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## **A Study on the Development of Protestant Mission Schools for girls of Canton in the Late Qing Period**

### **Abstract:**

Many remarkable changes have happened in China from 19 century to the 20 century, but the change of attitude toward the education of women can be regarded as one of the most significant issues. Instead of the natural extension of traditional female education, the modern women's education in China was a result of Western culture and viewpoints impacting China. The Protestant missionaries pay attention to Chinese women mainly for their religious purpose, but during they spread the mission they also brought the concept of Western modern feminism, which inspired Chinese people and had significant impacts on the development of female education in China.

At the beginning, Chinese were quite certain that they didn't want or need to know about the Western learning. The natural distrust of invading foreigners was a huge handicap for Protestant missionaries to spread the mission and establish girls' schools. Yet as more and more had come to appreciate the usefulness of Western learning, the social elites and reformers urged China to change the backward situation. Especially in Canton, where influenced by the Western culture frequently and strongly at modern time, many progressive people gradually recognized that if the women lack of education, the county surely can't be improved. Therefore, they asked for the improvement of women condition and devoted themselves to change the gender inequality in education. The change of women's education in China was no doubt that

came from the inside awakening, but the effects that Western culture had catalyzed the transformation and advancement of the views on women in China can't be ignored.

The cross-cultural dynamics existed on the Protestant mission schools for girls and Canton's society, which deeply influenced the concepts, customs educational system even women's lives in Canton, the mutual cultural interaction has been gradually universal in modern Chinese history.

**Key words:** Protestant mission schools for girls, Canton, female education

## Chapter One Introduction

### 1) General Background

In a long period since 1950s, due to the impact of special domestic and foreign surroundings, Chinese academic society simply regarded the cultural and educational activities that the missionaries did in China as imperialist aggressions. Therefore, the research of Christian Education in China became the academic area that nobody dared to venture into. Till 1980s, with the social atmosphere gradually open, the study specialized in the Christian education gradually increasing. Because this research subject was not only relate to educational history but also relate to Chinese women's history, so it is more dispersive.

Mr. Cui Yunwu's 崔运武 article 'A study of Mission schools for Women in Modern China' 《近代中国教会女子教育浅析》 had made initiative contribution. The author divided the development of mission schools for girls into two stages, and summarized the characteristics and situations of this two stages. He draw the development track of