

Analysis of the Influence and Countermeasures of China's New Educational Policy "Double Reduction" —Take an After School English Training Institution as an Example

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ABSTRACT

Recently, the Chinese government has published a new policy, called "Double Reduction", addressing the problems of the workloads of the students under high school, and in the after-school training institution. Under this current situation, many after-school training institutions are confronting serious difficulties, even have to shut down and exit the market. Thus, it is of great significance to carefully analyze and discuss the influence on a certain case and its countermeasures. The article discusses the background of the "Double Reduction" policy, which are exam-oriented education, quality-oriented education and education modernization. The article analyzes the Influence and Countermeasures of the "Double Reduction" on a Medium Size After School English Training Institution in Wenzhou, Zhejiang, China. By using the method of interview, this article presents specific data about the influence and detailed plans of transition.

Keywords: *Test-oriented education, Quality-oriented education, Educational modernization, Double Reduction policy*

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chinese government had imposed the "Double Reduction" policy on July 24th, 2021, so there is very little research analyzing and providing firsthand information from an after-school training institution. This article discusses and analyzes the influences of the "Double Reduction" policy on a specific after-school training institution and its countermeasures. The new policy of double reduction is a rectification of China's basic education. This article uses the method of the interview to present the data and plans. At present, the exam-oriented tendency of China's basic education, the tendency of capitalization industrialization and the disorder of teachers' positions have reached the point that must be rectified. The new policy will attack exam-oriented education, the listed educational institutions with crazy profit-making activities, and teachers who take advantage of their positions to seek personal gains. This article provides firsthand information about the "Double Reduction" to deepen the public's understanding of the transition about the basic education in China, provide references for the

countermeasures of the same kind of after-school training institution, and provide a Chinese sample of the education modernization of basic education.

2. THEORETICAL DEFINITION

2.1. Exam-oriented Education

2.1.1. The History Background

After the founding of the People's Republic of China and starting from the 1950s, numbers of graduated middle and high school students surpassed the numbers of recruiting students of high schools and undergraduate schools. Thus, the fierce competition of school resources started. There was a stagnate of this competition from 1966 to 1976, because of the Great Cultural Revolution in China. After 1977, when the College Entrance Examination was restored, the fierce completion of the school resources resumed. Until now, through several times the reformations of the College Entrance Examination and Senior High School Entrance, there is still an increasing trend of competition.

2.1.2. The Current Situation

Due to the fierce competition of students in the College and High School Entrance Examination, students have extremely heavy homework workloads. The schools even provide students with extra time for the courses in the exam. Students should spend their original relaxing time in having extra courses and finishing the excessive homework, which makes them have a sedentary life, affecting students' physical health. "The 2012 PISA results show that students in Shanghai finish their homework within 12 hours, and the city with the second most hours is Hongkong, which half of Shanghai" [1]. "In November 2015, there was a student having a sudden death when having classes, because he should finish homework around midnight and sleep for 6 hours a day" [2]. Moreover, the fierce competition makes the parents overly expectations that they want and force their children to work harder to reach higher grades and get into better schools. "Some educational administrative cadres even deprived some poor students of the right to participate in the college entrance examination to force the enrollment rate targets for their own 'political achievements' to the school, adding to the mental pressure of the student" [3]. In addition, "some publishers and educational administrative departments, some school cadres have taken advantage of students' and parents' eagerness of improving grades, and sell various reference books and materials, and set up a variety of training schools, making huge fortunes" [1]. Moreover, "Exam-oriented education emphasizes on knowledge and regards scores as the standard to measure education quality. Exam-oriented education mostly meets the demands for entering a higher school and neglects the cultivation of students in other aspects, which has resulted in the students cultivated by exam-oriented education failing to adapt to the society" [4]. "The Exam-oriented education is not only a teaching mode with repeated training but also a set of an evaluation system based on the standard answers of unified teaching materials and scores, so as to form a system mode of unified high control and high competition" [2].

