

**Introduction to the Project of Students'
Academic Achievement Assessment
and Improvement in Middle and
Primary Schools**

Project Team

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1. Background

Students' academic achievement is the most important result of the education, and it directly relates to students' future life and the quality of the whole nation. In 2001, curriculum reform, with the core to improve students' comprehensive competence, was carried out by Chinese government. And one of the vital objectives is to improve students' academic achievement. New standards of students' academic achievement were brought forward, which emphasize students' all-round development, competence, affect and attitude more than scores and grade in exams.

We need

- To bring forward the new view on educational quality based on the believes of curriculum reform
- To reveal the advantages and weaknesses of teaching and learning
- To improve the educational quality based on the combination of experience and experimental data

2. Aim and organization

In 2003, National Center of Curriculum and Textbook Development, Ministry of Education, China, launched the project of Students' Academic Achievement Assessment and Improvement in Middle and Primary Schools. The aim of the project is to develop of high-quality assessment instruments, so as to set up the province-level norm of students' academic achievement, analyze the advantages and weaknesses of teaching and learning, explore the way to improve the quality of teaching and learning based on experimental data.

Specific objectives:

- To assess the literacy and competence of students in different grades based on the high-quality test instruments and questionnaires.
- To know and analyze the main factors influencing teaching and learning.
- To present abundant and understandable information in effective form.
- To improve educational quality by applying assessment results.

Organization

Project committee

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graph TD; A[Project committee] --- B[Group of test development]; A --- C[Group of field operation management]; A --- D[Group of statistical analysis]; A --- E[Group of software development];
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Group of test development

- Test development
- Scoring
- Writing reports

Group of field operation management

- Connecting with participants
- Preparing test materials
- Test administration
- Data collection

Group of statistical analysis

- Analyzing the quality of testing items
- Sampling
- Data cleaning
- Analyzing statistics
- Writing reports

Group of software development

- Software development

3. Method

Participants :Students in Grade 3 and 8

Subjects : Grade 3— Chinese Math

Grade 8— Chinese Math English Science

Instrument :Paper test & questionnaires

Principles of test development

- Based on the national curriculum standard, the project focuses on the students' quality and competence with the foundation of basic knowledge and skills, especially the ability to solve practical problems, to collect and analyze information, reflection and critical thinking, and special subjects' competence.
- Form of testing items: objective (main part) & subjective
- Setting real situation and tasks ,and emphasize on assessing students' high-order thinking.

Procedures of test paper development

Framework of test



Rubrics of test items



Items submission, review and selection



Pilot test and analysis



Item modification and preparation of final-version test paper

Main content of questionnaires

Student questionnaire

- Students' family environment and daily life
- Interpersonal relationship
- School environment
- Learning interest, motivation, self-efficiency and expectation for the future
- Learning methods and strategies
- Teachers' teaching

