Impossible Numbers in China EdTech

Wednesday 9th August : Ticker GSX

By using data from business networking websites **LinkedIn** and **MaiMai** and comparing GSX Techedu against competitors: ONESmart Education, New Oriental Education, TAL Education and VIPKId we have found that:

- GSX has the **lowest** amount of employees out of all the major China EdTEch firms
- GSX has the lowest educational staff despite their claim to have 10,000 tutors
- We show that GSX claims to have hired **6,500 Tutors in an 8 month** period **is not reflected in reality**
- We believe GSX is likely overstating the amount of teaching staff that it has by more than a **100X**
- Many of GSX 'Tutors' are either IT or sales staff or unqualified to teach which is illegal in China



Internal data from online businesses is difficult to scrutinize, particularly for auditors with less experience with software and databases. However, human capital requirements are more clear cut.

People working in online companies are obviously **the most likely** to use business networking websites and leave a **"digital footprint"**, which means they can be tracked and assessed.

The business networking site LinkedIn provides a rich set of data which is difficult to manipulate at scale (of which more later) and provides an excellent comparison between companies.

This report compares GSX to other large Chinese education businesses, showing the **massive anomaly** between them and **its own assertions**, namely that it has over **10,000 Tutors** (up around **6,500 in an 8 month period**).

We compare GSX to established players: New Oriental and TAL Education. We also use OneSmart, DaDa, and YouDao.

People have suggested that MaiMai would be a better resource than LinkedIn (LI), but our research shows that LI has richer data than MaiMai (a Chinese competitor), and searches using MaiMai returned disturbingly similar data between companies.

Much of the data can be found using a free license so we urge you to verify this yourselves. This data was taken between 7th-9th August 2020.

| | E | EDU | | TAL* | GSX** | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| No. of Employees on LinkedIn | 8 | ,787 | | 5,555 | 451** | | | |
| *incl Xueersi | | | ** incl Beijin | | ogy Co (北京百家互联科技有限公司 GSX:山东跟谁学互联科技有限公司 山东跟谁学互联科技有限公司 | | | |
| Keywords Enter keywords | | 45 Total re | - | 11 Changed jobs in pa days | Aast 90 Posted on Linke 30 day | | | |
| Filters | Clean (1) | Select all | I≣ Save to lis | st 🛷 Tag | | | | |
| Custom Lists + Select custom list Past Lead and Account Activity + Filter your leads/accounts | joined (they ins have joi | I people have GSX in last 90 sist 2,400 Tuto ined in this pe tutor is in the | ors priod. 11 | g 3rd leveloper at GSX Techedu Learn from (NYSE: GSX) role and company rict, Beijing, China new role 3 months ago at GSX Techedu (NYSE: GSX) | | | | |
| Geography + Add locations Relationship + How closely you're connected | | - | 2 months in r | t Specialist at GSX Teche ole and company ct, Beijing, China | du GSX (NYSE: GSX) | | | |
| Company Current ▼ Genshuixue × GSX Techedu Learn from Wh | o × | | New role Started ne | ew role 2 months ago at C | GSX Techedu (NYSE: GSX) | | | |
| Beijing Baijia Internet Techno Shandong GSX Internet Tech | | | Meixuan L Course Con | j 3rd Isultant at GSX Techedu (| GSX (NYSE: GSX) | | | |



Online businesses working in similar markets should have similar percentages of their staff on the same platform.

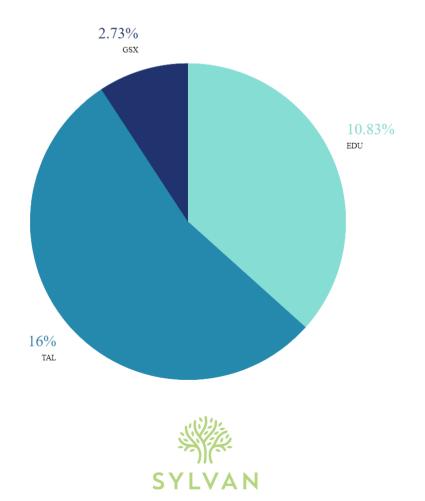
We looked at figures from New Oriental's Investor Relations website, Statista's most recent 2019 figures for TAL Education and the combination of GSX staff figures from Q1 earnings 'we have 10,000' people and their new figures for tutors (+6,500).

