

Study on Cultural Hegemony in Homosexual Education in Taiwan and Parental Opinions

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Abstract

This study examined the opinions and attitudes of Taiwan parents regarding on the homosexual education textbooks and whether there is cultural hegemony. Results are based on surveys from 476 parents with children attending junior high school in Tainan. A majority (57.25%) of parents disagree with gender reconstruction (gender spectrum) and content of marital equality (homosexual civil right promotion). Still a large majority (74.25%) of parents strongly opposed the materials in textbook about artists become popular by taking sex selfie, marriage was not necessarily with a man and a woman, and how the homosexual intercourse. However, over 90% of parents agree with teaching being respectful to any kinds of sexual orientation (91.66%). Parents' age, gender, and religious beliefs affect attitudes towards gay education. Women oppose more than men, those over 40 years of age who oppose more than under age of 40s, those with middle education level such as high school to university are opposed more than the parents with both side under junior high school and higher than graduate school. In addition, parents who are Christianity and Catholicism more disagree than other religions. From 2011 to 2018, Taiwan parents expressed dissatisfaction with the current homosexual education policies through news, media, democratic representatives and protest parade. This study found, even parents expressed strong disagreement, but, those curriculums still remain. This is forming a cultural hegemony in homosexual education in Taiwan.

Keywords: Gay Education, Parents' opinion, Gender Spectrum, Cultural Hegemony

Introduction

Since 2011, the implementation of the gay education in Taiwan from the announcement of the Ministry of Education, many parents protest against the inappropriateness of the curriculum through democratic representatives. This study aims to understand the reasons for parents' opposition to gay education and what causes parents' disagreements.

Most of the parents have questioned the appropriateness of incorporating homosexual education in the "Gender Equality Education" in the implementation of the Grade 1-9 Curriculum. Students are in the stage of entering the Same-sex peer stage. Same-sex peers are more liked and less disliked than other-sex peers (Dijkstra, Lindenberg, & Veenstra, 2007). Children in this period will reject sex to a certain extent. They only like to communicate with the same gender friends. The explicit behaviour will form a small group of the same sex (Chu, Hui-Tzu, 2011). The boys will gather to play or fight, and the girls will go hand in hand to the restroom. Parents in Taiwan worries the homosexual education curriculum may cause children to confuse "gender identity" and "friendship". If kids mistakenly think that a close friend as a partner, it will cause psychologically to identify themselves as homosexual or bisexual.

Purpose of the study

The main purposes of this study are as follows:

1. To explore the current issue of “inappropriate gender-based textbooks” for parents, what contents are so called inappropriate”, as a reference for the future design of the gender equality curriculum by the Ministry of Education.
2. Understand whether parents' attitudes toward gay education have differences in gender, age, social background, religious beliefs and marital status.
3. Whether there is a top-down oppressive cultural hegemony for the current gay education policy implemented by the government or not.

Research Questions

This study wants to explore are as follows:

1. Does the gender, age, social class, religious belief, and marital status of parents in Taiwan affect the attitudes toward gay education textbook materials?
2. What is the inappropriate gender textbook means for parent base on gender curriculums had been taught on 2016?
 - a. Teacher could teach the junior high school students that gender is like a spectrum. Students can choose different kinds of biological gender as they want to be, and the content of marital equality (homosexual civil right promotion). What is the attitude of the parents?
 - b. Teacher could share the message about artists become popular by taking sex selfie, and marriage was not necessarily with a man and a woman. And also teach how homosexual intercourse. What is the opinion of parents?
 - c. Teachers may teach students to respect any kinds of sexual orientation choice
3. Does the current gay education implemented by the Ministry of Education form an oppression of upper to lower to form cultural hegemony?

Theoretical framework

A. Gramsci believes that the human mind is the product of the entire social culture. In other words, a person's perception of things is closely related to the social culture, and the individual will naturally agree with the values of the whole society. In capitalism, the influence of rulers on the continuum can be reconstructed through the transmission of cultural consciousness. Compared with the class struggle of compulsory force mentioned by Marxism, the ruler can control the public more through the reconstruction of culture. And most people will agree and support the ruler, the influence of cultural re-construction is to make the individual unconsciously accepted (Chiang, Tien-hua, 2013).

