



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

2021-2022 Biennial Report

Improve Teaching
Provide Books and Information Resources
Provide Financial Aid



（美国）科技教育协会

EDUCATION AND SCIENCE SOCIETY

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2021-2022 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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Foreword: Rural Education in the New Era

Mu-Ming Poo, President of Education and Science Society (ESS)

Scientific Director of the Institute of Neuroscience, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Director of Shanghai Center for Brain Science and Brain-inspired Technology



China is entering a new era. With the concerted efforts by the government, amazing progress has been made over the past decade in lifting the living standards of the rural populations, including the provision of basic living necessities, general education, and medical care. "Becoming prosperous together" is high on the list of government's goal for the future, and tremendous gap between urban and rural populations remains to be overcome.

In the new era, the problem facing the large rural population of China is how to further improve their living quality, especially in providing high-quality basic education and in realizing creative human potentials in the changing rural environment. Compared to the conditions of rural education a few decades ago when ESS began its rural education programs, things are much improved. Yet, serious problems such as the lack of adequate teaching staff, facilities and curricula remains. The new era also faces the double threats of severe weather changes brought about by global warming and constant threat of infectious diseases as shown the COVID-19 pandemic, both set new demands in the agenda of rural education.

An important long-term social impact of COVID-19 is the prominent role of online education. China's Ministry of Education announced a 'China MOOC Action Manifesto' in December 2019, charting the blueprint of China online courses in the future, with the goals of achieving higher equity, quality, and availability across all regions in China, developing individualized and precise targeting instruction, and devising mechanisms for resource sharing. Although this manifesto addresses mainly higher education, online courses could be designed for primary and secondary education, allowing elevated efficiency and innovative use of internet technologies, such as 5G network, virtual reality, and block chains. Importantly, the efficient use of new AI technologies could help large-scale training of instructors. This network-based education is thus one approach to meet the needs of resource-deficient rural regions.

During the 2021 ESS summer science camp held in Taojiang County of Hunan province, we had the new addition of teaching staff – physicians and medical interns from Xiangya Mental Health Center of Changsha City. I was very impressed and inspired by both the enthusiastic participation of these physicians, and the questions and responses of students. The young school kids are now facing increasingly stressful conditions, such as severe competition for higher education and uncertain future job prospects. This makes the mental health problem an increasingly serious issue among young population in both rural and urban area. Future ESS science camps will thus include more instructors from the medical profession, so that issues of development and care of physical and mental health could be addressed.

For more than two decades, the rural education programs of ESS have evolved along with the changing needs of rural China. Two well declared goals of the government are the common prosperity of the entire population and the sustainable development of green environment. In my opinion, future ESS programs could contribute to these goals by focusing on new approaches in promoting the sharing of educational resources between urban and rural schools and in raising the environmental awareness, so that future rural population could flourish in "lucid water and green mountain." In the past decade, we have witnessed the emergence of many non-governmental organizations throughout China. Many volunteers of these organizations share the same value and goal of ESS members. We could foresee fruitful collaborations with them in various new programs in China. Last but not least, we need more volunteers and sponsors abroad to support future ESS activities, so that the torch of ESS for rural education in China continue to shine. ■

The Tin Ka Ping Foundation Presented Award to the Education and Science Society

Lungching Chiao

In December 2022, I was invited by the Tin Ka Ping Foundation to attend the Education Forum in Hong Kong to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the non-profit Tin Ka Ping Foundation. In line with the concept of "the future of China lies in education," the Foundation has so far made donations to 94 universities, 164 secondary schools, 41 primary schools, 20 professional schools and kindergartens, as well as more than 1,900 libraries in rural schools throughout China. The foundation has also made countless donations to build hospitals, bridges, and roads, etc. In 2011, the Foundation invited university presidents, social leaders and relevant government departments to jointly formulate and manage the blueprint for sustainable development, updating its mission to "promote moral education, promote Chinese culture, and integrate world civilization to improve the quality of education and contribute to the country."



Since 1994, with 28 years of continuous funding support from the Tin Ka Ping Foundation, the Education and Science Society (ESS) was able to provide books to more than 1900 rural schools, helped more than 30,000 teachers to improve teaching, and held 113 science summer camps for more than 12,000 rural children. During the ceremony, ESS's efforts and contributions were recognized and appreciated by the Tin Ka Ping Foundation. ESS received an award for its long-term partnership with the Tin Foundation.