GSX Investor relations declined to provide current figures.

Employees online Compared to Stated Figures

| | EDU | TAL | * | GSX** | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|
| No. of Employees Stated | 81,100 | 34,73 | 3 | 16,500 | | |
| No. of Employees on LinkedIn | 8,787 | 5,55 | 5 | 451** | | |
| Percentage of Employees Stated | 10.83% | 16% | | 2.73% | | |
| New Oriental 'We have over 81,100 employee <u>https://bit.ly/3bzSHta</u> | TAL Education https://bit.ly/3m5C | TAL Education <u>https://bit.ly/3m500vZ</u> | | e chedu (from Q1 earnings plus 6,500 tors | | |

GSX has only 2.73% of their stated employee profiles online

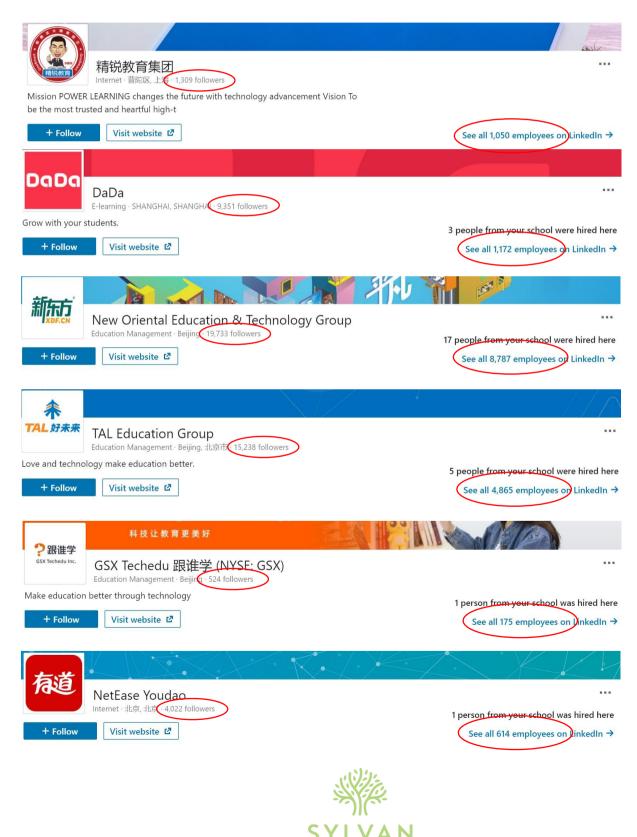


People have suggested that LinkedIn is not an exact measure of total staff numbers, and we concur. However it is perfect to compare with similar businesses.

TAL has 100 X the employees of GSX and EDU has 200 X.

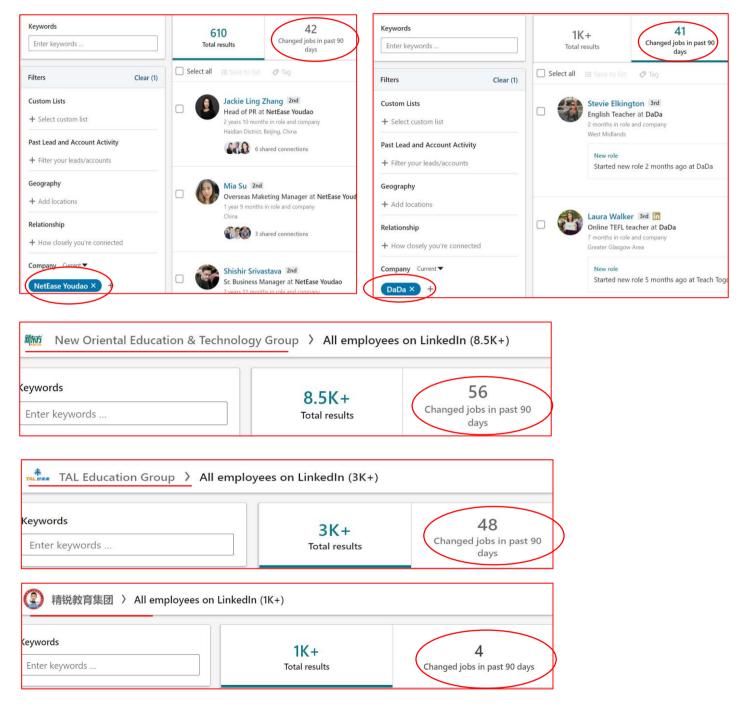
OneSmart Education (valued at \$672 million has almost 4 X the number of employees). GSX also has 2 X less employees than the comparably tiny DaDa

