

Minority student at Hinterland Middle Schools in China: A review of 30 years research

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Abstract: The study of Minority student at Hinterland Middle Schools has been evolving with growth in the number of academic publications in this field. The objective of this research is to analyze the present situation of existing related studies within the China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI). To carry out this study, a bibliometric study is conducted, which takes articles from China Academic Journal Network as research subjects, this paper makes a statistical analysis of the articles in terms of amount, publishing journal, distribution of author's identity, topic and research method. It also summarizes the present situation of studies and proposes issues for further studies such as theoretical development, creating a scientific community, studying perspective, research methods, time scale and deep research, in order to improve the quality of research and implementing the policy effectiveness.

1. Introduction

Establishing class (school) for Minority student at hinterland Schools is an important measure for the Party and the State to increase educational support to the western region, accelerate the training of minority talents, enhance the competitiveness of minorities in the senior talent and labor market, and promote ethnic interaction and national unity. This policy has been practiced in China for more than 30 years. Scholars have conducted in-depth studies on this policy and problems existing in the process of running schools from different perspectives. In this context, based on the means of bibliometric analysis, this paper sorts out and analyzes the relevant studies, clarifies the current research status, analyzes its academic characteristics and development trend, reflects on the existing shortcomings, and puts forward constructive suggestions, hoping to be helpful for future research.

2. Materials

Currently, there are two literatures that can be searched on CNKI to summarize the research status of minority student at hinterland middle Schools in the secondary education stage, they are research review about the Tibet class (school) for 30 years and Xinjiang high school class at hinterland[1, 2]. Both of them belong to the exploratory practice of running schools at hinterland, and there are many similarities in the research contents, methods and angles involved, which can be discussed under the same framework. Based on this, this paper uses keywords as the search condition and cross-database search as the search method to search the general publishing database of Chinese academic journals, full-text database of Chinese Doctoral dissertations and full-text database of Chinese excellent Master's dissertations. A total of 651 records were retrieved. After careful screening and elimination of non-academic papers and research papers of "ethnic classes in colleges and universities", 411 papers remained, including 346 journal papers and 65 Master and Doctoral papers.

3. Results

3.1 Distribution of literature quantity

Statistics on the distribution of 411 published papers can reflect the change of the attention level of this policy. On the whole, the amount of literature is on the rise, which can be generally divided into four stages: before 2005, the amount of literature published each year was very small; from 2006 to 2009, the literature published each year first increased steadily and then declined slightly, but the overall trend was still rising; from 2010 to 2013, the number of literatures increased rapidly and reached the peak of publication in 2013, with 67 papers published; After 2013, the number of published articles gradually declined and tended to be stable.

Data shows that in the first two decades, the concrete implementation of this policy is still in the exploratory stage, and there is little experience to draw on, the content and materials to be studied are not rich enough, which is not enough to arouse the “problem awareness” in the academic circle. Since 2005, the policy has been implemented for 20 years and accumulated a lot of practical experience. At the same time in the implementation of the actual difficulties that need to be solved, different schools have proposed measures to solve the problem according to local conditions. Therefore, the educational achievement of minority student at hinterland schools gradually aroused the researcher's high attention.

3.2 Distribution of source periodicals

The selected sample literatures involve 172 journals, 23 of which are core journals. The data show that the journals with more papers can be divided into three categories: ethnic category, ethnic education category and educational research category. Among them, Ethnic Education of China, Tibetan education and Journal of Research on Education for Ethnic Minorities carry far more articles than other periodicals. In addition, there are 54 articles published in core journals, accounting for only 15.6% of the total number, which indicates that the overall level of current research needs to be improved.

3.3 Author analysis

The author status of 346 journals in the sample literature was counted (only included in the unit of the first author), and it was found that the middle schools and vocational schools that run classes for minority student are the main forces in this research field.