Above : Dr. Lungching Chiao receives award from Mr. Tin Hing-sin

ESS Support Education in Rural China Program Series

Major Accomplishments and Activities at a Glance (1988-2022)

SERC Series I: Providing Reading Material and Information Resources

	Adopt a Rural School Library/Book Corners (ARSL)	(since 1989)	6,151 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)	16 Workshops
◆	Innovative Teaching Grant for Rural Teachers	(since 2018)	184 Teachers / 159 projects
◆	Coaching Rural Teachers Across Schools	(since 2014)	67 Teachers
◆	Training Workshop for Rural Science Teachers	(since 2014)	105 Teachers
◆	Training for Rural Female Youths—Early Childhood Ed	(since 2014)	80 Trainees Completed Program
◆	Special Education Project	(since 2019)	1 School in Sichuan
◆	Music Education Project	(since 2022)	1 School in Midu, Yunnan

Summer Camps for Rural Children

◆	Summer Science Camps	(since 2009)	113 Camps
◆	Summer General Activities Camps	(since 2007)	32 Camps
◆	Summer Music Camps	(since 2009)	11 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

◆	Primary School & Middle School	(since 1997)	Total Assistantships: 28,381
◆	High School & Vocational School		14, 545
◆	College and Graduate School		10,305
◆	Special Education (in Special Education Schools)		1,947
			1,584

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

Extraordinary in the Ordinary

—Remembering Dr. Keh-Chun Leu

ESS Volunteer: Minwen Hsiung

It has been nearly three years since our beloved brother and fellow volunteer of ESS, Dr. Keh-Chun Leu left us in February 2020. His departure created a significant loss in our ESS family, we all miss him tremendously. Dr. Leu's voice, his smiles, and the model he set before us will forever remain in our hearts.

I remember that at the alumni meeting of Taipei Second Women's High School in 2001, Dr. Lungching Chiao presented a series of projects that the Education and Science Society (ESS) initiated in order to help improve rural education in remote areas of mainland China. I was deeply inspired, and I joined the work of ESS ever since. I was fortunate to be involved in the project of "Supporting Rural School Libraries in China" with Keh-chun. Through two decades of cooperation and friendship between us, Keh-chun has left a deep impression on me.

Keh-chun was a humble gentleman. He was intellectual and knowledgeable; he was kind and elegant, with a sympathetic heart for those in need; he was quiet and modest, having a sense of social justice; he carried out actions with dedication and patience. Keh-chun and his wife Lungching jointly initiated the "Supporting Rural Education in China" program in 1988. It has been 33 years since, but they adhered to their unwavering aspiration. They wish to contribute to China's rejuvenation, prosperity and strength. Keh-chun, Lungching and I have been to China many times to participate in the "Basic Education Seminars" and the symposium with provincial agents held by ESS in various provinces in China. I have witnessed the couple's enthusiasm, humility and friendliness as numerous teachers surrounded them after each meeting, deeply inspired and unwilling to say good-bye to them.

Keh-chun was one of the founders of the ESS Supporting Rural Education in China Program Series and a dedicated volunteer. In addition to being responsible for the program of "support rural school libraries in China", he also took on the tedious and meticulous financial work for ESS. He ran weekly to banks and post offices, issuing receipts to donors, depositing checks, sending feedback materials to sponsors, etc., all for 3 decades. Although Keh-chun shouldered heavy responsibilities and workloads on a daily basis, the accounting books he kept were so accurate, and he passes audits with flying colors year after year. In the early years, Keh-chun and Lungching had their professional jobs, but they put all their holidays and weekends into ESS work. After retirement, they spared no effort or time to work for ESS, which to me was extremely admirable. I am deeply honored to be able to work with them to serve the underprivileged children in China.

Keh-chun was a good husband and father. Their two daughters, who were born and grew up in the United States, were taught by their parents to speak fluent Chinese. The children succeed in their studies, becoming professionals, and respect their parents very much. Keh-chun and Lungching had been married for 56 years, and his thoughtfulness, care, and support for Lungching were apparent to all of us. I remember that every time when ESS volunteers held a meeting at their home, Keh-chun always quietly managed the logistics, arranged refreshments, and took care of everyone. Keh-chun and Lungching are truly a like-minded couple that was enviable to all of us.

