

Discussion on the Effect of COVID-19 in the Field of Education

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ABSTRACT

Due to the COVID-19, the education in China confronted with great changes and challenges. Through analyzing relevant data and news, with the reference to analyzing the impact of SARS on the education, the following effects of the COVID-19 on education are concluded. Firstly, the education form has changed from offline to online, which can result in temporary score gaps between students with learning manner in good and bad. Thus the advantages of online education has stood out during the epidemic. Besides, the employment will be negatively influenced so it is suggested that the graduates start earlier to look for a job and keep optimistic. Universities and the government has also offered them various ways for job-hunting to ensure the employment this year. Moreover, the lack of life education has emerged in different ways and people begin to realize the goodness and evilness in humanity again. Hence, the life education should be emphasized in the future. Finally, in spite of all the damages the epidemic has brought to people, it has indeed produced a longer vacation for many Chinese families to stay together for loner time than before. Consequently, the importance of family education is recalled by parents and educators. Only when people learn a lesson from the epidemic, can people avoid the similar problems in the future.

Keywords: Covid-19, education, China, employment, future development, influence

1. INTRODUCTION

The sudden outbreak of the epidemic caused by COVID-19 resulted in great loss and challenges to China. To contain the alarming spread of the novel corona virus, strict lockdown restrictions were carried out. Moreover, because of the Spring Festival, many Chinese have left school and work. As a result, the online working and learning became prevalent, so that people could work and study without going out so that the social distance could be kept.

However, the implementation of online teaching is a new attempt both for schools and teachers. Therefore, what kinds of problems they are facing and how to solve these problems, as well as what people can do to avoid facing these problems again are the lessons that should be learned from the disaster. To answer these questions, in this paper, relevant data are collected from the Internet. Also, the influence of SARS in 2003 on the education is reviewed as a reference. Besides, news about the educational sector are summarized and analyzed to make predictions for the future development. This research is hoped to be a reference for the peers in educational sector.

2. REVOLUTION OF SCHOOL

EDUCATION

The epidemic sounded the charging horn of future school transformation, which is a good opportunity for educational informatization and online teaching. The challenge of the combination of technology and education is not in technology, but in subverting the traditional Chinese education structure and redesigning the school form.

2.1. Problems of online learning resumption

The epidemic comes suddenly, which brings difficulties to all walks of life. In order to stop the spread of the epidemic among the campus, on January 27, the Ministry of Education proposed to postpone the start of the 2020 spring semester and used the online platform to achieve "suspended class, ongoing learning"[1]. Online learning resumption is a practical test of the developing situation of educational informatization in China, and a collaborative educational innovation of the whole society, which will have a profound impact on the future development of educational informatization. Whether it is face-to-face teaching or online teaching, the learning effect is a core issue that must be paid attention to. In the implementation of the recent online learning resumption, there are some issues that need to be adjusted and continuously improved, which deserve the attention of the whole society.

The epidemic has led to the complete suspension of classes in primary and secondary schools. Although the online courses officially launched by the school are proceeding well, the effect of the form of online courses for students is much greater than the substance. First of all, there is a problem of the quality of teaching. The use of network teaching platform is significantly affected and restricted by the platform hardware itself as well as the network system. Thus there is no way to ensure the quality the same smooth as face-to-face teaching. In addition, as many teachers are not familiar with the way of online teaching, it leads to frequent teaching accidents, which consumes a lot of manpower and time, but cannot guarantee the corresponding quality. Secondly, it is the problem of learning efficiency. For the primary and secondary schools, most of the students have insufficient self-management and self-driving ability, poor interaction with online teaching, and when there are many students, the teacher cannot supervise the learning condition of each student, during which period of time, lots of students frequently sneak off in the learning process. What is more, in the inspection of homework, it cannot be supervised effectively as in school. It is likely to foresee that after the resumption of study, a "Matthew effect" will be formed amid the students. During the initial period of the learning resumption, students who have good grades will be much better, and students with poor grades will get worse. However, this difference could be narrowed down to the normal level with the lesson that tends to be normalized after the resumption.

2.2. Continuous promotion to realize future normalization of the air classroom

The epidemic situation is a chance for educational informatization and online teaching, turning bad things into opportunities for promoting educational reform. Judging from the initial implementation in various places, although there are mixed reviews and complaints, the key point focuses on how to improve. With a reasonable view on the relationship between the new technology revolution and education, and the effective use of new technology to transform traditional education, the future normalization of air classrooms can be achieved.

