

## Initial Plan

When first starting out with this project, we established that planning was essential to having a successful final project. Initially, we aimed to create a game that educates left-behind children while also entertaining the middle/upper-class Chinese population. This was an marketing initiative that we started earlier on. However, as the project progressed, we were presented with opportunities to meet these children and we had a change of mind. Although we did create a physical board game that worked well, we believed that it was not the most impactful solution. We wanted to truly touch people's lives and impact not only the children, but others as well, since our life is spent around those who lack awareness. As a result, we strayed away from the board game idea and began our new initiative: a book titled "Abandoned: stories of China's Left-Behind". We established that this particular initiative directly addresses the phenomenon of left-behind children in rural China. This was done through raising awareness for those who would otherwise be unfamiliar with the aforementioned issue. It explores the issue such a way that is not only creative and engaging for the reader, but also leaves a meaningful impression on those who are exposed to our solution. This current day social issue is still left quite ignored nowadays and hopefully our solution will help make a change for that.

We aim to also appeal towards people with connections to or existing impressions of China, along with the means and resources to contribute to the cause and make a difference. Therefore, the book is written in a format that is directly structured to touch people on a emotional level, inspiring them to help and support our cause. We organised the creation process into 3 main parts: writing the stories, sketching and drawing artwork, and finally organizing the layout. All in all, we eventually ended up spending a collective time of 75 hours writing, compiling and designing the book.

## Results

We invested a lot of time and effort into this product, and we hope that translated into the final outcome. From the very beginning, we had a plethora of ideas for this book, and it was great to see it become our reality. Although our final outcome was slightly different from our original expectations, possibly because we set quite high standards and underestimated the high workload that would have to be completed to reach our goal. We initially planned on including even more content, more photos, and more in-depth research, though considering the time constraints, we're still quite proud of the outcome and we did come quite close to what we wanted to accomplish. Even if our product didn't meet the original criteria, it was still successful and something we're immensely proud of, after all the hard work.

Unfortunately, after reading the final printed version we found a few mistakes here and there, but in our opinion, that just leaves more room for improvement. Hopefully, we can publish more rounds of a even higher quality in the future. The book itself was designed with good intentions, and I hope we will be able to get that across to our readers. Another goal of ours is to distribute the book soon and ask for helpful advice from those with more experience, as we're constantly striving towards further improvement. Overall, we're proud of the results we've achieved at this moment in time, and excited to add more and improve our product in the future.



## Impact

Over the course of this project, our initiatives and accomplishments have impacted others both directly and indirectly. With our goal and aim in mind, we managed to create a plan that paved the way for improvements in rural Chinese education. Firstly, the 30 or so attendees at our school-sponsored charity gala observed our work in action, and were able to gain a deeper understanding of the problems that we are tackling. Furthermore, we presented them with the physical manifestations of our initiative, in the form of a display featuring a board game and copies of our self-published book. In addition, both of us attended community service sessions in different areas of rural China, working directly with underprivileged students. In working with them, we played games and taught skills that would advance their potential. At the end of these sessions, they were grateful and it was evident that we made a difference in their well-being and lives. The total number of people impacted throughout those weekly sessions amounts to roughly 50. Lastly, and most importantly, the people who bought our book gained numerous insights into the plight of left-behind children, through the delicately crafted stories we wrote. As a small-scale project, we began with printing only 20 copies, but they sold out quickly, and we plan to print more in the future. Additionally, the profit we made from selling the books was donated to Love Foundation, a charity centred on helping left-behind children. This 300 dollar will have the potential to impact at least 10 young children. Therefore, our estimation for the total number of people impacted by our project is approximately 110, through both direct and indirect service.

## What have we learned

From the very beginning, this project has involved a lot of learning. We began with familiarising ourselves with the phenomenon of left-behind children, as it's not something that is taught much in school. The knowledge that we gained regarding education in rural China was integral to this project, but perhaps more importantly, we've learned why it's crucial. Observing these very phenomena in action, and going out and interacting with community members who were directly impacted by these issues, were far more important. We've learned empathy and respect, and how to connect on a deeper level with people whose lives we may not understand.

## The future

The overall project was a great learning experience and initiative. We found a worthy cause, developed solutions, and worked hard to turn it into a reality. We're proud of the results and we're very much looking forward to continue pursuing this project - making improvements, contacting charities, and developing our ideas to turn this start into something tangible and taking strides towards making a true impact in our society today.

## Changing our outlook (things we might change)

Although our project was certainly a success, we are always striving for more and we feel as though we could have achieved greater things. Of course, we already sold many copies of our book, but the process of improvement is never ending, and therefore we would want to complete a larger print run and expand on the content currently in the book, since it has potential for many more stories. Most importantly, we want to dive into the community and do more direct service in working with left-behind children, because that impact is immeasurable.

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