

Comparison between Chinese feudal women and Chinese modern women



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Introduction

Nowadays, more and more Chinese women appear in the international scene and people begin to be curious about them. Therefore, people start thinking about how Chinese women are and what their values to the things are.

From many conversations with foreign friends, I understood that, in fact, a lot of western people know about the custom of foot binding. Moreover, because of the spread of Confucian philosophy, many western people consider that Chinese women have been very obedient and oppressed by their husbands until the present time. But, the fact is that now, there are many Chinese women who manage their family, not men anymore.

Before the establishment of People's Republic of China (also named China that eliminated Qing dynasty) in 1949, Chinese women were living under the traditional Confucian society of male superiority; most of them couldn't go out, couldn't go to school, and even couldn't have the right to choose the man who would accompany them for their entire life.

As opposed to this, after the women liberation, everything changed. Now, beautiful Chinese women can do whatever they want, without the permission of men. This is a huge change since the traditional Chinese society times and is also big and significant change to the whole world.

I'm a teenager girl from the 21st century. I absolutely know how Chinese women are in the present; but I'm also a big fan of the history. A lot of times when I see some old references about Chinese women, I am always very interested in their life, their way of thinking, their way of acting, their etiquettes, etc.

I dearly like a sentence that one of my friends told me: If you don't know the history, then you don't know where you come from; you don't know who you are.

So, to find out who I am, and to show people what differences there are between one class person in two different periods of history, I've decided to do this project: The comparison between Chinese feudal women and Chinese modern women.

As I mentioned before, nowadays Chinese women have the political, economic, and educational rights. But China is a very large country, with 56 races and 9.6 million square kilometers of land. Have all Chinese women got rid of men dominance, a fact that had been present around 2000 years in China?

At the beginning of this research project I am going to make a hypothesis which is the following: In my opinion, not all Chinese women have got rid of man dominance, this feudal thought is still present. And then I will deal with the differences between feudal women and modern women to confirm my hypothesis.

About Qing dynasty

The Qing dynasty, also named “the Empire of the Great Qing”, was founded by *Jurchen Aisin Gioro (Manchu people (1644-1912))*, a minority situated in the Northeastern China (*Manchuria*). Today it contains *Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning*. *Nurhachi*, leader of Manchu people, created *Jurchen Kingdom* in that area called “Great Jing”, and named himself “Kehan” which means the emperor of the dynasty.



With the Mongolians’ support, Manchu people began to extend their domain in the rest of China. Later, in 1644 the *Min* (major dynasty at the moment), its capital, Beijing, was conquered by the Manchu people under the leadership of the Nurhachi’s son, *Dorgon*. With this positive beginning, Manchu people controlled all the Chinese territory.



The territory under the control of Manchu people was very large. In now a days, it contains *Bhutan, Burma, China, Hong Kong, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macao, Mongolia, Pakistan, Russia, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Vietnam*. (China, Hong Kong, Macao, Mongolia and Taiwan countries are in yellow color. There didn’t pay a tax for the Qing government because they were considered Qing’s territory. The rest of the countries were obliged to pay a tax every year for the “Great Qing” to exchange the protection.)



The Qing dynasty had experienced twelve emperors. There were three of them who were extremely famous: *Kangxi, Yongzheng* and *Qianlong*. They worked very hard during their kingdoms. They truly worried people’s life and were trying to build an honest, diligent, pragmatic and efficient government. During their diligences, China achieved the most splendors in economy, military and culture sectors.

As for economy, they exploited new lands and spread new crops, so that increased the production. They re-opened the coast of the southeast China, which had been closed in the late 17th century, and because of this measure, foreign trade was quickly reestablished, and was expanding at 4% per year throughout the latest part of the 18th century. The most important exportations were tea, ceramics, silk and manufactures. With the income of these exported products the Chinese economy increased at the moment.

For the farmers, the government reduced the tax. However for the manufacturers, they increased the tax. Also, there were some determinant institutions to make the national market work correctly.

With regards to culture, there was an abundance literary works, like poems, proses, novels, operas...and the developing of the opera made the appearance of the Beijing Opera which now a days is a very important part of Chinese art. By the end of the 20th century, some democratic ideas had been introduced in China because of the influence of western thoughts. There began to appear some Chinese works that supported the democracy and criticized the real sovereignty. In front of this threat, the Qing government established the inquisition to burn all the texts related to the democratic ideas.

Referring to political issues, Manchu people used the "Eight Banners", which in the beginning of the dynasty was used in the military area, but later, with the increase of the territory domination, "Eight Banners" was also used in the control of the town hall. That means the huge Chinese territory was divided in eight regions and every region presented a Banner which was controlled directly by the central power (the emperor).

1.1Manchu women's clothing

During the “Great Qing” there was a strict stipulation governing and women’s dressing styles were bound by laws. It was stipulated that servants, actors and laborers were forbidden to wear clothes made of –high-grade materials, such as tread, thin silk, yam, damask silk, satin... what’s more, they were untitled to freely use any precious jades. The solvers used low-grade material such as tussah silk. And it was forbidden to wear precious jades if you were a solver. Furthermore, the prostitutes couldn’t wear skirts just trousers.

The characteristics of the Manchu women’s clothing were the turtleneck, the big sleeves and the long skirts, and this was the precedent of the Qipao (Chengsam) (p 1.2)



P 1.2: Quipao



P 1.1: The original Manchu women's dress

As we can see this is a typical Manchu woman’s clothing, the big sleeves and the long skirt. On the superficies of the cloth, we can find abundant embroidery. (p 1.1)

1.2 Manchu women's hairstyles

Manchu women normally used a decorated frame attached to the top of their head. They wrapped their hair around a wooden metal or ivory fillet, extending over both side and the head and fastened it behind the head.

During the early Qing dynasty, women used a small frame with decorative flowers above their head. And their hair was parted in middle, wrapped to the two sides of the fillet. This hair style was called “banner hair” or “liang ba tou (二把头)” (p1.3)



P: 1.3 Banner hair



P: 1.3 Banner hair, from an actress of a drama

With the pass of time, the decorated frame was going to be bigger; sometimes women had to use the wig to fasten their hairstyle. At the end of Qing dynasty large and bulky frames called “da la chi (大拉翅)” appeared, their inventor was the empress Cixi. This type of frames was made of a metal wire and covered with some padding. The surface of the frame was decorated with abundant adornment, it could be flowers, jewelry, silk tassels, etc.



P: 1.4 da la chi

From some historical references we can see that some Chinese women in the Qing dynasty wear long finger nails, their function was to protect the fingernails of high born women and to signify that they did not have to work. Normally it was made of jade, golden, silver, etc.

P 1.5 Finger nails



1.3 Pot-Bottomed Flowered shoes

Rich Manchu women wore platform shoes with colorful embroidery. The wooden platform shaped like a flower pot, and its imprint looked like that of a horse's hoof, so the shoes are also called "pot-bottom shoes" or "horse-hoofed shoes". The platform is usually 2 to 6 inches high, painted in white, and attached at the arch of the shoes.

The pot-bottom shoes elevated the woman's feet above the hem of the long gown, making the Manchu women walk tall and dignified.

There are different versions of the origin of the pot-bottom shoe. One tells of a tradition that Manchu women gathered fruits and vegetables in the mountains, and they tied a piece of wood at the bottom of their shoes to avoid being bitten by snakes. This tradition later turned into the artistically refined pot-bottom shoe.

At the beginning of the Qing dynasty Manchu women did not bind their feet like some Han Chinese women (*the majority of the Chinese population*), but later, because of Han culture's influence, Manchu women began to imitate this costume. During the middle



and the later Qing dynasty there were the splendor periods of the foot binding.

P 1.6 The pot-bottomed flowered shoes

2.1 The living model of Chinese women in the Qing society

How were the women at home?

In the Chinese traditional society, the basic tenets role of women as moral exemplars should complete these 2 criteria, the famous “Three followings” and “Four Womanly Accomplishments”.

1: Women “follows” or “obeys” men throughout the three primary stages of their life:
1: She follows her father as a little girl. 2: She follows her husband after marriage. 3: She follows her son in her old age.

2: The Four womanly Accomplishments consisted in **womanly speech, womanly virtue, womanly deportment and womanly work.**

The womanly speech means that women should know the right way to talk with others in the different situations. At home, women can’t talk back to her mother-in-law or father-in-law. In China, women call their mother-in-law or father-in-law as mother or father because in Chinese tradition mother or father of woman’s husband are considered her mother or father.

The womanly virtue: This criterion normally consisted in the chastity; women should be loyal to her husband.

The women deportment: women’s appearance should be clean. They should take a shower regularly and should keep the house clean. Women should choose the right and prudent cloths, couldn’t show even a little their chests.

The womanly work consisted in raising children, weaving and embroidering.

Also, at that time, rich women were allowed to study the classical literature. The reason to do that was to help them to be a better mother because they would be more able to train their children for competition in the civil exams, which would contribute to the prosperity of their household.

2.2 Marriages:

In the feudal society, marriages were usually arranged by parents and other family members. Marriages served to reinforce business and political alliances between families. Husband and wife didn't know each other before. Furthermore in that society, men were bellowed to have various concubines. These concubines had a different situation than his wife. Normally, these concubines were from poor families, they just served to maintain sexual relationships with their husband, and they had the lowest position in the house. A lot of times, "the primary wife" had the right to give orders to the concubines and could criticize them if they did something wrong.

However, a loving marriage was, in fact, the ideal situation. Diaries, poems and other forms of literature attest such marriages.

Chinese romantic love didn't consist in a very passionate way, but in a timid way. For example, if a man liked a woman, he would watch the scenery with serene looks on faces. They wouldn't be holding hands, much less embracing each other; and if a woman knew how to write or knew something about literature, they would transfer the loving through the poems, letters...

The classic symbol of marital happiness was the mandarin duck which lives in pairs and mates for life.

In the feudal thoughts women's chastity was regarded as the most important thing for them.

It not only meant the sexual act or contact with another man, but also included any behavior that might appear in eyes of the others to lead to improper sexual contact, like scantily clad, heavy make-up... Any action contrary to the "Womanly deportment" was considered unchastity.

After the death of husband, women had their children to support, they should work very hard for making a living by weaving cloths (any works at home, not in public), if they didn't have any dependents, an ideal course of action would be suicide. Since to their thinking, they thought that "to starve to death is a very small matter, to lose one's integrity is a very serious matter". Due to the fact that women wouldn't seem a good person if they remarried with another man, it would be considered disloyal to their dead husband, and their children would be influenced by their mother.

The following is a fragment from a woman who refused to remarry despite many offers from a distinguished nobleman of the region after the death of her husband when she was very young.

“My husband unfortunately died young; I live in widowhood to raise his orphans, and I am afraid that I have not given them enough attention. May honorable men have sought me, but I have my hand. I’ve learned that “The principle for a wife is that once having gone forth to marry, she will not change over, and that she may keep all the rules of chastity and faithfulness” to forget the dead and run to the living is not faithfulness; to be honored and forget the lowly is not chastity; and to avoid righteousness and follow gain is not worthy of a woman.”

During the Qing dynasty, the cult of chaste widowhood got a great support from the State. If women had been widowed before the age of 30 and had remained in celibate past the age of 50, possible rewards were given to them like a certificate of commendation written by the emperor, or even better, money for the construction of a “memorial archway” to honor the chaste widow, were highly prestigious and included the name of the widow along with stock expressions such as “chaste and filial”.

2.3 Foot Binding

In the history of China, Song dynasty (960-1279) was the promoted the foot binding’s heyday, especially for the wealthy women a pair of three inches *feet (also called “golden lotus feet” from a Chinese legend, a beautiful woman called Yao Niang bind her feet in white silk into the shape of the crescent moon, when she was dancing on the lotus’s shape stage won the heart of the emperor Li Yu.)* was the symbol of the lady and her high position in society.

But, when and why appeared this custom?

There are various different versions. Some people said that it began in the Sui period (century VI), some say that it began in the Tang dynasty (century VII-X), and even some people said that it was from the Shang period (century XVII BC). The origin of foot binding can’t be determined, but one thing that can be assured is the huge influence for Chinese feudal women’s normal life.

The reasons for foot binding can be traced in the **Confucian ideas** (the main philosophy in China) , because of its man dominance thinking. It defended that it’s better for women to stay at home than to go to outside and the foot binding was precisely the best way to avoid them to go out. So that showed the loyalty to their husband. Also, because of the Chinese philosophy of **“Ying and Yang”** it was used to describe the opposites of nature, for example: Day and night, light and dark, hot and cold, high and low, weak and strong. And in its theory, Ying represented women and Yang represented men. The ancestry had believed that foot binding could exactly show the weak, quiet, tiny and tender features of women. The weak was expressed by the

inability of the long walking or long times standing; the quiet was expressed by staying at home and no-talking with another person, just obeying the husband's demand; the tiny and tender were expressed by the tiny figure and the elegance way of their movement. (Because at that time, men thought that the women who had tiny feet could show a fascinating movement.)

The marriage could also be related to the foot binding. For women who lived in the old Chinese society, foot binding was the prerequisite to find a wealthy husband. For the poor women who had the three inches of feet, it would mean the opportunity to marry to a wealthy man. At that time, three inches of feet was the third important part of the women's body, after the vagina and the breast.

The first day of the wedding, the first thing that husbands fixed was their wife's feet. If the feet were tiny enough, he wouldn't care about her face, because the feet were the biggest symbol of the women's beauty. In the past times, many men believed that the tiny feet could excite their sexual desire. There was a lot of literature work reflecting the fanaticism of the "golden lotus feet". In some histories, men liked to drink with the golden lotus feet's shoes, because these shoes were small enough so that they could treat them like the wineglass.

The process of foot binding:

At the ages of 2-5, before the growth of girl's feet, they had to accept the process of the foot binding. Normally it started in the winter months because the low temperature could reduce the pain caused by operation.

First, each foot should be soaked in the warm water. This was intended to soften the foot and aid the binding. After cleaning the feet, the nails were cut back to prevent ingrowth and subsequent infections, and then the toes were turned back into the sole of the foot except the biggest one. At the same time, the girl's mother or her slave would sprinkle alum powder on their feet to prevent infection.

Second, they would use a cotton bandage (3 m long and 5 cm wide) to tie the feet forcefully to prevent the growth of the feet, and then they would use a stitch to fix the bandage.

This process would be repeated during some months till they fixed the feet's shape.

Every time, when finished the binding, the girl's mother would force her to walk on the floor, though the poor girl had to endure the huge pain because her four little toes were replicated under the sole of the feet. At night, a lot of them just couldn't sleep because of this unbearable soreness.

What is more, some mothers wanted their daughters to have tiny feet bind the feet with cotton bandage additional the ceramics fragments so that the girl's feet could be

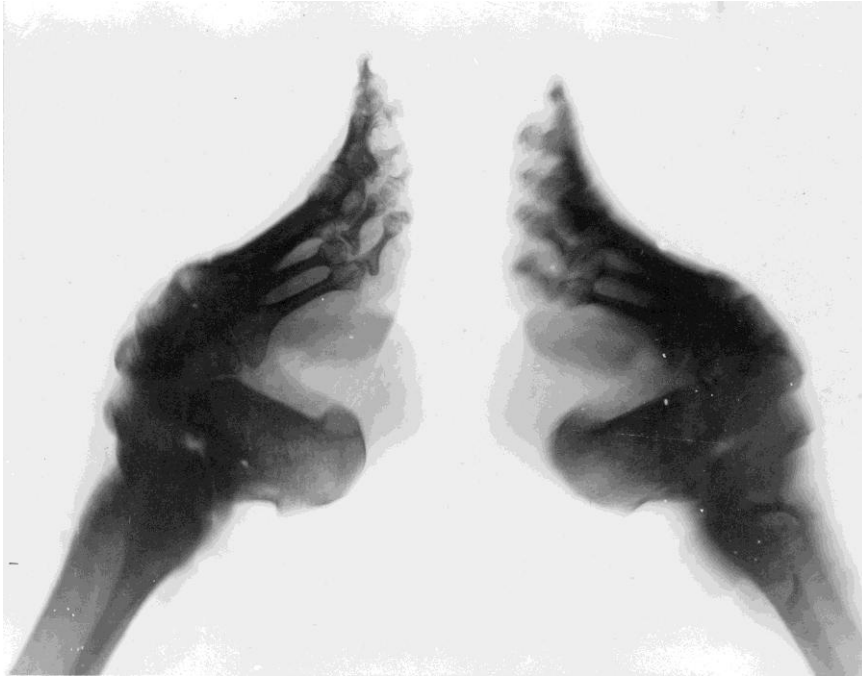
injured and corrupted, and this way was easier to bind for a pair of the three inches feet.

In the south of China, because of the high humidity, women had to wash their feet frequently. However, the northern women just washed their feet mostly every ten days.

When women washed their feet, they had to stay in a room where no one could watch her feet. They had to wash their feet very carefully. First of all, they had to take the shoes off. Secondly, they had to take off the bandage with the maximum care, since their feet was injured a lot because of the working day. Usually, the bandage was accompanied with blood and sweat. After the bandage untied, they soaked their feet into warm water to reduce the pain and accelerate the blood circulation. Also, they would cut their toenails and clean their feet very carefully. After that they would sprinkle the alum powdery to keep their feet dry and avoid infection. Finally they bind back their feet tightly to keep the same size.



The binding feet of a Manchu woman.



The binding feet under the X ray.



The embroidered shoes for binding feet.



p. 2.4 Rich Manchu women with their binding feet

A Little story about Manchu Women's foot binding:

During the Qing dynasty, the emperor ordered to ban the foot binding to reduce the power of the Han race. Since at that time the race of the courts was Manchu, and Manchu women didn't bind the feet just the Han women did that, but because of the huge population of Han mostly 90% of Chinese didn't accept the order of the emperor and still continued with this costume. This action was also resistance significance to the emperor's kingdom. By the Han culture's influence, Manchu women in the courts also began to bind their feet. In the end, the emperor canceled the ban.

3. The role of Chinese women in economy and in education.

3.1: Economy

In the Qing dynasty, the economy was based on the agriculture.

As well, in the traditional Chinese society, men were those who worked on the lands. As a result of this, men were the most important factor in this kind of economy systems and improved their positions in society.

As I explained before Chinese women couldn't go out to work, so the economy activities were limited to the home area. It means that women only could develop their economy activities at home, like weaving and embroidering. And these two activities were essential for them, when they, as a little girl, were trained to do these activities by their female family members.

An indispensable female role in the play of the women's department was Ban Zhao (in Chinese: 班昭) (45C – 116CE) , who was the first female Chinese historian. She wrote << Lessons for women>> (Chinese: <<女诫>>), an influential work advising women to be submissive and accept that their husbands can have concubines as well as wives, and they must remain faithful.

In the << Lessons for women>> Ban Zhao indicated that women's work is *"concentrating on weaving, no joking"*.

3.2 Education

In << Lessons for women>> Ban Zhao expressed that women should be as well-educated as her so they can serve better their husband and their son. So, the major women should read the classical literature like << Lessons for women>>, << biographies of exemplary women>> or any kind of literature dedicated to teaching women's department.

Apart from this, not the major women could accept the education, only aristocratic women, wealthy women and prostitutes.

Aristocratic women and wealthy women accepted education from their father or brothers, those who had the ability to give the knowledge. Even sometimes their father employed particular teachers to teach them. One thing that was prohibited was to study with men.

The reason for the prostitutes to study was to have fun with their clients because in that period only wealthy men could pay the cost in the brothels and, normally, they had a certain educational background. So, with the aim to have some common topics with their clients they should study.

At the end of the Qing dynasty, many western people came to China and spread their thoughts. In 1892, the first female school *McTyeire School* was established in Shanghai by an American missionary. The subjects that the students were studying were English, science and the bible. In that school, girls didn't study the classical Chinese literature but the occidental ideas. Later, these girls became the first group of the professional modern women; many of them went to the United States to get further studies.

3.3 The end of the Qing dynasty

During the reign of the Xianfeng emperor (1850-1861), Qing dynasty was beginning to be in a dangerous platform: western people entered Chinese territory and spread the occidental thoughts (democratic ideas, the human equality...). There began to appear movements based on democracy and the abdication of the emperor. At the same time, however, western people were planning to attack “the Great Qing”.

The outer crisis was beginning and the inner crisis wasn't resolved: Xianfeng emperor had no son and this would cause the no descendent of the Qing dynasty. Luckily, this huge problem was fixed by the noble-lady Cixi (*because Cixi was the concubine of the Xianfeng emperor so Cixi couldn't got the letterhead as Empress*), who was pregnant.

Because of this great news Xianfeng emperor raised her position in his “women's circle” (*in the feudal Chinese society a man could got a wife but various concubine while the woman could just had one husband*). At that time Cixi's position was just inferior one class than the empress's (Cian).



Cixi (in Chinese: 慈禧)

The baby of Cixi was born named Tongzhi because he was the son of Xianfeng emperor. So he would undoubtedly become the future emperor. After the death of Xianfeng emperor, Tongzhi became little by little the emperor of the Qing dynasty. At that time, he was only 5 years old. His biological mother Cixi and his “first” mother (Cian, the real wife of Xianfeng) both became the leaders of the Qing dynasty who controlled the politics. But Cian wasn't interested in politics and let Cixi to administrate the political matters. Exactly, by this opportunity, Cixi controlled mostly all the dynasty and killed all those people who were against her. Later, Cian was dead; this made that Cixi consolidated her power in the political sector.

After the death of her son Tongzhi (at the age of 18), Cixi determined her nephew Guangxu (at the age of 4) to be the emperor, and she became again to be at the top of the political powers, aimed the young Guangxu wasn't old enough to dedicate himself to the politics.

On 14th November 1908, the emperor Guangxu was dead, just one day before Cixi's death (15th November, in 1908). Some references reflected that Cixi made his death, but this guessing without any evidence. The investigations of now a days prove that Guangxu was dead by the uptake of a type of drug.

The same year, the twelfth and the last emperor of Qing dynasty, Puyi, controlled the country. During his reign, the Qing dynasty faced many threats: more and more democratic movements, the invasions of Japanese and occidental countries, the revolutions, etc. In 1912, Puyi was obligated to abdicate after the successful of Xinhai revolution, which its objective was to decline the Qing state and modernize China. The victory of this revolution marked the **end of over 2,000 years of imperial ruling** and the beginning of China's republican era.

At that stage, China had established the democratic system. "(But the stable situation didn't take very long, after the death of the leader of the Xinhai revolution, Sun, there was the civil conflict between Mao and Chiang Kai-shek. Mao defended the communist Party while Chiang defended the Kuomintang, which was defended also by leader Sun. After a couple of years of conflicts, Mao achieved the predominance of China while Chiang was sent to Taiwan, an island in the south of China.



Mao (1893-1976)

In 1949, Mao announced the establishment of People's Republic of China (PRC), and later he indicated the equality between women and men and emphasized that women were the essential element for the production. In 1950, women got the right to obtain the land, but, before, only men could have the land. Women could go to school to study and go out to work. During this period, because of the necessity and the modern ideas' influence, women began to abandon the foot binding and some old feudal thoughts.

4 Women in the modern society

In 1949, it was established the People's Republic of China under the leadership of Mao who indicated a saying "women are the half of the sky" which emphasized the importance of women's position in society.

In 1958, Soong Ching-ling (the second president in the PRC at the moment and the first woman in the politic scenario.) founded **The National Women's Federation** that protected women's rights.

After that, more and more reforms or federations began to appear. The new constitution in 1992 indicated the protection of women's basic rights and interests.

1. Women have the same right than men in the political sphere. They have the right to vote and to be elected, to achieve the women's political right, they should establish a proportion of the women's participation in politics and by the time, this proportion should increase.
2. Women have the same right than men in the educational sphere. This equality expressed by school's entrance, graduation, and the participation in the science, article, culture, literature areas... Government, society, educational institution and family should guarantee the girls' right accepting education.
3. Women have the same right than men in the economic sector. This concludes the right to work, to have the same salary and the same resting period than men's, to have the guaranty of the sanitation and the protection of the employment. The law rules that any company cannot discriminate to the employ because of the reason of the sex, and cannot cancel the contract when women get married or get pregnant.
4. Women have the same right than men in the property. Women have the right to get the same property in the agricultural area, in the housing and in the inheritance.
5. Women have the personal right. Women have the rights of life and health, of liberty, of portrait... the law bans the discrimination, bans the abandonment and the desolation of girls.
6. Women have the same right than men in marriage. Rules that women have the liberty to marry, to divorce. In marriage, they should keep equality between women and men. Women have the right to have their own last name, not following or changing to their husband's.

Though these liberal ideas, the modern federations and the new reforms it seems that all the Chinese women would get rid of the feudal thinking and feudal living model, but is this the fact?

After the "Reforms of women's social positions" it is true that Chinese women have experienced a miraculous raise of their social position; they now have the right to get an education, to get a job and to participate in politics. But, a certain group of the women, especially from rural areas, are still living under some feudal influence. For them, the journey towards equality with men is still very long. Furthermore, there grew another problem in China: the increase of the inequality between the urban women and the rural women.

Because this new problem's raise, it's essential to analyze the modern Chinese women from two different environments: women from the countryside and women from the cities. Before the comparison between these two kinds of women, it is necessary to introduce some information about China at the present time.

4.1 China at the present time

China, also named *the People's Republic of China* ((**P.R.C.**; Simplified Chinese: 中华人民共和国, Traditional Chinese: 中華人民共和國) is a sovereign state located in East Asia with 9.6 million square Kilometers of land. The PRC is a single-party state governed by the communist Part. The capital of China is Beijing. There are 22 provinces, 5 autonomous regions, 4 direct-controlled municipalities (Beijing, Tianjing, Shanghai, and Chongqing) and 2 mostly self-governing special administrative regions (Hong Kong and Macau).



Current China map

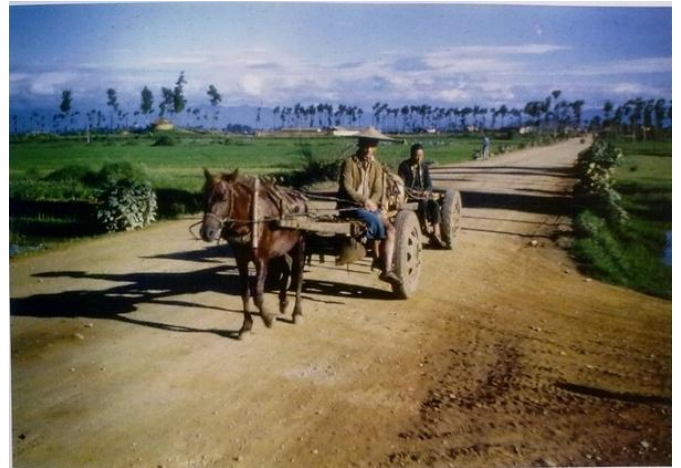


Tiananmen, or Gate of Heavenly Peace, is a famous monument in Beijing, it's widely used as a national symbol.



