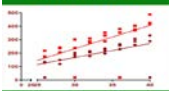


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Current Situation of Basic Education in Poverty-stricken Counties of China in the New Era and New Rural Construction

-Take County Zijin of Heyuan City in Guangdong Province as an example

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ABSTRACT

Basic education in rural areas is an important part of China's basic education system. It plays a significant role in improving the quality of the rural population and promoting the economic and social development in rural areas, and is of great importance to the new countryside construction. Although China's rural basic education has made great achievements since reform and opening up, many problems still exist. On the basis of a comprehensive analysis of the above problems, this paper takes the case of basic education in County Zijin of Heyuan City as an example, and proposes some practical countermeasures for the reference in better development of basic education in rural areas.

Keywords: Basic education, Current situation, Countermeasures, New Rural Construction

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Zijin, a county of south-east Heyuan City, is located in the east-central of Guangdong Province. It is a traditional agricultural county and one of the main Poverty-stricken counties in China. At the beginning of the 21st century, the economic and social development of County Zijin has developed rapidly due to the industrial transfer in the Pearl River Delta region, and the comprehensive strength has increased continuously. With the growth of economic strength, County Zijin has put more investment in rural basic education and achieved great results. The development of rural basic education plays an important role in improving the quality of rural population and promoting the development of rural economy and society. It also has precursory, foundational and comprehensive impacts on the built of a harmonious and moderately prosperous society.

1. Achievements of rural basic education development in County Zijin

1.1 Rural basic education facilities have been improved significantly

With the development of economy, local government begins to attach great importance to infrastructure construction in rural schools. Since 2002, County Zijin has started the reconstruction project of dilapidated buildings in rural schools, and reformed the dilapidated buildings in rural primary and secondary schools throughout the county. Refurbish the habitable buildings and rebuilt the demolished ones. In addition, a number of school buildings have been built in many rural schools to ensure the normal teaching and learning life. County Zijin invested a total of 86 million Yuan in this project, the reconstruction project was also commended by the higher authorities. County Zijin has carried out the construction of sports field at the same time to implement the "national fitness" spirit, basically each school has a basketball court, a number of badminton courts and table tennis tables, some junior high schools also have built plastic runway which provides a good place for students to exercise.

1.2 The overall quality of rural basic education teachers has improved a lot

Before 1990s, there were a large number of private teachers in the rural areas of County Zijin, and their personal quality and knowledge level

were uneven. Since then, with the introduction of relevant policies of rural education and the great importance county government attached to building a high quality teacher team, some private teachers with low teaching capability have been gradually eliminated in the late twentieth Century. The same with rural teachers all over the country, County Zijin government constantly perfects the rural teachers' income security mechanism and rural teachers' income continuously increases, pension insurance, medical insurance and other aspects also have a complete guarantee. After more than 10 years of continuous supplement and optimization, the overall quality of teachers in County Zijin has been greatly improved.

1.3 With the popularization of compulsory nine-year schooling, the number of illiteracy and semi illiterate has dropped off significantly.

In recent years, there is a sharp decrease in the number of children in rural areas of County Zijin due to the implementation of family planning policy and changes in farmers' fertility concept. Coupled with the improvement of living conditions and more attention paid to education in rural areas, parents generally require their children to complete nine years of compulsory education. According to the statistics of the educational administrative department of County Zijin in the beginning of the semester in the autumn of 2015, the gross enrollment rate of primary school education in the rural areas of the county is about 98.9%, and the gross enrollment rate of junior middle school is about 93.6%. This shows the popularity of the enrollment of school-age children in rural areas of County Zijin, but attention also should be paid to the drop out problem of minority students.

2. Problems existing in rural basic education in County Zijin

Although the rural basic education in County Zijin has achieved good results in the years of development, there are still some problems. The main problems are as follows:

2.1 The gap between school facilities in urban areas and rural areas still exists.

In recent years, County Zijin has invested a lot

of money to improve the infrastructure of rural schools, but in a whole, there are still gaps between the school running conditions of rural areas in County Zijin and urban areas in County Zijin and Heyuan City.

