

**COMMITTEE ON THE
RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

**WRITTEN REPLIES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA
CONCERNING THE LIST OF ISSUES (CRC/C/Q/CHN/2)
RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS
OF THE CHILD RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF
THE SECOND PERIODIC REPORT OF CHINA (CRC/C/83/Add.9)**

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Replies to Supplementary Questions Raised in Connection with the Consideration of the Second Periodic Report of China regarding Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

PART 1

A. With regard to data and statistics

1. Please provide disaggregated statistical data (by gender, age groups, ethnic groups, urban and rural areas) covering the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 on the number and percentage of children under 18 living in mainland China and the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau respectively.

In China, the situation regarding the gathering of population statistics is as follows: every 10 years, a general population census is carried out; every five years, a one per cent sample survey is carried out; in other years a one per thousand sample survey is carried out. The most recent general population census was held in 2000, for which the data are relatively comprehensive. However, as regards the data for 2002, 2003 and 2004, because the sample size is small and thus insufficiently representative, the above-mentioned disaggregated data cannot be obtained. Given this fact, we thus provide the population figures for children from the 2000 general census.

--- Total number of children under 18:	351,780,000
--- Disaggregated by gender:	
Male	185,320,000
Female	166,460,000
--- Disaggregated by age group:	
0 to 4 years:	70,340,000
5 to 9 years:	91,940,000
10 to 14 years:	127,490,000
15 to 17 years:	62,010,000
--- Disaggregated by ethnic group:	
Han Chinese:	315,720,000
Ethnic minorities:	36,060,000
--- Disaggregated by urban and rural areas:	
Urban areas:	109,420,000
Rural areas:	242,360,000

2. In the light of Article 4 of the Convention, please provide disaggregated data on budget allocations and trends (in absolute figures and percentages of the national budget) for the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 regarding the implementation of the Convention evaluating also the priorities for budgetary expenditures given to the following:

a. Education (different types of education, i.e. pre-primary, primary and secondary education, and vocational training)

Fiscal input in different types of primary and secondary education for the year 2003

Category	Allocations for education in the fiscal budget	
	Amount (billion yuan)	Percentage of total allocations for education in the fiscal budget □ %□
Total	345.4	100
Of which:		
1. Pre-primary education	4.2	1.2
2. Compulsory education	188.0	54.4
3. General high-school	31.1	9.0
4. Vocational education	21.1	6.1

Unit: billion yuan

Category of school	Total	State fiscal education expenditure		School running expenses from social groups and individual citizens	School running expenses donated and raised by society	Tuition fees and sundry fees	Other educational expenditure
			Of which: budgetary educational expenditure				
	43.421588	24.413068	21.845483	0.884745	0.234032	12.602797	5.286946
Secondary specialized school	17.235059	9.315800	8.807512	0.108808	0.030943	6.104817	1.674691
Secondary normal school	3.756727	1.988494	1.858903		0.029241	1.285630	0.453362
Adult secondary specialized school	4.061953	2.261453	2.071187	0.141647	0.021845	0.850628	0.786380
Technical school	3.667611	1.967135	1.374853		0.011588	0.771886	0.917002
Vocational middle school	14.700238	8.880186	7.733028	0.634290	0.140415	3.589836	1.455511

b. Health care (different types of health services, i.e. primary health care, vaccination programmes, adolescent health care, HIV/AIDS and other health care services for children, including social insurance);

Since 2000, the Chinese government has continually increased its input into the prevention and cure of AIDS. In 2002, national special funds for prevention and treatment of AIDS were 120 million yuan; in 2003 they reached 390 million yuan, whilst in 2004 they were 810 million yuan. The funds were mainly used in relation to such work as hospice-care, publicity and educational intervention, and monitoring and testing. Since the treatment of children with AIDS is a part of this, and the various types of work undertaken are interconnected, it is thus not possible to separate them out, and there is therefore no way to work out precise data regarding expenditure on health care of AIDS-infected children.

This year, The Ministry of Health has strengthened its efforts in regard to treatment of children with AIDS. At the beginning of the year, the Ministry entered into collaboration with the US Clinton Foundation, under which arrangement the Foundation would donate one year's supply of medicines for 200 children, to be used for current treatment of children with AIDS in China, with a further pledge to provide medicines for treatment for several years hence. The Ministry of Health has organised special training and has distributed a treatment programme, with treatment work currently developing smoothly. For several years hence, with a secured supply of children's medicines, all children with AIDS will receive effective treatment.

c. Programmes and services for children with disabilities;

(1) In regard to orphans and children with disabilities whose parents or other guardians cannot be identified, the main measures taken by China at the present stage are: adoption by citizens, family foster care, and establishment of social welfare facilities for institutional childcare.

China's child social welfare institutions provide good adoption, medical treatment, rehabilitation and education services for orphans and abandoned babies, until they reach adulthood. In order to ensure the quality of child social welfare institutions, in 2001, the Ministry of Civil Affairs promulgated and implemented a set of compulsory industry standards entitled *Standards of Social Welfare Institution for Children*. In order to guarantee the educational rights of orphans and children with disabilities who have been adopted by social welfare institutions, the *Circular on the Opinions of the Ministry of Civil Affairs and other Ministries, as relayed by the General Office of the State Council, regarding the Accelerated Realization of Socialized Social Welfare (GUOBANFA [2000]19)* contains the stipulation that: orphans studying at primary school or junior secondary school who have been adopted by social welfare institutions (including institutions which have dispersed children for fostering in the community and in residents' families) should be exempt from sundry fees and schoolbook fees in accordance with the relevant stipulations; orphans enrolled in senior high schools (vocational senior high schools), technical schools, secondary specialized schools and institutions of higher education should be exempt from school fees and accommodation fees.

In order to help all disabled children in social welfare institutions throughout the country alleviate the distress of their suffering, to increase their ability to be self-reliant and take care of themselves, and to realise their wish to return to their families and to society, the Ministry of Civil Affairs, starting in 2004 developed a "Disabled Children's Surgical Operation and Rehabilitation Plan for the Future". This plan lasts approximately 3 years and involves 600 million yuan of funds raised for the purpose. Each year, it provides approximately 10,000 disabled children with an operation and rehabilitation. The aim is that by 2006, all disabled orphans needing a surgical operation who are in the care of social welfare institutions nationwide will be able to receive effective corrective and curative operations and rehabilitation. In order to complete this work, the Ministry of Civil Affairs established a steering group for the "Disabled Children's Surgical Operation and Rehabilitation Plan for the Future", which each

year receives 100 million yuan for operations and rehabilitation from the ministry-level lottery welfare fund. With a further 100 million yuan raised from the provinces, there is a total of 200 million yuan each year for use in this plan. At present some 7000 disabled orphans have already received an operation and rehabilitation.

(2) Service facilities and projects of the Chinese government and social organizations.

In respect of rehabilitation, we have implemented key rehabilitation programmes including hearing and speech training for deaf children, rehabilitation training for children with cerebral palsy, and rehabilitation training for mentally challenged children, in order to help the great mass of disabled children to improve their physical and mental functions, and to increase their ability to live independently and to take part in society.

In respect of education, we have developed learning-support activities, implementing programmes including the “Disabled Learning Support Project”, “Lottery Welfare Fund Learning Support Project” and the “Spring Rains Action-Plan for Support of Disabled Learning”, all of which sponsor the studies of impoverished disabled children, as well as the “Central and Western Schooling Initiative for Blind Children”, which sponsors the studies of blind children.

In respect of the safeguarding of rights and interests, we have implemented the “Action-Plan for Safeguarding of the Rights of the Disabled”. This action-plan has been jointly initiated by the China Disabled Persons’ Federation and the China Welfare Fund for the Disabled, and subsidises the costs of legal cases relating to disability in which legal assistance is needed. In this way, it seeks to safeguard the legal rights and interests of the broad mass of disabled people, including disabled children.

In respect of social support for the disabled, we have initiated a broad range of support activities, such as “Volunteers Help the Disabled” and “Young Pioneers Help the Disabled”, and there has been extensive participation by people from all sectors of the community. Such activities have provided a variety of services and assistance to many disabled people, including disabled children.

d. Support programmes for families:

e. Support for children living below the poverty line:

□ 10 Subsistence relief

In order to solve the question of difficulties of subsistence in urban poor families, in 1997 the State Council issued a *Circular on the Nationwide Establishment of a Minimum Subsistence Guarantee System for Urban Residents*. By September 1999, this system had been established in all urban areas throughout China, providing basic subsistence relief to poor families, including the children of poor families. By the end of 2004, the people covered by this minimum subsistence guarantee system numbered 22,050,000, with a monthly per capita allowance level of 65 yuan. The expenditure accumulated at various fiscal levels for the whole of 2004 for this urban minimum subsistence guarantee system was 17.27 billion yuan. The vast majority of families served by the system were able to receive their allowances on time and in sufficient measure, thus guaranteeing a basic standard of living.

(2) Relief for medical treatment

In order to solve the problem of poor urban families being without the means to seek medical advice, in March 2005, the General Office of the State Council issued the *Opinions on Pilot Project Work for the Establishment of a System of Urban Medical Care Relief*, which conveyed the opinions of the Ministry of Civil Affairs and other ministries. It was decided that starting from 2005, for a period of two years, pilot projects would be carried out in a number of counties (municipalities, districts) within provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the central government. These pilots have the key role of examining management systems, operational mechanisms and fundraising mechanisms for urban medical care relief. After their completion, a further two to three years will be used to establish nationally a system of urban medical treatment relief with a systematized management structure and standardized operations, to develop urban medical treatment relief for the urban poor, including children suffering from diseases in poor families. As regards the

problem of rural poor families finding it difficult to seek medical help, in November 2003, the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Finance jointly issued *Opinions regarding the Implementation of Rural Medical Treatment Relief*, raising specific demands for the implementation of relief for rural medical treatment. At the start of 2004, the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Ministry of Finance jointly issued *Methods for the Management of Funds for Rural Medical Treatment Relief*, the Ministry of Civil Affairs issued a *Circular regarding the Thorough Implementation of "Opinions of the Ministries of Civil Affairs, Public Health, and Finance, regarding the Implementation of Rural Medical Treatment Relief"*, striving forcefully to establish basically a relatively standardized rural medical treatment relief system nationally by 2005. With the continual standardization and perfection of the urban and rural medical treatment relief systems, the urban and rural poor, including poor children, will receive more care in respect of medical treatment. A minority of places including Chengdu, Shenyang, Xining and Yinchuan, in addition to providing medical treatment relief to urban poor families, have provided special care, through community health service institutions, to groups with special difficulties, including children suffering from disease in poor families, and minors suffering from special diseases in deprived families. They have basically provided full relief in respect of healthcare costs for children, including children suffering from diseases within poor families, whilst where minors suffering from special diseases in deprived families have had to bear the costs of medical treatments themselves, a certain proportion has been reimbursed and the amount of reimbursement has been increased.

(3) Educational relief.

In order to solve the problem of urban and rural poor children having difficulties in attending school, starting in autumn 2001 the central treasury established a special fund for the provision of free educational textbooks, providing free textbooks mainly for students at the compulsory education stage from families suffering economic hardship in the central and western parts of China, who did not have the means to buy textbooks. It was used chiefly in key counties identified in the state's poverty support and development work, and in provincially-determined poor counties in ethnic minority areas and border areas. The central treasury spent 100 million yuan in 2001, which increased to 1.17 billion in 2004, providing a financial guarantee for the work of providing free school textbooks. The *Decisions of the State Council in regard to the Work of Further Strengthening Rural Education* proposed that by 2007, we should strive to achieve a situation in which students at the compulsory education stage from economically deprived families could all enjoy "two gratuities and one subsidy" (free sundry expenses, free schoolbook expenses, and subsidized accommodation and subsistence fees), and that we must work hard to ensure that students were not forced to drop out of education by reason of their family's economic hardship. By autumn 2004, the number of students at the compulsory education stage from poor families in rural districts of the central and western regions that were receiving free school textbooks paid by the central government had reached 24 million. In 2004, the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Ministry of Education issued a *Circular regarding Further Completion of Work in respect of Educational Relief for Minors in Special Difficulty from Urban and Rural Areas*, further clarifying the work targets, implementation schedules, etc, for developing educational relief for minors in special difficulty from rural and urban areas. With the continual perfection and standardization of educational relief, the problem of urban and rural children attending school will achieve an effective solution.

(4) Social Relief

Beyond the government budgetary funds, the All-China Women's Federation (ACWF), as a non-governmental organization, has raised funds through the mobilization of social forces, in order to help the healthy development of children from poor families. The specific measures taken are as follows:

(a) Implementing the "Spring Buds Programme" to help girls from poor families to complete primary and compulsory education

The ACWF has come up with the "Spring Buds Programme", which, through the Children's Foundation of China, seeks donations from the whole of society and abroad, in order to provide relief and assistance to girls who have either not had the chance to attend school or who have stopped their

schooling to return to school and complete primary (six years) or nine years' compulsory education. The programme covers 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities under direct control of the central government nationwide. From 1990 to the end of 2004, the funds collected were nearly 600 million yuan, and had helped 1.5 million poor girls. In recent years, it has paid particular concern to developing the study of cultural knowledge and training in vocational and life skills for older girls. The programme has played an active part in spreading compulsory education, raising the school enrollment rate for girls and lowering the dropout rate, as well as preventing the use of child labour.

(b) Developing a "Maternal Health Express" programme, providing health services for women and girls in impoverished areas.