How can a country's ruler make a new culture in an existing social culture, and enable people to obey automatically through education, religion, or daily life (Li Qingyi, 1990) and the ruler will involve the social groups form an organic solidarity, and such interests also reflect the interests of the rulers, thus forming a hegemonic combination, so that the social groups under other rulers also gain dominance due to the formation of new cultures. Leading the people under them, so these social groups will speak for the rulers for their own interests, thus forming a reasonable and universal thinking, and losing the individual consciousness (Tien-hua, Chiang., 2013), and the overall society will have popular value beliefs. Then new values be formed.

The American homosexual movement has led the American Academy of Psychiatry (APA) to eradicate the disease of homosexuality, not from the scientific basis of research but from the "political movement" (David Guinan, Jill Tenglue, 2005). After 1970s, the American Psychological Association was gradually controlled by the same person. In the interview film of Dr. Nicholas Andrew Cummings (President of the American Psychological Association)

(New Life, 2014), it was mentioned how the people of the same movement manipulated the academic world and worked hard on homosexual politics. The rights, with non-scientific evidence, but by voting through homosexuality (Taiwan's family, 2014) since then, because of this resolution, homosexuality is no longer a disease; however, it needs to educate the general public. Since then, No one is rethinking the rationality and scientific nature of this resolution, successfully creating a new cultural thinking that is no longer a disease for homosexuality.

Since the "Homosexual education" was put into the Grade 1-9 Curriculum in Taiwan in 1997, the Ministry of Education has adopted a diverse-sexual or so-called pluralistic sexual orientation term to the law (Wen Chunlin et al., 2016). Establishing a homosexuality as normal. Another kind of social culture that needs to be respected, and starting from the rule of law and education, most of the society believes that homosexuality is not acceptable, and it is a violation of natural social and cultural customs.

Although cultural hegemony can be said to be a reform of unconsciousness and a powerful transformation force from ruler, but the people may not fully agree to be dominated by the current cultural hegemony, so there is a cultural resistance (Makkawi, Ibrahim, 2008). In the anti-hegemonic culture, parents shown their disagreement through protest parade at the end of 2016. Expressing parents' dissatisfaction about homosexual education and same-sex marriage legislation.

Methodology

This study is based on questionnaire survey to explore the attitude of parents in Tainan City about the gay education in junior high schools. The target is conducted by local parents in Tainan City. The content of this questionnaire includes: the first part is the basic information of the parents, and the second part is the parents' opinions on the school teaching about homosexual education.

Parent's background as independent variable and dependent-variables as their opinions toward homosexual education. Background variables are gender, age, education level, family incomes, marital status, religion believes, and the amount of kids in the family. Dependent variables are parents' attitude about 3 different contents of homosexual textbook which are gender spectrum and homosexual public right implement promoting, sexual liberation, and respect for any kind of sexual orientation.

Respondents are asked to what extent that they agree or disagree with the statement, ranging from (5) strongly agree, (4) agree, (3) neutral, (2) disagree, and (1) strongly disagree. After the research questionnaire was prepared and the expert validity was reviewed, the questionnaire was pre-tested. The online questionnaire was sent to the parents of the students in the junior high school of Tainan City by the social network such as LINE and FB. According to the literature, the number of pre-samples is preferably at least 30 samples (Perneger, Courvoisier, Hudelson, and Gayet-Agero, 2015), and a total of 147 pre-test questionnaires were collected for online questionnaire collection.

The pre-test questionnaire was used to analyse the factors, reliability, and validity of the questions, delete the non-conforming questions, and conduct an online survey of the formal questionnaires. A total of 476 samples of valid online questionnaires were analysed.

