

Research on Adaptation of Overseas Chinese Students from Southeast Asia in Cooperative Education Programs in Taiwan: A Case Study of Vocational-technical School Students in Kaohsiung

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This paper aims to explore the adaptation of Overseas Taiwanese students from Southeast Asia participating in cooperative education programs to their lives during the period they stayed in Taiwan. They enrolled in “The 3+4 Vocational Education Program for Overseas Taiwanese Students” offered by Overseas Community Affairs Council of the Republic of China. The paper is divided into four aspects: general adaptation, interaction adaptation, learning adaptation and work adaptation. Using the purposive sampling method, the paper selected overseas Taiwanese students from Southeast Asia participating in cooperative education program attending vocational-technical schools in Kaohsiung City in the academic year of 2018, for the research. The paper employed questionnaire survey method, supplemented by qualitative interviews. After related background information was gathered, the paper compiled statistics, and analyzed the difference in adaptation to their lives in Taiwan among the students of different countries. The research results are shown below:

1. In terms of general adaptation, male students fare better than female students. With regards to interaction adaptation, the difference between male and female students is not significant. With respect to learning adaptation, male students do better than female students. When it comes to work adaptation, the difference is not significant between male and female students.
2. Along with general adaptation, interaction adaptation and work adaptation do not lead to significant difference among students of different ages. However, regarding learning adaptation, underage students do better than their adult counterparts.
3. In terms of general adaptation, interaction adaptation and work adaptation, the students going abroad for the first time do better than those having been abroad

before. But in the matter of learning adaptation, the difference is not significant among the students.

4. As to general adaptation, concerning the decision to further their studies, there is no noticeably significant difference in adaptation among the students. But the mean of adaptation for the students willing to continue their studies is higher than those preferring not to continue their education.
5. For the students' general adaptation to their stay in Taiwan, there is significant difference among different schools. Those schools with more male students, when it comes to general adaptation and learning adaptation, do better than those schools with more female students.
6. With regards to work adaptation, the level of adaptation for students studying at different departments from high to low is as follows: Beautification > Food & Beverage > Automobiles > Tourism > Electronics > Information.
7. With respect to interaction adaptation, Vietnamese students' adaptation to interaction is better than Malaysian students. As for work adaptation, the level of adaptation of students of different nationalities from high to low is as follows: Burmese > Vietnamese \cong Cambodian > Indonesian > Thai > Malay.

Finally, according to the above research results and the experience obtained in the research process, the paper proposes some concrete suggestions.

Keywords: Overseas Taiwanese students from Southeast Asia, cooperative education program, general adaptation, interaction adaptation, learning adaptation, work adaptation