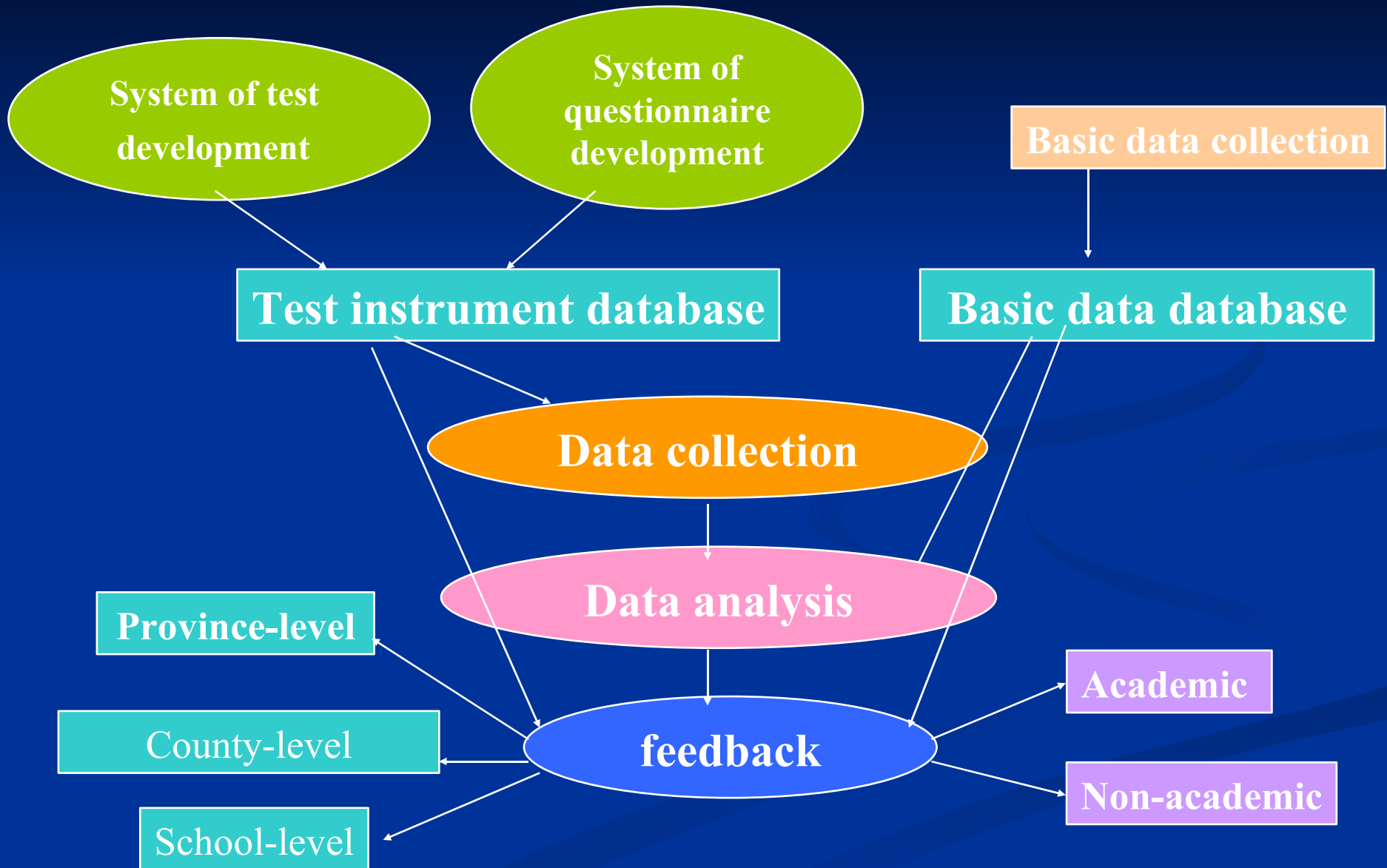
2) Teacher questionnaire

- basic information
- daily work and load
- Teacher's view on their career and working environment
- Profession development
- Teacher's view on student and education
- Teaching methods and strategies

3) P r i n c i p a l q u e s t i o n n a i r e

- Basic information
- Daily work
- Principal's view on student and education
- Work on development of school-based teaching research, and teacher's profession

Function structure



4. Present development

- 2003-2004: Foundation research and framework design
- Dec,2004: 2,000students participated in the test organized in Dalian and Pudong, integrally experienced test development, data collection & analysis, management of field operation, etc.
- Sept,2005: Pilot test in Beijing, 2000 students were involved. Specific test framework and reliable test instrument were shaped.
- Nov,2005: Based on sampling, test was carried out in Liaoning, and feedback report were developed.
- Dec,2006: New test instrument ,test in Shanghai and 106 counties in Jiangsu. So far, more than 100 thousand students participated.

Report

General performance of students in each subject

Students' performance in specific contents and competence of each subject

Comparison of students in different cohorts

Students' performance at each testing item

Analysis of typical testing items

Result of questionnaires and the relationship with scores

5. Educational quality improvement

The final goal of the project is to improve the quality of teaching and learning. The result of the assessment is helpful for specialists and teachers to combine their experience and experimental data in order to understand the advantages and weaknesses of teaching and learning, and to improve it.

Thank you!