You will also note that each of these companies has more social media followers (circled). GSX is a technology driven online education business with 'millions' of students, yet **29 X less followers than TAL**



Joiners in the Last 90 Days

As you saw on the first page, LinkedIn tells you how many people have joined a business over the last 90 days. This period should mean that we see a huge positive difference in GSX compared to the competition. Instead **GSX has over 4 X LESS new joiners than their competitors** apart from the tiny OneSmart.





Joiners in the Last 90 Days

In our last report we broke down the number of teaching staff of each company using the terms Dǎoshī and Teacher. In order to remove any ambiguity in job title we are now sorting the data through **'Function'** – selecting **'Education'** – this will cover anyone involved in teaching AND add consultants and designers etc.

For GSX and associated businesses we find a TOTAL of 67 of which 27 are tutors

GSX has Only ONE person in Education has joined over the last 90 days.

GSX Educational Employees

| Keywords Enter keywords | | 67 Total results | 1 Changed jobs in past 90 days | 1 Posted on LinkedIn in past 30 days |
|--|------------|---|--|--|
| Filters Clear (2) | Select all | I≣ Save to list ⊘ Tag | | |
| Custom Lists + Select custom list Past Lead and Account Activity + Filter your leads/accounts | - 🥐 | Han Yilun 2nd Director of Teaching Qu GSX) 1 year 7 months in role and 4 Haidian District, Beijing, Chir 2 shared connection | la | Save ••• |
| Geography + Add locations Relationship + How closely you're connected | - | Henry Liu 3rd © Vier Tutor at GSX Techedu Lo 5 months in role and compa Wuhan, Hubei, China | earn from Whom (NYSE: GSX) | Save |
| Company Current ▼ Genshuixue × GSX Techedu Learn from Who × Beijing Baijia Internet Technol × | - 🏈 | Meixuan Li 3rd Course Consultant at GS 3 months in role and compa Haidian District, Beijing, Chir | - | Save |
| Shandong GSX Internet Techn × + Industry | - 🛝 | ZAOZAO LI 3rd Management Trainee at 8 months in role and compa Shanghai, China | : GSX Techedu (NYSE: GSX) ny | Save |
| Add industries Company headcount Add range for employee count Conjugit, logal | - | Zhiteng HOU 3rd @ Lecturer & Teacher Train 1 year 1 month in role and co Haidian District, Beijing, Chin | ner at GSX Techedu Learn with Who (NYSE: ompany | GSX) |
| Seniority level + Add seniority levels Function Education × | | Lu Huajing Brd Mathematics tutor at Be 1 year in role and company Beijing, China | aijing Baijia Internet Technology Co., Ltd. | Save |
| Add functions Operations (96) | _ <i>(</i> | Li Hongji 3rd © View | ved | Save |



TAL Educational Employees

TAL Education has over 1,000 Educational staff and 13 new joiners over the last 90 days

| Keywords | 1K+ 13 4 |
|--|--|
| Enter keywords | Total results Changed jobs in past 90 days Posted on LinkedIn in past 30 days |
| Filters Clear (2 | 2) Select all I III Save to list ⊘ Tag |
| Custom Lists + Select custom list Past Lead and Account Activity | Paul Gilsdorf 3rd Senior Learning Designer at TAL Education Group 1 year 4 months in role and company Greater Boston |
| + Filter your leads/accounts Geography + Add locations | Lzzy Kiver 3rd Senior Instructional Designer at TAL Education Group NYSE: TAL 10 months in role and company Los Angeles, California, United States |
| Relationship + How closely you're connected Company Current ▼ TAL Education Group × | Ricky Burrows 3rd ESL Presenter & Education Consultant at TAL Education Group 1 year 4 months in role and company Beijing, China |
| Xueersi International Education × Xueersi Online School × + ndustry | Dingyuan He 3rd Global Management Trainee at 好未来教育 5 months in role and company New York, New York, United States |
| Company headcount + Add range for employee count Seniority level | Jasmine Saxby 3rd Curriculum Developer at TAL Education Group 2 years 4 months in role and company Anchorage, Alaska, United States |
| Add seniority levels Function Education × | Harrie Gooch 3rd Presenter and Education Consultant at TAL Education Group 1 year 9 months in role and company United Kingdom |
| Add functions Human Resources (351) | - 李璐 3rd |



