



Higher Education of Social Science
Vol. 10, No. 5, 2016, pp. 28-30
DOI:10.3968/8456

ISSN 1927-0232 [Print]
ISSN 1927-0240 [Online]
www.cscanada.net
www.cscanada.org

Safety Education Courses in Chinese Education System

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Supported by Project of Humanities and Social Science Fund of Jiangsu University of Science and Technology (2014JG139J); Project of Education and Teaching Reform Fund of Jiangsu University of Science and Technology (GX20111034).

Received 16 February 2016; accepted 19 April 2016

Published online 26 May 2016

Abstract

At present, school security in China is a problem with huge quantity, great variety and serious consequences. The problem includes disaster, accident calamity, public welfare event, public hygiene event and personal psychological problem. High incidence of security problem reflects the absence of safety education in various types of schools at various levels. The advices are given as following: (a) Education system of Chinese schools should offer safety education courses; (b) A relatively well-developed system of safety education in Chinese school should be established; (c) Laws and regulations related to safety should be carried out certainly.

Key words: School; Safety education; Education system

Meng, F., & Fei, Y. (2016). Safety Education Courses in Chinese Education System. *Higher Education of Social Science*, 10(5), 28-30. Available from: URL: <http://www.cscanada.net/index.php/hess/article/view/8456>
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3968/8456>

INTRODUCTION

The essence of safety is to predict the inherent dangers and potential hazards in human behavior areas, and it is

a method, means or behavior to avoid the dangers and hazards, among which public safety is always the focus of the society. Over the past decade, incidents that endangered public safety were happened frequently in China, including not only natural disasters such as Wenchuan earthquake, SARS, H1N1, but also man-made calamity such as attacking school and kindergarten, kidnapping students, teachers, parents, and even killing them. Knowing how to improve the ability to deal with emergencies is a good strategy to prevent and reduce the loss. It goes without saying that safety education and raising awareness of self-protection in the education system is of great importance where minors gather, learn knowledge and improve abilities. This paper argues about the present situation of Chinese school safety, aimed at exploring the necessity of offering safety education courses which are suitable for the Chinese situation in the education system. At present, not many similar studies can be found in China.

1. CURRENT SITUATION ABOUT SECURITY IN CHINESE SCHOOL

As a palace to impart knowledge and cultivate talents, school should be sacred and safe. However, now the school's security in China is a constant problem and even getting worse. It specifically performs in several aspects. (a) Huge quantity. According to the research in Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai and other 10 provinces conducted by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Public Security, China Children's Press & Publication Group and other units, about 16,000 students were died of unnatural causes every year in average and about 40 students per day (Xinhua Internet); (b) Great variety. The problem ranges from single fight to serious crime; (c) Serious consequences. The ability of self-protection of minors in school is limit. Once incident happened, it has bad influence on society and causes physical and psychological harm, even for their whole life.

According to the nature that leads to the security incidents, security problems can be divided into five aspects. (a) Caused by natural disasters, such as Wenchuan earthquake that led to great loss to life safety of teachers and students in school; (b) Caused by accidents, such as Yin Xuemei, a teacher of Jiangsu Changzhou primary school, saved many students' lives but died in the traffic accident; (c) Caused by social welfare events, for example 28 children were killed in the kindergarten that was in Su Zhou Baiyun Street in 2004; (d) Caused by public hygiene event, for example 39 students got food poisoning in Anhui Foreign Language University in March 2010; (e) Caused by the low mental health, such as the shocking events that Ma Jiajue, a student of Yunnan University, killed four classmates in 2004, and a student killed his teacher in Linchuan Second Middle School that is a key school in Jiangxi province in 2013.

Of course, different school has different idea about school's security in China. A major earthquake with 8.0 Richter scales jolted Wenchuan County which is located in Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture of Sichuan province at 02:28 p.m on May 12th, 2012. It caused 87,149 deaths and 374,643 people were hurt, with another 17,923 missing. Most of them were students who were the future of China. When the earthquake happened, it was the right time to have class for teachers and students. School usually paid close attention to the study of students and students knew little about how to escape from an earthquake, which led to panic of students and teachers, unordered escape and total mess. Many teachers sacrificed themselves to protect students. A number of students didn't escape in time and mutual aid was taken badly. It gave us a painful lesson. However, there was a normal middle school called Sangzao Middle School in Sangzao town, which is located in An county, Mianyang, Sichuan Province. It is a rural middle school affiliated to the education committee of An county. This school was founded in 1974 and built in more than 10,000 square meters areas. There were 31 classes, 2,323 students and 178 staffs. It was in this rural school that no one was hurt in the Wenchuan earthquake. Since the principal of the school took charge of the school, he had been worried about the newly built laboratory building. This building was built without formal construction company in the mid-1980s and had been built for more than 2 years off and on. Stair railing was tumbledown in the building at that time. The plank crack was filled with cement packing rather than cement, and the load-bearing column was substandard. Faced with the flashy building, the principal began to repair and reinforce since 1997. In addition, the principal organized an emergency evacuation drill every semester in school since 2005. The school provided that every class had fixed evacuation routes, every two classes must share one stair and the class must be arranged in a single row. When they arrived at the playground, each class had the fixed place to stand. There was even a rule about how to evacuate in the classroom. It

