Research on the Optimization of Short-term Teaching Effect

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Abstract: This article uses research methods based on quantitative analysis and supplemented by qualitative analysis. Samples of students enrolled in the summer support summer camp conducted by Zhanghua Middle School from July 3 to July 16, 2017, in Yihua Zhijiao Mission were taken as samples. In March 2018, the school was revisited to conduct a post-test and organize this survey report. Qualitative and quantitative description and analysis of the impact of learning enthusiasm on students’ characteristics, personal characteristics of teachers, and classroom teaching methods. Based on summarizing the practical results of the summer camp of the Yihua School Mission, it attempts to summarize the influencing factors that affect the enthusiasm of learning of students in the township and middle schools and explores the optimal path of short-term education for college students in order to provide a reference for the campus education team.

1. Introduction

In recent years, supporting education has gradually become an essential way for college students to participate in social practice. In response to the country's "Three into the Country" campaign, many college student teams use the winter and summer vacations to carry out various types of educational activities actively. Due to time, economic, and regional constraints, these teams are often formed on an ad hoc basis, and teaching activities are often carried out in the form of short-term teaching.

Most of the researches on short-term support education is about the current situation, causes, effects, existing problems and countermeasures of short-term support education, to the training, organization, ability, expectation of volunteers, and the comparison between urban and rural short-term support. The situation of supporting education itself is complicated, and related research is not sufficient to study the learning motivation and curriculum design of students in township middle schools between urban and rural areas.

This study will be based on the unique characteristics of Yihua Zhijiao Mission and Zhangdian Middle School in Zhangdian Village, Xinzhou District, Wuhan. The questionnaire survey method, on-site observation method, and unstructured interview method will be used to study the enthusiasm of students in township middle schools. And the optimization of short-term teaching effect for college students.

2. Research Background

2.1 Education background

2.1.1 Respond to the Social Practice Activities of the "Three into The Country"

In the early 1980s, the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League for the first time called on college students across the country to carry out " Three into the Country " social practice activities in the summer, and then gradually launched in colleges and universities. Today, it has become an essential way for colleges and universities to exercise students' social practice capabilities. Education support activities are of considerable significance to improve the overall quality of college students and promote the development of compulsory education in support areas [1]. Education support activities are an essential part of the "Three into
the Country" social practice, aiming to bring excellent educational resources to the countryside. In the past few years, many college students have received tangible insights and improvements in teaching activities. The “Big Hands and Little Hands” charity team of Huazhong University of Science and Technology, which is also a Wuhan University, has achieved significant results and concerns [2].

As a latecomer and learner, in response to the slogan of "Three into the Country," the Yihua Foundation of Hubei Charity Federation formed a teaching team. Zhangdian Middle School launched a two-week short-term teaching support activity, and in March 2018, conducted related research on the issue of short-term teaching support.

2.1.2 Short-Term Support Is Controversial

Against the background of uneven distribution of educational resources and the country's strong support for educational activities, Central China Normal University, as a regular university directly under the Ministry of Education, has always been a leader in supporting education. In addition to some official support activities, there are also many support activities from voluntary associations and volunteer teams established by students. However, due to the constraints of objective factors, most teams usually adopt short-term support education to carry out support activities. Some results have been obtained in the process of support education, and there are also many problems. These include the lack of experience and effective management mechanisms in most student organizations and societies, the excessive mobility of volunteers, the inability to form a stable service system, and the lack of teaching quality [3]. It can also be seen from the fact that this kind of activity accepted and respected by rural children and parents has its practical significance and value [4, 5]. As a relatively particular social group, college students show apparent advantages and disadvantages in supporting educational activities. As long as the existing shortcomings are properly guided, the experience and lessons can be summarized, and continuous progress can be made. The improvement and promotion of rural primary education and the promotion of benign and sustainable development of short-term education activities [6] are a useful supplement to the current imbalance in education.

