


改革开放30年中国教育改革与发展课题组 著

The Rising of a Country
through Education

教育大国的崛起

1978 - 2008

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序

陈至立

1978年，中国开始了改革开放的伟大征程。

以邓小平同志亲自作出恢复高考及对外派遣留学生的重大决策为起点，中国教育迈出了改革开放的历史性步伐。改革开放30年来，我们党领导全国人民高举中国特色社会主义伟大旗帜，坚定不移地实施科教兴国战略和人才强国战略，坚持教育优先发展，探索出一条中国特色社会主义教育的发展道路，形成了规模不断壮大、质量不断提高、结构日趋合理、效益显著提高的社会主义教育体系。中国教育发展的巨大成就创造了人类教育发展史上的奇迹。

改革开放30年，是中国教育大变革、大发展、大跨越的30年。1978年，我国小学升入初中的比例只有60.5%，中等职业教育学生数占高中阶段教育的比例不足6%，高校在校生只有85.6万人，研究生只有1万人。经过30年的努力，目前全国15岁以上人口平均受教育年限超过8.4年，新增劳动力平均受教育年限提高到11年，均超过世界平均水平，总人口中大学以上文化程度的超过7000万人。我国实现了从人口大国向人力资源大国的历史性转变，为我国社会主义现代化建设和全面建设小康社会提供了强有力的人力和智力支撑。

基础教育极大提高了我国国民基本素质。我国用不到20年时间走完了发达国家上百年才完成的普及义务教育历程。2007年底，全国“两基”人口覆盖率达到99%。我国以加强和发展农村教育为重点，实施西部“两基”攻坚计划，实行农村义务教育保障机制改革，全面免除农村义务教育学杂费，继而实施城市免费义务教育，实现了义务教育的全面免费。高中阶段教育规模也不断扩大，高中阶段教育在校生4527万人，毛入学率达到66%。

职业教育持续快速发展，劳动者素质有了很大提高，推进了中国的工业化进程。2007年中等职业教育招生规模达到810万人，与普通高中招生规模大体相当；高等职业学校招生规模也约占高校招生总规模的一半。目前高等职业教育和中等职业教育的招生总数达到1100万人，在校生数超过3000万人。职业教育明确了“以服务为宗旨，以就业为导向”的发展思路，坚持“校企合作、工学结合”方向，着力培养学生的职业技能和就业能力，

实行“国家示范性职业院校建设计划”和“国家技能性人才培养培训工程”，职业教育人才培养质量不断提高，更好地满足了社会对技能型人才的需求。

高等教育发展实现了历史性跨越，为现代化建设提供了强大的人才和智力支持。2007年我国高等教育普通本专科招生达到566万人，高等教育在学总规模超过2700万人，居世界第一，高等教育毛入学率达到了23%，使我国成为高等教育大国。高等教育规模的扩大，为数以千万计青年学子提供了改变一生命运的机会。研究生教育发展迅速，2007年招生数达到40多万人，成为世界研究生教育大国，为国家培养了大批高层次创新人才。高等教育结构趋于合理，质量不断提高。实施“211工程”和“985工程”推进了世界一流大学和高水平大学建设。高等职业院校和学生数占到高校的一半。每个地市至少拥有一所高校。自学考试、广播电视大学凸显中国特色。高等教育通过共建、调整、合作、合并，形成了中央和地方两级管理、以省为主的管理体制。推进高等学校合理定位，办出特色，办出水平。坚持“巩固、深化、提高、发展”的方针，实施“高等学校本科教学质量与教学改革工程”，加大教学投入，深化教学改革，强化教学管理，全力提高高等教育质量，高等学校人才培养水平和科技创新能力有很大提高。

民办教育伴随改革开放蓬勃发展，成为我国教育体系的重要组成部分。坚持“积极鼓励、大力支持、正确引导、依法管理”的十六字方针，形成了政府办学为主体、社会各界共同参与、公办学校和民办学校共同发展的新格局。

教育开放与教育改革伴随而行。30年来，我国教育广泛借鉴并吸收世界各国先进科学文化教育成果和教育改革经验，开阔了国际视野，促进了教育观念、教学内容、教育方法、教育手段的深刻变革。坚持“支持留学，鼓励回国，来去自由”的十二字方针，先后有百万人出国留学，遍布100多个国家和地区。归国留学人员遍及各个领域，成为我国社会主义现代化建设的重要力量。我国已同184个国家和地区以及联合国教科文组织等国际组织建立了广泛的教育合作与交流关系。我国高等学校与国外知名大学和科研机构的交流合作日益广泛深入。与此同时，中国教育的国际影响不断扩大。我国目前能够接受来华国际学生的高校达到568所，已累计接受来华国际学生87万余人，辐射190个国家和地区，国际学生所学专业涉及自然科学和社会科学各个学科门类。汉语国际推广工作进展迅速，境外已有3000多万人学汉语，有66个国家和地区成立了225所孔子学院。

教育改革开放30年是坚持以邓小平理论、“三个代表”重要思想为指导，贯彻落实科学发展观，积极探索中国特色社会主义教育发展道路，探索教育全面、协调、可持续发展的30年。

必须落实教育优先发展战略地位。我们党科学认识教育在社会主义现代化建设全局中的地位和作用，从社会主义初级阶段的基本国情出发，把教育放在国民经济和社会发展的

基础性、先导性、全局性的战略地位，坚持教育优先发展，实施科教兴国战略和人才强国战略，取得了巨大成就。历史证明，教育的优先发展是后进国家追赶先进国家的必由之路。在我们这样一个人口众多、人均自然资源相对不足的大国进行现代化建设，教育既是把巨大的人口压力转化为人力资源优势，支撑科技、经济持续发展的关键，也是文化建设、政治建设、社会建设的基础，在中国特色社会主义伟大事业中具有不可替代的重要作用。教育优先发展战略地位的落实，最根本的是坚持党对教育工作的领导，着眼全局，落实“经济社会发展规划要优先安排教育事业，财政资金要优先保障教育投入，公共资源要优先满足教育和人力资源开发的需要”的“三个优先”的战略思想。

教育要面向现代化、面向世界、面向未来。“三个面向”是邓小平同志在 20 世纪 80 年代初为中国教育发展所指明的前进方向。坚持“三个面向”要求教育适应社会主义现代化要求，培养适应经济社会发展需要的各级各类人才，并为未来发展储备人才，成为国家现代化建设的先导；要求放眼世界，具备国际视野，吸收世界一切教育优秀成果为我所用，提高我国教育现代化水平和国际竞争力，为世界进步作出贡献；要求教育改革发展既要立足当前，又要着眼长远，成为国家发展创新的持久动力。坚持“三个面向”必须坚持教育为社会主义现代化服务、为人民服务的方向；坚持教育必须为社会主义建设服务，社会主义建设必须依靠教育的方针，促进教育适应并推动经济社会发展，实现教育发展和经济社会发展的协调统一。

坚定不移贯彻党的教育方针，全面推进素质教育。要坚持育人为本、德育为先，把立德树人作为教育的根本任务，努力培养德智体美全面发展的社会主义建设者和接班人。把社会主义核心价值观纳入国民教育，贯穿到各级各类教育中，体现在各种形式的教育教学活动中，帮助学生树立社会主义理想信念，形成正确的世界观、人生观、价值观、荣辱观。推进素质教育是马克思主义关于人的全面发展学说在中国现阶段的伟大实践。全面推进素质教育，核心是提高学生思想道德素质、科学文化素质和身体健康素质，深化人才培养模式改革，着力培养学生社会责任感、创新精神和实践能力，解决在新的时代条件下培养什么样的人 and 如何培养人的问题，是在新的历史条件下落实“以人为本”的科学发展观、贯彻党的教育方针的现实要求。

必须坚持教育的科学发展。要按照科学发展观的基本要求和根本方法，立足社会主义初级阶段的基本国情，注重教育的全面、协调、可持续发展。努力统筹教育和社会经济的协调发展，统筹城乡、区域教育的协调发展，统筹各级各类教育的协调发展，统筹教育规模、质量、结构、效益的协调发展；从实际出发，分区规划、分类指导、分步实施。努力实现普及与提高的有机统一，精英教育与大众教育的有机统一；积极引导社会教育需求，立足国情，尽力而为，量力而行，促进教育事业又好又快地发展，努力办好人民群众满意



的教育。

坚持解放思想、改革创新。坚持改革开放，是新时期教育最鲜明的特点。30年来，教育工作始终坚持解放思想、实事求是、与时俱进的思想路线，以改革开放为教育发展的根本动力，不断突破教育发展的思想和体制性障碍，在思想观念、办学体制、管理体制、投入体制、教学内容和教学方法等方面开展全方位的改革，建立起与社会主义市场经济体制相适应的教育体制，使教育事业充满生机和活力。还要海纳百川，吸收和借鉴世界各国的有益的经验 and 做法。

