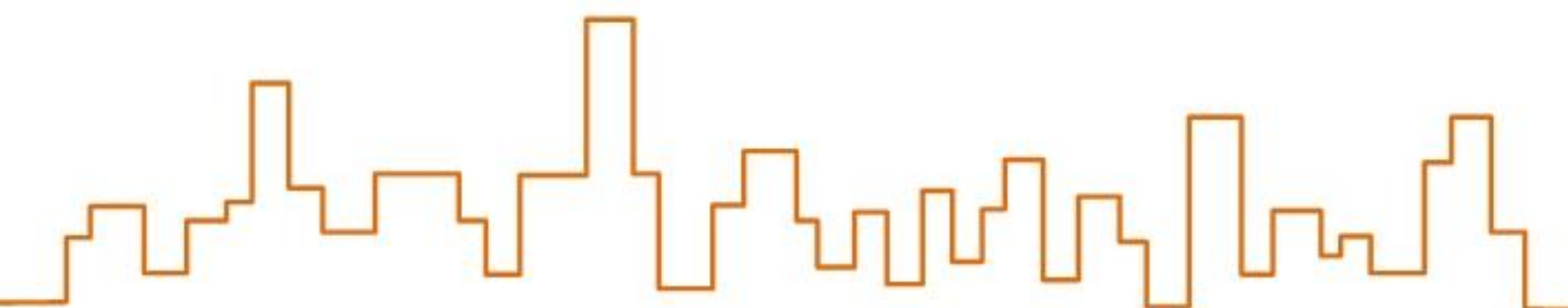


Investigation Report on "New Urbanization Promoted by Education System"

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According to the unified deployment of "New Urbanization Promoted by Education System", the research group divided into two teams to make field surveys on the construction of primary and secondary schools, street offices and new rural communities respectively in Jintang County and Pujiang County in January 19 to 25, 2014; They conducted seminars to hear relevant reports made by local governments and relevant departments; visited the masses and understood their opinions and views on the education and new urbanization development. Through in-depth and meticulous research, the research team was deeply impressed with education development and new urbanization promotion in Pujiang County. Now, the research is reported as follows:

I. Basic Situation and Major Issues

Pujiang County, located in the intersection of Chengdu, Meishan and Ya'an Cities, is the southwest portal of Chengdu City. It lies in Western Sichuan Tourism Loop Development Belt, and it is in Chengdu "Half-hour Economic Circle". It covers an area of 583 km², and has total population of 265,000 and 23 primary and secondary schools, including 17 rural schools (73.91%). In the whole county, there are 23,103 primary and secondary students, and 15,658 enrolled students in compulsory education stage (5052 students at urban schools (32.3%); 10,606 at rural schools (67.7%)); there are 7,445 senior middle school students (5054 students at regular senior secondary school (67.9%), and 2391 students at vocational high schools (32.1%)). On the whole, the proportion of rural schools and rural students is higher in Pujiang County. Along with steady promotion of urbanization, rural people will migrate to urban areas continuously, and rural production and living styles will gradually transit to urban ones. Hence, such process has brought huge shocks to rural fundamental education as follows:

(I) Urbanization brings imbalanced structure of educational resources

In the urbanization promotion process in recent years, a large number of school-age children have migrated to urban areas, coupled with strict implementation of the Family Planning policy, the number of students in rural schools and schooling scale have been under continuous decline. Whereas, the number of school-age students in urban schools is on the rise, thus urban teaching and learning have been imbalanced, and educational resources have become seriously insufficient in urban primary and secondary schools as well as kindergartens. Especially, after the implementation of national policies for "Children of Migrant Workers Should Accept the Compulsory Education at Local Regular State-run Primary and Secondary Schools", a large number of children have poured into urban schools, causing serious shortage of urban fundamental education resources. At urban primary and secondary schools as well as kindergartens, a series of problems such as "difficult admission to schools and kindergartens" and "large-class" have become increasingly prominent, and even more protruding particularly in the compulsory education and pre-school stages. There are less than 2,000 pupils totally in Pujiang County, but age level and curriculum requirements have remained unchanged, so teacher-pupil ratio is lower, and teachers are overstaffed, but structural teachers are understaffed, so teaching force has remained tense yet: One teacher has to teach several courses, so he/she cannot consider on the whole, or improve teaching level. In some primary schools, there are no full-time teachers of music, sports and art, which has affected students' overall development. Besides, due to the lower quality of rural teachers, it is difficult to adapt themselves to the demands on new educational reform and development. Some rural teachers are characterized by old concepts, outdated knowledge and weaker capabilities. But due to the increase of students at urban schools, the teaching resources have become seriously inadequate. Meanwhile, the reduction of rural students has idled the schooling resources, thus causing the oversupply; whereas, a large number of rural students migrate into urban schools, causing the short supply. In urban areas and key towns, the educational resources are more intense, so it urgently needs the expansion, but it has been constrained both by funds and land. According to annual quality inspection, there still exists a certain gap in schooling quality between rural schools and urban schools. As the urbanization is accelerating, the contradiction of imbalanced educational resource structure will become more prominent.