As one of the many short-term support teams, Yihua Support Group deeply realized that short-term support for college students should find a scientific model, and selected local schools in Hubei and Zhangdian Middle School with moderate living conditions as targets for short-term support. Find a scientific model of short-term support.

2.2 Thinking and Exploring

There are many problems with the short-term teaching of college students, and a single teaching team cannot change these problems. In this process of teaching, issues such as the teaching method adopted, the rationality of team formation, the experience and inspiration of short-term teaching activities, and improving the effectiveness of short-term teaching are worth exploring. Interest is one of the greatest motivations for learning. After the team's thinking and discussion, this article will start from the perspective of Zhangdian Middle School students' learning enthusiasm, carry out exploration and research, and summarize this educational activity.

2.3 Research Methods

2.3.1 Research Object

We take the students who participated in the summer camp of Yihua Support Group as the research object and analyze the data collected through self-made questionnaires and interviews to study the enthusiasm for learning of township middle school students and the optimization of short-term support for college students.

2.3.2 Research Ideas and Purposes

Based on the final data of the questionnaire, combined with volunteer observation diaries and volunteer teachers' self-reflection after class, the students were surveyed and compared with their
participation in the summer camp before and after the summer camp. The primary purpose was to investigate the enthusiasm of students for learning, and on this basis, explore the short-term teaching support optimization model to provide teaching experience for similar support activities in the future.

2.3.3 Data Collection Method

This paper uses a combination of quantitative methods and qualitative methods, through the quantitative analysis of the content of the questionnaire and the analysis of the observations and interviews, the research results are finally obtained. In the actual operation process, issue questionnaires to students to collect data about their learning. In the process of supporting education, through family interviews, learn more about the student's family environment and member relationships to supplement the completeness of the information, and at the same time, volunteer individuals also record and organize daily observation diaries about classroom teaching and student learning status, and conduct comprehensive surveys from the perspective of guest and theme.

(1) Literature Research

We first collected and collated the existing related research. Then based on the summary of existing teaching problems and the analysis of existing strategies, this research activity was carried out to draw on existing research experience and ask new questions.

(2) Questionnaire Survey

The survey mainly used the form of self-filled questionnaires, and the survey objects included volunteer teachers and students from Zhangdian Middle School. The survey of volunteers is mainly timely feedback of the classroom situation in the process of supporting education and aims to collect relevant data from the perspective of volunteer subjectivity. The survey of local students mainly includes the needs survey before the start of support education, as well as the collection of data on the survey of students' enthusiasm for learning in Zhangdian Middle School, and analysis of the factors that affect the enthusiasm of students in Zhangdian Middle School. In the course of the summer camp, each class will have a particular observer to record the teacher's teaching status, students' class status, etc. for daily meeting summary, and make appropriate amendments and improvements to the teacher's teaching arrangements. After the summer camp, students fill out the "Investigation on the Learning Enthusiasm of the Summer Camp of the Yihua Branch of Zhangdian Middle School Students" to compare and analyze the pretest and observe the difference between the pretest and posttest.

(3) Unstructured Interview

In the process of supporting education, the research team followed the homeroom teacher to conduct family interviews (mainly typical cases, all-round) to prevent students from self-marginalization (parents leave). Besides, the survey members also interviewed volunteer teachers during teaching.

(4) Field Observation

During the process of supporting education, volunteers made field trips to and records of the local area.

2.4 Data Analysis Method

We mainly use SPSS statistical software for quantitative analysis of the collected data and conduct a qualitative analysis of relevant content as appropriate.

