

# Increasing Understanding of Educational Supervision Work, Advancing Education Management Level According to Laws

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Received: July 1, 2012      Accepted: July 19, 2012      Published: August 1, 2012

doi:10.5539/ass.v8n10p99

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5539/ass.v8n10p99>

## Abstract

Educational Supervision is an essential component of education management and education administrative system. This research paper expounds the importance, development features and experiences of educational supervision work. It also analyzes the significance, necessity and urgency of strengthening educational supervision work. The paper points out the basic contradictions and new trends of educational supervision work, and it finally sums up the useful experiences of the present educational supervision work. The analyses are beneficial to evaluate the past work, deal with the contradictions and issues existing in educational supervision work. It is also helpful for further decision-making in future.

**Keywords:** educational supervision work, development features, issues, experiences

Educational supervision institutions are administrative departments representing the corresponding governments. Their work is to monitor, check up, evaluate and direct the subordinate governments, functional departments and schools on situations of executing educational laws, regulations as well as policies. It is essential to get a deeper understanding of educational supervision work for educational supervisors, teaching staff and even for the whole society.

## 1. Increasing Understanding on the Significance of Educational Supervision Work, Strengthening Consciousness for Doing Educational Supervision Work Well

Nowadays, China is practising education management by laws and education for all-round development. It is important to improve educational supervision work under the circumstances.

Firstly, the importance of educational supervision work embodies in laws, regulations and concerned policies. China State Educational Commission has issued EDUCATIONAL SUPERVISION TEMPORARY REGULATION in July 1991. It is the first national regulation on educational supervision, after China resumed and reconstructed educational supervision system. China put the NATIONAL EDUCATION LAW OF THE PRC into effect on September 1st, 1995. It regulates the eight basic educational systems, including educational supervision system as one of them. This definitely established the legal status of educational supervision and evaluation. (Guo Zhenyou.2006) It is the first law related with educational supervision system not only in China, but also in the world. It sufficiently embodies that china attached importance to educational supervision work. The 3rd National Educational Working Conference made the division, which emphasized that educational supervision institutions should be further perfected and educational supervision systems should be further improved. The conference also pointed that popularizing compulsory education, wiping out illiteracy and actualizing education for all-round development are the essential tasks for educational supervision work.

Secondly, the existing issues in the field of education indicate the necessity of educational supervision work. Educational laws and regulations are extremely serious, while randomness exists in the process of enforcing these laws and regulations, such as showing contempt for laws and slacking law enforcement. Under the circumstance, it is necessary to establish educational supervision system to supervise the enforcement of the educational laws, regulations as well as policies. Because of the importance of education and hysteretic nature of educational benefits, education strategic status is usually a verbal expression and written in articles. It is hard to completely fulfill the education strategic status in fact. In such a case, it is necessary to depend on educational

supervision to ensure the education strategic status to be implemented. Because of the regularity of education and the complexity of educational evaluation, educational behaviors usually do not follow educational regular patterns. It is necessary to depend on educational supervision to prevent this phenomenon. Fulfilling education objectives is a process influenced by many complicated factors. Education directions and objectives usually change in education activities. It is necessary to depend on educational supervision to guide education industry running in right directions with proper objectives. (Guo Zhenyou.2006)

Thirdly, demands of educational revolution and development reflect the urgency of educational supervision work.

Strengthening the educational supervision work is the demand of education management according to laws. With promulgation of a series of laws, regulations and rules, such as COMPULSORY EDUCATION LAW OF THE PRC, TEACHERS LAW OF THE PRC, EDUCATION LAW OF THE PRC, and so on, educational lawmaking has become increasingly matured. This is an important landmark of educational legal system construction. The educational lawmaking is also the basic principle for doing education industry well. Thus, it is urgent to enforces educational laws and strengthen educational supervision.

Strengthening educational supervision work is to adapt to the changing functions of educational administrative departments. Policy research and supervision work are the key for the reforms of government institutions and the changes of their function. The educational administrative departments should flexibly control micro with controlling macro strictly. Thus, changing the function of educational administrative departments must start off understanding and strengthening educational supervision work. Strengthening educational supervision work should be realized as the key component in the process of the change. Educational administrative departments' work should emphasize on policy research and educational supervision, instead of those miscellaneous unimportant affairs.

Strengthening educational supervision work is to adapt to the changing educational ideas. Education for all-around development is a modern educational idea which gradually replaces the examination-oriented educational concept. During this changing process, educational supervision is irreplaceable. The educational supervision system established new evaluation standards which look like batons directing the bright directions and objectives for education industry.

In a word, educational supervision is an essential component of education management according to laws. It is an indispensable and irreplaceable specialized work.

## **2. Increasing Understanding on the Development Features of Educational Supervision Work, Enhancing Steadiness for Doing Educational Supervision Work Well**

As any other things, the development of educational supervision work has its unique features.

Firstly, the development of educational supervision work is accompanied with the development of education industry. Two thousand years ago, educational inspectors appeared in Chinese Han Dynasty. In Song Dynasty, the original educational supervision institutions established and specialized officers were sent to be in charge of the work concerned. Five hundred later, educational supervision system gradually formed in Ming Dynasty. With the introduction of western educational system in China, educational supervision system was strengthened. In 1909, the Qing educational department promulgated the first educational supervision regulation EDUCATIONAL INSPECTOR CONSTITUTION. After reform and opening-up in China, educational supervision institution recovered its function and established itself again. With the development of educational modernization, the NATIONAL EDUCATION LAW OF THE PRC definitely established the legal status of educational supervision. That is to say, educational supervision is determined by the development of education industry. With the consolidation and improvement of compulsory education, education for all-around development and education management according to laws, people are attaching more and more importance to the educational supervision work.

