Curriculum Reform in China: Historic Legacy, Current Debate, and Future Directions

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The ongoing curriculum reform in China was formally initiated in 2001, echoing the requirements of knowledge-based economy and the intrinsic calling of educational democracy in the whole society. In one decade of practical and theoretical effort, nearly all the school teachers know the ideas and ideals of “New Curriculum Reform”. That’s the main achievements of this event. From 2004 on, New Curriculum Reform has been giving rise the biggest theoretical debate in educational field in China, which is commonly called “Wang-Zhong Debate”. This debate has greatly promoted the understanding of curriculum and pedagogy in China. Where is New Curriculum Reform going? It will honestly respond the realistic claiming of educational practice, pick up the long valuable wisdom tradition (for example, Confucianism), and recover the modern tradition of educational democratization in the first part of 20th century. If so, the future of New Curriculum Reform is bright.

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