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### Curriculum reform and 'Quality Education'™ in China: An overview

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#### Abstract

This paper provides an overview of Chinese government attempts to promote a revised school curriculum reflecting a more holistic approach to education under the banner of *suzhi jiaoyu* ('quality education'), and positions the policies in the Chinese historical, educational, social and economic context. While the push has inspired innovative reforms in a number of schools and met with considerable in-principal support, on a wider scale implementation of the reforms is hampered by insufficient resources, conceptual ambiguity and conservative resistance. The goals of the new curriculum are still not reflected in the examinations and frequently conflict with teacher, student and parental goals in a society where examination outcomes have life long consequences.



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## Keywords

Quality education; Educational policy; Curriculum

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<sup>†</sup> This paper is based on research conducted as part of an Honours thesis completed at the Centre for Asian Studies, the University of Adelaide, Australia in 2006. The author is a teacher of Chinese, English and History as well as a qualified Chinese to English translator.

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