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Analysis and Discussion of China's Double Reduction Policy

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Abstract: Teenagers in China are faced with a heavy academic burden, and the educational expenses that have to be invested in raising their children also bring financial burdens to families. The Chinese government has launched the double reduction program to overhaul the education sector in response to the issues in education. Through a political study of the double reduction policy from the perspectives of social population and economic development, this article will explore the double reduction policy's effects on society and the education sector. The implementation of this policy not only offers Chinese children and families better learning environments and equitable educational chances, but also contributes to alleviating China's aging population.

Keywords: the double reduction policy, Chinese education, China's aging population, sustainable social development, education cost

1. Introduction

Chinese students are known for their persistence and perseverance, despite the fact that often their extracurricular activities both in and outside of school do not promote their overall development [1]. The General Offices of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council released the "Opinions on Further Reducing the Burden of Homework and Off-campus Training for Students in Compulsory Education" on July 24. This opinion dramatically regulates the outside-of-campus training industry while simultaneously significantly reducing the burden on students [2]. The "Double Reduction Program" is another name for this policy. With the implementation of this strategy, the educational system's educational gaps will be reduced and student stress will be reduced [3]. In order to assist the execution of this policy, the "Double Reduction Policy" was legally added to the current Chinese law in October 2021. The Double Reduction Policy will be implemented and the public advantages of elementary education will be restored by the Chinese government via force from this point forward. the policy has attracted widespread attention in Chinese society and sparked debate in the education community.

In order to give a thorough examination of this policy from a variety of perspectives, including its background and implications. this essay will employ qualitative analysis. In addition to describing the economic, social, and political background of the twofold reduction strategy, the paper also examines the short- and long-term effects of the program as well as its impact on Chinese society. The author hopes to increase public awareness of the value of lowering educational costs for China's educational advancement.

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2. Context of the Policy

Currently, China's education policy is influenced by a wide range of elements, including the country's demographics, income disparity, and cultural aspects. Along with China's economic and social development, these elements are pushing changes in the country's educational system.

2.1. Demographic Perspective

From the perspective of population structure, the aging of the Chinese population is a rising issue. A population aging rate of over 15% is predicted to result in China's population reaching over 152 million by 2018 [4]. In an effort to decrease the consequences of the aging population on the future society, the Chinese government has begun to gradually modify the previous family planning policy in order to encourage the increase in fertility rate. The high cost of childcare, especially the cost of education, factors affecting birth rates, making this fertility promotion method less effective. The government must concentrate more than ever on lowering the expense of education. The government aims to reduce parental schooling costs while also increasing societal fertility rates through its "double reduction" initiative. In order to improve the demographic structure, this policy can encourage sustainable social growth, and better absorb the pressure brought on by the aging population

2.2. The Utilitarian Ideology of Education

Chinese parents consume some educational products and services under the influence of educational utilitarianism, which not only adds to the financial strain on families but also has an impact on the physical and mental well-being of kids. The future development of students may be affected by pressure in compulsory education [5]. The Chinese Ministry of Education formulated policies aimed at lightening the load of study between 2000 and 2015, but the results were inconsequential. With the growth of the market economy, substantial sums of money have started to flow into China's public education system. Due of this, the teaching profession has created a culture of educational anxiety via various marketing techniques. This inevitably results in the spread of utilitarian thought throughout the educational sector, which puts more academic pressure on primary and secondary school students and increases their psychological stress levels, both of which have extremely detrimental effects on their physical and mental well-being. Overload can harm the physical and mental well-being of student, and interfere with the ability to learn [6]. Yang (2004) also discovered that increasing academic stress significantly influenced students' academic burnout and decreased their academic progress in a study of student in Taiwan [7]. Therefore, lowering pupils' academic load has become a problem that the Chinese educational community must meet in order to safeguard the physical and mental health of teenagers.

2.3. Marketization of Education

The justice and public welfare promoted by the public education system will be severely harmed by the inclusion of market-oriented competition in the education sector. The global nature of education, which is dependent on the public sector and public funding to offer basic, equal, and high-quality educational services for all members of society, is particularly evident in China. With the expansion of the market for off-campus training institutions, the marketization formed in the education service industry poses a challenge to the fairness of basic education, which further increases the anxiety of social stratification. The involvement of the market mechanism in the education industry makes it impossible to reflect fairness in the equal educational freedom and opportunities of all members of the society. Driven by capital and market forces, social educational institutions, including private

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schools, off-campus training, and private education, are impacting the public and fairness of education, and are slowly trying to reshape the education market. Out-of-school education, which is dominated by market competition, interferes with the original direction of public teaching because of its disorderly competition without legal constraints, and has an impact on the purpose and content of public education. On the other hand, the profit motive of capital is also driving many training outside the school to provide services related to examination, which further induces the spread of the bad culture of utilitarianism in the education industry. Under this situation, individual and group differences are converted into social inequalities through education and subtly reinforced by the labeling impact of educational activities, rendering the educational system ineffective as a means of perpetuating social inequality [8].

2.4. Double Reduction Policy

In this context of fierce market competition, the society has begun to strongly demand the government to formulate a series of regulations to manage the process of teaching institutions. This in turn promoted the introduction and implementation of the "double reduction" policy.

The "double reduction" policy was formulated and implemented to try to reduce the burden on the society caused by the current education system [9]. Therefore, reducing the learning burden of primary and secondary students in the public education system and reducing the proportion of household education expenditure in total expenditure are the main goals of the policy. Chinese education authorities have begun to focus on the overall development of students, reducing the proportion of test scores in the judging criteria, and helping students relieve the pressure of scoring by reducing the number and difficulty of tests. At the same time, policy orders prohibit the establishment of various forms of key classes, which maintains the fairness of the distribution of educational resources and also attempts to prevent the education sector from becoming a venue for capital games. Through the implementation of the double reduction policy, the spread of shortsightedness and utilitarianism in the education industry has been stopped, and the negative impact of illegal competition and excessive learning on students has also been curbed [9]. In addition, the formulation of this policy not only protects the principle of education fairness, but also reduces the expenditure and cost of ordinary families on children's education, and further increases the willingness of contemporary people to have children.

Another important purpose of the policy is that the policy needs to regulate the development of China's education industry in a more standardized manner. With the influx of capital, China's education market is gradually becoming more market-oriented, and the competition mechanism and capital operation have challenged and posed a certain threat to the fairness of education. The non-standard and chaotic education market environment brought about by the development of marketization has also had a serious negative impact on the correct learning concept of students and parents. The "double drop" policy has established strict regulations and management measures for the opening of tutoring institutions, striving to reverse the current chaotic competition in the extracurricular tutoring market and create a better educational and learning environment for students and parents.

3. Impact of the Policy

3.1. Students

The implementation of the double-reduction policy has reduced the learning pressure and burden of Chinese students, and also provided more time for students to broaden their direct study areas, continuously expand their areas of interest, and achieve more comprehensive personal development. In addition, this policy also alleviates the psychological problems of students due to academic pressure to a certain extent, and helps students build a more stable line of defense for mental health. After

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students have more time, they will also have more time for physical exercise, which can not only increase their physical health, but also stabilize their mental health. At the same time, due to less academic pressure, students need to master a lot of new knowledge and information through autonomous learning, which helps to cultivate children's ability to explore and learn independently.

3.2. Families

The pressure on parents on the cost of their children's education is greatly reduced, and the financial pressure to bear is also reduced. As a result, parents can spend more time with their children, and at the same time, they can convert the pressure of learning into a focus on the overall physical and mental development of their children. In addition, the social climate of educational anxiety is also reducing the impact on parents, and the relationship between parents and children can be improved. A good family environment also plays a role and helps in the healthy development of children.

