



A Study on Whether China's Double Reduction Policy Is Beneficial to Vulnerable Families

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ABSTRACT

In October 2021, the National people's Congress said: the double reduction policy is intended to be explicitly incorporated into the law to avoid increasing the burden on students at the stage of compulsory education. It means to effectively reduce the burden of overweight homework and out-of-school training of students in the stage of compulsory education. After the release of the double reduction policy, many parents worried that their children's academic performance would be affected by the lack of extracurricular supplementary exercises and targeted counseling, and made strong responses, such as hiring tutors with high salaries and investing heavily in online education. According to the observation, these parents tend to have a better educational background and high-paying jobs, while the so-called disadvantaged parents, that is, parents who find it difficult to pay tutors and online courses for their children and have a low level of education, can't provide their children with a special educational environment after the release of the double reduction policy, which makes their next generation gradually vulnerable in the competition of the same age. On the philosophy of interpretivism, this paper uses the method of qualitative analysis to obtain experimental data by means of interview and observation, trying to find the relationship between parents' educational background, educational investment ability and children's academic achievement. Analyze whether the double reduction policy is friendly to vulnerable families. Finally, after a series of scientific research and objective analysis, the conclusion of this study is that the double reduction policy will put the children of disadvantaged families in a disadvantageous position in academic competition. And this policy brings great difficulties for parents of disadvantaged families to raise children with excellent grades. The significance of this study lies in a thorough analysis of some controversial social phenomena under policy changes. on the one hand, it can enable policy makers to better understand the merits and defects of policies, make timely adjustments for the benefit of society, and on the other hand. Let parents of different social strata and educational backgrounds clearly understand the challenges they face under policy changes, and make it easier for all kinds of parents to actively respond to policies and find ways that are more conducive to the development of their children.

Keywords: "education", "double deduction policy", "parents", "education investment".

1. INTRODUCTION

Since 2021, the double reduction policy has been deployed and issued in accordance with the decision of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, that is, all localities have carried out in-depth work to reduce the homework burden of students in compulsory education and abolish all off-campus training institutions. The overall goal of the "double reduction" work is divided into two aspects. In the school, the teaching quality is further improved, the assignment of homework is more scientific and reasonable, the training institutions are fully standardized, all kinds of chaos in off-campus

training are basically eliminated, and the popularity of out-of-school training is gradually cooled down. The policy introduced for the better development of students has been questioned and worried by a large number of parents. After the release of the policy, a large number of scholars and educators continue to publish articles in various educational magazines and academic platforms to praise the double reduction policy to reduce the academic burden of students and promote the all-round development of students. However, there is a controversial phenomenon between students and parents who actually experience the policy. The vast majority of parents think that reducing students' homework and

canceling extracurricular tutoring classes will lead to a decline in their children's grades. Students who do not fully master knowledge in class will lose the opportunity to bridge the gap with their classmates, so most parents with higher income and well-educated begin to respond to this policy. They try their best to master what their children should learn and spend more time and energy at home to educate their children at home. At the same time, they also hire private tutors to teach one-on-one lessons, so as to ensure that children do not lag in the competition of their peers. But on the other hand, for those parents with low income and low education, it is not only difficult for them to teach their children knowledge in and out of class, but also parents who mostly make money from manual work, they have little time and energy to assist their children in their studies, and at the same time, it is also very difficult to afford high private tutoring fees, so it is really hard for their children to win the first place in peer competition after the release of this policy. Although these phenomena are worthy of analysis and study, they have not received wide attention from the education sector and policy makers. The significance of this article lies in the in-depth analysis of these controversial phenomena after the release of the double reduction policy and the disadvantages of the policy in the actual implementation process, so that policy makers can make adjustments to benefit more children's development. At the same time, parents can clearly realize the educational challenges they face and actively find out the measures to deal with the policy. For these social phenomena and policy changes, the following article will conduct an in-depth and objective study through the literature research method based on qualitative research, comparative observation method and interview method.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Interpretation of double reduction Policy

"Double reduction policy": popularly speaking, it is mainly aimed at primary and junior high school students. First, reduce the burden of homework, and second, reduce the burden of out-of-school training. Quality education is what everyone is looking forward to. It is the inevitable requirement of modern education to lighten the burden of children's homework and out-of-school training. Lightening these two burdens can enable children in the stage of compulsory education to give full play to their potential.