教育大计，教师为本。尊重和发挥好广大教师的积极性、主动性、创造性，是促进学生全面发展，培养合格的社会主义事业建设者和接班人的重要保证。30年的改革实践表明，高度重视和切实加强教师队伍建设，努力建设一支师德高尚、业务精湛、富有创新精神和创新能力的高素质教师队伍，培养和造就一大批教育家，是办好令人民满意教育的关键。

坚持教育公平。教育公平是社会公平的重要基础。坚持教育公平是由我国教育的社会主义性质所决定的，也是现代教育的基本原则。我们党始终把坚持教育公益性和促进教育公平作为基本的教育政策，推动各级政府落实发展教育的责任。特别是近年来，从促进教育公平的总体出发，建立农村义务教育经费保障新机制，促进义务教育均衡发展；全面免除农村义务教育学杂费，继而在2008年9月1日实现了城乡全部免除义务教育学杂费；建立和完善各级各类学校家庭经济困难学生的资助政策体系，完善受教育权利的保障机制。深入理解教育的基本价值，坚持教育的公益性，才能坚持教育的正确方向，坚持发展为了人民、发展依靠人民、发展成果由人民共享的理念，实现教育公平。

30年来教育的改革与发展是不断努力解决经济和社会发展对教育的迫切要求、人民群众日益增长的教育需求与公共教育资源供给不足这一矛盾的过程。30年前，我国的经济实力薄弱，面临着快速发展教育还是缓慢进步的艰难抉择。发展是硬道理，没有发展，就没有教育的强盛，就没有国家的强盛。30年来，在努力增加国家教育财政投入的同时，广大人民群众分担了教育发展的部分成本，为教育发展作出了重要贡献。今天回过头来看，没有这样一个艰苦的过程，就不会有这么多人民群众的广泛受益，就不会有一个教育大国的崛起。毫无疑问，改革开放30年中国教育的快速发展和强大的人才储备，必然会为中华民族的伟大复兴作出历史性的贡献。

站在新的历史起点上，我们必须清醒地认识到，中国还只是一个人力资源大国，人力资源开发水平仍然不高，发展还很不平衡。教育事业的发展仍然面临着严峻的挑战，存在着许多困难和问题。只有坚持改革和发展，才能解决前进中的困难和问题。党的十七大报告指出：“改革开放符合党心民心、顺应时代潮流，方向和道路是完全正确的，成效和功绩不容否定，停顿和倒退没有出路。”我们坚信，在以胡锦涛同志为总书记的党中央的坚

强领导下，深入贯彻落实科学发展观，建设人力资源强国的伟大目标一定能实现。

2008年是中国不平凡的一年，这一年有两件大事震撼了世界。一是四川汶川特大地震，一是中国成功举办奥运会。处在危难中的地震灾区学生、教师表现出了临危不惧、先人后己、互助友爱、知恩感恩的高尚精神和品德，涌现出一大批优秀教师、优秀学生和先进集体，令世人感动。大学生是第29届北京奥运会140万志愿者的生力军，他们以热情周到的高水平服务展示了改革开放后的中国形象，体现了“奉献、友爱、互助、进步”的志愿精神，表现出为社会服务、为国争光而不计名利的崇高风尚。他们的精神风貌成为奥运会一道亮丽的风景线，得到全国人民和国际社会的高度赞扬。他们是中国教育的骄傲，中国未来的希望。

中国教育的前景一定会更加美好。



Preface

Chen Zhili

It was in 1978 that China started its Reform and Opening Up.

The historic step of the open reform in Chinese education is the momentous policy that Comrade Deng Xiaoping decided to restore college entrance examination and send Chinese students to study abroad. During the three decades of Reform and Opening Up, our Communist Party leads the people to hold highly the banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics, constantly implement the strategy of Prospering the Nation with Science and Education and Talents Strategy for Powerful Nation, and insist on Priority Development of Education to explore the development path with Chinese Characteristics and form socialist education system which is booming in scale and getting more reasonable in structure with quality improved constantly and profit increased significantly. The great accomplishment in the development of Chinese education created a striking miracle in human education history.