3. Research Results

This study mainly used the self-filled questionnaire method and on-site observation method to understand the basic situation of students in Zhangdian Middle School in Xinzhou District, Wuhan City. The students' enthusiasm for learning was analyzed from the perspectives of school, family, peer group, etc.; The comparison of the summer camp before and after the group attempts to describe the main factors that affect the enthusiasm of students in Zhangdian Middle School and to
explore the ways to optimize the short-term teaching effect of college students. The data are from a survey conducted by the Yihua Summer Support Group from March 19th to March 24th, 2018. In the pre-test questionnaire “Investigation on the learning enthusiasm of students in Zhangdian Middle School,” the sample size was 67. During the actual survey, 67 valid questionnaires were recovered, and the recovery rate was 100%. In the post-test questionnaire "Survey on the enthusiasm of students in the summer camp of Yihua Branch of Zhangdian Middle School," the sample size was 67, and 64 valid questionnaires were recovered, with a recovery rate of 95.52%.

3.1 Necessary Information of the Sample

The sample comes from the students in the eighth grade and the ninth grade who have voluntarily signed up for the summer camp of the Yihua Branch of Zhangdian Middle School. Considering the voluntary factors, the sample situation can only represent the overall situation of Zhangdian Middle School to a certain extent. The comparative analysis of the test found that this did not affect the effect of investigating and supporting education.

Table 1 Basic information of sample students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistical indicators</th>
<th>Statistical dimension</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Quasi-eighth grade</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>53.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quasi-ninth grade</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>46.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>32.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>64.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades Ranking</td>
<td>Top five</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Six to ten</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>44.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eleven to twenty</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>23.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Twenty-one to thirty</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thirty-one and above</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As can be seen from Table 1, among the students participating in the summer camp of Yihua Branch, the proportion of students in the quasi-eighth grade is relatively large, with 36 people, accounting for 53.73%, and 31 students in the quasi-ninth grade, accounting for 46.27%. Grade students are more enthusiastic about learning and are more interested in such summer camps. In terms of the ratio of men and women, the number of girls is almost twice that of boys, indicating that there is a clear gender difference in whether to choose to participate in summer camps.

Judging from the usual performance rankings, almost half of the students who chose to participate in the Summer Camp of Yihua Branch were ranked in the sixth to tenth place. It is followed by eleventh to twenty, accounting for 23.88% of the total sample, which is not much different from the number of students in the top five (20.90%). Relatively few students are in the 21st to 30th and 31st and above classmates, accounting for 8.96% and 1.49%. We speculate that students with middle-to-high grades are more willing to participate in summer camps to improve their academic performance. However, students with relatively high grades may have their own set of learning methods and do not place their hopes on such summer camps. The students with low grades have no enthusiasm for learning and are unwilling to participate.
As can be seen from the above picture, according to the sample students' self-evaluation, the personality characteristics of the students who participated in the summer camp of Yihua Branch were: outgoing enthusiasm, calmness, approachability, generosity, and introversion. There are relatively few introverted and shy students, which is in line with our general impression of students in township and middle schools: honest, warm and approachable.

### Table 2 Basic household conditions of the sample

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistical indicators</th>
<th>Statistical dimension</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permanent residence</td>
<td>City</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Town</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Countryside</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>94.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left-behind situation</td>
<td>Parents are out</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Only father is out</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>26.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Only mother outside</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parents are local</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>50.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of brothers and sisters</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>62.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 and up</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As can be seen from the above table, most of the sample students live in the village near Zhangdian Middle School, and only a few live in towns. In terms of left-behind situation, the number of left-behind students is almost the same as the number of non-left-behind students. The number of non-left-behind children is slightly higher, accounting for 50.75% of the total sample. Among the left-behind children, most of them work only with their fathers, accounting for 26.87% of the total sample, followed by 13.43% of the parents of students who work outside the country, and only 6% of the sample students work only with their mothers. Judging from the number of siblings in the family, most of the sample students have two children at home, accounting for 62.69% of the total sample. In addition, 20.9% of students are only children, and the proportion of children with three or more children in the family is about 16%.

### 3.2 Sample Learning

Below, we compare and analyze the original situation of the sample in Zhangdian Middle School and the situation after participating in the Summer Camp of Yihua Branch, and describe the change of the sample.

