

Research of American's School Choice

Xuexia Li, Sijia Chen

Southwest Jiao tong University, Jiao Da RD. Jinniu District, Chengdu 610031, China

***Corresponding Author:**

Xuexia Li

Email: 1941009816@qq.com

Abstract: Since the 1980s, the United States policy of compulsory education enrollment has undergone great change : the limitation of school choice changes into encouraging school choice. The US government encourages parents to choose school, aiming to use market means to achieve the goal of education reform. Introduce market mechanisms into the field of education, achieving the optimal allocation of educational resources through competition, stimulating the enthusiasm of teachers, which are all in order to improve public schools' quality and efficiency. School choice contributes greatly to the American public school reform. It also has a profound and extensive influence on the American public school system. This article is divided into three parts, the first part is the analysis of the causes of school choice, followed by the analysis of the impact of school choice, and the last part is the Enlightenment and reference for our country.

Keywords: America ; middle and primary school ; School Choice.

INTRODUCTION

In the United States, the development of choice behavior has a history of many years , and gradually establish a system of school choice, which is the most striking reform measures in American basic education. No matter what kind of form it takes-----Charter school, voucher system or magnet school, tuition subsidies (utitontax Cerdits)",School choice" have questioned the value of traditional public schools and its mode of operation.

The infancy of American school choice behavior refers to the time between 1776 and the mid-1960-s, which lasts two hundred years. But at this stage ,school choice behavior which is in the modern sense and in a certain scale ,supported or advocated by the government didn't appear let alone to form school choice system. To the 1950s, as Soviet launches satellites into space, a large educational reflective movement rises in the United States. The quality of education in public schools has become a target for condemnation. After the failure of the previous education reforms, people turned to the school choice system that can promote market competition into the public school. School choice in the modern sense began to appear, and played a vigorous role in promoting the subsequent school choice movement. Until the 1980s, the US school choice behavior exhibited vigorous development, not only get support and approve from the government and the public. Moreover, school choice behavior is constantly evolving.

CAUSE ANALYSIS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN SCHOOL CHOICE

Background of Political Economic Policy

In the 1970s, US economic grows slowly, and structural economic crisis arises, especially economic stagnation problems. After lessons and combat of the stagnation and economic crisis, the United States began to change the socio-economic policy, the federal government adopted a series of neo-liberal policies (including promote the market mechanism). The transformation of political and economic policies of the federal government has gradually affected the reform of American basic education. Government began to rethink the role of government in education, change the traditional management model of public schools , introduce market competition mechanism into the basic education stage, carry out school choice reforms. The voucher is an important form, and the voucher returns the educational option to the parents so that the student can obtain more educational choice opportunities and enhance the selectivity of the education [1].

School choice aims to change the past "administrative mode" into "market economy model" ,thus overcome the low-quality of education resulting from the presence of "monopoly" and "bureaucratic" in public school system, and provide more freedom of school choosing right for children and parents. In October 1998, Clinton signed the Chartered School Expansion Act, which was an important milestone in the development of charter schools [2]. In 2002, Bush led the far-reaching "No Children Left Behind (NCLB)

bill, which excluded providing education tax credits to students who failed in public secondary schools, investing \$ 2 billion to encourage concessions School development and \$ 1 billion to improve the equipment, and strongly promote the implementation of a wider range of education voucher programs.

Cultural background factors

American society is composed of people from different nationalities, ethnic demographic diversifies and changes constantly. Various ethnic groups are constantly regrouping in the process of historical development. American society has the typical multi-cultural characteristics. The cultures of mutual influence, interact with each other. When the United States the traditional concept of democracy, freedom, equality concept meets American multicultural reality, reflected in education requires everyone has an equal right to education. The public school is no longer able to meet the social equity in education and the pursuit of new expectations, the public school nearest public school principle increasingly dissatisfied, more and more people have the freedom to claim the right to choose schools.

The Education Reform factors

In a long period before the American public school monopoly, and the poor quality of school, therefore, the education reform for public schools drawbacks also never stopped, 60's, 70's, 80's have been educational reform movement, but the actual situation of public schools have not been major changes, the public increasingly public schools the more dissatisfied. In recent years, polls show that Americans are quite supportive of school choice, and almost every proposal aimed at improving the quality of education puts parents involved (including school choice) in a prominent position.