Three decades of Reform and Opening up is an era of great revolution, great development and great leap in Chinese education. In 1978, the rate of student entering middle school was merely 60.5%, and the students of secondary vocational education account for less than 6% in the stage of the senior high school. Meanwhile in universities and colleges, the number of enrolled students was 856,000 and the graduate students scale only reached 10,000 people. After three-decade efforts, the average education year is currently beyond 8.4 for people over 15 years old. And the average education year has been increased to 11 year for the newly adding labor force. No matter it is 8.4 years or 11 years, the education year has been longer than the world average. In the general population people who have received higher education account for more than 70 million. Thus we have realized a historic transformation from population burden to human resources which will provide powerful human resources and intellectual support for the socialist modernization construction and the comprehensive construction of a well-being society.

Elementary education has greatly enhanced the basic quality of our nation. At the end of 2007, the population has reached 99% in the area implementing "Two bases". We spent 25





years popularizing compulsory education which almost took the developed countries 100 years. We carry out the strenuous plan of “Two bases” in the west areas, especially to strengthen and develop rural education. By implementing the reform of guarantee system of rural compulsory education, the students in villages are exempted from all the fees for compulsory education which is also applied to the city subsequently. Finally, we achieved the aim of all-free compulsory education. With the increasing scale of senior high school, the number of enrolled students amount to 44.81 million and the gross enrollment ratio of entering senior high school will reach 60%.

With the sustainable development of vocational education, the qualities of labor force have been enhanced greatly which improved the progress of Chinese industrialization. In 2007 the enrollment scale of secondary vocational education reached 8.01 million, which is similar to that of general senior high school. And the enrollment scale of college vocational education reached nearly half of that in colleges and universities. The recruited students, however, has reached 11 million and the enrolled students have exceeded 30 million at present in college vocational education and secondary vocational education. The development strategy of vocational education has been explicitly described as “Serving the People”, “Taking Employment as the Direction”. The students’ vocational skill and employment ability will be cultivated by insisting on “school-enterprise cooperation and work-study cooperation”. After the implementation of “National Plan of Exemplary Vocational College Construction” and “National Project of Cultivating and Training Skilled Students”, the quality of talent training was increasingly enhanced to meet the social need for skilled talents.

The historic leap has been realized in the development of higher education which provides powerful human resources and intellectual support for modernization construction. In 2007, the recruited students scale of the undergraduate and professional education reached 5.66 million, and the enrolled students scale of higher education achieved over 27 million which make our country the first in the world. The gross enrollment ratio of higher education reached 23%, thus China became a deserved power of higher education in the world. With the expansion of higher education scale, tens of thousands of young students will have chances to change their whole lives. With the rapid development of postgraduate education, the recruited students scale reached 400 thousand in 2007, providing a large group of higher innovation persons with ability for our nation which made it a power of postgraduate education in the world. Thus the structure of higher education becomes more and more reasonable and the quality of education increases. The implementation of “211 Project” and “985 Project” promoted the construction of world-class uni-

versities and high-level university. The number of higher vocational school will account for half of the universities, and so does its enrolled students scale. There is at least one college in every prefecture. Self-study Examination and Radio & TV Universities have striking Chinese characteristics. Central-local management in higher education has been formed through co-construction, adjustment, cooperation, combination which takes the provincial management as the core to improve the reasonable orientation of colleges with particular features and higher level. Insisting on the policy of "Consolidating, deepening, improving, developing" and implementing "Project of Undergraduate Teaching Quality and Instructional Reform in Universities", we need to expand the educational investment, deepen the reform of teaching and intensify the educational management, which results in the enhancement of teaching quality, the increased level of student cultivation and the ability to improve science and technology innovation.

With the flourishing development of Reform and Opening Up, private education has played an important part in our education system. Insisting on the policy "Active Encouragement, Vigorous Support, Correct Guidance, Legal Management", a New Pattern of Joint Development for Governmental and Non-governmental Education has been taking shape, with the government taking main responsibility and the society and individuals participating actively.

