

WORK REPORT

Shanghai University for the Elderly

Elderly Education in the Construction of Learning City

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UNESCO Learning City Award



UNESCO Learning City Award



In October 2019, Mr. David Atchoarena, Director of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning, visited Shanghai and made a special trip to Shanghai University for the Elderly. He spoke highly of the work done by Shanghai in elderly education.

UNESCO Learning City Award



Supporting education for older people in Shanghai, China

Overview and objectives

Older people are among the most vulnerable to COVID-19. In light of this, Shanghai launched large-scale distance learning programmes for this group through a project called the Lifelong Learning Cloud. The programmes cover various topics, such as health and safety, cooking, entertainment, information technology, counselling, art, local history, and current affairs. Additionally, the programmes are intended to encourage participants to respond to the situation brought by the pandemic with a positive attitude of lifelong learning.

Specifically, two programmes were developed for the Lifelong Learning Cloud. The first was an emergency response measures: a series of courses on health protection and pandemic prevention. These courses were streamed through the Cloud Classroom alongside quiz-based contests on combating the pandemic by the Shanghai Science Education Promotion Centre working with universities for the elderly. The other programme featured diverse resources for individual districts of the city.

Process

The Lifelong Learning Cloud project was developed in three stages. The first stage, from January to February 2020, was launched as an immediate response to the public health emergency. Businesses and schools had to close their doors and, to meet the learning demands of the elderly, Shanghai integrated various top-quality learning resources in building the Cloud Classroom.

From March to May, the Shanghai Learning Network, the portal website of the city's lifelong learning initiative, carried out an in-depth analysis of learning demands in order to meet citizens' needs more precisely. Based on the platform's data and users' feedback, a second batch of learning resources were developed and introduced to the platform.

Finally, in the third stage beginning June 2020, the Shanghai Learning Network launched 'Live Online Classroom for Elderly Education in Shanghai'. The platform has enabled teachers from different districts to provide live online teaching and respond to participants in real time.

Challenges

Some older people were not familiar with using mobile phones and computers; providing guidance and assistance to improve IT literacy and ensure learners had access to and could use modern technologies was therefore necessary. In addition, the lack of teacher-student interaction in the pre-recorded online courses was problematic; this was eventually solved via the introduction of live online courses. Another challenge was figuring out how to continue distance education after the reopening of universities for older people. There is ongoing research and exploration on how to further respond to this challenge.

In July 2021, the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning released global typical cases of learning cities responding to COVID-19. Among them, the case of Shanghai serving the elderly in learning was successfully selected, becoming one of 13 typical cases in the world.



In October 2021, Shanghai became one of the ten cities receiving the UNESCO Learning City Award in the world.

UNESCO Learning City Award



Chen Qun, Vice Mayor of Shanghai

- The award is a recognition of our learning city development efforts aimed at enabling everyone to learn everywhere.
- Shanghai's high-quality lifelong learning system has been a strong support to the city's rapid growth in the past four decades. Learning has become an integral part of the city's core competitiveness as well as an inexhaustible driver for its further development.
- Shanghai's learning city construction model, built with "government promotion, department collaboration, social support and citizen participation," provides various lifelong learning opportunities for its 24.8 million residents.



Introduction to Shanghai



Shanghai - mega city



- As of the end of 2020, Shanghai has a population of 24.87 million
- Population of Age 60+ (including 60) is 5.82 million, accounting for 23.4%
- Population of Age 65+ (including 65) is 4.05 million, accounting for 16.3%
- An average life expectancy of 83.64 years

Creating learning conditions for the elderly is an important part of Shanghai's learning city construction

Lifelong learning for development

Shanghai is the largest economic centre in the People's Republic of China. Lifelong learning is part of the city's DNA, and a driver for sustainable development.

A holistic lifelong learning approach is implemented across Shanghai, with a particular focus on older people, health education, education for sustainable development (ESD), and technical and vocational education and training (TVET). 21 local government agencies work together to coordinate learning in the city.



Lifelong learning for an ageing population

With an average life expectancy of 83.64 years and a population over one fifth of which is over 60 years of age, Shanghai places a strong emphasis on learning opportunities for older people.

It boasts four municipal universities for the third age (U3A) and 44 affiliated schools, 18 district U3A universities, 221 sub-district and town-level community schools for the elderly, and 5,589 neighbourhood and village learning stations for older people.

Shanghai's TV channel, 'Golden School', broadcasts courses for people over the age of 50. These cover six thematic areas and are watched by over one million citizens daily.



