

Teaching Research Group in China: an organization dedicated to teacher professional development

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The working culture in mainland China has been described as collective (Yang, 2010). Learning community is claimed not only in students' learning but also in teacher professional development. As a main and key form of teacher professional learning community, teaching research group is considered as a basic non-administrative organization (Xiong, 2004; Hu, 2005), which combines teaching, scientific research and daily management into an integral whole, started since 1957¹. Teachers in this group can promote their ability of knowledge management, advance their sense of teaching efficacy, improve their mental pattern and form a common prospect (Shi, 2007). Up to now, there are school-level, district-level and city-level teaching research groups, and each level works for the higher level. These research groups have to offer professional instructions for teachers in their teaching and classroom teaching quality in forms of "Ji Ti San Ke", namely collective lesson preparation, collective open classes, collective classroom teaching evaluation (Mou, 2006).

In February 2014, an interview with three Chinese mathematic teachers was conducted for a preliminary study of the author's PhD thesis ² aiming to compare Mathematics Teachers' *Documentation Work* (Gueudet, Pepin & Trouche, 2012) in China and France, focusing on Teaching Resources of Advanced Teachers. This presentation will focus on teacher's teaching research group based on not only the interview data, but also some academic and official documents as references.

Main References:

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- Xiong, Y. (2004). On teachers' professional development in schools. *Curriculum, Teaching Material and Method*, 24(4): 63-67.
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¹ In January 1957, "Regulations about Work of Teaching Research Group in Middle Schools (Draft)" was published by China Education Ministry, which stated clearly that the teaching research group should be composed by teachers from the same or similar disciplines, such as Mathematic Teaching Research Group, aiming at improving teaching quality by organizing teachers' research work, summarizing and communicating their teaching experiences, increasing teachers' mental level and professional skill. The work of teaching research group contains learning about the policies and instructions of education, studying on syllabus, textbooks and teaching methods. Also, the group should summarize and exchange teaching experience and provide instructions for extra-curricular activities. This file helps a lot in the discipline teaching research system built later (Hu, H., 2005).

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