"Maternal Health Express" is a large-scale public welfare project which is organised by the ACWF and the Office of the National Working Committee for Women and Children, under the State Council, and is run by the China Women's Development Foundation (CWDF). The project began as a pilot in November 2002, formally starting up on 12 July 2003. Its aim is to "bring ideas of health, knowledge of health, and health services to women in impoverished areas." By March 2005, it had raised a total of 30 million yuan in funds, and had purchased 260 "Maternal Health Express" vehicles, launching a whole variety of health services in six areas, namely Shaanxi, Guizhou, Gansu, Qinghai, Chongqing and Liaoning. The number of people benefiting from these services is nearly 4 million. Of these, approximately 160 thousand have received training in health-related knowledge, 640 thousand or more have received general medical check-ups, whilst more than 57 thousand pregnant women and seriously ill patients have been rescued. Moreover, the value of medicines issued amounts to over 3.2 million yuan, whilst some 3 million free publicity leaflets have been given out. The programme has had an extremely big impact in regard to easing the difficulties of getting medical help experienced by women in impoverished areas in the west of the country, as well as in regard to the raising of women's knowledge of health and the level of health among women and children.

(c) Implementing the "Maternal Water-Cellar" programme, in order to improve the conditions for drawing water among people from arid regions lacking in water.

Starting in 2001, the ACWF and the CWDF developed the "Maternal Water-Cellar Programme", raising funds of approximately 130 million yuan to help arid regions lacking in water in twelve provinces and autonomous regions in the west of the country to construct family water-cellars and small-scale water-provision works, in this way improving the living environment of the people in these areas, and solving the problem of drinking-water for one million people, of whom approximately 65 per cent are female children.

(d) Implementing the "Safe Health Plan", in order to promote children's healthy development.

The full name of the "Safe Health Plan" is the "China Children's Plan for Safe and Healthy Growth". It was launched jointly in May 2005 by bodies including the Children's Foundation of China and the Bureau of Workplace Safety of the State Economic and Trade Commission, with the goal of enabling children to "say goodbye to dropping out of school, say goodbye to disease, and say goodbye to crime". Through researching, publicizing, providing relief and assisting children and young people, it seeks to ensure that they grow up into a new generation that has scientific and technical knowledge, a strong and healthy body and soul, and a healthy and rounded character. In the five years since the programme has been running, it has raised funds of more than 90 million yuan, donating 1000 "Safe Health Classrooms" for schools in fifteen provincial areas including the west of the country and the three northeast provinces (Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning); it has provided distance learning facilities, ensuring that impoverished areas in the west can enjoy access to educational resources through the delivery of such resources by satellite (including lectures to develop the potential of children, lectures giving information on physical and mental health, methods of home teaching, supervision of basic educational courses for students, and children's special skill and talent training — transmitted each week at fixed times), thus reducing the gap between different areas in respect of educational resources and teachers' levels. It has also organised on four occasions an inter-departmental working party, to go to fourteen provinces, districts and municipalities in the west and in the northeast, bringing medical treatment services and free check-ups to children in impoverished areas, and bringing educational equipment and illustrated popular science books, to help improve basic education and hygiene conditions for children's medical treatment. At the same time, in

urban communities, it has established “Safe Health Wellness Homes”. These function as places which link schools and homes within a community, providing a place for reading and activities. Books are freely donated by residents, and the Homes publicise the public welfare ideals of the Safe Health Plan, providing moral education for minors, organizing parent school talks, and laying on community resident’s writing activities. These are combined with community legal assistance, social security safeguards and voluntary healthcare diagnosis and treatment for the elderly and children.

f. Protection of children who are in need of alternative care including the support of care institutions:

Please see answers above at c.

g. Programmes and activities for the prevention of and protection from child abuse, child sexual exploitation and child labour;

(1) With regard to protection from child labour:

The Chinese government attaches full importance to the task of protecting the rights and interests of minors, and clearly stipulates that the use of child labour (i.e. of minors under the age of 16) is prohibited. In recent years, through strengthening its efforts in regard to legislation and law enforcement, it has continually increased its overall control in regard to the prohibition of the use of child labour.

(a) Strengthening its efforts in regard to legislation combating the use of child labour. A whole series of legal regulations, rules and policies have provided powerful legal safeguards for the protection of the legal rights and interests of minors. These include the *Labour Law*, *Law for the Protection of Minors*, *Compulsory Education Law*, *Regulations Prohibiting Child Labour*, *Regulations on Labour Protection in Workplaces involving the Use of Poisonous Substances*, and *Regulations on supervision of labour safeguards*.

(b) Developing far-reaching law-enforcement activities, rigorously investigating and dealing with actions that violate the legal rights and interests of minors. Labour safeguard supervision bodies at all levels have undertaken a number of activities including strengthening their daily patrols and inspections, initiating special inspections, assiduously handling reports from members of the public, and initiating written investigations of labour safeguards, as a means to promptly identify and correct the actions of employers who use child labour, so increasing the level of protection of minors. Since 2001, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security every year organizes special inspection activities together with departments including the State Economic and Trade Commission, the Ministry of Public Security, the State Administration of Industry and Commerce, the Ministry of Education, the All-China Federation of Trades Unions (ACFTU), the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League, and the ACWF, in order to implement thoroughly the *Regulations Prohibiting Child Labour*, to publicise the legal statutes regarding protection of minors, to investigate and deal with illegal actions, and to protect the legal rights and interests of the vast mass of minors. In April 2003, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, the Ministry of Public Security, the State Administration of Industry and Commerce, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, ACFTU, the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League, and the ACWF jointly promulgated a *Circular regarding the Thorough Implementation of the “Regulations Prohibiting Child Labour”*, which gave further clarification of the policy parameters and the division of duties among the various departments.

(c) Perfecting work mechanisms to safeguard the legal rights and interests of minors. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security, together with organizations including ACFTU, ACWF, and the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League, jointly issued a document establishing a system of legal supervisors for labour protection, appointing legal supervisors for labour protection within these organizations, to carry out inspections as to whether employers were honouring the legal statutes for labour protection, and strengthening protection of the rights and interests of minors. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security and related departments established a mechanism for the harmonization of work relating to the prohibition of child labour, and a mechanism for the overall control of inspection

and investigation. These measures further strengthened efforts to prohibit use of child labour.

(d) Initiating an extensive publicity campaign to disseminate general knowledge of the law, in order to raise the legal consciousness of employers and labourers. Labour and social security departments at all levels have publicized the laws and policies relating the prohibition of child labour, through a variety of means including increased publicisation through the news media, creating and disseminating a publicity booklet, and organizing lectures on the laws relating to labour protection; they have in this way supervised and encouraged employers to employ workers in accordance with the law.

(2) With regard to combating violence against children:

(a) In order to improve the situation of children, to strengthen national responsibility and raise understanding among the citizens as to how to combat violence against children, ACWF has been collaborating with UNICEF. In March to April 2005, specialist personnel from these organizations conducted an initial sample questionnaire survey and exploratory study of the extent of violence against children, targeting young people in school in six provinces and municipalities including Shaanxi, Guangdong, Zhejiang, Hubei, Heilongjiang and Beijing. In May 2005, they organised a national-level symposium on combating violence against children, which was held in Beijing. Some 150 delegates attended, among them representatives from relevant government departments, NGOs, academic experts, new media and related international organizations, as well as children themselves. The symposium received extensive attention from both society and the media, and through such exchanges, came up with very constructive policy suggestions for and ideas for legal intervention.

(b) For other relevant circumstances, please refer to the survey responses on violence against children, independently and exclusively presented by the Chinese government to the UN Secretary General in relation to questions of violence against children.

h. Programmes and services for children belonging to minority groups, and refugees:

The Chinese government places very great importance on the question of refugees and their protection. Since entering into the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol, the Chinese government has always faithfully carried out its duties in a spirit of humanitarianism, and has achieved striking results. Since 1978, the Chinese government has, in a spirit of humanitarianism, received in all nearly 300,000 Indo-Chinese refugees. In November 1979, the Chinese government and UNHCR signed a project agreement that the UNHCR would provide aid for Indo-Chinese refugees in China. In order to execute this project of aid for China, from January 1980 the UNHCR set up a mission office in China. Indo-Chinese refugees in China were separately resettled in six provinces and autonomous regions: Guangdong, Guangxi, Fujian, Yunnan, Hainan and Jiangxi. More than twenty years later, the Chinese government, based on a policy of “equal treatment, no discrimination, and equal pay for equal work”, has provided effective protection for Indo-Chinese refugees in China, ensuring that in such aspects as their abode, life, development, training, employment, remuneration for labour, and children’s education, they are given equal treatment to Chinese residents, and has also provided some preferential policies and support measures. To this end, the Chinese government has made an enormous investment of human, material and financial resources. Starting from 1994, the UNHCR has been concentrating the aid-to-China programme on the poorest groups of refugees, and has been managing the projects according to a revolving fund system, in which any funds recovered are put to continued use in employment projects to increase income for refugees.

With the combined help of the Chinese government and the UNHCR, Indo-Chinese refugees have already been living in China for more than 20 years, and the vast majority are living a settled life, with fixed abode and employment. The solving of this problem in an appropriate manner has already become one model of success for solving the problems of refugees. The Chinese government’s acceptance, resettlement and help in regard to Indo-Chinese refugees has not only brought far-reaching benefits for Indo-Chinese refugees in China, but has at the same reduced the difficulties caused by the refugee problem in this region and indeed in the international community as a whole, and represents an

important contribution to the furthering of peace and development in the region and in the world in general.

Indo-Chinese refugees in China live together with Chinese citizens, and their children enjoy equal treatment to the children of Chinese citizens in all respects. Children in Indo-Chinese refugee families in China have full equality with Chinese citizens in aspects such as the education they receive, attending the same schools and the same classes.

The UNHCR in the past twenty years has constructed a number of primary education facilities in refugee resettlement areas, and with the vigorous support of the local governments in those areas, ensures that the children of Indo-Chinese refugees in China receive equal education.

(i) Programmes and services for abandoned children, including street children:

The problem of street children is a worldwide problem. Many factors, such as family breakdown, inappropriate education and economic hardship, bring about the phenomenon of street children. When street children leave their guardians, wandering about homeless on the streets, fundamental rights of life, such as their right to survival and to development, are difficult to guarantee effectively, so that they become a special disadvantaged group within society. As a signatory country to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Chinese government has always placed a high level of emphasis on work to help and protect street children, regarding such work as an important constituent of the state's efforts to protect minors, and as an important aspect of its crime-prevention work in respect of minors. Taking as a legal basis the *Law of the People's Republic of China regarding Protection of Minors* and the *Law of the People's Republic of China regarding the Prevention of Minors from Committing Crime*, China has upheld the principle that "children have priority", developing help and protection programmes for street children, to prevent street children from breaking the law and committing crime, and protecting the legal rights and interests of street children.

For many years, as the government department with responsibility of the help and protection of street children, the Ministry of Civil Affairs has put into effect the aim of "taking the people as the basis, alleviating the hardship of the people", assiduously carrying out its obligations. In implementing relief, protection and education of street children, and in safeguarding the legal rights and interests of such children, it has put in a considerable amount of strenuous and meticulous work. From 1992, the Ministry of Civil Affairs began an in-depth study of the work involved in the relief and protection of street children, directing regional integration work to explore practical new approaches and new avenues in protection and relief of street children. In 1995, the General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the General Office of the State Council stated in their *Circular on the Relaying of Opinions of the Central Committee for Comprehensive Management of Public Security in regard to Strengthening Management of the Migrant Population*: "Protective educational measures must be taken with regard to young people and children in society who are in situation of long-term vagrancy, are homeless, and who are deprived of normal living and studying conditions and guarantees of safety. In cities where there are relatively many street children, educational centres for the protection of street children may be set up on a pilot basis." Under such spiritual guidance, the Ministry of Civil Affairs further increased the level of its work to help and protect street children, raising funds from various different quarters, to subsidise the establishment of centres for the help and protection of street children in cities with relatively many street children. By the end of 2003, the Ministry of Civil Affairs had input a total of more than 20 million yuan of ministry-level lottery community fund money, and 100 million yuan of local counterpart funds, and had established 130 help and protection centres dedicated to providing emergency protection for street children. At the same time, the Ministry of Civil Affairs was able to benefit from the experience of international child help and protection work by working in collaboration with international organizations, and through the example of those international organizations, advanced the development of help and protection work for street children throughout the country. From 1992, the Ministry of Civil Affairs initiated a collaboration with UNICEF, exploring models of help and protection work for street children in a number of cities of different provinces, including: Siping (Jilin Province), Jiamusi (Heilongjiang Province), Shanghai, Hefei (Anhui Province), Zhengzhou (Henan

Province) and Changsha (Hunan Province). This initiative has been running for 13 years to date. From 1998, the Ministry of Civil Affairs initiated a collaboration with the UK Save the Children Fund, undertaking practical research in Kunming (Yunnan Province), Chengdu (Sichuan Province), Urumqi, Yili and Akesu (all in Xinjiang Weiwu'er Autonomous Region), and Zhengzhou (Henan Province). This initiative has been running for seven years to date. Through international cooperation, a series of highly innovative help concepts have been raised, such as street help, "quasi-families", "big house" and all-weather help points. These have extended the scope of help work, enriched the content of relief work, forged new methods of offering relief, and formed an initial work model for the help and protection of street children.

