A Survey Research on the Current Status of Moral and Civic Education in Lower Secondary Schools in Macau

Chan Tak Chio

Master in Curriculum Design and Management, Faculty of Education
University of Macau

Abstract

The aim of this research is to do a survey of moral and civic education in Macau lower secondary schools. Through probing into the current situation of moral and civic education in Macau, issues regarding the structure, resources, purposes, topics, contact hours, approaches, methods, channels, teaching materials and difficulties were explored. The findings were used to enhance a more complete and effective moral and civic education in Macau. A sample was taken from schools adopting Chinese, British and Sino-Portuguese curriculum (excluding Portuguese, Canadian and international schools). Questionnaires were distributed to 34 schools, with 21 completed questionnaires collected, rendering the response rate 61.8%.

In this research, results were mainly obtained from questionnaire analysis. Data related to moral and civic education was collected and analysed to explore the difficulties encountered, so as to raise suggestions for improvement. In order to collect deeper data not covered in the questionnaire, interviews based on the questionnaire were conducted with 10 schools.

Data collected from the questionnaires were converted to percentage for analysis, and the main findings were as follow:

(1) Each school has an individual moral and civic education subject, and individual teachers to teach this subject.
(2) Teaching resource is limited, and most teachers are untrained to teach this subject.
(3) Each school promotes diversified moral and civic education.
(4) Lecturing is the main medium; practice is neglected.
(5) Morals, ethics and personal development are emphasized, whereas other characters are neglected.

(6) Limitation in teaching resources and materials is a difficulty encountered frequently.
(7) Most schools believed that their targets match with that of the government.
(8) Informal lessons were encouraged to promote moral and civic education.

In accordance with the findings in this research, the following suggestions for improvement in moral and civic education are proposed:

(1) Provide short term and long term training to raise the quality of teaching in Civic and Moral Education, and establish specialized teaching.
(2) Strengthen co-operation, co-ordination and communication in the subject and improve teaching method.
(3) Re-organize the curriculum in moral and civic education, and re-adjust the proportion of each component in the subject.
(4) Increase resources allocated to moral and civic education.
(5) Strengthen the role of 'Civic and Moral Education'.

Keyword: moral and civic education, Macau, lower secondary school