

Research on training of special education teacher in China

Wang, Yan; Xiao, Fei

(book review)

Reviewed by Shangwei Li

As the first book about training of a special education teacher in China, "*Research on training of special education teacher in China*" was written by the professors Wang, Yan and Xiao, Fei in Beijing Normal University, who were good at special education training and research; and systematically introduced the history, status, features, trends and policy recommendations of training of special education teacher, which mainly is involved in four chapters (preface does mainly research meanings and fifth chapter does appendix).

First, from international perspective in the first chapter, the authors completely showed the developmental history, policies and laws, system (including purposes, modes and courses of pre-service and in-service training), features and trends of training of special education teacher in China (including Taiwan and Hong Kong), America, England, Japan and Russia; and make the readers clearly know the overview of pre-service and in-service training of special education teachers in China and some developed countries. If introduction to history, status and features make the reader deeply understand the past of training of special education teachers in some countries, prediction about international trends make the readers clearly feel the "spring" of training of special education teachers in the world.

Second, basing on the Chinese reality in second, third and fourth chapter, the authors systematically investigated and analyzed the developmental status (mainly involving in gender, age, teaching years, educational background, title; professional knowledge, skills and attitudes; professional development; influencing factors; etc.), features, problems, and policy recommendations of special education teachers; history, status (including pre-service, in-service training), influencing factors and policy recommendations of inclusive teacher education; and the status (including number, ages, educational background, degree majors, titles, research fields, in-service training, academic communication and cooperation of the educators; number, genders

and employment of the educated; and training purposes, training methods, curricular system; etc.), features and policy recommendations of special education programs in higher education institutions. On the one hand, the status investigation and features analysis of special education teachers, inclusive teacher education and special education programs make the readers truly face up to achievements, difficulties, problems and challenges of training of special education teachers in China. On the other hand, policy recommendations make the managers, educators and researchers of special education deeply understand the future responsibilities and working purposes of training of special education teachers in China.

Third, due to involving in limited research object, the book, to some extent, did not completely represent the status and features of training of special education teachers in China. For example, cases about inclusive teacher education in third Chapter mainly involve Beijing and Henan Province, and investigation fields in pre-service training of special education teachers in fourth chapter do not involve master and doctoral study programs.

In one word, the book perfectly united the history with reality, international with local views, theory with practice, and qualitative with the presence quantitative research, which has completely showed professional personalities and deeply academic qualities of the authors. Although the book was published in 2012 and involved limited object and fields, and some new features and changes have happened in training of special education teachers in the world (including China, America, England, Japan and Russia, etc.), history has not disappeared and challenges will forever exist. Thus, it is very necessary and important to deeply read, research and reflect on the book "Research on training of special education teacher in China".

References:

Wang, Y. & Xiao, F. (2012). *Research on training of special education teacher in China*. Beijing: Beijing Normal University Press.

Prof. Mgr. Shangwei Li
Institute of Rural Preschool Education Research
Yibin University
Yibin
China
644007
Email: 1967shangwei@163.com
Tel: +420 73 1234 806