Educational opening up starts with educational reform. Over the past 30 years, we have absorbed and learned advanced scientific culture and educational achievement from countries across the world, which broadens the scope of our international perspective and promotes the profound change in educational concept, instructional courses, instructional methods and approaches. A million people successively study abroad across more than 100 countries and places, under the policy of "Supporting Abroad-study, Encouraging Repatriate, Coming and Going Freely". Now the returned Chinese scholars work in every field to be the strong force for our socialist modernization. We have established the international educational cooperation and exchange with 184 countries, regions and international organizations, such as UNESCO. Our universities have increasingly deepened exchange programs with higher education or research institutions all over the world. Meanwhile, the influence of Chinese education has expanded gradually on other countries. Nowadays the universities, which can recruit international students, have reached 568 schools and accepted about 870,000 international students across 190 countries and places. The courses they take range from natural science to social science. The Chinese popularization developed so rapidly that there are 30 million foreign students studying Chinese and 225 Confucius colleges are established in 66 countries and places.





Three decades of Reform and Opening up is the time to hold Deng Xiaoping's Theory and the important thought of "three representatives" as the guideline and explore the comprehensive, harmonious and sustainable development path with Chinese Characteristics with the implementation of Scientific Development Concept.

The Strategy of Priority Development of Education should be carried out. Based on the current reality of China, our Party evaluates scientifically the role and function of education played in the socialist construction, and then highlights the strategic status of education in national economy and social development basically, leadingly and wholly. We achieve great achievements through carrying out Priority Development of Education, the Strategy of Prospering the Nation with Science and Education and the Strategy of Strengthening Country on Talent. It has been proved historically that the Strategy of Priority Development of Education is the only way for the developing country to catch up with the developed countries. With the modernization construction in a populous country in shortage of natural resources per person, education has become the key to support the sustainable development in science and technology by the transformation from population burden to human resources, as well as the base of cultural, political and social construction which will play an irreplaceable role in the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics. In order to carry out the Strategy of Priority Development of Education, we must keep Party's leadership on education, aim at the overall situation, and implement the strategy of "Three Priorities" — "the Priority of education development in the social-economic development, the Priority of education investment in financial fund, and the Priority of meeting the need of education and human resources development in public resources."

Education must face modernization, the world and future. "The Three Faces" was put forward by Deng Xiaoping in the early 1980s which shows clearly the direction for the reform of Chinese education. "The first Face" means that education should meet the needs of socialist modernization to cultivate all kinds of talents in accordance with socio-economic development and store talents as the leading force of modernization construction for future development. And the second means we should absorb and learn from the excellent achievements across the world under the international perspective to enhance modernization level and international competitiveness of Chinese education and make great contribution to the world. The third means the development of education should focus on the future as well as on the current situation which can become the persistent force for national development and innovation. And we also hold that education should serve for and guide socialist construction which will meet and promote social-econ-

omic development to realize the harmonious unification of two aspects.

Our Party's educational policy should be constantly implemented, which is to promote quality-oriented education. With the Basic Task of Educating People and the Priority of Ethical Education, we should cultivate socialist builders and successors bearing morality, intelligence, physique, aesthetic ability. The socialist core value system should be introduced into all kinds and levels of national education. This is reflected in various educational and instructional activities to help students develop socialist belief and right world view, life philosophy, value outlook, and concept of honor and disgrace. Promotion of quality-oriented education is the great practice of Karl Marx's theory of human's all-around development in China currently. The essence of promoting quality-oriented education is to educate student morally, physically and intellectually and to develop their social responsibilities, innovation spirit and practice abilities through the deep reform of talent cultivating pattern. It is the actual requirement of implementing human-oriented scientific concept of development and educational policies to solve the problem of "what kind of talents to be trained and how to train talents" under the new historical condition.

We should hold scientific concept of development in education. According to its fundamental requirements and methods, we focus on the comprehensive, harmonious and sustainable development of education in the primary stage of socialism. To be specific, we should promote the coordinative development of education and economy, balance urban and rural education, improve various levels and kinds of education harmonious development, and comprehensively plan the development of education in scale, quality, structure and profit, which need to plan in district, direct in category, and implement in steps from actual conditions. We should try our best to combine popularization with improvement, and the elite education with public education relying on the current situation of our country with the guidance of society demand for education, and try our best but without blindness to develop education faster and better which will satisfy the people.

We should reform and innovate with the spirit of "Liberating thoughts". And it is the striking characteristic to adhere to reform and innovation in the new period. Over the past 30 years, the educators take reform and opening up as the fundamental power to break through the barriers in thought and system of education development, with the policy of liberating thoughts, seeking truth from facts, and keeping pace with the times. It is essential to establish a new education system corresponding to socialist market economy, which will make educational cause full of energy and vitality, by reforming thoroughly in ideological concept, school-running system,





invest system, management system, instructional courses and teaching methods. It's also beneficial to absorb and learn from helpful experiences and practices just as the sea containing numerous rivers.

