



认助中国乡村教育项目系列
Support Education In Rural China Program Series

2015 Annual Report



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Education and Science Society, Inc. (ESS) is a non-profit, non-political educational organization, registered as a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization in the State of New York. Its missions are to promote understanding between the peoples of the United States and China, and to promote human and social development in rural China by raising literacy levels and improving the quality of education.



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Support Education in Rural China (SERC) Program Series

2015 Annual Report

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ESS Support Education in Rural China Program Series

Major Results and Activities at a Glance (1988-2015)

SERC Series I: Providing Reading Material and Information Resources

	Adopt a Rural School Library (ARSL)	(since 1989)	5,824 ARSLs
	Adopt a Rural Public Library (ARPL)	(since 1988)	47 ARPLs
	Adopt a Rural Multi-media Information Center (RMICS)	(since 2007)	20 RMICs
	Read Chinese Classics Program	(since 2000)	354 Schools

SERC Series II: Improving Teaching and Learning

Professional Development for Rural Teachers

◆	Nationwide Conferences on Basic Conference	(since 1993)	49 Conferences
◆	Workshops for Rural Elementary School Teachers	(since 2013)	9 Workshops
◆	Coaching Rural Teachers Across Schools	(since 2014)	51 Teachers
◆	Training Workshop for Rural Science Teachers	(since 2014)	105 Teachers
◆	Training for Rural Female Teenagers—Early Childhood Ed	(since 2014)	57 Students

Summer Camps for Rural Children

◆	Summer Science Camps	(since 2009)	69 Camps
◆	Summer General Activities Camps	(since 2007)	30 Camps
◆	Summer Music Camps	(since 2009)	6 Camps
◆	Summer Reading and Writing Camp	(since 2012)	1 Camp
□	Rural School Classroom Book Club	(since 2012)	97 Classroom Book Clubs

Nationwide Essay Contests and Publications

◆	Read to Discover (Students)	(1996-2012)	17 years
◆	Teach to Inspire (Teachers)	(2000-2012)	13 years
◆	Publication of Selected Award-winning Essays	(in 2011)	1 Volume

Providing Equipment and Facilities to Rural Schools

◆	Musical Instruments for Rural Counties	(since 2003)	404 Schools
◆	Physical Education Equipment/materials	(since 2005)	77 Schools in 4 Provinces
◆	Teaching Equipment/instruments and science lab facilities	(since 2002)	92 Schools
◆	Computer Equipment	(since 2007)	657 Sets for 20 RMICS
◆	Equipment/material for rural teachers training centers	(2004)	10 centers in 8 provinces
◆	School Broadcasting Systems	(2005-06)	2 schools in 2 provinces
◆	Teaching Audiovisual equipment	(2002-05)	40 schools
◆	Classroom desks, chairs and tables	(2002-05)	60 schools
◆	Student Dormitory beds for boarding facility	(2002-05)	1 school
◆	Urgently needed school facilities	(2003-05)	63 schools

SERC Series III: Financial Aid for Rural Students

◆	Primary School	(since 1997)	Total Assistanships: 23,154
◆	Middle School		2,493
◆	High School & Vocational School		10,614
◆	College and Graduate School		7,793
◆	Special Education (in Special Education Schools)		1,174
			1,080

Special Projects

◆	Tree planting project in Inner Mongolia & Gansu	(since 2003)	75,000 Saplings
◆	Soya bean workshop & pig farm in Fuping County, Hebei	(2003)	1 School
◆	Arts/skills training for girls in Destitute counties, Gansu	(2003)	2 Schools
◆	Multi-media Equipment in Earthquake Disaster Area	(2005)	2 Schools in Ningxia and Sichuan
◆	School Broadcasting Systems	(2008)	10 Schools in Sichuan
◆	Charity Concert, "Let Music Carry Our Love" for fundraising and publicity of ESS/SERC Programs	(2014)	Rockville, MD on Sept. 14, 2014

From ESS Chairman, Dr. Mu-ming Poo

For an Even Brighter Future of Our Children

The most honorable profession in China at present must be the elementary school teacher in remote rural areas of China. Heavy teaching loads, low wages, impoverished living conditions, and poor teaching supports constitute the life of a rural elementary school teacher that is sustainable only by devotion, persistence, and self-sacrifice. I had the opportunity to meet many of them last July, while attending rural elementary school teacher workshops in Lanzhou and Changsha. Since 1993, as the flagship project of ESS, Support Education In Rural China (SERC) Program has been sponsoring several such workshops each year that bring educators from China and abroad to share their knowledge, experience and ideas with elementary teachers from rural China.

This year, with the help of provincial normal universities and colleges, SERC sponsored several workshops, each consisting of 8 days of extensive lectures and tutorials for more than one hundred teachers. My lecture was to introduce what brain science has told us about how human brain develops, how plastic the brain structure is, and why early education is so important in shaping the brain of our children. I came away with the feeling that, while the workshop had provided those elementary school teachers with some new ideas and knowledge that may be useful for their teaching back home, more significant was the spirit of care, goodwill, and comradeship instilled among the faculty and the participants.

The educational scene in rural China has changed drastically since these workshops began more than two decades ago. Despite increasing government's effort in improving rural education system, including extending free compulsory education to 9 years, elevating the salary of normal school graduates teaching in rural schools, establishing rigorous qualification system for teachers evaluation, and instigating legislative supports for private sectors to run rural schools, huge disparity remains between rural and urban school kids in terms of educational resources and opportunities. In addition, serious new problems have emerged in rural areas during the past decade. For example, in many areas the majority of elementary school kids have one or both parents away in distant cities as migrant workers, and teachers have to serve the parental role to provide necessary attention and care. While one would expect that rural education could now benefit greatly from internet-based innovative approaches in education that are sweeping across the globe, extensive training programs and facilities are required for rural teachers to take advantage of these new technologies.

On the bright side, the past few years have witnessed a remarkable surge of non-profit private foundations and grass-root non-profit organizations in China. The goal and aspiration of these non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are very much shared by SERC supporters and volunteers. Several of us are particularly pleased to have the opportunity in the past summer to meet representatives from some of these organizations, which are sponsoring educational programs that are complementary or synergistic to those SERC programs. Facing the new challenges and issues of rural education in China and realizing the need for coordination and collaboration, a nation-wide alliance of these educational NGOs is currently being established. This alliance has also sponsored a national workshop recently to discuss strategies for joint efforts in field work that could achieve a common goal of equitable education across China. While ESS is not yet a part of this alliance, we fully endorse this effort and will seek collaboration and align our programs with the alliance in the near future. Recent visit to ESS made by a delegation of these NGOs from China is indicative of such common interest.

Facing the changing scene of rural education, the focus of SERC Program has been evolving. In recent years, we have begun to sponsor many summer camps in science, music, and physical education, hoping to inspire the rural kids to pursue healthy after-school activities. Given the recent extension of free 9-year compulsory education across China, our Financial Aid for Rural Students (FARS) program has redirected its financial aids toward high school students as well as college students from poor families.

In the near future, there will be great needs for teaching facilities that can effectively use internet resources. Our newly established ESS Rural Multimedia Information Center Project hopes to provide funding for purchasing or upgrading teaching facilities, in particular video projectors and computers, for elementary and middle schools in rural areas. Together with training workshops for teachers to learn how to use internet resources, we believe that small investments in this area will greatly enliven and enrich the classrooms in rural schools.

Indeed, ideas and enthusiasm abounds for future SERC programs.

Based on continuing supports from our sponsors, local governments and schools, and arduous work of our volunteers, together with synergistic programs of many domestic grass-root organizations, we are looking forward to further growth and blossoming of innovative education programs across rural China in the coming years.

ESS 2015 Annual Report Summary

SERC SERIES I: IMPROVE TEACHING AND LEARNING

ESS (US) has organized and conducted five Teacher Training Workshops in 2015 in China in the Provinces and Autonomous Regions of Guangxi, Inner Mongolia, Gansu, Hunan, and Anhui. These workshops included the Rural Music Teacher Workshop in Guangxi, the Class of Recitation of Classics in Inner Mongolia and Anhui, Female Elementary School Teachers Workshop of Northwest Regions in Gansu, and Rural Teachers Workshop in Hunan and in Anhui. Each workshop varied in length of duration from two to ten days attended in total by 731 teachers and principals from rural areas of eleven provinces of Guangxi, Inner Mongolia, Gansu, Ningxia, Xinjiang, Shanxi, Hunan, Hubei, Yunnan and Hainan. Most workshop participants are under 40 and many have had attended no such workshop or training before.

Following are brief summaries of the 2015/ESS Rural Teachers Training Projects.

1. Northwest Region Rural Teachers' Workshop in Gansu Province

2015 Northwest Region Rural Female Elementary School Teachers Workshop was held from July 6 –15, 2015, co-sponsored by ESS (US) and the School of Education of Northwestern Normal University of Gansu is the sequel of such workshop of 2014. Participants were from Gansu, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, Xinjiang, and Shanxi. As in 2014, this workshop is characterized by 1) smaller attendance of 104 teachers from five provinces of Gansu, Inner Mongolia, Ning Hsia, Xin Jiang and San Xi; 2) longer session of 60 hours carried out over 10 days; 3) participants are female teachers under 45 years of age and had never attended any such in-service professional training; and 4) provided a balanced focus on total career development as well as on specific rural teaching strategies for teachers. Among the participants, 10% are ethnic minority. In a post workshop survey, 80.2% of participants rated the workshop as “highly satisfied” and 18.8% rated “relatively satisfied”. (Project coordinators: Fang Wu, Sen Qi)

2. Southwest Region Rural Teachers Workshop in Hunan Province

2015 Rural Teachers Workshop of Changsha was held from July 9th to 18th at Changsha First Normal College, jointly sponsored with the college. Of the 100 workshop attendants, 70 are from Hunan, 14 from Sichuan, 5 each from Hubei and Yunnan, and 3 from Hainan Provinces. The workshop offered a relatively comprehensive training program emphasizing both macroscopic and microscopic aspects of teaching strategies as well as provided model teacher coaching to the participants. Field trips to cultural sites and a gala was held to conclude the workshop. Changsha First Normal College shouldered about 50% of workshop teaching and logistics load with ESS. (Project coordinator: Yixin Zuo)

3. Central Region Rural Teachers Workshop in Anhui Province

2015 Class of Recitation of Classics was sponsored jointly by ESS and the Education Department of Anhui Provincial Government under a financial grant of Tin Ka Ping Foundation. The class was facilitated by Huinan Normal College of Anhui Province, with faculty members from

SERC SERIES I: IMPROVE TEACHING AND LEARNING (continued)

ESS and the College. The Class was held from July 12 to July 21st, 2015 attended by 82 students from 7 provinces. The class was offered in format similar to the class held in 2014.

According to post class survey, evaluation and feedback conducted by Professor Chang Changfu, class materials used met the need of teachers who attended the class. A problem surfaced was that, due to a glitch in communication, about half of otherwise qualified attendants did not come from rural school teachers as originally planned. Professor Chang also expressed ESS appreciation of long term unmitigated support from Anhui Department of Education. (Project coordinators: Ruimin Hu, Changfu Chang)

4. Training Workshops for Teaching the Recitation of Classics

2015 workshop of Recitation of Classics was held in Inner Mongolia on June 17 and 18, 2015 at Chifeng Experimental Elementary School in Chifeng City, organized by ESS and sponsored by Curriculum Committee of Inner Mongolia Education Association. 384 school principals and teachers from Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Sichuan, Gansu and Hainan attended the workshop. Two key speakers also are renowned experts of Chinese classics. Professor Fen Zhe from Beijing and Lecturer Deng Jinyun from Jiangxi dished out an unforgettable cultural feast of Chinese classics for all class attendants. (Project Coordinator: Curriculum Committee of Inner Mongolia Education Association)

5. 2015 ESS Workshop for Rural Music Teachers

2015 ESS Workshop for Rural Music Teachers was held successfully from June 5th to 12th, 2015 at the School of Music, Guangxi Normal University. This workshop was a sequel to the 2014 joint effort of the School of Music and ESS for summer music camp conducted at Guangxi Lungsheng Sishui Elementary School. The purpose of the workshop was to help elevate music teaching skill of teachers from remote areas. Through cultivating musical appreciation and basic musical theories, and by gaining access to new teaching concepts, the workshop attendants will act as seeds to radiate such knowledge to their communities. Some 50 music teachers from remote rural area schools of Guangxi, Sichuan, Yunnan and Inner Mongolia attended the workshop. (Project Coordinator: Lingling He)

6. 2015 ESS Early Childhood Education Training Workshop for Rural Young Female Teachers

The 2015 ESS Early Childhood Education Training Workshop for Rural Young Female Teachers was held for a period of 3 months from March 12 to June 12, 2015. It was composed of two classes. One class has 30 rural teachers of ethnic minority as trainees from regions of Gansu, Ningxia, Xinjiang, Shandong and Qinghai. 28 of the 30 trainees have had junior high school education. While in workshop, they were provisioned with prayer session, Arab language class and special mess hall in accordance with their Muslim persuasion. The other class also has 30 rural teachers of ethnic minority as trainees of similar background. The workshop was specifically catered to meet the needs of remote rural young women of ethnic minority, focusing on vocational training employable as kindergarten teachers at their home villages. (Project Coordinators: Nelson Li, Hu Chen)

SERC SERIES II: IMPROVE TEACHING AND LEARNING (continued)

7. 2015 ESS Coaching Rural Teachers Across Schools Project

ESS Rural Cross Campuses Exchange Program was first inaugurated in April, 2014, and has expanded to include 7 such exchange programs in 2015. Twenty-eight rural teachers from four Gansu counties has participated in the exchange program aiming to improve teaching skills of rural teachers through immersion undertaken at four model elementary schools from Chongqing, Sichuan, Anhui and Beijing. “This exchange brought back for us not just advanced educational ideas and experiences, but also teaching concepts and building role model character of being teacher. Having witnessed educational gap of rural area with better developed area, we are more resolved than ever to lift our teaching quality at home village through continued learning and hard work.” remarked by Su Xiaojuan, an elementary school teacher of Tibetan minority region of Gansu Province. (Project Coordinator: Yichen Sun)