2.2. The background and significance of the double reduction Policy

The release of the double reduction policy is due to some negative social phenomena. Firstly, the rapid growth of education and training institutions in society, the high cost of training courses is much higher than the current average hourly wage, and the high training costs

cause a heavy burden on families. At the same time, it also creates panic through various advertising slogans, resulting in parents' comparison of educational investment and the blind pursuit of high scores, resulting in serious over-investment in education. Secondly, in the more than two years since the abolition of family planning in China, the fertility rate has not increased significantly. The reason is that it is due to economic pressure, and the economic pressure on families comes from investment in education. Thirdly, with the rapid development of China's economy, many high-end manufacturing industries are weak, such as high-end machine tools, engines, chips and so on.

The purpose of national education is not to get high marks in the examination, but to improve national literacy, enhance the country's comprehensive strength and inherit national civilization. The development of education and other industries should be in a balanced state, and the development of education should promote the development of other industries, especially the development of basic industries and high-end manufacturing industries, rather than competing with other industries for resources. The abnormal development of the education industry has greatly weakened the consumption power of ordinary families, the decline of people's purchasing power, the weakening of market mobility, and the lack of sufficient funds for the development of industries that some countries need to develop, resulting in slow industrial development. The purpose of national education is not to get high marks in the examination, but to improve national literacy, enhance the country's comprehensive strength and inherit national civilization. The development of education and other industries should be in a balanced state, and the development of education should promote the development of other industries, especially the development of basic industries and high-end manufacturing industries, rather than competing with other industries for resources. The abnormal development of the education industry has greatly weakened the consumption power of ordinary families, the decline of people's purchasing power, the weakening of market mobility, and the lack of sufficient funds for the development of industries that some countries need to develop, resulting in slow industrial development.

2.3. The influence of the double reduction Policy on the study of students in the stage of compulsory Education in China

The double reduction policy reduces the homework burden of students in compulsory education and returns their children the real student life. It also can effectively alleviate the students' learning in the stage of compulsory education mental stress. But, on the other hand, children who are partial to subjects and unable to concentrate in class are forced to lose their opportunity to relearn the

knowledge in other ways. Small workshop training institutions or 1V1vip services still exist. It is possible to increase the financial burden of parents. At the same time, it is also necessary to make it clear that we should implement curriculum standards, implement curriculum plans, and deepen curriculum reform to ensure that the basic academic standards of school education will not be lowered. Otherwise, blindly reducing the burden will reduce the students' study quality, and it is not in line with the goal of the reform.

2.4. Parents' reaction after the double reduction Policy and its influence on the connection between early Childhood Education and Primary Education

After the release of the double reduction policy, parents' concerns are mainly about the following questions: will the reduction of out-of-school training in disciplines lead to class solidification? If the market demand is still there, will it lead to the prevalence of tutors? Will the "double reduction policy" cause children not to take their studies seriously? After the implementation of the "double reduction" policy, what kind of children will be the winner [5]. The "double reduction" policy will further promote the return of school education and family education to their respective roles. Before the introduction of the "double reduction" policy, there was a trend of homogenization between the family and the school, and both the school and the home were like examination rooms. After the formal implementation of the double reduction policy, many children who are about to enter primary school face a huge test, because without the assistance of extracurricular tutoring classes, it is difficult for children to quickly adapt to classes that require long-term concentration and compulsory knowledge memory. In this case, many parents who have a clear interpretation of the policy and have good economic conditions and good educational background have begun to make efforts on family education, changing the original extracurricular tutoring class into family education. Whether they study at the same time with their children or hire tutors at a high price, it is an indispensable remedy for parents with strong ability, not only in primary school, but also in middle school [2]. The subtractions from school tasks will be doubled to family education, but for parents with low family income or defective educational background, children seem to lose the opportunity to compete with other children because of the lack of extracurricular cram schools.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. Methodology introduction

In the process of my research and thesis writing, the methodology philosophy I use is based on interpretivism.

The topic discussed in this paper is that under the double reduction policy, students no longer accept a large number of homework with consolidation and strengthening effects, as well as extracurricular tutoring classes with broad knowledge and make up for classroom defects [4]. At this time, parents made different coping styles in order not to affect the academic performance of students at different stages, according to the preliminary data. We boldly guess that after the release of this policy, students' academic performance will be closely related to their parents' educational background and economic strength, so whether this policy is beneficial to vulnerable parents who do not have good conditions is the focus of our study. The answer to this question needs to be studied by scientific methods. Like other humanities and social sciences studies, the theme of this paper is not very convenient for large-scale data collection and corresponding data analysis, so I use interpretivism and mainly use qualitative analysis to do research. In qualitative research, we use the inductive method, which emphasizes the generation of new theory.