Beijing, city's sight in the night

China is the most populous country in the world with **1.35 billion** inhabitants and the **0.9 billion** people are from rural areas.



Chinese countryside

In 1978, Deng Xiaoping announced **the economic reform** (*from the difference of the traditional socialism that the government controled the economy, Chinese socialism defend the liberal of economic market*) and implemented the **household responsibility system** (*Farmers are obligated to hand in a quota of the agricultural production to government every year but the rest of them can be sold in the free market*). By this measure the production increased (*8.2% a year*) and the incomes too. The increases in agriculture productivity allowed workers to be released for work in industry and services. As a result of this, more and more young rural people go to cities to work.

On the one hand, this economic reform increased magically China's economy; from 1978 China's GDP (*the market value of all officially final goods and services produced in a country in a period of time*) had grown 9.5% a year. But, on the other hand, this policy aggravated the inequality between urban regions and rural regions.

In the distribution of the region's GDP we can see that only in three parts of China the GDP is higher than 10,000 \$ (in color



GDP per capita by province-level of Mainland China in 2012

pink). It means that only a little part of China can be considered “rich”, and the rest of China is still in a very difficult economic condition. These three high GDP’s parts were developing so quickly that it caused that people from those “poor” provinces to go to work in these quickly developed cities (Beijing, Shanghai...).



4.2 Modern women's clothing

In nowadays, because of the connections with other countries, Chinese women's clothing is not very different from the rest of women's clothing in the world.

In fact, there is not the obvious difference of clothing style between urban women and rural women. Only most of the urban women have the chance to buy high-quality clothes, whereas most of the rural women normally buy low-quality clothes because their salary is very low.



Rural girl



City girl

4.3 Education

In the current China, all the kids, girls and boys have the right to accept the 9 years of the basic education (6 years for the primary education and 3 years for the secondary education. In some provinces, 5 years for the primary education and 4 years for the secondary education)

In the present-day educational sector the problem is not that girls cannot enter school, but the inequality between the urban education and the rural education.

In the urban regions, students can obtain the high-equality education. Usually their teachers have a high level educational background and, of course, high level salary. The school's facilities are complete (projectors, desks, chairs, blackboards...). As well, in the urban public school they afford 35 hours of



An urban secondary school

classes per week. But except for this, urban students often have the out-of-school classes like language class, music instrument class, mathematic class, science class... The objective is to improve their school marks. The consequence of this is that Chinese urban students don't have much time to hang out with their friends or participate in social life. They don't have time to develop their hobbies or even find out what their hobbies are. But, because of these out-of-school classes, some urban students get better marks than rural students', and so they have more possibilities to access university than them. Furthermore, to enrich school life, schools in the urban regions normally hold periodic art festivals and sports festivals. The members who participate in these festivals are the same students of their schools.



Urban secondary school class

Sports Festivals



Art Festival



In the rural regions, there are also public schools, but, the quality of education is not as good as the city's one. Many teachers don't want to work in the countryside because the salary is very low. It's about the 1/3 of an urban teacher's and the opportunity of the career's developing is short. The shortage of the rural teachers and the rural education's crisis is more and more obvious. Furthermore the schools' facilities are incomplete; often students don't have the projector. Even in some cases, they don't have the suitable school desk and chair. After school, most of them have no out-of-school classes but they usually get housework. Normally, rural public schools are established in the center of the village, the students' houses are far from the school. This causes a big cost in the time of the way to go to school, most of them spend, at least, a half an hour.



rural school's class



rural children on the way to the school

The following text reflects the voice of a rural teacher: "In China, a lot of people think that being a teacher is a very respectable thing because it means that you can get a high salary, a social guaranty and enough free-time. Actually, this is a very ridiculous thought. In 2002, my salary was only 340 yuan (*about 56 \$*), that was nothing for the cost of a normal life because it could be spent all by a little sickness. Also I couldn't take part in the exam of the online undergraduate (*the education of collegial level*) in the country because I had just graduated from a technical secondary school. The cost for a year for the undergraduate was 10,000 yuan (*about 1,666\$*), every moth I only spend 100 yuan (*about 17\$*). I was afraid of the friend's meetings, because those would spend a lot of money and could cause the inability to buy the train's ticket to go hometown. So I often spent my free time on the internet or staying in the library. Now,

in 2013 my salary increased to 742 yuan (*about 123\$*) it is an insignificant number to me, for some urban women can't even buy a high-quality cloth with such a ridiculous amount.

According to a survey from China indicated that the salary of some teachers in the urban high schools is more than 10,000 yuan (*1,666\$*). From 1985 to 2003 the salary of teachers in the urban high schools increased mostly 11 times.

The difficulty of the access to universities

A huge problem for rural students is the difficulty to access universities because most of the universities are established in the cities, not in the villages. In China, there is a rule that states that students from out of the local city get less possibilities to enter the local universities.

For this reason, universities treat the local city's students as the first option and the out of local city's students as the second option. For example, if an out of local city's student got a nine in his final score, and a local student got an eight in his final score, the university would take the local student than another one. In 2013, the proportion of the entrance to the Beijing University between the Beijing local students and the out of Beijing students was 26:1. This means that Beijing local students had 96% possibilities to access the Beijing University, while others only had 4%.

Identity problem

Except for the students from the countryside and the students from the cities, there is another type of the students who are living in the cities but get the identity from the countryside and of course they are not local students. If they want to go to the urban local school to get a higher level of the education, before entering the school they have to change their ID from the countryside to the local place (*this is a big amount of money that a lot of the rural families can't pay*), or they have to pay more for the education when the local students have no necessity to pay for.

Although the rural students can accept the urban high-quality education by paying more, they couldn't get the selection exam (*in Chinese is Gaokao 高考 a type of the exam to access universities*) in the local city, they had to return to their own town to do the selection exam if they didn't have the local city's ID. (*In China, every city has their own selection, they are different.*)

A recent report showed that in 1980s the proportion about the access into the universities between the rural students and the city students was 1:1. But in the present day, this proportion is 1:4.65. These dates reflected the raise of the inequality

of education. On the other hand, this report indicated that in the current China, a rural family had to work for 13 years to pay the cost of 4 years university's education.

Many rural people think that it's better to go to work rather than studying at university because the cost is very high and, after the graduation, rural people have less possibility to find a job than urban people. Besides, the salary of an official job is about 2500 yuan (416\$) it's very difficult to save now a days taking into account the big raise of prices.

In 2011, the leader of the Ministry of Education said that students from out of the local city would have the possibility to take the selection exam in the local city without an ID change in the current five years (future).

In the introduction of the modern China mentioned above, a lot of young people leave the countryside for the city in order to make more money. This trend has caused now a very serious problem: the remaining number of rural kids without their parents in the countryside is growing up. According to a China's report, there are mostly 61 million children in China who are under this condition. Thus, this would provoke the psychological problems like autism, insecurity, melancholia...

A letter from a child in this situation to his father, who is working in the city:

Dad:

You know? When you left home to the city, mom also went to the city to work, and I have been left alone at home. I have to look after for myself. I tell you a secret, because of this, I've learned how to cook and how to do the housework. But I didn't get good marks in my course: Chinese 7.8 and Math 6.9. I know that I didn't treat the study as the core in my life, but dad, I have so many housework to do, I really don't have much time to study. I called mom, begged her to come back, she told me: "son, if I came back home, we couldn't live with the poor salary of your father".

Dad, I can't stand this situation anymore, I don't want to study, please take me with you, I want to leave from here.

4.4 Women's living model

After present time, the richer area is the more expression of equality between women and men there is. And this trend can be reflected by having babies. For most urban families it is the same to get a girl than to get a boy. This thought is not just caused by the new modern ideas but also by the one-child policy which was announced in 1973. The young generation in China that was born under the one-child policy has become the core of the family; they are always well protected under their

family member like a little king in the family. This provoked that some of them lose the ability to live alone, but some people also think that this policy allowed the young generation have a type of the life which is high-equality and freedom live.

Although in some urban families they only can have one child, most of them would like to have more children by being paid.

In the rural areas, a couple can have two children if the first one is a girl or a disabled baby. This caused that some rural couples abandoned their girls because they still had the conservative thinking that a family should have a boy to continue the family's descendant. *(Once girl has got pregnant the baby gets the last name from their husband, and this baby is considered the descendant in the part of the husband not the wife's).*

However, in some developing cities, this old thinking is going to be eliminated, the baby from his parents is considered the descendant of the father's and the mother's.

In November 2013, China's government announced the two-child policy allowing families to have two children if one of the parents is an only child.

4.5 Marriage

In 1931, China announced the law of monogamy and indicated the liberty of marriage. In the same year, the wife of the last emperor Puyi used this modern law to get divorced; this made obvious the first step of getting rid of the men's control in a family.

At the present time, Chinese marriages are not arranged by the family members although in some cases it is still this way; especially in rural areas. They now have the freedom to choose their spouse.

Differently from before, modern women are not under the masculine dominance; even in some cases women's positions can be higher than men's. For example, in Shanghai *(the financier capital city in China)*: In a family usually the woman is the one who plays the main role instead of man, also is frequent that women can be allowed not to do housework but men should.

Modern Women's Chastity

As we know, in the past, Chinese women should preserve their chastity before marriage. But now, women's chastity is not so much important in people's thoughts. In a recent survey, it is pointed out that about 59% women have sexual relationships

before marriage in China, and in Guangzhou (a big city in China) this percentage tends to 86%.

People who were born in 1980s, their attitudes to the sexual relationship is the following: if you love that person it's ok to have sex with him, even though in the future he wouldn't become your husband.

People who were born in 1990s, have attitudes to sexual relationships that are quite open: in Beijing (the capital of China) about 70% of them have girl/boyfriends and 90% of these couples keep sexual relationships. For these young generations, to have sexual experiences is becoming a modern trend. For them, to have sexual relationships is such a proud thing, even they will share their sexual experience with their friends. The serious consequences of these opening thoughts are the abortion and the sexual transmitted diseases.

About the same-sexual marriage

In China it is banned to have the same-sexual marriage. Some experts estimate that there are ten million lesbians and two million homosexuals in China. Most of them are living under the discrimination of society and under the pressure of their family. They have to get married with heterosexual. But the young generation who were born in 1990s is fearless; most of them have the same-sexual relationship and are not ashamed to do so.

With the modernizing of the ideas more and more people support the same-sexual marriage. In the recent survey there is 30% of Beijing people, who support the same-sexual relationship's legality.

About the domestic violence

In China, there about 40% women who have suffered mental harm, 10% have undergone physical violence and 4.1% have suffered sexual violence. The proportion of the domestic violence is more obvious in the rural areas, 58.1% have suffered mental harm, 29.7% have undergone physical violence and the 29.7% have suffered sexual violence. Furthermore, there are 64.8% rural women have had, at least, one of these three domestic violence.

Women who have undergone domestic violence are worried about their health conditions: 5% of them always have pain; 50.4% of them are anxious, are in cold sweat and have insomnia; 91.6% of them are afraid of their husbands; 32% of them have intended to commit suicide;

Moreover, because of their injuries, these women have lost evenly 12.5 working days and have paid evenly 2509 yuan (about 418\$) for a health service.

4.6 Economy

In current China, there has appeared a new word, “**she-economy**”, which means the form of the female market caused by the raise of the women’s social position and women’s consuming capability.

The birth of the “she-economy” modified the trend of consuming and confused the company’s developing direction, but also brought a big economic opportunity.

Its characteristics are:

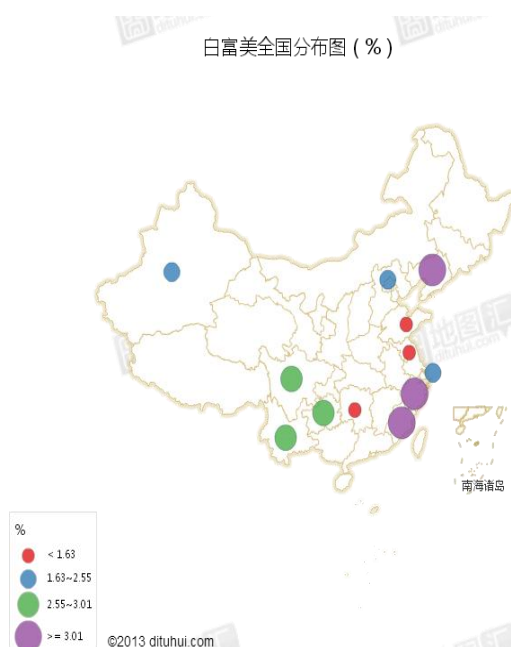
1: Emotionalize. Nowadays women’s motivation to consuming is not only based on production’s necessity but also on one self’s satisfaction. So, their objective of consuming is the joyfulness that they can set through buying products, consequently they would choose products by their own preferences. (color, shape, brand or even environment, etc.)

2: Diversity. With the growth of women’s incomes, they are now interested in the improvement of the living standards; the gym, the beauty salon these female services have been established very quickly in the recent years. Moreover, the tourism was also raised by women’s economic ability.

3: Individuality. In the present time, more and more women care about the individual image, and buy those certain products to show their individuality, so that the luxuries are pursued by a lot of Chinese women (*on the other hand, many Chinese people think that appearance is very important and the luxury goods can definitely show their elegance and their high social position.*)

4: Independence. From recent surveys, it is pointed out that a growing number of women who have the consciousness about independence (*in the economic sense*). This phenomenon is indicated by the increase of the purchasing of cars and houses by women.