September 1996, the US Education Reform Center (Center for Education Reform) issued the "National Survey of American Attitudes education", the survey results show that people on public schools disappointment and general support for attending private schools of choice. In the question "Do you think it is needed to improve the quality of public school education," only 6% were satisfied with the quality of public schools, and among them, only 7 percent of blacks and 6 percent of whites believe that public schools need improvement; In the political parties, only 2% democrats and 9% republicans expressed their satisfaction with the quality of public schools. In the question "Are you in favor of the implementation of educational tax credits, and support parents' school choice behavior among public, private and church schools through the form of scholarships". Only 23% strongly opposed, while 73 percent said they strongly supported, 90 percent of blacks and 71 percent of

whites and 78 percent of other races who hold explicit endorsement attitude[1]; In the parties, 77 percent democrats, 67 percent republicans expressed their supportive attitude. In fact, the education reform-movement never stopped in the United States, but ultimately did not improve the quality of education in public schools fundamentally. This prompted the Americans to previous education reform and public school system itself reflection, thinking of a new education reform model. Some researchers have raised questions in the public schools is to a certain extent by the public school system itself. The researchers believe that the education reform in the past is simple tinkering inherent in the system, while not touched the public education system itself. The reform of school choice have liberated the school from the old order limit, replaced by new institutional environment, to carry out a thorough reform of education, and establish a new public education system [3]. Which is essentially introduce the market economy principle of competition into the field of education.

The theory advocated factors

This includes Friedman's educational credentials and John thought E. Qiu and Thai forces M. Tacit's market cybernetics. By the influence of neoliberalism, American school choice has the research foundation of public choice theory, privatization theory, educational choice theory and other theoretical basis of different disciplines [4].

THE INFLUENCE BROUGHT BY THE SCHOOL CHOICE IN AMERICA SCHOOLS

Influence on Traditional Education Concept

The implementation of school choice system changes people's traditional concept of education, and free school choice has been deeply rooted in the people [5].

"Education is the responsibility of the State, the concept that basic education is the public product" is deeply rooted in the United States, the government should be responsible for public schools solely. Government is not only the organizer of the public schools, but also the managers and operators. Introducing the competition mechanism of the market economy into the field of education, which triggered people's thinking about the government's position in the education and the management mode of the government public education. During this period, some people think the government should be responsible for education, should fund education, but not necessarily directly provide such education.

Influence of Education Management System

In the past, the implementation of the three-tier management system is characterized by decentralization. That is federal government---state

government---local school district administration. The public schools is under the direct management of local school districts, and accept the supervision and management of local school districts in the teaching, personnel and finance, lack of school autonomy. With the reform measures of school choice, traditional American education management system has changed. First the local School District delegate powers to schools, and the autonomy of these schools expand. Charter School founders sign a contract with the government, resulting in the law to ensure that the charter schools enjoy greater autonomy in teaching arrangements public administration and financial revenue . The local school district intervene direct management into evaluation and assessment based on the contract.

The influence on education financial system

In the past, the education funds of the public schools is generally based on local tax based, supplemented by state grants and a small part from federal funding, the financial situation of local and state school has a decisive role. The implementation of the school choice reform had an impact on education finance system. Educational Voucher - Enhancing "Educational Purchasing Power". Parents can not exchange cash directly to the government. The school receives the education certificate and then cash to the government cash [6].

First, school choice enrollment changed the way of the government's funding for public schools. In education voucher programs, state and local government's funding for education will no longer be directly assigned to the school, but through indirect way---education vouchers issued to parents to subsidize public schools. Whether schools can receive funding from the Government or not rely on the quality of their school (since this time people have the right to choose a school); Secondly, school choice makes public funding for education and private capital flows to each other. Students and parents who hold education vouchers can not only choose public school, but also choose private school or church school. It means that a part of public education funds flow into the non-public schools.

Impact on the quality of public school education

Formerly , under the protection of government's policy, the public school is in a position of monopoly. The public schools are lack of outside competition, which lead to poor quality of education and inefficiency. The school choice reform advocates reducing intervention of the government, and introduce the market economy mechanism of competition into the field of education, which aims to achieve the optimal allocation of education resources through competition. In this case, the public schools are forced to reform by

adjusting the educational goals to attract more students and funding for education, which greatly improve the quality and efficiency of education.

Impact on Teachers

Previously, in the United States, public school teachers are government's employees, so they are generally not worried about dismissing by schools for their poor performance in work. School choice reform make the public schools compete. Public school teachers began to face the pressure of competition, and sometimes even been fired, forcing them to improve their teaching ability and overall quality.

EVALUATION OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL CHOICE

If all schools in a school district can be built to be a distinctive charter school, there will be no so-called second-rate schools, which will help to reduce the harm of inequality.

Views of the Proponents

School choice broke the nearest school principle, making public schools lose a stable funding. In order to get development, Public schools had to take various measures to improve the quality of education, thus undoubtedly promote the public school reform. School choice right was given back to parents through choosing school. Students and parents get freedom to choose schools, thus met their diverse educational needs. School choice has a positive impact on students' academic performance, attendance and attitude. School choice can promote fairness in education. (Because in the education voucher program, Government provides the low-income children with some funding in the process of choosing private schools, and some funding is equivalent to full tuition fees in private schools, making it convenient for the low-income children to enter private school) Parents participate more in school education through school choice compared to the past. The contact between parents and schools increased, which is good for child's upbringing and education.