Since the promulgation and implementation of the *Measures for Administration of Public Relief for Vagrants and Beggars without Any Assured Living Source in Cities*, help and protection work for Chinese street children has entered a new period of opportunity for development. The Ministry of Civil Affairs proposed the establishment of new-style mechanism for help and protection work in respect of street children, to perfect the work goals of the policy statutes for the help and protection of street children, and has taken a range of effectual and important measures. Firstly, it has further increased the level of subsidy for the construction of organizations involved in the help and protection of street children. In 2004, the Ministry of Civil Affairs formulated the *Measures for the Subsidising of Educational Projects to Help Street Children*, with 30 million yuan being allotted from the ministry-level lottery welfare fund for use in subsidising the construction of institutions to protect and provide relief to street children. In the whole year, it subsidized a total of 84 projects. Through such subsidized projects, we have effectively pushed forward the separate establishment of child relief and protection centres and relief management stations, so strengthening the educational function of child relief and protection centres. Secondly, through promoting and sharing the advanced experience of work innovation in the various regions, we have sought to provide models which may be replicated on a broader scale. For the past year or more, Jiangsu province has, in accordance with relevant stipulations of the *Law on the Protection of Minors*, synthesised actual practice in the region, determining a management system in which the relevant departments work in a complementary way, and a means for providing protective relief for street children. Provinces and municipalities such as Guangdong and Beijing have established special children and young people's relief protection centres, and have changed the previous situation whereby street-child relief and protection centres and relief management stations used to form a single system; in this way, we have enhanced their child protection function. Provinces including Shandong and Hubei distributed a document formulating a development plan for the work of providing relief for street children, which envisaged the complete establishment within three years of an institution for the relief and protection of street children at prefectural-level cities in the whole province. The Guiyang Special Children's Family Relief and Protection Centre provides management and services in such aspects as subsistence, medical care and recovery, and education, helping the children to break free of their deprived situation and to fit into society, something which promotes the child's personal development. As a unit implementing an international cooperative project, Zhengzhou Street Children's Relief and Protection Centre has attempted to employ the ideals and methods of modern social work, establishing street-corner all-weather relief stations and "quasi-family" relief and protection models. It is exploring street-corner mobile relief, vocational training, family foster care, etc. The Changsha Street Children's Relief and Protection Centre has established a "big house" model of relief and protection. The Ministry of Civil Affairs has promptly spread these successful experiences, bringing about the rapid development of street children's relief and protection centres nationwide. Thirdly, we have begun to start the first-stage preliminary work in respect of formulating special policy regulations for the work of relief and protection of street children. In the response the actual situation, in which such a set of policy regulations is lacking, the Ministry of Civil Affairs and related departments coordinated to carry out a thoroughgoing survey study of actual problems existing in regard to the development of relief and protection of street children in China; this produced in a focused way a series of policy recommendations. Currently, the preparatory work of formulating special policy regulations is being systematically carried out.

In regard to the question of expenditure for the protection and relief of street children, the central treasury has arranged a certain amount of funds, paid by payment transfer method, to subsidise the

central and western regions. Other expenditure is assured through the budgets of the local governments' treasure departments, and the social lottery welfare fund also provides a certain amount of subsidies. At the same time, the support of various forces in society is playing an every more important role.

j. Juvenile justice and the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders.

The general method by which China determines and makes appropriations to the people's courts for the trial of cases is as follows: the various levels of government finance departments determine the budget according to certain criteria, on the basis of the numbers of each category of court case tried by courts at various levels, and then transfers expenses for the handling of cases to the courts in accordance with the budget. Of these expenses, the relevant costs for each criminal case involving the trial of minors by the people's courts are guaranteed.

Please also indicate the estimated expenses of the private sector, in particular for health and education.

Please see data at **a**, above

3. With reference to children deprived of a family environment and separated from parents, please provide disaggregated data (by gender, age groups, if possible ethnic groups, urban and rural areas) for the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 on the number of children:

- a. Separated from their parents;**
- b. Placed in institutions;**
- c. Placed with foster families; and**
- d. Adopted domestically or through inter-country adoptions.**

(a) In 2002, there were 54,549 children living in various types of welfare institution. In 2003, the figure was 59,733, whilst in 2004 it was 66,288. By 2004, nationwide there were 208 specialised children's welfare institutions, whilst nearly 600 general welfare institutions had established children's sections.

(b) The situation of children separated from their parents ("children left behind") The ACWF, in cooperation with the government, started a long-term activity to found "five-good" civilized families, widely publicizing both at national and local level the importance of the family and of family values, and calling for model families in which there is respect for the old and love for the young, gender equality, marital harmony, frugal housekeeping and unity with one's neighbours. Since world economic globalization and the development of the market economy in China, there has been a large increase in people leaving their town or village to look for industrial labouring work elsewhere, and this has created problems in regard to the psychology, health, education and protection of "children left behind" – children who are separated from their parents. In provinces, municipalities and regions where the number of workers migrating away is relatively concentrated, women's federations (e.g. Sichuan, Fujian, etc.) have developed some sample surveys with specific questions to address the problem, and have taken certain measures. For instance, women's federations, together with schools and communities, have jointly established what are termed "parent schools"; in parent schools in villages where a high concentration of workers have migrated away, they have required teachers to establish a system of regular liaison with surrogate carers, including family visits, telephone contact, etc. Parent schools strengthen the dissemination of knowledge to surrogate carers and temporary guardians, increasing the spread of knowledge about home teaching in the villages. The schools have set up special home student files, to strengthen help and education for "children left behind". Parent schools write letters to parents who have gone away to work, telling them of their responsibilities in respect of

protection and education of their children; in regard to the children of people serving sentences, women's federations have mobilized social forces to start up welfare institutions (Shaanxi, Fujian); for especially deprived children who have lost one or both parents, they have found "surrogate mothers" (Jilin), to care for the growth—both spiritual and material—of particularly deprived children; women's federations have also organised community home teaching volunteer forces, which make regular house-calls to supervise the studies of children from special social groups and to care for their well-being. Through the above measures, the question of care for the education and protection of particularly deprived children has been addressed, so easing the grief and spiritual damage caused by the loss of the child's parents.

(c) Please see Appendix 1: Basic Situation in China of Children Left Behind.

4. Please specify the number of children with disabilities, up to the age of 18, disaggregated by gender, age groups and, if possible, ethnic groups, urban and rural areas, covering the years 2002, 2003 and 2004:

- a. Living with their families;**
- b. Living in institutions;**
- c. Placed with foster care;**
- d. Attending regular schools;**
- e. Attending special schools; and**
- f. Not attending schools.**

China has a total of 60 million people with disabilities, among which disabled children of ages 0-17 number 11,696,700 (children of ages 0-14 numbering 9,490,670), accounting for 19.49 per cent of the total number of disabled. Disabled children may be divided by age-group as follows:

Age	0—2 yrs	3—5 yrs	6—8 yrs	9—11 yrs	12—14 yrs	15—17 yrs
Number of People (millions)	0.927	1.3048	1.9192	2.3521	2.9936	2.2000

Among disabled children, males and females account for 55.5 per cent and 44.5 per cent respectively, with a male-female gender ratio of 124.87∞ 100.00.

The proportion of disabled children in terms of ethnicity is: Han Chinese: 86.91 per cent; ethnic minorities: 13.09 per cent.

The urban/rural distribution of disabled children is: urban areas 18.35 per cent; rural areas 81.65 per cent.

With regard to the family situation of disabled children: those cared for by both parents or by one parent account for 89.19 per cent. Those cared for by grandparents or other relatives account for 10.65 per cent. Those cared for by others, or where the child itself is the head of the household, account for 0.16 per cent.

(Note: the above data are calculated on the basis of the 1987 sample survey of disabled people.)

With regard to the educational situation: currently, there are 549,000 children with visual, aural or mental disabilities receiving special education. There are 275,000 disabled children of school age who have not yet entered school.

5. Please provide disaggregated statistical data (by gender, age groups, if possible ethnic groups, urban and rural areas) covering the years 2002, 2003 and 2004:

- a. Rates of infant and child mortality;**

Year		2002	2003
Infant and child mortality %	National	29.2	25.5
	Urban	12.2	11.3
	Rural	33.1	28.7
Child mortality rate for children under 5 yrs %	National	34.9	29.9
	Urban	14.6	14.8
	Rural	39.6	33.4

b. Rates of immunization

Rates of child immunization, 2002-2004

	BCG		DTP		Polio		Measles		Hep B	
	Reported rate	Surveyed rate								
2002	97%	97.6%	98%	93.2%	98%	93.7%	98%	92.7%	96%	84.2%
2003	98%	97.9%	98%	93.3%	98%	94.2%	98%	93.1%	97%	89.4%
2004	99%		99%		99%		98%		99%	

c. Rates of malnutrition:

The situation of malnutrition rates among children, as shown by the 2002 survey on the situation of Chinese residents' nutrition and health:

Children under 5 years old: the effects of malnutrition mainly include slow child growth, low body-weight, and emaciation. This survey used the body height/weight reference values differentiated by sex and age, as recommended by the WHO/NCHS in 1977, as the standard for evaluation of child malnutrition.

This survey surveyed 15,851 children under 5 years old, 7026 in the cities (3683 males and 3343 females) and 8825 in the villages (4921 males and 9304 females).

The rate of children under 5 years old with slow growth was 14.3 per cent, with boys recording 14.8 per cent and girls 13.8 per cent, a difference of one percentage point. The rate of infants under 6 months with slow growth was the lowest (7.1 per cent), whilst it was highest in the 1-year-old group (18 per cent). The rate of children under 5 years with slow growth showed marked differences between urban and rural populations. The rate of children under 5 years with slow growth in villages was 17.3 per cent, 3.5 times that of cities (4.9 per cent). The more economically developed the region was, the lower the rate of children with slow growth.

In China, the rate of children under 5 years with low body-weight was 7.8 per cent, with no gender differences. However, the differences as between age-groups were relatively marked. The rate of infants under six months with low body-weight was the lowest (0.1 per cent), whilst at aged 2, it reached the highest rate (9.8 per cent). The rate of rural children under 5 years old with low body-weight (9.3 per cent) was markedly higher than that of urban children (3.1 per cent), the two showing a difference of around 6.2 percentage points. The more economically developed the region was, the lower the rate of children with low body-weight.

The rate of children under five suffering from emaciation was 2.5 per cent, with males at 2.6 per cent and females at 2.2 per cent. Those under 6 months were 1.9 per cent, whilst the one-year-old group had the highest rate of emaciation (3.7 per cent); after 3 years old, a relatively low level is maintained. The rate of rural children under five suffering from emaciation (2.7 per cent) was slightly higher than

for urban children (1.8 per cent). The emaciation rate for children in large cities was slightly less than for medium and small cities.

d. Children infected with and/or affected by HIV/AIDS;

Disaggregated statistical data for children infected with AIDS, 2002—2004, are as follows:

Year	Gender			
	Male	Female	No data	Total
2002	101	46	0	147
2003	219	107	4	330
2004	627	392	0	1019
Total	947	545	4	1496

Year	Age (years)														Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
2002	12	7	16	11	9	14	19	11	10	2	4	7	11	14	147
2003	16	43	30	31	24	21	28	34	40	21	8	9	11	14	330
2004	47	101	106	104	72	77	71	79	92	86	63	60	25	36	1019
Total	75	151	152	146	105	112	118	124	142	109	75	76	47	64	1496

Year	Ethnic group											Total
	Han	Uygur	Yi	Korean	Hui	Zhuang	Dai	Jingpo	Mongolian	Tibetan	Unknown	
2002	125	6	3	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	9	147
2003	287	10	0	1	2	3	1	2	0	1	23	330
2004	937	12	12	1	6	3	13	8	1	0	26	1019
Total	1349	28	15	2	9	6	16	11	1	1	58	1496

e. Adolescent health, including early pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), abortions, mental health and suicide, drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse

From October 2004 to January 2005, 13 provinces, municipalities under the direct control of the central government, and autonomous regions, including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangdong, Qinghai, Heilongjiang, Liaoning, Henan, Hubei, Sichuan, Jiangxi, Hainan and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region carried out an anonymous self-administered questionnaire survey of acts dangerous to health such as intentional and unintentional injury, and tobacco, alcohol and drug abuse among students aged 10 to 24 attending junior high school, senior high school and university. The questionnaire on acts harmful to health that was used was based on that of the Youth Risk Behavioural Surveillance System (YRBSS) of the United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, and the WHO's Global School-based Student Health Survey (GSHS), modified according to the actual situation in China.

For specifics of the survey, please see Attachment (2).

f. Percentage of health professionals working in the health care services for children.

In 2003, medical and healthcare institutions providing health care services for children totaled

3166, including obstetric and gynecological hospitals, children’s hospitals and women-and-children healthcare facilities (centres, clinics), involving a total of 218,522 healthcare professionals. The specific situation is as shown in the following table:

		Number of healthcare institutions	Number of healthcare professionals	
In the	Obstetric and gynecological hospitals	81	17267	2002, total
	Children’s hospitals	52	23465	
	Women-and-children healthcare facilities (centres, clinics)	3033	177820	
	Total	3166	218552	

number of obstetric and gynecological doctors was 145,621, whilst the total of paediatric doctors was 56,978.

6. With reference to child abuse, please provide disaggregated data (by age, gender, if possible ethnic groups, and types of violations reported) covering the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 on the:

a. Number of child abuse cases reported;

The Chinese government has consistently encouraged newspapers, magazines and other publishing units to assiduously carry out the relevant articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It has encouraged such mass media as newspapers and magazines to disseminate information and materials of benefit to children in respect of society and culture. For many years, newspapers and magazines in all regions have taken care to place a high degree on emphasis on the protection of children’s rights, in accordance with the various policies of the Chinese government to safeguard the healthy growth of children and young people. They have promptly reported a proportion of child abuse cases, in some cases actually doing investigative reports, which have both aroused the attention of society and led to interventions and judgments by the various levels of the people’s procuratorate and people’s court. With regard to children who have suffered abuse, some have been resettled and protected by the local governments, some have received relief from women and children’s social organizations and welfare departments, whilst some have received a variety of forms of spontaneous relief from the great mass of the people. Because newspapers and magazines enjoy the right to freedom of publication, the content of what they publish is decided by the publishers themselves, and the content does not need to be reported to the government; consequently, press management departments at various levels have no means to provide concrete statistics with regard to the publication of such content in newspapers and magazines.

b. Number and percentage of reports which have resulted in either a court decision or other types of follow-up

In 2002, 2003 and 2004, the people’s courts gave decisions on 559, 459, and 317 abuse cases respectively. The number of offenders sentenced in 2002 was 159 people; in 2003 it was 137 people, whilst in 2004 it was 107 people.

