Risks in Primary and Secondary School Research Tourism and Its Countermeasures

Wenyi Ding
Wuhan City Polytechnic, Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.

Keywords: research tourism; travel risks; countermeasures.

Abstract: The young is strong, the country is strong. Primary and secondary education is the basis of the talent revitalization plan of China. Attaching importance to the education of adolescents and children is an important way to promote the quality of education for all. In recent years, with the continuous deepening of national quality education, research tourism, as the extension and supplement of quality education, has become a new content and method of quality education. It inherits and develops the educational concept and humanistic spirit of the traditional idea, “to read great books and do great travels”. However, it is necessary to clearly realize that there are various risks in this process; schools and teachers need to take effective countermeasures.

1. Introduction

Nowadays, the state vigorously advocates research tourism. Relevant documents have been issued, such as the National Tourism and Leisure Program, the Guidelines for Primary and Secondary School Students’ Research Tourism Abroad (Trial Implementation), as well as the Regulation on Promoting Research Tourism in Primary and Secondary Schools which is proposed by 11 ministers including the Ministry of Education. These regulations clearly stipulate that we need to support and promote research tourism in primary and secondary schools, and carry out activities in accordance with the comprehensive implementation of quality education. It is required that research tours, as well as summer and winter camps should be taken as important carriers of patriotism education, revolutionary tradition education and national conditions education for adolescents. They should be included in the daily moral, aesthetic and physical education of primary and secondary school students, so as to enhance students’ understanding of the nature and society, and cultivate their sense of social responsibility and practical ability. In accordance with the principle of education-oriented and safety-first, we should establish a study travel system. In the system, the education in primary school stage is dominated by local conditions; the education in junior middle school stage is dominated by county conditions and city conditions; the education in senior high school stage is dominated by provincial conditions and national conditions. This paper makes some analysis and provides some countermeasures on risks in research tourism of primary and secondary schools.

2. The Significance of Research Tourism for Primary and Secondary Schools

Research tourism is not just another way of teaching, it advocates the development of children’s operational ability, so that they are no longer confined to the knowledge of textbooks. They can learn in travel, experience different life style, and constantly expand their knowledge and horizons. The purpose of the state’s promotion of research tourism in primary and secondary schools is to reform the present teaching and educating method. Research tourism pays attention to the cultivation of humanistic spirit and the significance of comprehensive practical activities; it has the characteristics of education, practice, theory and diversity. In order to carry out this practical activity, the government and schools need to strengthen management.

Nowadays, more and more people in the society know the teaching method of research tourism. It is not only a reform in educational mode, but also a symbol of the progress in our educational thought. We hope that children can develop all aspects of their abilities in an all-round way, so that
children can play to learn, and learn to play. The happy learning can be achieved through this method. In research tourism, children need to leave their parents, and live together with their peers. In the group living, they need to consider the needs of others and integrate into team work. Different environment can also improve children’s thinking patterns, enlighten their minds, and help them to form their own awareness of the nature and the society. Travelling can gradually strengthen students’ collective consciousness and social responsibility, so as to improve their comprehensive quality. Education is not only a social responsibility, but also a test. To achieve the better education of children, the state should vigorously promote this kind of travel education.

Education pays attention to a method, emphasizing the cultivation of personality and attitude. Study travel provides a relaxed and natural environment, in which children have higher acceptance level. They are happy to acquire knowledge and social experience during the travelling. Why do the state and society recognize the implementation of this mode of education? There is no reason to deny its educational significance and methods. The education of primary and secondary school students should be carried out in a comprehensive and easy-to-accept way. Children all have the nature of love playing. While satisfying their nature, teachers can also impart knowledge which they need to experience personally. Only in this way can the knowledge exists for a long time and be constantly consolidated. In this process, students can form independent consciousness, and improve themselves in the collective living.

3. Problems in Primary and Secondary School Research Tourism

The first problem is safety. On May 1, 2017, the Ministry of Tourism formally implemented the Standards for Research Tourism Services, which clearly defined the staffing of the sponsor (school) and the organizer (travel agency). Each team (based on 20 students) should be equipped with at least three relevant personnel from the travel agency. When carry out research tourism activities, some problems are inevitable. When a large number of students go on travelling together, teachers need to focus on the overall situation and may neglect one or two children; some accidents may occur. Outdoor activities are the most difficult; students are scattered in a large area, which makes it difficult for teachers to manage. It is impossible for one or two adults to take care of all children. At that time, what is most needed is the collective consciousness. Students should be told to listen to arrangements, obey teachers’ orders, and not leave the group. They should know that it is dangerous out there, but if they stay together, they do not need to afraid of anything. The process can also cultivate their team spirit.

Second is the charging problem. There will always be some bad phenomena in society. Some schools and teachers will ask parents for money on the excuse of studying and traveling. There is no reason for parents to refuse. Research tourism is also a kind of public welfare activity. A part of schools require parents to pay high fees through some excuses, such as the distance of travelling and the state or the superiors have not allocated funds yet. These are the result of improper supervision by local governments and administrative departments and the influence of bad social atmosphere, which needs to be solved as soon as possible.