Literature Review

Filler (1976) mentions that attitude is a kind of tendency to evade, a concept of continuous face, between the negative and positive poles. Parents' attitude towards their children's sexual education has a considerable impact on adolescents' prevention of unexpected pregnancies and dangerous sexual behaviours (Mary TW Leung Ling1 & Hui Fang Chen1, 2017). Parents' guidance on sex education is influenced by some parents'

background factors. Gender, age, education, socioeconomic status, religious beliefs, and the status of marriage (Liao Lijun, Hong Qianlong, 2006), the following factors affecting parental attitudes.

1. Gender

Women are caregivers in Taiwan's social culture. Therefore, female parents are more concerned with their children's sex education than male parents, and have more communication about sexual knowledge and related issues with children (Liao Lijun, Hong Qianlong, 2006). Mothers are also superior to fathers in general parent-child communication (Zhuang Jinying & Guo Hong Guo Xiong, 2009). However, some studies have also pointed out that although women are the main caregiver, there is no gender difference in the part of parenting education.

2. Age

The communication between adolescents and parents is related to the age of the parents. The younger the parents are, the more likely they are to communicate with their parents. However, the adolescents do not actively communicate with parents due to the reason of that parents do not understand (Liao Lijun, Hong Qianlong, 2006), similar studies in Taiwan's different families of new ethnic groups. Age is also a key element, for parent-child communication (Cheng Wei-chen., 2016).

3. Social background

Many research shows that parents with high education have the opportunity to work in various professional fields and get better income and social status. Therefore, parents could support their children for better education and have more career choices in the future. (Blau & Duncan, 1967: 5-7, Chou Hsin-fu, 2008). Parents' can invest in their children's learning more. Parents with high education backgrounds can provide more human capital, although there are many variables that affect students' academic performance, including teachers, school curriculum, materials and equipment, etc., but the family background is still the most important reason. Many empirical studies have pointed out that economic capital at home has an impact on children's academic achievement. Coleman (1988) mentioned that family social capital contains two kinds of relationships: parent-to-child relationship, parents spend time investing money, supervising and caring for children. The other is that parents and communities, schools, churches and other social networks influence their children's learnings (Chou Hsin-fu, 2008).

4. Religious beliefs

The family is the first field where the child is educated. The parents are the child's first sex education tutor (Yen Han-wen, 2004). The parents' sexual education concept is related to their religious beliefs (Mary TW Leung Ling & Hui Fang Chen, 2017). Different religious beliefs have different views on sexual education. Religious teachings shape one's concept and view of homosexuality. The intensity of religious beliefs also has different views on homosexuality. American Protestants are opposed more to homosexuality more than Christianity and Catholicism. It is also mixed with ethnic issues. Compared with whites, African-Americans are more tolerant of homosexuality (Anne C., Jane W., Yi W. (2016).

Taiwan's religious beliefs are diverse, and research on big data has observed that Taiwan has been promoted by the Marriage Equality movement from 2013 to 2017, and there are many controversies from religion (Yang Yuzhi, 2018). Some religious groups such as Christianity, Buddhism, and Confucianism gathered in the protests against the same-sex marriage in 2016 (Chou Yu-cheng, 2016). So the religious beliefs is included in the investigation.

5. Marital status

The status of marriage has many related with physical, mental health, and economic influence to children and adolescents (Colleen MC, et.al, 2015). Marital status is affect different

parenting styles. Good parental marital status, benefits better cognitive development of children (Ryan D. Edwards & Jennifer Rof., 2016). Similar studies also explore the impact of marital status on personal health, widowhood, divorce or solitary. The health status of the person is worse than that of the married person (Fang-Hua Jhang, 2018). Therefore, the marital status is included in the investigation of the parental background.

After all the questionnaires are collected, the invalid questionnaires are eliminated, and the data is sorted and input into SPSS Window20 and Excel software for comparative analysis. The statistical methods adopted include such as t test, one way ANOVA, and linear regression analysis.