was required that students in second and third floor should run faster to prevent from blockage of escape routes, while students in fourth and fifth floor should run slower to avoid causing abortion backlog. Teachers also had something to do when there was emergency evacuation. They were asked to stand on the corner of each floor's stair because students were most likely to fall down here. If a kid fell down, the teacher as an adult had been able to pick the kid up to prevent him from being trod. Besides emergency evacuation, in spare time, the principal often inspected the evacuation situation of students and checked whether the teachers were in the corner of each floor's stair when there was a maximum flow in teaching building. He also required that every student should take the class and receive safety education every Tuesday in which teachers passed on knowledge about traffic safety, dietetic hygiene and so on. On the day of earthquake, teachers and students were safely evacuated as usual in skilled way. Owe to multiple excises, more than 2,300 students and teachers from different teaching buildings and classrooms all rushed to the playground and stood in form of class. The whole process just cost 1 minute and 36 seconds. The most tragic place was Beichuan close to the A County where the school located. After knowing the earthquake, the principal rushed to the school. What he saw was that buildings outside the school were completely damaged and eight buildings in school partially collapsed which became dangerous buildings. The laboratory building he worried and had repaired for many years did not collapse. And his students, those 11-year-old to 15-year-old children, stood together tightly on the playground with their teachers standing on the outermost layer. It is the difference between taking the safety education and not. Also, it is a lesson paid for with blood.

Nowadays, high incidence of security incident reflects several problems in Chinese security education in various types of schools at various levels. The problems are as follows. (a) Public emergency escape education is not enough. Such as the stumbled accident which was caused by crowd push in Chongqing Youyang Zhongduo Middle School on 30th October 2002 happened when about 700 students were going down the stairs at the same time. In this accident, 5 people were died and 40 people were injured. On 14th November 2008, four students who were studying in Shanghai Business School were died of jumping from building in the fire. Both of them indicated the absence of common sense in dealing with emergency. (b) The safety education to teachers is not enough. For example, after about 700 students having lunch in the canteen, more than 220 students had food poisoning in Hengshan Dianshi School in Shanxi province. Later investigations revealed that the disordered management of canteen, mixed operation of raw and cooked food, lack of training to chefs and other related person, and even dimness of how to cook vegetables like beans led to this event. (c) There are obvious omissions in school

management. For example, part of schools in Sixian county in East China's Anhui Province reused needle to inoculate students against the Hepatitis A vaccine which broke the rule and led one student died and a number of students had mass psychogenic reaction. (d) It is common that education system only attaches importance to learn knowledge. Schools don't offer mental health education courses. Mental health and physical education have been neglected in Chinese education system.

2. EXPERIENCE TO CARRY OUT THE SCHOOL'S PUBLIC SAFETY EDUCATION IN OTHER COUNTRIES

Due to the concentrate staffs in school and the limitation of student's self-protection, the education of security in school which is paid serious attention by the countries all over the world. Over all, security education began earlier in many countries. And the selection of its content is according to the main risk that their students are faced with. For example, the security education in the schools of America is mainly focused on the prevention and treatment of schools' violence. Yet in the countries whose natural environments are harsh, they are aimed to improve the alertness of disaster prevention, the abilities of self protection and the improvement of students' contributions in the social safety. Such as Sri Lanka whose climate is changeable and geography circumstances are poor, Thailand which is often tormented by the tsunami, Kazakhstan and Japan which lie in a high-frequency earthquake region.

Over all, the features of the safety education in these countries are as follows: (a) The teaching point is determined by these countries' real situation and main risk that they are faced with. (b) The combination of teaching during class and permeation after class is adopted in their teaching. (c) The safety education is carried out with the aid of development of culture, sports training and skilled teaching methods. For example, the Japan launches the public safety education by social research, scientific, healthy and physical education, industrial art, family economic, moral education and other specific activities; the Sri Lankan provides safety education which includes the description of natural damage, the basic data, the evaluation of vulnerability, the conception of schools' security and the attention of social psychology with the aid of data storage devices. (d) People who are taught cover different stages that range from kids to adults. In Sri Lanka, students, teachers and the workers of government departments and state institutions must accept the education of security every year. (e) Pay more attention to the training and improvement of teachers' safety education which guarantees the teaching quality of safety education. (f) Education system has set up systematic psychological education courses in many countries. For example, in America, the community service which contains the

regular service of community's psychological counselors and other services to fix and improve the mental health level of residents.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

At the present stage, the school's security in China is a constant problem and even getting worse which specifically performed in huge quantity, great variety and serious consequences. The problem is consisted of disaster, accident calamity, public welfare event, public hygiene event and personal psychological problems.

Based on experience and solutions in many countries to deal with safety issues in school, advices can be given as following. (a) Chinese education system should offer safety education courses, teaching students and teachers that should attach importance to safety education in thinking. Education department which is conducted by the file of Master State Plan for Rapid Response to Public Emergencies should carry out public safety education of emergency combined with other countries experience to enhance teacher-student safety awareness, abilities of emergency hedge and self-rescue. (b) Establish a relatively complete system of school safety education. It can make safety knowledge and skills universal and enhance the ability of safe haven of citizens by influencing students and their family and further affecting society through school education. (c) Obey national laws and regulations related to safety seriously. For example, according to newly revised Compulsory Education Law of the People's Republic of China and Nursery School Safety Management Approach, we should enforce regulations to order around schools, school location, school safety check, appointment of staff. School safety management principles, school safety management system and management requirements should be clear. Sane security system and security emergency mechanism should be established. Also, legal liability of primary and middle school accidents should be known definitely.

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