

“From China to America”  
Interview by Kate Gong

*Main idea: Life in rural China was difficult, especially without a strong government to help.*

**EVIDENCE**

1. “The herb medicines looked black, tasted bitter, but we drank it quickly... There was no money for doctors.”
  
2. “Most families in the village were poor and could not afford doctors and hospitals. Life was hard in those days.”
  
3. “There was no opportunity for an education when we were younger... There were so many of us in the family and so little money.”
  
4. “The only things we wanted were better crops, favorable weather and better living conditions. The government provided none of that.”

**INTERPRETATION**

1. The families that lived in rural China had no access to modern health care, so they instead used traditional methods that they could afford. The government made no attempt to get health care to the villages.
  
2. Since village families had little or no money, advanced health care like doctors and hospitals was not available to them. Again, they had to use traditional medicine instead.
  
3. Education was more of a luxury than a necessity, especially if the family needed all the children to work in order for it to survive. Without government assistance, the family is on its own and can't afford to send the kids to school.
  
4. The rural Chinese family had simple needs and desires, such as better crops and living conditions, something the government could have provided but either refused or was not able to do so. Some families must have been bitter about that.