Discussion

1. Parents, regardless of age, gender, marital status, etc., was analyzed by independent sample t-test. After all the opinions were added, the top 40% and the last 40% of the parents in the normal distribution were tested for independent samples. In the questionnaire, the “disagree” and “strongly disagree” are classified to the top 40% as "objection", and last 40% of the parents who “agree” and strongly agree” are classified to "approved". A majority (**57.25%**) of parents disagree with gender spectrum and content of marital equality (Table 1).

Table 1

Independent sample t-test analysis, parents’ attitude of teachers to teach gender spectrum and marital equality, regardless of age, gender, marital status, etc.

Textbook content	Opinion	No. of parents	Mean	SD	F	t value
Gender Spectrum and marital equality.	Objection	229 (57.3%)	1.67	.46	22.835***	-58.41
	Approved	171(42.7)	4.52	.50		

$P < 0.001$

2. Parents' attitudes toward the Sexual liberation which included artist become popular by taking sex selfie, marriage was not necessarily with a man and a woman, and how the homosexual intercourse etc., were significantly different from the average. The number of opposing parents was 297, and 103 were agreed. **A large majority (74.25%) of parents strongly opposed the materials in textbook.** Nearly three-quarters of Parent disagreed with the teacher's teaching of the sexual liberation. See Table2.

Table 2

Independent sample t-test analysis of parents’ attitudes toward sexual liberation regardless backgrounds

Textbook content	opinion	No. of parents	Mean	SD	F	t value
Sexual liberation	objection	297 (74.25%)	1.23	.42723	37.54***	-59.39
	approved	103 (25.75%)	4.52	.50185		

$P < 0.001$

3. Parents’ attitudes are no significantly different from accepting multiple orientations ($t=.004$, $p>0.05$). See Table 3 for details. Then, a narrative statistical analysis was conducted. The number of opposing parents was 30, and 330 were agreed. **Over 90% of parents agree with**

teaching being respectful to any kinds of sexual orientation (91.66%). The average parental attitude is 4.76, indicating that most parents' opinions fall on the teacher's teaching to respect and accept diversity. See Table3 for details.

Table 3

Independent sample t-test analysis for parents' attitude toward teaching respect and accept various type of sexual orientation regardless backgrounds.

Textbook content	Opinion	No. of parents	Mean	SD	F	t value
Respect and accept various type of sexual orientation	Objection	30(8.33%)	1.6333	.49013	.004	-32.472

$P > 0.05$

4.Age and gender are the key element influencing parental opinion. As per shown in Table 4, the four blocks have a 30.2% explanatory power ($F(7,436)=26.943$, $p=.000$), indicating that these four blocks are explanatory for the dependent variable. The first block have an explanation power for the variable ($R^2=.249$, $F(2,441)= 74.624$, $p=.000$), and the explanatory power of the age is 15.1% ($R^2=.151$, $\Delta=-.349$, $t(443) = -8.41$, $p = .000$) is greater than gender ($\Delta = .322$, $t(443) = 7.75$, $p = .000$).

The second class regression, adding the variables of religious belief, the block interpretation force $R^2=.039$, F change ($3,440$) = 24.020 effectively enhances the explanatory power, $\Delta = -.199$ ($t(443)=-4.9$, $p= .000$), contributing 3.9% of influence, but gender ($\Delta=-.323$) and age ($\Delta=.306$) are still greater than the religious beliefs ($\Delta=-.199$) ($t(443)= - 4.9$, $p = .000$). $R^2 = .282$ ($F(2,441) = 60.353$, $p=.000$) The explanatory power increased from 24.9% to 29.2%; **it is seen that gender and age are the main influence variables.**

Table 4

Statistical hierarchy regression results on Parental opinion verse different elements of parent background toward homosexual education.

