

The University of Hong Kong Laidlaw Scholars Program Leadership in Action Project Poster



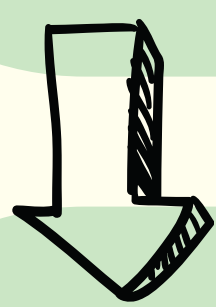
DAI WEI, The University of Hong Kong
Faculty of Business and Economics



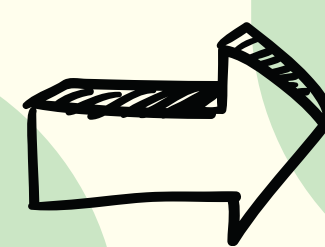
Introduction to the Mianhuasha Project

As the project for my Laidlaw Leadership-in-Action experience, I visited the Mianhuasha Rural Libraries with members of Beyond the Pivot, an HKU based NGO focused on rural empowerment and volunteer teaching in China. Our planning started in June and the summer camp began in mid-July. I served as the co-leader during the trip, guiding a total of 11 HKU students.

The Mianhuasha project team was established in 2021 and has launched a long-term cooperation with the Mianhuasha Rural Libraries NGO in Xinning County, Hunan Province. It is founded by documentary director Jiang Nengjie, who is known for his focus on rural education and socially marginalised communities.



The backwardness of rural education exacerbated by the imbalance of educational resources in China is a severe issue that reckons serious attention. Children in remote villages and towns generally live with their grandparents and lack the motivation to learn. They often fall short in their access to extracurricular knowledge and academic planning. Therefore, our course materials went beyond the content of school textbooks, as we offered the children with more than 40 different courses covering science, arts, mathematics, AI, humanities, and sex education.



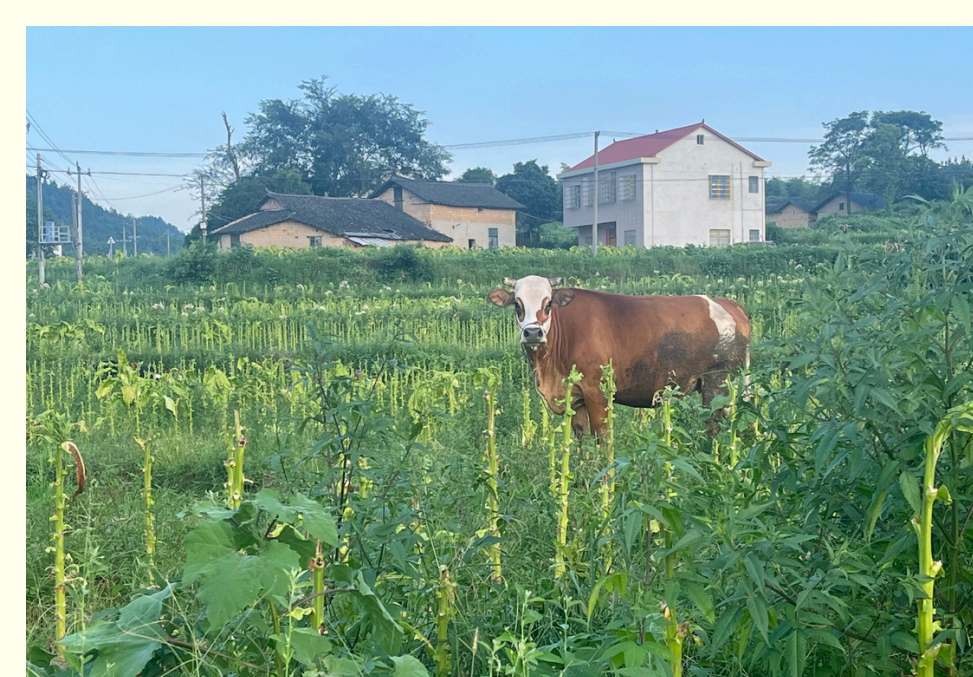
Our Vision and Impact

Our meticulously planned courses are designed to build the beneficiaries' understanding of the world around them, expand their knowledge bases, and encourage them to think about their future goals and endeavours. We are gratified to see our students exploring different academic fields and appreciating the importance of studying outside classroom environments.

For the community as a whole, we also assisted with the process of popularising the Mianhuasha Rural Library: some local children who didn't know it before were fascinated by the library's abundance of learning resources after we organised the event. Our positive spillover moreover incorporates the dissemination of basic public health and sexual abuse protection knowledge, as well as providing academic advisory service to high school students in the towns and villages.



The HKU students involved can furthermore gain pedagogical skills from training lessons and actual practice, which is crucial for their personal development and career pursuits in relevant fields. They obtained deeper understandings of the status quo in rural China, thus widening their scope of knowledge and fulfilling the university's initiative of "one mainland, one international" framework for undergraduate students.



Project Video

