



Xinjiang students in Shanghai

The truth you don't know about Xinjiang Class

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When the National anthem of PRC starts to play, the Graduation Ceremony of 2018 Xinjiang Class also begin. The MOE officer in Xuhui District, Deputy secretary of the party committee and the headmaster of X High school all attend the ceremony which means they attach importance to Xinjiang Class and students.

The MOE officer held his own speech to appreciate the hardworking teachers' work and congratulate Xinjiang Class students finished their curriculum. He also thanked the people who ever support or be concerned about Xinjiang Class development. He speak to the students sit off the stage , "I hope all of you can be the bridge which connect western and eastern part of China. I hope all of you can grasp knowledge of both western and eastern, ancient and modern and use them to promote development in Xinjiang."

At the end of the ceremony, 71 students use warm applause to thank the teachers and school. 2 hours later, they are on the train ahead towards Xinjiang, back to their homeland.



The beginning of Xinjiang Class

These students are the third Xinjiang Class in X high school since the program landed here 6 years ago.

Xinjiang Class is a huge program which is established by the Chinese Communist Party in 2000. The program funds certain school aged students from Xinjiang and let them attend schools which is dominated by Han students in eastern China. With this approach, the Chinese Government hope to promote ethnic harmony and nationalism in Xinjiang. In 2017, there are 45 cities have Xinjiang Class, involved 93 schools and teach 9918 students.

Xinjiang Class had been in Shanghai X High School for 6 years and now there are about 320 Xinjiang students study in X High Scholl and 80 students graduate every year.

Xinjiang Class is a four-year program which aims letting students from Xinjiang get more competitive education in Eastern China. Because in these province, there are better education resources like modern campus, teachers in high quality and abundant funds.

In the first year of Xinjiang Class, which is called preparatory studies, students are fully educated in order to master Mandarin Chinese and English. Math, Physics and Chemistry are also taught. After the students finished the preparatory study, it means he is allowed to begin his formal course work in higher grade. From then on, Mandarin Chinese become the language used when teaching class, chatting with friends even outside the classroom.

All the Xinjiang Classes in China are managed by these government departments: the Ministry of Education (MOE), the Xinjiang Uyghur

Autonomous Region (XUAR), the Administration Office of Xinjiang Class and the local Education office.



Xinjiang's Education Standard is lagged behind.

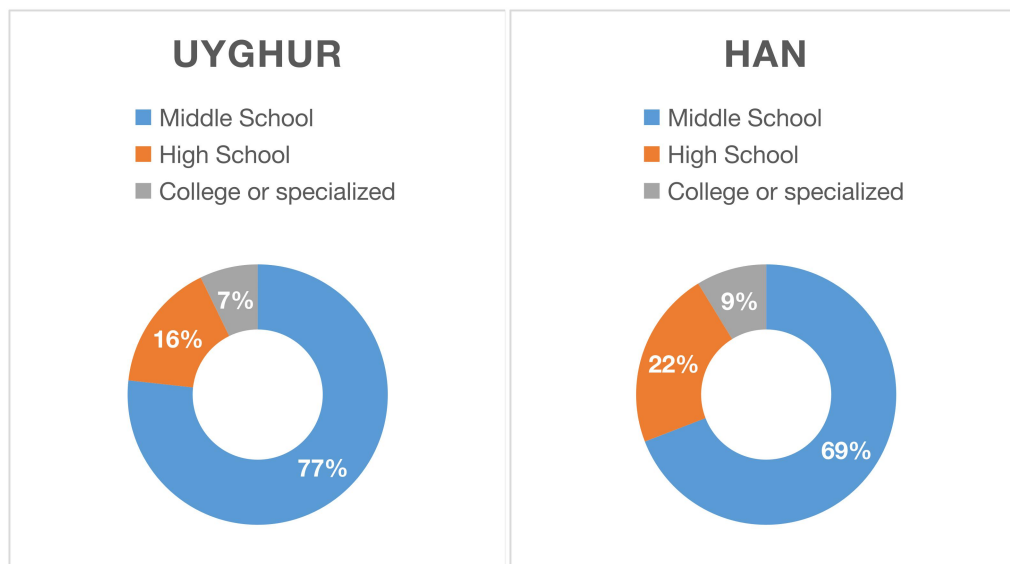
From 1952 to 1958, CCP(Chinese Communist Party) decided to let the primary and secondary schools in Xinjiang use minority language to teach. During that period of time, the students enrolled in primary school education increased from 300,000 to 700,000, and the students enrolled in secondary schools raised from 16,000 to 61,000. After that, several companions slows down the development of Xinjiang Education.

