
NEWSLETTER

The Effects of School Governance Participation on Creativity in Basic Education Students

By Ma, S. & Chu, H.

Correspondence to: Siteng Ma, Capital University of Economics and Business, China. E-mail: bnumsteng@163.com

FOSTERING students' creativity is a crucial step in the implementation of the national innovation-driven development strategy. The school environment, particularly the opportunity for the students to participate in school governance, has profound impacts on creative skill development in the students. Currently, there is no conclusive conceptualization of student participation in school governance, and the mechanism of its influence on students' creativity remains unclear. To address the gap in the literature, this study adopts the mixed-method research design to analyze the dimensions of student participation in school governance as well as its effects on students' creativity.

Research Results:

- A model for student participation in school governance in the Chinese context was advanced, which includes three dimensions: free expression, involvement in the school agenda, and deliberative discussion.
- The level of the students' participation in school governance positively predicts their creative skill development.
- Students' intrinsic motivation and creative self-efficacy are positively related to their creativity, and their participation in school governance is effective in boosting their intrinsic motivation and creative self-efficacy.

Implications for school teaching and management practices aimed at improving students' creativity:

- Afford students freedom of expression. This means the teacher should not have any preconceived expectations of the students' answers or give any pre-determined responses to their varied expressions.
- Increase students' involvement in school agendas. Students should be encouraged to actively engage in school or class-level agendas, which necessitates institutional improvements, such as establishing platforms for student representatives to participate in

school decision-making and creating mechanisms via which students can influence school development.

- Fostering a school culture of consultation and discussion. Full exchanges of ideas between teachers and students, as well as between students themselves, can generate new perspectives and facilitate the achievement of consensus.
- Nurturing students' intrinsic motivation and creative self-efficacy in routine teaching and management practices. The school and teachers should encourage students to actively explore the meaning of schooling for the real world and stimulate their interest in learning.

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