Women who have these capacities are rich, beautiful and white (*beautiful and*



white are a significant symbol. In China rich women are usually white and elegant because they know how to take care of themselves and have not got the necessity to go out to work. On the contrary rural women are often darker because they have to go out work for a long time under the sun). Thus, they have been described as “white, beautiful and rich” (in Chinese Bai Fu Mei 白富美). This map shows the distribution of these kinds of women in China, and we can find that only in some parts of China women have that condition.

Between city women and rural women we can notice a big difference, but not every rural woman like the ones appearing in the photo. Now rural women are integrating and accepting the city's life style, and more and more rural women are becoming the “white, rich and beautiful” ones too.

White rich and beautiful



rural woman



Rural women who were born in the 1970s, didn't get the chance for a good education, so for them it's very difficult to find a job as officers. They often work as nurses; cleaning women... those jobs don't require a good educational background. Their salaries are very low sometimes only are 10% of urban women's.

The birth of “she-economy” made that Chinese women are now catching up in luxury consumption. They contribute over 50% to this market segment today in 2010.

China is the world's second largest consumer market for luxury goods, next to Japan, and having surpassed the United States in 2009. The World Luxury Association estimated the total amount of consumption for luxury goods in China was 9.4billion\$ in 2010. This means that in 2010 Chinese women spent 4.7billion\$ in the luxury goods in China (*they didn't count the cost on the luxury goods in the part of*

Chinese women abroad). On current growth rates, the luxury good market in China is expected to grow to 14.6 billion \$ in 2014.

Market Characteristics:

Chinese luxury good consumers are younger than their European counterparts, belonging to the 18-50 age group, compared to Europe's consumers who are generally in the over 40 age group. Because of this, China's luxury goods markets are expected to grow faster than that of Europe's.

From the survey, we can point out that most Chinese women who buy these luxury goods earn a salary is less than 2000\$ a month, this is not considered rich, but why do they buy them?

According to 2007 Global Luxury Survey by Time Magazine, most luxury goods buyers in China buy luxury products as a status symbol (*denotation of one's social position*). The top three luxury brands in China are Louis Vuitton, Chanel and Gucci.

From news on the 28th December 2013 we find the following: *26th December after Christmas, the first day of the discount in Selfridges in London. About 1/3 of the consumers were Chinese. According to the survey from "Global Blue" (a tax-free shopping consulting) this indicated that Chinese are the biggest luxury consumers abroad this year (because the luxury tax in China is higher than the one abroad, so many Chinese would like to buy the luxury good- products in the broad), spent evenly 2,333\$ in every single product.*



4.7 Women in the politics



Soong Ching-ling played the first female role in China's politics. In 1949, the year that established the People Republic of China, she was elected as the one of six vice chairmen of *the Central People's Government* (the body with supreme power in the state). In 1950, Soong became chairman of the Chinese People's Relief Administration, which combined several organizations dealing with welfare and relief issues. In 1953 Soong served on the committees preparing for elections to the new National People's Congress (the national legislature of the People's Republic of China) and the drafting of the 1954 constitution.

In 1953 the Chinese law defined clearly that women had the same right than men to be elected and to vote. In the same year it was held the basic election in all the Chinese territory. It was the first election with its big model in China's history, 90% women participated in the voting process.



The four females represent. The first China's Congress of Women in 1953.

Later the **constitution in 1992** indicated the women's right in China protecting the basic rights and interests.

Although Chinese government achieved the reform of Chinese women's social positions, in fact, equality between women and men is not as positive as it was expected, because the reform wasn't a revolution to defense women's rights from the low to the high social law. It was not like the western women's trends of feminism during 19th and 20th centuries which focused on inequalities primarily on gaining women's suffrage.

In the 1992 constitution it was indicated that there should be a proportion of female politicians in China with 22%. On the one hand this increased women's participation in politics. On the other hand this caused doubt about women's real political ability, because some people think may women can't handle political stuff, their participations in politics just are provoked by laws.

The famous female politicians in China's today government:



Wuyi (in Chinese 吴仪), was born in 1938. She was the first-ranked Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China (*The head of government and holds the highest-ranking in the Civil service of the People's Republic of China.*).

She had been overseeing China's economy until March 2008. In April 1962, she joined the Communist Party of China. She was considered the "Iron Lady" (*a nickname that has frequently been used to describe female heads of government around the world*). She was one of the most respectable leaders in China. She was also



named by Time Magazine one of Time's 100 Most Influential People in 2004. Since becoming Vice Premier, Wu had been an able diplomat in signing agreements with neighboring Asian countries. She was the first woman to hold the position since economic and political reforms in 1978.

Liu Yandong (Chinese 刘延东) was born in 1945 . She is the highest female politician in the current China, serving as the second-ranked Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China.

Leta Hong Fincher, doctoral candidate at Tsinghua University (*the highest educational institution in China*) who examines gender issues in China said "If Liu Yandong is appointed to the Politburo Standing Committee, it should be a milestone for female political representation in China and an indication that the Chinese government is ready to place a woman in a position of genuine power. But she doesn't represent the overall status of women"

According to the survey of IPU (*The global organization of parliaments that works to establish democracy, peace and cooperation among peoples.*) in 2010 expressed the proportion of Female politicians in China was as follows: only 21.3% and the 55th rank country among the 187 countries, inferior to the IPU's criterion with at least 30%.

Leta Hong Fincher, doctoral candidate at Tsinghua University (*the highest educational institution in China*) who examines gender issues in China said "If Liu Yandong is appointed to the Politburo Standing Committee, it should be a milestone for female political representation in China and an indication that the Chinese government is ready to place a woman in a position of genuine Power. But that would not lead to an improvement in the overall status of women"

4.8 Women in culture

Literature

Ren Yiming (Chinese: 任一鸣), the professor of the Xinjiang University said: "the consciousness of modern Chinese women is the reflection of China's reform process. Female writers pursue the women's right awareness on themselves, on the country and on the era. Their objective is to increase the women's self-value and women's self-spirit, they woke up from the feudal society as the oppression object under the society and under the men.

Wang Anyi (Chinese 王安忆) the modern classic female writer who was born in 1954, is now the chairwoman of Writer's Association of Shanghai. In 1980 she received additional professional training from the Chinese Writer's Association, and her fiction achieved national prominence, winning literary award in China. Her most famous novel is



The Everlasting Regret (Chinese: 长恨歌). The protagonist is a young Shanghainese girl from the 1940s. She traces Shanghai, this metropolis's changes during that period.

In 2005, Stanley Kwan directed its film version.



The **style** of her literature collections is: the protagonists are normally little people in the society but with abundant life experience. She focus on writing people's life but reflecting the social concern and human philosophy.

Chang Ai-Ling also named Eileen Chang (Chinese: 张爱玲) was born in 1920 to a noble family. When she as little, she was living under a happy family. But later her father divorced with her mother, she and her little brother were growing up under the maltreatment by their stepmother. In 1938, Eileen left her father to live with her biological mother. In 1944, she got married with a politician Hu Lancheng, but two years late, she wrote to him to divorce. In 1955, she immigrated to the United States and there she knew an American playwright Ferdinand Reyher. Quickly she fell in love again, later, she got pregnant and married him.



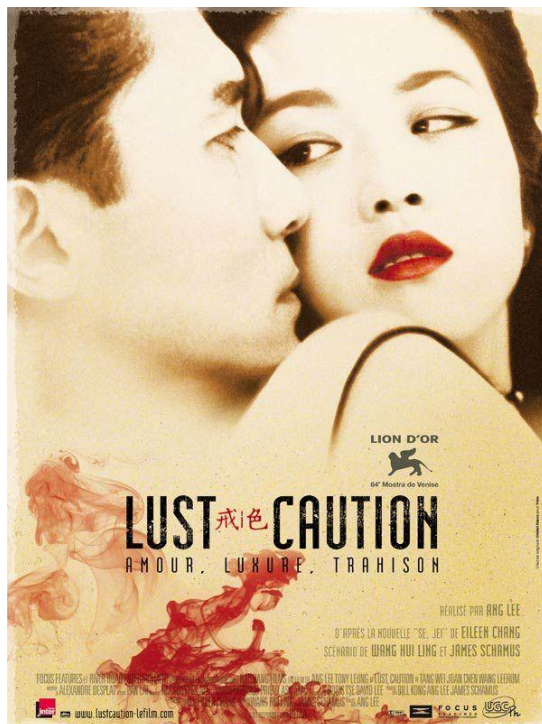
In 1995, Eileen dead in Los Angeles alone, her corpse was found by her landlord.

Eileen's writings deal with the tensions between women and men in love, but the love that Eileen interpreted is not that romantic, but tough people who are fall in love reflect human's desire: greedy, hypocritical, vanity, erotic...and the social problem.

Her fictions are considered by some scholars to be among the best Chinese literature of the period. The poet and University of Southern California professor Dominic Cheung commented "had it not been for the political division between the Nationalist and Communist Chinese, she would have almost certainly won a Nobel Prize".

Her famous literature works are "The Golden Cangue" (金鎖記), *Lust, Caution* (色, 戒), *Hong Meigui Yu Bai Meigui* (1994) (紅玫瑰與白玫瑰, *The Red Rose and the White Rose*)

These novels were translated in English and in other languages. Further, there are film versions.





4.9 Artists

Zhang Ziyi (Chinese 章子怡), is a Chinese film actress and model born in 1979 in Beijing. In 1998, she began to study in the Central Academy of Drama which is the highest institution of education in dramatic art, the world's leading art institutions. In 2000, her first movie role in the film <<The Road Home>> won the Silver Bear Prize in Berlin International Film Festival. Moreover, in the film <<Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon >>, she played the role of Jen. And thanks to this film she won the several prizes in the western world such as Chicago Film Critics Association Awards, Toronto Film Critics Association Awards and Independent Spirit

Awards. In 2002 with the film <<Hero>> she was nominated for the Oscar and the Golden Globe awards in the category of best foreign film.



Yangyin (Chinese: 杨颖) is a Chinese model, Singer and actress, better known by her stage name Angelababy which is a combination of her English name "Angela" and her nickname "Baby". Angelababy was born in 1989 in Shanghai. When she was 13, she moved to Hong Kong with her family. She speaks Mandarin, Cantonese, Shanghainese, and English.

Angela has got interested in fashion since she was a child; she said: *"My father runs a fashion business in Shanghai. Even though he sells more mature clothes, I loved going to his store and trying on new outfits, and mixing and matching them. It was fun. I think that's*

how I developed a passion for fashion.

She was first signed as a model by Style International Management when she was 14 years old. And she also won some reputation in Japan by the participation in a Japanese drama.

She played 16 movies and two dramas; she has also many endorsements in advertising.



Singer

Zhang Liangying is a Chinese pop singer, also known as the “The Dolphin princess”. In 2005, she took part in a national all-female singing competition called *Super Girl*, and won the third-placed performance. She published five albums, two EP’s and one live album. In 2007 she won the Hong Kong TVB awards because her song “這該死的愛” (This Damned Thing Called Love) as the top 10 gold songs. She also won the award as the Most Popular Female Artist (China). In 2009 she was invited to the Oprah show.



Yang Liping, the most famous dancer in China, was born in 1958 to a minority family. She spent her childhood in Yunnan, which is a southern province in China. She, as a little girl, showed the surprising dance talent without any training. In 1971, she joined in the chorus of the province and later she entered the Beijing chorus. During the performance in the Beijing chorus, she was told to train by her professor, but she didn’t like that way of dancing. However she preferred the natural way of dancing. Later, she quit from the Beijing chorus and decided to concentrate on the

“nature of the dance”, and invented a new dancing style which imitated the morphology of the peacock. It received the name “peacock dance” and achieved the great success in the art segment. In 2005, she toured Europe and United States. Between 2004 and 2008, Yang Liping directed and choreographed a trilogy: “Dynamic

Yunnan”. In 2004, this trilogy won five major awards at the National Lotus Awards, including Gold Award for Dance Spectacular, Best Choreography and Best Female Performer.



Her peacock dance <<Love of Peacock>>

5 Programs for female audiences



Chinese TV show “ Fei Cheng Wu Rao” (in Chinese 非诚勿扰) literally means “if not sincere then do not disturb” also known in English as *if you are the one*, is a dating game show based on the Australian game show *Taken out*.

In this Chinese dating show, there are about 48 ladies standing on the stage and have to choose their Mr. right by asking questions or seeing the VCR... In this case, women stay in a higher position than men because women are those who control the choice. If they don't like a man, then they can take him away from the stage and welcome the following one.

In China there are a lot of other dating game shows, and they all show women in a very high social position. There we can see that “men are living under women’s power”.

There are more and more programs made for the female audience like *Her village* (in Chinese 天下女人) which is a talk show about women’s life experience. It often invites actresses, singers and artists who are famous in China. The program *Top Fashion* (in Chinese: 第一时尚) shows to women the fashion trend in every season.