By analyzing the cooperative relationship among the authors of a certain research topic, we can discover the knowledge exchange among the authors of that topic. Considering that the number of papers before 2006 is too small and some authors are unknown, literatures from 2006 to 2016 are selected as samples for preliminary statistics. The results show that 81 co-authored papers, accounting for 25.23%, involve 503 authors, and the degree of cooperation is 1.56(person/paper). On the whole, the cooperation in the study is not good and does not show a stable development trend.

3.4 Analysis of research contents

Word frequency analysis is a bibliometric method to determine research hotspots and development trends in a certain field by using the frequency of keywords or subject words that can reveal or express the core content of the literature[3]. According to the annual changes of the literature, the development of the paper is divided into four stages. In the four stages, “ethnic education”, “cultural adaptation”, “patriotic education”, “multicultural education”, “national unity education”, “mental health education” appear frequently in the four stages, indicating that these Keywords are always concerned by researchers, they are the “constant” hot spot.

In bibliometrics research, quantitative analysis of the correlation between common features can reveal the internal laws of a certain field of research. Keywords co-occurrence analysis is the main means to achieve this goal. The sample literature was imported into BICOMB2 software to generate the keyword co-occurrence matrix, and UCINET software was used for the overall density analysis.

The results showed that the overall density of the keyword co-occurrence network atlas was 0.27, with a small density value, indicating the lack of tightness in relevant studies.

According to the analysis of word frequency and co-occurrence of Keywords, the research contents can be summarized into five main research directions:

1) Policy research: in this aspect, researchers mainly focus on policy formulation, development process, connotation and function, implementation and effectiveness.

2) Teaching and learning research: in order to minority student make full use of advanced educational resources, many researchers, especially front-line teachers, pay close attention to classroom teaching and students' learning.

3) Research on education management: in the implementation of this policy, effective education management is indispensable.

4) Research on ideological education: in the context of multicultural education, the formation and establishment of values of minority student have received a lot of attention. These researches focus on moral education, patriotism education, national unity education, and cultivation education, which are closely related to each other. The researchers discussed the importance of ideological education from the theoretical and practical levels respectively, specific educational methods, combining ideological education with subject teaching and so on.

5) Research on adaptation and mental health: students' adaptation and mental health problems are not only closely related to their academic performance, but also affect their overall growth and development.

3.5 Analysis of research methods

Statistical analysis of the research methods in the sample literature found that most researchers choose speculative research and experience summary method. The methods of interview and questionnaire are mainly used in the empirical research. There are not many literatures using observation method and case study method, and fewer literatures using test method, experiment method and work analysis.

4. Discussion

This research facilitates the elucidation of everything related to the study of minority student at hinterland middle schools. Since the first publications in this field of study to now, there have been abundant publications over the years, with the number of publications experiencing a growth in the last 30 years, and this ever-increasing growth in literature on this subject is steady. In this way, we can observe how different studies have been carried out over the last few years and can verify the experience they provide. This, in turn, has led to further research on the subject, to the point where such research can be consolidated as a reference subject in educational research.

Based on the analysis of source journals and author backgrounds, it is found that about 50% of the authors in core journals are from universities or scientific research institutions, while the literature published by front-line teachers and managers account for 2/3 of the total sample. The number of articles published in cooperation is not large, and the situation of cooperation and exchange among authors is not optimistic. Reflecting and research as teaching practitioners are important, but the deepening of research cannot be separated from the participation of universities and research institutions. As a core concept in the production of scientific knowledge, scientific community has been highly valued by the scientific field after the interpretation of Kuhn. Especially in this age of increasing socialization of science, the knowledge production of individual behavior is far less effective and valuable than collective efforts[4]. From the proposal to the implementation of policies, it is impossible to make groundbreaking breakthroughs in the adjustment and optimization and problem solving through personal exploration in theory or summary of practical experience. This requires researchers from scientific research institutions and teaching lines to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in this field based on their own theoretical thickness and practical experience. Theory guides practice, practice improves theory and forms a good interactive relationship. Not only can we grasp the laws of ethnic education more accurately, offer suggestions

for policies, but also combine experience with scientific research for innovation to a certain extent, and constantly improve the level of education, teaching and management.

