



Current Attitudes of Parents towards Homework under the 'Double Reduction' Policy

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Abstract. In recent years, the 'double reduction' policy has attracted widespread discussion and attention in the field of education in China. One of them is to reduce students' heavy academic burden and reduce the amount of homework after class. The implementation of this policy directly affects the attitudes and opinions of middle school parents towards homework, as well as the fact that behind the "double reduction" policy, women have always taken on this responsibility. This article aims to analyze the current situation of middle school parents' attitudes towards homework under the "double reduction" policy through interview and text analysis methods, and explore changes in parents' attitudes, influencing factors, and the social status of women in it.

Keywords: "double reduction" policy, women's status, education

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

In the context of education in China, the issue of having too much homework after class has gradually been accepted and accustomed to by everyone. Whether it's high school students, middle school students, or even elementary school students, they are all under tremendous pressure from homework after class. The problem of excessive academic burden on primary and secondary school students has always been a concern of the country, and the efforts made by the Party and the state to this end have also been ongoing. In recent years, with the deliberate anxiety promotion and increasing capital demand from education and training institutions, parents' concerns about their children's education have increased, and they are no longer satisfied with "small" homework; The problem of internal competition in the field of education has also become increasingly serious, and off campus training institutions are also very chaotic. This situation not only further increases the academic burden of primary and secondary school students, but also causes many vicious competitions to emerge, and also brings many negative impacts. Therefore, in line with the principles of enabling students to grow healthily, develop comprehensively, reduce the burden on parents, and return to their educational roots, in 2021, the General Office of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council issued

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S. Zhu et al. (eds.), *Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference on Education, Language and Art (ICELA 2023)*, Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research 831,

https://doi.org/10.2991/978-2-38476-214-9_79

the "Opinions on Further Reducing the Homework Burden and Off campus Training Burden of Students in Compulsory Education Stage" (hereinafter referred to as the "Double Reduction" policy), which aims to improve the workload, exam and ranking, as well as after-school services for primary and secondary school students. Strict regulations have been established for the management of off campus training institutions. The "double reduction" policy refers to the reduction of homework and extracurricular training. The proposal of this policy has brought many new requirements to education, posing higher challenges to classroom teaching and homework assignments. In this context, how to design homework well, how to make parents aware of such environmental changes, how to respond to such changes, and what efforts both students and parents need to make simultaneously, The change in attitude among them is also noteworthy. After the implementation of the "double reduction" policy, many parents are actually more concerned about their children's homework. In the eyes of many parents, reducing burden may mean being left behind and not enough to achieve the ability to enter higher education. In the absence of the ability to apply for extracurricular tutoring classes, many parents can only do it themselves and start tutoring their children's homework. Most studies focus on the transformation and design of homework, with little attention paid to the shift in parental attitudes behind it.[7]

1.2 Significance

1.2.1. Theoretical significance.

Many parents may encounter various problems when facing this situation, some may not know where to start, and some may even have a mindset of simply giving up. By studying the psychological changes of parents, we can understand the specific difficulties they face, and then provide corresponding help and guidance, so that they can solve the current problems. At the same time, we also address the current situation of "widowhood style" education and speak up for women. In family education, women should not be the only ones to bear this responsibility, but they should share it together. Male parents should take the initiative to shoulder this responsibility. The purpose of this paper is to call on the government to consider the burden of women in the next policy introduction, and to provide helpful and reference work for the government's future policies. It also aims to make more people see the difficulties faced by women behind this, and not to let education become "mother centered".

1.2.2. Practical significance.

Solving the problem of students' homework burden is a major focus of the "double reduction" policy. The promulgation and implementation of the double reduction policy will inevitably lead to a re examination of homework by society, schools, teachers, and parents: from valuing the quantity of homework to paying attention to the quality of homework, from fixed collective homework to personalized homework customized by individuals, from disregarding students' homework interests to respecting students' homework interests, and from assigning homework to family and school co education Participating in homework together, everything is changing.