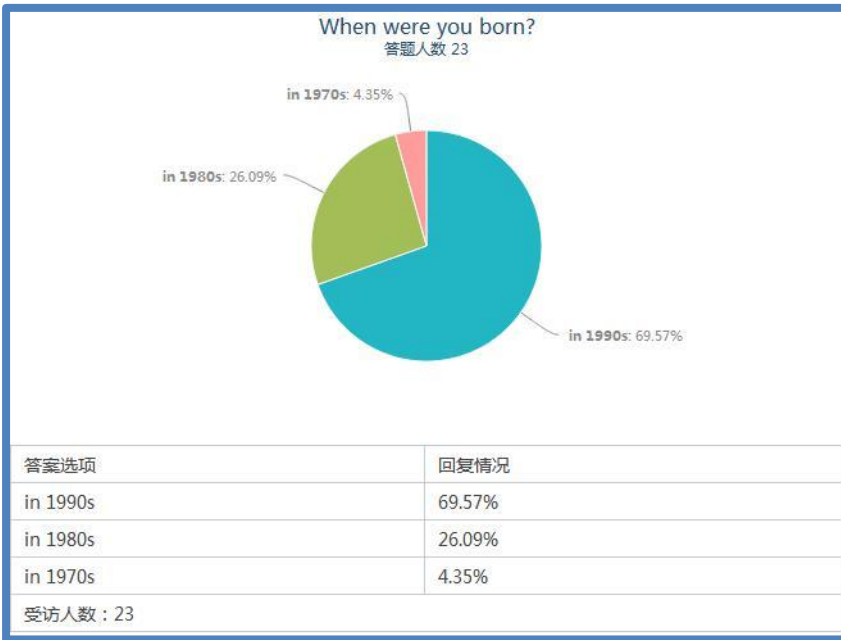
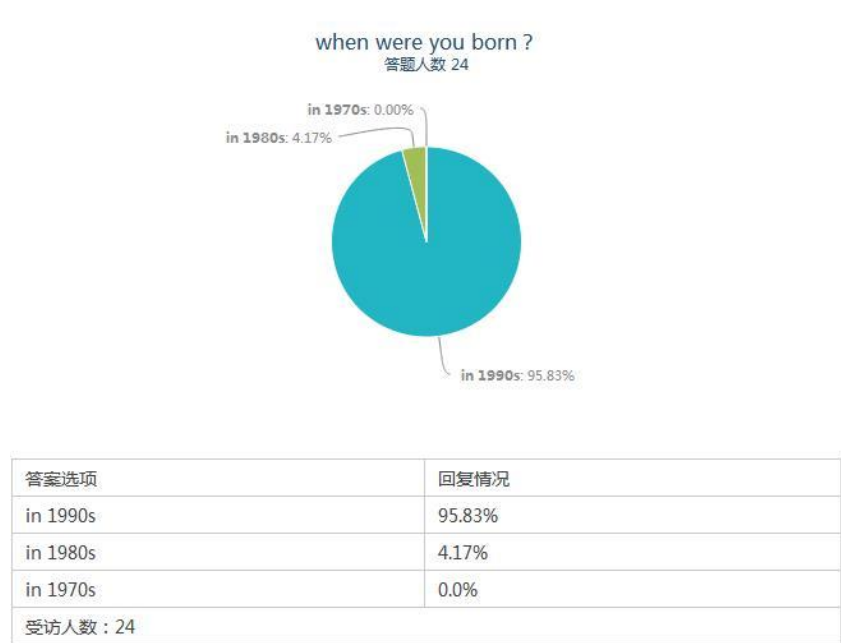
Her village



Top Fashion

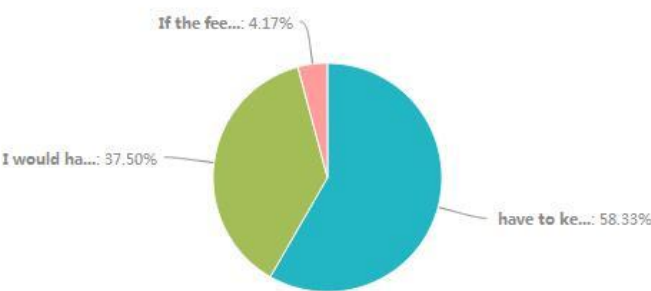
Surveys about modern Chinese women between the rural areas and the urban areas

In the following you will see two types of graphics. The graphic without frame refers to urban women; the graphic with a blue frame refers to rural women.



This is an online survey and, therefore, most of the answers are from women born in the 1990s since this generation is more likely to use internet.

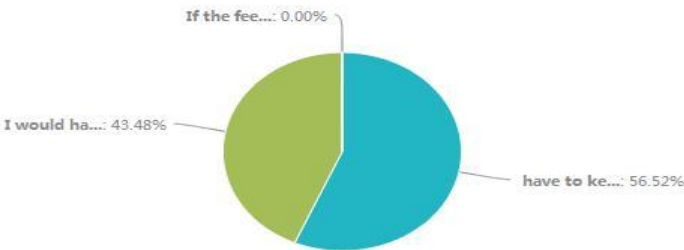
what do you think about chastity?
答题人数 24



答案选项	回复情况
have to keep chastity before marriage.	58.33%
I would have sex with the person who I love, although he wouldn't be my husband.	37.5%
If the feeling comes I will have sex, I don't care about chastity, it means nothing to me.	4.17%

受访人数：24

What do you think about chastity?
答题人数 23

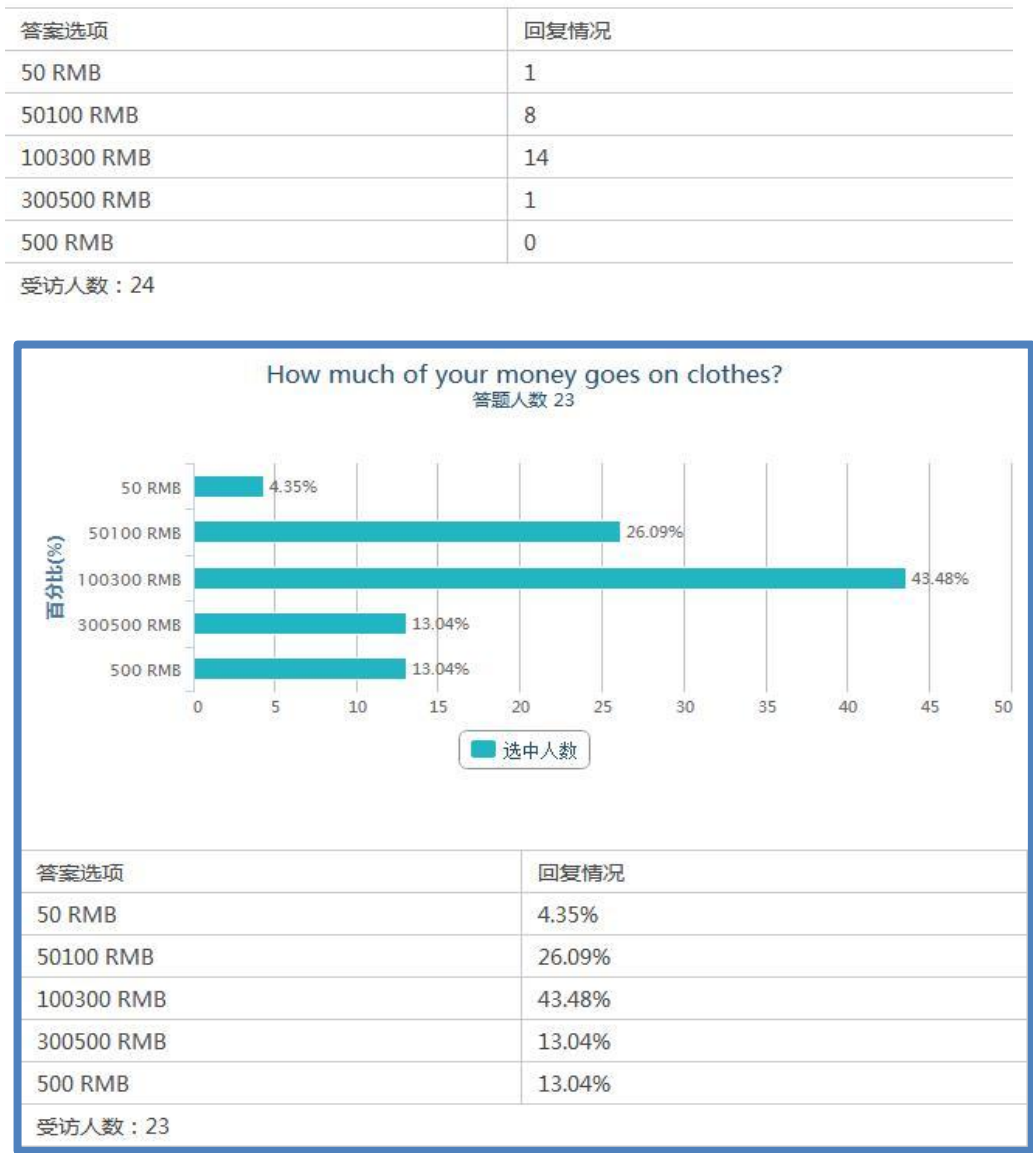


答案选项	回复情况
have to keep chastity before marriage.	56.52%
I would have sex with the person who I love, although he wouldn't be my husband.	43.48%
If the feeling comes I will have sex, I won't care about chastity, it means nothing to me.	0.0%

受访人数：23

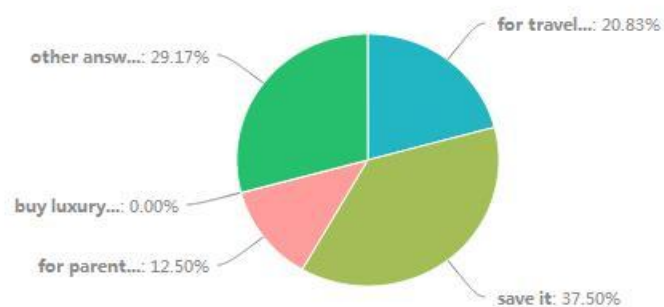
From the results, we can see the importance of chastity in the eyes of most women, although 90% of the Chinese couple who were born in the 1990s have sex relationships with their boyfriend/girlfriend (evidences in page 27) before marriage.

Personally I think the reason for this high proportion, a 90% , is because a lot of times it is men who aske for having sex and women are shy to refuse or may some women have also sexual desire.



What are you going to do with the rest of your 10,000 RMB salary?

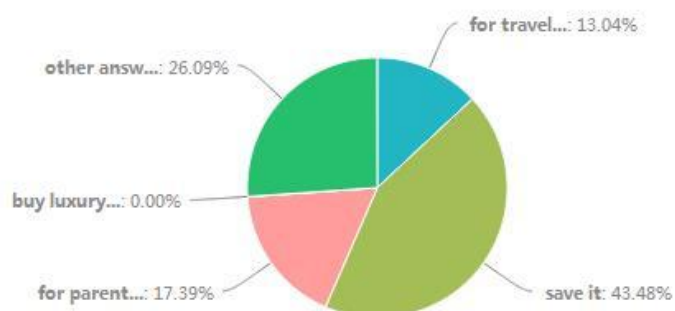
答题人数 24



答案选项	回复情况
for travelling	20.83%
save it	37.5%
for parents	12.5%
buy luxury products	0.0%
other answers	29.17%
受访人数 : 24	

What are you going to do with the rest of your 10,000 RMB salary?

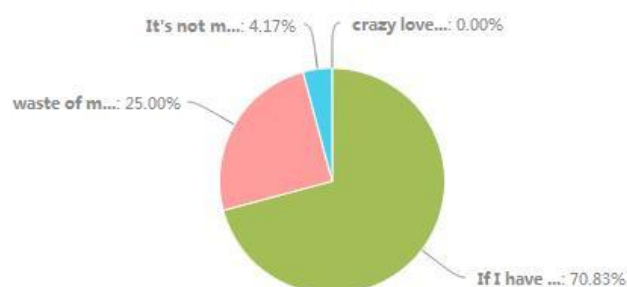
答题人数 23



答案选项	回复情况
for travelling	13.04%
save it	43.48%
for parents	17.39%
buy luxury products	0.0%
other answers	26.09%
受访人数 : 23	

What's your attitude to the luxury goods like Channel , Dior , Louis Vuitton ?

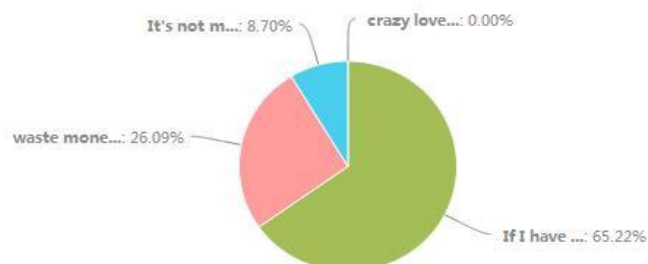
答题人数 24



答案选项	回复情况
crazy love, although I don't earn a lot of money, I will save as much money as possible to buy them	0.0%
If I have that economic capacity, I will buy them but if I don't, I won't buy	70.83%
waste of money, I will buy some reasonably priced products.	25.0%
It's not my business , they are for rich people	4.17%

What's your attitude to the luxury goods like Channel , Dior , Louis Vuitton ?