Maryin Harris, an American anthropologist, put forward two research perspectives: etic approach and the emic approach. At the same time, he clearly pointed out that facts without theoretical guidance are unreliable, while theories without facts are also meaningless[5]. In the process of literature review, found that most researchers stand in the perspective of etic approach, from the perspective of researchers to view and explain the problem, and on this basis, put forward the corresponding countermeasures. Only a few researchers, especially teachers from the teaching or management line, are able to understand the beliefs, behaviors and psychology of minority student from the perspective of students as much as possible in the process of communication with them. Admittedly, this difference is determined to some extent by the convenience of research. In practical research, researchers' research orientation and research topic will also affect their research perspective, but for researchers who want to approach the truth and solve problems, it is very necessary to rethinking on their own research perspective. Both etic approach and the emic approach have their advantages and disadvantages, and there is no dichotomy between them. It is not easy to say which perspective is better or more valuable, but as Harris mentioned, it is important to pursue the theory of universality and explore the facts. For this kind of education research, the top-down theoretical explanation is far from enough, and sometimes it cannot reach the core essence of practical problems. In the process of policy promotion, it is the audience that determines the effectiveness of the policy. Therefore, in the future research, researchers should not only pay attention to the establishment of objective theoretical knowledge, but also pay attention to the exploration of subjective elements such as students' understanding of meaning and value.

Combined with the analysis of research methods, the main focus is on the experience summary method and questionnaire method. Most of the papers using the speculative research method are the research on ethnic policy, cultivation education, ideological education; the majority of those who adopt the method of summing up experience are studying the teaching work; the questions were based on research in specific areas such as acculturation, mental health, cognitive styles, and learning processes. Theoretical research method, of course, in the form of a theory thinking level of knowledge reflect the objective law, with a macroscopic and guidance, based on their practical experience is instructive experience summary method, questionnaire method can quickly obtain a large amount of data. But for research, the use of diverse research methods is the key way to improve the reliability and validity of research. Case study of front-line teachers, in-depth interview method, case study method and work analysis method, which are widely used in qualitative research, can make researchers get closer to the truth. Therefore, in the future research, researchers should enrich research methods through multidisciplinary theories, combine qualitative research and quantitative research, and use different research methods interleaved to avoid the rigidity of research, so as to make research methods complement each other and improve the reliability and validity of research.

China has been running Tibetan classes for 30 years and xinjiang classes for more than 16 years. By 2015, more than 100,000 talents have been trained by this policy for Tibet and xinjiang. It is of great practical significance to carry out longitudinal research on this policy from a macro perspective. This policy has a national strategic height, and its long-term effect and short-term effect are not consistent. Longitudinal tracking research is indispensable when comprehensively evaluating the effect of a policy. Implicit in this policy is the educational concept of "training at the hinterland, supporting hometown". It lacks the tracking research on the development of its graduates, and cannot make in-depth discussion and evaluation on the implementation and effect of education, not to mention provide academic reference for the formulation and implementation of policies on the education of minorities and personnel training in minority areas in China .Therefore, carrying out longitudinal research is an important direction for future research.

From the analysis of the research content, we can see that the research focus in recent years has gradually shifted from the macro level to the micro level. From the macro analysis of this policy, it gradually turns to more specific issues such as students' emotion, class management, teaching

methods, and even classroom research of a specific subject.

5. Conclusions

At present, the research mainly focuses on policy, teaching management, ideological education, mental health and other aspects. These research results provide rich and valuable experience to support the sustainable development and further optimization of this policy. Review the existing research results, from the perspective of literature analysis, further clarify the weak points in the research, and on this basis, the future research has thoughts and prospects.

In order to more effectively solve the problems encountered in the policy execution and the difficulties encountered in the study, we are looking forward to have more research to go deep into the field, with the support of the academic community, in combination with multidisciplinary theories, focus on basic problem, from the perspective of students, with an open attitude, in the cultural and cognitive framework of students to elaborate issues, to promote longitudinal research and micro research in order to effectively promote the in-depth research in this field.

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