EDU Educational Employees

New Oriental has over 4,500 Educational staff and 33 new joiners over the last 90 days

| Keywords | | | |
|---|-----------|----------------|--|
| Enter keywords | | 4.5 Total r | Changed jobs in past 90 Bosted on LinkedIn in pas |
| Filters | Clear (1) | Select all | I≣ Save to list ⊘ Tag |
| Custom Lists + Select custom list | | | Rena Zhou 2nd TOEFL English Teacher at New Oriental Education & Technology Group 2 years 4 months in role and company |
| Past Lead and Account Activity + Filter your leads/accounts | | | Beijing, China |
| Geography + Add locations | | 01 | Rose Wang 3rd ② Viewed Principal at 新东方 3 months in role and company |
| Relationship + How closely you're connected | | | Jing'an District, Shanghai, China |
| Industry + Add industries | | ٤ | C.D Mackellar 2nd IGCE English Teacher at New Oriental Education & Technology Group 3 months in role and company Zhejiang, China |
| Past company + Add past companies Seniority level + Add seniority levels | | Ţ | Tim Yawney 2nd Principal NOIC Academy (New Oriental International College Academy) a New Oriental Education & Technology Group 1 year 8 months in role and company Guelph, Ontario, Canada |
| Function Education × | | | 1 shared connection |
| Add functions Operations (539) Human Resources (449) | | | Icy Liu 3rd Teacher at New Oriental Education & Technology Group 8 years 9 months in role and company Haidian District, Beijing, China |
| Sales (410) Consulting (359) Marketing (234) Business Development (210) Media and Communication (197) Administrative (162) | | ٩ | Calvin Qian 3rd Student Mentor at New Oriental Education & Technology Group 2 years 9 months in role and company |

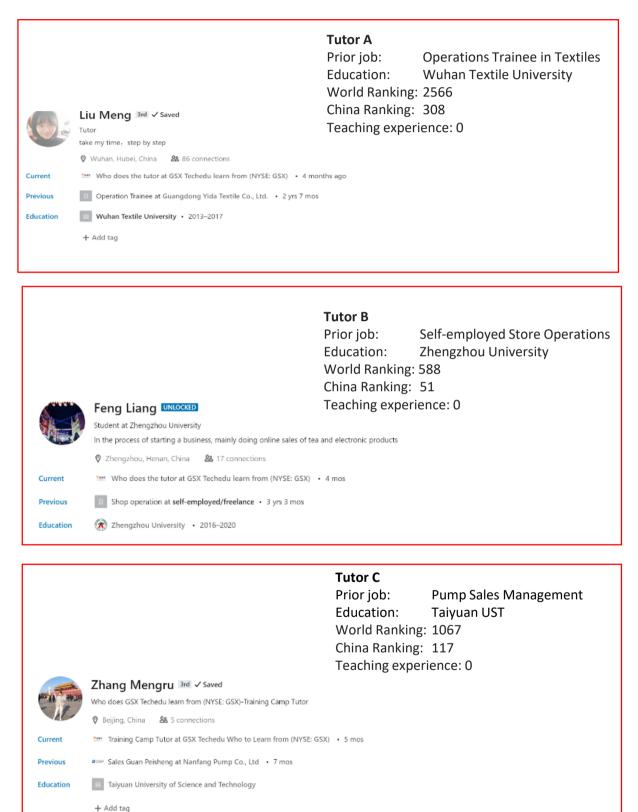


GSX Breaking China Ministry of Education Law

Because GSX has so 27 Tutors online, we have been able to look at them individually. GSX claims:

'We seek to engage high quality teaching staff with **strong education background and teaching skills**....We primarily seek tutor candidates from recent graduates of reputable universities in China who have demonstrated proficiency in the **relevant subjects**.'

