

Abstract

This paper presents some empirical results and recommendations of a study examining the development of school-based curriculum in the high schools of Macau. With a sample which is composed of a group of high school teachers in Macau, this study aims to investigate the relationship between the different aspects of teachers, such as their awareness, attitude, academic background, teaching experience as well as the courses taught, and their participation in the development of school-based curriculum in schools. Besides, attempts are also made to study the interrelationships between such factors, for instance, the amount of time, the number of people as well as the types of activities involved in the process, which may affect the school-based curriculum development in the high schools of Macau.

The major findings of the study can be summarized briefly as follows:

- The level of participation in curriculum development is higher for those teachers with more teaching experience.
- The professional background of teachers is neither significantly related to their confidence in participating the curriculum development in schools nor their level of involvement in such development.
- The teachers of some relatively newly developed courses seem to take more part in the activities relating to curriculum development in schools.
- There seems to be lack of involvement of teachers in high schools' curriculum development. Rather, the participants are mainly those administrative heads from schools, such as the school principal and the course coordinators, etc.
- There is no significant involvement on the part of students, parents or the general public in curriculum development.
- The participation in the curriculum-related activities will positively affect those teachers in carrying out related jobs in future.
- Most teachers do not have a clear idea towards school-based curriculum development.

In general, the school-based curriculum development in Macau is just a beginning. To advance the progress of such development in Macau, it is important to provide the teachers with appropriate training programs and at the same time, strengthen the idea of democracy in carrying out the development.