It should be explained that in the Chinese criminal justice regulations, the victims of crimes of abuse, in addition to minors, also include adult family members, such as elderly relatives, spouses, etc. Therefore, the figures for the above cases include figures for crimes of abuse committed against adults.

c. Number and proportion of victims that have received counselling and assistance in recovery.

7. With reference to the right to education, please provide disaggregated statistical data (by gender, age groups, urban and rural areas, ethnic minorities and immigrant children) covering the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 in percentage of the relevant age group on the:

- a. Rates of literacy, below and over 18 years;
- b. Rate of enrolment in pre-primary schools, primary schools and in secondary schools;
- c. Percentage of children completing primary and secondary education;
- d. Number and percentage of drop-outs, repetition and retention;
- e. Number of children in private schools; and
- f. Ratio of teacher per children and number of children per class.

(a) Relevant quotas for pre-primary education

	Year: 2002	2003	2004
1. Rate of enrollment in kindergarten (class) (%)	36.8	37.4	40.75
2. Number of children in privately-run kindergartens (millions)	4.0052	4.8023	5.8411
3. Student-to-teacher ratio	35.64:1	32.70:1	31.85:1
Cities	19.28:1	18.86:1	18.35:1
County towns	27.52:1	26.04:1	26.20:1
Countryside	83.31:1	73.66:1	67.04:1

(b) Quotas for primary school

	Year: 2002	2003	2004
1. Rate of enrolment %	98.58	98.65	98.95
Males	98.62	98.68	98.97
Females	98.53	98.61	98.93
2. Drop-out rate %	0.15	0.34	0.59
3. Repetition rate %	0.32	0.31	0.32
4. Number of students in privately-run schools (millions)	2.2214	2.7493	3.2832
5. Student-to-teacher ratio	21.01:1	20.5:1	21.19:1
Cities	19.02:1	19.30:1	19.54:1
County towns	19.85:1	19.57:1	19.33:1
Countryside	21.90:1	21.09:1	20.28:1
6. Class size (people)	34.48	34.75	35.11
Cities	43.63	44.68	45.69
County towns	43.15	43.74	45.1
Countryside	31.31	31.28	31.39

(c) Relevant quotas for junior high school

	2002 ¶	2003 ¶	2004 ¶
1. Rate of enrolment¶ %¶	90	92.7	94.1
2. Drop-out rate¶ %¶	3.05	2.84	2.49
3. Repetition rate¶ %¶	0.18	0.16	0.17
4. Number of students in privately-run schools (millions)	2.0512	2.5885	3.1718
5. Student-to-teacher ratio	19.25:1	19.13:1	20.41:1
Cities	16.77:1	16.59:1	16.26:1
County towns	19.46:1	19.31:1	18.94:1
Countryside	20.22:1	20.09:1	19.44:1
6. Class size (people)	56.68	56.82	56.59
Cities	51.51	51.3	51.1
County towns	57.99	58.23	57.9
Countryside	57.75	58.03	57.85

(d) Relevant quotas for senior high school

	Year: 2002	2003	2004
1. Rate of enrolment¶ %¶	42.8	43.8	48.1
2. Number of students in privately-run schools (millions)	1.4784	2.2075	2.9468
3. Student-to-teacher ratio	17.8:1	18.35:1	18.65:1
Cities	16.84:1	17.42:1	17.81:1
County towns	18.50:1	19.03:1	19.24:1
Countryside	17.77:1	18.40:1	18.79:1
4. Class size (people)	57.66	57.11	58.26
Cities	54	52.45	54.39
County towns	60.33	60.37	61.08
Countryside	57.79	58.91	58.91

With regard to illiteracy rates, according to statistical data from the fifth national general census, conducted in 2000:

The number of illiterate people over 15 years of age is 86 million, and the adult illiteracy rate is 9.08 per cent. Furthermore, the main group which China targets for the elimination of illiteracy—young and able-bodied illiterate people (15-50 years of age)—has a total of 23 million, the illiteracy rate among the young and able-bodied being 4.8 per cent.

8. Please provide disaggregated statistical data (including by gender, age and type of crime) covering the years 2002, 2003 and 2004, in particular on the number of:

General situation regarding adolescent crime, 2000-2003

Year	Total no. of people	Divided by age		Proportion of criminal acts accounted for by adolescent crime
		Under 18	18-25 yrs	
2000	220,981	41,709	179,272	34.5
2001	253,465	49,883	203,582	34.0
2002	217,907	50,030	167,879	31.0
2003	231,715	58,870	172,845	31.2

a. Persons below eighteen, who have allegedly committed a crime, reported to the police;

b. Persons below eighteen who have been charged with a crime and of them those who are sentenced, and the type of punishment or sanctions related to offences including length of deprivation of liberty;

g. Percentage of recidivism cases.

(a) Situation of Chinese investigative bodies

Table of Statistics Showing Cases of Crimes Committed by Minors Dealt with by Chinese Investigative Bodies in 2002, 2003 and 2004

□ unit: persons□

		Total	Year: 2002	2003	2004
Approved arrests		218657	61899	69780	86978
Prosecutions		208913	57374	66077	85462
Nature of prosecution	Cases involving threats to national security	2	1	1	0
	Cases involving threats to public security	3321	928	1035	1358
	Cases involving damage to the order of the market economy	217	65	60	92
	Cases involving violation of personal or democratic rights	35290	9912	11589	13789
	Cases involving harm to the social administrative order	12343	3046	3630	5667
	Cases involving infringements upon property	157731	43420	49759	64552

□ b□ Chinese courts

In 2002, Chinese courts sentenced 50,048 juvenile offenders, of which 1438 were female and 48,610 were male. Those aged 14-16 totalled 7661, whilst those of 16-18 totalled 42387. There were 606 re-offenders.

In 2003, courts nationwide sentenced 58,870 juvenile offenders, of which 1792 were female and 57,078 were male. Those aged 14-16 totalled 8885, whilst those of 16-18 totalled 49,985. There were 827 re-offenders.

In 2004, courts nationwide sentenced 70,086 juvenile offenders, of which 1994 were female and 57,078 were male. Those aged 14-16 totalled 8885, whilst those of 16-18 totalled 68,092. There were 1134 re-offenders.

For the above three years, the top five crimes were in all cases: robbery, burglary, intentional harm, rape, and fights or general troublemaking.

In China, the types of punishment given to juvenile criminals are similar to those for adults, but when punishment is given, it must according to the law be a lighter or more reduced punishment than

for an adult committing the same crime. In 2002, 13,666 juvenile offenders were exempted from criminal punishment and were instead sentenced to such non-custodial forms of punishment as fines, surveillance, and probation; those given a custodial sentence amounted to 36,382. In 2003, 16,950 juvenile offenders were exempted from criminal punishment and were sentenced to non-custodial punishments including fines, surveillance, and probation; those given a custodial sentence amounted to 41,920. In 2004, 21,190 juvenile offenders were exempted from criminal punishment and were sentenced to non-custodial punishments including fines, surveillance, and probation; those given a custodial sentence amounted to 48,896.

c. Detention facilities for persons below eighteen in conflict with the law and their capacity;

d. Persons below eighteen detained in these facilities and persons below eighteen detained in adult facilities;

e. Person below eighteen kept in pre-trial detention and the average length of their detention;

f. Reported cases of abuse and maltreatment of persons below eighteen occurred during their arrest and detention

In China, when juvenile offenders are sentenced by the People's Court and a custodial sentence is given, then in all cases the punishment is carried out by a juvenile reform institution, with the exception of those serving a fixed prison term with less than one year of their sentence remaining, whose punishment is carried out by a detention centre. By the end of 2002, there were a total of 33 juvenile reform centres nationwide, with a total of 16,479 juvenile offenders locked up. By the end of 2003, there were 33 juvenile reform centres with 19,990 juvenile offenders locked up. By the end of 2004, there were 30 juvenile reform centres nationwide, with 21,975 juvenile offenders locked up, accounting for 1.4 per cent of the total national prison population.

9. With reference to special protection measures, please provide statistical data (including by gender, age, if possible ethnic group, urban and rural areas) for the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 on the number of children:

- a. Involved in sexual exploitation, including prostitution, pornography and trafficking and the number of children provided with access to recovery and other assistance;**
- b. Involved in substance abuse and the number of children who received treatment and recovery assistance;**
- c. Involved in child labour;**
- d. Unaccompanied asylum-seeking, refugee and displaced children.**

(1) Combating the abduction and trafficking of children

The abduction and trafficking of women and children is a criminal act constituting a serious violation of the rights and interests of women and children. China places great importance on combating criminal activity involving the abduction and trafficking of women and children. Firstly, it has formulated and implemented a series of legal and policy measures to counter such activities. The revised *Criminal Law* of 1997 amended and added the crimes of abduction and trafficking of women and children, purchase of abducted and trafficked women and children, group obstruction of the rescue of abducted and trafficked women and children, dereliction of duty in regard to the rescue of abducted and trafficked women and children, and use of one's position to obstruct rescue work; it has increased

responsibilities for administration and sentencing and has raised the standards for measurement of penalties. Secondly, it has strengthened responsibilities for the work of “preventing abduction” and “combating abduction”. The Ministry of Public Security is specifically responsible for investigation and cracking of abduction cases, whilst the Ministry of Justice and ACWF are responsible for providing women with legal aid. The National Working Committee for Women and Children, under the State Council, is responsible for coordinating the work of “preventing abduction” and “combating abduction”, whilst other NGOs are responsible for social education drives to publicise the ideas of “preventing abduction” and “combating abduction”. Thirdly, China has launched education drives to publicise the laws against abduction and trafficking of women and children, and has striven hard to raise the capabilities and awareness of key groups such as adolescents, the migrant population and parents of children in regard to “preventing abduction”; it has built up an atmosphere in which the whole of society participates together in “preventing abduction” and “combating abduction”. Fourthly, it has strengthened international cooperation. By March 2005, China had signed extradition treaties with 23 countries, and had signed criminal justice assistance treaties with 36 countries. In October 2003, the Chinese government signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region. Chinese public security bodies signed 72 police cooperation agreements with police departments in 41 countries. Fifthly, China has achieved successes in combating the crimes of abduction and trafficking. The Ministry of Public Security strengthened its direction and control in respect of investigating and cracking typical large-scale cases involving abduction and trafficking nationwide, and in accordance with the situation in each area, promptly organised and launched special anti-trafficking activities at regional level. From 2001 to October 2004, national public security bodies had cracked 22,645 cases of trafficking in women and children, and had apprehended 25,932 criminal elements, rescuing 50,248 trafficked women and children.

For specifics of the relevant situation, please refer to: China’s 2004 *Country Report on Countering Trafficking: The Problem of Women and Children*.

(2) The situation regarding the prohibition of child labour

In 1998 and 2002, China ratified and acceded to the International Labour Organisation’s *Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment* and *Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour*. In its legal regulations, including the *Labour Law*, *Law on the Protection of Minors*, and *Regulations Prohibiting Child Labour*, as well as in its *National Programme of Action for Child Development in China (2001-2010)*, China has clearly stipulated that any unit or individual whatsoever is prohibited from procuring and employing minors under the age of 16 years. All levels of government and the relevant departments give full importance to law-enforcement work regarding the prohibition of child labour, and have fully developed the role played by labour inspection departments in respect of tracking down and dealing with the illegal use of child labour. China has a total of 3200 labour protection and inspection bodies nationwide, with 43,000 inspectors. Since 2001, Chinese labour and social protection departments have joined up each year with relevant departments nationwide to launch inspections to prohibit the use of child labour, or to send joint working groups deep into the relevant areas to carry out surveys, to analyse the causes, and to formulate alleviation measures.

(3) Help and protection of displaced children

Displaced children are a special vulnerable group of children. At present, China has 150,000 cases of displaced children every year. Of these, males account for 70 per cent and females 30 per cent. The help, protection and education of these children is an important constituent part of the work of child protection. From 1992, China began to engage in research on policies to solve the problem of displaced children, and the relevant national departments formulated announced a series of policies. The *National Programme of Action for Child Development in China (2001-2010)* clearly points out that: “we must strengthen the construction and management of help and protection centres for displaced children. We must establish different forms of institution for the housing and education of displaced children, to

reduce the number of such children and the rate of re-displacement.” The Ministry of Civil Affairs in recent years has strengthened its efforts in this regard. In 2004, it arranged 30 million yuan from social welfare funds, for use in the construction of 84 institutions for the help and protection of displaced children. Currently there are 130 help and protection centres for displaced children nationally. Such centres have strengthened their educational function, and have launched various forms of help including family foster care, vocational training, all-weather relief centres and street-corner relief. At present, we are engaged in the drafting of *Stipulations on the Management of Relief for Displaced Children*.

B. General Measures of Implementation

1. The Committee would appreciate to receive detailed information on activities meant to implement recommendations contained in the Committee's previous concluding observations (CRC/C/15/Add.56 of 7 June 1996 on mainland China, and CRC/C/15/Add.63 of 30 October 1996 with respect to Hong Kong) on the initial reports of China (CRC/C/11/Add.7) and Hong Kong (CRC/C/11/Add.9), which have not yet been fully implemented.

With regard to mainland China, the Committee would like information related to the implementation of its concluding observations regarding the establishment of a national human rights institution (para. 26), the strengthening of data collection mechanisms (para. 28), the elimination of rural and urban disparities through budgetary allocations (para. 31), and ensuring Tibetan children are guaranteed full opportunities to develop knowledge about their own language and culture (para. 40). Please explain the obstacles to implementation and how the State party envisages overcoming them.

With regard to the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong, the Committee would like to inquire whether the State party has changed, or foresees a change in its position with regard to the non-implementation of the Committee's concluding observations on the development of a comprehensive child policy (para. 20), the establishment of an independent monitoring mechanism (para. 20) and the coordination of policies on child abuse (para. 22).

(a) With regard to the establishment of a national human rights institution

China considers that the establishment of a national human rights institution is one of the effective measures for advancing and protecting the human rights of this country's people. The *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action* has given full affirmation to the important role of national human rights institutions, and many countries in the world have established their own national human rights institution.

