Major Issues About Teaching and Learning in China

Jingxian Huang*

Hefei One Canadian International High School CBC Hefei 230091 China. Email: 2990564691@qq.com

ABSTRACT

In this essay, I focus on the issues about the relationship between teaching and learning, with an emphasis on the analysis and perception of the Chinese educational model. The essay begins with background information on the importance of the relationship between teaching and learning, and then leads to the core part of the essay, which is the three main issues about teaching and learning interaction. These three issues are summarized in simple terms: the hindrance of e-learning to teacher-student interaction, the fixed role of the teacher (controller) in traditional Chinese teaching, and the fact that teachers are more concerned with students' marks than with their personal development. Finally, I will mention the best solution for each of these problems in my opinion.

Keywords: *e-learning, Chinese traditional teaching method, interaction between teaching and learning*

1. INTRODUCTION

The education system in today's Chinese society has received a great deal of controversy, and the obsession with maintaining traditional education methods has caused a lively debate in society. Some people believe that traditional education methods have their merits, and that we should not completely abolish them in favour of an open classroom atmosphere in the West. However, others have raised the benefits of the educational system in Western societies and the drawbacks of the traditional Chinese educational society, thus arguing that it is time to make some changes. Many educationalists have also offered their own suggestions for improvement. After a period of study and understanding in this area, I would like to offer my own thoughts on this issue today. I believe that the Chinese education system needs to make some changes, but not just wipe out traditional education and copy the practices of others. In this article, I will discuss some of the problems that may exist in the Chinese education system and how it can be improved.

This article mentions some of the factors that affect teaching and learning, the problems that exist and some of the solutions, what is not examined is the feasibility of these solutions, because sometimes the solutions may sound good on paper, but if one wants to implement them in real life, this is a very difficult step. So later, if I get the chance, I would like to do a more in-depth study on the feasibility of the solutions.

The focus of this article is to propose some solutions to solve the problem at hand, and if afterwards research and deeper understanding of these solutions and make plans to make them happen. These solutions will be meaningful because they may make a useful difference to the educational system that will be implemented in China in the future.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In current society, education plays an important role in cultivating several talented people for more contributions. There are a huge number of studies that are mainly about the relationship between teaching and learning. In this paper, I will examine the issue of the relationship between teaching and learning. There are some important factors that influence the effective relationships between teaching and learning. I believe that teaching and learning have the closer relationships with each other, which is a kind of interaction. Based on this background, it shows that there are more issues about the imbalanced development of the relationships between the two in Chinese context. The wisest way to make teaching and learning more effective is that both receive the mutual growth and progress. This paper has three sections. The first one is about some factors that influence the better development of teaching and learning. The second part is about the three major issues about teaching and learning interaction. In the last part, I will discuss the effective countermeasures to challenge these issues with efficiency. And one

important point to mention is that I will write this essay in the formal of literature review.

3. THREE MAJOR ISSUES

3.1 The factors that can affect the interaction between teaching and learning

First, the efficient teaching and learning are conducted by the collaboration between teachers and students, in consideration of several factors. Students are no longer the listeners during the class, but they are cooperating with their teachers. Students and teachers are mutual learners in front of knowledge [1]. Teaching is defined as a kind of activity that is performed by teachers with the focus on the students. Teachers can not force students to learn, but they are suggested to create a wonderful learning atmosphere that will allow students to willingly learn from teachers to a larger degree. On the contrary, learning is considered as a process of recognition, which can allow people to obtain knowledge and capability to interact with the world [2]. The interaction between teaching and learning is a systematic process, which includes some factors, like students, teachers, teaching contents, teaching media and learning environment. Students, as the main body of learning, should be paid particular attention, because all teaching methods need to take effects throughout the role of students. The second factor should be teachers, who play the key role in the process of teaching. In terms of the teaching contents, they are the principal information that can be passed in the process of teaching and learning. The teaching contents should reflect the national education policy, realize knowledge and ability, and promote the overall development of students, respecting their physical and mental development characteristics and cognitive rules. The breadth and depth of the teaching content should be appropriate and flexible. There is also a factor called teaching media which is the tool to help teachers pass their knowledge to students. It needs to be achieved by some materials such as books, projections, videos and computers. With the progress of science and technology, teaching media is also constantly updated, and will be more and more widely used in teaching. The last one is the teaching environment that to a larger degree determines students' learning effects to a larger degree [3]. For example, the fine tradition of school style and class style has obvious promoting effect on the orderly carrying out of teaching action and obtaining good teaching effect. After analyzing the five factors that affect teaching and learning activities, I will present some major issues in this field and find out some efficient solutions to them.

3.2. The first issue: the hindrance of e-learning to teacher-student interaction

As for the major issues, in face of the advanced science and technology, e-learning has gradually substituted the traditional learning in the classroom. The depth development of computers and smart phones have promoted the online learning. More Chinese students are willing to attend online classes rather than go to school for learning knowledge. This will not benefit the effective interaction between teachers and students. For instance, because of the seriousness of the COVID-19 pandemic, students are not allowed to attend school for learning. Under this condition, online learning is becoming more popular. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in schools closed all over the world and about 1.2 billion children stay at home not going to schools. Therefore, education has totally changed, and e-learning is rising [4]. However, teachers and students in China are not familiar with the teaching methods in this new type of mode, so that it has resulted in the poor academic performance of students. E-learning has caused a few issues, like technical difficulties, students' confidence level, poor time management and anxiety and lack of physical attention. What's more, students and teachers fail to engage in effective face-to-face interaction [5]. This is the first issue that interaction between teaching and learning is deteriorated.

