

A Study on High School Teachers' Implementation for Character and Civic Education Between Taiwan and the UK

Yen-Hsin Chen

If the adolescents could be well prepared with good moral character and civic literacy, they could profoundly contribute to the schools and their professional careers in the future. The Taiwan Government has tried to integrate the moral and civic element as one of the key competencies into the Guidelines for the 12-Year Basic Education Curricula. To achieve this, the teacher definitely is the key person for such implementation. However, how could it be certain that teachers in junior high school do perform this role satisfactorily? This study tried to investigate this through an island-wide research on teachers' view, using the framework applied by the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues in University of Birmingham. The data collected were from a semi-structured questionnaire and interview, conducted in 21 different schools, upon the 41 teachers with diverse backgrounds and characteristics.

This study aimed to understand the teachers' views on their teaching autonomy, practice of moral teaching, and the supports from their school administrations. The findings were as following. First, both the teachers in Taiwan and Britain emphasized the importance of character and moral education; however, Taiwan teachers had some disagreements on the concepts of character and virtues. Secondly, the Taiwan teachers expressed that they had some levels of teaching autonomy, but they also worried about the current examination system, which had some negative influences on the adolescents' development. Thirdly, Taiwan teachers expressed that they adopted moral teaching from diverse dimensions, but they also worried about that many parents have been less responsible and the media attribute with a high rate of negative influence. Finally, the participants interviewed also mentioned that the supports from the school administrations and colleagues, as well as the moral environment in the community, were very helpful for their moral teaching.

Keywords: character and moral education, civic education, character education in the UK, the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues