

Interview Guide

For Student Groups:

Core Objectives: 1. Clarify the mental attitudes and behavioral manifestations of students at Chengnan Middle School regarding their rebellious tendencies against the exam-oriented education system, as well as the various factors shaping such thoughts and behaviors. 2. Conduct interviews with members of the Spring and Autumn History Research Society after Xinchang Middle School's vacation, focusing on exploring the root causes behind the stark behavioral disparities between the two student groups when confronted with similar circumstances through comparing their ideological and behavioral differences.

Selection of Interviewees: Chengnan Middle School: Target mainly students we have supported through volunteer teaching (those hovering around the general high school admission score line), with a sample size of 10 to 20 students. We will gain preliminary insights through daily in-class and after-school interactions, and conduct in-depth home visits on weekends. Xinchang Middle School: Target regular members and cadres of the Spring and Autumn History Research Society, with a sample size of 10 to 20 students.

Interview Questions:

1. What do you think of your school life?
2. When you encounter academic difficulties, do you turn to teachers or your parents for help? Why do you think so?
3. Which teacher do you like more, or which teacher do you dislike? What's the reason?
4. Could you give an overall evaluation of the school?(You may discuss school leadership, institutional rules, campus life and other aspects.)
5. How many years have you been using mobile phones to access the internet? Why do you enjoy surfing online on your phone?
6. What games, TV dramas, films, online novels, celebrities, songs and other forms of entertainment do you like?
7. What is your parents' attitude toward these hobbies? Why do they hold such views? How do you feel about their stance?
8. Based on your current academic performance, which high school do you think you are most likely to attend, or what plans do you have for your future career?
9. How do you view the correlation between the academic performance of students in regular classes at Xinchang Middle School and their family backgrounds?

10. In your opinion, what disadvantages do students from rural families face compared with urban students? Why do you think so?

11. What is your family's annual household income? Is your family willing to spend extra money to cultivate your personal hobbies? Why or why not?

12. Is there anything else you would like to add?

Supplementary :Provision for Xinchang Middle School Interviews. Interviews with Xinchang Middle School students shall adopt all the above questions as a foundation. Interviewers may freely expand on questions drawing from their campus experiences, while ensuring all discussions center on the core research theme.

For Teacher Groups:

Core Objectives: Examine underachieving students and the fairness of the exam-oriented education system from educators' perspectives, and explore the structural dilemmas faced by academically struggling students.

Selection of Interviewees :Recruit 5 to 7 interviewees including frontline teachers, head teachers and senior school administrators from Chengnan Middle School. Due to practical constraints of rural schools, these roles often overlap for a single staff member.

Interview Questions:

1. In your opinion, what are the primary gaps between students here and students in urban schools?

2. Is there a large disparity in learning attitudes and academic outcomes among students in your class? What core differences separate students who are easy to manage from those who require extra attention, and what accounts for these gaps?

3. To what extent do existing student assessment standards and admission pressure restrict your ability to support underperforming students? For example, education reforms that advocate shifting classroom dominance to students.

4. What is your opinion on the general vocational high school tracking system? In your view, is a student's placement in vocational high school driven mainly by personal choice or environmental influences?

5. What differences do you observe between rural and urban children in terms of resilience and learning capabilities?

6. How significant is the impact of family education on students' long-term development?(Including their chances of gaining admission to general high schools)

For Parent Groups:

Core Objectives : 1. Explore how families shape students' mindsets and study habits. 2. Analyze whether household economic capital directly widens academic gaps between students. 3. Study how cultural and social capital generates differences in adolescents' rebellious behaviors against exam-oriented education.

Selection of Interviewees : Mainly interview parents of junior high students we support via volunteer teaching. Additional interviewees include parents of History Society members (interviewed during their home visits) and relatives contacted during family gatherings; there is no fixed cap on the number of parent interviewees.

Interview Questions

1. In supporting your child's schooling, what main forms of assistance can you provide? (e.g. financial support for tutoring classes, time spent accompanying and supervising studies, cultural edification at home, etc.) Are there moments when you feel your efforts fall short of your expectations? What causes this sense of powerlessness?
2. What topics do you most frequently discuss with your child after school? What is your immediate reaction when your child struggles academically? How do you plan to offer support, and why do you take this approach?
3. What do you think of Chengnan Middle School? How are its teachers, and what is the overall campus cultural atmosphere like?
4. Which school do you hope your child can strive to get into?
5. What thoughts and plans do you have regarding your child's future tracking into general or vocational education?
6. If your child ends up attending a vocational high school, do you believe their life will be ruined? What does admission to vocational high school mean to you, and why?
7. Could you talk about your usual methods of educating your child? Why do you have this parenting philosophy?
8. What proportion of your total household income are you willing to invest in supporting your child's pursuit of further education?