There are some suggestions for the problems that are exposed after online resumption of learning. Firstly, there are lots of online educational institutions nationwide, but the technical levels of these platforms are imbalanced. It is the responsibility of the educational administrative departments to require and help universities choose the learning platform carefully, and carry on regular supervision by the associated departments. Secondly, it is necessary to strengthen multiparty collaborations to ensure the stable connection of online teaching. The department of education and research should take the initiatives to communicate with the telecommunications department and formulate specific implementation plans and emergency plans according to the actual situation in different places to

ensure smooth network. Thirdly, it is helpful to give full play to the strength of the teaching and research department, and instruct teachers to carefully organize courseware. It is also significant to enhance the interactive nature of online education in order to motivate students to carry out independent and in-depth learning, and continuously improve learning efficiency. Fourthly, the responsibilities of parents should be clarified to effectively supervise and instruct students' learning, especially for the students with poor study planning and self-discipline. School teachers should communicate with parents, strengthen home-school cooperation in abnormal state, and guide parents to supervise and accompany children to conduct online learning in a scientific way and effective way. Fifthly, there is an urgent need to mobilize social forces to care for the poor and left-behind children. For students who do not have electronic equipment or network conditions due to family difficulties, the government and relevant departments should solve the problems through poverty relief, subsidies or donations to ensure no one is left behind for online learning. Finally, timely detection and feedback should be made to gradually gain improvement to promote the further scientific and standardized development of online teaching.

2.3. Discussion on future school

Internet changing education is a fact that is happening at present. As time goes by, it will inevitably change school education, just like the Internet changes business and finance. Coupled with the accelerating impact of the epidemic, the Internet-based form of mixed learning is expected to become the basic model of new school education in the future.

Currently, China's traditional education system has classrooms, textbooks, and teachers as the central structure of the Iron Triangle, which has always been stable. Under this unchanged premise, it is difficult to have a real qualitative leap in educational effect. It is particularly important to break the existing school pattern, recognize the legitimacy of online learning, and move from a physical school to a hybrid model that combines physical schools and Internet schools. To compulsorily arrange people with different foundations, different learning interests, and different learning habits in the same classroom and take classes that are taught for eight hours a day is a teaching model centered on knowledge dissemination. Future school education should be a student-centered educational growth model. Achievements and academic qualifications should not be taken as the most important matter. What is important is to meet personalized learning and pay much attention to what you have learned, shared, constructed, and created.

Practical exploration of combining physical schools with Internet schools has been launched in China. Existing companies have jointly established Internet schools with Tsinghua University Primary School and cooperated with more than 5,000 schools among 107 cities of 22 provinces in China. Judging from the preliminary implementation

results, for example, taking the experimental class of Zhengzhou Foreign Language School as an example, students have certain rights to choose their own learning styles and places to study. It has also been shown that mixed learning is much better than the single classroom teaching mode of traditional education in schools.

2.4. New form of examination and evaluation system

The epidemic also put forward the new examination form. For example, the undergraduate school of Huazhong agricultural university delivered an announcement about the arrangement of the final examination of 2020 summer semester[2]. According to this announcement that online test will be adopted[2]. Besides, other kinds of test form are recommended, such as writing a thesis or report instead of attending a test, or using oral test to replace a writing test[2]. On the other hand, some universities like the online education college of Beijing university of posts and telecommunications choose to remain the writing test and in offline form[3]. From the two examples, it can be seen that the test forms are various and which test form to be chosen depends on many external factors like the number of local diagnosed cases, the conditions of the school itself and the number of examinee etc. Except for the semester final examination, another examination is concerned by thousands of Chinese, the national entrance examination . Till now there is no sign that the national entrance examination will be transformed to online examination. According to the Notice of the Ministry of Education on responding to the new coronary pneumonia epidemic situation, the examination is propounded for a month to July 7-8[4]. In addition, the notice emphasizes the importance of the all-round prevention measures for examination sites, including the training of the staff, the sterilization and ventilation of the examination sites, the monitor of the body temperature of staffs and examinee, and the sufficient epidemic prevention materials in the test center, the preparation for specific isolation test rooms and spare test rooms and so on[4]. Referring to the national examination in 2003, after SARS, the test can be much more difficulties. According to[5] and[6], the national examination in 2003 was extremely difficult. The lowest admission scores of Tsinghua University in Shaanxi province was 629, Beijing University was 627[5]. In comparison to 2003, the scores of Tsinghua in Shaanxi was 681 in 2019[7], and that of Beijing University was 677 in the same year[8]. In this year, the admission scores of top universities can also be much lower than usual. Whereas, based on the document of[6], the prevention measures are predicted to be implemented orderly and as planned.

3. EMPLOYMENT REFORM

In 2020, there are 8.74 million college graduates nationwide, an increase of 400,000 year-on-year[9]. Under the influence of the epidemic, the employment situation faced by college graduates is expected to be more complicated. All sectors of society should respond and seek change actively, take various measures to avoid the unemployment, and pull through the hardest employment season in the history to maintain social stability.