In China, the task of advancing and protecting human rights is shouldered by a number of departments. The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress has set up a correspondence and visitations office, which receives and instructs relevant government departments on looking into and dealing with complaint letters from people nationwide. At all levels of people's congress, there are also committees set up which are responsible for the internal politics and judicial aspects of matters pertaining to human rights. At each level of government, there are correspondence and visitations offices set up to receive and deal with documents relating to human rights accusations. China has also established inspection bodies to inspect government officials. The above institutions are all equipped with reporting centres. China also has a State Ethnic Affairs Commission, which is specifically charged with protecting and advancing the human rights of ethnic minorities. The work is differently divided between these various institutions, but all of them have the function of protecting and advancing human rights and basic freedoms. They have launched education and publicity activities about the legal system, have received letters and visits from the broad mass of the people, investigated questions of human rights violations, overseen and urged government departments to conduct their affairs according to the law, and have made a positive contribution to safeguarding national unity and protecting the rights and interests of the people. Therefore, we believe that in setting up national institutions, what is important is not the form, but whether they can effectively carry out their function of inspection, so as to earnestly advance and protect human rights.

(b) With regard to ensuring that Tibetan children have full opportunities to gain a knowledge of their language and culture

All ethnic minorities in China have the freedom and right to use and develop their own language and script. At present, China has 55 ethnic minority groups. Apart from the Huis and Manchus, who use Chinese language and script, the other 53 ethnic minorities all have their own language, whilst 21 minorities have their own script.

Article 2 of the *Law on Compulsory Education in the People's Republic of China* stipulates that: schools whose intake is composed principally of ethnic minority students may use a language common to the ethnic minority for teaching. Tibet Autonomous Region in both 1987 and 1988 promulgated and implemented *Some (Pilot) Stipulations regarding the Study, Use and Development of Tibetan Language and Script in the Tibet Autonomous Region* (revised in 2002 as *Stipulations regarding the Study, Use and Development of Tibetan Language and Script in the Tibet Autonomous Region*) and *Implementation Guidelines for Some (Pilot) Stipulations regarding the Study, Use and Development of Tibetan Language and Script in the Tibet Autonomous Region*. In these, it was clearly stipulated that in Tibet Autonomous Region, Tibetan and Chinese languages and scripts are given equal importance, with Tibetan as the main language and script, and that work on the study, use and development of Tibetan language and script would be brought into the framework of the legal system.

The education system in Tibet Autonomous Region has introduced bilingual education with classes principally delivered in Tibetan, and has translated and published Tibetan versions of teaching materials for all curricula from primary school through to senior high school. In the setting up of primary and secondary curricula, from primary through to senior high school, Tibetan language and script are compulsory courses, and at each level of examinations to move up through the school system, Tibetan language and script are exam subjects, with the grades being recorded in the overall score. In regard to the medium of instruction, the majority of primary schools use Tibetan for the delivery of classes, whilst in the case of junior high schools, there are around one half using Tibetan or a bilingual mode of teaching. Tibetan forms the basis for countering illiteracy in the whole autonomous region. Currently, the number of people in Tibet who have mastered the use of Tibetan language and script has increased from the 50,000 of 50 years ago to more than 2 million. The development of Tibetan language and script has thus achieved historic results.

2. Please provide information on cases, if any, where the Convention has been directly invoked in domestic courts in mainland China or the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, and if so, please provide examples of such cases.

Having been ratified by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, the Convention has already become legally effective in China, becoming a constituent part of the sources of Chinese law. In regard to crimes covered by the convention, administrative and judicial measures may be adopted in accordance with Chinese national law, involving combating and prevention of illegal and criminal acts, and protection and help of the victims.

3. Please provide updated information on the current status of implementation of the National Children's Development Programme (2001-2010) for mainland China.

4. Please provide updated information on efforts to develop a National Plan of Action or similar child policy in the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau.

Please refer to: *Country Report on the Situation of Child Development in China, 2005*.

5. Please explain whether there are any plans to establish a national human rights institution with a specific mandate on children's rights in conformity with the Committee's General Comment no. 2 in mainland China or either of the Special Administrative Regions. With regard to the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong, please provide additional information on the specific mandate of the Ombudsman and the Equal Opportunities Commission as related to children and the extent to which children may file a complaint with these bodies.

Please see section 1(a) of this part.

6. Please provide updated information on the dissemination of the Convention and the State party report and on efforts made to provide training, awareness on the Convention and on human rights in general, to children, parents, teachers, social workers and other professionals working with and for children in all parts of the State party.

(a) Stressing family education

Family education is the traditional domain of women. Women's organizations have made use of an extensive work network that reaches both urban and rural areas, to disseminate related knowledge to the broad mass of parents, including such legal and national initiatives as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the *Law on the Protection of Minors* and the *National Programme of Action for Child Development in China*, so directing and promoting family education, actively exploring and constructing a "three-in-one" educational network that encompasses school, family and society. From 2004 until the present, the ACWF has also joined forces with the relevant government departments to promote activities in order to publicise family education, to help parents to renew their conception of family education. They uphold the principle of "putting the person first", which may essentially be summed up in three "person-oriented" points, namely: a child is a person, and as a person, he or she should be treated equally and democratically; a child is a person in the process of growing and developing, and thus should be educated in a scientific manner according to the rules of his or her physical and psychological development; a child is a person who will ultimately become an independent member of society, and thus should be nurtured and taught how to function according to the standards of society, with stronger direction as to the child's ways of thinking and morals. At the same time, the ACWF has sought the widespread participation of the media and society as a whole, to create an ideological and cultural environment that is beneficial to the healthy growth of young people.

(b) Dissemination of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

(1) Books

In order to satisfy the spiritual-cultural needs of the great mass of children, as well as the needs of specialists in child-related work, China's 30 or more children's publishing houses each year publish more than 7000 books, constituting a yearly output of around 520 million copies. Educational, cultural, youth and women's departments and social organizations across the country publish around 50 newspapers and 150 serials for youngsters and children, the output of serials being around 360 million copies. These books, newspapers and serials, together with some audio-visual and electronic publications, provide reading for children and information for parents, teachers and social workers, as well as specialists in child-related work, playing an important role in enhancing overall awareness of the Convention and of human rights.

(2) China National Radio's news programmes, feature programmes and children's programmes have many times focused on the Convention of the Rights of the Child, in combination with the *Law on the Protection of Minors*, producing and broadcasting a large number of programmes relating to the rights of children, including the right to survival, the right to development, the right to protection and the right to participation. The well-known children's programme *Little Horn* explains the important content of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to its young listeners every day through a variety

of forms including fairytales, stories, dramas and children's feature programmes. At the same time, it provides these young listeners with a large number of opportunities to participate in the broadcast, such as the story serials *Mum and Dad Aren't At Home* and *A Tale of Four Little Friends*, providing children with knowledge about self-protection and learning to give help and play an active part in the building of the family. In addition, a set of "voice of China" feature programmes including *China Quality Report*, *Law Online*, *Viewpoint* and *Moral Concern*, have all in their broadcasts used such methods as inviting specialists, external interviews and link-ups, to produce and broadcast a range of programmes such as *Speaking of Toys* (a discussion of child protection), *Child Development and Children's Rights* (Zhang Liya, project officer at UNICEF's China office, discussed the Convention on the Rights of the Child) and *Anti-drugs Day Special Feature* (which linked up with Communist Youth League provincial committees in Guangdong and Yunnan to discuss anti-drugs issues with adolescents).

(2) The various channels of China Central Television (CCTV) have made a substantial number of reports to publicise the Convention on the Rights of the Child, through a variety of different forms. Since a children's channel was established, it has consistently aimed to "respect children and to reflect children's inner world through children's eyes", devoting itself to serving Chinese children and young people.

(3) The publicizing of the Convention at CCTV's Youth and Children Centre. Since the Chinese government formally signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child in August 1990, the Convention has increasingly become a guide for action in regard to the protection of children's rights and interests, and advancing child development. CCTV's Youth and Children Centre, as an important force for publicity and education in China, is concerned for children's growth and development: it seeks to further promote the implementation of the Convention in China, to more fully and deeply protect the rights of every child, and thus to help children each recognise their own personal rights and consciously safeguard them. In recent years, CCTV's Youth and Children Centre has initiated the following tasks:

Firstly, the production and broadcasting of programmes to disseminate knowledge about the Convention. Starting from 24 July 2001, CCTV Youth and Children Centre's *Children of the East* programme team participated in the "multi-step children's rights training class", a publicity report lasting half a year and jointly organised by the Song Qingling Foundation and UNICEF. This training class invited the participation of 28 children from nine provinces and municipalities including Beijing, Shanghai, Zhengzhou, Jiangsu and Guangxi, with different experiences, from different families of different age-groups and of different cultural levels. These included different categories of children and young people, among them blind children, deaf children, displaced children, migrant children, and foster children, who produced for themselves a set of materials about the Convention, by which they could publicise children's rights to others of their own age-group and to their parents, so that through training, it could be ensured that children basically grasped the main contents of the Convention. CCTV's Youth and Children Centre also produced and broadcast a series of children's television programmes, including *Children's Rights for Children* (a series), *Using the "Convention on the Rights of the Child" to Safeguard Your Rights*, and *Safeguarding the Rights of Children in Impoverished Areas*.

Secondly, respecting children's rights of participation, and promoting children's participation in the media. UNICEF has designated the second Sunday in December each year as International Children's Day of Broadcasting, the aims of which are to guarantee children's right to participation, to let children express the child's perspective, and to show the talents of children through complete involvement in media production, in particular the production of children's TV programmes. CCTV's Youth and Children Centre has participated in producing the programmes for International Children's Day of Broadcasting from 2001 to the present, and at the same time has also allowed more children to be involved in programme production, thus conveying the television ideals of children. In 2001, in collaboration with the school television station of a normal primary school in Beijing, it invited three young reporters as representatives of their 500 or more school classmates, to visit CCTV and to produce the programme that they wished to see. In October 2001, the first nationally promoted children's news programme, *Children's Workroom*, was a children's programme which followed the TV production ideal of children participating in the media; under the direction of adults, children took part in all aspects of the production process, opening up a new window in children's television broadcasting.

Thirdly, showing loving care for children, and expressing the viewpoints and opinions of children. On 26 October 2003, in accordance with the Global Report on Aids issued by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the , in cooperation with units including UNICEF and Chinese Youth Publishing House, the Youth and Children Centre jointly produced a 30 minute programme about loving and caring for AIDS orphans. Entitled *Red Silk Band for the Heart of a Child*, it sought to let children understand the dangers of disease, and to bring spiritual consolation to those children who had lost their parents to AIDS. At the Seventh East Asia and Pacific Ministerial Consultation on Children (Siem Reap, 23-25 March 2005), they organised and produced a film called *Opinions of Children from China on the Development of Society*, demonstrating the opinions of Chinese children on social development.

7. Please indicate the issues affecting children that the State party considers to be priorities requiring the most urgent attention with regard to the implementation of the Convention.

(a) The problem of migrant children

The problem of migrant children is a problem that from now on requires key attention and solutions. With the acceleration of the development of China's market economy and the process of urbanization, in recent years, China's rural population has poured into the cities in large numbers, and the numbers of this migrant population are increasing drastically. According to data from China's fifth general population census, the figure for China's migrant population has exceeded 100 million, among which migrants under 18 comprise 19,820,000. According to the estimates of the competent departments, in 2005 the figure for the migrant population will reach 130 million, and in 2010 it will approach 160 million. With the increase in the figures for the migrant population, the problems faced are becoming daily more pronounced. From 2002 to 2003, the Office of the National Working Committee for Women and Children of the State Council together with the China Children's Centre cooperated in launching a "Survey on the situation of migrant children in nine cities in China", focused on nine cities including Beijing, Shenzhen, Wuhan and Chengdu. The results of the survey showed that there remained a number of unsolved problems regarding children within the migrant population, including aspects such as the protection of their rights, healthcare, family planning, and compulsory education.

The results of the survey showed that the infant mortality rate for pregnant women, infants and children under 5 years of age in the migrant population was in all cases markedly higher than for the fixed population, showing a discrepancy of 1.4 to 3.6 fold. In particular in the migrant populations of Shenzhen and Shanghai, the mortality rate for pregnant women is 54.9 to 199.6 per 100,000, which is 1.7 to 6 times as much as the urban mortality rate of 33.1 per 100,000 for pregnant women inspected nationally, and is also higher than the national average mortality rate for pregnant women, which is 50.3 per 100,000. In Suzhou municipality, from 1994 to 1999, the tetanus incidence rate in newborn babies among the migrant population was 38 times that of children in the fixed population, whilst in children from the migrant population, the incidence rates for diseases and conditions such as anaemia, rickets and medium to severe malnutrition were all markedly higher than children from the fixed population living in the same place. For instance, in children from the migrant population living in Zhongshan municipality, the incidence rates for low body-weight and slow growth were 18.2 per cent and 26.5 per cent, higher even than the 2000 national rural incidence rates for low body-weight and slow growth, which were 13 per cent and 22 per cent respectively. Many migrant children are unable to have normal planned immunisations, and there are low rates for the possession of immunisation cards and certificates, as well as a low rate of planned immunisation.

The basic living conditions of migrant children in the cities are also relatively lacking. The survey found that almost 90 per cent of migrant children's families in cities were living in rented accommodation, whilst 79 per cent of children in migrant families had no room of their own. 60 per cent of families had no refrigerator, and 63 per cent had no washing machine.

The proportion of migrant children aged 3 to 6 going to a nursery was 60.7 per cent, lower than the rate for fixed urban children; among 6-year-olds, 46.9 per cent had not received any school education. The rate of school attendance for migrant children at the compulsory education stage was 90 per cent,

with a dropout rate of 9.4 per cent. The percentage of children aged 6 who had not yet started school on time reached as high as 46.9 per cent. In addition, the problem of child labour among those children not at school was relatively pronounced: among migrant children of age 12 to 14 who had dropped out of school, 60 per cent had already started working. The percentage of migrant children aged 12-16 who engaged in paid labour on a daily basis was 5.5 per cent.