Let's take a look at a selection of the GSX tutors:

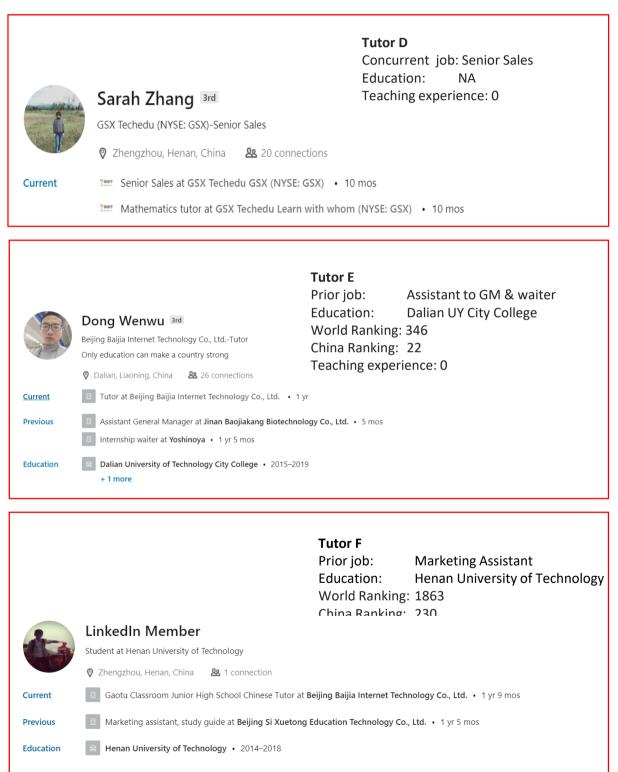




GSX Breaking China Ministry of Education Law

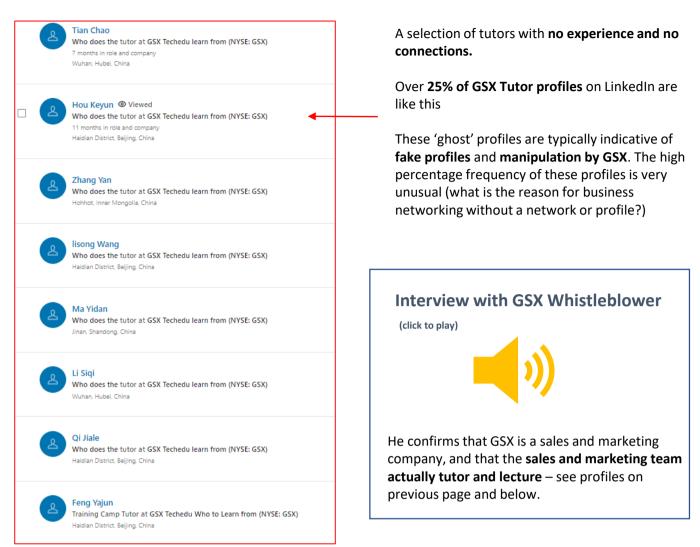
These tutors go against China MOE law which requires a license, and also completely concur with the audio of a whistleblower on the next page.

Please note we will be sharing these profiles with the China Ministry of Education.





GSX Breaking China Ministry of Education Law



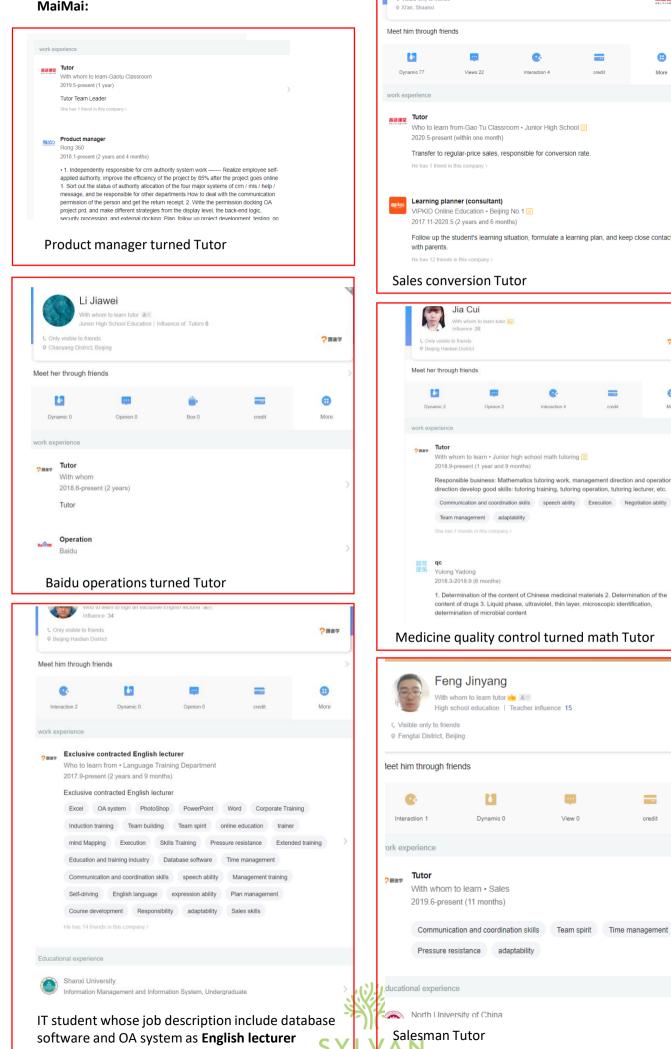
Profile of Hou Zhiteng. Prior to joining GSX he was the CMO and co-founder of two apps. He now claims to be a large class primary school mathematics lecturer and teacher trainer. This is a skill mismatch of multiple orders and against both GSX policy and China MOE policy.

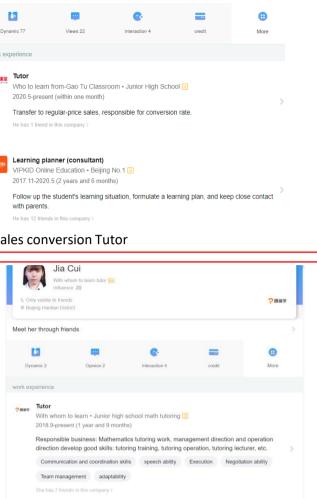
| | | - | | | | | | |
|----------|--|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Current | Zhiteng HOU Brd ✓ Saved lecturer ♥ Haidian District, Beijing, China && 454 connections ™: Lecturer & Teacher Trainer at GSX Techedu Learn from Whom (NVSE; GSX) • 11 mos | Wour Zhiteng With whom to track the teacher interact of the reduction 1 Teacher influence 61 Vatilite only to fremds Dangcheng District, Bejing | | | | | | ? ≞ |
| Previous | CMO at her said social app • 7 mos Co-Founder at Beijing Shell Youjia Technology Co., Ltd. • 1 yr 4 mos + 2 more | | Meet him through friends | | | | | (1) More |
| | + 2 more + Add tag | | work ex ?≋≋≄ | With whom 2019.9-pres | | primary school math | ematics lecturer and t | eacher trainei |
| | nce .ecturer & Teacher Trainer SX Techedu Learn from Whom (NYSE: GSX) ep 2019- Present + 11 mos | | <u>a</u> | CMO She said ap | nds in this company > pp 19.5 (7 months) | | | |
| 9 | C mo che said social apps dev 2013-May 2019 • 7 mos | | | The strange | er 's social product, the | e "she said" applet, is | responsible for early | user growth. |



? 跟进学

Additional GSX "Tutors" of interest from MaiMai:





••••

View 0

credit

高途课堂

Online Education | Sales Influence 166

t. Visible only to friends

Conclusion

We originally raised these concerns with Deloitte on the 9th of July. We received a standard response that our concerns would be shared. It is clear by Deloitte's silence on the 2nd of September that these figures have not been examined.

Our experts in education and human capital find absolutely no correlation between GSX statements, either then or now with reality.

They also found many other red flags covered by others including:

- A preponderance of employees involved in tech, and sales and marketing compared to education
- No native English or Korean speaking tutors despite claiming 13% of revenue comes from 'foreign language'
- Discrepancies across the board in experience against job requirements
- Bot reviews on teacher profiles
- Classes where teachers perform bizarrely (i.e. sing to the students rather than teach)
- Lack of genuine positive feedback for lecturer or tutor interaction

Our team (and the whistleblower presented in this report) would be prepared to act as witness in a US or Chinese court of law to give testimony that GSX has repeatedly misstated its employees.

We ask that Deloitte and Li Li Shan, having received this information in good faith on the 9th July re-examine the numbers and verify with the China Ministry of Education for licenses registered.

We will share a further report in Chinese to the MOE outlining GSX egregious attempt to subvert education of children in China.