Keh-chun was a wonderful brother. I don't have a brother of my own, yet Keh-chun let me feel the love of an elder brother. I believe that all our ESS volunteers and agents in China will sincerely miss Dr. Keh-chun Leu just like I do. I pledge that in my lifetime I will carry Keh-chun's torch and continue his work for rural education in China. ■



Drs. Keh-Chun Leu and Lungching Chiao (2013)

ESS 2021 - 2022 Biennial Report Summary

This biennial report outlines the accomplishments that ESS has achieved in 2021 and 2022.

I. IMPROVE TEACHING AND LEARNING IN RURAL SCHOOLS

A. Innovative Teaching Grant for Rural Teachers

Front-line teachers in primary and secondary schools in poverty-stricken areas of China are an important force in the country's basic education. Due to the difficult teaching environment in many rural schools, teachers lack opportunities for professional growth, resulting in a serious loss of teachers. In order to encourage rural teachers to be willing to teach and dare to innovate, since



2019, the Education and Science Society (ESS) in the US has established the "ESS Innovative Teaching Grant for Rural Teachers" program, which provides rural teachers with small subsidies at their disposal for teaching innovation. This program has been held for four years so far. The purpose of this grant program is to help teachers encourage students' interest in learning, cultivate students' good living habits, help students master effective learning skills, and enrich students' after-school life. The grant can be used for classroom activities that promote students' mental and physical health, purchasing equipment and teaching materials that can help improve teaching, carrying out extracurricular activities, and providing guidance to talented student. This program is fully funded by ESS.

In the years of 2021 and 2022, a total of 101 teaching innovation projects (86 in Hunan and 15 in Henan provinces) were funded. Among them, 137 applications were received in 2021, and 61 projects were funded; In 2022, 70 applications were received and 40 projects were funded. The subjects funded are diverse, which include traditional intangible cultural heritage projects, music, dance, fine arts, physical education, Chinese language, mathematics, physics, biology, science, physics, calligraphy, information science, and psychological counseling. In 2021 and 2022, a total of more

than ¥ 220,000 of innovative teaching grants were provided. In recent years, due to the increase in the mobility of rural teachers, several teachers with grants left their posts or were transferred to other schools. They were allowed to take their projects to the new schools or pass their projects to other teachers at the original school. Since its establishment, this program has been well received by rural schoolteachers.

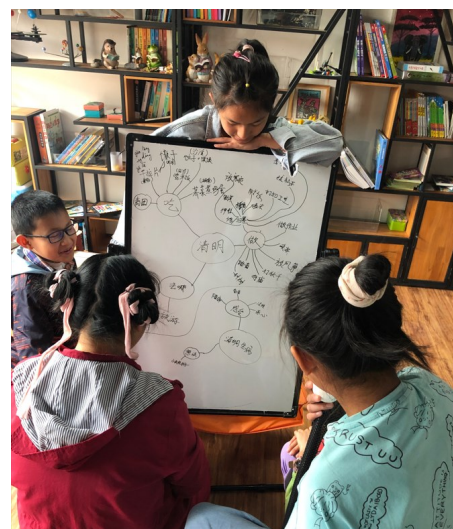
B. Science Summer Camps for Rural Children

Since ESS launched the "Science Camps for Rural Youth" program in 2007, ESS has successfully held science camp activities in 15 provinces and cities for more than ten years with strong support from the Tian Foundation. The Science Camps for Rural Youth program has been running camps in remote areas of China, with the focus on helping students in these areas. These science camps aimed to promote science education in rural schools and to enhance scientific knowledge in rural students. Through observation, hypothesizing, experimentation, analysis, and demonstration, students developed basic scientific knowledge, critical thinking skills, hands-on abilities, and teamwork strategies. These experiences successfully stimulated participating students' interest in science.

In 2021, ESS Science Camps for Rural Youth program resumed its activities in Hunan Province the first time since the start of COVID epidemic in China. These years' Rural Junior Science Camp was funded primarily by the Tin Ka Ping Foundation and the Washington Association for Young People. Due to the repeated epidemic outbreaks in China, some camps were temporarily cancelled in accordance with the government regulations.

