

Special Education in Hong Kong: The Need for Research That Informs Practice

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Hong Kong education is continuously undergoing changes as a result of new and innovative programs that have been introduced since 1990. These included among others, the school Approach to Guidance, and the Target Oriented Curriculum (see Hong Kong Education Commission, 1990). In response to these changes, the education profession in Hong Kong is in dire need of research studies that focus on the development of knowledge about these programs, and studies that guide the utilization of such knowledge in the implementation of these programs.

The importance of doing research that informs practice is recognized by educators and frontline teachers who are constantly on the lookout for something concrete that can be used in their work, and by applied scientists who struggle for ways to make the results of their efforts more immediately relevant and educationally useful. Despite the mutual recognition, it is lamented that research and practice are too often separate and non-interacting activities in Hong Kong, and collaborative efforts by university researchers and classroom teachers, for example, are rare.

Secondary Three Students' Knowledge of Geography of China: Facts and Implications for Junior Secondary Geography and Social studies Curriculum

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In review of the fact that the sovereignty of Hong Kong will be returned to China in 1997, the demand for increase the weighting on China in junior secondary geography curriculum has gained momentum. The present study aims at revealing Secondary Three students' level of understanding of the geography of China. A test instrument comprised 50 multiple-choice questions were designed and administered to 4556, 2742, 546 Secondary Three students in Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Macau respectively. The results show that the performance of Hong Kong students were interior than their counterparts in China and Macau. However, the performance of Hong Kong students was not alarming as the average score was 24.79, very close to the 50% mark. The issue if the China element in the junior secondary geography and social studies curriculum is discussed in light of the findings.

香港將於 1997 年回歸中國，因此，增力加初中地理課程內中國地理的訴求愈來愈大。本文匯報一項香港中三學生對中國地理認識的研究。在這項研究中，研究

員設計和發展了一份有 50 條多項選擇題的測試工具。有 4556 名香港中三學生、2742 名廣州大三學生及 546 名澳門中三學生填答這份試題。數據顯示香港學生的中國地理知識比廣州和澳門同級同學稍遜。但是香港學生的表現並非太差，平均答對率接近百分之五十。本文亦就研究的發現討論本港初中地理課程及社會科課程應如何作出修訂。

Job Perception and Attitudes of Young Graduate Teachers: A Comparison with other Professions

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In recent years, job perception and job attitudes of secondary school teachers in Hong Kong have received research attention. These studies are helpful in understanding the professional behavior of secondary school teachers but they focused mainly on the teaching profession. This study compares the job perception and job attitudes of young graduate teachers with university graduates working in other professions. Samples of 1,461 graduates from the Chinese University of Hong Kong were surveyed. Significant differences in job perception and job attitudes were among various professions after the differences in salary level, gender composition, tenure and undergraduate major were controlled. Results and implications for these findings are discussed.

Logex – An Intelligent Computer Tutor in Logarithms

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The use of Computer in education started more than thirty years ago. In traditional computer assisted instruction systems, all responses have to be preplanned and implemented at the designing stage. The system builders must prespecify all available routes through the space of teaching possibilities. Every test, every decision, every branch leading to some remedial material and every exposition must be written in advance (Goodyear, 1991). When considering the number of decision points with their corresponding responses, the possible number of combinations, even for small tutoring systems, will be enormous. This prevents computer assisted systems from

being used in larger subject areas. Recently, with the aid of knowledge representation techniques originating from artificial intelligence, human knowledge can be incorporated into computer systems. Based on the knowledge incorporated, computer system can now make judgments on students' responses and decide on suitable responses to be made in real time. There is no need to pre-install all the possible routes and decision points. The computer system is thus smaller in a sense that less memory space is required on the hardware. Besides, the responses generated in real time can be more flexible and more adapted to students' needs. Logex is an example of such systems, called intelligent tutoring systems, which are designed to help students in simplifying logarithmic expressions by working through the simplification process with the students. This article describes its principles. structure are the ways by which it helps students.

Suicide Attempts and Suicides of School Children in Hong Kong, 1991-1994

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This study examined the 155 attempted suicides and 50 fatal suicides of school children in Hong Kong for three school years in the period September 1991 to August 1994. The annual attempted suicide rate is estimated at 2.7 and 8.4 per 100,000 for male and female schoolchildren respectively. The male to female ratio is about 1:3. The annual suicide rate of the school children is estimated at 1.5 and 2.1 per 100,000 for males and females who have a ratio about 1:1.4. The highest rate of suicide and attempted suicide were found in the group of Females aged 15 or above had the highest rate both in attempted and fatal suicides. Over 50% of the attempters used wrist slashing. Drugs overdose was the second most common method in attempted suicides. Over 90% of fatal cases were jumping from a high place. Drowning, gas, hanging, firearms were the least common methods. Fatal and attempted suicides occurred more often during weekdays and less often on Saturdays and Sundays. The times between successive suicide attempts were not independent.

The Measurement of Publication Outputs in the Universities in Hong Kong

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Universities in Hong Kong have been under rapid change after entering the last

decade of this century, Academics are urged to have more outputs besides their teaching. This article investigated the developmental trend of publication outputs among these universities. Data were collected from the annual reports of research and publication outputs of these universities. In order to have a fair comparison of publication outputs of each academic, department, faculty and institution, the author developed a framework from practical experience and literature to investigate the problem. Results indicated that the publication outputs of academics in Hong Kong were about the same as those in other countries. However, pressing faculty too hard for research publications would not necessarily raise output immediately.

An Integrative Future Trend of Problem-Solving Research in Genetics

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Recent research in genetics learning showed that students had inappropriate models of meiosis in their minds. These conception research studies are limited in the sense that they did not inform students' problems in problem-solving research in science education. Such problems require students to revise their existing basic models to fit into the anomalous data of the problem. In genetics, it is believed by researchers that both an understanding of the terms and a focus on the whole problem are crucial factors for problem-solving success. In other words, the ability to apply concepts to problem-solving should be examined. The author thus suggests that future integrated trend of research in genetics should also incorporate the phenomenon graphic perspective to look at the approach to problem-solving of the problem solvers.

香港學生寫作思維過程：暫停的種類和功能

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香港大學

寫作是一個很複雜的思維過程。「暫停」是作者寫作時，停下來做其它思維活動。本研究利用「大聲想」、「錄影法」、「刺激回憶法」等方法，收集研究對象的「暫停」資料，並比較中英文寫作的暫停的異同，研究結果顯示寫中文時，研究對象比較多想內容，邏輯，轉換方面等問題。寫英文時，他們多想「串字」，「文法」，「標點」等問題。「暫停」能反映作者寫作時的內在思維。

結構方程式之擬合優概念及常用指數之比較

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結構方程模式已成教育、社會及心理學等的重要數據分析技巧，本文主要是總結及引用數個新近發表有關擬合優指數的模擬數據結果。文章首先從近似及估計差距的概念，討論模式的適合性，繼而介紹數種常用擬合優指數，包括：交互效度確定、增值擬合、省儉及離中指數，除了描述各指數的設計理念及特徵外，亦討論一些評核指數的準則，如：獨立於樣本大小、懲罰覆雜模式、指數的信度等。在比較各指數時，文章亦推介 RMSEA, RNI 及 NNFI 作為一般常用的擬合優指數。