2.2. Quality-oriented Education

Quality-oriented education emphasizes students' performance and enhancement in all aspects like virtue, intelligence, physical conditions, mental status, and community service. These aspects are not separated and isolated from each other, rather, they are well-connected. "The comprehensive nature of educational content means that all aspects of the quality of the students should be balanced development, and does not require the development of all aspects of the quality to have the same amount and speed, the students can follow their own characteristics and interests to develop their own expertise" [5]. In addition, "the quality-

oriented education breaks through the single and rigid teaching mode of traditional education, and is a new teaching mode which can adopt different teaching strategies according to the different personality of students to achieve the teaching purpose. The existence of individual differences is an indisputable fact, education should face up to the existence of differences, and flexibly carry out teaching activities according to the different personality characteristics and development level of students" [5]. In basic education, students should come into contact with nature, different people, etc. through quality-oriented education, but not sitting in front of the desk, writing homework all the time. "Only by improving their IQ and EQ can the students' get better development. Thus there should be more classroom interactions and more teaching activities requiring communication between the teachers and the student" [6]. All in all, "the comprehensive implementation of quality-oriented education is indeed a long-term and arduous social system project, which requires the joint efforts of our education departments, educators and the whole society. This requires people to achieve 'four unity': first, the unity of social needs and individual development; Second, the unity of group goals and individual development goals; Third, the unity of educational purpose and content; Fourth, the unity of educational results and educational process" [7].

2.3. Education Modernization

Education modernization is to use advanced educational thoughts and developed technology to enhance the educational ideology, contents, methods to the modern world level. According to chairman Xi Jinping, "Our education is to serve for the people, socialism with Chinese characteristics, reform, opening-up and socialist modernization" [8]. Specifically, "to modernize education, people need to build a vibrant education system; ensure fair education for all; ensure that education is a higher standard universal education, a high-quality education with rich connotations, and lifelong education with a complete system; reflect the principal position of all the people in the process of education modernization; highlight the value orientation of education for the people; highlight the people-oriented thought of education modernization development" [9]. China is on the way toward education modernization.

2.4. "Double Reduction" Policy

On July 24th, 2021, The General Offices of the CPC Central Committee and The State Council have issued Opinions on Further Reducing the Burden of Homework and Off-campus Training for Students in Compulsory Education, and issued a circular, requiring all localities and departments to earnestly implement

them in light of their actual conditions. The overall ideology in this article is that students should be put in the first place. This article will respond to their concerns, follow the rules of education, focus on the healthy physical and mental growth of students, protect students' right to rest, improve the overall quality of school education and teaching, actively respond to social concerns and expectations, and reduce the burden on parents. This article will address both the symptoms and root causes of the problem following the law, strictly enforce the Law on Compulsory Education and the Law on the Protection of Minors, and strengthen efforts to address the problem at the source, in a systematic and comprehensive manner. This article will adhere to the government's leadership and multi-party interaction, strengthen government coordination, fulfill the responsibilities of departments, give full play to the principal role of schools, improve security policies, and clarify the responsibility of collaboration between parents, schools, and social organizations. This article will continue to promote overall planning and steadily implement it, fully implement relevant state regulations on reducing students' excessive academic burden, pilot key, and difficult problems, actively disseminate typical experience and ensure that the "double reduction" work is smooth and orderly" [10]. Specifically, this article will ensure that the total amount and length of homework will be reduced comprehensively to decrease the heavy homework burden of students, the after-school services will be improved to meet the diverse needs of students, the conduct of off-campus training will be comprehensively standardized, etc.

3. RESEARCH ANALYSIS

The research analysis will discuss the research in two different parts: research method, which is the interview, and research results, which are strict controls, influence, and countermeasures.

3.1. Research Method

Under the current situation, this article presented the contents of interviews to the chairman, principal, and course director of a medium-size after-school English training institution in Wenzhou, Zhejiang, China. The research questions in the interview are as follows. How does the "double reduction" policy restrict this training institution? How does this policy bring what kind of negative influence to the training institution? How does this training institution plan to confront this policy? The following analyses are based on these questions.