3.3 The second issue: The fixed role of the teacher (controller) in traditional Chinese teaching

Another issue is that in China, teachers are the controller of the whole class and students are only listening to their teachers for knowledge gaining. Therefore, teacher-student relationship in a Chinese context is worse, because it has curbed students' ability of creation and innovation [6]. Students are unable to learn more effectively, because they always believe that their teachers are totally right. They only believe in what their teachers have taught them. In this sense, they have no motivations to learn on themselves, and in the long run, they have lacked their independence of learning something and they are also deficient in their critical thinking ability to a larger degree. From this point of view, it is not a chance for them to develop the interaction between teaching and learning because teaching and learning are intertwined and interacted with each other at any time. It should be paid particular attention that giving students more space to think forward rather than telling them that the teacher is always right, thus keeping them within a range of thinking.

3.4 The third issue: The fact that teachers are more concerned with students' marks than with their personal development.

The third issue shows that teachers fail to pay more attention to students' talent development based on their habits and strong points. What they count is their academic performance with higher scores during a variety of examinations. During the class, teachers mainly teach students about the knowledge points that will appear in the examination paper without involving any extracurricular knowledge and information and this phenomenon has terribly limited students' wild imagination and knowledge scope as well. It has become a serious problem that affects the interaction between teachers and students. In China, this phenomenon is still popular, so that more students are traditional learners, and they study hard to get higher scores, by ignoring their personality and strengths development in fact. Therefore, it damages the excellent interaction between teachers and learners.

4. SOLUTIONS TO THOSE PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT EXIST

4.1 The solution to the first problem

As is mentioned above, in face of these three issues that deteriorate the interaction between teaching and learning, the corresponding strategies and countermeasures need to be implemented, in order to realize the high-quality relationship between teaching and learning from different perspectives. Firstly, with regard to the problems faced by e-learning, students are unable to have their time management by making most of their limited time. Teachers and students are also unable to interact with each other. In the past, e-learning was becoming more popular, but the year of 2020 is a transition for education to be transformed with efficiency. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, e-learning has become dominant and popular. Therefore, Chinese government needs to make e-learning included into the law and regulations, which can help e-learning have the systematic mode for Chinese education. Teachers should get professional training in e-learning mode, which can allow them to give the high-quality teaching for their students. Based on the professional training, teachers are familiar with the technical skills on computers or on the internet, which is the effective way for teachers to improve their teaching level. In addition, after receiving special training, teachers can deal with a variety of complicated problems in front of them, and they can also become capable of forming a harmonious relationship with their students to a larger degree [7].

Still, in terms of the challenges of e-learning mode, Chinese government is suggested to ensure digital equality with no bias. Teachers need to treat students equally all the time with no bias and injustice to some extent. Teachers and all other teaching staff need to provide clear expectations to parents and students, so that they can effectively cooperate with each other for the excellent academic performance of students in reality [8]. Only when these solutions are adopted can teachers and students have harmonious relationships with each other. At the same time, it is also beneficial for the high-quality interaction between teaching and learning.

4.2 The solution to the second issue

In terms of the second issue, teachers should not become the controllers of the whole classes and students and teachers are mutual learners, who can achieve their mutual learning with each other. It is regarded as the healthiest way for Chinese education to achieve its highest level. In this information age, teachers are not more excellent and intelligent than students. Students understand more knowledge than teachers. If teachers are the controller during the whole class, it will do harms to students' advanced learning with extending their knowledge scope. In this sense, Chinese government needs to provide the system for teachers to attend. They need to attend several level examinations to increase their abilities of becoming teachers in China. More advanced education obtained from teachers can improve the teaching effects during the class. Teachers are also suggested to learn more knowledge, because the world is changing quickly, and people need to catch up with the newest knowledge for their teaching efficiency [9]. What's more, teachers need to respect their students and sometimes learn from their students as well. The relationship between teachers and students is harmonious when they become friends not the hierarchic relationship in most cases. From this point of view, teachers need to change their roles in the past and they also should gradually adapt to the new teaching and learning interaction model in their everyday teaching.

4.3 The solution to the last problem

Finally, as for the last issue, Chinese education system should not always pay attention to their scores, but concentrate on their all-round and overall development, which can help them deal with more sophisticated relationships ahead of them. In the meantime, scores are not the mere parameter or standard to evaluate a student's ability and skills. Instead, other aspects of their abilities need to be mentioned, which can greatly improve their excellent academic performance. To solve this issue, Chinese government should provide more chances for those who have lower academic scores to find their suitable jobs. For instance, those who fail the college entrance examination will be provided with other opportunities, which can be the best choice in essence. Or it will destroy students' dreams

and optimistic attitudes towards their life. At least, the goal of Chinese education is to cultivate a few skilled men who can make more contributions to Chinese economy and social progress. No matter what has been done, teaching and learning interaction is not built on the higher scores students have obtained. This solution to the issue can be more effective and valuable.

5. CONCLUSION

To recap, this paper mainly discusses the major three issues of the interaction between teaching and learning and the corresponding solutions to them one by one. According to this study, I have recognized the transformation in Chinese education, because education plays an important role in cultivating a huge number of talented people who make contributions to their own nation. Education at any time should not be ignored and underestimated by people. Therefore, it is necessary for them to deal with the major issues existing in Chinese education system. In face of these issues, Chinese government is allowed to take some effective measures to overcome them with efficiency. This can be regarded as the most effective way for the high-quality interaction and relationship between teaching and learning. This essay can be followed by a real-life implementation of the issues and steps mentioned to maximize the benefits of the essay, rather than an idealized solution, which is the main purpose of this essay, to further improve and enhance the education system in today's Chinese society.

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