variables	Section1 Human nature			Section 2 Religion			Section3 Social status			Section4 Marriage status		
	Beta	t	p	Beta	t	p	Beta	t	p	Beta	t	p
1 AGE	-	-	.000	-	-7.9	.000	-	-	.000	-	-7.34	.000
GENDER	.349	8.41		.323			.312	7.49		.311		
	.322	7.75	.000	.306	7.55	.000	.299	7.37	.000	.300	7.154	.000
2 RELIGION				-	-4.9	.000	-	-	.000	-	-4.86	.000
				.199			.198	4.89		.198		
3 EDUCATION							-	-	.093	-	-1.70	.088
INCOME							.069	1.68		.071		
							-	-	.098	-	-1.60	.109
							.066	1.66		.064		
4 MARRIAGE										.034	.850	.396
KIDS										-	-.299	.765
										.013		
R²	.151		.249			.292			.301			.302
F	78.584		74.624			60.353			37.654			26.943

	Section1 Human nature		Section 2 Religion	Section3 Social status	Section4 Marriage status
p	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
ΔR^2	.151	.102	.039	.009	.001
F c	78.584	60.148	24.020	2.846	.417
P c	.000	.000	.000	.059	.659

Fc: F change, Pc :p for change.

5. As the age declines, the more agreement increased with gay education. According to the literature, young parents have different views on sex education than mature parents. This study shows that under 30 years of age, the opinions of textbook about gender reconstruction and marital equality promotion has more optimistic view. In the contracts, parents with over age of 41 hold a high percentage of "disagree" opinions (table 5).

Table 5

Percentage of parent's opinion with different age toward gender reconstruction and marriage equality promotion by cross tabulation. (Unit: number /percentage)

Textbook Content		1	2	3	4	5	total
Gender reconstruction and homosexual civil right promotion	Under age of 30	4 7.9%	2 5.3%	0 0	13 34.2%	21 52.6%	40 100%
	Age of 31~40	12 9.8%	28 22.8%	11 8.9%	32 26.0%	40 32.5%	123 100%
	Age of 41~50	37 18.7%	84 42.4%	29 14.6%	24 12.1%	24 12.1%	198 100%
	Over age of 51	21 26.9%	38 48.7%	4 5.1%	10 12.8%	5 6.4%	78 100%
	Total	74 16.7%	155 34.9%	44 9.9%	81 18.2%	90 20.3%	444 100.0%

(1: strongly disagree, 2:disagree, 3:neutral,4:agree, 5:strongly agree.)

6. Women oppose more than men. 35.1% of the males objected to the teacher's teaching of the sexual liberation, while women had 70.5% of the opposition, as shown in Table 6.

Table 6

Percentage of parents' attitudes toward sexual liberation with different gender

(Unit : number/percentage)

Textbook Content		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Sexual liberation	Male	42 20.2%	31 14.9%	21 10.1%	47 22.6%	67 32.2%	208 100.0%
	Female	104 41.9%	71 28.6%	31 12.5%	17 6.9%	25 10.1%	248 100.0%
	Total	146 31.6%	102 22.7%	52 11.5%	64 14.1%	92 20.1%	456 100.0%

(1: strongly disagree, 2:disagree, 3:neutral,4:agree, 5:strongly agree.)

7. Parents' education level shows that "intermediate education level" with opponents as the mainstream. In the literature inquiry, the high parental education is more acceptable in attitude of sex education, and has more cognition in sexual knowledge. The willingness is not learned by the university's development education, but the facts do show positive correlation between education level and sexual education. According to the survey results of this study, parents in Taiwan have a smile curve on the consent of gay education. Parents with master or doctor degree and with below the junior high school degree both express "neutral" or "agree" the textbook content with "gender reconstruction ". In contrast, parents of "intermediate education", including the majority of parents in high school, college, and university, fall in "disagree" to the "strongly disagree" school to teach the content of the "gender reconstruction and marital equality promotion", and "sexual liberation" in gay education.

8. The influence of family socio-economic background and marriage status on gay education is not significant. Many studies shows the study of adolescents and children's cognition suggests that the family's economic capital is positively correlated with the ability of children to receive more educational resources. High-income parents can provide more educational resources than low-income parents. There are also related links, and there is also a relative emphasis on parenting attitudes. This study investigated the attitudes of parents of different incomes towards gay education in terms of gender-reconstruction (gender spectrum), homosexual right promotion materials, and sexual liberation stands no significance difference between different backgrounds.

