



**Mobile Education Resource
Center for the Blind: A Model
of Vision Rehabilitation**

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Introduction

- National Census and Statistics Bureau and the Leadership Committee of the Second National Sampling Survey on Disabled Population Statistics:
- 130,000 visually impaired children aged between 6 - 14.
- About 79.07% (about 100,280) studying in regular schools and special schools.





Introduction

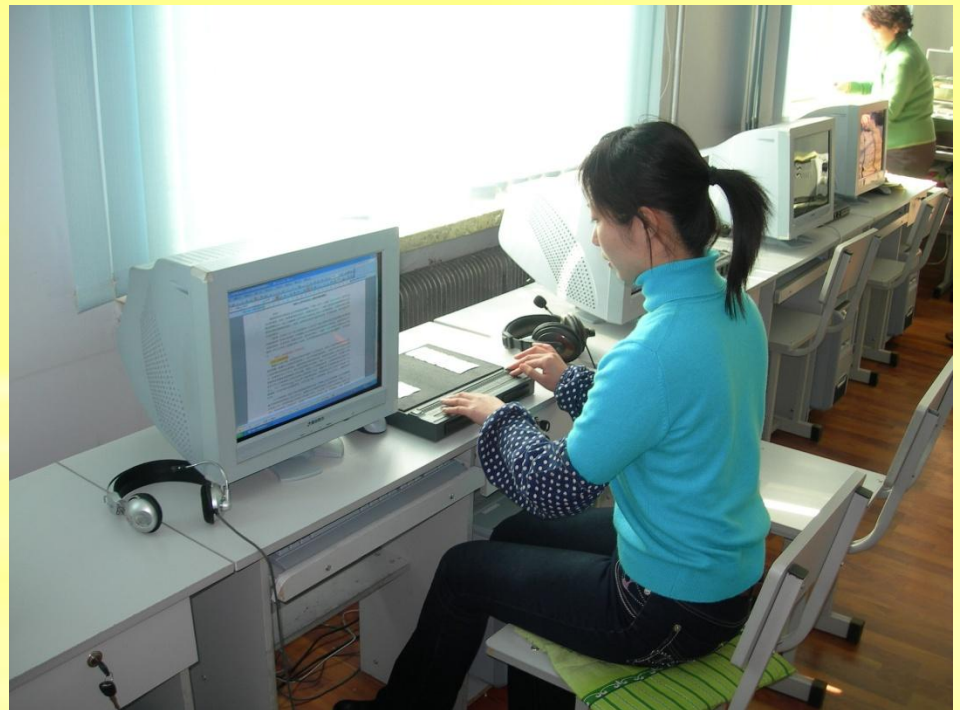
- Most children with visual impairment lived in rural areas
- Educational and medical services are few and scarce.
- Received education in integrated classes in rural schools and often lack extra-curricular Braille reading materials.
- Many of them were “pseudo visually impaired”. Vision much improved with basic eye care service, including visual screening and dispensing of suitable optical devices.





Introduction

- The Mobile Education Resource Centre :
extension of the education resource centre project at the Nanjing School for the Blind, organized by (AFPB) and the HKSB.
- Purposes
 - education resource support, such as braille and talking books, low vision aids
 - ii) organize teachers' training activities
 - iii) to provide necessary study material and low vision aids





Origination of Mobile Education Resource Centre

- Originated in the summer of 2007, during evaluation visit to the Education Resource Centre at the Nanjing School for the Blind
- Staff at the Nanjing School for the Blind reported concerns encountered during itinerary visits





Origination of Mobile Education Resource Centre

- ⦿ Need for a mobile Braille and Talking Book Library to provide extra-curricular readings,
- ⦿ Need for portable Braille production equipment to produce Braille reading material as requested





Origination of Mobile Education Resource Centre

- ⊙ Need for eye care, visual screening and optical dispense services to children suspected of visual impairment.
- ⊙ Many visually impaired children were suffering from mild to severe myopia, and their vision can be much improved with the correct optical aids.





Origination of Mobile Education Resource Centre

- Passenger Van transport some Braille and talking books, and a set of portable visual screening equipment to perform the tasks required.
- The demand for service far exceeds the capacity of the passenger van.
- The author proposed the idea of the Mobile Education Resource Centre as an experimental project



Partnership with Nanjing School for the Blind

- Prior Experience in vision screening services to schools for the blind in China : the Qingdao School for the Blind, Nanjing School for the Blind, Guangzhou School for the Blind, etc.,





Partnership with Nanjing School for the Blind

- Substantial number of visually impaired children were low vision children
- Visually impaired students in integrated classes in rural schools would have a different life if proper eye care services were given.





