

The Value Orientation of School-based Educational Research

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Abstract: School-based educational research (SER) is a new teaching and research method which complements each other with the advancement of curriculum reform. Existed studies focus on how to conduct and promote SER, while less on the essential definition of it, and lack a clear positioning of its value. Based on the realistic dilemma, this paper first analyzes the value orientation of SER, so as to improve teachers' curriculum leadership.

Keywords: School-based educational research; Value orientation; Path optimization

School-based educational research (SER) is an important feature of China's basic education and an essential driving force to develop the high-quality education. It plays a key role in implementing new courses and teaching materials, promoting teacher professional development, and promoting the leap-forward development of schools. In the new era, facing the new situation, tasks and requirements of comprehensively developing quality education, promoting high-quality development of education, and advancing the reform of education methods, SER is incapable of adapting to the development of curriculum and textbooks with experience accumulation. Moreover, the challenges such as weak curriculum understanding and leadership of teachers, poor effective integration between education and teaching, relative separation between education, teaching and research, lack of systematization and structure, and contempt for professional academic attributes are constantly highlighted. This requires us to adhere to the unification of problem-oriented and goal-oriented, and further clarify the value orientation of SER. Further, it is necessary to embody SER's professional and applied attributes, comprehensively implement the Party's educational guidelines and policies, effectively promote the transformation of teaching and research, and comprehensively develop students' core literacy. Finally, we can implement the fundamental task of fostering virtue through education.

What is the essential definition of SER? There are different opinions at home and abroad. "Teaching research theory", which is an explanation of SER, describes the research activities conducted by teachers aiming at the problems found in the teaching process. "Education teaching research theory", represents research activities aimed at school education and teaching, student development guidance, etc. To give full play to the role of SER, we need to re-examine its concept and clarify the value orientation.

1 SER is supposed to demonstrate the value direction of fostering virtue through education

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the guiding ideology of fostering virtue through education has been deeply rooted in the hearts of the people, the curriculum reform has been accelerated, and the construction of teaching materials has been fully implemented. To implement the fundamental task of moral education requires us to integrate moral education, discipline education, labor and comprehensive practical activities in schools, and to form a systematic and normal system. This requires SER to shift from purely focusing on textbooks and teaching methods to all-round comprehensive education methods. Furthermore, it is necessary to change from research discipline teaching to discipline education, so as to demonstrate the value direction of moral education. This requires us to reverse the unscientific orientation in SER and overcome the stubborn problem of only scores, to avoid narrowing the understanding of education quality, mistakenly equating education quality with academic quality, and not equating education quality analysis with score analysis. Moreover, this requires us to pay attention to students' core literacy in SER, and cultivate their correct values, necessary characters and core abilities to meet the needs of lifelong and social development.

For example, Jiangjin Middle School in Chongqing has the SER characteristics of "inheriting red genes and cultivating bloody youth". The school gives full play to the glorious revolutionary tradition of Marshal Nie Rongzhen's alma mater, condenses the "spirit of Commander Nie", creates a national defense education resources and environment, develops characteristic school-based courses, develops a national defense education school-based curriculum system, and fully penetrates revolutionary traditional education in subject teaching. In contact with the places where Marshal Nie Rongzhen studied, fought and worked, the school persisted in carrying out national large-scale moral education practice activities for more than 20 years, and condensed the pursuit of core values of national defense education. Every year, many students of the school are admitted to the air force pilots and national defense military academies, and are awarded the high-quality student base of the army, navy and air force universities represented by National University of Defense Technology, the national aviation characteristic school, which won the honorary title of "National Defense Education Demonstration

School for Primary and Middle Schools”, and was awarded the first batch of SER bases for ordinary high schools in Chongqing.

2 SER is supposed to reflect professional and applied attributes

In November 2019, the Ministry of Education issued the “Suggestions on Strengthening and Improving Basic Education Teaching and Research Work in the New Era”, which clearly pointed out that basic education teaching and research work in the new era should provide strong professional support for “cultivating new people who are responsible for national rejuvenation”. SER has strong professional attributes and based on the actual application attributes of the school, which requires us to change the top-down command and task-based administrative force promotion, change the “bureaucracy” management model (principal-teaching department or academic affairs), and attach importance to the fundamental role of SER in school education and teaching reform. This requires the school to constantly improve the modern management system, build a special platform, and play the professional role of the teaching and research group, so that the teaching and research team leader can not only be the organizer of SER activities, but also a professional development leader, curriculum implementation planner, and student development instructor. Further, there is essential for improving the SER operation mechanism, avoiding the “bureaucratic” administrative management model, and avoiding the random, and fragmented teaching and research activities. Besides, it is necessary to create a professional academic atmosphere can recognize the professional value of SER and consciously incorporate it into the structural system of education and teaching work. Finally, teachers are supposed to strengthen their research awareness, realize that “student guidance requires research”, “preparation is research”, “proposition is research”, etc., and realize that “research” is everywhere and everywhere, so that education and teaching can be truly combined with research, and various problems encountered in the process of school education and teaching can be truly solved.

Chongqing Jiangjin Middle School is committed to the transformation and upgrading of SER, and implements projects such as “Blue Project”, “Famous Teacher Studio”, school-based micro-projects, student development tutor system, “Jinzhong” big forum and other projects. It organizes teachers to keep study and insist on teaching all the year round. Specifically, teachers are suggested to work as the model “teaching and research every week, competition every month, appraisal and commendation every year”. The principal takes the lead in participating in competitions and teaching activities, vigorously promotes scientific research “practical combat”, encourages and supports teachers to reform teaching methods, and form the special teaching style and characteristics.

3 SER needs to effectively implement national major theme education

The “Ordinary High School Curriculum Program (2017 Edition, Revised in 2020)” updated the education and teaching content according to national development and the needs of the times. “The curriculum contents include the internship of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, the organic integration of socialist core values, and the educational contents of Chinese excellent traditional culture, revolutionary culture and advanced socialist culture”. The main points of the guidelines of the Textbook Bureau of the Ministry of Education in 2020 include the development and introduction of labor education and other major topics of education. It can be seen that carrying out SER activities are supposed to actively implement national major theme education, combining school reality and subject characteristics, conforming to students’ psychological characteristics, clarifying school objectives and overall tasks, exploring the implementation methods, and realizing the systematic and effective implementation of major theme education normalization, to guide students to cultivate cultural deposits, strengthen national consciousness, and enhance the “four self-confidence.”

4 Conclusion

To improve the quality of SER in the new era, while accurately grasp the value orientation of SER, we need to improve teachers’ curriculum leadership, innovate SER work methods, and build a SER community.

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