3.2. Research approach

The interpretivism case study holds that there may be multiple explanations for a single phenomenon, rather than clarifying the reality through a unified measurement process. The advantages of this paradigm are as follows: first, because the definition of the approach is relatively loose, it gives researchers room to give full play to their imagination and creativity, and is more likely to produce influential theories. In the theme of this study, we need to make assumptions by considering a large number of influencing factors and imagining them, so as to determine the influence of parents on students' academic performance under the double reduction policy. Interpretivism is very suitable for our research theme on this point. Secondly, researchers can have an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon and its complexity under the unique background of the research object. In our research theme, the implementation of the double reduction policy is a specific research background, The phenomenon of the study is the coping measures of different parents after the release of the policy and the degree of impact on their children's studies. The reasons behind these phenomena and why there are social effects caused by these phenomena are extremely complex and worth pondering, so this research need can also be met by this method. To sum up, it is reasonable and feasible to take interpretivism as the philosophical basis of this thesis. The shortcomings of this approach are as follows: first, there is a lack of relatively unified operational procedures and evaluation criteria for interpretation research; secondly, the research results are more easily affected by the researchers' own academic background, values, way of thinking and other factors.

3.3. Instrument

In this experiment, we mainly adopt the form of interview and observation, most of which come from telephone interviews and face-to-face interviews. We have obtained the contact information of 100 parents through legal means. Invite them to participate in a direct telephone interview or a face-to-face interview near their children's school, and obtain information related to the experiment, such as parents' educational background and general income. The most important thing is what contribution can be made to children's education after the double reduction policy is issued.

3.4. Sampling

In order to ensure that the data collected are objective and scientific, we will collect data in three places, namely, large residential areas with a large housing price gap, schools at different stages of education and busy streets. In this way, the extracted data can ensure that the samples come from different social strata and different ages, which not only ensure the scientific nature of the data, but also reflect the randomness and objectivity of the data. When screening the data, we focus on the data generated by the sample people who have clear logic and serious attitude. Finally, the valid data collected will be analysis and compared.

3.5. Data analysis

Thematic analysis is a poorly demarcated, rarely acknowledged, yet widely used qualitative analytic method. It is argued that it offers an accessible and theoretically flexible approach to analysis qualitative data. This method is roughly divided into six steps.

- a. Familiarizing yourself with your data: initial ideas.
- b. Generating initial codes:
- c. Searching for themes:
- d. Reviewing themes:
- e. Defining and naming:
- f. Producing the report:

3.6. Ethical issues

The ethical issue in the course of this experiment and research mainly includes the interviewees' and observers' right to know. The collected data is only used for experimental research (not for commercial use), and the private data will not be disclosed in society. We completed the whole interview with the consent of the interviewees, and all the private data obtained by the data collection tools, voice recorders and cameras will not be released to the public. Immediately delete the original

private data and materials after obtaining the experimental data. Finally, it is to ensure the safety of the experimenter (myself and all the people who assist in completing the experiment) and the legitimacy of the experiment. I can ensure that there are no illegal operations in the whole experiment, and there will not be any steps that violate ethics or violate the law.

3.7. Method critical

Although this research method gives researchers room to give full play to their imagination and creativity, it is more likely to produce influential theories. And researchers can have an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon and its complexity under the unique background of the research object. However, the disadvantages of this method are also very obvious. The shortcomings of this paradigm are as follows: first, there is a lack of relatively unified operational procedures and evaluation criteria for interpretation research; secondly, the research results are more easily affected by the researchers' own academic background, values, way of thinking and other factors.

4. RESULT

The focus of our experiment is an interview. This interview focuses on the educational level of parents and the educational environment of children.

A total of 377 5-year-old children from 4 parent-child kindergartens and 3 kindergartens in Beijing were selected by cluster sampling, including 21 cases in the 0-year-old group, 46 cases in the 1-year-old group, 80 cases in 2-year-old group, 25 cases in the 3-year-old group, 37 cases in the 4-year-old group and 68 cases in the 5-year-old group. The parents of the surveyed children made the interview according to the formal requirements. The contents of the interview include the education level of parents, the level of monthly income, the proportion of investment in children's education to the total expenditure of life, and so on.