1. **Comparison of Learning Methods**
From Figure 2, we know that the original situation of Zhangdian Middle School was that when most of the respondents encountered problems, the first choice was to consult with their classmates and discuss them together. Followed by independent attempts to complete and ask the teacher, but there is a large gap between the number of students and the classmates, only two students to the parents, but no students choose to give up.

We conducted a cross-analysis on whether to ask the teacher and the academic performance rankings and found that of the 7 students who asked the teacher, 5 of them were in the top 5 and the remaining 6 to 10 and 11 to 20 each had a classmate. We speculate that students who are willing to ask the teacher have greater enthusiasm for learning, have received more guidance from the teacher, and generally have better grades.

Besides, in the learning of the summer camp, there are apparent differences in the learning methods adopted by students when they encounter difficulties. This is mainly reflected in the fact that the number of students seeking advice from teachers has doubled from 7 to 14. At the same time, the number of students who asked for classmates was reduced from 56 to 44. The remaining options did not change significantly. We speculate that there are two reasons: one is that the summer camp's class method stimulates students' enthusiasm for learning, and the other is that the personality characteristics of the summer camp teachers have attracted students and made them more enthusiastic about participating in learning.

(2) Comparison of Enthusiasm for Learning

When it comes to "what do you think of the enthusiasm of the students around me," the
proportion of very enthusiastic in the pre-test questionnaire is only 10.45%, which is far less than 41.79% after participating in the summer camp. Generally, students who cannot see the heat and enthusiasm have dropped from 20.90% in the previous test to 2.99% after participating in the summer camp, that is, there are only two students, which can be almost ignored. It shows that the teaching model in the summer camp of the Yihua branch can significantly improve the learning enthusiasm of the sample students.

Based on the above research results, we can draw the following conclusions:

(a) Basic Information for Students

The students in Zhangdian Middle School are quite polarized, and most of them have a low grade and do not have a high enthusiasm for learning. Most of the personality characteristics of the students participating in the summer camp are extroverted, calm and approachable, which is in line with our general impression of students in township and middle schools: enthusiastic and straightforward and approachable. At the same time, nearly 60% of the students have two siblings in their homes and both left-behind and non-left-behind account for about half.

(b) Discussion on the Factors Affecting Students' Enthusiasm for Learning

(1) Students' Characteristics Will Affect Their Enthusiasm for Learning

Compared to prospective ninth-graders, prospective eighth-graders are more enthusiastic about learning, have a greater curiosity about new knowledge, and are more interested in our summer camp activities. Girls have a higher enthusiasm for learning than boys, and boys may be more inclined to choose other types of activities during the summer vacation. At the same time, students who took the initiative to ask the teacher for their studies had a significantly higher enthusiasm for learning. After getting guidance from the teacher, their grades were generally better.

(2) Students' Academic Performance Will Affect Their Enthusiasm for Learning

The students with the highest rankings will have their learning methods and are not willing to take the initiative to participate in the summer camp activities. The students with the middle or higher rankings are very eager to improve their academic performance and show a high enthusiasm for the summer camp activities. Students with lower rankings have lower enthusiasm for learning activities.

4. Conclusion

Although this article uses the case of Yihua Support Group in Zhangdian Middle School to analyze students' enthusiasm for learning and summarizes the more successful methods in short-term support from the support location, member composition, curriculum arrangement and overall planning, due to the investigation process, there is a lack of observation and research on the control group, and whether the overall conclusions and teaching methods can be generalized to other teaching teams remains to be tested and observed.

There are also many problems in the process of supporting education, especially the problem of dealing with the emotional separation between some students and teachers. Fortunately, no accidents occurred. Thanks to the full cooperation of the school and teachers and students of Zhangdian Middle School, the Yihua Support Group will continue to pay attention to the problems related to the support of university students and continue to explore the optimal solution for the support of university students.

References


