



认助中国乡村教育项目系列

Support Education in Rural China Program Series

*Celebrating 30 Years of Accomplishment in Supporting Education in Rural China
(1989-2019)*

2017-18 Biennial 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

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ESS Support Education in Rural China Program Series

Major Results and Activities at a Glance (1988-2018)

SERC Series I: Providing Reading Material and Information Resources

	Adopt a Rural School Library (ARSL)	(since 1989)	6,002 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)	388 Schools in 18 Provinces

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)	15 Workshops
◆	Classroom Book Clubs	(since 2012)	82 Classrooms
◆	Coaching Rural Teachers Across Schools	(since 2014)	62 Teachers
◆	Training Workshop for Rural Science Teachers	(since 2014)	105 Teachers
◆	Training for Rural Female Teenagers—Early Childhood Ed	(since 2014)	80 Trainees Completed Program

Summer Camps for Rural Children

◆	Summer Science Camps	(since 2009)	87 Camps
◆	Summer General Activities Camps	(since 2007)	34 Camps
◆	Summer Music Camps	(since 2009)	7 Camps
◆	Summer Reading and Writing Camp	(since 2012)	1 Camp
□	Rural School Classroom Book Club	(since 2012)	15 Schools in 2 Provinces

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)	417 Schools in 20 Provinces
◆	Physical Education Equipment/materials	(since 2003)	84 Schools in 13 Provinces
◆	Teaching Equipment/instruments and science lab facilities	(since 2002)	93 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

		(since 1997)	Total Assistantships: 26,402
◆	Primary School & Middle School		14, 047
◆	High School & Vocational School		9,271
◆	College and Graduate School		1,669
◆	Special Education (in Special Education Schools)		1,415

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	(2013)	Rockville, MD on Sept. 14, 2013

From the Chairperson of SERC, Dr. Lungching Chiao

Supporting Education Has No End

Prelude

The Education and Science Society (ESS) is an international, non-profit organization. It was founded in 1980 and registered in New York, NY, USA, with a 501(c) (3) federal tax-exempt status. The year of 2018 marks the 38th year of ESS founding. It is also the 30th anniversary of the ESS Support Education in Rural China (SERC) Programs Series. The SERC program series serve the socially and economically underprivileged children in rural China by supporting their pursuit of education. With generous donation from hundreds of individuals and many foundations over the past 30 years, ESS has been able to successfully develop and implement many educational programs for rural school teachers and children in China.



Education is fundamental. While we recognize that improvements have been made in many aspects of education in rural China and that China has now increased budget to about 4% of GDP for education annually, the need for direct support in individual schools, families and children in rural areas is still there. Our ESS/SERC programs have been focused specifically in three areas of education: (a) providing reading material and information resources to rural communities; (b) improving the quality of teaching and learning in rural schools; and (c) providing financial assistance for rural students in need. In practice, many projects work across all three themes.

A Glimpse of 30 Years of ESS Accomplishments

Thirty years has passed since we launched the SERC programs. In retrospect, all three areas of our program series have been successful. Since 1988, ESS has donated library books to 6,002 schools; awarded



26,402 scholarships; and, in conjunction with China's provincial and municipal government education authorities, conducted a total of 49 Sino-U. S. Conferences on Basic Education Forums, 15 Workshops for Rural Teachers, and more than 100 Summer Camps/Science Summer Camps for rural children. ESS also donated thousands of instructional equipment to several hundred schools. (Visit ESS site: www.esscare.com for details). These accomplishments might be viewed by some as insignificant consider the huge population size and vast landmass of China, but we believe that every bit of effort helps. That is exactly what ESS has been trying to accomplish over the past 30 years.

Successful Registration of ESS per Law of the People's Republic of China

On January 1st, 2017, Chinese Government issued the Law of the People's Republic of China on Administration of Activities of Overseas Nongovernmental Organizations. The new law stipulates that every overseas NGO must be registered before engaging in any activity inside China. Each overseas NGO for education is further required to have a provincial-level educational authority as its oversight agency and to have a representative office in China.

In 2018, ESS applied with Hunan Provincial Government for its Department of Education as ESS' oversight agency. Our application was approved by Department of Education of Hunan and Public Security Bureau of Hunan in August, 2018. During the months of the application process pending approval, ESS project activity was limited only to rural student scholarships and rural school library programs. That is why we decided to combine the 2017 and 2018 annual reports into a biennial one.

Hunan Province Selected as ESS NGO Registry

China's Hunan Province is known for its fine tradition in education. Since 1988, ESS has been collaborating with Hunan Province on all SERC program areas. As of the year of 2018, ESS has donated library books to its 246 schools, awarded 751 scholarships to its students, conducted eight professional training workshops for its rural teachers, and organized 12 summer camps/science camps for its rural children. ESS also donated thousands of instructional equipment to its 11 schools.

