D Plans (Shanghai): CSR in Congjiang Schools

Through a Good Education Support to Children in Need

D Plans (Shanghai) gives away a portion of our revenue for the betterment of the society we live in. Our aim to alleviate the illiteracy of rural area, the poor students those do not have the opportunity to get better education. We want to make opportunity for these underprivileged kids so that any of them can show their inside capability and their talents to the world.

We are so far taking to step by step to approaching our commitment. Year 2012-2013, we start our pioneer charity project in Congjiang County, Guizhou province by supporting a batch of stationery and sports supplies to Darong, Xinhuo, Laohuo and Shangdai primary schools.

Congjiang County is in the southeast of Guizhou Province, east to Hunan Province, south to Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. There are national minorities such as the Miao nationality, Dong nationality, Yao nationality and Zhuang nationality in the county. Its total population is 320,000. The population who do agriculture is 305,000 which accounts for 95.3% of total. And 305,100 which accounts for 96% of total is the Minority people. Congjiang has complex landform. Hilly areas make up 98% of total land, all farmland against the hills and following the hill path, which forms a beautiful terrace view. Congjiang enjoys rich natural resources, however, it is located in deep southwest of China, and the transportation is not well developed. Local people have very old perspective about education. Congjiang County had general financial revenue of RMB 130 million in 2010 and the farmers average income per capita was RMB 2800. It is a mountainous county based on farming with large area in poverty.

Xinhuo Primary School
Xinhua Primary School was founded in 2003. There are 1st-3rd grade, four classes and 46 students. School building is wood and brick structure, two floors. It is on a highland of hill with farmland all around. Students have to walk pass a narrow meandering path to go to school. The road is all muddy in rainy day. Since the school building is already old and located in high land, it is not safe for students. Xinhua Primary School has mostly children from that village. Students have lunch at school, mainly vegetable diet. After the state carries out “Three Yuan Nutrition Lunch” program for rural compulsory education, students’ diet has been improved, but not significantly. Students still have to bring rice from home to school cafeteria.

Laohuo Primary School

Laohuo Primary School now has 1st and 2nd grade, 36 students. It had no walls, no sports ground and no library but a log house. With help from people, it was newly built in 2008 and changed to be a better school in town. But the condition is still not very good:
the blackboard, chairs and desks have worn down; books donated by people are not suitable for low grade students; sports supplies are also worn and some cannot be used due to limitation of playground or other condition. Students are from that village, close to school, so it’s relatively safe for young grades. Students have lunch at cafeteria, cooking by teachers.

Darong Primary School

Darong Primary School is central school of Bingmei Town, also named Tianjin Peace Hope School. It has 1st-6th grade, 438 students. There is one teaching building, one composite laboratory building, and one dormitory/office building. The teaching facilities are relatively complete, with music & dance room and laboratory, etc. There are three basketball courts also for other sports like badminton, running, gymnastics, etc. Since Darong Primary School is central school of Bingmei Town, most students come from the villages within jurisdiction of the town. The villages are far from central school, so young grade students go to branch school and transferred to central school starting from 4th grade. Most students are in dormitory so as to avoid long-distance journey and unsafe condition. Since part-time teachers came to school, evening classes have been opened for students to study by themselves, helped by part-time teachers with their schoolwork and questions.
Pingzheng Primary School

Pingzheng Primary School is in Gangbian Village of Congjiang County, with 1st-6th grade, 242 students. It is the former site of Pingzheng Middle School. There is a three-storey concrete teaching building, a two-storey faculty dormitory building and a cafeteria. Students are from nearby villages. The school teacher's families to cook for students; generally there are two meals in a week with meat dishes.
Yinping Primary School is a branch of Pingzheng Primary School, with 1st-4th grade, 68 students. 5th and 6th grades go to Pingzheng Primary School. It has a two-storey teaching building of wood and brick structure, and a faculty dormitory building.
The basketball court is from loving heart people’s donation; the basketball stands are already damaged. Most students live near school, no in dormitory.

**Problems found during visiting:**

1. **Donation system has some flaws**

   Based on our cooperation with part-time teachers and donation organization as well as this investigation trip, we find that there are many people helping poverty stricken areas to build schools, collect supplies and donate money for education. Whereas, since poverty population is large and scattered, and some civil voluntary organizations are not well managed, the donated goods are not distributed equally, timely and properly. For instance, teachers from the five schools we visited told that most books donated are not suitable for low grade students who haven’t learned to read much.

2. **Faculty insufficient and low qualification, unstable teachers**

   All schools have insufficient faculty except for Darong Primary School. Xinhuo and Laohuo Primary School are particularly short of teachers, only two teachers including part-time teacher taking charge of three to four classes; most teachers cannot get enough teaching resources; part-time teachers do not stay for long and change frequently (generally three months to one year), which influences students’ study and growth.

3. **Students have poor knowledge base**

   Due to several factors like family, teacher and government, students at large have very low quality. Schools do not have measures against students who fail their courses. Some students cannot even write their own names after graduation; their writings have no grammar and express incorrectly, also lots of wrongly written characters.

4. **Parents work in the city, mostly left-at-home children**

   The transportation of Congjiang County and the whole northwest mountainous area is inconvenient and economy is left behind. Most young villagers give up the humble income from farming and go to cities in Guangdong and Fujian Province to work, leaving the old and children at home. The old people are mostly illiterate and pay no attention to children’s education. Some families do not have old people but just children at home who have hard time dealing with their lives and are not enthusiastic about study.

5. **Very traditional mind**

   Congjiang County is an area of small-scale and self-sufficient economy, having little contact with outside, thus the villagers have very backward thoughts. Although they are aware of knowledge may change their lives, their close mind and uptight economy result in most students who only finished primary school or a small part of students who finished junior high school going to southeast coastal cities to work as labor force. The education situation of Congjiang County is not formed in one day and cannot be changed by us or small number of people within a short time. However, it is our original intention to do our bit to help those children, which is also the future direction of our poverty-relief activities.