3.2. The Strict Control of the Policy

The "Double Reduction" aims to reduce the homework burdens of students below high school. Second, it aims to reduce the field of after-school

training institutions. The "Double Reduction" policy has very strict control over various aspects of the after-school training institution. It changes the property of the after-school training institution, that originally the legal representatives can earn a profit, but now the school should be a nonprofit organization. This changes education from industrial to public benefits. Moreover, it changes the status of the after-school training institution, that originally the institutions have an education system independent of the public school system, but now the policy orders that it should become a useful complement to public schools. In addition, it changes the training time of the after-school training institution, that students cannot have English classes during the weekend and holidays as before. The offline classes cannot be finished after half-past eight o'clock at night during the weekdays, and the online classes cannot be finished after nine o'clock. Furthermore, it changes the contexts of the training of the after-school training institution, that the overseas teaching materials are banished. The training institution cannot teach outside the teaching guidelines of the public schools. What's more, it changes the prices of classes of the after-school training institution, that it should set prices according to the government guiding prices. Additionally, it changes the advertisement of the after-school training institution, that the schools cannot post advertisements in the public media, constructions, and materials of public schools. Also, it changes the fund supervision of the after-school training institution, that every school should set up capital supervision accounts at the bank.

3.3. Influence

Unfortunately, this after-school English training institution in Wenzhou is deeply influenced by this policy. There is severe loss of students, reaching 30% to 35% of the original numbers of students, decreasing the area-effectiveness, reaching 33% of the original area-effectiveness. This causes the sorely rise of costs that it is almost equal the revenue, resulting in no profit due to the loss of 1.5 semester (Summer and Winter vacations). Because teachers will receive less income with fewer teaching students and teaching hours, this causes the loss of employees, reaching 30% of the original numbers of teachers. It becomes a vicious cycle, confronting a situation of shutting down and exiting the market.

3.4. Countermeasures

Under this situation, this after-school English training institution should change teaching strategies to overcome these challenges. The countermeasures and strategies are shifting the courses from exam-oriented to quality-oriented. Specifically, they change the original courses and develop new courses and programs to adapt

and adjust to the new policy. They plan to take the advantage of the current population of students to accelerate their transitions of courses. They shift the focus from teaching English to quality-oriented courses. First, move the English teaching courses to the nights of the weekdays. Secondly, develop and teach quality-orientated education. For example, Science and technology innovation courses, like programming, robot, and lego; language arts courses, like drama, performance, debate, eloquence training and public speaking; classification of readings, like picture books, motivated readings, and interdisciplinary and multiple topics of readings, fitting different age ranks; project Studies, like city designing; expanded Studies, like nature exploration, overnight accommodation in the aquatic museum, and holiday parties; learning ability courses, like memory, enhancing, speed read, and mind mapping. The training school create its IP, called Nova. All the courses are revolving and developing around Nova. Nova is a student with a salute pose, auspicious clouds like haircuts and western suits, meaning to embrace the world, learning from all cultures and having great virtues and qualities. All the courses are revolving and developing around Nova. In other aspects, the school will thoroughly study the documents of the Double-reduction Policy, understand the spirit of the double-reduction Policy, actively carry out the work of self-examination and self-correction in schools, establish a leading group of self-examination and self-correction in schools under the leadership of the Party branch, and formulate rectification plans. The school will comprehensively sort out the fire acceptance record certificate, education license certificate, business license and public account of each campus of the school. All staff should work with a teacher qualification certificate, strengthen social security, and teach legally. The school will publicize training fees, sign training contracts, issue invoices and receipts, and achieve compliance training. In the advertisement, the school will do advertising control, resolutely put an end to false advertising, not exaggerate, not misdirect, and not create educational anxiety. The school will comprehensively carry out campus layout and adjust classroom layout to adapt to the transformation and upgrading situation of the school.

4. CONCLUSION

First of all, the The “Double Reduction” is a rectification of China's basic education. At present, the tendency of China's exam-oriented basic education, the tendency of capitalization industrialization and the disorder of teachers' positions have reached the point that must be rectified. Secondly, the new policy of double reduction is the transformation and upgrading of China's basic education. Exam-oriented education is transformed into quality-oriented education, and commercial education is transformed into public

welfare education. Teachers should take the mission of educating people rather than seeking personal gains by taking advantage of their positions. Third, the Policy is an important part of the country's transformation and upgrading. This era is evolving, the society is purifying, the industries are upgrading, the business forms are reconstructing, and everything is undergoing transformation and upgrading. This is the tide of history and the tide of the times. The “Double Reduction” policy is like a hurricane to China's basic education, and there must be a disaster after it. The chaos of basic education is destroyed to a certain extent, and when the dust settles, the whole basic education will inevitably appear a new education ecology.

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