(II) The education of left-behind children is worsening

The migration of rural labors into urban areas has caused the occurrence of a large number of left-behind children, which has become a universal phenomenon in China's urbanization process. Such flow caused dramatic changes of the families on which they depend for survival and growth. Especially for left-behind children in the compulsory education stage, because of small age, unhealthy physical and mental development, and inadequate parental care, it is likely to exert far-reaching impacts on their learning and social adaptation abilities. According to the research on Southwest Primary School at rural-urban continuum in Pujiang County, among the 385 visited students, there are 52 students in the divorced families, 26 left-behind children, 11 students in single-parent families, 12 special students with intellectual disabilities, and 133 resident students. As most of left-behind children are cared by their grandparents and maternal grandparents, but they are often lower-educated and weaker physically, so they cannot provide any help for learning problems; on the other hand, even one of the parents stays at home, he/she usually bears all household duties and farm work, so has no enough time to focus on his/her children's learning and growth. Furthermore, due to the elder's spoiling of only child and long-term inadequate parental care, the children's understanding and communication capabilities are often blocked. According to the researches, if left-behind children suffer from learning and psychological problems, few of them are willing to seek for help from their parents. So in the long run, they tend to be unsociable and worse in behaviors.

(III) Urban school's planning and construction face many challenges

Main challenges cover: First is the asynchronization between school layout planning and urban construction planning. In the construction of new urban area and reconstruction of old urban area, the school layout planning is not effectively combined with town's master plan, which is not included in the town's master plan. Some schools lag behind the progress of residential communities, the originally planned schools have many students but small capacities, so it needs to expand the construction and increase the capacities; Second is insufficient education land and complicated approval procedures for land use. The contradictions between the school's land needs and urban development are prominent, and many towns are short of planning for education land construction. The approval procedures for education land are complicated and long. For some education lands, it often needs ONE year from application to approval, thus land reserves can be completed; Third is inadequate investments in school construction. For instance, Pujiang TV University has no special office space or good schooling conditions, which is temporarily located in the Education Bureau, without classrooms or computer rooms, or other facilities, etc. For face-to-face tutorship, online learning and examinations, it often borrows the classrooms and computer rooms of Beijie Primary School. But the conflicts often occur in working hours, and the configuration of computer rooms is affected mutually; Fourth is the shortage of professional teachers. For instance, there are only 18 staffs in the independent Pujiang TV University and Community Education College. Because of the factors of specialty and academic background, only less than 10 teachers can be able to teach, so it needs to hire a lot of part-time teachers, which undoubtedly will increase management difficulty and operation costs.

(4) Social responsibilities for education are more arduous

Pujiang County is under accelerating process of the urbanization on the whole. Due to special conditions of agricultural county and mountainous county, the proportion of left-behind children and resident students is large considerably. Among several visited schools, the boarding school has become a universal pattern. Many of these students come to school on Monday and return home on Friday afternoon, and their parents usually work outside, who cannot promptly know their school performances, so the school should be liable for supervision and management and daily life, and foster their good habits. Meanwhile, in the development of modern agriculture and improvement of rural population quality, it is not enough to run fundamental education only, it should combine fundamental education, rural vocational education and adult education together, so as to foster a large number of vocational farmers who are skillful of certain agricultural technology and business management. In addition, through researches and visits, the community education and citizen education are particularly important to enhance the quality of urbanization. A lot of rural provisions and regulations (such as roadside stall business) unsuitable for town's harmonious development need to be guided appropriately through education and publicity.

II. Several Suggestions

(I) Promote four balances of education and coordinate urban and rural development

The education should be incorporated into the county's economic and social development, and overall planning of population layout, so that education planning layout can be considered firstly in population layout, and talent training plan in industrial layout, including: First is to balance schooling conditions. To meet new urbanization progress and population migration requirements, we should rationally arrange the school and improve the up-to-standard proportion of compulsory education schools; Second is to balance teaching staffs. It is suggested that municipal/county organization departments should, according to actual conditions of rapid urbanization development, carry out the evaluation on urban teachers, and increase the number of regular teachers at urban primary and secondary schools. It is suggested to absorb teachers with higher academic background through free students from normal universities and "special post plan"; Third is to balance management means. We should actively promote compulsory education informatization construction, and fully complete "three-available" and "two-platform" construction in the compulsory education schools (that is, broadband network available to all schools, high-quality resources available to all classes and online learning space available to all students, as well as public service platforms for educational resources and education management). What's more, we should improve the exchange system for local principals and teachers as well as regular teaching system for urban teachers and principals in rural schools, in attempts to promote the sharing of top-quality educational resources. For the balanced development of education in urbanization process, the most fundamental is to deepen the reform and innovate the management; Fourth is to balance investment criteria. We should combine the innovation of education investment policy and reform of investment system together, comprehensively improve education quality, coordinate urban and rural educational resources, and unify education investment standards.

(II) Innovate schooling mechanism and boost alliance development

With Qingpu education alliance as the carrier across the areas, we can implement "one-to-one" twinning development strategy; it is recommended that principals, teachers, parents and students will form a growing community between twinning schools. Meanwhile, it is suggested to develop the evaluation criteria for performance assessment, and then boost common development of urban and rural education. For instance, Golden Key School in Pujiang County and Jinsha Primary School in Qingyang District signed the entrusted management agreement, and carried out all-round trusteeship in resource allocation, team building, and education and teaching management, etc. Through administrative supervision and the third-party's evaluation, it has promoted the school's overall optimization and rapid improvement of teaching quality. With top-quality schools as the leader and common vision as the core, we should implement resource integration, bundled and gradient development. In the kindergarten education, compulsory education and secondary education, we should establish several school alliances, and also build _____ between alliances.