Secondly, in recent years, the development of educational supervision work in Chinese different areas shows the many same attributes.

Leadership systems are almost same. Educational supervision offices at all levels are established under the educational administrative departments at all levels. They are administrated by the educational administrative departments, which are responsible for their finances, substances and human resources. Educational supervision offices carry out their work independently. It is the same even in Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan regions. Apart from Britain, the educational supervision institutions of all the countries belong to their educational administrative institutions at different levels.

The development processes of educational supervision works are basically same. The development of educational supervision works after the late 1980s could generally be divided into three steps: The first step is starting period before 1993. Institutions at all levels were established and systems were set up. This period is a beginning in the development of educational supervision work, which established a certain position during this period. Work in the period between 1994 and 1997 is an exploring process. In the process of education evaluation, how to enhance educational supervision work was a hard topic to explore at that time. After 1998, educational supervision works enter a developing period. The people engaging in the field seized opportunities and obtained corresponding status. They perfected their working system, improved their working condition, opened up their working field, and unified the name of the educational supervision institution. They made an inspiring progress. (Guo Zhenyou.2006)

The last sameness of educational supervision work at all levels is about the existing issues. There are commonly four contradictions existing in educational supervision work. They are less working people and hard work, educational supervision and administrative inspection, long-period evaluation work and short-period excellences selection work, scientificity and feasibility of the evaluation scheme.

Thirdly, there appear some new tendencies in the work of educational supervision.

Working scope of educational supervision is becoming continuously wide. The objects originally included high schools, primary schools, and kindergartens. Later the working objects also comprise professional education, adult education and those non-government funded education.

Setting up educational supervision communication net is another tendency. It could strengthen the working effect. For instance, educational supervision office of Chaoyang District in Beijing City has set up an educational supervision communication net. It has 10 full time supervisors and engages 139 part time supervisors and 8 guest supervisors. (Shandong Educational Supervision Office. 2011)

Attaching more importance to the result of supervision evaluation is the next tendency. Shandong Province and Hunan Province have used the supervision result as the standard for determining key schools.

The fourth tendency is about the charges for educational supervision. Britain supervises all schools completely once four years. The charge for the supervision is determined by the scales of the schools. The average charge for educational supervision is about 60,000 to 390,000 RMB. (Qian Yicheng. 2006) The educational supervision institutions of some provinces in China have charged for the work already.

The final tendency is weakening the function of inspection and strengthening the function of guidance. Australian government abolished their education supervision offices and established 40 school districts in each state with 25 school districts inspectors dominating 55 schools. Teaching consultation personnel are arranged to provide more services for schools. Taiwan set up Compulsory Education Advisory Group. The work centers on school inspectors, experienced schoolmasters and teachers. Their works are to guide the teaching activities. Hong Kong Educational Supervision Office is composed of disciplinary group and non-disciplinary group. The disciplinary group consists of Chinese, Biology, art parts and so on. American educational supervisors also emphasizes on guidance. (Qian Yicheng. 2006)

All in all, understanding the development features of educational supervision correctly is beneficial to solve the existing problems in the work of educational supervision, control the tendency of the educational supervision work, evaluate the past work, and carry out the future educational supervision work confidently.

### **3. Increasing Understanding on the Experiences of Educational Supervision Work, Improving Effectiveness for Doing Educational Supervision Work Well**

Being good at studying and drawing lessons from the others is a key part for improving effectiveness. What are the successful experiences?

Obtaining support from the leading officials is the first experience. Educational supervision work is usually ignored by the others. How to obtain support from the leading officials is the basic condition for doing the educational supervision work well. Publicity is a very important sector. Let the leadership know what educational supervision work is. Request them to publicize educational supervision work and let the other know that the leadership attaches importance to the educational supervision work.

Emphasizing on system institution is the second experience. This institution of better systems is vital as it bears on the overall long-term interests and defies constant changes. The administrative systems such as EDUCATIONAL SUPERVISION WORK SYSTEM, EDUCATIONAL SUPERVISION STUDY SYSTEM, etc have to be put into practice as well.

Thirdly, three key points should be grasped in educational supervision work. Supervising by laws and regulations is the emphasis of the educational supervision work. Evaluating the education for all-round development is the main component of the educational supervision work. Cooperating in educational administrative work is the exciting point of the educational supervision work.

Four forces should be used in the educational supervision work. This is the fourth experience. First force comes from NPC and CPPCC in terms of laws. The second is from leadership of educational administrative departments on their support and coordination. The third force is from those guest supervisors who are professional in certain field. The last force derives from the school assistants working for the educational supervision.

The fifth experience is about study, which is an everlasting topic in the educational supervision work. With the continuous reform of education and teaching, there are many new issues facing the ever experienced supervisors. If the supervisors do not continue to study the new policies and realize the new changes, they will make mistake in their supervision work. The supervisors should know more policies and have a higher theoretical level. They should have the ability of understanding the educational reform tendency and curriculum development tendency. The supervisors must be good at study. Usually, there are four forms of study. First is Self-study. Supervisors should study business and political theories. Second is research and discussion. Supervisors should study in research and promote in discussion. The third form of study is various types of training courses, including training by oneself. The final one is the inspection for broadening minds. (Gu Mingyuan, Huang Wei. 2011)

The last experience is about supervisor management. The full time supervisors should be selected and administrated strictly. (Chen Fucong. 2009) They should study positively, be good at thinking, and have macro consciousness. Work today while thinking tomorrow. Their main work is to establish educational systems, supervise compulsory education, wipe out illiteracy and inspect quality education. The supervisor should be good at innovation and brave to break through for further development. The supervision work could not leave writing. The supervisors should foster and practice their written expression skills. Part time supervisors and guest supervisors also play an important role in the educational supervision work.

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