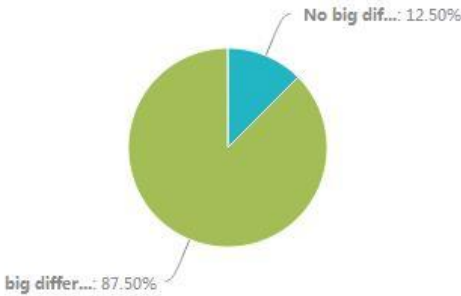
答题人数 23



答案选项	回复情况
crazy love, although I don't earn a lot of money I will save as much money as possible to buy them	0.0%
If I have that economic capacity I will buy them but if I don't, I won't buy	65.22%
waste money, I will buy some reasonably priced products.	26.09%
It's not my business , they are for rich people	8.7%
受访人数 : 23	

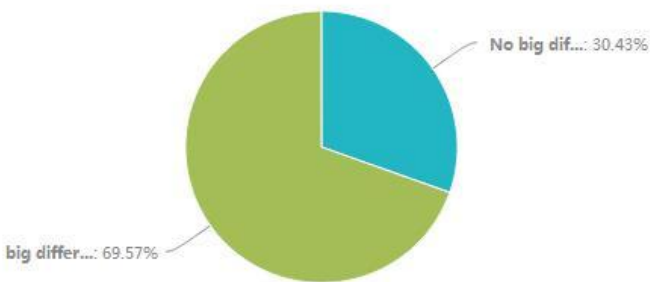
These data expresses that Chinese rural women have sensible thoughts in the question of saving and consuming and have also a certain capability to consume. Of course, they help with the developing of China’s economy.

Do you think that there are no big differences between rural education and urban education?
答题人数 24



答案选项	回复情况
No big difference	12.5%
big difference	87.5%
受访人数：24	

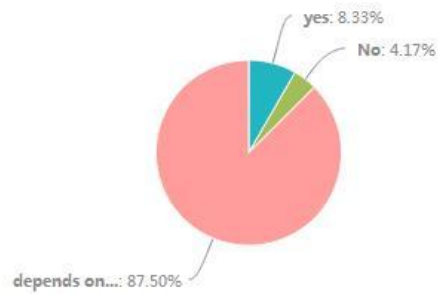
Do you think that there are no big differences between rural education and urban education?
答题人数 23



答案选项	回复情况
No big difference	30.43%
big difference	69.57%
受访人数：23	

Do you think that rural children are more sensible and more mature than urban children?

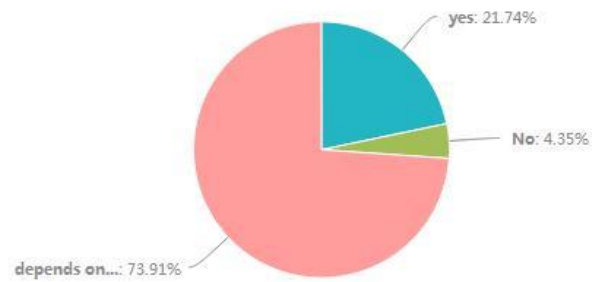
答题人数 24



答案选项	回复情况
yes	8.33%
No	4.17%
depends on the individual	87.5%
受访人数：24	

Do you think that rural children are more sensible and more mature than urban children?

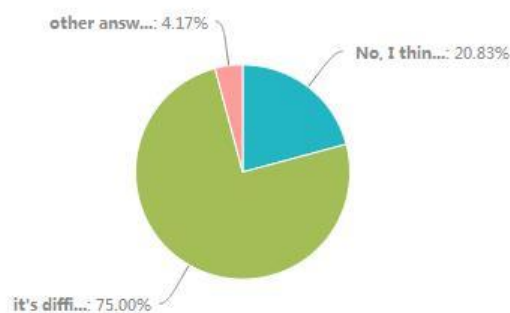
答题人数 23



答案选项	回复情况
yes	21.74%
No	4.35%
depends on the individual	73.91%
受访人数：23	

Do you think that urban women and rural women are equal?

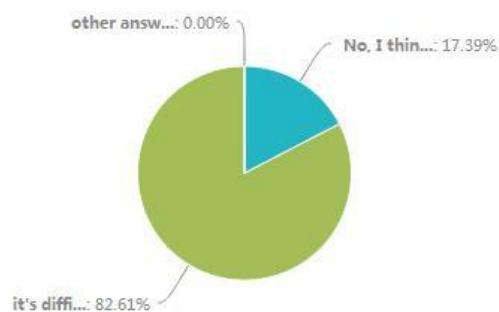
答题人数 24



答案选项	回复情况
No, I think urban women are more fashionable.	20.83%
it's difficult to decide, depends on the individual.	75.0%
other answers	4.17%
受访人数 : 24	

Do you think that urban women and rural women are equal?

答题人数 23



答案选项	回复情况
No, I think urban women are more fashionable.	17.39%
it's difficult to decide, depends on the individual.	82.61%
other answers	0.0%
受访人数 : 23	

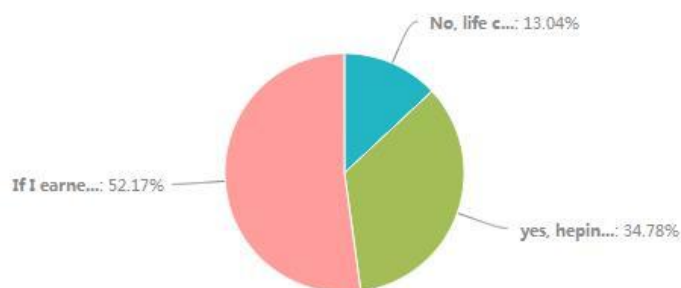
If the government send you to the rural areas as a teacher,
will you do that?
答题人数 24



答案选项	回复情况
No, life conditions are too bad.	4.17%
yes, helping rural children is such a beautiful thing.	41.67%
If I earned enough money I would go to the countryside, but at the moment it's better to stay in the city to earn money.	54.17%

受访人数：24

If the government send you to the rural areas as a teacher,
will you do that?
答题人数 23

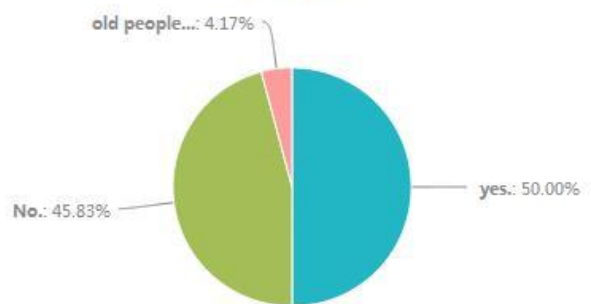


答案选项	回复情况
No, life conditions are too bad.	13.04%
yes, helping rural children is such a beautiful thing.	34.78%
If I earned enough money I would go to the countryside, but at the moment it's better to stay in the city to earn money.	52.17%

受访人数：23

Do you think that urban people have discrimination to the rural people? What do you think when you see a person is discriminated by the others because of her rural identity?

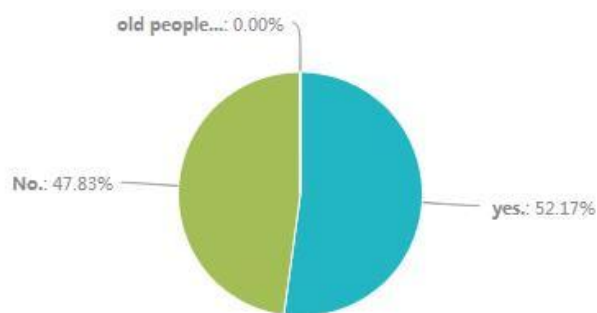
答题人数 24



答案选项	回复情况	
yes.	50.0%	
No.	45.83%	
old people yes but young people no.	4.17%	
受访人数：24		

Do you think that urban people have discrimination to the rural people? What do you think when you see a person is discriminated by the others because of her rural identity?

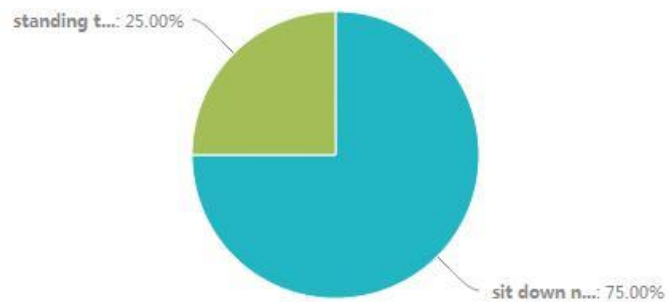
答题人数 23



答案选项	回复情况	
yes.	52.17%	
No.	47.83%	
old people yes but young people no.	0.0%	
受访人数：23		

After getting on the bus you find that there is only a vacant seat which is next to a builder, would you sit down next to him or would like to stand there?

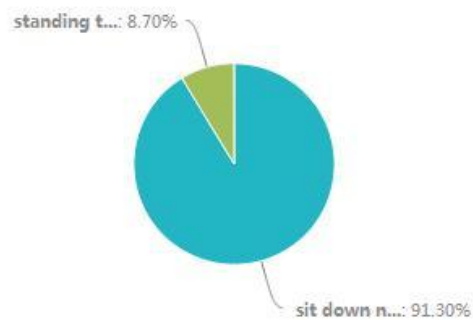
答题人数 24



答案选项	回复情况
sit down next to him	75.0%
standing there	25.0%
受访人数：24	

After getting on the bus you find that there is only a vacant seat which is next to a builder, would you sit down next to him or would like to stand there?

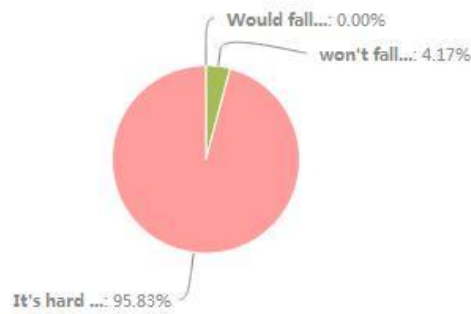
答题人数 23



答案选项	回复情况
sit down next to him	91.3%
standing there	8.7%
受访人数：23	

Would you have the possibility that fall in love with a rural boy and even marry him?

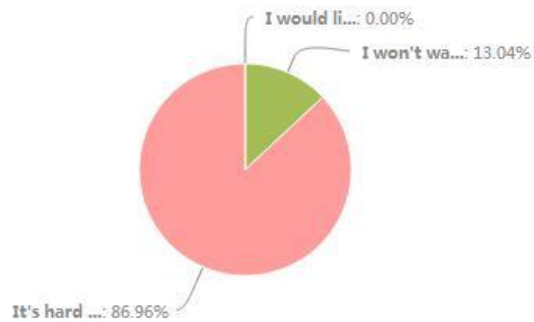
答题人数 24



答案选项	回复情况
Would fall in love with him but marry him is impossible.	0.0%
won't fall in love with him neither marry him.	4.17%
It's hard to decide because you never know what can happen.	95.83%
受访人数 : 24	

Are you waiting for having an urban boyfriend or husband?

答题人数 23



答案选项	回复情况
I would like to have an urban boyfriend but a husband no.	0.0%
I won't waiting for it.	13.04%
It's hard to decide because you never know what can happen.	86.96%
受访人数 : 23	

These questions about the difference between cities and countryside express that there is a truly difference between these two areas, for example: the education. And in most women's thinking there is no the discrimination between rural people and urban women they don't generalize a group of people (I refer to the rural people) but, although their answers are quite positive, in fact there is still the discrimination between urban persons and rural persons.

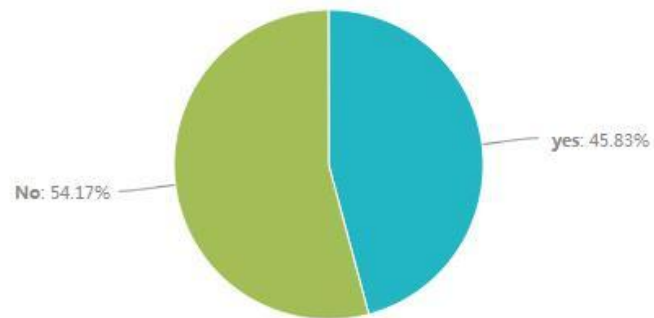
Question: Do you think that women are the suitable people to work as politicians?

答案
适合呀,每个人都有他自己相应的特产,如果一个女人她有执政的才能当然是适合参政的。
适合 男女协作可以互补
可以,有能力就可以
是
是个
可以
取决于个人
适合。男女想发不同 可以相互结合
适合 因为女性也有自己的思想
适合,女性也有思想也能有所作为
受访人数: 24 1 / 3 下一页 <input type="checkbox"/> 跳转

答案
什么
合适,聪明
适合,现在的女性变得独立了
适合
适合,女性也是人类代表的一方
为啥不行。男女相同
适合
不适合
可以
yes,women'ability won't weaker than men
受访人数: 23 1 / 3 下一页 <input type="checkbox"/> 跳转

Do you have some knowledge about the Chinese politics ?

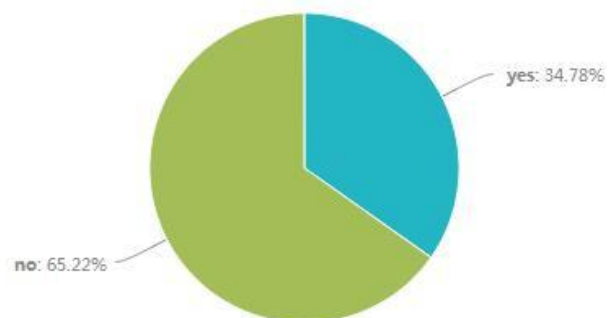
答题人数 24



答案选项	回复情况
yes	45.83%
No	54.17%
受访人数 : 24	

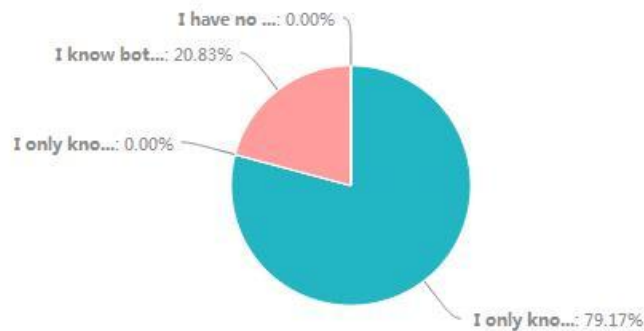
Do you have some knowledge about Chinese politics?

