

An action research on the integration of news issues into the teaching of Morals and  
Civics in a secondary school

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**Abstract**

This research aims at the integration of news for moral and civic education. The use of news can solve the timing problem usually met by prescribed use of textbook, increasing the class interaction and improving teaching efficiency.

The method of action research is adopted in this study. News is used as part of the materials for the moral and civic classes. The sample included 5 classes of Form 3 students in a Macau public school. They were observed for one term. Information extracted from teacher's diary, students' worksheet, examination, questionnaire, interviews and other teacher's observation made assessment of the implementation of news in lesson planning possible.

The researcher found that the use of news to create teaching situations would strengthen "operational curriculum". It should be a good opportunity for "null curriculum" to be preserved in moral and civic education.

Research made use of Stenhouse's process model to increase the interaction between teacher and students. Meanwhile, this model was used to evaluate the implementation of the curriculum and therefore the integration of news issues into moral and civic education was found to embrace meanings, potentials, interests, conditions and interpretations.

The main findings are shown as follows:

**Conclusions:**

**I. Curriculum design**

1. This lesson planning based on a school-based curriculum concept. It aims for satisfy both the needs of the school and students.
2. The lesson planning of this research expects to get use of immediate and factual characteristics of news for classes discussions in situated learning.
3. Students were required to explore news related to topics autonomously.
4. Unexpected news were used
5. Newspapers and TV broadcasting such as TV news programmes were used.
6. Discussing news which showed precious human morality in our lesson planning could impress students.

## **II. Curriculum implementation**

1. Exercising a democratic and self-disciplined class management mode.
2. Reserving time for sudden news in order to increase teaching flexibility.
3. Teacher acted as a catalyst of students' learning, by questioning a given situation in multiple perspectives, and clarifying values participants assumed.
4. Researcher found that "News has to be transformed by the teachers in the process of teaching."
5. In using the touching materials, teacher should try to impress the students and should instruct them to think rationally.
6. The teaching process should emphasize practical usage in the real world and help students learn how to make appropriate judgement.

## **Suggestions:**

### **I. Suggestions for teaching studies**

1. Developing other models of using news for teaching materials.
2. Promoting the use of news as teaching materials in Macau secondary schools.
3. Researcher should carry out more circular researches.

### **II. Suggestions for educational backup**

1. "Teachers' resource centre" should help teachers to record TV news and keep files.
2. Workshops about using news as in teaching materials of moral and civic education should be provided.
3. Macau schools should support the use of news as teaching materials in moral and civic education.
4. Strengthening the cooperation between parents and schools.
5. News can be shown in the canteen/school hall during lunch time. A newspaper board can be set up.

**Key words:** moral and civic education 、 news 、 integration of news issues 、 teaching action research 、 process model