

Project Title: Policy Impact of the Relocation of Teachers and Students from Wenchuan to Ermeishan City: A Case Study of Shuimo Secondary School

Project Summary:

The Chinese central government initiated an innovative educational policy in response to the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake, by getting local governments to arrange for the temporary relocation of school children, whose schools were badly damaged, to schools in other counties in Sichuan and other provinces, whilst new schools were being built in their hometowns. Though our study showed many social, psychological, and financial difficulties involved in the physical relocation to a distant and unfamiliar place, it also showed that the Chinese school children adapted rather well. They seemed to have overcome their initial feelings of distress and anxiety about being separated from their parents and other family members. Being a new policy, we hope the feedback from parents, school children, and teachers, captured through our study, can help the Chinese government make some adjustments, should such a policy be implemented again in the future, in response to some other disasters.