Third, objectives are not clear and the measures are not in place. Schools and organizers do not have a deep understanding on the significance of organizing these activities, or attach importance to the organization of research activities. They think the implement of research tourism only needs to go through the motions. Fundamentally speaking, this activity is not only an opportunity for children to acquire knowledge and recognize themselves, but also a rare chance for teachers to further communicate with children and know their inner feelings. Then teachers can find more efficient and appropriate teaching methods. Research tourism is an educational mode which combines research learning and travel experience. Teachers need to make clear the purpose of this trip and help students to acquire new knowledge from practice. At present, in the process of promoting research tourism, many schools are afraid to organize students to carry out collective activities outside the school for the fear of danger. The government should strengthen policy guidance and regulations in the process of organizing research tourism, implement safety responsibilities in the process of research tourism, and avoid making schools bear unlimited
responsibilities. Schools play a dual role of organizers and consumers of research tourism. The main body of research tourism is the student. As the main organizer of research tourism, schools are also the consumers of research tourism products. Research tourism products need to be manufactured according to the requirements of schools. The school should choose suitable research products and routes according to students’ physiological characteristics and actual learning situation. Schools are responsible for teaching, educating people and inheriting national culture. Schools can effectively implement quality education by participating in research tours.

4. Countermeasures to Risks in Primary and Secondary School Research Tourism

We should strengthen and improve the management of the security system, make assessment and protective measures for all kinds of possible accidental risks, improve relevant laws, clarify the division of labor, and build and improve a comprehensive ecological security system. Firstly, organizers should make a reasonable assessment of unexpected risks outside school, and make emergency plans to avoid potential risks in transportation, travel and diet. Through work division and cooperation in detail, we can reduce the risks to a minimum. Secondly, teachers should carefully convey the safety awareness to students so that they can have a preliminary understanding. Exercises of safety education should be done to avoid the painful lessons caused by the lack of response measures when accidents occur. Schools should also be responsible for the safety and security of research tourism activities. Before the research activities are carried out, they should formulate relevant activity plans and prepare safety emergency plans, which should be submitted to the education management department for approval. Schools should do a good job of safety education before the research tourism. They should train students and teachers who take part in research tourism in safety knowledge and outdoor skills, buy safety and accident insurance for teachers and students, and inform parents of the meaning of activities, the time arrangement, the travel routes, expenses, receipts and expenditures, as well as matters needing attention in written form, and sign safety responsibility statement with parents. In view of the choice of research tourism enterprises, schools should try their best to choose travel units with good reputation and strong risk management ability, carefully examine the qualifications of cooperation units, sign agreements with qualified and reputable institutions, and clearly entrust enterprises or institutions with the responsibility of students’ safety in research tourism, so as to ensure the safety of transportation, accommodation and catering in travel activities.

To reduce the cost of study travel, the government should actively explore the construction of funding guarantee mechanism for research tourism. In terms of research funds, the State encourages the government to pay a little, schools to pay a little and parents to pay a little. For some local governments with difficult finances, it is even not easy to guarantee teachers’ salaries and basic daily teaching expenditure. It is very difficult for them to spend money to support the expenditure of research tourism. We should try to actively explore various ways to raise travel funds, encourage the development of research tourism through social donations, public welfare activities and other forms, so that parents do not need to pay all expenses. At the same time, specific funding mechanisms should be designed for students from disadvantaged groups. As a public service product, research tourism should ensure that it benefits every student of the right age. Travel departments should give preferential treatment to eligible students, especially in transportation, tourist attractions and scenic spots. They should draw lessons from foreign experience and issue special study travel cards for young students to make students travel more conveniently. At the same time, research tourism agencies, museums, scenic spots and research bases can mobilize the enthusiasm of research tourism organizations through appropriate tax relief and various incentives. Schools should improve their own standardization, take the initiative to accept the supervision and management of educational institutions, reduce the cost of some scenic spots during travel, and correctly regulate the charging behavior. In this way, the society and parents can trust the school, become more willing to send their children to the school and support the development of research tourism in primary and secondary schools. Trust is mutual. Schools should not satisfy themselves for temporary self-interest, which destroys the most basic rules of life between people.
Schools should also clear the goal and direction of research tourism, put the safety of students in the first place, and put an end to all formalized superficial behavior. In order to implement the research activities, teachers and schools need to formulate appropriate programs according to students’ needs and their own conditions, and train professional teachers to guide the smooth completion of these activities. Procedures include cultivation of safety awareness, emergency training, and practical activities around the theme. The specific implementation of research tourism in primary and secondary schools needs the supervision and improvement of schools, teachers and personnel of education departments. The management system should be constantly improved; innovative methods should be made to promote students’ growth.

5. Conclusion

With the rapid development of the country, the demand for talents in various industries is increasing, and the cultivation of our country’s pillar talents has become the most important issue of education. Primary and secondary school students are the beginning of all education. To cultivate excellent talents, moral, intellectual, physical and aesthetic education must be implemented at the same time, in order to achieve a balanced development. Therefore, we should pay more attention to the significance of research tourism when emphasizing the importance of acquiring knowledge. Research tourism helps to enhance children’s curiosity about the outside world, encourage them to work harder and do everything well, and cultivate their quality of helping each other. Through travelling, primary and secondary school students can have healthy bodies as well as motility and coordination abilities; they are also cultivated with the good character of daring to challenge themselves.

Studies have shown that children’s physical and mental health cannot be achieved without outdoor travel activities. Outdoor abilities can cultivate their expressive and practical abilities. Therefore, it is of great significance to develop research tourism activities in primary and secondary schools. Schools, teachers and managers need to carry out important meetings of routine management, so that they can realize the negative impacts of problems, and deeply understand the importance of routine management in research tourism activities.

Acknowledgement

In this paper, the research was sponsored by the Foundation for Industry-University-Research Projects of Wuhan City Polytechnic. Project number: 2019whcvc02.

References