Partnership with Nanjing School for the Blind

- Implemented the Mobile Eye Treatment Centre project in 1996 to provide low cost and/or free cataract surgeries to cataract patients living in remote and distant areas.
- Difficult to justify cost-effectiveness of mobile vision screening project as visually impaired children were more dispersedly distributed





Partnership with Nanjing School for the Blind

- The Nanjing School for the Blind (the School) as partner for the following reasons.
- Availability of suitable management and operational personnel:
 - ◎ Supportive and devoted School Administration
 - ◎ Operation Personnel: well-trained ophthalmologist on faculty; Information Technology Specialist, Braille Production Specialist.
 - ◎ Regular itinerary to visit different rural schools to provide resources support to teachers and visually impaired children in integrated education.



Partnership with Nanjing School for the Blind

- Relevant government policy
 - ◎ The Nanjing Education Bureau (the Bureau) supportive in education for children with visual impairment.
 - ◎ Devoted close to RMB40 million to reconstruct the Nanjing School for the Blind, completed in 2004.
 - ◎ Willing to allocate additional resources to extend services to rural schools within the municipality, and willing to allocate additional resources as required.





Partnership with Nanjing School for the Blind

- Multi-function nature of Project:
 - ⊙ “Mobile Braille and Talking Book Library”,
 - ⊙ “Mobile Information Technology Training Centre”,
“Mobile Braille Production Centre”,
 - ⊙ “Mobile Teacher’s Training Centre” and
 - ⊙ “Mobile Vision Screening and Eye Care Centre.”
 - ⊙ Multi- purposes give better opportunities for maximum utilization of the project and better cost-effectiveness.



Description and Design

- Designed to serve in rural area with narrow road access
- Agile and yet sturdy enough to withstand the rough terrain.
- To be purpose built on existing vehicle to save administrative procedures for approval of new vehicle type.
- Two Compartments: the passenger compartment and the Service Compartment.



Description and Design

● Passenger Compartment:

- Accommodate 6 passengers (including the driver).
- Equipped with air-conditioning, audio-visual equipment and I.T. equipment
- Converted to serve as teachers' training venue when needed.



Description and Design

● The Service Compartment

- ⊙ Reasonable size book cabinet serving as the Braille library,
- ⊙ Smaller storage cabinet as the talking book library
- ⊙ Tailor made cabinets to securely hold the mini-embosser, portable slit-lamp, vision screening lens, low vision aids, and optical lens and spectacles in place.
- ⊙ Cabinets built along the walls of the vehicle in order to save space.
- ⊙ Central aisle used as the eye examination space.



Description and Design

- Other Equipment and Facilities
 - ⊙ External poster hangers to post posters for public education.
 - ⊙ Folding platform on the vehicle's external wall for showing of videotapes and other audio-visual materia
 - ⊙ A retractable sun- shade to provide temporary shelter for children and parents waiting for services.



Estimated Cost

- Construction costs estimated to be H.K.\$500,000 (approx. U.S.\$64000)
- Costs of I.T. equipment, mini-embosser, and eye care services equipment excluded



Expected Number of Clients Served

- bi-weekly itinerary visits, served about 25 rural schools annually.
- Per visit: minimum of 10 visually impaired children or children served
- Minimum 250 children with visual difficulties served annually.



Estimated Number of Clients Served

- Project will serve as training and promotional venue on prevention of blindness, education for people with visual impairment, and general eye care education
- Target served will exceed 10,000 annually.
(Assuming reaching 400 people in one visit)



Expected Date of Commencement

- Under construction and detail refinement
- Commencement and Operation
Expected in November 2008
- Evaluation and Assessment would be performed one year after operation



Summary and Conclusion

- An extension of the Education Resource Centre project
- Designed to provide educational support services to visually impaired children studying in integrated classes in rural school and their teachers.
- Also provision of Eye care services, including vision screening, dispensing of optical devices and low vision aids, will be rendered



Summary and Conclusion

- Partnership with The Nanjing School for the Blind for reasons of:
 - ◎ School's demonstrated staff commitment,
 - ◎ Availability of related professional expertise,
 - ◎ Support from the administration and government officials.
 - ◎ The project is expected to be expanded to other provinces in China with favourable evaluation after one years' operation



The End



Thank You