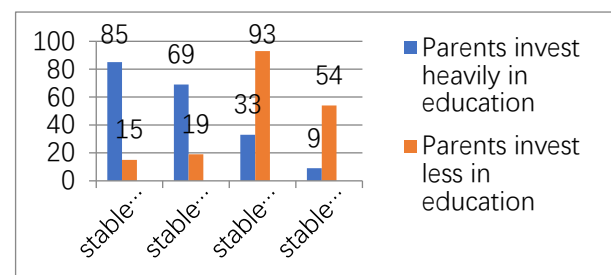


Figure 1 The relationship between parents' Investment in Education and their Children's Achievement.

According to the accurate data analysis (Figure 1), I took a sample of 377 students from the fifth grade of a primary school and divided their parents into parents who can invest a lot in education and parents who can only

invest less in education. 85 of the 100 students whose grades remained stable in A (85%) made a lot of investment in education by their parents. There are only 15 students whose grades are stable in A even though their parents are unable to provide them with a large amount of investment in education. In contrast, of the 63 students whose grades are stable in D, the vast majority (54, about 86%) are parents who are unable to invest heavily in education. So I find that about 85% of the students with stable grades at a good level receive extra lessons from their parents at home, whether they are taught by their parents themselves or hired tutors with high salaries. In the course of the interview, we found that the parents of students with good grades have a clear understanding and planning of their children's development, and know their children's current academic advantages and disadvantages.

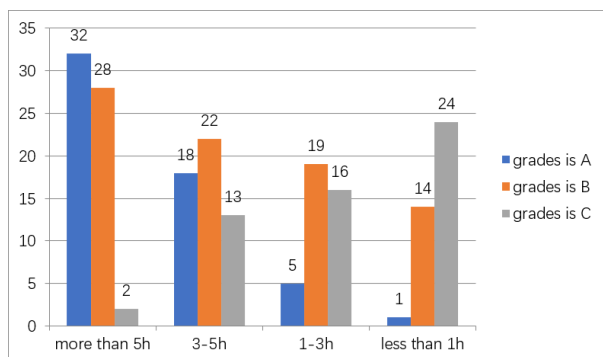


Figure 2 Relationship between the parent assistant time and student grades.

Most of them will spend a long time and main energy to assist their children in learning, not only a large amount of education investment, but also more attention than the parents of ordinary children, they will personally learn and delve into the knowledge that their children should master. According to figure 2 (a survey of the final grades of all the students in the fifth grade of a school), we can clearly see that 32 of the students whose parents tutored their children for more than five hours got A grades and 28 got B grades. The number of students who got good grades was significantly higher than that of the students whose parents spent less time tutoring. And impart knowledge to their children in a way that is easily accepted by their children, so as to make up for their normal knowledge in class. After careful consideration, it is not difficult to find parents who can invest a lot of time, energy and money in their children's education and have an educational level close to that of school teachers who can impart additional knowledge to their children at home must be people with good educational background and engaged in relaxed and decent mental work. It is not a manual worker who needs to spend a lot of time and energy. After getting this preliminary result, we made a scientific analysis of the interviewees' data. Although the

parents are not highly educated, about 23% of the parents have the ability to pay high tutoring fees for their children.

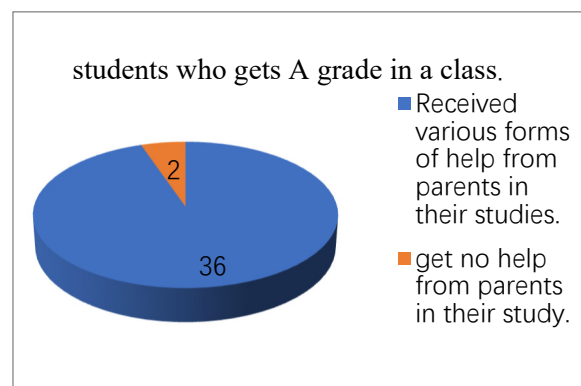


Figure 3 Relationship.