Therefore, the problem of migrant children should arouse a high level of concern in the relevant departments and in all sectors of society. The *National Programme of Action for Child Development in China (2001-2010)* proposes concrete target requirements and strategic measures in regard to the problems of migrant children going to school and women and children's healthcare. At present, the following counter-measures need to be adopted to solve the problems of the migrant population, in particular issues of women and children:

Firstly, through publicity and training, we must raise understanding of the migrant population both in society at large and in all levels of government. At present, in society and in some departments, there still exists a certain degree of erroneous understanding regarding the migrant population. Some reports about the migrant population have frequently seen the use of certain discriminatory expressions, such as: "Such and such a district carried a blanket rooting-out of migrant people", and "Such and such a place has a special plan to bring the migrant population to order". Moreover, certain departments, in their management, have simply lumped together the migrant population as an object to be controlled, even as an object to be provided for or sent away. To judge from the particular departments involved in managing the situation, the migrant population is for the most part managed by combined social and public order management offices or by public security departments, and it seems that as soon as one mentions the problem of the migrant population, it must inevitably be accompanied by questions of social public order. Through training and publicity, we will reverse this type of understanding, carrying out training relating to the Convention on the Rights of the Child for personnel in the relevant departments, teachers and children. We will distribute publicity materials, guides to urban life for the migrant population, and posters, to train people that they must correctly understand the positive significance of the migrant population to economic and social development, and that they must respect and safeguard the legal rights and interests of the migrant population, so creating a social atmosphere in which there is equal treatment for the migrant population, and in which they are shown concern and support.

Secondly, government leaders, with the coordination of departments, have formulated a cross-departmental action plan. The management of the migrant population involves many departments, such as those dealing with public security, education, health, family planning, judiciary, civil affairs, finance and women's federations, and each department must at the same time as systematically managing, increase lateral links and communication, to systematically form an effective management network. They must give full play to the management and service functions of grass-roots communities, taking advantage of street and residence committees to understand the grass-roots situation and grasp information about the movement of people, thus incorporating into community management the information, service and concrete management tasks relating to migrant children's movements.

Thirdly, there is the formulation of a policy regarding the protection of migrant children's rights. Education departments have announced a document relating to solving problems of migrant children's access to compulsory education, and have systematically lowered the targets for temporary student fees, engaging in standardization and support for private schools for migrant children. The Ministry of Health has strengthened its systematic management in respect of vaccinations and healthcare for migrant children.

Fourthly, we must further reform the existing household registration system, to eliminate malpractices brought about by "dualistic" management. China employs a household registration and management system in regard to its population, and the nationally formulated policies, financial investment and social protection are all by nature based on the idea of dependency, since they "take the household registration as the standard". Although the migrant population may enter the cities, the so-called "separation between individual and household" that occurs in their case means that some policies and measures cannot be applied in respect of these migrant people. It is necessary to loosen controls on the availability of household registration for migrant people in the cities to which they have

migrated, and at the same time to systematically change the management function of the household registration system, gradually making a transition from a management function to a service function, whilst striving to raise consciousness of quality of services.

Fifthly, there is the task of bringing children under 16 years of age within the scope of registration, and bringing management of the migrant population into statistical assessments of all departments. According to statistics, those in the migrant population who have arranged temporary household registration only account for 50 per cent of those who should have registered. The large number of unregistered migrant people has brought a number of inconveniences and difficulties for the management of cities. Therefore, we should raise the registration rate of migrants and bring migrants under 16 years of age within the scope of management of the registration, so that they are incorporated into the statistical information for the urban population; further, we should bring the work of protecting education, health, and rights and interests of women and children within the work responsibilities of the government. We need to step up the pace of constructing a computer management system for population information, to bring the situation of migrant people in regard to family planning, death, disease and healthcare, and education within the scope of registration assessment.

Sixthly, we must develop fully to the role of the community in providing services for the migrant population. Management of the migrant population must be regarded as an important function of community management, and we have brought it within the scope of assessment of community work, providing many types of services for migrant people within a community. For example: opening up urban residents' schools in the community, and so through lectures and training raising the standard of the parents of migrant children; distributing publicity leaflets to migrant people, to help them grasp relevant knowledge; and providing opportunities for migrant children to take part in cultural and leisure activities, to give them a richer cultural and leisure life, etc.

PART II

Please provide the Committee with copies of the text of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in all official languages or the State party as well as in other languages or dialects, when available. If possible, please submit these texts in electronic form.

Please see the attached electronic version

PART III

Under this section, the State party is to briefly (3 pages maximum) up-date the information provided in its report with regard to:

- **New bills or enacted legislation;**
- **New institutions;**
- **Newly implemented policies;**
- **Newly implemented programmes and projects and their scope.**

(a) Educational aspects:

In 2003, the State Council promulgated the *Decision of the State Council on Further Strengthening the Education Work in Rural Areas*, which took rural education as the very most important task in regard to education. It publicized a policy of newly-increased educational funds mainly for use in the countryside, increasing the level of support for compulsory education in impoverished areas in the middle and western parts of China and for school attendance by students from poor families; it has thus been making every effort to further the balanced development of compulsory education. According to statistics, the total national cost of compulsory education in rural areas for 2003 was 136.5 billion yuan, of which allocations from the fiscal budget accounted for 109.4 billion yuan; the budgetary allocations had seen a one-fold increase since 1999, constituting as much as 80 per cent of the overall fiscal input into rural compulsory education for that year, an increase of 18 percentage points on 1999. In 2004, the special funds arranged by the central treasury for use in rural compulsory education exceeded 10 billion yuan, an increase of 72 per cent on 2003.

In order to accelerate the general universal spread of nine-years compulsory education in rural areas in the western region, and to reduce the differences in compulsory education as between different areas, the state launched the implementation of a “Combat Plan for the ‘Two Basics’ in the Western Region”. In accordance with the requirements of the plan, by 2007 the western region must, like the rest of the country, realise the target of universally spreading nine years’ compulsory education. The central government will input 10 billion yuan within 4 years, with the purpose of building or rebuilding and expanding a whole batch of rural boarding schools, to solve the problem of the study and living conditions of newly increased students.

The Chinese government places high emphasis on safeguarding rural students from poor areas receiving compulsory education, and all levels of government, both central and local, have established a system of sponsorship funds for poor students to receive compulsory education. These reduce or remit the costs of study for students from families in economic hardship, as well as subsidizing living costs for students who are boarders. In 2001, the state began to provide free textbooks for secondary and primary school students from rural families in economic hardship, through funds arranged by the central treasury. For the last few years, these funds have increased year on year, allowing a large number of poor students at the compulsory education stage to enjoy free textbooks. In 2005, Premier Wen Jiabao made clear in a report on the work of government at the Third Session of the Tenth National People’s Congress that “from this year, we shall exempt students from poor families at the compulsory schooling stage in villages in key counties specified for poverty alleviation by the state from paying schoolbook fees and sundry fees, and will subsidise the living costs of those students who are boarders. By 2007, we will implement this policy universally throughout the countryside nationwide, so allowing all children of poor families to be able to go to school and study, and to finish their compulsory education.” In 2005, the central government and local treasuries jointly arranged a large rise in the “two gratuities and one subsidy” funds, so that children from poor families could all enjoy the “two gratuities and one subsidy” policy.

In order to convey superior educational resources to rural primary and secondary schools, and reduce the discrepancy in quality of compulsory education between the cities and the countryside, the state has implemented the “rural primary and secondary schools’ modern distance learning project”, under which the state will input 10 billion yuan within 5 years, so that by 2007, rural junior secondary schools will basically be equipped with computerized classrooms, whilst rural primary schools will basically be equipped with satellite education stations, and rural primary education stations will be equipped with educational CD broadcast equipment and sets of educational discs.

The Chinese government implements a policy of educational development in which developed and urban regions support impoverished and rural regions. Starting in 2000, the state organised and implemented a “Project for the support of schools in impoverished areas in the west of China by corresponding Eastern region schools” and a “Project for the support of schools in impoverished areas in provinces (autonomous regions, municipalities under the direct control of the government) by large and medium-sized cities in the same province.” For several years, the eastern regions and urban areas have selected and sent a large batch of teachers and management personnel to work in the regions

receiving support, and have accepted teachers in those regions for training. They have provided funds, books, teaching equipment, etc., to the recipient regions free of charge, and have sponsored a batch of students in economic hardship. In order to ensure the timely realization of the combat targets of the “Two Basics” programme in the western regions, in 2004 the state began corresponding support for education in the “Two Basics” target counties in the western regions, organizing economically developed counties (municipalities, districts) in the eastern regions and “Two Basics” target counties in the western regions to establish a system of correspondent support for education, thus giving support for the target counties in such aspects as personnel, funding, and materials.

Since the reform and opening up policy, there has been an increase year on year in the amount of farmers entering the cities to look for work in industry and construction. The problem of their children’s compulsory education is becoming ever more pronounced. In order to solve this problem, the Chinese government has formulated a series of policy measures to safeguard the rights to compulsory education of the children of these farmers who have entered the city to look for work. The responsibility for implementing such measures regarding compulsory education for the children of these farmers is shouldered by the government of the place to which the farmer has migrated, and involves a policy of enrollment principally into full-time public-run primary and secondary schools. At present, the various areas have basically established a cooperative system of work division across multiple departments, in order to safeguard the work mechanisms relating access to compulsory education for the children of farmers entering the cities to look for work. The work in this respect has been brought within the scope of the administration at the migrant’s destination, as part of the universalisation of nine-year compulsory education, whilst the construction of schools to provide school access for the children of these migrant farmers has been incorporated into the basic infrastructure plans of the cities in question. Moreover, measures to provide guarantees for educational expenditure have been formulated. Through such methods as the setting up of scholarship funds, help is being offered to allow the children of such migrant farmers in economic hardship to go to school. In regard to the actual situation of students who are the children of migrant farmers, this is helping them to overcome their difficulties both in study and in life in general.

The Chinese government regards the development of various forms of early education that meet local needs as a fundamental strategy for developing rural children’s education. All levels of government are actively making use of existing educational and community resources to establish kindergartens in village and town centres, and are making use of resources resulting from the adjustment of the distribution of secondary and primary schools to run kindergartens. Relying on kindergartens and families, they are actively developing flexible and varied forms of young children’s education. For instance, they have set up mobile teaching units, playgroups, weekend classes, family instruction points, in-home guidance, “covered wagons”, grassland mobile kindergartens, etc. These have provided young children from poor families and young children living in remote mountain and herding regions with greater opportunities for access to education.

In addition, on 19 May 2005, the State Council promulgated the *Some Stipulations of the State Council regarding the Implementation of the “Law of the People’s Republic of China on Autonomous Government in Ethnic Minority Regions”*. This was implemented from 31 March 2005, and it gave clear stipulations as the compulsory education in ethnic minority areas with autonomous government.

(b) In respect of women and children’s healthcare

According to the *Statistical Outline of Health in China*, from 2002 to 2004, the number of women-and-children healthcare facilities (centres, clinics) was 3067, 3033 and 2997 respectively. The number of people working in women and children healthcare institutions was 176905, 177820, and 177962 respectively (2004 showing an increase of 5.97 per thousand on 2002). The number of beds was 79774, 80924, and 86660 in 2004 showing an increase of 8.63 per cent on 2002).

At present, the implementation of the relevant policies in China is going well:

Firstly, in December 2001, there was the project to lower the mortality rate of pregnant women and to eliminate tetanus in new-born children (hereafter referred to as the “lowering and elimination project”), which was jointly organised and implemented by the Ministry of Finance and the National

Working Committee for Women and Children, under the State Council. The “lowering and elimination project”, in the five years since its implementation, has raised the rate of hospital births for pregnant women from poor areas, and has effectively lowered the mortality rate of pregnant women. By the end of 2001, the mortality rate for pregnant women in 378 impoverished counties in twelve target provinces had fallen 28.79 per cent, whilst the incidence rate for tetanus among new-born babies in the twelve provinces had fallen to under one per thousand. The support targets of the project in general were effected relatively well. The rate of hospital births in each target province for 2001 was in each case markedly higher than in 1999, before the project was implemented. In provincial areas including Inner Mongolia, Jiangxi, Hunan, Qinghai and Xinjiang, the pre-natal check-up rates all reached 90 per cent of the project target. In 2002, the “lowering and elimination project”, building on this basis, expanded to take in 50 counties in the four provinces of Shaanxi, Guangxi, Hubei and Jilin, making a total of 428 counties in 16 provinces (districts, municipalities). The central treasury input funds of 14.81 million yuan, with the target regions being matched 1:1, the funds being mainly used for the training of different levels of medical technicians, sending provincial-level specialists to give on-site guidance, giving relief to poor pregnant women so that they could give birth in hospital, and developing health education, etc. In October 2003, the Ministry of Health organised a team of specialists to inspect and give guidance to 18 target counties in 16 provinces (districts, municipalities). They drew together their experiences and made recommendations, providing a scientific basis for implementation of the next round of the “lowering and elimination project”. In 2005, the “lowering and elimination project” further expanded to 22 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities under the control of the central government, as well as the Xinjiang production and construction army, in all covering 1000 counties and a population of more than 300 million people. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance have already jointly distributed project expenses and the implementation plan for the project.

Secondly, from 2002, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance have incorporated Hepatitis B vaccinations within the scope of children’s planned vaccinations. This has been organised and implemented by people’s governments in the various provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities under the control of the central government, whilst the state is supporting impoverished areas in the west of the country in the work of vaccinating against Hep B. Within the time of the tenth five-year plan, the central treasury has arranged special funds to help national-level poor counties in provinces in the west of the country as well as some areas in central provinces to buy Hep B vaccine. At the same time, there have been active efforts in regard to international cooperation, which has provided partial help with expenses for Hep B vaccine in the said areas.

