

Analysis on the Educational Differences Between International School and Public School in China

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ABSTRACT

With the development of globalization and diversification in the world, studying abroad has become an alternative to college entrance examination for more and more Chinese students. Therefore, more and more international schools have been established in China. The way of education in international schools is different from that of public schools in China, so there are some controversy between international schools and public schools now. In order to provide teenagers good education in school and lay a good foundation for entering society in the future, the school education mode is extremely important. Therefore, it is necessary to explore the differences, advantages and disadvantages between the two mainstream educational system in China. This paper analyzes the advantages and disadvantages of current international schools and public schools in China, discusses the overall differences between the two sides, and puts forward some suggestions on the education of both sides.

Keywords: *International school, public school, education, differences*

1. INTRODUCTION

Education is always an enduring topic, human beings have been groping and exploring for the best education mode. Therefore, almost every region has its own way of education. In today's globalized society of China, the international schools use the western education system, the public schools inherit and optimize the traditional Chinese education system. However, both of them have their own advantages and disadvantages. It can often be heard that parents of international schools saying that their kids' learning pressure is too low, which leads to their laxity. And it can also be heard that parents of public schools saying that the school's education is too rigid and learning pressure is too heavy, there's too much force that makes their kids feel depressed. Therefore, the advantages and disadvantages of international schools and public schools will be listed below, so as to analyze the differences between the two education systems, and put forward some suggestions to learn from each other.

2. ANALYSIS

2.1 Current Problems in International Schools

2.1.1 The foundation is unstable

The teachers of international schools usually won't teach as detail or as deep as teachers in public school, maybe the learning scale of international is wider, but are not detail

and deep than public school. Sometimes teachers in the international school will only teach you the most basic thing in the lesson, but will not tell you some special skills of some special problems that you might meet in the future. Furthermore, in international school, teachers rarely assign homework that requires you to do a lot of exercises, which can help students strengthen their foundation, improve your accuracy of solving problems, and quickly familiar with various types of questions and their solutions. All of these leads to the poor foundation of students in the international school.

2.1.2. Poor discipline

The discipline in international schools has always been criticized. It's not only the discipline in the classroom, but also in the spare time. Frankly speaking, compared with public schools, the classroom order of international schools is indeed not very good. The classroom in international schools are noisier and more chaotic, this may be good for some students since they get the opportunity to discuss, but for some others, it creates a chance for them to be

distracted, they will maybe waste their time looking at their classmates discussing problems for the whole class and thinking of other things, or not joining and don't use their brains.

However, some excesses are far more serious than what I stated above. Something like smoking, drinking alcohol, having sex, and fighting that happened in a lot of international high school is another serious problem. Some of the schools turn a blind eye. No matter what, there is no doubt that the occurrence of juvenile delinquency is the biggest shortcoming of international schools now.

2.2. Advantages of International Schools

2.2.1. High-quality facilities and good environment

One of the biggest advantages of international school is that they often have a large and beautiful campus, many tall buildings, and a lot of high-quality facilities. Most of the international schools I knew have gyms, swimming pools, basketball courts, sports grounds, climbing gyms, and so on. They provided students so many options for exercising and meet the interest of different students to the utmost. Meanwhile, since international schools have more funds, so international schools have the ability to add some special equipment for student's needs. For example, there are always various kinds of communities set up by students, and for the kayak community, maybe they need some kayak, for the astronomy community, maybe they need an astronomical telescope. All in all, most of the international schools have the ability to provide these to their students, and this is a really attractive point of the international school.

2.2.2. Strong self-learning ability

The teacher in the international school usually won't teach so deep and detail, so that means, if students want to get a high score of their GPA, they need to know how to study by themselves. In the class, teachers will often just talk about the basic things that students need to know, but for the extensive knowledge that the homework might include, students need to search and learn on their own. In this case, sometimes the teacher won't give accurate answer to some questions so that students will need to figure the solution out by searching on the internet and analyzing with classmates, and by doing this, they will learn lessons from the process of finding the answer.

What's more, many of the assignment that teachers in the international school assign is asking students to do research and learn by themselves, or asking students to get more materials which the teachers didn't talk about before for some of the essay homework. All of

these require students' ability of self-searching and studying, and the ability of self-studying is definitely one of the most important abilities through one's whole life. It will help a person a lot after they enter the university, where the self-learning ability will become much more necessary. When they step into the society to get a job, build own family and raise the child, self-learning ability will always be the greatest assistant of one person.

2.2.3. Strong ability of critical thinking

International schools are trying to pay attention to the cultivation of students' critical thinking ability. International schools attach great importance to the dominant position of students, giving them a broad space for thinking and encouraging them to think independently, question courageously, and explore bravely. In this atmosphere, every student has the opportunity to express their own views freely and question authority. Ideas can also be listened to and given positive feedback. The teacher is no longer a leader, but a consultant. The teacher only guides when necessary, so that children can balance the information and different views and clarify their own opinions, the whole process of figuring out the thing is mainly controlled by students themselves. Students will think independently and challenge their opinions. Not just the conventional problems in textbooks, the school will encourage students to ask questions or interpose, put forward different opinions, and even argue with teachers.[1] Here, when students are instilled with a point of view, they will first put questions rather than blindly accept it.

2.2.4. Students are active

In international school, since the teacher won't teach so detail, students should take the initiative to go to the teacher and ask the question that the student is not sure. There will always be some students who are very active and always wants to organize some activities, and most if they don't afraid to ask the question and speak in front of the audience, some of them even like to express themselves on the stage, so that students in the international school always express ideas and show themselves in front of peoples. It's not a coincidence that most of the students in international school are active and confident, that's because, under that circumstance, it will be very easy to be assimilated. Teachers are encouraging the student to state their own ideas, classmates are setting examples of being active in class and confident to speak. Every factor is pushing the student to be more active and confident, under this kind of environment it is very hard to not be like those confident and active students.