Found during the visit of Yizhen Maotian primary school and Jidong primary school in this county, some school offices have only one or two computers and no office machines such as copier and printers. There is also no multimedia teaching equipment in the classroom, and teachers have to use the original way to give lessons that is writing on the blackboard according to the materials in the textbooks. Schools have no library, art room and music room, and the number of sports equipment is limited, so students' after-school life is boring. During the visit of rural middle schools such as Yirong and Longwo middle school, we found that computer rooms, chemical laboratory and physics laboratory are generally only one in these schools and can't meet the corresponding teaching needs. What's worse, most computers in the computer room can't function properly because they haven't been used for many years. Two or three students have to share one computer in the computer class once a week.

2.2 The overall quality of rural teachers is not high enough and schools are lack of professional teachers

Although the construction of high-quality rural teachers team in Heyuan has been greatly promoted in recent years, many problems still be found through interviews, mainly as follows: firstly, the age structure of rural primary school teachers is unreasonable. Because of the backwardness of economic and social development in County Zijin, living conditions and teaching environment are quite hard, and it is difficult to introduce excellent young teachers to the rural schools, especially primary schools. Teachers are mainly of middle-age and conservative. Secondly, the education level of teachers in rural areas is low, and the overall quality of teachers is not high. At the end of last century, some private teachers in County Zijin stayed in the teachers' team through simple job examinations or through the relationship. These teachers have comparatively low education level and no regular teacher education. Thirdly, schools in rural areas are lack of professional teachers. Because

of the comparative smaller number of teachers in County Zijin, many teachers have to give other lessons except for the one they are major in. For example, Chinese teachers have to give students physical education and music lessons. This unreasonable phenomenon has been considered as a common in County Zijin. 2.3 Junior high school dropout phenomenon needs attention.

Despite the substantial improvements in basic education in rural areas, due to various subjective and objective factors, the drop-out rate among students in rural junior high schools in County Zijin has been extremely high, making it difficult to complete the nine-year compulsory education. For example, in Fong'an Middle School in County Zijin, a total of 316 students were enrolled at the beginning of the fall of 2015, with 298 students remaining at the beginning of the spring of 2016. The number of students in the second grade dropped from 285 to 253, 264 people reduced to 202 people. It can be found that the higher the grade, the more dropouts. It is understood that there is such a phenomenon of dropping out of schools in other secondary schools in County Zijin.

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3 the reasons of education problem in rural areas in Heyuan City, County Zijin

3.1 The level of economic development lags behind, and the financial input to the rural ba-

Basic education is not high in County Zijin

As one of the key poverty-stricken counties in China, County Zijin enjoys a slow economic growth and low government revenue. Financial tensions will inevitably affect the government's inadequate investment in all kinds of public utilities, especially for the basic education in rural areas, a serious shortage of funds for education, resulting in rural school conditions can't be compared with the city school, so it is difficult to attract young and talented teachers to teach. It can be said that the backward level of regional economic development is an important factor in the low quality of rural basic education.

3.2 Social, family and other factors

Due to the long-term closure and backwardness of the mountain villages in County Zijin and the poor living conditions, the local peasants have formed the value orientation of "children of the poor families have long been masters of their own home" and "books can't be taken for dinner". Under the influence of this traditional thinking, coupled with its low level of culture, many peasants failed to recognize the importance of education and lacked a farsighted vision of their children's learning. At the same time, with the enrollment expansion of colleges and universities, the employment rate of college graduates is not at the optimal point, causing some peasants to think that education "investment" is not worthwhile and naturally does not attach importance to children's education. In addition, County Zijin actually does not have any laborers, low incomes and very difficult lives for its peasants. Due to lack of money to allow their children to study, they can go home early or go out to work in private-owned enterprises. Of course, some poor children have particularly good grades, but this is an isolated phenomenon in such home environments and school running conditions.