2021

Seven science summer camps for rural school students were held in Hunan Province in the year of 2021. The camp activities varied depending on the participating volunteer groups' interests and expertise. For example, the Taojiang First Middle School in Yiyang teamed up with the Center of Excellence in Brain Science and Intelligent Technology of the Chinese Academy of Science, and the Second Xiangya Hospital of Central South University. They organized the 2021 Hunan Taojiang Brain Science Summer Camp. Participating volunteers guided the rural students to explore the field of brain science, experience the miracle of brain power, learn about psychological and emotional cognition, and practice first aid skills such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation and wound treatment. A total of 244 middle school students from 37 schools in Taojiang County participated in this three-day science summer camp.



Other rural school and University students' volunteer partnerships included Huarong County No. 4 Middle School joined by Hunan Institute of Technology student team; Tuanzhou Middle School of Tuanzhou Township, Huarong County in Yueyang City joined by Hunan Institute of Technology student team; Caojun Middle School, Huarong County in Yueyang City joined by the Hunan Normal University "Three Visits to the Countryside" team; Hunan Yuxian Sunshine School joined by the Hunan Institute of Science and Technology; and the Jiubujiang Central Elementary School in You County joined by the School of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Hunan University of Science and Technology.

2022

Five science summer camps were held in Hunan Province in 2022, covering biology, geography, physics, chemistry, mathematics, and other subject areas.

The partnerships included Qizi School in Xiangxiang City, Hunan Province joined by the School of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering of Hunan University of Science and Technology; Zhaiqian Central Primary School in Chenzhou City, Hunan Province joined by the Hunan Xiangnan College; Sunshine School of Yajiangqiao Town, Zhuzhou City, Hunan Province joined by the Hunan University of Technology; and Wutian Primary School in Liuyang City, Hunan Province joined by the Hunan First Normal School.

Impact of Science Summer Camps

The ESS science camps focus on hands-on experiences, encouraging critical thinking, emphasizing teamwork and communication, with the purpose of enhancing rural science education. Spending learning time with energetic and enthusiastic college student volunteers provided rare opportunities to the left-behind children to feel love and happiness, and to receive guidance. These rural children are full of learning potential. ESS science camps served as a guiding light for them towards a brighter future.

Prospect

ESS and its in-country partner the Training Charity in Changsha hope to establish long-term cooperations with colleges and universities in Hunan Province, to cultivate sustainable groups of volunteers in science education, and to improve science education in rural schools. Since its start, the ESS "Rural Youth Science Camp" program has been generously supported by the Tin Ka Ping Foundation. The participating rural schools, the students as well as their parents, and the volunteer teams are deeply grateful. ESS sincerely thanks the Tian Foundation for its support to and trust in us.

C. Music Summer Camps for Rural Children

In order to plant seeds of music and happiness in rural children, ESS and the Training Charity in Changsha offered two Music Summer Camps to the rural schools, one on July 6, 2021, in Zhuyuanzhai Middle School in Jianghua County, and the other on July 8, 2022, in Zhangshu Middle School in Xiangyin County. The two volunteer teams were, respectively, from School of Music and Dance of Hunan University of Science and Technology, and Shuda College of Hunan Normal University. A total of 220 children from rural schools took part in the rich programs offered by the two camps. The camp activities included pop music, ethnic dance, body training, folk song, electronic organ playing, five-step boxing, gesture dance, ballroom dance, etc. For most of the children, this was their first exposure to such rich music experiences. The music summer camp not only provided interesting lessons to the children, but also offered fun interactions, entertainment, and growth through teaching and learning to both the volunteers and children participants.

ESS would like to thank the Tan Family Education Foundation for its generous and continued support to the Music Summer Camp program for rural children in Hunan Province.

D. Other Programs

1. 2021-2022 Midu Folk Songs and Lanterns Intangible Cultural Heritage Class for Rural Children: 9 students ages 9-12 were selected to participate in this program. They learned folk songs and dances from the legacy preservers and performed for visitors and local residences in their hometown of Midu, Yunnan Province.

2. 2021 Activities for Students with Disabilities—Community Participation and Pastry Courses: These activities aimed at helping students with disabilities to engage in their community, learn to live independently, and to have professional skills that will help them in future job market. All 165 students, 35 teachers, and 20 parents from the Luzhou Special Education School in Sichuan Province participated in the community activities. Thirty-eight students in the vocational high school classes learned to make cakes and cookies etc. taught by professional bakers.