There are mainly four ways to solve the problem. The first solution is to maximize employment opportunities. It is necessary to focus on increasing recruitment in basic education, primary health care, community services and other fields. Increasing the policy tilt and encouraging more fresh graduates to join the army are also helpful. And work with relevant departments to implement the grassroots employment program for college students, and encourage more college graduates to face grassroots employment are of same significance.

The second one is expanding the further education channels for graduates. On the premise of ensuring the quality of postgraduate training, we need to strive to expand the scale of enrollment of postgraduate students this year. Focusing on the demand for front-line technical talents such as the development of new formats of social service management, the scale of junior college upgrades to ordinary universities will be expanded.

Next measure is to develop recruitment channels in various ways. Until now, 14 online recruitment events have been held[10]. The Ministry of Education has selected five large-scale companies with jobs matching graduates. Career-free, Zhilian recruitment, Hunting recruitment network and other companies have opened campus recruitment areas, all of which provide high-quality services for college students free of charge. Starting from February 28th, the Ministry of Education officially launched 24365 all-weather online service, the service is always online to help graduates recruit without meeting[10].

The forth way is to provide more accurate guidance services. Each university is required to pay close attention to the graduation and employment of each graduate, and it is required to strengthen personalized guidance by "one person, one policy" and other methods, and do its utmost to recommend graduates positions that meet their personal characteristics. It is hoped that everyone will find a suitable position as soon as possible through actively guiding graduates to find their career positions and adjusting their expectations reasonably.

4. REFLECTION ON LIFE EDUCATION

In times of pandemic and anti-epidemic, educators should pay more attention to "treating disasters as teaching materials and turning crises into opportunities" and pass on this idea to the next generation. That is more significant for the next generation than a lack of study. Today's teenagers and children are future government officials, experts from all walks of life, and social citizens. Under different social roles, how to treat life is a subject involves life education,

science education, social education, moral education, family education, civic responsibility education and so on. Education is a cause that lays the foundation for life. This disaster not only exposed the lack of normal safety and health knowledge, but also exposed the deficiencies in life education and mental health. Life education in a broad sense is a kind of education for all mankind, which includes not only the attention to life, but also the cultivation of survivability and the enhancement of life value. During the disaster, human nature was widely exposed. There were not only the earliest whistle blowers, the medical workers in the front-line, the workers who built the hospital in ten days, and the workers who carried out elaborate prevention and control in the streets of the community, but also various ugly acts and even illegal acts, like the concealment of information that caused others to infect and led to the epidemic situation, resell of the medical materials, and the spread of fake news, which caused panic among the public. Hence, educators should treat this disaster as a practical lesson in education, shift students' attention from test scores and rankings to lives, call on and guide teachers, students, and even the whole society to discuss the right behavior, morality, and ethics.

Experts appeal to the public that the best way to prevent the spread of the epidemic is to wash hands frequently, wear masks, and maintain social distance. Besides, staying at home as much as possible and reducing the number of outings can also help contain the epidemic.

Under this conditions, it is an important opportunity for people to refocus on family education. Family education is the foundation of school and social education. The real education starts from the family. Under the lockdown policy, the parents' working at home and the children's learning at home create more time for the whole families to stay together. Parents are expected to gain a better parent-child relationship while patiently spreading health knowledge and life education to their children. There are 400 million families in China. As the smallest unit of society, good family education of the next generation will benefit the whole society.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the novel corona virus exerted both negative and positive impacts on the education in China. The positive side includes the impetus for the online learning and combined teaching forms of schools. What is more, the epidemic indirectly produced a long time for family gathering. Parents have more time than before to accompany their kids. Furthermore, the public's awareness of hygiene was reinforced. Thus, people can development good health habit like washing hand when coming back home and wearing a respirator during the flu season especially when there are already people caught cold around. These good hygiene habits can also help prevent other infectious illnesses. Moreover, the life education came in the spotlight, which was always overseen before. The public rethink the meaning of life and which attitude

should be chosen towards lives as well as what to do when facing a matter of life and death.

Despite all the positive aspects mentioned above, the problems hidden in the education were exposed. The lack of complete online education system and facilities of schools, the lack of online teaching experience of teachers, the educational inequity in poor and rich regions, as well as the indifference to life of some people also alarmed us. Meanwhile, problems can be the orientation of the future development. It is more important to learn a lesson than to regret for the loss. In the future, the educators should pay attention to these aspects and should always be prepared.

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This work involves empirical results. And due to the limit time, this research has some limitations and is a theoretical research. In the future, the authors hope to do some quantitative research with data and statistics.

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