What Resources Help Chinese Children Learn Better

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Shanghai drew world attention after winning PISA.

“The stunning success of Shanghai China, which tops every league table in this assessment by a clear margin, shows what can be achieved with moderate economic resources and in a diverse social context.”
75% of Beijing’s junior secondary school students correctly answered the math problem:

**Given** \( x-y=3, \)

\[(x +1)^2 - 2x + y(y-2x) = ? \]

(in the capital city’s 2014 junior secondary school entrance examinations)
What resources help Chinese children learn better

- The government sets great store by basic education
- Curricular reform in basic education
- Underachieving schools bolstered, equity in education guaranteed
- Teachers’ sense of responsibility enhanced, research systems set up
- Families attach great importance to children’s education
First, the government sets great store by basic education.

- 43 million children receive pre-school education in kindergartens.
- 140 million are in 243,000 schools for nine-year compulsory education.
- 24 million study in 13,200 senior middle schools.
- In total, over 200 million students receive basic education.
First, the government sets great store by basic education

2012

- Education expenditure accounted for 4% of the GDP for the first time in China’s financial history.

2014

- It nearly doubled to reach 2,640 billion yuan.
Second, curricular reform in basic education

I. Teaching philosophy renovated

II. Teaching content updated and enriched

III. Teaching methodology improved
Third, underachieving schools bolstered, equity in education guaranteed

Equity in Education

The Chinese government earmarked 120 billion yuan in 2015 to improve schooling conditions of basic education in rural areas.

Shanghai municipal government dispatches brand-name schools teachers to underachieving schools, or buys services from education service agencies.
Fourth, teachers’s sense of responsibility enhanced, research systems set up

Teaching among Top Three on a chart of most blissful jobs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>civil servant</td>
<td>official</td>
<td>teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>teacher</td>
<td>official</td>
<td>senior manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>official</td>
<td>senior manager</td>
<td>teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>free lancer</td>
<td>teacher</td>
<td>official</td>
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As a result, more outstanding college graduates are devoted to basic education.
Fourth, teachers’s sense of responsibility enhanced, research systems set up

Teachers in Shanghai

- 39.7 working hours per week
- 13.8 hours on classroom teaching
- 76.3% teachers engage in teaching research activities every two weeks.
- 50% teachers take part in collective lesson study work.
Fifth, families attach importance to children’s education

Homework is part and parcel of every student’s school and extra-curricula life in China. Chinese parents take it for granted that students must do homework at night.
Basic education in China is also faced with tremendous challenges.

Exam-oriented education is still bringing a heavy load to bear on our students.

Inequity in the distribution of teaching resources between east and west China and between urban and rural areas is still a problem.

Our effort to instill creativity and critical ways of thinking in our students still leaves much to be desired.
To tackle the challenges

The Chinese government has enacted a ten-year (2011-2020) education informatization plan.

Our basic education should not be limited to small-time innovations and creations any more.

We must learn from our international colleagues who are imbued with sophisticated education expertise.
Thank you!