The development of education should be based on teachers. It is the important assurance for all-round students, who will be the qualified socialist builders and successors, to respect and exert the enthusiasm, the initiative and the creativity of teachers. It is indicated from 30-year reform practices that the key of the satisfactory education for all citizens is to cultivate a group of educationists and to build up a teacher team with noble morality, professional knowledge, enterprising spirit and creative ability.

We should stick to education equity, which is the significant basis of social equity. It is also the basic principle of modern education relying on the nature of socialism embodied in Chinese education. Our Party constantly regards the public benefit nature of education and the promotion of education equity as basic education policy to push the development of education undertaken by all levels of governments. Especially in recent years, the new fund guarantee system of the rural compulsory education will be established to balance the development of compulsory education from the general perspective of promoting education equity. And then rural students will be exempted from the tuition fees of compulsory education, subsequently so will the urban students on September 1, 2008. Financial Aid Policy for all kinds of students in financial difficulty should be established and improved to better the guarantee system for the students' right to education. Only through insisting on the public benefit nature of education with a better understanding of essence of education, can we stick to the right direction of education reform and realize education equity based on the spirit of "For the People, By the People and With the People".

The past 30 years is the process for education reform and development to resolve the contradiction between the increasing demands from social economy and the people and the shortage of public education resources. Thirty years ago, it was a tough decision to make between rapid development of education and slow progress of society in that we had a weak finance and economic power. Development is a real principle. Without development, there would be no flourishing of education and even no prosperity of our nation. Over 30 years, the Chinese people had taken partial cost of education which made a great contribution to the development of education, with government's efforts to increase financial investment in education. Today we find a truth that there would not be so many people benefiting a lot and there would be no great power of education growing up without those efforts. Without doubt, it would be inevitably a historic contribution

for the great rejuvenation of Chinese nation to develop education rapidly and restore lots of talented people.

At the beginning of the new period, we should be clearly aware that China is merely a large country of human resources with less exploration of human resources and imbalanced development of human resources. Therefore education will still confront with difficulties, problems and tough challenges. Report of the Seventeenth National Congress of the Communist Party says, "Reform and opening up accord with the aspirations of the Party membership and the people and keep up with the trend of the times. The path of reforms and opening up is entirely correct, and their merits and achievements can never be denied. To stop or reverse reforms and opening-up would only lead to a blind alley." We believe faithfully that the goal of building a great power of human resources will come true under the leadership of Comrade Hu Jintao, General Secretary of the CPC (Communist Party of China), through thoroughly applying the Scientific Outlook on Development.

The year of 2008 is an uncommon year in which two events shocked the world. One is the violent earthquake in Wenchuan, Sichuan Province. During the earthquake, the teachers and students showed the noble morality of bravely confronting the danger, putting people's life above his own, helping affectionately with each other and repaying kindness. During the harsh period, it is moving that a lot of selfless teachers, brave students and excellent groups turned up. The other is the 29th Olympic Games successfully hosted by China. 1.4 million College students became the strong force to serve in Beijing Olympics. Their high-level enthusiastic service reflected the new image of China after reform and opening up, the voluntary spirit of "Devotion, Affection, Mutual Help, and Advancement" and the noble morality of serving the society to win glory for our nation. Their spirit has become bright scenery in Olympic Games which win high praise from all over the world. They are the pride of Chinese education and the hope of Chinese future.

There is a better and brighter future for Chinese education.



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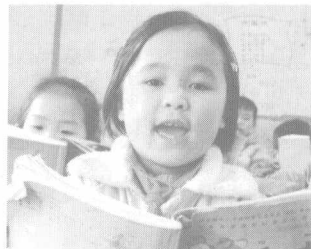
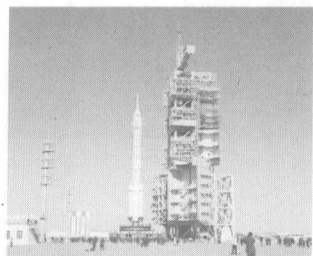
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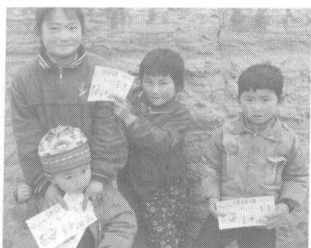
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