[5]However, parents' attitude towards homework remains unchanged and has not changed with the changes in policies. They are not aware of the changes in their identity, and even do not want to take the initiative to make changes.[2]

This paper helps families, schools, society, and even students themselves pay more attention to the issue of parental attitude change, and work together to provide correct help and guidance.

2 Literature review

The proposal of the "double reduction" policy has forced some adjustments to the education model, including adjustments to homework after class. In response to the policy, the design of homework after class gradually requires the participation of parents, and parents need to act as a bridge.

Zhimin Jiang (2022) explored how to guide parents of students to have a correct understanding of homework in the context of "double reduction", and believed that parents should also improve their personal cognition, become a role of their children's companion, and grow and progress together with their children;

Xiujun Tian (2023) explored how parents can supervise their children's homework after the "double reduction" policy. She believes that parents should make more efforts to supervise their children's homework problems and to some extent mitigate the impact of the "double reduction" policy.

Zhonghua Wang and Jiaxin Zheng (2022) discussed the reshaping of homework concepts under the background of the "double reduction" policy. They unanimously believe that under the "double reduction" policy, we need to update old educational concepts, correctly understand the nature and activity methods of students' after-school homework, establish new homework concepts, and parents also need to cooperate with new changes and concepts.

There is still quite a lot of research on homework after class, mainly focusing on how parents can play a certain role in the policy of homework coordination. Before it takes effect, parents may need to have a change in attitude, adapt to the implementation of the policy, and realize that they must be more attentive. In summary, the transformation and current situation of parental attitudes are highly worth studying.

3 Methodology

3.1 Interview

Analyze the attitude of parents towards their children's homework problems through interviews with third year parents of a certain high school under the "double reduction" policy, including their views, participation level, and importance level. Conduct an overall attitude analysis based on the interview content and provide assistance and appeals for the reflected problems.

3.2 Archival research

By utilizing the electronic resource library of the school library, existing books, documents, and various resource websites similar to CNKI, collect and study information on parents' attitudes towards homework under the "double reduction" policy, and then organize, analyze, and summarize them. Based on the analysis and reference of existing research results, design research ideas around the theme of this study, carry out research activities, form paper viewpoints, and provide corresponding discussions.

4 Findings

I have interviewed a total of 6 parents, including 4 male parents and 2 female parents, all of whom are parents of junior high school students. Through the interviews, it was found that there is a significant difference in the attitudes of male and female parents.

4.1 Male parents

Most male parents say that they don't usually take care of their children's homework. They think the school teachers will supervise them, and they all think it's better for their mothers to take care of them. They also think that this is a task for their mothers at home, and they don't care too much about it. After all, their main task is to make money and support the family. They are already very busy and have no time to take care of their children, Unless one's own child's grades are too poor, they will only pay attention; Even some male parents don't have much to do when they come home from work. [6]They just play cards, drink alcohol, and don't take the initiative to care about their children's homework problems. Anyway, they feel like their mother is there. If it's their son in some families, male parents may find it awkward and uncomfortable to care about them, so it's better to let their mother go.

4.2 Female parents

The female parents actually indicate that they are very anxious about their children's homework problems, but do not know what they can do for their children. Due to policy reasons, it is not possible to send children to tutoring classes, and sometimes they can only provide additional family counseling after their children return home from school. However, most parents have long forgotten the various knowledge in junior high school, and even some mothers have a low education background, so they can rarely help. Sometimes, such help may become a burden on their children's learning, and various situations make mothers even more at a loss. They also need someone to guide them on what to do. [1]At the same time, I asked them, 'Don't you want to go over and ask the father of the child for help?' Their words all reflected disappointment towards the male parent. They felt that even seeking help from the male parent was useless, and they would still let the female find a way and solve the problem, and some male parents even turned a blind eye.[6]

5 Results and discussion

From the above data, we can see that most families are dominated by males and females, and male parents do not actively care about their children's homework problems. Female parents can only passively take on this responsibility, but female parents are also very confused in this regard.