8. 2015 ESS Youth Science Summer Camps

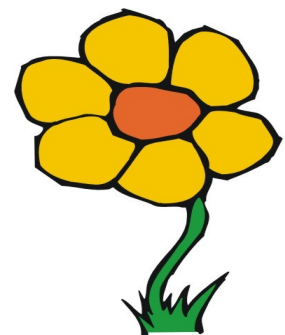
2015 is the seventh year of ESS Youth Science Summer Camp, and our team is expanding. This year, from Heilongjiang Province in the northern China to Hainan Province in the south, ESS is teaming with 12 provinces to sponsor 15 summer camps with 1,551 participants. Funding of these camps came largely from Tin Ka Pin Foundation and Washington Zhi-Qing Association. ESS Youth Science Summer Camp has been particularly helpful attracting children of migrant worker to the field of science, to open up their minds of curiosity through various camp activities. (Project Coordinators: Zhida Song, Yan Gu, Danhui Pan, Bei Zhang, Hong Liao, and Xiaomei Dong)

9. 2015 ESS Summer Camp cosponsored by Associated Colleges in China (U.S.) and Chengchi University (Taiwan)

ESS with Chengchi University (Taiwan), and with Associated Colleges in China (U.S.) have respectively cosponsored four summer camps at Hunan’s Zhangjiajie, Guizhou’s Majiang County, and Anhui’s Shou County in 2015. A total of 400 students from remote area schools attended these 5-day summer camps. These summer camps have successfully broadened rural students’ horizon in reading, culture, health, geography, arts and lifes sciences. (Project Coordinator: Rui Ding)

10. 2015 ESS Musical/Physical Ed Instruments Donation Program

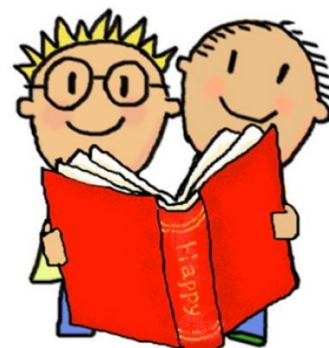
ESS donated musical instruments to 12 middle and elementary schools in 6 provinces and physical education equipment to 8 middle and elementary schools in 5 provinces. Funding for these projects were partially provided by Mr. Liu Guochang and Tang Foundation. These instruments and equipment are now put to use in eager and good playing hands. (Project Coordinator: Gongwei Jiang)



SERC SERIES II: PROVIDING READING MATERIAL AND INFORMATION RESOURCES

◆ 2015 ESS Adopt A Rural Library Project Executive Summary

From donating the first four libraries in poor rural regions embarked in 1988, ESS Adopt a Rural Library program is now in its 27th year of consecutive operation in 2015 with 5,824 such libraries donated with ever increased quality and expanded scope of interest. Year 2015 saw an addition of 104 libraries through Adopt a Rural Library Program in 13 provinces. ESS is continuously striding for innovative ways of better services. In 2015, ESS is cooperating with Professor Wang Zi-zhou of Beijing Information University to develop and promote the concept of “Library Corner” and has identified five schools as candidate trail sites. (Project Coordinators: Minwen Chia, Xiao An)



◆ 2015 ESS Public Library Project Summary

Rural Public Library Project is one of the longest running ESS projects. The Project maintains and tracks the operations of 29 such public libraries 2015 with no new addition this year. (Project Coordinator: Changchuan Wu)

SERC SERIES III: FINANCIAL AID FOR RURAL STUDENTS

◆ 2015 ESS Financial Aid Project Executive Summary

ESS Rural Youth Scholarship for junior middle and elementary school students commenced in 1997. It started to cover senior high school students in 2000, college student in 2004 and handicapped students in 2006. Over the past 20 years the scholarship awards have increased and covered over 1,000 students each year for the past three years with 1,026 awards in 2015. In 2015, 30% was awarded for junior middle and elementary students, 48% for senior high, 14% for college and graduate students and 9% for handicapped students. Total awards given in 2015 is 23,154.

The fund disbursement percentage is in line with actual situations and tilted toward orphans, single parents, migrant workers left-behind kids, poor and remote and minority students. But ESS had to turn down a portion of applicants for lack of funding made somewhat restrictive by donors' stipulation of the location, student type, student gender etc. for disbursement. ESS has installed computer software to help match and sort scholarship award accordingly, and will continue to make improvement so that trust and expectation of donors and awardees are well kept by ESS. (Project Team members: Yang Qi, Wei-Lei Hubbard, Zhubing Ren, Ming Liang, Y. T. Lau, Molly Kao Yen)。