3.3 The concept of government education is outdated

Under the influence of graded management and graded management thought, the government departments in County Zijin think that the development of basic education in rural areas is only an issue of the education sector and a matter for the school itself. The government need not intervene and should not intervene. Therefore,

it lacks emphasis on rural basic education and does not have Effective management of them, and lack of a long-term plan for the development of rural basic education. . These government officials neglected the promotion of rural basic education on the rural economic and social development and neglected the long-term benefits of the development of basic education in rural areas. Therefore, they failed to focus their efforts on educational management and formed advanced educational management concepts and management methods Besides, management methods can't meet the needs of educational development, resulting in the county government's rural basic education management level is lower.

3.4 Education management level is not high

Education management here refers to the process of government departments planning, organizing, coordinating and controlling various resources such as human, financial, material and material resources related to education so as to achieve the goal of education development. The current educational administration in our country is "county-based". Due to the influence of geographical and transportation factors, County Zijin has not been able to effectively manage rural basic education in this county and its management level is low. Mainly in two points:

Firstly, funding cannot be implemented without supervision. For example, a high school in the county earlier this year to the higher authorities for a grant of 80,000 yuan of funds, the financial open column is written for the physical, chemical experiment equipment acquisition. However, it is understood that the school purchased only a small amount of experimental equipment, while the remaining money is used for renovation of the school walls, while the township and county government departments did not take any action on this behavior.

Secondly, there is lack in necessary inspection and supervision of education and teaching work. For example, government departments' evaluation mechanisms for rural schools are not perfect, leading to a lack of awareness of competition among rural schools and an increase in the quality of education in schools. In addition, there is randomness in the evaluation of the professional titles of rural teachers, regardless of the overall quality of teachers and teaching level, as

long as the qualifications, positions and length of service requirements, you can comment on the appropriate level of job title. Because of the direct link between job title and salary, this results in inequality of income among rural teachers and affects their recognition of work.

4 Methods to improve basic education in rural areas in County Zijin

4.1 Increase funding and improve school conditions

To improve school conditions in rural schools in County Zijin and to develop basic education, it is necessary to increase investment in education funds. The current mechanism is mainly the responsibility of the county government to pay for basic education in rural areas. However, County Zijin has a relatively tight fiscal position and cannot perform this duty well. Therefore, the basic education in rural areas can hardly be changed. Therefore, we should build a system of education investment focusing on the fiscal expenditures of provincial and municipal governments, and focus education funding on rural basic education, which is inherently deficient and has acquired a slow development in the day after tomorrow. At the same time, County Zijin government departments can raise funds for education in various ways. For example, they can encourage outstanding rural people to go out and contribute their money to rural basic education. They can also contact the authorities; enterprises and institutions in the Pearl River Delta to conduct rural education in this county help counterparts.

4.2 Strengthening the construction of qualified teachers, improving education quality

Education is the hope for the rejuvenation of Chinese nation, while the teacher is responsible for the revitalization of education. Improving basic education in the countryside can start from the following two aspects:

First, we should optimize the age structure of rural teachers and improve the average quality of rural teachers. Dismissing a portion of older unqualified rural teachers or encouraging them to retire ahead of schedule can make more young teachers join village teachers in order to achieve the goal of rural teachers' age structure optimization. At the same time, improving the remuner-

ation for new teachers with high academic qualifications and excellent comprehensive quality will encourage them to go to the countryside and improve the average quality of rural teachers.

Second, it is necessary to strengthen the training for rural teachers to improve their academic standards. Education department in the countryside should often organize rural teacher training, and the training should be targeted at professional knowledge, teaching method as well as advanced teaching ideas. In addition, teachers from rural schools are supposed to be organized every semester to communicate and study in the urban areas, so that they can return to their own schools and share their experiences with their colleagues.

4.3 Take effective measures to control the phenomenon of dropout

The high dropout rate of rural students in County Zijin is not conducive to the development of rural economy and modern agriculture in the long run. Therefore, the government ought to take necessary measures to control the phenomenon of dropout.

