

**An evaluative study on policies of
citizenship education in Taiwan:
*under the influence of globalization, localization
and cross-straitization***

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Main Theme

- Citizenships Education in Taiwan is facing three challenges:
- **1. globalization,**
- **2. localization, and**
- **3. cross-strait relationships**
- **(Cross-straitization)**between Taiwan and China has also played a critical role in shaping Taiwan's citizenship educational policies.

Contextualization

- The current study is an attempt to portray citizenship education in Taiwan from a multi-faceted perspective.
- In a context of East Asia, the paper argues that citizenship education is defined as a contested form, which is expected not only to fulfill individual needs, but also national development and social change .

Scenario

- **A Changing Regional Context in East Asia and Taiwan**

Four Trends in East Asia

- 1. Fast growing numbers of students and the expansion of quality education services,
- 2. Rapid demographic transition: increased life expectancy, declining mortality rate and drastic birth decline,
- 3. High literacy rates, implementation of the 9-year compulsory education,
- 4. Massification of tertiary education

Globalization Impact

- A drastic social transformation,
- the growing gap between rich and poor, and the urban and rural areas in each society,
- Conflict between enhancing modernization and reserving cultural heritage.

Localization/Regionalization Impact

- An emerging regional economic cooperation and integration is in progress.
- [APEC] (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation,
- [ASEAN] the Association of Southeast Asian Nations,
- Free Trade Area [AFTA]) is driven by intraregional investment.

Cross-straitization

- From foes to frienda:
An ice-breaking relationship that helps reduce the possible war between China and Taiwan
- How the current cross-strait relationships has affected Taiwan's citizenship education ?

Spot Light : Taiwan

- **Area** :36,000 square kilometers (1/10 of Japan)

Population: 21 million (1/6 of Japan)

Capital : Taipei City

Language :

Mandarin/Taiwanese/Hakka/Indigenous
Languages

Religion : Buddhism/Taoism/Christianity/Islam



Citizenship Education in Taiwan

- Education has been regarded as a priority in Confucian culture, and study is considered as hard work, effort, persistence, cultivation, and rigidity, whereas playing and recreation is considered idleness.
- High parental expectation and social value on educational credentials (a university degree) and belief in the practice of exam system as an equal social filter for social mobility.

- 1. The Rise of the Internet Age**
- 2. The Emergence of a Low Birthrate and an Aging Society**
- 3. Impact of the M-Shape of Education Development** (founded in the M-shape society by Kenichi Ohmae)
- 4. Challenges Related to Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability**

5. High pressure and test-oriented education as a result of high school and college entrance exams, coupled with high parental expectation

Toward A Diverse Society

- The Nine-year Integrated Curriculum Plan, started from 2001, attempted to increase more analytical and critical thinking skills such as technique for problem-solving, value clarification, conflict confrontation between any fixed values that students encounter in daily life.

- The new Nine -Year Integrated Curriculum Plan adopted an inter-disciplinary approach initiated between the 7 subject areas from year one to nine,
- including languages, mathematics, social studies, nature and technology, arts and humanities, health and physical education, and general activities.

Comparison between the old and new curriculum

- The old citizenship education curriculum emphasized more knowledge transmission.
- The new curriculum was designed to improve citizenship through a process of inquiry and discussion.

- Local indigenous forms of knowledge and values are much more recognized in the recent new curriculum.
- BUT....

The IEA Study

- Taiwan (also referred as Chinese Taipei) participated in an IEA study of civic and citizenship education with other 37 countries.
- The results showed the overall scores of Taiwanese teenagers (14 years old) ranked 14/37.
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Why Taiwanese secondary students scored much lower than the average?

- Almost three-quarters of Taiwan secondary students stated that they did not believe political parties' as well as their talks and their system overall in Taiwan.
- Why and how to improve?

Prospective Citizenship Education Policies for the Next Generation in Taiwan

The Twelve-Year Basic Education Plan

to implement twelve-year basic education in Taiwan based on the principles of “exemption from high-school entrance exams, free of tuition, and non-compulsory.”

This policy, expected to launch in 2014, will serve as the milestone of a new age of citizenship education reform in Taiwan.

Teacher Education and Professional Development

- To ensure teacher quality, a teacher evaluation system will be implemented to optimize the quality of teachers at the primary and secondary levels.

Lifelong Education in a learning society

- Promoting lifelong study and establishing a learning society will be a crucial policy for the aging society.
- Issues such as upgrading the lifelong study network and establishing a lifelong study support system are also essential to this policy.

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Citizenship Education beyond Globalization and Localization in Taiwan

CROSS-STRAITIZATION

- The two sides of the Taiwan Strait have been governed as separate territories and so developed into separate identities as well as different societies since 1949.

- But the educational exchange has made a huge progress as the result of globalization.
- More importantly, it has generated a “**Cross-straitization**” trend relationship that seems to come between Taiwan-China, which will eventually bring both sides closer.
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- The role of educational exchange and academic collaboration
- The role of mass-media and popular culture
- The profound impact of citizenship education in Taiwan on Chinese students and visitors who came to Taiwan for a short stay

So, what has changed?

- From Foes to Friends among the younger generation
- Soft power of Taiwan: The Taiwan Brand becomes trendy in China!
- What impressed Chinese students most:
- Taiwanese warmth and hospitality
- Continuing communication and Mutual understanding may fix the problems!

- As the younger generation of future leaders from the cross-strait are anticipated having more common interests as a result of educational and economic contacts.
- they are likely to comprise with their political differences and liaise solutions to promote peace between both sides.

- The possible application of the “Cross-straitization” trends in dealing with the competing forces between the former West-East Berlin, North-South Korea and Israel/ Arab world.

Conclusion

- In responding to the challenge of globalization, localization and cross-straitization, a number of specific issues in citizenship education deserve further discussion for future policy.

Go beyond Classroom

A series of infrastructure improvement was under reviewed, such as: curriculum development, teacher training program, and civil resources promotion.

Promotion of citizenship education is expected not to be constrained within traditional classroom education, but through a different account of integration and combination of in and out of school learning activities, as well as various channels in daily-life practices

Future Challenges

- How to incorporate regular review scheme on the existing curriculum and instruction?
- Whether or not character education and internet literacy should be updated in school curricula at all levels when cyber-bullying and school bullying take place more often?

- How to equip teachers with better knowledge and professional readiness in dealing with classroom management and student crisis?
- What to include in the hands-on daily-life experiences for students when engaging in value clarification and moral judgment?
- How to update parents with better competence in child-rearing when confronting a world full of commercials and mass production?

- And above all, how citizenship education will prepare students for future challenges in a turbulent world?
- These are all challenges that Taiwan's citizenship education policy needs to resolve in the foreseeable future.

Thank you for your attention

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- Comments and Questions