Most of the families interviewed have already experienced so-called "bereaved" education, and "bereaved" parenting is not a unique feature of modern mothers. The trend towards feminization of care-giving responsibilities began with the traditional gender division of "male lead outside, female lead inside". Male parents not only fail to take on their due responsibilities in family education, but also feel that this responsibility should not be borne by them. The gradual marginalization of fathers' responsibilities is also very common in today's society. Some male parents will find various excuses to avoid their children's homework problems, even if they have nothing to do at home, they will treat it as if it is not their responsibility. On the contrary, the mother ultimately became the party responsible for this responsibility. [4]Female parents not only need to work, but also worry about their children's homework when they return home, invisibly adding another position and job to their mother. The child's homework after class ultimately becomes a burden and responsibility for female parents, and the inaction of male parents at home makes female parents feel helpless, ultimately leading to a situation where female parents are exhausted, unable to take action, and at a loss. At the same time, the expansion of educational responsibilities and the trend towards refined parenting have further exacerbated the responsibilities of mothers. For a time, "pseudo single mothers" have become a way for many mothers to make fun of themselves. They can only relieve their emotions through venting with family and friends, using retaliatory consumption, and arguing with their husbands to release pressure. However, in the end, they will still compromise and continue to return to their children to complete the task of tutoring and homework. The introduction of the "double reduction" policy ostensibly aims to reduce the academic burden on children, but at the same time, it also increases the burden on mothers in their family responsibilities. The trend of feminization of educational responsibilities is becoming increasingly evident today, with the marginalization of parental positions leading to the centralization of parental positions, allowing mothers to take on the heavy responsibility of educating their children. Although the "double reduction" policy has reduced the burden on children, it has subtly increased this burden on mothers. The significance of a policy is to solve social problems, bring changes to certain aspects of certain subjects or groups, and make changes in concepts, methods, and efficiency compared to traditional methods. It is definitely not to add social burden or cause trouble to certain groups.

6 Conclusion

The starting point and purpose of the "double reduction" policy is good, but it ultimately fails to pay attention to the deepest issue - who ultimately becomes the responsible person, and is the policy really only aimed at serving targeted groups?

6.1 Women should receive more attention and care

Nowadays, women always live in a "required" worldview, and when they were young, they were required to have a quiet personality and excel in academic performance; As I grew up, I was asked by my elders to take the initiative to bear the expenses of my family, and my husband asked me to give up my job and become a full-time housewife at home; After getting old, one may still be disliked by their husband for being no longer young and beautiful, and by their own children for being slow and nagging. Women have never been weak, let alone enslaved, they just need to be seen by more people. Their tolerance does not mean they are incompetent, their silence does not mean they are cowardly. Under the influence of such a patriarchal society, sometimes women may feel insecure and self doubt. Therefore, I hope that more people can reach out to women and mothers to help them realize that they are also independent individuals, individuals with choices and rights. Social inclusion and media promotion also require more attention and attention to women. They just need an opportunity to break social prejudices, and they just want to be treated equally.[4]

6.2 The introduction of policies should go through deeper and long-term considerations

Policy is not only about serving the people, but also about considering the impact and consequences it brings. The introduction of the "double reduction" policy has indeed alleviated the academic burden on students, but at the same time increased the educational burden on mothers. This highlights the drawbacks of this policy - failure to take into account the pressure from female parents, the imbalance in the family and social division of labor between men and women. In the context of high pressure for further education, the implementation of the "double reduction" policy has actually created a more anxious situation for parents and teachers. On the one hand, mothers face the problem of educating their children after class, and on the other hand, teachers are also worried that students' grades will decline.[3]Ultimately, the consequences are still borne by women. I call on the government to consider the role and status of women in future policies, as well as whether it will bring greater family and social pressure to women. I hope the government can see more comprehensive and deeper issues.

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