

99. How to Help Rural Women Raise Civilized Self-Cultivation?

Increase investments on infrastructure and improve family living environment.

Improvements in infrastructure helps raise the civilized living quality of rural women. To make this a reality, there must be increased and strengthened investments in building the “hardware”, which is to firmly improve rural infrastructures of water, electricity, roads, and bridges. Village-level cultural halls, construction of leisure facilities, and paved roads are need to be provided for distant villages and “backward” (*luohou* 落后) regions to improve rural infrastructure according to a step by step plan. Aiming at a renewed and civilized village, more thorough renovation of its environment is required to eliminate the uncivilized appearance in rural areas and utilize this environment to change its people.

Strengthen education and training to raise self-cultivation of family members. Setting the goals of raising family member self-cultivation and the self-cultivation of farmers, training needs to be strengthened with increased breadth and systemization. Through many kinds of training schools, distant education, online education, and media promotions, studying should be made a part of rural women’s lives. Topics of training for raising rural women’s overall self-cultivation includes civilized manners, health care and preventative health measures, respecting family members and the elderly, and energy conservation and reductions in emissions. Carried by their schools, volunteers, and their families, more guidance toward rural children is needed for them to build good living habits, which means regularly educating them with regards to psychology, health, and life philosophy.

Reinforce cultural guidance and launch assessment campaigns in aspects and extents of civilization. Innovated women activities can be used as vehicles to enrich assessment campaigns. The vast masses of rural women are encouraged to participate in the “rural women’s campaign to develop good living habits” to build a good atmosphere where “every family competes on sanitation, and everyone competes on the extent of their civilizational level”. Through these campaigns, rural women and their family members are encouraged to discard bad habits and build up good ones. By developing places in line with the ideas of “the home for women” (*funu zhijia* 妇女之家) and “the cultural compound” (*wenhua dayuan* 文化大院), activities such as family talent shows, *meshrep*,¹ and mother-child book reading should be held to draw rural women’s attention toward the desire for a better life. Rural women are to be actively encouraged to form “women’s art groups” to pursue a healthy and positive way of living, raise life quality, and increase happiness. We vigorously promoted models in civilization, and through them we raise the women’s awareness in hygiene and health and lead them to become the new healthy women of the future.

(*Ürümqi Railway Bureau Task Force in Hotan Prefecture, Layqa Township [Layaka拉依喀], Daküy Village [Dakui达奎]*)

¹ Meshrep is a traditional Uyghur cultural gathering that has been outlawed by the Xinjiang government following protest and state violence in Ghulja in 1997. As part of the political campaign of the People’s War on Terror they were revitalized and appropriated by state workers as a propaganda activity.