Thirdly, with the support of the WHO, the Ministry of Health, from January 2002 to December 2003, organised and launched a pilot project for the improvement of the nutrition among children from poor areas. After a year of publicity and education about nutrition, a survey of the health of children aged 0 to 5 showed that when the end of the project and the baseline were compared, the project had led to a certain improvement. For instance, in Guizhou province, the rate of iron-deficiency anemia dropped from 32.4 per cent to 22 .0 per cent, and other diseases relating to malnutrition also saw a decrease. There were also positive changes seen in the behaviour, attitudes and knowledge of the parents of children in the target areas in regard to the feeding of infants.

Fourthly, from August to November 2004, the Ministry of Health launched a survey on the state of nutrition and health in infants in 8 provinces (autonomous regions) including Jiangsu.

Fifthly, from June to October 2005, the Ministry of Health will organise and conduct the fourth nine-municipality survey of children’s physical development, which will be the first such survey in the 21st century, and will provide information and reference data of use for the formation of policies to promote children’s health and nutrition.

(c) Child foster care and relief

In order to further push forward work in regard to foster care, in 2003 the Ministry of Civil Affairs announced the *Temporary Measures regarding the Management of Family Foster Care*. The *Measures* made clear the work goals, management requirements and service standards pertaining to family foster care, as well as the rights of children in foster care, the conditions and responsibilities of foster families, the work content of institutions providing family foster care services, and the

responsibilities of the Ministry of Civil Affairs in regard to family foster care. The announcement of the *Methods* will advance the healthy and orderly development of the work of family foster care in social welfare institutions. In addition to this, the Ministry of Civil Affairs in September 2003 increased the number of management offices for relief stations.

Appendix 1:

Basic Situation of “Children Left Behind”

1. Huge-scale phenomenon; already constitutes a group requiring a high level of attention

The proportion of all children constituted by children left behind may be calculated according to the 0.95 per thousand sample data of the fifth national general population census. The result of that calculation is 8.05 per cent. The 2000 general population census recorded a total of 284,527,600 children of 14 and under. Calculating on this basis, the total national figure for children left behind stands at 22,945,000.

2. The gender ratio tends to the high side, whilst the age distribution is relatively even

Among all the children left behind, males and females account for 53.88 per cent and 46.12 per cent respectively, a gender ration of 116.82. To judge from the gender structure as differentiated by age (see Table 1, Fig 1), the numbers of boys in each age-group are all more than those of girls (the gender ratio for each age-group is higher than 100). To judge from the age-structure, apart from the proportion of children aged 0 to 1 being rather low, other groups of children left behind show an even distribution. Those of 6 years and above account for 65.28 per cent of the total number of children left behind.

Table 1: National Figures for Gender and Age Structure of Children Left Behind

Age	Age structure (males) %	Age structure (females) %	Total age structure (males and females) %	Gender ratio
0	4.69	4.24	4.48	129.06
1	4.50	4.51	4.51	116.56
2	6.05	5.53	5.81	127.72
3	6.49	6.00	6.26	126.38
4	6.27	6.48	6.37	113.02
5	7.46	7.05	7.27	123.69
6	7.07	6.65	6.88	124.23
7	6.91	7.35	7.11	109.78
8	7.45	7.07	7.28	123.21
9	6.98	7.17	7.07	113.67
10	8.46	8.88	8.65	111.26
11	7.65	8.08	7.84	110.58
12	7.26	7.46	7.35	113.80
13	7.01	7.80	7.37	105.11
14	5.73	5.73	5.73	116.95
Total	100	100	100	116.82

Source of data: calculated according to the sample data of the fifth national general population census. Unless specifically stated otherwise, all data in the figures and tables below are from this source.

3. Children left behind are mainly distributed in rural areas, and rural children left behind are a key focus of concern.

At present, the main direction of movement in China’s migrant population is from the countryside to the cities. In correspondence with this, the main distribution of children left behind is in rural areas. The proportion of rural children left behind accounts for 86.5 per cent of the total of children left behind, whilst the proportion of children left behind in urban areas is only 13.5 per cent. Rural children left at home form the vast majority of the total of children left behind, and thus rural

children left behind should become a key focus of concern.

4. High concentrations of children left behind are distributed across provinces including Sichuan, Guangdong, Jiangxi, Anhui, Hunan and Hainan; in provinces and municipalities such as Chongqing, Jiangxi and Sichuan, children left behind account for as much as around 20 per cent of all children in those areas. The children left behind in these areas should become the most important focus of concern.

There is an imbalance between different regions regarding the distribution of children left behind. Children left behind are mainly distributed in relatively economically backward agricultural areas such as Sichuan, Jiangxi, Anhui and Hunan. In recent years, a large number of the young and able-bodied workforce from these regions have migrated to the coastal areas, and thus these regions contain a massive number of children left behind. The proportions of children left behind in the above four provinces are 14.9 per cent, 8.5 per cent, 7.6 per cent and 7.5 per cent respectively of the total number of children left behind (see Table 2 for details).

Guangdong province and Hainan province are also areas in which there are relatively many migrant children, and the children left behind in these two provinces account for 10.3 per cent and 6.4 per cent respectively of children left behind nationally. Since the reform and opening up policy, Guangdong and Hainan have, through good timing and geographical advantage, enjoyed rapid economic development. Hainan and Guangdong, as areas of particularly vigorous economic development, have attracted a large number of migrant people from all areas of China; at the same time, the population movements between different areas within the province itself are also very active. This has led to the existence of a large number of children left behind in Guangdong and Hainan, even though these regions are economically developed.

The proportion of children left behind in the said six provinces of Sichuan, Guangdong, Jiangxi, Anhui, Hunan and Hainan is 55.2 per cent of the national total of children left behind.

Because the scale of the population in each area is different, with different frequencies of participation in migration nationwide, simply examining the proportions of distribution of children left behind in different regions still cannot completely reflect the spatial distribution of children left behind. For this reason, it is still necessary to examine children left behind in these areas as a proportion of the total number of children in the said areas. From Table 2, it can be seen that in areas including Chongqing municipality, Jiangxi province and Sichuan province, children left behind account for as much as 22.3 per cent, 19.4 per cent and 18.7 per cent of the total number of children. Other provinces with a relatively high proportion of children left behind are Anhui (11.55 per cent), Fujian (10.88 per cent), Hunan (12.53 per cent), Hubei (10.4 per cent), Guangdong (11.62 per cent) and Hainan (12.62 per cent).

The problem of children left behind in the above-mentioned areas should become the most important focus of concern.

5. More than half the number of children left behind cannot live together with their parents

Children should live with their parents, for this life together can provide a relatively ideal environment for the healthy growth and development of the child. However, the parents of children left behind (either both parents or at least one parent) precisely cannot live with these children, and this perhaps has an undesirable impact upon the growth of the children left behind. This is one fundamental reason for paying concern to children left behind. So, after one or both parents has migrated away, what sort of family does the child left behind live in?

Table 2: Regional Distribution of Children Left Behind

Province	Percentage of national number of children left behind	Percentage of total number of children in that province
Beijing	0.27	3.26

Tianjin	0.08	1.08
Hebei	1.01	1.50
Shanxi	0.58	1.57
Inner Mongolia	0.55	2.51
Liaoning	0.74	2.27
Jilin	0.41	1.90
Heilongjiang	0.64	2.21
Shanghai	0.25	2.89
Jiangsu	4.68	7.41
Zhejiang	3.40	9.14
Anhui	7.58	11.55
Fujian	3.76	10.88
Jiangxi	8.45	19.38
Shandong	1.50	1.77
Henan	4.46	4.24
Hubei	5.92	10.40
Hunan	7.46	12.53
Guangdong	10.28	11.62
Hainan	6.38	12.62
Guangxi	0.23	2.52
Chongqing	6.22	22.32
Sichuan	14.94	18.71
Guizhou	4.41	9.55
Yunnan	1.67	3.43
Tibet	0.07	2.07
Shaanxi	2.06	5.30
Gansu	1.29	4.37
Qinghai	0.22	3.80
Ningxia	0.12	1.78
Xinjiang	0.36	1.50
Total	100.00	8.05

The data from the fifth national general population census provide us with valuable information regarding the structure of families in which there are children left behind. We divide the family structures of such children into the following categories: (1) Children left behind alone by themselves. According to our survey of actual living circumstances, two main situations pertain in respect of this category: in the first situation, the child is already of a relatively older age, and is left alone in their native place after their parents have migrated away; the child is thus living independently; in the second situation, after the parents have gone away, the status on the child's household registration is shown as "child left behind by itself", but in fact the child is provided with help by relatives living nearby (for example, the child's grandparents, uncles, etc.). Comparing these two situations, it is the latter which is the more common. (2) After the father has migrated away, the child is left alone with their mother; (3) After the mother has migrated away, the child is left alone with the father; (4) After the father has

migrated away, the child, mother and other relatives all live together; (5) After the mother has migrated away, the child, father and other relatives all live together; (6) When both father and mother move away, the child is left to live with other relatives. Within this last category, it is more common for the child to be looked after by grandparents, whether paternal or maternal. The structure of this category of family is very complex, and because of the particular nature of the population census data, we have no way to make a finer differentiation of the category. However, we have extracted from it one particular sub-category, namely families in which the child is living with maternal or paternal grandparents but without any other relatives present. We refer to this type of family by the term “generation-separated children left behind”.

The family structure of children left behind is shown in Table 3. From the table, it can be seen that families in which one parent has migrated away leaving one parent to stay with the child account for 43.83 per cent. From the perspective of the child, if the parents choose a migration model in which one parent migrates away leaving the other to stay at home with the child, then the proportion of fathers migrating away is much higher than that of mothers; the situation in which both parents go away and the child cannot live with their parents accounts for more than half of the total number of children left alone, the proportion reaching as high as 56.17 per cent.

Table 3: Children left behind: family structure

Category of family	Percentage which this category represents of total number of families with children left behind
Children left behind alone by themselves	4.41
Living alone with the father	2.46
Living alone with the mother	7.37
Living together with the father and other family members	8.04
Living together with the mother and other family members	25.96
Living with family members other than the father or mother	51.76
Of which: generation-separated children left behind	20.60
Total	100.00

Normally, within each family there is a certain role division. In the process of bringing up the child, the father and mother often assume different roles. From Table 3 it can be seen that, among the total of children left behind, children who are able to live with one of their parents only account for 43.83 per cent. In these families, the roles of father and mother are taken on by a single person, producing a certain inevitable impact on the child’s growth.

The proportion of children left behind who are able to live with their father is less, only representing 10.5 per cent. For a long time, China has had a tradition in which the father’s educational function in terms of family education is that of the “strict father”; such a large-scale “loss of position” on the part of fathers will produce an even greater impact on the education and growth of children left behind.

Still more important is the fact that over half the number of children left behind are unable to have any life together with either parent; they can only live with their grandparents or with other relatives. Such a situation will have a huge impact on the educational and psychological development etc. of children left behind. According to the data of the 2000 general census of population, among children left behind, the proportion living alone with their grandparents is as high as 20 per cent.

6. The educational situation for children left behind is good at primary school level, but at junior high school there are marked educational problems

After parents have migrated away, how will the education of children left behind be affected? This is the most basic reason for raising the issue of children left behind, and it is also the most important

reason. This study pays very great attention to this question. Given that the general census of population is only able to provide basic information regarding school education, the analysis here will mainly concentrate on school education. Table 4 shows school attendance rates for children left behind, disaggregated by age.

From Table 4 we can see that, at the primary school stage, the school attendance rate for children left behind is very high: apart from the 6-year-old age-group, for whom the school attendance rate is lower (in some areas, the enrollment age for children is 7 years old, therefore the lower rate of attendance for the 6-year-old age-group is normal), each age-group from 7 to 12 years has a very high attendance rate, showing that children left behind can basically all receive primary education at the correct time. This is a very pleasing result.

Table 4: School Attendance Rates for Children Left Behind, Disaggregated by Age-group

Age	School attendance rate (%)
6	78.06
7	97.17
8	98.28
9	98.92
10	98.81
11	98.92
12	96.83
13	94.23
14	87.66
Total	94.69

At the same time, we must also note that, having entered junior high school, the school attendance rate for children left behind shows a substantial drop, with children of age 14 showing a rate of only 88 per cent. This is seriously out of line with the development targets for nine-year compulsory education that China is currently making strenuous efforts to promote. Therefore, how to strengthen and consolidate junior high school education amongst children left behind is a very pressing task.

Appendix 2:

Survey of the Situation of Adolescent Health in China, October 2004 to January 2005

1. Basic situation of the survey's target group

This survey surveyed a total of 141,580 people, among whom male students numbered 69,091 persons (48.8%) and female students 72,489 persons (51.2%); the average age was 16.3 years (SD=2.5 years).