In 1982, CCP established the policy which built the long-term development of the state-sponsored education in Xinjiang and all Chinese citizens are guaranteed 'the right and duty to have education'. In the

government's documents, the publication of teaching materials for minority students are allowed and sheltered.

In this way, more and more Uyghur population in Xinjiang have the access to classroom and its consequences shows in statistics. From 1982 to 1990, the percentage of China's Uyghur population who had primary school education increase from 0.1% to 2.0% and illiteracy decrease from 45% to 25%.

However, Xinjiang people's total education level is still behind the local Han Chinese people.



The education standard in Xinjiang is lagged by the low investment, poor teacher quality, brain drain and difficulty in language.

Xinjiang Class, according to the government media, is aimed to quicken the pace of personnel training for all ethnic groups in Xinjiang and promote co-prosperity to everyone. It is the most effective way to improve Xinjiang Student's education level when the learning condition cannot upgrade immediately. Now, the Xinjiang Class Program is facing problems because the

program brings about a little effect on improving the integration process. In some cases, it may even strengthen the ethnic identity of some Uyghur students.

Problems in communication

According to my informants' description, some Xinjiang students won't communicate with Han students on their own initiative, sometimes they even avoid interaction with Han students. "Li Juan" one of my informants said, " I always have lunch and play with the only Xinjiang students. And I don't have Han friend in Xinjiang Class." Another informant admits that he feels more relax and ease when he is with other Uyghur students or Kazakhs than Han students. There are dozens of Xinjiang students like Li Juan in our school who feels uncomfortable and nervous about communicating with Han students. Here are the main reasons.

1.Language barrier

Government of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region have followed the decision of Chinese Communist Party to develop education system of Mandarin to Xinjiang people. XUAR regard speaking Mandarin Chinese as an important way to stabilize society and government's control.

The Xinjiang Class students also need to learn speaking Mandarin Chinese in preparatory lesson. But many of them can not speak mandarin

fluently, so they prefer to use their traditional language in Xinjiang Class. In reality, even the Han students who live in Xinjiang and study in Xinjiang Class use traditional language in communication. In the campus, if you are a Han student who passes by a group of Xinjiang Class students who are chatting, you can't tell what Xinjiang Students are chatting about even you know they are talking about something interesting through the look on the face. The barrier of language will make people feel they are different, unable to communicate and form a gap which will decrease intercourse invisibly. Although the school requires the students to speak mandarin no matter where they are in the campus, the achievement is not notable.

2.The financial cost of Xinjiang Class.

These students come from Xinjiang province, a remote place in China. Their parents are mainly engaged in farming and grazing and generally earn less money than the Han in Shanghai. Although there is government's financial help that all Xinjiang students don't need board fee and book fee, they still need two thousand yuan tuition every semester. And in daily life, Xinjiang students don't have as much pocket money as Han students. They can't afford clothes and shoes of famous brands which is common and popular among Han students and cannot afford expensive snacks or ice creams on the shelves of the market.

The gap in finance will become real life gap in communication and intercourse. In X High School, most of the Han students are not class-serious and school have many regulations to avoid class concept to happen, for example, wearing the same uniform, teaching by the same teachers and learning in the same campus.

But these forces cannot fill and level up the gap and make it imperceptible. For example, comparison will happen on shoes, watches and even glasses. Sometimes, the smart phones and laptops belong to Han students may remind Xinjiang students the difference between the family financial situation.

“ All of you should get rid of the concept of ethnic minority, and take the initiative to integrate into the world.”

In the graduate ceremony of Xinjiang Class, the famous photographer and cameraman Mr Kurbanjan-Samat had a surprise performance to the students. He was the cameraman of CCTV, once involved in the filming process of <One bite of China>, filmed his own documentary < I come from Xinjiang > and able to have an interview with Communist Party Leader. He introduced his life contrail to the students and told them to treasure the opportunity to live and study in Shanghai and told them to walk out of the comfort room,

interact with the world, enrich their personal value and practice the mission of revitalizing China.

After the speech, there is time for question. The students consult their life, study and life plan with Mr Kurbanjan. He said, “You must learn to go beyond narrow national concepts, out of the mode of behavior that only socializes with the people around you, into the world on your own initiative, and you will find your way get wider and your energy become stronger.”



Xinjiang Class students were saying goodbye to their teachers before they are heading towards the train station.