Child Development: Fundamental Way to Eradicate Poverty and Promote Social Equity

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II. CDRF’s exploration and practice in early child development

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Anti-Poverty and Early Child Development

Rates of Return to Additional Investments in Human Capital for Disadvantaged Children

- Programs targeted towards the earliest years
- Preschool programs
- School interventions
- Job training

Anti-Poverty and Early Child Development
Current condition of child poverty in China

- 400 million children living in rural poor areas of China
- Cycle of poverty forms and persists as malnutrition and lack of proper pre-school.
Gap (0-3 years)

- Lack of proper parenting knowledge among caregivers for 0-3 year olds

- Suspect and abnormal rate of 42.9%, while in Shanghai, this rate is lower than 10% by In Denver II.
• 50–70% children aged 3-6 have no access to kindergartens in the mountainous or herding areas in the central and western regions.

• The development level of a five-year-old child in Xundian, Yunnan is equal to a three-year-old child in Shanghai by using early child capacity index.
CDRF’s exploration and practice

Social experiment → Pilot evaluation → Policy proposal submission → Policy implementation → Population who may benefit → Policy evaluation → Policy improvement → Policy promotion

Education
- MaMa Schools
- Parenting Program
- Village Early Education Centers
- E-Learning in Rural Primary Schools
- Secondary Vocational Training

Nutrition
- Nutrition for Mothers
- Nutrition Package for Infants
- Nutrition Intervention for Preschoolers
- School Nutrition Improvement Initiative

-9months 0year 3years 6years 15years
Target of Education Interventions

- Coverage of preschool education in poor areas reaches 90%
- Coverage of early parenting and education in poor areas coverage reaches 50%
Mama School

➢ Relying on the township hospitals/village clinics, we provide pregnant women and mothers of infants under 6 months or primary caregivers with maternal and child nutrition health care and parenting knowledge training.
China REACH: Parenting and Nutrition Interventions (0-3)

- Jamaica parenting program combined with nutritional intervention measures with more than 1200 children aged 6-24 months throughout Huachi county, Gansu province.
## China REACH-Parenting program Mid-term evaluation results

**Intervention group** after receiving 10 months' family visit has **HOME 1.14 IT score** higher than the control group.

### Assessment table: China REACH Mid-Line Evaluation HOME IT score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension (Mean ± SD)</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Mid-line</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Intervention</td>
<td>Control</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>总分</strong></td>
<td>13.09±0.15</td>
<td>13.09±0.14</td>
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<tr>
<td>“接纳”</td>
<td>1.43±0.02</td>
<td>1.43±0.02</td>
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<td>“环境的组织”</td>
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<td>“学习材料”</td>
<td>3.15±0.07</td>
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<td>“家长参与程度”</td>
<td>3.74±0.04</td>
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<tr>
<td>“环境的变化性”</td>
<td>2.84±0.04</td>
<td>2.87±0.04</td>
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</table>
The rates of “suspicion” and “abnormality” of intervention group are both lower than the controlled group. The “suspicion” rate is **7.41%** lower, while the “abnormality” rate is **1.9%** lower.
Compared with the baseline, the anemia rate of the intervention group has fallen by 48.6%, control group mid-line anemia rate decreased by 38% and intervention group has a sharper decline.
Village Early Education Center (VEECs)  
Accessible, Low Cost and Quality Pre-School Education

• Annual VEEC cost (1 teacher, 20 children) is RMB 30000 yuan (USD $5000);
• Pre-School education enrollment rate reaches 80-90% in all pilot counties;
• Regular training sessions for volunteer teachers
• has established more than 1,100 village kindergartens in 12 counties in 8 provinces, with more than 38000 children enrolled.
Evaluation of mountain VEECs

- Children in the kindergarten are more active
- Make children better prepared for admission and their cognitive as well as language ability promoted
- Widely recognized among parents

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<td>Movement</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Emotion</td>
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<td>35.50*</td>
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Songtso County, Jimunai County, Huachi County, psychological evaluations on children aged 4-5; *p<.05  **p<.01  ***p<.001
E-Learning Program in Rural Primary Schools

- Rural students taking classes by using the latest distance learning and two-way video transmitting technology to simultaneously share the course in county schools.
- Using tablets to learn and communicate with teachers/fellow students.
Win the Future: Secondary Vocational Training

- Vocational school principal training
- Job training delivered by senior technicians from corporates
- School culture building
- Scholarships for excellent students
- Corporate internship opportunities
- 30 middle vocational schools in Guizhou, Sichuan and Guangzhou. Guizhou has ten schools covering 148,000 students.
The anemia rate of children in poverty-stricken areas is lowered below 15%.

The stunting rate of children in poverty-stricken areas is lowered below 9% which is the national average level.
Provide pregnant women with nutrition supplementation package for free. Pregnant women get two pills a day until the delivery.

From 2009 to 2013, 5000 pregnant women in 13 pilot villages in Ledu, Qinghai province and Xundian, Yunnan province received this nutrition intervention.

Lowered low birth rate of by 56%.
Nutrition improvement for Infants (YYB, Yingyangbao)

- CDRF piloted the Nutrition Package (YYB) in 2009 in 9 counties for three consecutive years, giving infants aged 6 to 24 months one pack of nutrition supplementation every day.
- Supplement nutrition for infants aged 6 to 24 months in poverty-stricken areas
- Contains 9 micronutrients, with an aim of lowering anemia and growth stunting rate
- National plan passed on 2012, now covers 341 poor areas with 2.11 million children benefiting from it; National grant is 500 Million RMB per year
From 2009 to 2011, nutrition intervention measures lowered the growth stunting rate among infants aging 6 to 24 month in Ledu, Qinghai by 28.8%.
Evaluation Results for YYB

➢ An important role in poverty

Anemia rate in intervention group (BLUE) and controlled trial group (Red Strip) – divided by income level (12<age of children<=24)

YYB reduces anemia rate in low-income families more effectively.

Data source: an evaluation research on YYB with a total sample of 4998, conducted by CDRF from August to October
Nutrition Improvement for Preschoolers

- Nutrition Improvement for Preschoolers: nutrition tablets for preschoolers, in cooperation with Amway Charity Foundation
- Provide school lunch: will be popularized all over Guizhou Province, with the same standard as primary schools in rural areas
- Food and nutrition classes: organized by teachers, targeting at infants
Year 2007, CDRF started pilot project to provide nutritional school lunch for 2000 boarding school students in DuAn county, Guangxi and Chongli, Hebei

Subsidy of RMB 2.5 yuan and 5 yuan per day per student to improve nutrition

Renovate and equip school canteens
Scaling Up

- Year 2008, Premier Wen Jiabao reviewed and approved CDRF policy recommendation report on nutrition improvement of rural boarding school students.

Monitoring and evaluating **14 provinces, 100 counties, 9500 schools, 3.65 million students’ everyday meal**.
III. Thoughts and Experience

- Able to impact policies with a better understanding of the process of policy making and implementation
- Interventions from Womb to Job
- Highlight nutrition and education
- Effective cooperation with local governments
- Utilize information technology
- Wide support from the private sector and other actors in our society
IV. Policy recommendations

To Input 10 billion RMB per year to build “Bright Start” program in poverty-stricken areas.
Thank You!