

SWISH- Solving China's Vision Care Crisis through Evidence-based Policy Advocacy: See Well to Stay In School

Rural Education Action Program

Stanford Center on China's Economy and Institutions

Stanford University



- Objective: Assess impact of vision correction on academic outcomes of rural junior high students
- Partners: Stanford, Queen's University Belfast, He University (Liaoning)
- Duration: August 2023 – Present

Year 1 Highlights (Aug 2023 – Sep 2024)

- Study protocol finalized; IRB approved
- Initial collaboration with Henan University stalled
- Pivoted to Liaoning partnership with He Eye Hospital

Year 2 Achievements (Sep 2024 – Feb 2025)

- Conducted baseline survey in Liaoning
- Vision screenings and assessments in 120 rural schools
- 96 schools fully completed protocol
- 10,000 pairs of glasses distributed
- 350 teachers signed compliance contracts



Next Steps

Summer 2025 - Baseline Data Analysis

Fall 2025 - follow up survey:

- Collect Data on Eyeglasses wear compliance
- Follow up refraction and prescription updates

Summer 2026 - Endline survey

Giving Back Initiatives

- Vision Care Ambassadors: 500+ college students trained
- Grandparent Outreach: 2,000+ seniors screened, 5,000 glasses distributed
- Capacity Building: 300+ graduate students trained in impact evaluation research methods

GIVING BACK INITIATIVE

If Tears Could Be Sweet: A Story of Hope through REAP's Vision Care Initiative

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Imagine a five-year-old child with severely limited vision—barely able to see clearly—yet her parents are completely unaware. This was the case for Dong Xinyue, a young girl from a remote rural area, whose vision was so poor that she could only see at 0.4. When she finally saw the world clearly, I imagine her tears must have felt sweet.

能够想象一个5岁孩子的视力只有0.4，而家长却毫无察觉吗？这一令人心痛的事实就发生在董欣悦身上。当她终于看清世界的那一刻，泛出的泪花大概也是甜的吧。