Views of the opponent

They believe that school choice will lead to differentiation among different students and different schools, which will affect fairness of education. For example, schools with good image and more funding is easier to attract good students while the weak schools can only enroll the students who were squeezed out of good schools. In addition, they believe that the theory of free market mechanisms cannot be copied to the field of education completely because there are essential differences between Education and free markets. Student's academic performance is an important indicator of the quality of education, Strengthen competition between schools will make schools focus only on exams and scores while ignoring students'

other abilities, which is not beneficial for students' overall development.

My views

After the comprehensive analysis of the pros and cons views, I think school choice still plays a significant role in promoting the development of education in the United States. In the past, American schools were under strict control and protection of the government for a long time, so public school monopolize, lacking of external competition. As the saying goes: no competition, no progress, the teaching efficiency in public schools is very low at the lack of competition. Choice skillfully introduce the market mechanisms into the field of education, thus breaking the stable status of public schools and make schools compete, which undoubtedly promote the development of public schools. Moreover, American public schools implement the principle of the nearest school to ensure that every citizen can attend school, but as we all know, with the changes of social development and concept of education equality, public school not only requires equal opportunities, but also requires the equal access to high-quality education opportunities. The nearest school principle make the educational opportunity equal in the "quantity" , but cannot guarantee the educational opportunity equal in the "quality", leading to some unfairness. Under the principle of school choice, children in poor areas can only accept relatively low quality education. School choice broke the restrictions of "nearest school principle", if the parents are dissatisfied with the public schools in their district, they can choose another public school of other district freely. Therefore, school choice is a revolutionary advancement in general terms.

ENLIGHTENMENT AND REFERENCE BROUGHT FROM AMERICAN SCHOOL CHOICE

School choice reform has experienced decades of development in the United States and there are a lot of places that we can learn from. So far, because of the restrictions on the level of economic and educational development, our country does not have the conditions to implement school choice reform, and the implementation of free school choice like America is not realistic either. But in the long run, free school choice reflects the trend of the objective law of development of education and educational development of the world. There are some inspiration and reference we can learn from American school choice, which can help to solve the problem of school choice and basic education reform in our country.

Choose nearest school or high-quality school

In fact, in essence, the principle of the nearest school and school choice are not contradictory. They are both in order to promote educational opportunities

equally. Nearest school principle is to ensure citizens' right to receive basic education, but school choice is based on the realization of the nearest school ,aiming to meet the needs of parents and students' desire of receiving high- quality education. It is also can realize the equal access to high-quality educational opportunities. Government should not only guarantee the rights of citizens' access to basic education, but also respect people's wish of receiving high-quality education. The reasonable approach is to combine the two ways, we can continue to adhere to the nearest school principle and allow students and parents' reasonable behavior of choosing school. In order to meet the diverse educational needs of some students and parents, promote better development of compulsory education, the school choice reform can be selectively implemented in developed regions.

The transformation of weak schools, narrowing the gap between schools

In China, in a long period of time, we focus on the implementation of key school policies. When develop a small part of key schools, a large number of weak schools emerged at the same time, which lead to inter-school differences. Therefore, at this stage, the government should make great efforts to transform weak schools and narrow the inter-school gap.

Attention and support for the development of private schools

In America, in addition to the more comprehensive public schools, there are quite a few high-quality private schools. As for the government's attitude on the public and private school, the US government treat them equally, without any discrimination. Government support private schools, reduced the intervention for private schools to a minimum level, and even private schools are qualified through formal legislative process. Moreover, China's private education started late; the running time is short; the quality of students in these school are not very good. The number of private schools is small, and the quality in private schools are not as good as many public schools. Governments should recognize and support the development of private education; Allow development of private education into the institutionalization road; Promote the diversification of education.

Regulation of school choice

School selection itself is beneficial, we should follow the development of the times, establish the corresponding education system, make rules to standard selection school, thus changing the current school of unhealthy tendencies [7].

Recognizing the legitimacy of school choice doesn't means letting school choice behavior drift itself. So far, the situation is high-quality compulsory

education resources is extremely rare, so there must be some limitations and conditions of choosing school. Raising the school choice to the regulative behavior which is controlled by the educational administrative departments uniformly. By clearing school's qualifications of these recruit school, regulating the students admission standards of school choosing students, making the program of school choosing students、school information, recruit condition, recruit enrollment, fees and other means open to everyone, which can make the enrolled of the students be open, fair and impartial. At the same time, in the course of enrolling students, we should give priority to the children of urban floating population, especially migrant workers' children, which can contribute to the equal educational opportunities between city and countryside. In addition, the school choosing fee must be managed uniformly, and handed in to the educational administrative department according to the proportion for the transformation of weak schools. The rest fee should be earmarked specifically for improving school conditions education quality.

Emphasis on parental involvement in education

Parental involvement is the key to protect the rights of students and their parents' school choice. Reasonable school choice system must maximize the integration, balance various interests and demands, form a useful mechanism for the balance of interests, ensuring the needs and interests of the vast majority of the members in society reflected in education policy. As an important factor of education, parents must be involved in the whole process of decision-making, the implementation and monitoring of the school choice reform to ensure their right of school choosing.

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