

NIES hosts the First "Academic Brainstorming Forum"

The first "Academic Brainstorming Forum" was hosted on July 23, 2020. Speakers exchanged opinions with participating researchers on frontier academic outcomes in their respective research areas. The forum was organized by the Department of Research Administration. More than 70 staff members, post-doc researchers and visiting scholars attended this meeting.

Peng Niya, research assistant from the Research Center for Educational Development and Reform, presented a paper entitled "How does education play a role in anti-poverty?" showing how education facilitates economic growth. As a result of the increase of income for population in poverty, education could be employed as an anti-poverty strategy.



Li Jianmin, associate researcher from the Research Center for Basic Education, presented a paper entitled "How would the development of high school education be in the post-popularization era" in which she elaborated on the definition, value selection, current situation, methods of reform, and evaluation of high school education in the post-popularization era. As she puts it, high school education should give first priority to the principle of being student-centered and being non-utilitarian, and achieve connotative development through reform of cultivation.

Weng Qiuyi, research assistant from the Research Center for Higher Education, presented a paper entitled "Will entrepreneurship lead to higher returns to education?" and analyzed the rate of returns to education and people from different educational backgrounds with different levels of income via qualitative and quantitative research methods.

Yang Yingdong, research assistant from the Research Center for Curriculum and Pedagogy, presented a paper entitled "The direction and method of curriculum reform in the new era" and suggesting that curriculum reform in the new era could be considered as model revolution. The process of establishing a new paradigm instead of the old one indicates that the classroom, school and community could be regarded as small, medium and large classes.

Liu Yujuan, associate researcher from the Research Center for Moral Education, Psychology and Special Education, presented a paper entitled "National identity education for adolescents" analysing the characteristics, formation mechanism, and influence factors of national identity education for adolescents from a psychological perspective, and suggests that it aligns with the stability of national development.

Wang Xiaoning, associate researcher from the Research Center for International Comparative Education, presented a paper entitled the "Chinese experience of suspending classes without stopping learning in 2020" and analyzed sampled data collected from 31 provinces, sharing experience for the rest of the world to draw on.

NIES Hosts “Cornerstone Cloud Talk” Series of Lectures on Basic Education

The Research Center for Basic Education in NIES has established the on-line platform of “Cornerstone Cloud Talk” through thematic lectures, academic exchange, and training sessions focusing on significant policies, theoretical and practical issues related to the development of basic education with the involvement of principals from well-known primary and secondary schools as well as experts. This aligns with the requirements of “Frontline Rules” proposed by the Party Group of Ministry of Education, the requirements of frontline principals and teachers, and the development of education research in the post-pandemic era.



The on-line platform aims at innovative methods for talent cultivation, practical exploration of running schools by means of collectivization, and research on opportunities and challenges encountered by basic education under the “Strengthening Basic Discipline Program” during the pandemic. Five seminars have been organized by inviting principals and experts in relevant areas such as Liu Xiya, principal of Xiejiawan Primary School in Chongqing; Gao Chen, principal of Northeast Yucai School; Wang Dianjun, principal of Tsinghua University High School; Wang Xiaoyang, Professor from Capital Normal University; and Liu Yuanzhao, former principal of Suzhou No. 10 High School in Jiangsu Province. In addition, principals and teachers from experiment zones of NIES in Guangzhou and Ningbo are also involved.

The “Cornerstone Cloud Talk” platform emphasizes education research, problem-solving and mutual sharing with a forward-looking and macroscopic perspective. It aims at advancing the development of research in basic education by recognizing the importance of experts, principals and teachers in teaching practice. Positive feedback has been received from participants regarding the events organized by the platform, which helps improve the quality of education reform in schools, is considered as an effective way of grasping a general picture of the development of basic education in China.

Small-scale Rural Schools Respond to the Big Test of Pandemic

A research group of the NIES has carried out a survey on teachers of small-scale rural schools (with less than 100 students) in various parts of China. The survey covers eight districts or counties in eastern, central and western regions. A total of 1,506 valid questionnaires were collected. Some district and county teaching and research staff, principals of central primary schools, as well as principals and teachers of small-scale rural schools were interviewed. The researchers summarized problems faced by small-scale rural schools, analyzed their countermeasures during the covid-19 pandemic, and provided suggestions to open up the road to transformation of quality improvement in the context of "Internet plus" at small-scale rural schools.

On-line teaching shows a good momentum of development

The survey shows that nearly 90% of students in small-scale rural schools have participated in on-line teaching through the overall arrangement of the government to ensure the informatization conditions for on-line learning of students in small-scale rural schools. The main methods of on-line teaching are assignment and feedback of homework, and unified viewing of courses on national or regional platforms. More than 70% of teachers interacted with students almost every day, mainly through WeChat; nearly 70% of teachers visited students at home to deeply understand the students' learning situation. Nearly 60% of parents could stay with their children to study on line, and the proportion of parent availability is higher than ever before. More than 90% of the teachers participated in different forms of teaching and research activities, and received corresponding support and guidance.

On-line learning encounters prominent difficulties

The lack of students' autonomous learning ability has become the biggest difficulty for teachers to carry out teaching activities. The difficulty in checking students' learning at home has become the main reason affecting the quality of students' on-line learning. The guidance for returning to school is in place, but students' learning habits need to be re-cultivated, and the dilemma of home-school co-education has become the biggest difficulty faced by teachers and school practice.

The development trend of the post-pandemic era

- Improve the development and promotion of appropriate and high-quality education resources.
- Attach great importance to the improvement of information literacy of teachers and students.
- Further strengthen the guidance of teaching and learning methods.
- Enhance the guidance of family education.

