

# WOMEN VILLAGE OFFICERS SHARE THEIR HOPES FOR "PROJECT DEFINE" AND THEIR PERSONAL EXPERIENCES IN THE PROJECT'S PILOT PROGRAM

FROM PERSISTENCE TO REALIZATION: THE WOMEN VILLAGE OFFICERS FROM SHANNXI HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR "PROJECT DEFINE (ZHAN PU)"



**"It was that sense of mission which impelled me to volunteer myself as the village's representative in building roads and getting tap water for my village. Even though my family disagreed, I was steadfast in my vision."**

**Chang Ya-qiong**

Women village officer, Xiaodu Village, Xianyang, Shaanxi

**Chang Ya-qiong was appointed as the village's executive in 2005, and promoted to the position of secretary in 2008.**

**Only nine years ago, Xiaodu Village did not have well-developed roads nor running water. Economic prosperity was second thought for villagers who had to dig wells for clean water. Chang has always hoped to tackle industrial structure adjustment problems, and she was determined to take up the role as village representative and contribute more to the village.**

**Chang carried some buns with her and walked thousands of miles on her own, Chang's persistent efforts convinced the local government to support two of her construction projects. Her perseverance also won over her family. Her family, who were skeptical, had turnaround and gave her complete support.**

**Chang's ultimate aspiration is to help her village restructure economically and to increase villagers' income. Through "Project Define", she wants to learn the prospect of modern agricultural industry, its planning and management, as well as the methods to achieve greater efficiency. She also wants to learn how innovative computer technologies can increase her working efficiency and broaden her horizons.**

**Transforming Xiaodu Village into an open, self-sufficient, clean and beautiful village, with civilized and harmonious villagers enjoying their lives is Chang's dream and joining "Project Define" will bring Chang one step closer.**

## KNOWLEDGE CHANGES FATE: SUCCESSFUL PILOT TRIALS OF "PROJECT DEFINE (QI PU)"



**“I was able to ponder, share, and learn new knowledge as well as take on new theories under an environment where I was treated as an equal and with mutual respect.”**

**Zhang Shun-ying**

Women village officer, Shangxi Village, Shantou, Guangdong

Zhang Shun-ying is an elected women village officer of Shangxi Village, Shantou in Guangdong. Never having step foot in the halls of higher education, her first experience in university was a one-week learning program at Shantou University sponsored by the project. After the program, she wrote a proposal to open an “activity room for women” in her village and was given a seed grant of RMB3,625 with which she was able to mobilize all the women in the village to support the activity room.

Zhang’s focus was originally centered on farm work. This experience awakened her aspirations and broadened her vision and thought horizon. The activity room opened only three months after the idea was conceived and has been used by over 1,500 villagers for recreation and cultural activities.

Zhang illustrates how “Women are full of potential”.



**“We interact with teachers and other village leaders during the classes. We apply the knowledge we learned into practice through developing our seed projects.”**

**Pan De-ying**

Women village officer, Dazhai Village, Guilin, Guangxi

Pan De-ying, an elected women village officer of Dazhai Village, Guilin in Guangxi. She studied in Guangxi University in 2010 which enhanced her knowledge in the economic development of rural areas and governance of small communities. She gained a RMB20,000 seed grant to implement a project aimed to improve the economic conditions of her village.

Pan suggested building an Art Center in Dazhai Village to tap the hidden potential of women in the village. The center organizes singing and dancing performances by the women that showcase the local flavor and characteristics, thereby boosting tourism to the village and generate additional income for the villagers. The project gained an additional RMB320,000 support from the local government.

As Pan had hoped, she successfully raised the annual income of each villager from RMB2,000 to RMB4,000.

The architect of a miracle by and for women, Pan De-ying.