Wednesday 14 May 2025

If my memory serves me correctly, I vividly remember that a couple of elderly ladies were talking about their grandchildren’s homework when I was in my brother-in-law’s wedding last year. These ladies came to help and started a brief chat when the wedding was finished. Most of them shared one opinion that all their grandchildren’s schoolbag were ridiculously heavy so that even they couldn’t carry them for a long time; not to mention pupils. I share their point. As a matter of fact, it is common in China. As an adult, I feel tired when I am carrying my daughter’s school bag. Whereas, I can easily upload a bag of wheat which is about 50 kilograms to a truck.

Furthermore, since all students are forced to do condiderable amount of homework both at school and home, there are few physical class in any primary schools in the city where I live. Presumably, it is the same in the rest of China. About two hundred years ago Chinese were called “estern patients” by Japanese when many Chinese citizens were too weak to win in any sports game. They couldn’t defend their homeland, either. Unfortunately, few students have access to sports due to the countless homework. They are all forced to cram for examinations by teachers and parents so that they can enter a university. Seldom can a student do 10 pull-ups or run 1000 metres.