

Abstract

Early Childhood is an important stage in the growth of a human being. However, it is always being ignored. "Not to interrupt" is the policy of the Government of Macao towards the pre-school education. Under this circumstance, there are big differences between the qualities of the kindergartens in Macao. Therefore, an overall review and evaluation of the current early childhood education and the policies and regulations related to it is a necessity. The result of this review may be able to give advice or suggestions for the development of the regulations about the early childhood education, and improve and encourage the development of its quality.

The methods adopted in this research are essays and theses review and using questionnaires. In addition, some educators of early childhood education were interviewed. The purpose to review the imposition of regulations and laws of education is to explain that education plays an important role in the development of a society. The imposition of laws and regulations towards the orientations and purposes of education can provide guidelines for the environmental development of education and the internal administration.

The trend of early childhood education in advanced countries are to strengthen the "Overall" education of children, extend the opportunity of childhood education, use active learning program, strengthen the professional knowledge of teachers, encourage and promote education with parents' involvement, develop the scientific research of childhood education, promote the recent educational technology. Moreover, this essay bases on the educational regulations, the current conditions and experiences in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan to review the good and bad of the early childhood education in Macao. Six items will be divided from the current situation and imposition of regulations in Macao and are as the followings: the organizations of early childhood education, curriculums, teacher, equipment and facilities, service items and evaluations. Compare, discuss and examine the circumstance that may be occurred in the process of kindergarten education and the current regulations related to education. Therefore, the differences between the imposition of regulations and the reality can be observed, and the causes of these differences can also be examined at the same time.

The result of this research shows that some regulations related to the pre-school education are not followed by people, some are not enforced, and some are unable to follow. Macau can learn from the regulations of advanced countries, China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. In conclusion, the result of this research focus on the problems of pre-school education and possible regulations for future development, and the following suggestions are concluded from this research: .

(1) Renovate the unreasonable regulations and policies:

- (i) The pre-school education should be included in the voluntary education;
- (ii) Setting a reasonable ratio between numbers of teachers and students;
- (iii) Study and develop localize teaching materials;
- (iv) Re-evaluate which language(s) that students should learn;
- (v) Resources for public and private schools should be reasonable distributed;
- (vi) Setting a standard of facilities should be included in each kindergarten;
- (vii) Improve the functions of pre-school education;
- (viii) Setting a policy for pre-school evaluation

(2) Promote the implementation of reasonable policies and regulations:

- (i) Re-evaluated curriculums, develop new programs of childhood active curriculums and teaching method;
- (ii) Recognize the concept of "Overall Education"; reduce mechanical writing activities,
- (iii) Implement the evaluation systems of childhood education which have been concluded, and alter the ones that are not fully developed;
- (iv) The closely related regulations of private and public kindergartens should be implemented accordingly.

(3) The professional development of pre-school educators:

- (i) encourage teachers enrolling in training programs to further promote their professional development;
- (ii) the administrators of kindergarten should have similar professional training;
- (iii) establish professional regulations for pre-school educators;
- (iv) strengthen the administration of pre-school education and further promote the pre-school education industry