3.3. Schools

Due to the cancellation of tutoring institutions, the society has put forward higher requirements for the teaching quality of schools. Some schools have begun to carry out interest-based after-school service activities in students' spare time.

3.4. Education Market

The impact of this policy on the education sector, especially off-campus training institutions, is huge. China's education industry enterprises represented by New Oriental Science and Technology Education Group (NYSE: EDU), TAL Education Group (NYSE: TAL) and Guotu Technology Education Group (NYSE: GOTU) are reducing policy Under the influence of , the stock market and the operation of the company have been affected. New Oriental Science and Education Group announced a layoff plan in July. Good Future Education Group and Guotu Science and Technology Education Group also made layoffs and closed several service centers across the country. In the company's operation, the company's development strategy is also changing, and it has begun to turn to quality education or adult education [3]. For smaller education companies, it is very difficult to change the company's development direction, so many smaller education companies withdrew from the market competition.

3.5. Limitation

However, it is important to keep in mind that it is challenging to find a suitable class in the near future because the education industry is not a standardized issue. One-on-one services or small workshop training facilities are still options. The pressure on pupils to study and the immediate financial stress on parents will both persist at the same time.

4. Later Implications and Legacy

The introduction of the double reduction policy has made the capital market rapidly break away from the education industry, and many education-related enterprises have also begun to actively turn to seek new market development strategies [3]. However, due to the relatively short period of implementation of the policy, it is difficult to judge its success or failure at present. But from a long-term perspective, it has had a long-term impact on the development and transformation of China's education sector.

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The revised education policy is distinct from earlier industry normative texts. It is a national policy that the government developed based on the population structure and a method for educational fairness. On the one hand, this demonstrates China's concern for concerns like population aging and offers a solution to the issue of the country's population aging. By implementing the double reduction policy, the Chinese government lowered the cost of education, thereby easing the economic pressure on citizens due to education issues. Fertility costs are well controlled to a certain extent, making it possible to increase fertility rates. On the other hand, the double reduction policy also reflects the determination of the Chinese government to regulate the education market and maintain education fairness. Because education is the process of human socialization, only through learning and education can people improve the goal of life from survival to life. That is, it is only through education that one can become a human being [10]. By regulating and rectifying the education market and maintaining education fairness, the Chinese government has provided basic support for promoting social fairness.

The double-drop policy also shows that the Chinese government controls domestic industries very tightly, and will limit the impact of foreign investment on different industries in China through regulations and methods in different situations. This will adversely affect foreign investment in the Chinese market. Following the implementation of the twofold reduction policy, the values of Chinese equities other than those in the education sector also decreased. Furthermore, the world perceives topics like democracy in China will depend on they perceive how the Chinese government interferes with the free operation of the market. This may have an impact on China's and other capitalist nations' economic ties or market cooperation.

5. Conclusion

The double reduction policy adopted by the Chinese education sector was introduced less than a year ago, yet it has already attracted significant public interest. By easing the emphasis on schooling, the Chinese government is attempting to address the nation's rising aging problem, according to a study of the date of the policy's published. By controlling the education market and reducing the pressure on students to study, Chinese education officials have also made an effort to lessen the environment of social anxiety and promote the healthy development of students. The academic burden on Chinese primary and secondary school pupils has now decreased since the policy's adoption, and the financial stress on families has reduced. In the perspective of Long-term, this approach will also offer fresh perspectives on how other nations might lessen the effects of aging. The strategy also shows how effective the Chinese government is at regulating the market economy, which might make foreign investors think twice before putting money into Chinese firms.

However, the policy's long-term impacts in negative, are still up for debate and conjecture because of how recently it has been in force. It indicated that the strategy's contribution to the overall development of China's education has much to discuss. As the execution of the subordinate educational institutions also influences the program's outcomes, it is now challenging to determine whether the policy has been successful or unsuccessful. Future studies should assess if the policy's objectives were met and identify the objectives that influenced the outcomes of the policy..

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