Table Basic Situation of the Target Group Surveyed

	Year	Number of people surveyed	%	Gender		Age		Urban economic category		
				Male students %	Female students %	\bar{x}	\pm SD	High %	Middle %	Low %
Junior high school	First-year	16400	11.6	52.4	47.6	12.9	0.8	40.3	34.3	25.3
	Second-year	18256	12.9	51.7	48.3	13.9	0.8	38.5	34.5	27.0
	Third-year	13745	9.7	49.3	50.7	14.9	0.8	39.0	33.2	27.8
	Total	48401	34.2	51.3	48.7	13.8	1.2	39.2	34.1	26.7
Senior high school	First-year	29260	20.7	47.3	52.7	16.1	0.9	42.8	33.5	23.7
	Second-year	24752	17.5	49.0	51.0	17.0	0.9	40.5	36.7	22.8
	Third-year	16564	11.7	46.2	53.8	17.9	0.9	35.0	35.4	29.6
	Total	70576	49.8	47.7	52.3	16.8	1.1	40.2	35.1	24.7
University	First-year	6909	4.9	44.2	55.8	19.2	1.1	47.0	31.9	21.1
	Second-year	7879	5.6	48.2	51.8	20.2	1.1	51.3	29.3	19.4
	Third-year	5797	4.1	47.5	52.5	21.1	1.3	45.6	33.8	20.6
	Fourth-year	2018	1.4	48.9	51.1	21.9	1.3	40.9	28.1	31.0
	Total	22603	16.0	46.8	53.2	20.3	1.5	47.7	31.1	21.2
Grand total		141580	100.0	48.8	51.2	16.3	2.5	41.0	34.1	24.9

2. Suicide-related behaviour

As Table 2 shows: in the last 12 months, 20.4 per cent of students (males 17.0 per cent, females 23.7 per cent) have considered committing suicide, whilst 6.5 per cent (males 5.7 per cent, females 7.4 per cent) have planned to commit suicide. For both the above actions, the report rate is higher for females than males; 2.9 per cent of students (males 2.9 per cent, females 2.9 per cent) have taken measures to commit suicide, their being no marked discrepancy shown between males and females. Females in their lower years at university show a higher report rate than males in regard to suicidal thoughts, but in the higher years there is no marked difference between males and females. The report rate for students in their lower years of university planning to commit suicide and the number of failed suicide attempts show no marked difference between male and female students, however for male students in higher years, the report rates for planning to commit suicide and failed suicide attempts are higher than for female students.

Among secondary school students, especially second- and third-year junior high school students and first-year senior high school students, the report rates for males and females having suicidal thoughts and planning to commit suicide were far higher than for students in other years. The report rate for failed suicide attempts among male students maintained a figure of around 3 per cent, but the report rate for failed suicide attempts among third- and fourth-year male university students showed a slight peak. The report rate for failed suicide attempts among female second- and third-year junior high school students and female first-year senior high school students is far higher than for students in other years.

Table 2: Incidence Rates for Suicide-related Behaviour Among Students in Different School Years (%)

Year	Suicidal thoughts		Suicide planned		Failed suicide attempt				
	Male students	Female students	Male students	Female students	Male students	Female students			
Junior high school	17.1	25.4	***	5.9	8.3	***	3.2	3.2	
First-year	14.9	21.5	***	5.1	7.2	***	3.0	2.9	
Second-year	17.8	26.5	***	6.1	8.6	***	3.2	3.4	
Third-year	19.1	28.3	***	6.4	9.3	***	3.3	3.5	
Senior high school	17.8	25.3	***	5.9	7.8	***	2.8	3.0	*
First-year	19.3	27.9	***	6.6	9.2	***	3.0	3.4	*
Second-year	16.6	23.6	***	5.4	7.0	***	2.7	2.7	
Third-year	16.8	23.0	***	5.4	6.6	**	2.5	2.8	
University	14.2	15.5	**	4.7	4.0	**	2.9	1.8	***
First-year	13.1	16.3	***	3.6	4.4		2.1	1.6	
Second-year	14.4	16.2	*	5.1	4.2		3.0	1.9	**
Third-year	15.2	14.0		5.2	3.5	**	3.4	1.9	***
Fourth-year	14.1	14.5		5.4	3.1	**	3.5	1.0	***
Total	17.0	23.7	***	5.7	7.4	***	2.9	2.9	

NOTE: *** P<0.001; ** P<0.01; * P<0.05 (chi-square comparison of different genders).

Suicidal thoughts: those who, in the past 12 months, have considered committing suicide.

Suicide planned: those who, in the past 12 months, have made plans to commit suicide.

Failed suicide attempts: those who, in the past 12 months, have taken measure to commit suicide.

3. Depressive feelings

The report rates for male and female students who have felt lonely in the past 12 months are 50.1 per cent and 56.9 per cent respectively, with female students slightly higher than male students. In the secondary school stage, when students move into the higher years, the report rate for loneliness in male and female students shows a gradual increase; in the university stage, when students move into the higher years, the report rate for loneliness shows a slight fall-off.

The report rates for male and female students who in the last 12 months have often or always felt emotionally unhappy due to pressure of study or problems of grades are 64.6 per cent and 72.6 per cent respectively. The report rate for pressure of study among female students is higher than for male students, and the study pressure during the senior high school period is far higher than in university or in junior high school.

The report rates for male and female students who in the last 12 months have often or always lost sleep due to worries about a particular matter are 37.1 per cent and 39.3 per cent respectively. Among female students at junior high school and senior high school, the report rate for such behaviour is higher than for males. Whether in male or female students, the report rate for this behaviour increases as students move into the higher years.

The report rate for male and female students who in the last 12 months have felt very sad or despairing continuously for two weeks or longer at a time and who have thus stopped normal daily activities is 17 per cent, with males and females showing no marked difference. The report rate for this kind of behaviour in junior high school students increases as students move into higher years; senior high school and university students maintain a relatively high level, with no marked difference between the different years.

Table 3: Incidence Rates for Depressive Feelings Among Male and Female Students in Different School Years (%)

Year	Loneliness		Pressure of study		Loss of sleep due to worry		Depression	
	Male students	Female students	Male students	Female students	Male students	Female students	Male students	Female students
Junior high school	36.7	44.7	57.3	65.0	28.2	30.7	14.5	15.0
First-year	31.9	38.4	52.8	58.2	24.2	26.2	12.5	13.1
Second-year	36.8	44.8	56.7	64.3	28.8	31.1	14.4	15.6
Third-year	42.8	51.6	63.8	73.7	32.6	35.3	17.1	16.3
Senior high school	57.5	62.9	70.6	79.1	40.4	42.2	18.6	18.9
First-year	55.3	61.7	69.1	78.9	39.7	42.3	18.6	18.7
Second-year	58.6	63.3	69.8	78.2	40.3	42.2	18.2	18.9
Third-year	60.0	64.3	74.5	81.0	41.7	42.1	19.1	19.3
University	57.7	62.3	62.4	67.5	47.1	47.2	18.8	17.2
First-year	62.7	63.7	66.2	69.3	45.3	44.8	19.0	16.8
Second-year	56.7	62.2	61.8	66.7	47.0	46.8	19.6	18.2
Third-year	55.8	61.9	60.7	66.3	49.1	49.2	18.3	16.7
Fourth-year	51.8	58.4	57.0	66.8	47.5	51.4	16.4	16.0
Total	50.1	56.9	64.6	72.6	37.1	39.3	17.0	17.3

NOTE: *** P<0.001; ** P<0.01; * P<0.05 (chi-square comparison of different genders).

Loneliness: students who in the last 12 months have felt lonely.

Pressure of study: students who in the last 12 months have often or always felt emotionally unhappy due to pressure of study or problems of grades.

Loss of sleep: students who in the last 12 months have often or always lost sleep due to worries about a particular matter.

Depression: students who in the last 12 months have felt very sad or despairing continuously for two weeks or longer at a time and who have thus stopped normal activities.

4. Tobacco, alcohol and drug abuse

Table 4 shows that by the time of the survey, 34.8 per cent of students (48.0 per cent of males, 22.2 per cent of females) had had at least one drag on a cigarette; in the past 30 days, 14 per cent of student (24.1 per cent of males, 4.5 per cent of females) had at least smoked on one day, whilst 4.4 per cent of students (48.0 per cent of males, 22.2 per cent of females) had smoked on at least 20 days; and 1.0 per cent of students (1.8 per cent of males, 0.2 per cent of females) smoked 10 or more cigarettes per day. The incidence of smoking-related behaviour is in all cases higher in male students than in female students, and shows a gradual increase as students move into higher years.

Table 5 show that by the time of the survey, 67.4 per cent of students (males 48.0 per cent, females 22.2 per cent) had tried drinking alcohol, whilst in the last 30 days, 29.2 per cent of students (males 31.7 per cent, females 21.7 per cent) had drunk a glass of alcohol on at least one day; there were 12.0 per cent of students (males 17.4 per cent, females 6.9 per cent) who had on at least one day drunk five glasses of alcohol; within the last year, 18.4 per cent of students (males 23.6 per cent), females 13.6 per cent) had suffered from such symptoms of drinking as headaches and vomiting, due to drinking alcohol. The report rates for the above alcohol-related behaviour all showed higher rates for male students than for female students, and a gradual increase with students' progression into higher years.

By the time of the survey, at least 6.3 per cent of students (males 6.8 per cent, females 5.8 per cent) has used tranquillizers such as valium and soporific substances without the permission of a doctor. The report rate for tranquillizer and soporifics abuse was higher for males than females, being highest at university, followed by senior high school, with junior high school showing the lowest rate. There were 1.4 per cent of students who had used drugs such as ice and ecstasy, the report rate for drug abuse among male students being higher than that for women, with university students showing a higher rate than secondary school students, and no marked difference shown between junior high school and senior high school.

Table 4: Incidence Rate of Smoking-related Behaviour in Male and Female Students in Different School Years (%)

Year	Tried smoking		Now smoking		Frequent smoker		Smoke ≥ 10 cigarettes per day	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Junior high school	31.3	14.6	13.1	3.1	3.1	0.3	0.9	0.2
First-year	23.8	10.7	9.6	2.2	1.6	0.2	0.7	0.1
Second-year	32.9	14.9	13.9	3.4	3.3	0.3	0.9	0.1
Third-year	38.8	18.7	16.4	3.8	4.6	0.5	1.2	0.2
Senior high school	54.2	25.2	27.0	5.2	10.5	0.8	1.9	0.2
First-year	52.0	23.7	26.5	5.3	9.5	0.7	1.9	0.1
Second-year	55.6	25.6	27.6	5.3	10.8	0.8	1.8	0.2
Third-year	55.8	27.5	26.9	4.8	11.8	0.9	2.1	0.3
University	67.5	27.6	40.4	4.8	13.3	1.0	3.3	0.4
First-year	65.0	23.3	35.3	3.4	11.4	0.8	3.1	0.4
Second-year	67.8	29.2	41.0	5.2	13.4	1.1	3.1	0.4
Third-year	71.5	31.0	44.7	5.7	14.4	1.2	3.8	0.4
Fourth-year	63.9	28.2	42.7	6.3	16.2	1.1	3.8	0.4
Total	48.0	22.2	24.1	4.5	8.3	0.7	1.8	0.2
	□□□	□□□	□□□	□□□	□□□	□□□	□□□	□□□

NOTE: *** P<0.001; ** P<0.01; * P<0.05 (chi-square comparison of different genders); □□□ P<0.001; □□ P<0.01; □ P<0.05 (chi-square comparison of different year-groups).

Tried smoking: students who have, by the time of the survey, had at least one drag on a cigarette.

Now smoking: students who have, in the past 30 days, smoked on at least one day.

Frequent smoker: students who have, in the past 30 days, smoked on at least 20 days.

Smoke ≥ 10 cigarettes per day: students who have, in the past 30 days, smoked 10 or more cigarettes a day.

Table 5: Incidence Rates for Behaviour Involving Consumption of Alcohol, Misuse of Medical Substances, and Drug Abuse (%)

Year	Tried alcohol		Now consuming alcohol		Heavy consumption		Drunkenness		Misuse of medical substances		Drug abuse	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Junior high school	60.0	49.3	23.4	15.7	8.4	4.0	11.5	6.9	5.7	4.3	1.6	0.4
First-year	52.7	41.1	19.7	12.8	6.3	2.8	9.3	4.5	5.8	3.6	1.6	0.3
Second-year	62.0	50.6	23.8	16.6	8.4	4.2	11.3	7.4	5.6	4.2	1.5	0.4
Third-year	66.2	57.1	27.6	17.7	11.2	5.2	14.7	8.8	5.7	5.1	1.7	0.6
Senior high school	78.9	65.5	39.3	22.1	18.8	7.3	25.5	14.7	7.1	6.2	1.9	0.6
First-year	75.9	62.3	36.9	21.4	17.2	7.0	23.2	13.5	7.2	5.8	1.9	0.5
Second-year	80.4	67.0	41.2	23.2	19.8	7.4	26.6	15.2	6.9	6.3	1.8	0.7
Third-year	82.0	68.9	40.4	21.6	20.0	7.8	28.1	16.0	7.1	6.7	2.0	0.7
University	87.3	74.0	62.0	32.2	34.0	11.3	45.6	23.2	8.8	7.9	4.0	1.6
First-year	86.5	69.5	57.9	27.5	29.2	9.3	40.1	19.4	8.6	7.3	2.5	1.0
Second-year	87.6	76.6	63.3	35.8	35.1	13.6	46.1	25.4	8.6	8.4	4.0	1.9
Third-year	88.5	77.3	64.5	32.1	37.3	10.8	50.8	25.0	9.1	7.7	5.0	1.8
Fourth-year	85.2	72.2	63.5	37.3	37.0	12.0	48.0	25.0	9.4	8.6	6.0	2.5
Total	73.4	61.7	37.1	21.7	17.4	6.9	23.6	13.6	6.8	5.8	2.1	0.7

NOTE: *** P<0.001; ** P<0.01; * P<0.05 (chi-square comparison of different genders); □□□ P<0.001, □□ P<0.01; □ P<0.05 (chi-square comparison of different year-groups).

Tried alcohol: students who have, by the time of the survey, once had a drink of alcohol.

Now consuming alcohol: students who, within the past 30 days, have drunk one glass of alcohol on at least one day.

Heavy consumption: students who, within the past 30 days, have drunk 5 glasses of alcohol on at least one day.

Drunkenness: students who, within the past year, have experienced on at least one occasion such alcohol-induced symptoms as headaches, dizziness and vomiting, as a result of alcohol consumption.

Misuse of medical substances: students who, by the time of the survey, have used tranquillizers such as valium and soporific substances without the permission of a doctor.

Drug abuse: students who, by the time of the survey, have used such drugs as ice, ecstasy, cocaine and heroin.