First, we should increase the publicity of education. Government departments should help raise the farmers' awareness of compulsory education to the level of law through television, radio, newspapers, network and other social media. Furthermore, Compulsory Education Law shall also be popularized. However, the publicity of education ought to be targeted at the promotion of staff from Education Department to the farmers. Only when staff goes into the village and give plain lectures can farmers change their attitude towards basic education and realize the important significance of education to the fate of children, the future of the family and the development of rural economy. After that, they will realize they should send their children to schools so that large quantities of children in the area can get educated.

Second, subsidy should be given to extremely poor families. In the poor mountainous areas of County Zijin, faced with labor shortage, there are many poor families living on less than 200 Yuan. Some subsidies should be given to these families by government. In addition to increasing their lowest living expenses every month, extra money should be given to children in the school.

On this basis, parents' motivation to send their children to school will improve and their children's desire to study will be enhanced.

Third, focus on the left-behind children education. Rural schools should give more attention to left-behind children. Besides, schools should also communicate with them more in daily life and know about their life, learning, interpersonal relationship so that feedbacks about students can be delivered to their parents. Once something happens, schools can come up with the solution with the help of parents.

4.4 change education concept and improve management level

County Zijin government departments has low level of management for rural basic education, leading to a unclear development direction for the rural basic education career, and teaching order chaos. Therefore, the county's basic education management level needs to be improved.

First of all, we should change the outdated concept of education. Government departments at the county level must eliminate the thought that "education is the task only for Education Departments and schools". Instead, it should realize the important role the rural basic education development plays in the new rural area construction. Setting clear goals reasonable plans and distributing resources to service are going to serve rural basic education better.

Secondly, we should reform the evaluation system of schools and teachers. To measure a school level and education quality, the focus should be on examining the balanced development of students' morality, intelligence and physique. The quality of education should be judged systematically. When judging a teacher's work, it is wrong to rely on the first impression. We can't take it for granted that teachers with higher education and long teaching age must teach better than other teachers. The atmosphere of the whole class and the feedback and reaction of students shall also be taken into consideration.

In addition, we must clarify the responsibilities and authorities of all parties. In promoting the development of basic education in rural areas, government departments at all levels should give full play to their enthusiasm and initiative, clarify

the responsibilities and management scope that their respective departments should share, and establish an effective supervision and feedback mechanism, which is to raise the rural foundations The key to education management level.

5.Epilogue

Building the new socialist countryside is an inevitable requirement of the development and construction of a harmonious society. It is also a practical measure for our party to solve the "three rural issues" in the new period, and an important part of building a well-off society in an all-round way. General secretary Xi Jinping said that the living conditions of the fellow villager is a key element to the well-being of the whole society. The education of contemporary farmers is of great significance in the construction of the new socialist countryside. It is the key to solve the "three rural issues" and the key to the problems in the rural areas in poor counties. Therefore, speeding up the development of rural cultural and educational undertakings in poor areas, paying attention to rural basic education, popularizing and consolidating the nine year compulsory education in rural areas are of great significance to the cultivation of new farmers, the development of new socialist countryside and the construction of a well-off society in an all-round way.

The present situation of rural basic education in Zijin County reflects the common problems in poverty-stricken counties, which has an important influence on the construction of new socialist countryside and the improvement of backward rural areas in poor areas. And it should be paid enough attention by the government and all circles of society. The local county government must keep pace with the times, regard the development of rural basic education as the key point of work, and invest more resources to the rural basic education, so as to promote the development of rural basic education. Rural schools should adhere to the school running philosophy of "all for the students, for all students", and strive to cultivate as many as possible the all-round development of students, in the hope that they can make a due contribution to the construction of new countryside in the future. The country teachers are the main body in the teaching work of rural schools. They should constantly improve their knowledge and teaching skills, and culti-

vate more qualified students. Country students should cherish the valuable education opportunities and try to change their fate with knowledge. Even if they are not able to get admission to the university, they can strive to be qualified farmers under the contemporary cultural ideology. Social organizations, authorities, private enterprises and other social sectors should also actively participate in the great cause of promoting the development of rural basic education.

We firmly believe that as long as the poor counties work together for the development of rural basic education, it will achieve considerable and sustainable development, and make important contributions to the construction of new socialist countryside.

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