The Impacts of Recessive Curriculum on Maintaining a Stable Community in China

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Abstract. As is known to all, recessive curriculum is the one which is presented in education institution through indirect and hidden way. Although such concept was launched as early as in 1960s, it developed with the huge impacts on shaping one’s value, which actually plays significant role in individuals’ character. Therefore, a stable and harmonious society can be maintained. The aim of this thesis is to illustrate the specific influence of recessive curriculum on establishing one’s value and devising a feasible mode to stress the application of recessive curriculum.

Concepts on Recessive Curriculum

Different Stages of Recessive Curriculum

Early in the 20th century, Dewey, one of the greatest educators in modern world, showed that the real learning should not be restricted to courses only. In other words, it is ought to be combined with something different from courses learning, which he named as concomitant learning. Such theory, advocating experience with emotion and values in the process of learning, is the basis of recessive learning. William Heard Kilpatrick, a student of Dewey, deepened the concept into integrity learning, which is consisted of primary learning, associate learning and concomitant learning, having to do with recessive curriculum.

The Definition of Recessive Curriculum

It is not difficult to set recessive curriculum as the opposite of dominant curriculum, which includes the unplanned knowledge, value, principles and attitudes learned in study. By combining recessive curriculum and dominant curriculum, a course is established fully.

Features of Recessive Curriculum

At the very beginning, recessive curriculum is spreading and general. Because of the difference among learners, their understanding to education separates from one to another, which is out of the educator’s plan and aspiration. Secondly, the influence of recessive curriculum is permanent. Value of learners, even educators, are impacted strongly by unconscious learning during the procedure of having courses. Once its influence is set up, it will last for a lifelong time, which will definitely affect one’s character, and have to do with social stability eventually. Thirdly, in terms of both the positive and negative influence of recessive curriculum, it is of much significance to release its potential benefits to make positive influence on individual’s characters. Thus, a steady society can be maintained.

Values Established in Recessive Curriculum

There is no doubt that students’ values are established through emotion, values, and surroundings of education, which is defined as recessive curriculum. Moreover, the community with correct values is more stable than the one having nothing in common. Thus, in no way can we deny that recessive curriculum is closely related with the steady of community.
Current Situation in the Development of Recessive Curriculum

Significant as it is, recessive curriculum in most cities in China has not been paid too much attention to since the regular curriculum in schooling still focuses too much on pure knowledge teaching. The problems that hinder the positive impacts of recessive curriculum are as follows:

Ignore the Importance of Recessive Curriculum

It is not difficult to find that dominant curriculum, including teaching in knowledge and proficiency, is always at the top of the list of schooling. On the contrary, studies on recessive curriculum, such as learning strategy, culture, and emotion expressed by teachers during teaching procedure are few. One of the most important reasons lies in the fact that it is difficult to assess whether it is an effective recessive course with clear and standardized criterion in the short run.

Ignore Recessive Curriculum in Textbooks

Actually, in primary and middle education, versions of textbooks are of a great variety. Thus, it is unfair to make a standardized guideline to teaching. However, from 2017 on, the book of Chinese in all parts of China has been asked to use the same version. The design of the textbook emphasized much on students’ value and cultural cultivation. It is a pity that many teachers ignore the emotion conveyed by different articles and concentrate more on language skills.

The Negative Influence of Improper Recessive Curriculum

As is known, learning emotion, including motivation, attitudes, confidence, learning will, is important in shaping individuals’ characters. In China, however, competition in scores determine whether a student can go to universities or not, which means the different lifestyles after graduation. Consequently, teachers and parents emphasize the motivation of study as to live a comfortable life rather than to show one’s value. Definitely, such negative course will block the process of establishing a correct value.

Development and Design of Recessive Curriculum in China’s Secondary Schools

In secondary schools, the development and design of recessive curriculum should take schools and educators as the main body, and exert a more positive influence on learners through a series of teaching means and teachers' own improvement, innovation of educational ideas and so on.

Improving Learners' Cognitive Strategies

Effective learning strategies will not only improve students' academic performance, but also encourage students to turn the optimized learning strategies into skills, which can be applied in all aspects and have a positive impact on the comprehensive development of learners. Specifically, it can be divided into the following three aspects. In the teaching of dominant courses, the ability of students can be developed through such knowledge as the connection of old and new knowledge, the prediction of new knowledge, the knowledge acquired by students through direct experience, and the practice of encouraging students to apply it to other courses or life.

Optimize the Role of Teachers

Teachers are the main body of teaching activities and the important guarantee for the active implementation of recessive curriculum. It is based on this that the role of teachers in recessive curriculum should not only be reflected in teaching methods, but also in emotion, educational ideas, values and even appearance. There is a large gap of teaching levels between rural and urban areas, even between the western part and the eastern part in China. As a teacher in the new period, in addition to mastering solid professional knowledge, educational thought should also keep up with
the pace of the times, bold reform and innovation, can run the most advanced educational thought into teaching activities, and thus have a positive impact on students' feelings.

Establish Correct Values

Teachers influence students more than families. In the process of teaching and daily class management, teachers' values will affect the establishment of education values. Therefore, in order to produce positive recessive curriculum in dominant curriculum, teachers should establish correct outlook on life, world outlook and values, and have healthy psychological quality. This is an important guarantee for training students as qualified citizens. Teachers and students exist as the main body of teaching and learning, and teaching and learning itself are inseparable. Therefore, the emotional communication between teachers and students will directly affect the effect of teaching and learning. Therefore, in the course of teaching, teachers should take the students as the main body, devote themselves to the whole situation, be energetic, attract the attention of the students, arouse the students' resonance, create a pleasant, relaxed, cooperative and resonant atmosphere of classroom learning, stimulate the students' subjective initiative, and keep the students' enthusiasm for learning.

Summary

As the significance of recessive curriculum to the value of youngsters, reform on teaching strategies should draw more eyeballs. On the one hand, it is essential to shape a responsible and innovative individual. The more important one lies in the fact that a community with positive individuals is bound to be more stable and harmonious.

References

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