答题人数 23



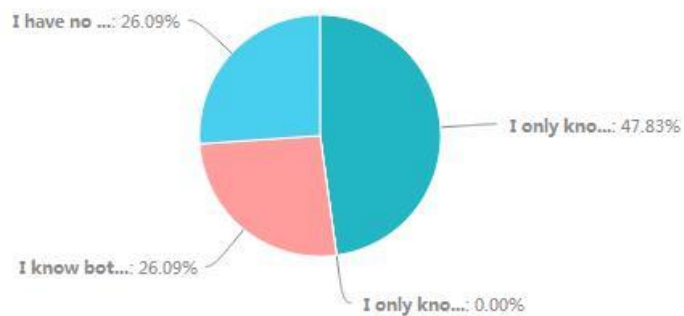
答案选项	回复情况
yes	34.78%
no	65.22%
受访人数 : 23	

Do you know who Song Chingling is and who Zhang yandong is?
答题人数 24



答案选项	回复情况
I only know Song	79.17%
I only know Zhang	0.0%
I know both	20.83%
I have no idea with these two persons.	0.0%
受访人数：24	

Do you know who Song Chingling is, and who Zhang Yandong is?
答题人数 23

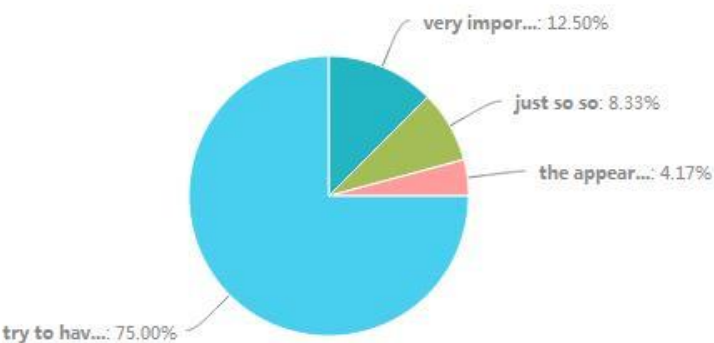


答案选项	回复情况
I only know Song	47.83%
I only know Zhang	0.0%
I know both	26.09%
I have no idea about these two persons.	26.09%
受访人数：23	

100% of Chinese women think that if a woman had a politic talent, of course, she could work as a politician. These questions and answers show that there is equality between women and men in Chinese women’s minds.

Less than 50% of Chinese women have no knowledge about China politics. I think this is also related with inequality proportion between female politicians and masculine politicians in the current China.

Do you think that the appearance is important for a women?
答题人数 24

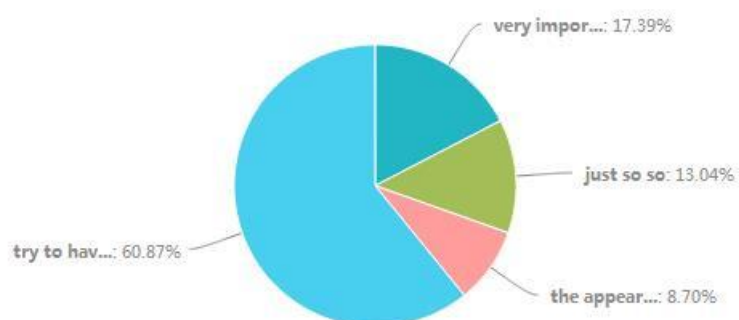


答案选项	回复情况
very important	12.5%
just so so	8.33%
the appearance is not important for a woman but the essence	4.17%
try to have a beautiful look and a beautiful essence.	75.0%

受访人数：24

Do you think that the appearance is important for a woman?

答题人数 23



答案选项

回复情况

very important

17.39%

just so so

13.04%

the appearance is not important for a woman but the essence.

8.7%

try to have a beautiful look and a beautiful essence.

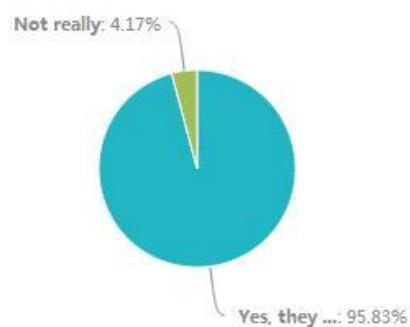
60.87%

受访人数 : 23

Do you think literatures and the art are important for women

?

答题人数 24



答案选项

回复情况

Yes, they are.

95.83%

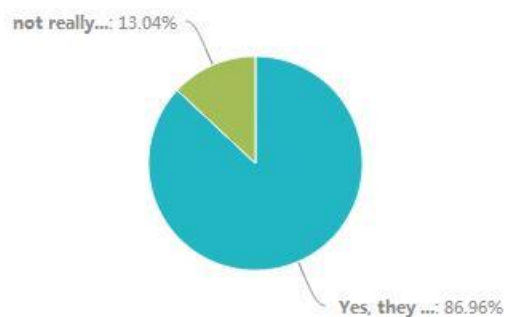
Not really

4.17%

受访人数 : 24

Do you think literature and art are important for women
?

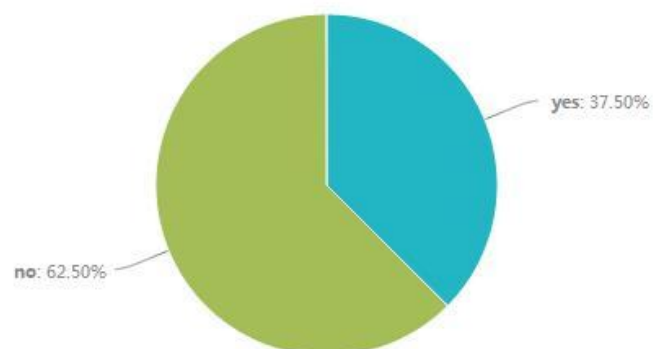
答题人数 23



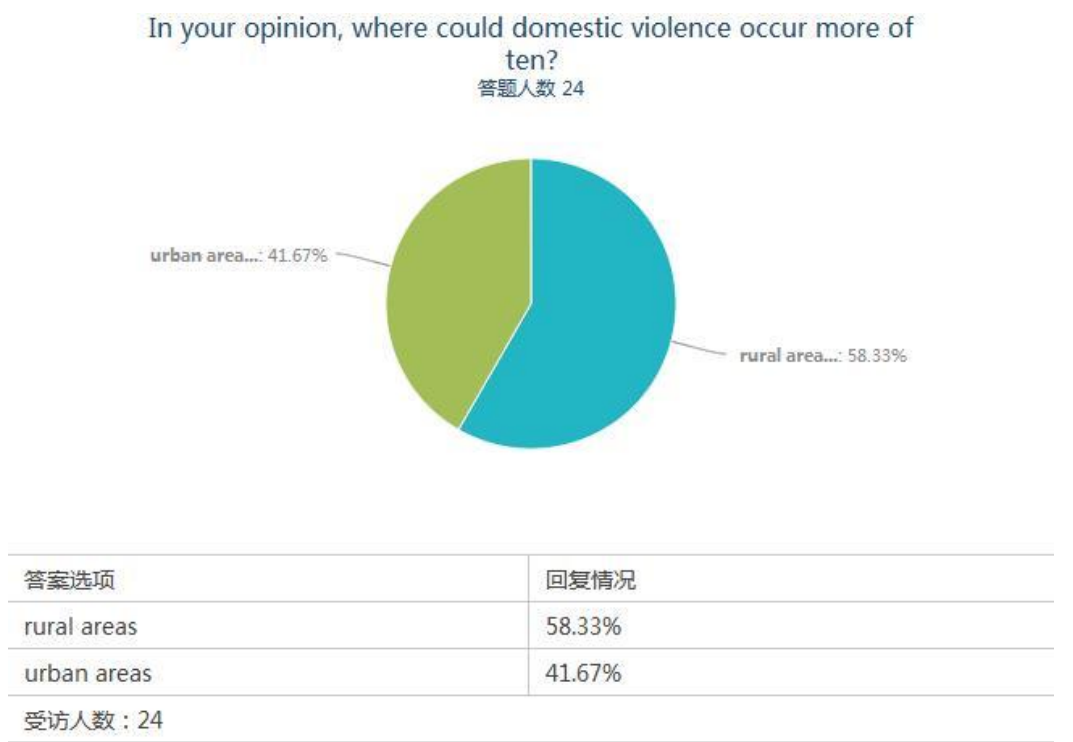
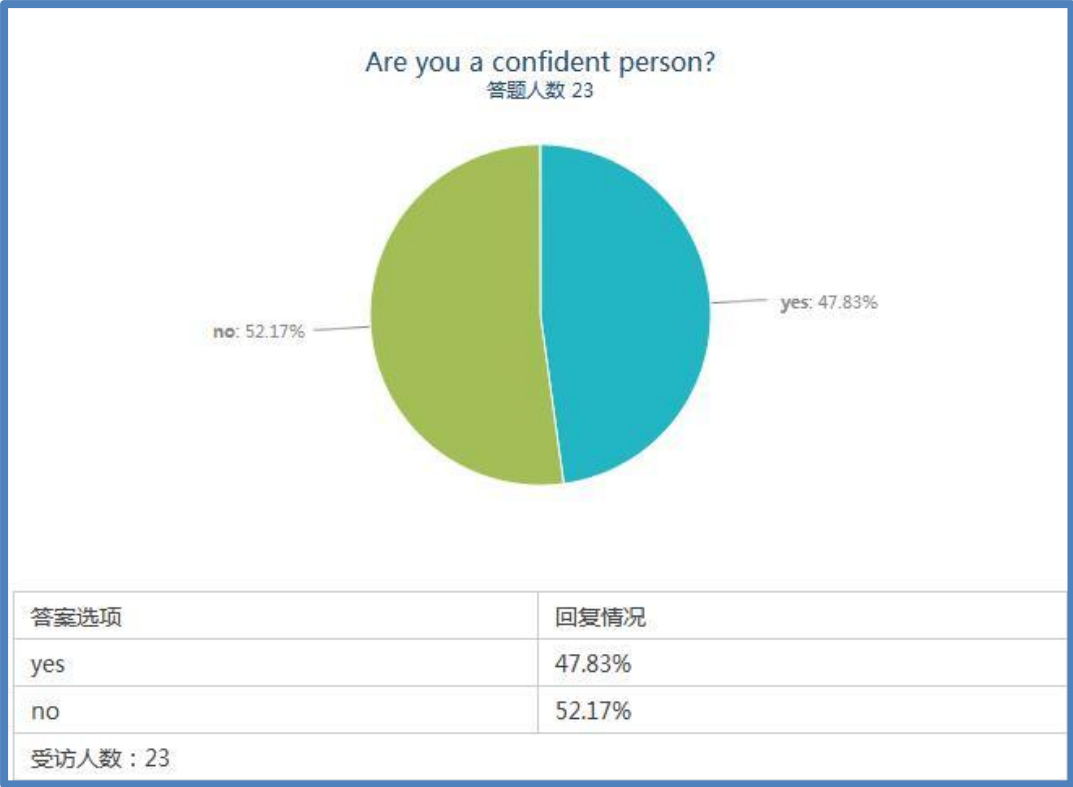
答案选项	回复情况
Yes, they are.	86.96%
not really)	13.04%
受访人数 : 23	

Are you a confident person?

答题人数 24

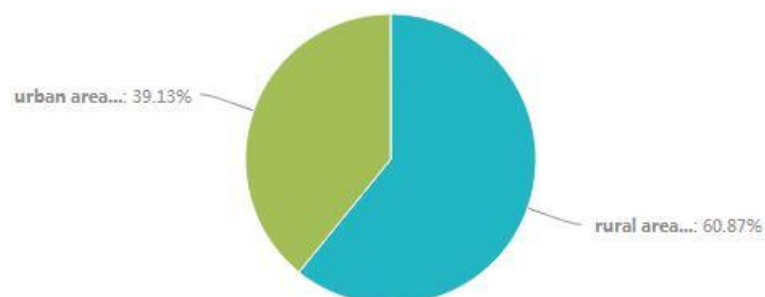


答案选项	回复情况
yes	37.5%
no	62.5%
受访人数 : 24	



In your opinion, where could domestic violence occur more of ten?

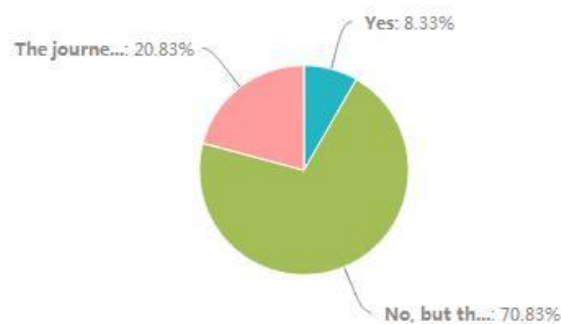
答题人数 23



答案选项	回复情况
rural areas	60.87%
urban areas	39.13%
受访人数 : 23	

Do you think that China has achieved equality between women and men?