9. Religion. Individuals' views on homosexuals, the related research refers to the religious person's low acceptance of homosexuality. And the attitude of parents towards gay education is also related to ethnic and family beliefs, and the American-Americans of African Americans has more sense of acceptance than whites.

In Taiwan, there are many different kind of religious beliefs in society. Christianity and Catholics have a "disagree" to "strongly disagree" attitude toward gay education. Especially in the textbook content of gender spectrum, marital equality, sexual liberation; Buddhism, folk beliefs or Taoism and other religious opinions fall between "disagree" to "neutral", but Christianity and Catholics is strongly expressed "strongly disagree" to "disagree". Although the religious groups sat together when anti-marital equality groups were gathered in Taipei at the end of 2016. Which were initiated by Church, and other different religions. With the input wind, it can be understood that Christian and Catholic, it showed that religious people are more active.

Limitation

The research topic is currently highly controversial in the Taiwan society. When the researchers asked the school teachers and parents to help researcher to put the questionnaire on their class social net web, most class tutors said that "The curriculum about homosexual is not the major class in the school, students will not bring the textbook back home. And the students will be directly recycle at the end of semester. Parents do not know what the school taught, but if they assist to put the questionnaire on their class LINE or FB, they would know what the textbook is written. This situation also occurs when the researcher contacts the principal and the counselling director of the sampling school and ask them to assist in the investigation. They were also rejected by similar reasons. So, it's hard to collaborate with school to get the investigation. Therefore, the researchers changed the way of collecting

questionnaire to parents' for assisting the investigation. Some parents began to ask students to bring textbook home to know what the content of textbook is about homosexual.

During the research period, the non-research community group: Tainan Rainbow Parade website (<https://www.facebook.com/tainanrainbowparade/>) disseminated this research survey with homophobia and discrimination, and some people mailed to researcher's University to ask for an ethical review. Because of that, research was forced to be suspended. After the ethics review committee was approved by the school, this research investigation did not violate academic ethics, but in order to reduce the follow-up conflicts. So the volume collection of the questionnaire was limited.

Recommendation and Conclusion

The results of the study showed that parents in Taiwan did not agree with the homosexual content of the textbooks. Since the implementation of gay education, parents have proposed to amend the gay education policies and teaching materials. The Ministry of Education has continued to make the school curriculum continue on the grounds of the curriculum. The value of the equal rights and the sexual liberation of the homosexual textbook in education that the government wants to make, through education and the society for the next generation, the resistance of the parents to the defending the marriage value. This gay education has an impact and resistance to the society and forms cultural hegemony.

In the formation of this cultural hegemony, the researchers observed in the current society also promotes the equal rights of marriage. This is similar to the content of homosexual education. Gramsci mentioned that the ruler impulses new values in society, non-military, means through media culture or education. Some group in intermediate intellectuals can benefit from the process, forming a common idea promoter, but society is composed of diverse individuals. Therefore, those who resist the instillation of value by this ruler form a force of resistance, and the promoters of resistance to equality of marriage are defending the marriage value group. This resistance group resists in order to defend the original customs of the society, and at the same time resists the ruler in the new value transmission tool- homosexual education.

Whether homosexual education is the target tool for the rulers to reach the next step of equal rights in marriage, further research is needed. Researcher found that the current homosexual education has placed a socially controversial issue of equal rights in marriage, heterosexual hegemony, discrimination, etc. to dismantle the society's perception of homosexuality. The textbook discusses that many advanced countries have passed the equal rights of marriage, intending to beautify the content of marriage equality is human rights and fashion style. The reason about the parents' resisting needs for further research, if the parent worry about the contents will affect students' marriage value or not. Will it endangerment of adolescents' physical and mental health (sexually transmitted diseases and unmarried pregnancies) and thus resistance or not. It need more research to support the hypothesis.

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