II. PROVIDE BOOKS AND INFORMATION RESOURCES

Since 1989, over the past 33 years, with the careful persistence of the ESS team, we have provided a variety of books to 6,233 schools and tens of thousands of rural children in China. Although donations have declined in the past three years due to the pandemic and economic downturns around the world, the book program has continued without interruptions. Thanks to the Foundation and social benefactors for their donations, and the cooperation of county and town schools, in 2021, 57 schools still received book donations (including 5 in Yu County, 2 in Longhui County, 10 in Liuyang City, 2 in Anhua County, 5 in Shaodong County, 5 in Taojiang County, 7 in Jianghua County, 3 in Lanshan County, 7 in Guidong County, all in Hunan Province; also there were 3 in Shanxi, 1 in Heilongjiang and 1 in Yunnan provinces). In addition, six schools in Tongxu County, Xinxiang City, Gaoqiu City, Shangcheng County and Pingdingshan City in Henan Province received book donations. In 2022, another 30 schools benefited (including 1 in Heilongjiang, 24 in Hunan and 5 in Henan).



ESS's library/book program provides reading materials to remote rural schools with scarce resources, opening a window into the past and the present. Children not only learn through reading but are also inspired to use their imagination and creativity to soar into future. For 33 years, ESS has been providing books and promoting reading in rural schools. It is our duty to carry on the mission for the sake of donors and students. Although we the volunteers are entering our senior years, we feel that the energy and time spent in the past decades are worth it. We will continue our efforts diligently. At the same time, we are happy to see that many young people in China have organized non-profit cultural and educational organizations to encourage reading. Together, we can make a difference!

III. PROVIDE FINANCIAL AID

Thanks to the donations of many foundations and individuals, ESS was able to provide scholarships to a total of 225 high school students in 2021 (200 in Hunan, 20 in Sichuan, and 5 in Shanxi) and 330 students in 2022 (259 in Hunan, 51 in Sichuan, 5 in Henan, and 15 in Shanxi). In addition to supporting 256 high school students in 2022, ESS also provided scholarships to 10 college students, 50 normal school students, 10 vocational technical students, two junior high students, and two students from extremely impoverished families. The amount of this year's financial aid was ¥2000/person for high school students, normal students, as well as vocational and technical students; ¥3000/person for university students; and ¥5,000/person for students in dire needs.

The selection procedure for sponsored students in this program had three steps: first, the students were recommended by the school; second, the volunteers from each county or town made the selection after home visits; and finally, the nomination was reviewed and approved by ESS program staff. Sponsored students are required to provide the sponsor with a signed receipt with the school's official seal, a letter of appreciation and an annual academic performance report at the end of the school year.

In 2022, in addition to high school students, the ESS bursary program also added students in teacher-training and vocational schools. We believe that students at county-run normal schools are equally diligent and excellent as those who attend schools in major cities for higher education. But due to their difficult circumstances (single or disabled parents, left-behind children, or orphans) these students often choose a local normal school close to home. Such students could actually better understand children with similar background like theirs, and therefore may play an exemplary role to guide their future students. ESS hopes that the financial aids would encourage these normal school students to return to and stay in their hometowns after graduation. This way they will be able to teach local students while take care of their families at the same time, and to better contribute to the development of their hometowns. ESS thanks the Huang Rubin Foundation, the Tan Education Foundation, and Wang Zuomin & Xiang Haili for their financial support. Because of their generous donations, there were 50 students in teacher-training schools at three city/county normal colleges in Hunan received financial aids in 2022. In addition, thanks to Mr. Fang Ming for his advice and his wife's financial support, ESS was able to provide financial aids to 10 vocational school students.

On behalf of the 555 rural needy students who received scholarships in 2021 and 2022, we would like to sincerely thank the foundations and caring people for their financial support. With the knowledge and skills, students may graduate with more confidence, knowledge and skills, and they will have better opportunities in the life path they aspire to.

ESS volunteers are extremely grateful for the recognition, trust and support received from our supporters over the past three decades. We will appreciate continued moral support, advice as well as monetary donations from people from all walks of life. Let us work together to play a greater role in the development of rural education in China. As the new year approaches, our volunteer team wishes you all good health, happiness, and prosperity in 2023. ■