With such positive cooperation and the ESS registry approval from Hunan, ESS now has set up its ESS Representative Office in Changsha City and will continue to collaborate with the Changsha Training Charity (春雷公益), a well-established NGO for rural education in Hunan.

Keeping Our Mission by heart, Promoting Education Has No End

ESS has no paid staff throughout its existence. With several hundreds of volunteers who are both domestic and overseas Chinese, we are committed to promote better education under the guideline of US federal tax-exempt status and in compliance with China's national education development policy.

Now registered as an NGO in China, ESS has reached a new milestone. It is my hope that our legal status in China will make ESS more productive and successful. We will continue our efforts to connect donations and beneficiaries together, and we will strive for better program implementation and delivery efficiency. Our past experience testifies that small donations can indeed make big impact in rural education in China. We are still on our way. ♦

ESS 2017-18 Biennial Report Summary

According to the Law of the People's Republic of China on Administration of Activities of Overseas Nongovernmental Organizations effective January 1, 2017, ESS must register with the Chinese government and Public Security Bureau at the Provincial level before it could continue administering its educational programs inside China. During the period when ESS was waiting for the approval of its registration as an overseas NGO, some ESS summer projects were cancelled except the rural school libraries and rural student scholarship programs. This biennial report outlines the accomplishments in the fiscal years of 2017 and 2018.

Providing Books, Promoting Reading – 2017-18 Supporting Rural School Library Project Report

ESS volunteers strongly believe that reading is fundamental to education. Over the past 3 decades ESS has established 6,002 rural school libraries in China. We want to help children feel the joy of reading and to infuse a love for books in the hearts of rural children. Although the outcome of the millions of books ESS has sent to the rural schools is yet to be assessed, we do believe that we can cultivate critical thinking disposition in children's mind through books and reading, which will have a life-long impact on



their future. We also understand that teachers are the key to promoting reading. Therefore, we organized multiple reading seminars for rural teachers to parallel these efforts.



Starting in 2017, ESS has shifted its library-oriented projects to classroom-oriented “book corner” projects. Instead of establishing a library where books are placed in a central location in school, now we divided the donated books based on three grade levels (lower, middle, and higher grades of either elementary or middle schools), and directly put age-appropriate books into classrooms to create portable book corners. The benefits of doing so are: 1) students can read books straight off their book corner at any time as they wish; 2) the carefully selected books are age- and grade-appropriate for the targeted children; 3) a teacher in each grade level is delegated to routinely rotate the book corner in classrooms to ensure that all children have easy access to the books;

and 4) to develop students’ ability of self-governance and to raise their awareness of becoming a responsible citizen.

In 2017 and 2018, ESS completed 112 book corner projects in rural schools in more than 13 provinces (e.g., Gansu, Inner Mongolia, Qinghai, Heilongjiang, Liaoning, Hebei, Henan, Hunan, Anhui, Jiangxi, Yunnan, Shanxi, and Jiangsu). Instead of using commercial books with high discount but questionable quality, we collaborated with reading professionals in China to carefully select top-ranking classical children’s books. Each grade level received 100 books, with a total of 300 books for each school. This new practice has been warmly welcomed by teachers and students.

Funding of these books came from donors from all walks of life, including individuals, families, alumni associations, and foundations. Their generosity and kindness for rural children in China encourage ESS volunteers to continue advancing the efforts.

Sowing a Seed of Love in Every Student – 2017 and 2018 Scholarship Project Report

ESS volunteers are grateful to the support from Training Charity (春雷公益) in Hunan to carry out the 2017 scholarship project as usual while ESS was waiting for the approval of its registration per the law requirement. A total of about \$250,000 donations from donors in North America, Hong Kong, and Taiwan created 1,003 scholarships for rural students in 16 provinces/cities in China. Twenty-seven percent of this year’s funding went to elementary or middle school students, 49% to students in vocational schools, 15% to graduate students in medical schools, and 9% to students with disabilities (deaf or blind). In 2018, there were 1,106 scholarships provided to rural students in 16 provinces, among which approximately 32% were for elementary and middle school students, 40% for high school students, 15% for college students, and 13% for students with disabilities. The total amount of the 2018 scholarships was approximately \$256,000.

Over the years since ESS first launched its scholarship program some 20 years ago, economics and policies in China have changed drastically, so as educational systems. However, students’ needs for financial support to go to school remain in those in-land, ethnical minority, economically deprived, and remote/rural areas. ESS scholarship helped tens of thousands of students to pursue their





education and realize their dreams. The scholarship they receive not only provided these students with financial support but also ignited the kindness in their heart. After graduation, some recipients of ESS scholarship expressed their willingness to become a volunteer to support other students in need. We are so pleased to see that our torch will be carried on.

ESS scholarship program would not be made possible without generous donations of our donors. We thank them for their love for children without border, and we pledge to continue our efforts to send hope to the children who are the future of our world.

