td>
<td>92.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: For university teachers with Master’s degree or above, the number is 49% and 20% respectively.
By the end of 2010, we have achieved universalizing free compulsory education and eradicating illiteracy among young and middle-aged groups.

Student enrollment at different levels of education grew rapidly in western part of China (HEIs, Junior and senior high school, vocational college).

Education input in Western China increased substantially, higher than national average, resulting in visible improvement in school running conditions.

- Computer: 5 per student → 2.9
- Schools with campus network:
  - Junior high school: 26.8%
  - Senior high school: 58.4%
Marked progress in teacher force development in Western China, overall teacher quality improved substantially

Manpower development provided strong support to the implementation of Western Development Strategy

(33 million above high-school graduates from 1999-2008)

Challenges

- Disparity in economic development between east and west part of China, between urban and rural areas ---> uneven educational development

- Insufficient input ---> inadequate provision of education resources
Challenges

- Backward ideas and ways of teaching, test-driven
- Low income --> brain drain to the east
- Sparsely populated, less than friendly natural environment

National Outline for Medium and Long Term Educational Reform and Development (2010-2020)
Three Strategic Objectives

- Basically Modernize China’s education
- Basically forming a learning society
- A strong nation rich in human resources

Principle Considerations

- Top priority to education development
- Student cultivation as the core of all educational activities
- Development through reform and innovation
- Promote equity
- Improve quality
Five Main Tasks

- Boost education equity;
- Over-all and balanced development of education;
- Full scale advancement of all-round education;
- Deepening education system reform;
- Strengthening capacity building for teachers

Strategies to boost educational development in western China
1. Increase input in education

- increase financial transfer payments to western regions
- employ national bonds to support education in western regions
- commit new budgetary increases to rural education
- bring rural education funds into government public financial system
- expand resources of education funds

2. Support students from poor families

- free compulsory education to all in China
- national scholarships
- student loans
- living allowances for boarding students from poor families
- stipend for students with special difficulties
3. Teacher capacity building

- Free education for undergraduates in six normal universities under MoE (46,000 students recruited since 2007, 10,000 students graduated and 90% of them teach in the west)

- National teacher training program (550 million Yuan input in 2010, 1.5 billion Yuan in 2011, 1.1 million rural teachers)

  National overseas training program for principals and teachers in primary and secondary schools; overseas training programs at provincial level

- Special Teaching Post Program (3.5 billion Yuan input, 300,000 teachers recruited since 2006)
4. Distance Education Project

- 11 billion RMB input from the government
- 400,000 TV & DVD for remote schools
- 210,000 satellite receiving systems
- 45,000 multimedia classrooms
- 100 million rural students benefited

5. “Pair Support” Program

- universities in the east to support their counterparts in the west
- schools in cities to support their counterparts in poor regions within the province
• Tripartite Program

• first set up with New Zealand

• one top Chinese university + one top university in other country + one pair support university in Western China

• highly recognized

6. Strengthen international cooperation and exchanges

• In 2010, 2705 students from Western China got government funds to study abroad, which makes up 21% of the total number.
Special Program for Talents Training in Western China

- set up by MoE in 2001 and implemented by CSC from 2003 onwards
- more than 5000 students and scholars from Western China have benefited from the Program (2003-2010)
- top four destinations: U.S., Canada, Britain, Australia
- 85% increase of the number of students studying abroad in Western China since 2003

- support from international organizations (UNICEF, UNESCO, World Bank)
- absorb quality education resources from other nations
Thank You!