Elderly Education in Shanghai



Shanghai's efforts in developing elderly education

01

Creating a
"15-minute"
community
life circle

02

Helping the
Elderly bridge
the "Digital
Divide"

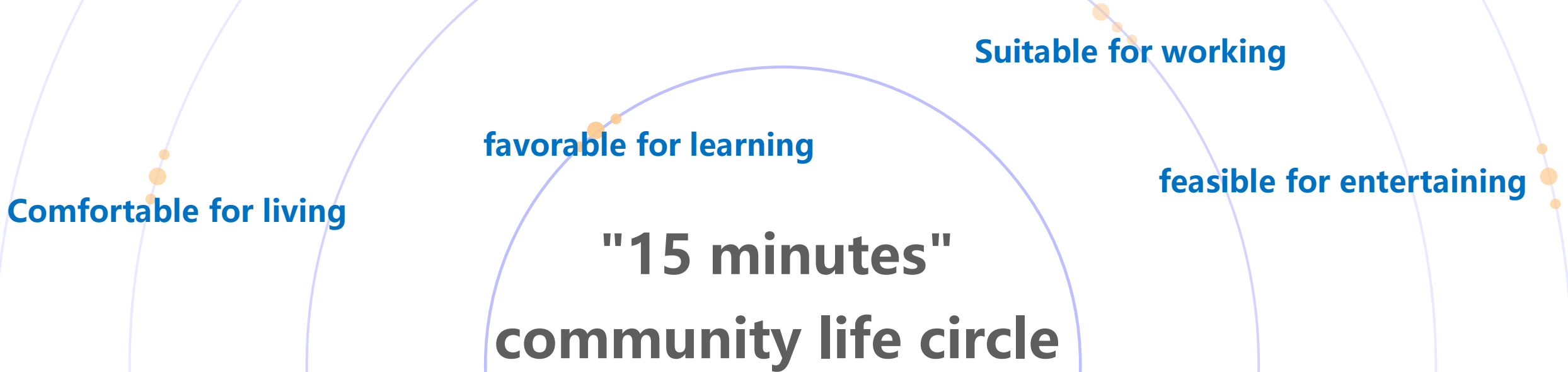
03

Building
domiciliary
"cloud
classroom"

04

Promoting the
diverse
development
of elderly
schools

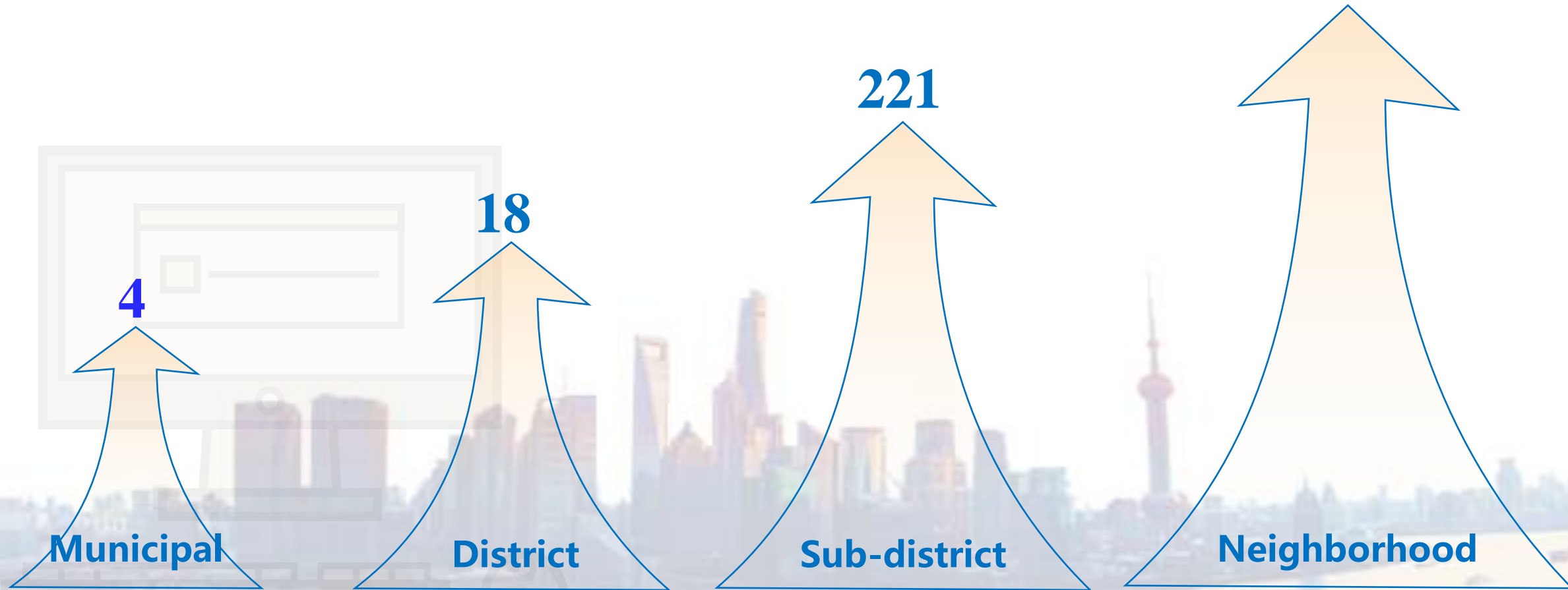
01 Creating a "15-minute" community life circle



Within a 15-minute walk, there are basic shopping, living, education, medical, leisure, fitness and other supporting service facilities, meeting the basic needs of residents.

