Transforming Chinese society

Aim
Improve women's lives

Aim
Widen availability of healthcare

Aim
Increase access to education

Aim
Change Chinese culture

Problems
- Widespread belief in female inferiority
- Lack of rights
- Foot-binding
- Concubinage

Problems
- Lack of doctors
- Endemic disease
- Lack of healthcare awareness

Problems
- Not enough schools and universities
- Low literacy rates
- Old-fashioned education perpetuates elite attitudes

Problems
- Old culture still remains
- Religious belief remains
- Christian ideas imported from the imperialist West
- Traditional beliefs and practices still followed

Actions
- 1950 Marriage Reform Law
- Women's Federation

Actions
- Patriotic health campaigns
- Barefoot doctors programme

Actions
- New schools and universities created
- Pinyin introduced
- National system of primary education

Actions
- Four Olds Campaign
- Revolutionary operas
- Religious community targeted
- Purging of intellectuals

Successes
- Legal rights granted
- Traditional discriminatory practices banned
- Increased sense of self-worth

Successes
- Many peasants see a doctor for the first time

Successes
- Access to education widened
- Literacy rates improved

Successes
- Mao's cult of personality bolstered through new culture
- Red Guards mobilised in support of regime

Failures
- Forced to do manual labour
- Role as mother diminished in the communes
- No change in status in isolated rural areas

Failures
- Still a shortage of trained and skilled doctors
- Many still reliant on traditional medicine

Failures
- Children of Party leaders simply become a new elite
- Cultural Revolution creates 'lost generation'
- Rustication programme creates resentment and mistrust in CCP

Failures
- Invaluable historical sites and artefacts lost forever
- Murder and suicides of intellectuals
- Religious followers persecuted

△ Summary diagram: Social and cultural changes, 1949–76