2.2.5. Flexible lessons

The international schools advocate using a variety of teaching methods according to the teaching content, encouraging students to participate actively, mobilizing students' enthusiasm and initiative in learning, paying attention to use a variety of teaching styles to meet the needs of different students' personality development, so as to teaching students in accordance with their aptitude. The courses in international school are flexible, and the international school can provide various style of classes. For example, students could take classes outdoor for environmental science, exploring the nature. In drama class, students may do role-play, and for the study of the society, students could have a free discussion class. Besides, the courses international school set is also interesting, international schools even set some special course called Peace& Sustainable Future and Critical Thinking for the purpose of fitting the character of the school themselves.

2.2.6. More extracurricular activities

The international education environment advocates comprehensive development, extra-curricular activities are paid more and more attention. In addition, according to the requirements of the world's major universities' talent selection, in addition to the requirements for students' performance, they will also assess students' extracurricular activities. At the same time, the admissions officers of famous schools will also hope to see leadership, influence, and perseverance on students through extracurricular activities, which are the personal qualities that famous schools highly value.

In the long-term extracurricular activities learning, these abilities help students to explore their own potential, find their own interests and hobbies, practice new skills, and connect with the community more closely, which can enhance the team spirit of students, enhance the cross grade communication between students and try new extracurricular activities. This will help students to face the future of overseas university life alone, personality development, interpersonal communication, learning ability, self-determination ability, and even when they need to go to the society.

Many international schools have tailor-made extracurricular activities for students of all ages. Students can choose extracurricular activities according to their own preferences each semester. This enables students to cultivate their imagination, creativity, leadership and communication skills through a variety of activities inside and outside the school, such as social practice, community activities, sports competition, traditional cultural activities, and artistic performances, so as to help students achieve

all-round development and become truly competitive talents.

2.3. Current Problems in Public Schools

2.3.1 Pressured atmosphere

In order to ensure the orderly teaching, the external norms of classes in public schools are very particular, from students' sitting posture, the position of the books on the table, teachers' teaching state, time allocation, and so on. This kind of over dignified teaching atmosphere often makes the surface form of teaching very standard and compact. Students' attention is very concentrated on the surface, but the classroom is likely to be lack of internal appeal, students may not be curious about knowledge, excited about exploration, and vitality of thinking. This kind of teaching is easy to make students feel depressed and passive, so that most of the students in the classroom lack creativity, imagination, passion, and personality, and it is not easy for students to really feel the joy of learning.[2]

The teacher asks the students to be attentive in class, take notes, and memorize them after class so as to cope with the examination. In class, students are often afraid to ask some superficial questions and are ridiculed by other students, so they are often silent and seldom take the initiative to speak and ask questions. Not only that, in class, students also have little chance to express their own views, and because they are used to waiting for teachers to ask questions and give correct answers, they even afraid to express new views different from those of teachers. All these make the teaching atmosphere of public schools full of heavy feeling.[3]

2.3.2 Rigid curriculum

Public schools' teaching methods are monotonous and mechanical. Teachers only pay attention to imparting knowledge, emphasize vocabulary teaching and the foundation of knowledge, but ignore the practical application of knowledge, which to some extent deviates from the actual needs of students. [4] Students in public school said that they cannot find the purpose of studying this knowledge.

2.4. Advantages of Public Schools

2.4.1 Good discipline

The rules of public schools are generally very strict and very broad. There are usually a lot of school bans, and for those schools which are more strict, they have

more detail rules for students. For instance, the school which is called Hengshui High School have a lot of rules, here are some of the dormitory rules and morning exercise orders of the school.

For example, No talking and walking during the lunch and evening break; It is forbidden to read and study during the lunch and evening break; Do not use flashlight during the night break. It is forbidden to go to the toilet in advance or in groups. It is forbidden to put the dormitory key on the door or lock. It is forbidden to put personal valuables (bank cards, wallets, etc.) on the pavement, windowsill; Any potential safety hazard must be reported for repair in time; If you are late for running exercises, the score will be deducted.[5]

Although these rules are indeed very cumbersome and have restricted part of students' freedom, they do play a role in protecting students' safety and campus order in order to maintain a good learning environment.

2.4.2 *Efficient lessons*

The teaching method of the public school is to unify teaching materials, progress and requirements. In particular, the key and difficult points should be explained in-depth and in detail, before the end of a class, the teacher should sort out the content and make a summary to give students a clear and complete impression. A class is to make students easily grasp the knowledge without so much effort, and can digest it in class, without leaving students with any difficult problems. This kind of teaching is of good quality and high efficiency because it is most conducive to students' quick and easy mastery of knowledge and conclusion, and most helpful to the examination.[6]

3. CONCLUSION

All in all, the education in public schools is quite different from the education in international schools. According to what I analyzed in this paper above, for the sake of better development, I suggest both sides should make some minor adjustments without affecting and changing the ultimate direction and overall goal of taking the Chinese collage entrance examination or to study abroad. International schools should strengthen school management, enhance the teaching of the rudimentary knowledge, and make the classes more efficient then improve students' ability.

For the public schools, I propose that giving students more free space, more opportunities to express themselves, paying more attention on students' personal interest and providing more platforms to show their own personalities in order to arouse their confidence and enthusiasm.

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