

A Study on China-Sri Lanka Education Exchange and Cooperation: With Specific Reference to Teaching Chinese at Confucius Classroom of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

RMPP Rathnayake

Department of Languages, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

prabani@ssl.sab.ac.lk

Sri Lanka is an important hub in China's "21st Century Maritime Silk Road". The prompt propagation and development of Chinese language and Chinese culture in Sri Lanka plays a significant role in establishing friendly relations between the two countries. Along with the academic cooperation programme established between Huanggang Normal University and Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, Confucius Classroom of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka has played an important role in promoting the development of teaching Chinese in Sri Lanka since its establishment in 2019. The researcher has used literature study method to analyze China-Sri Lanka education exchange and cooperation in relation to the developments in the Chinese teaching practice at Confucius Classroom in recent two years, teaching staff, teaching environment, curriculum, use of teaching materials, conducting HSK examinations and cultural activities. The primary data were gathered through an online questionnaire. Through the analysis of the questionnaire survey results of Chinese teachers and 30 learners at Confucius Classroom, it is concluded that at present, Confucius Classroom still has deficiencies in making use of the resources offered by Chinese party. In teaching Chinese, improper course arrangements, insufficient use of teaching resources, insufficient localized teaching resources, unstable learning motivation and lack of organizing cultural events are considered as the key issues. The author has proposed several suggestions aimed at improving on the aforementioned shortcomings such as improving the curriculum, standardizing teaching management, scientifically using teaching materials, promoting Chinese courses for local community, enriching cultural teaching activities, and skillfully using mass media to promote the programs conducted by Confucius Classroom. It is expected that this study will be instrumental in bridging the gap in the current research on teaching Chinese in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *China-Sri Lanka Cooperation, Teaching Chinese in Sri Lanka, Confucius Classroom, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka*