

# Top Ten Education Facts – China

As China attempts to bring the economic success of its recent reforms to the masses, results are mixed as the country's income divide continues to widen.

1. By 2004, almost 94 percent of China's counties had implemented nine years of compulsory education in areas inhabited by 91% of the national population.  
[www.undp.org.cn/downloads/nhdr2005/NHDR2005\\_complete.pdf](http://www.undp.org.cn/downloads/nhdr2005/NHDR2005_complete.pdf) (p94)
2. In China, rural Areas with 60 percent of the population receive just 23 per cent of all funds for education. The rest goes to cities.  
[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2005-03/10/content\\_423416.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2005-03/10/content_423416.htm)
3. Throughout the Middle Kingdom, 116 million adults (15 +) cannot read or write, an increase of 30 million since 2000 and 11.3 percent of the world's total.  
[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2007-04/02/content\\_841161.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2007-04/02/content_841161.htm)
4. The completion rate for nine years education in China, presently sits at 75 percent.  
[www.undp.org.cn/downloads/nhdr2005/NHDR2005\\_complete.pdf](http://www.undp.org.cn/downloads/nhdr2005/NHDR2005_complete.pdf) (p94)
5. In 2004, tuition fees from local families made up *one fifth* of all local spending on schools, thus laying quality at the feet of the poor.  
<http://www.stats.gov.cn/tjsj/ndsj/2006/indexeh.htm> (Table 27-34)
6. The gap between rich and poor continues to expand despite Government efforts to stem it. In 2004 urban dwellers earned 3.23 times more than rural residents.  
[www.undp.org.cn/downloads/nhdr2005/NHDR2005\\_complete.pdf](http://www.undp.org.cn/downloads/nhdr2005/NHDR2005_complete.pdf) (p9)
7. The Asian Development Bank recently re-estimated that China may have as many as 300 million people living in abject poverty.  
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4eaba8b0-9255-11dc-8981-0000779fd2ac.html>
8. It is estimated that there are as many as 10 million school-age children work in Chinese factories, homes and local businesses. Around 70 percent are girls.  
[www.laborrights.org/press/childlabor\\_china\\_0505.htm](http://www.laborrights.org/press/childlabor_china_0505.htm)
9. Over 20 million children in China are on the move or living parentless. Education is a naysay for millions of children in cities far away from 'home.'  
<http://china.org.cn/english/China/152421.htm>
10. High school fees, irrelevant curriculums, super-sized classes and boy preference, mean 1.1 million children drop-out from primary school each year in rural China.

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2005-03/10/content\\_423416.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2005-03/10/content_423416.htm)

## **Other facts**

- In 2005 China sold more newspapers per day than any other country in the world (93.5 million), almost double the United States total.

<http://www.wan-press.org/article7321.html>

- Most of the China's interior is a blend of mountains, plateaus and desert with only 13.5 percent actually cultivable and even less 'open for business.'

<http://www.stats.gov.cn/tjsj/ndsj/2006/indexeh.htm> - Natural Resources (Table 1)

- Living standards in East China have been said to match Portugal in comparison, whilst those in the West are closer to Sub-Saharan Africa.

[http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China\\_Business/HA05Cb06.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China_Business/HA05Cb06.html)

- Tougher conditions in rural areas mean that people can expect to live over 5 years longer in the city than in the village.

[www.undp.org.cn/downloads/nhdr2005/NHDR2005\\_complete.pdf](http://www.undp.org.cn/downloads/nhdr2005/NHDR2005_complete.pdf)

- China's 'One Child' policy comes at the cost of girls and the investment of boys. The 2000 census showed that there were 117 boys to every 100 girls, (world average is 105) in China.

<http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/statisticaldata/yearlydata/YB2002e/ml/indexE.htm> (China Yearbook 2002)

- There are 7 million abortions each year in China of which 70 percent are female.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/23/opinion/23russell.html?pagewanted=1&r=1>

- Aside from Han Chinese, there are 55 minorities ('nationalities') in China, forming 9 percent of the population and a total of 108 million people.

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001461/146108e.pdf>

- According to the Inter census 2005, at any one time, 147 million migrant workers on the move in China.

<http://www.chinatoday.com/general/population.htm>

- By 2010, the Government predicts that half of the population will be living in urban areas for the first time.

<http://english.cri.cn/2946/2006/11/06/53@159549.htm>