答题人数 24

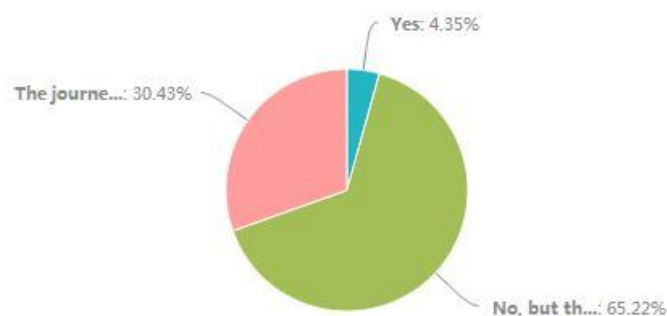


答案选项	回复情况
Yes	8.33%
No, but the journey towards to equality between women and men is not very long.	70.83%
The journey towards to the equality between women and men i s still vey long.	20.83%

受访人数 : 24

Do you think that China has achieved equality between women and men?

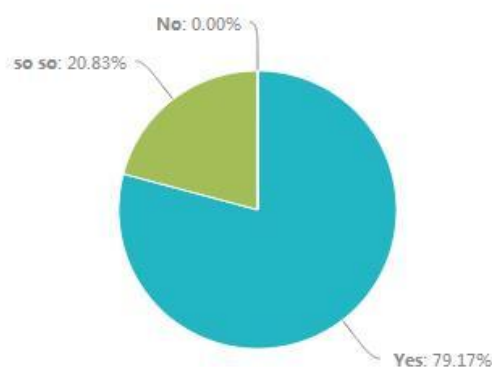
答题人数 23



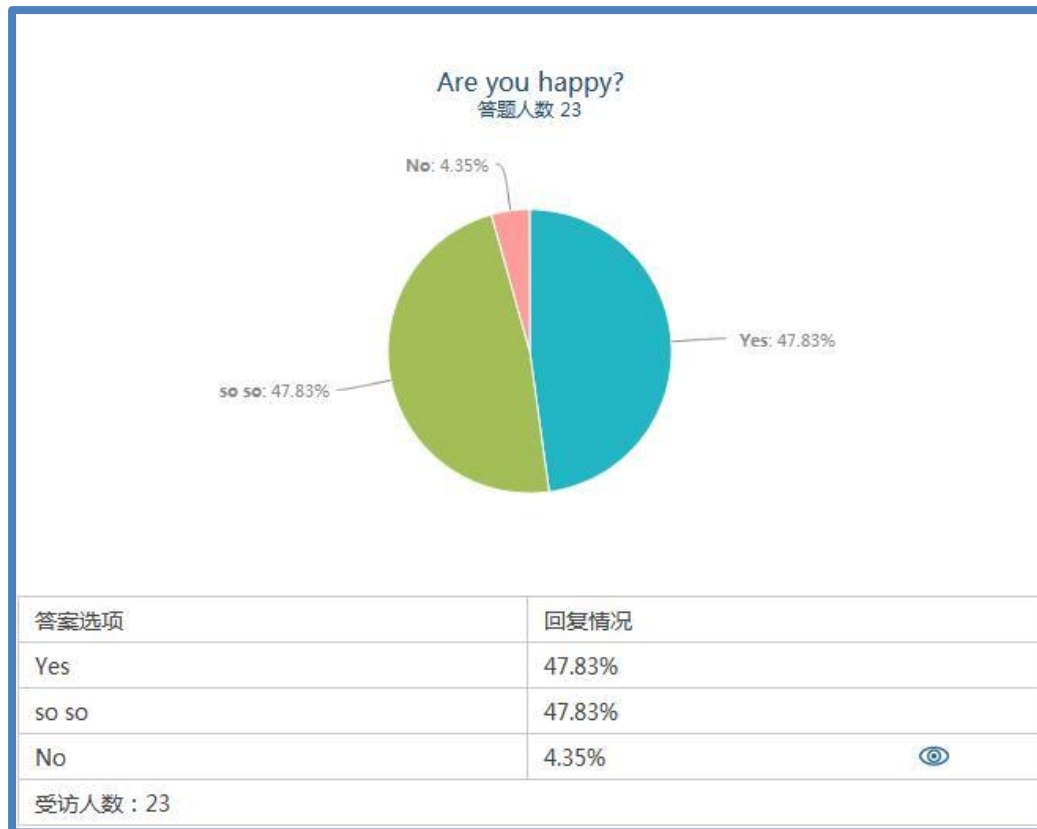
答案选项	回复情况
Yes	4.35%
No, but the journey towards to equality between women and men is not very long.	65.22%
The journey towards to the equality between women and men is still vey long.	30.43%
受访人数 : 23	

Are you happy?

答题人数 24



答案选项	回复情况
Yes	79.17%
so so	20.83%
No	0.0%
受访人数 : 24	



The replies for questions about appearance and literature show that Chinese women know how to look after themselves. They know that art and culture can enrich their inner being. Moreover, the caring for their look can also bring wealth to them, for example, they could have more opportunity to find a job as a salesperson.

According to these answers, we can see that a lot of women think that China hasn't achieved equality between women and men although the journey towards this equality is not very long. Furthermore, we can find that there are more rural women than urban women who don't feel happy, and this is caused by the inequality developing between urban regions and countryside.

To sum up this survey, I think that, in fact, in Modern China there is no big-inequality between men and women or big-difference of the way of thinking between urban women and rural women. But the difference is the areas' facilities and the areas' resources. These cause the differences in education and in life conditions because those who get a better educational background can get a better job and have more opportunities to improve their living standards.

According to some studies, to reduce inequality of education between rural areas and urban areas, in 1989, in China they established **the Project Hope** which was aimed to better school education. Though at the moment this project doesn't help all the rural

schools to get rid of the education poor resources, we hope that it can get better in the future.

The interview to historian Yu Hongbiao, who from the Technological institute of Zhejiang University

Professor Yu is going to talk about Chinese women's role in the feudal society and in the current society.

*See video for live interview attached in the appendix.

1: Can you explain how the Chinese women's positions were in the feudal society, please?

In the feudal society, Chinese women's positions were quite low, they were oppressed by the society, by the country, especially by the masculine family member. So there were the famous "Three followings" and "Four Womanly Accomplishment": **1: She follows her father as a little girl. 2: She follows her husband after the marriage. 3: She follows her son in her old age.** These traditional thoughts caused that women couldn't get the education, and "no-study" was considered a praised thing. For these reasons, we can see that Chinese women were playing a slave role in that period.

Although the majority of Chinese women had that consciousness of men superiority, there were some women who believed that women could be equal than men. This modern idea could be reflected in some classic literatures works like the most famous novel in the Qing dynasty (1644-1912) <<Dream of the Red Chamber>> (in Chinese 红楼梦).

2: What caused the way of thinking about the man superiority? Is this a Confucian influence?

Yes, Confucian influence was an important factor in the shape of this kind of trends but the biggest factor was the society itself. On the one hand, the past country's economy was based on the physical activities or agriculture, and men were those who responded to this duty. On the other hand, these men's positions were raised in the economic activities in the family and in society. In addition, this was also the reason why in the feudal Europe women's positions were lower than men's. However, in the western countries, the oppression for women was not as noticeable as China, especially the appearance of the female movement at the end of the 18th century in Europe, which was the first time, they dare to say that women were not weaker than men. And even expressed ideas about women superiority with the slogan "lady first".

But China's condition was not as the same as the Europe's one. The persistence of man superiority was caused by on the one hand, the economic reason and, on the other hand, was the long presence of the Chinese feudal society for about 2000 years. Besides, in the feudal society, there was always a thought that men were superior to women. In the Confucian period there was a saying "only women and villains were difficult to care" and through this philosophy, they indicated The Four womanly Accomplishments, which consisted in **womanly speech, womanly virtue, womanly deportment and womanly work.**

Womanly speech meant that women should talk politely, should know what they can talk and what they can't talk about. Womanly virtue contains the right way in the consciousness. By this, they should know what they can do and what they can't do. Also, due to these women's rule they were obliged to be loyal to their husband. Womanly deportment indicates the right way of their own deportment, and women should choose the right and prudent cloths. They can't show even a little of their chest. Furthermore womanly work is that women should be weaving and embroidering at home.

In that period, women played the lowest role in society and in family because men could get the pressure or oppression from other men in society. However, they could shift this oppression to their wives when they back home.

In the feudal society women didn't pay tax to the government. On the one hand, this was a positive thing, but on the other hand, it meant that women didn't have necessity to charge tax for the government. And of course, they had no powers in society or at home. For this reason, men were allowed to have several concubines because men were the source of the incomes in a family and he could do anything he wanted. Women couldn't rebel against their husband because they couldn't leave their husband, nor that economic source.

3: Can you explain something about foot binding?

The origin of foot binding could be determined in Song dynasty (960-1279), although but in the Qing dynasty (1644-1912) this custom achieved its splendor. At the beginning of the Qing dynasty, Manchu women (the minority in China) didn't bind their feet they even had ordered the ban of foot binding because that was Han people's (the majority in China) custom and the ban of the foot binding could be a measure to reduce Han people's power. Later, Manchu people realized that the ban didn't reduce the Han people's power but increased their opposition to Manchu people. To prevent Han people's uprising they decided to cancel this ban. By then, Manchu women also began to bind their feet.

At the end of Qing dynasty, because of the influence of liberal ideas from occidental countries, some women began to give up foot binding and some noble women began to take after the western education.

4: During the Qing dynasty women couldn't participate in the political segment. But why, could Cixi achieve her highest political power in the end of "Great Qing"?

In the Chinese history there were two women dedicated to politics, one was Wu Zetian and another one was Cixi.

In the Tang dynasty (618-907) women's positions were not as low as in the Qing's one, and during the Wu Zetian's kingdom China was quite a modern country where women had the right to divorce and remarry.

The political powers achieved in Cixi's period took place at the end of Qing dynasty (1861-1908) and her son wasn't old enough to deal with the political problems. Therefore, Cixi had the opportunity to dominate the political sector. After the death of her son, she named her nephew who was only 4 years old, as the new king of the dynasty. This way, she could enjoy the political powers again.

But Cixi's success didn't represent the majority of women in that period. The majority of women still had a very low social position.

5: What did kill man superiority from this feudal period and how did women's positions change in society after the establishment of People's Republic of China in 1949?

The most important factor to change women's character in society was the establishment of People Republic of China. One of its political ideas was to make people realize about the equality between women and men. Few days later, after the establishment of PRC, women began to have educational right, political right, work right and divorce right, although divorce is not a positive thing, but it could reflect the raise of women's liberal right and their social position. Last year in Beijing, the proportion of the divorce was 39%, in Shanghai this proportion was 38% and in Hangzhou was 28%.

In present day, in some areas, especially south-east of China, Chinese women even have higher social positions than men.

Chinese women have achieved the economic independence, and this is the most important reason for today's women in moving up onto a higher social position.

Conclusion

In the past 2000 years of the Chinese feudal society, women were living under men's power. They had that "Three following" and "Four Womanly Accomplishment" rules that defined strictly their low position in the family and in society.

Chinese women didn't have any choice in any environment. Marriages were arranged by their family members, and loving marriage was an ideal situation. While men could have several women at the same time, women were obligated to be loyal to their husband and they had to obey anything that their husband told them.

In the past female history, the saddest thing was the tradition of foot binding which was against the human nature. Women had to bind their feet just because men liked tiny feet, and so men could control women easily. The thoughts of this kind of man superiority brought horrible experiences to a woman's entire life: At the age of 5 or even before, these poor girls had to bind their feet to stop development of the normal way of their feet's growing. Besides, at the ages of 50, most of them couldn't walk and they became mostly disabled. And all this suffering by women was just for satisfying men's desire!

Man dominance was also seen in the educational and political segment. In the past, women couldn't accept the education: "no study, no talent" was considered an adorable belief. "No participation in politics" was also a strict rule in the old society.

As for the economic segment, women were ignored. In the last 200 years China's economy was based on agriculture and men were those who responded for this economic activity which brought wealth to the family, society and country. Thus this was the **basic reason** for the existence of man dominance.

The appearance of democratic ideas during the end of Qing dynasty and the establishment of the People's Republic of China indicated equality between women and men, due to this fact, women were going to go up to a higher social position.

Nowadays, more and more women have become essential factors in education, economy and politics. They now have absolute freedom to choose what they like, not like before when they were just puppets controlled by men.

Since women's liberation, it seems that China has achieved equality between women and men but, is that true?

The laws, especially the reform of constitution in 1992, emphasized women's interests and rights: educational rights, participation in politics and in economy, etc.

So far, we can say that in Chinese laws there is no sex discrimination, but how about the fact?

Regarding economy, women achieved economic independence, and this kind of independence was what exactly helped women to get rid of man dominance.

On the one hand, the appearance of the “she-economy” (see explanations, page 31) in China is the best evidence to show Chinese women’s economic abilities. On the other hand, the consumption of the luxury goods stands at again the economic capacities of Chinese women. And this improves not only China economy but also the global economy.

In the present educational segment, Chinese women are absolutely equal than men, though urban education is very different from the rural one. In addition, the rights for education imposed developing of literature and art. Therefore, more and more outstanding writers and artists are appearing, like Eileen and Yang Liping...

The creation of TV shows which aim to its female audiences expresses the importance of Chinese women in the social life. Besides, it has showed the improvement of women’s social position since 1949.

According to the conclusion of my survey, it is shown that all Chinese women believe that equality between women and men will improve in the future, although in present China there is still some inequality between them.

Therefore, having taken into account all the information gathered and all the analyses carried out, I can say that my hypothesis stated in the introduction is confirmed, which was the following: In my opinion, not all Chinese women have got rid of man dominance and feudal customs nowadays.

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