We conducted a survey on 38 students who got A grades in a class (Figure 3). The 38 students we randomly selected were students who got A's in many exams in a row, and 36 of them received various forms of help from parents in their studies, whether it was personally tutoring their children or paying a lot of money to hire a tutor. Only two students studied completely independently and did not receive any help from their parents. Only 2 students (about 5.2%) can still achieve good academic performance without the assistance of their parents after the double reduction policy was issued. These data can clearly show that children's development level and academic achievement are closely related to parents' educational investment and parents' educational background, and those parents who are in a weak position will have great difficulties in raising their children. Based on these data, we might as well make a bold assumption that after the release of the double reduction policy, those families and parents who have an advantage will cultivate their children for better and more all-round development. On the other hand, those parents who are unable to invest a lot in their children's education can't make their children achieve better grades in their studies and other development because of their own and other social factors. In the long run, excellent families will have more excellent children. The next generation of these children will also have good conditions to develop themselves because of the success of their parents. On the contrary, the children of disadvantaged families will gradually be at a disadvantage in the competition of the same age, and it will be very difficult for their next generation to have an advantage in development. The more time goes on, the polarization of children's development will become more and more serious, and the phenomenon of social consolidation will become more and more obvious.

5. RESULT

The purpose of the release of the double reduction policy is to reduce the academic burden for children, prevent students from entering the chaos of blindly

increasing extracurricular tutoring, and enable children to grow up happily and in an all-round way. After the release of this policy, many educators and policy researchers have written relevant articles to strongly support and give high praise only from the starting point and foothold of the policy itself. When I read the relevant literature on various academic platforms, a large number of praise words caught my eye. on the contrary, in the observation of some online social platforms and daily life, it is not difficult to find that some problems arising in the actual implementation of the policy have been ignored by educators and educational policy researchers. Contrary to the relaxed mentality shown by their children, parents are very distressed by the implementation of this policy, and they try their best to deal with it in order to affect their children's academic performance. There is a difference between the policy itself studied by educators and the actual implementation of the policy. From the point of view of the current relevant literature, this means that there is a research gap in the research of this policy. After the qualitative research done in this paper, including some interviews and observations, as mentioned in the above results, the academic performance of students after the double reduction policy is largely affected by the ability of their parents. It is difficult for those parents who are in a vulnerable group (parents who do not have a good educational background and low income can't make a lot of education investment) to help their children win the education competition in the future. If this situation continues, a series of new problems will arise, which will not only affect the imbalance in the development of education between regions and between urban and rural areas, but also affect the fairness of education. After all, in the current Chinese education system, the examination is the only way of selection. Students' performance in the examination largely determines whether they can lead to success through education, and there is always a certain proportion of educational success. Parents who are unable to invest a lot of time, energy and money in their academic performance are bound to have anxiety and a sense of loss. Parents who want to succeed through education and hope that the next generation can reverse their fate and improve the social class will inevitably be a little lost. After all, in the current Chinese education system, the examination is the only way of selection. Students' performance in the examination largely determines whether they can lead to success through education, and there is always a certain proportion of educational success. Parents who are unable to invest a lot of time, energy and money in their academic performance are bound to have anxiety and a sense of loss. In the current social development, those parents with both high-quality education background and high income are in the minority, and the relatively weak parent groups are in the majority. Compared with some parents with higher social status in big cities and parents with a strong ability to cultivate their children, there are very few parents in rural areas who can have similar

conditions, and they place their hopes of changing their lives on their children. They are expected to pass the selection examination to achieve a more relaxed and affluent life than their own generation, but in terms of the current policy of reducing schoolwork without reducing the difficulty of the examination, it seems very difficult for their next generation to do so. Therefore, according to the current implementation of the policy, it is speculated that the competition in education will become greater and greater, students' grades will be polarized, and it will be very difficult for those parents who go out to be disadvantaged to cultivate excellent children. With the passage of time, the problem of social class solidification will become more and more serious.

6. CONCLUSION

From the initial observation of the social phenomenon after the policy release to the contact with the relevant literature to accurately find out the necessity of studying gap and this issue, and then according to the scientific qualitative experiments and the collection and analysis of data to get objective experimental results, and finally draw a firm conclusion, that is, after the release of the double reduction policy, due to the loss of heavy academic work and the assistance of extracurricular tutoring classes. Parents' ability to invest in education (including, but not limited to, their own educational level, the ability to cultivate their children, and the financial investment in their children's teaching-related courses) is positively related to their children's academic achievement. Parents with stronger abilities have stronger advantages in academic performance, while those who go out to be disadvantaged do not seem to have an obvious advantage under this policy. Their children will have a difficult road to go in the future educational competition. Education is an important issue of national development. As China said, rejuvenating the country through science and education (科教兴国), sci. & tech. and education are all vital to the country's development. In view of the problems we have found at present, we should keep a developmental perspective and believe that the government and the Ministry of Education will make follow-up policy plans to avoid these problems.

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