Science Summer Camp for Rural Students in Cili County, Hunan Province

Due to financial and other reasons, many parents from rural areas of China went to coastal cities for employment to support their families living in remote areas. These parents are usually separated from their children and elderly parents for prolonged period of time, sometimes for years, not being able to afford a visit home. Their children, often mentioned by the media as “left-behind children”, stay with grandparents, relatives, or even by themselves, and go to school in their hometown. According to state statistics reported in 2017, there were still over 1.5 million children who were left behind by their parents. Although this estimate indicated a sharp decrease by more than 60 million compared with the estimated total provided by the government in 2013, problems and concerns regarding these “left-behind” children’s physical and psychological health as well as their school achievement are still there.

From July 11th to 15th, ESS and Training Charity jointly organized a science summer camp in Zhangjiajie City, Cili County, Hunan Province for the “left-behind children” in the area. The goodwill that this summer camp hoped to bring to these children, according to Lin Xiangzhi, a two-time volunteer of the camp, is to “make the children feel less lonely with our companionship”. Ninety-five students ranged from elementary to middle school levels participated in the summer camp, while more than 10 volunteers of all ages helped to organize, administer, teach, and care for the children. Volunteers also visited some children’s homes in the mountains and brought supplies to their younger siblings and grandparents. They also provided scholarships to some students.

The summer camp was like a science wonderland to the participants. Various activities that the volunteers thoughtfully planned were very interactive, engaging, and interesting. With the help of volunteers, children took part in many fun activities and experiments, such as “blossoms on an iron tree”, “the magnificent fire”, making bookmarks with tree leaves, generating electricity with a lemon or a potato, and painting a rock, etc. Volunteers also tried to help these children to form healthy habits and learn to get along with others. Five days of the summer camp were filled with laughter, excitement, love, and hope.



Reading Teaching Seminar for Rural School Teachers in Hunan and Henan

From July 25th to 28th, ESS, Training Charity, and the Bureau of Education in You County, Hunan Province jointly held a 4-day seminar for rural elementary school Chinese teachers. The main goals of this seminar are : 1) to promote reading among rural school teachers; 2) to help teachers establish professional pride and provide counseling to those in need; 3) to provide professional support and guidance to rural teachers in the field of reading; and 4) to develop “seed” teachers of reading who can guide their students to form a life-long passion for reading.

A total of 121 teachers from Hunan (92%) and Henan (8%) provinces participated in the seminar. Most of the participants are Chinese language teachers in rural elementary schools, are younger than 48 years of age, and have up to 10 years of teaching experience. Some teachers belong to ethnical minority but were proficient in speaking, reading, and writing in Chinese (Mandarin). It was estimated that these 121 teachers may have direct impact on 12,000 elementary students, also may indirectly affect their families. In addition, when the teacher participants return to their respective schools they may become role models to their colleagues, which will lead them towards further professional growth and development. Several local and provincial news media reported this event, which helped to draw public attention to the “left-behind children” and their schools.

Many scholars, experts, researchers and model teachers were invited to lecture at the seminar, including Mr. Wang Daqing of China Teacher Training Network, Dr. Zhao Wei of Shaanxi Normal University School of Education, Associate Principal Zhao Guohua of Beijing Normal University Affiliated Elementary School in Guiyang, Mr. Huang Jianjun of Liuyang City Teacher Training School, Mr. Liang Weiming of Hong Kong Reading-Dream Fly Charity, Associate Principal Pan Xiaohong of Nanshan County Nanshi Elementary School, and a model teacher Ms. Liao Yan.

Although the seminar lasted only a few days, both volunteers and teachers said that they had gained a lot. The contents and spirit delivered in the training courses helped many rural teachers fully recognizing the importance of their work. They now believe that promoting reading may make a major impact on rural children. These training classes ignited the enthusiasm among the teachers and had sowed seeds of reading in their hearts, which will certainly help bringing more changes that can further improve rural school education in China.



Music Workshops for Rural School Teachers

The Workshop for Rural Music Teachers sponsored jointly by ESS and Changsha Training Charity (春雷公益) was held from November 11th to 16th in Changsha, Hunan Province. Fifty teachers from 47 schools in Hunan and Sichuan provinces participated in the workshop. The theme of the workshop was to improve choir class teaching technique, including Kodaly method and basic vocal training, also to learn how to play some keyboards and easy percussions. ESS volunteer, American Meso-Soprano Lingling He Peng, Chinese music teachers Zhao Ren, Fan Zheng, Liu Fang and Wen Bin provided lecture, demonstration, and modeling. Teacher participants all enjoyed what this international team had to offer. They learned a lot throughout these five days, not only music skills but also passion and dedication for music education. Music workshops for teachers are rare because music is considered a sub-curriculum in compulsory education institutes in China. ESS has been providing this learning opportunity to rural school teachers in the past five years, and will continue this effort in the years to come. ◆