Location of Jian Chuan
BALLITERACY PROJECT

HISTORY & BACKGROUND OF PROJECT

- History of Project
- Educational Philosophy
- Strengths in Project
- Challenges in Project
History of Project

Mar 2002
Survey: Shilong Village and Shilong Primary School.

Apr 2003
Team - Bai Language Learning
Beginnings of Boarding Situation:
✧ 38 Yi/Lisu children – from mountains around Shilong
✧ SIL - provided bedding; a kitchen and a cook. (Prior to this children prepared their own meals).
✧ Living expenses - families pay 640Y per year.
✧ SIL sponsored 8 of these students.
Boarding For Yi /Lisu
History of Project

Production: K1 First Semester (20 weeks) curriculum
✧ Writing one listening and one reading story for each week.
✧ Themes: related to Bai culture and special events
✧ Detailed lesson plans: (for 8 x 30mins per day)
  coverage - physical education, math, language, music, and art and craft
✧ Preparation of children’s work books and teachers’ resources.

Atsua atbenl nox Zodboeirl
hui zex yanl Baiphox mal
dient yajient nox jiafssif.
Zodboeirl hui nox zil
hazixyind ga xinlyil-xinlbep
yap yipkex, yinyin-yotyot
dain banbwanbinx, canl
Baipky, daggox, dient
weinlyin.
History of Project

Sep 2006

Started with one class:
✧ 12 students in K1 and 17 in K2
  (including 7 Yi/Lisu children)
✧ used one curriculum.
History of Project


✧ Separation of K1 and 2 children
✧ Used different curriculum
History of Project

Creating Primary 1 and 2 curriculum:
✧ Production of Bai listening and reading stories
✧ Illustrations contextualized
✧ Themes: related to Bai culture and special events; moral values
✧ Detailed lesson plans – Language component only (5 x 40min lessons a week)
✧ Preparation of teaching resources

Aug 2008
Launching Primary 1 curriculum:
✧ Students promoted from 2008’s K2 class (27 of them).
Educational Philosophy

**Approach to learning language**

- **whole word method**
  - To learn reading;

**phonics**

- Still taught as a tool for other aspects of learning for eg. to help with spelling and writing.

**Reasons for adopting this method:**

- Teaching Baiwen in Dali Prefecture failed due to:
  - Variation in Bai pronunciation (Difficult to standardize Baiwen through a set of phonic rules.)
  - Bai – mostly oral language (Bai speakers learn through imitation)
Whole Word Method
**Educational Philosophy**

**Teaching Methodology**

- Integrated curriculum

- Content subjects re-enforced through: activities in arts and craft, music and physical education.

**Weekly themes**

- One listening story (longer) and one reading story (shorter).
- Themes: related to Bai children’s environment and culture
- Special events for eg. Chinese New Year or National Day
- Personal hygiene and Health
- Moral values.

**Students’ participation**

- experiments
- games
- problem-solving activities
- elocution opportunity

- art & craft
- songs/rhymes
- social skills.
Strengths in Project

√ Whole word learning: quick recognition of words and usage in writing.

√ Themes – contextualized stories and illustrations draws children’s interest; better interaction with material; able to share their knowledge.

√ Interaction between teachers and students:
  ✧ Builds a sense of belonging and comrade
  ✧ Yi/Lisu children learn Bai quickly due to predominant Bai speaking environment.
  ✧ Friendlier class atmosphere

√ Integrated program - cohesiveness in children’s learning process; progress faster.

√ Participation from students:  ✧ improves children’s self-image;
  ✧ enhances cognitive and physical development; social skills
  ✧ promotes friendly learning environment;  ✧ produce happier children.

√ Proximity of village:  ✧ weekly visits - strengthen relationship between village school and office support team

✓ Weekly training for teachers upgrades their professional skills.
Challenges of Project

✧ Management of boarding Yi/Lisu children:
  ✓ Lack of proper supervision – create health issues

✧ Language Barrier for Yi/Lisu Children
  ✓ Foundational learning – not in MT

✧ Teachers’ abilities:
  ✓ limited - due to lower educational exposure and mono-teaching methodology
  ✓ on-going weekly training – new teaching methods demonstrated; increase knowledge in working with younger children.
Challenges of Project

✧ Lack of support from the community and their leaders:
  ✓ Bai people want to learn Chinese and English for economic reasons.

✧ Adult Literacy class – not properly run
  ✓ dilutes effects of experimental literacy program; weakens our advocacy effort.
THANK YOU for your attention.