4-Level Network System of Elderly Education

Shanghai has achieved full coverage of elderly education. **5589**



Yangjing Community School for the Aged

Short distance



> **Central location & convenient transportation**

Advanced equipment



> **Multi-function classrooms & modern teaching facilities**

various courses



Living skills, vocal music, dancing, digital information, language and literature, calligraphy and painting, health care, etc.

02 Helping the Elderly bridge the "Digital Divide"



Create smart life learning scenarios

- Health island -Cultivate the practical ability of the elderly to use hospital information equipment.
- Finance island -Mainly introduce the knowledge of mobile payment (Alipay, WeChat, Pocket Bank).
- Happy island -Basic video shooting, landscape shooting, travel shooting and post-production, etc.
- Tech island –Solves the current situation of "difficulty in handling affairs" of the elderly.
- Life island -Teach the elderly how to use different smart home appliances.

02 Helping the Elderly bridge the "Digital Divide"

Elderly volunteer training

- Focusing on travel, medical treatment, consumption, entertainment, service
- Training elderly volunteers
- The elderly helping the elderly



03 Building a domiciliary "cloud classroom"

School online class



- DingTalk Online Course
- Tencent Online Course

Internet resources



- Shanghai Elderly Learning Network
- Lifelong Learning Cloud for Shanghai Citizens
- CAUA Distance Education Network

TV Media



- Shanghai TV "Golden School"
- Shanghai Education TV "Silver Age Classroom"
- China Telecom IPTV "Elderly Star"

Introduction to the “cloud” learning resources

- Lifelong Learning Cloud for Shanghai Citizens covers various topics, such as health and safety, cooking, entertainment, information technology, art, counselling, local history, and current affairs.
- Shanghai's TV channel – Golden School – broadcasts courses for people over the age of 50, which are watched by over 1 million citizens each day.
- CAUA Distance Education Network has a total of 629 courses and 4757 class hours.
- Shanghai Elderly Learning Network specially sets up for the elderly, and the website contains a Distance University for the Elderly.

Features of the U3As in Shanghai

Government-led

**Multi-party
participation**

**Diversified
school operators**

Various forms

Abundant resources

Energetic

U3As of Municipal level run by the government

Shanghai University
for the Elderly



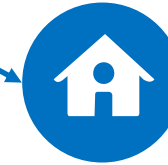
Shanghai Senior
Cadres University



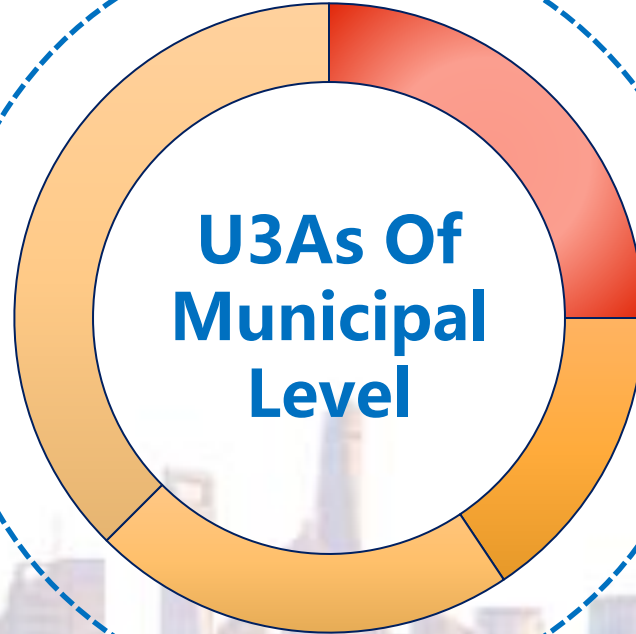
Shanghai Aging
University



Shanghai University
of Retired Workers



U3As Of
Municipal
Level



U3As affiliated to universities

U3A of
Shanghai Normal
University

U3A of
Shanghai Jiao Tong
University

U3A of
East China University of
Science and Technology

U3A of
Shanghai University of
Finance and Economics

U3A of
Fudan University

U3A of
East China Normal
University

U3A of
Donghua University

U3A of
Shanghai University

U3A of
Tongji University

U3As run by nongovernment sectors

U3A, Xindongyuan
Featured combining elderly nursing and elderly education

U3A, Himalaya app
Featured offering abundant audio learning resource

U3A, Xiaobaige Art School
Featured teaching the elderly to dance

U3A, Bank of China
Featured financial education for the elderly

U3A, Baixing Network
Featured fashion education for the elderly

U3A, Xingguang Photostudio
Featured photography education for the elderly

Education for the elderly is always on the way // // //

Shanghai has made outstanding progress in providing citizens with lifelong learning opportunities, and all citizens can develop themselves and contribute to solving local and global challenges in a rapidly changing world.

—David Atchoarena

(Director of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning)



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THANKS!

