

# A Reflection on the Reform of Education Methods Under the Construction of a High-Quality Elementary Education System

Shuyu Yang\*

Ningbo Zhenhai Jiaochuan Street Central Kindergarten, Ningbo 315200, Zhejiang Province, China

\*Corresponding author: Shuyu Yang, yangshuyu1326@163.com

**Copyright:** © 2022 Author(s). This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY 4.0), permitting distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is cited.

**Abstract:** Under the background of the continuous improvement of the education level in China and the comprehensive and in-depth education reform, the society has been paying more attention to education. Focusing on the reform of education methods is not only essential to promoting the high-quality development of China's education, but also the inevitable prerequisite for establishing a high-quality education system. It is an effective way to build an educated country, and the guide to which directs the implementation of modern education. Therefore, this study takes the construction of a high-quality elementary education system as the background and considers effective strategies for the reform of education methods, so as to lay a solid foundation for improving China's education level.

**Keywords:** High-quality education; Elementary education; System construction; Education methods; Education reform

**Online publication:** June 22, 2022

## 1. Introduction

Education is the foundation for strengthening the Party and the country, while elementary education is the cornerstone of China's education system. China is currently at a crossroad of the two centennial goals, which is the critical moment for the Chinese nation to realize its dream of the great rejuvenation. In the process of realizing the goal of "building China into an education powerhouse," we must not only update the talent training concept in a timely manner, but also constantly optimize the educational system and mechanism, establish an ideal and scientific educational evaluation system, as well as strengthen the continuous growth of the teaching staff<sup>[1]</sup>. Hence, it is crucial for those responsible to think about how to actively reform the traditional education methods under the high-quality education system. With the goal of establishing a high-quality education system and based on the fundamental task of "building morality and cultivating people," there should be a shift from knowledge-based education to quality-based education and a replacement of the "education-first" concept with the "learning-first" concept, so that the division of traditional disciplines will gradually develop in the direction of integrated disciplines. It is also necessary to change the traditional idea of valuing students' intelligence while belittling their skills, pay equal attention to students' moral character, fully realize the fundamental task of "building morality and cultivating people," as well as ensure that the reform measures are highly consistent with the development trend of our times<sup>[2]</sup>.

## **2. Shifting from knowledge-based education to quality-based education**

Through a detailed analysis of the current situation of China's elementary education reform, it can be seen that from the perspective of educational objectives, China has undergone three stages, from consolidating the "double foundation" to establishing the "three-dimensional objective," and then to introducing the idea of "core literacy" [3]. This process fully reflects the successful transformation of China's elementary education reform objectives from "knowledge – discipline knowledge – people" [4]. In the process of establishing the objectives of elementary education, China should constantly adhere to the ideological principle of "people-oriented" education and attach importance to improving students' core literacy and subject literacy. In the process of implementing the "double foundation" objectives, the phenomenon of which a huge gap exists between the theoretical knowledge learned and students' real life tends to be overlooked, which leads to a sole focus on learning theoretical knowledge, while neglecting practical skills [5]. The "three-dimensional objective" is an educational goal with clear benefits at the disciplinary level based on the "double foundation," but the understanding of "human essence" is neglected. The "three-dimensional objective" only superimposes the three-dimensional goal but does not fully integrate the educational goal. The primary approach of "core literacy" in representing educational objectives is by improving students' literacy through knowledge education, which is an educational means that can return the original nature of "human" [6]. In the new era of establishing a high-quality elementary education system, the teaching contents should be linked with actual life situations in the transformation of education methods, and students' personality development should be based on social needs [7].

## **3. Replacing the "education-first" concept with the "learning first" concept**

As far as teaching is concerned, it is an activity that incorporates two-way interaction, which is comprised of teachers' teaching behavior and students' learning behavior. The traditional teaching method is based on teachers' teaching. Teachers are unconcerned with whether students really learn or understand a knowledge point or not, and instead, they just impart knowledge [8]. On the other hand, for students, their main purpose of learning is to achieve excellent grades. They usually learn by rote without understanding the profound meaning of a certain information. Under the background of the education reform in China, the relationship between teachers' teaching and students' learning should be fundamentally transformed [9]. Through a detailed analysis of the actual teaching situation, it is found that although China's educational institutions actively respond to the call and requirements of the new teaching reform, adhere to student-centered education, as well as encourage teachers to play their roles as guides, the overall transformation effect has never reached an ideal state; hence, the implementation of various control measures in actual teaching should be further strengthened. In the process of designing specific teaching activities, teachers should always take students' learning as the basis, so as to play a connecting role for effective learning in the new era of constructing a high-quality education system. The rationality of education methods is determined by the extent to which the teaching objectives can be achieved [10]. Teachers must take heed of their speech and actions, guide and inspire students through them, as well as exert a subtle influence on students by using specific teaching environment. Establishing a scientific standard for measuring students' learning and evaluating whether students have achieved the expected teaching objectives or not may help reflect the effectiveness of their teaching methods [11].

## **4. Engendering the division of traditional disciplines to gradually develop towards the integration of disciplines**

From the macro level, the traditional teaching method divides the knowledge contents of various disciplines into many knowledge points, resulting in the lack of cohesion of specific teaching content. Although students learn a lot, the contents are complex; hence, they are unable to establish a clear and systematic

knowledge system, and teachers themselves are unable to accurately pinpoint the teaching objectives that need to be achieved by specific knowledge points<sup>[12]</sup>. In this context, it has created an environment for the wide dissemination of “STREAM” education and engendered the traditional education in China to gradually develop from the division of disciplines into the integration of disciplines, which is specifically reflected in the country’s efforts to strengthen the training of “general subject teacher talents,” carry out interdisciplinary integration and interdisciplinary core quality training, open up the connection points of related disciplines, and ensure that the teaching objectives can fully reflect the integration and unity between disciplines<sup>[13]</sup>. The shift from discipline division to discipline integration helps students actively explore the internal links between different disciplines, discover new knowledge, and form a contiguity with the new world. The new way of education requires students to maximize their subjective initiative, encourages them to develop their potential, and enables them to analyze and solve problems in a diversified way on the basis of finding and raising issues, as well as using reasonable means to verify problems, so as to cultivate a large number of professionals with divergent thinking and innovative quality for the society<sup>[14]</sup>.

Fully execute the five simultaneous education measures by enhancing quality, adhering to moral education, strengthening political and ideological quality, nurturing the soul, and making up for shortcomings; especially at present, improving the quality of labor and cultivating the spirit of struggle are inevitable. A diversity in running schools will strengthen the schools’ characteristics. Therefore, the new pattern and characteristics of the development of basic education should be diverse, open, and integrated<sup>[15]</sup>.

## **5. Changing the traditional idea of emphasizing governance over morality, and paying equal attention to students’ moral character**

The traditional teaching method attaches great importance to the teaching of theoretical knowledge. The learning of subjects is always carried out by passive learning methods, such as listening, watching, thinking, memorizing, and practicing. In addition, influenced by the conventional belief of “learn well, and you will be an official,” the phenomenon of achieving high scores but lacking skills is common among students. Some students gain admission into prestigious universities using their excellent results, although their own hands-on ability and moral character are lacking to a certain extent; additionally, some of them do not possess flexibility or adaptability, neither do they have basic innovation skills. The idea of having both skills and political integrity requires students to not only master the theoretical knowledge of a subject, but also apply the relevant knowledge learned to solve various problems in life and transform knowledge into skills<sup>[16]</sup>. It is necessary to highlight the effectiveness of moral education, improve the level of intellectual education, strengthen physical education, enhance the edification of aesthetic education, and strengthen labor education. In the top-level design of curriculum reform, the focus should be on the cultivation of core literacy. Solve real problems in the face of real and complex situations, and encouraging students to participate in activities with motivation, experience, and integrity are effective ways to cultivate core literacy. Therefore, it is necessary to reverse traditional learning methods and learning paths, as well as encourage students to practice, think, and explore issues in an actual environment by creating specific situations. In addition, it is also important to strengthen the training of moral cultivation among students. The reform of education methods should focus on moral behavior, adhering to the ideological concept of “building morality and cultivating people,” take moral education as the basis of education and the cultivation of practical skills as the focus of education, as well as enact the advanced education task of “taking foundation as the orientation and innovation as the pursuit.” On this basis, the comprehensive development of moral education, aesthetic education, physical education, intellectual education, and labor education can be realized; in addition, students can be nurtured in such a way that they will be able to develop correct and positive value orientation, skills, and character, as well as the awareness and capacity

to fully adapt to future social development <sup>[17]</sup>.

## 6. Conclusion

Strengthening the establishment and improvement of a high-quality elementary education system is not only an effective means to implement the educational theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, but also the historical reform and innovative development of elementary education in China. The new era strategic planning of high-quality development has not only been highlighted at the level of elementary education, but also has demonstrated the diversified reform of high-quality elementary education at the macro level. With the continuous development of the times, higher requirements have been put forward for the perfection of the construction of the elementary education system. It is not only necessary to actively explore the reform direction of education, but also to truly evaluate the comprehensive quality of students, so that their comprehensive quality can be fully developed. At the same time, it is also necessary to ensure that students can truly understand and develop themselves in the process of continuous innovation, so as to completely transform the traditional education and evaluation methods based on learning achievement, as well as create a good environment for the diversified development of high-quality elementary education <sup>[18]</sup>.

## Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

## References

- [1] Yang X, Liu J, 2020, Investigation and Research on Teaching Ability of Foreign Language Teachers in Basic Education in Guizhou Ethnic Areas. *Journal of Yunnan Normal University (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)*, 52(5): 41–49.
- [2] Zhang X, 2017, Proceedings of the 3rd Beijing-Taiwan Basic Education Principals Summit 2017, October 28, 2017: Rooted in the Culture of the Academy, Exploring the Way of Cultivating Core Literacy, and Cultivating “T”-Shaped Talents Heading for the Future. Beijing, 161–170.
- [3] Chen D, Lin Q, 2021, A Preliminary Study on the Educational Function of High School Physics Exercises Under the Background of Promoting the Reform of Educational Methods. *Fujian Basic Education Research*, 2021(5): 106–108.
- [4] Shuai Z, 2021, A Paperless Discussion on Electronic Invoice Reimbursement – Digital Transformation Helps Solve the “Complex Reimbursement” of Scientific Research Funds in Colleges and Universities. *Finance and Accounting Communications*, 2021(7): 148–151.
- [5] Chen T, Li D, Zhang L, et al., 2020, The Single-Track Management of Electronic Archives Helps Fight the Epidemic – Taking the Electronic Archives of the National Natural Science Foundation of China as an Example. *Shanxi Archives*, 2020(3): 29–35.
- [6] Yu Y, 2020, Information Technology Empowers Accounting Integration and Innovation: The Selection Results of the Top Ten Information Technology Affecting Chinese Accountants in 2020. *New Finance – Corporate Finance*, 2020(8): 50–52.
- [7] Li J, 2021, Rooted in the Land to Run Education – A Documentary on the Exploration of the “Way” of Primary and Secondary Education in Dujiangyan City, Chengdu, Sichuan. *Basic Education Curriculum*, 2021(18): 4–14.

- [8] Zhu G, 2021, Practical Exploration of Education Methods in Primary and Secondary Schools Under the U-S Cooperation Model – Taking the Experimental School Affiliated to Beijing Institute of Technology as an Example. *Basic Education Curriculum*, 2021(14): 23–27.
- [9] Jia J, Jing X, Jiang D, et al., 2021, Thinking and Practice of Improving the “Five Simultaneous Education” Education System and Promoting the Reform of Education Methods. *Principals of Primary and Secondary Schools*, 2021(2): 3–7.
- [10] Shu T, Chen Y, 2021, Cultivating “Professionals” or “Ordinary People” – An Analysis of the Educational Goals of Two Different Disciplines. *Journal of Education*, 17(3): 75–84.
- [11] Huang X, 2021, Research Hotspots and Future Trends of Education and Teaching in Primary and Secondary Schools Under the Background of the Epidemic: An Analysis Based on 130 Provincial-Level Basic Education Projects. *Education Science Forum*, 2021(10): 33–36.
- [12] Zhang Y, Wang Y, 2022, Deepening the Reform of Education Evaluation and Promoting the Transformation of the Way of Educating People: Exploration and Practice of the Reform of Education and Teaching Quality Evaluation of Ordinary High Schools in Hefei City, Anhui Province. *Basic Education Curriculum*, 2022(3): 47–54.
- [13] Shen J, 2021, Raising the Roots, Going to the Realm – High-quality Development of Education and Reform of Educating People. *Basic Education Curriculum*, 2021(3): 4–9.
- [14] Bi Z, 2021, Exploration on the Reform of Education Methods in Ordinary High Schools in Mountainous Counties in the New Era: Taking the No. 1 Middle School of Jingxing County, Hebei Province as an Example. *Basic Education Forum*, 2021(21): 27–28.
- [15] Chen Z, Zheng X, Yuan X, et al., 2021, Exploration and Reflection on Promoting the Reform of Educational Methods in Ordinary High Schools in the New Era: An Action Research Based on the “Three Advances of Red Candle Spirit” in Wenyiduo Middle School. *Principals of Primary and Secondary Schools*, 2021(5): 67–71.
- [16] Li X, 2019, Research on the Centralized Management of Accounting Files Under the Financial Sharing Model – Taking Large Enterprise M as an Example. *New Marketing*, 2019(12): 160–161.
- [17] Chen H, Sun Y, Chang L, et al., 2018, Financial Operation System: Taking Electronic Invoice Application and Electronic File System as Examples. *Finance and Accounting*, 2018(9): 25–28.
- [18] Yin W, 2019, Accounting Electronic Archives Data Management Based on Financial Sharing Model: Basic Framework and Implementation Path. *Shanxi Archives*, 2019(5): 168–173.

**Publisher’s note**

Bio-Byword Scientific Publishing remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.