

Comparative Research and Direction of Adult Education In China

Yueer Lin

College of humanities and foreign languages, China Jiliang University, Hangzhou, China

Keywords: Adult Education, Long-life Education, Community College

Abstract: This article compares adult education in modern China with that in modern developed countries and ancient Chinese society, and holds that adult education should: change society's perception; strengthen government publicity; design flexible enrollment time and establish credit mutual recognition system with excellent colleges; establish student loan and scholarship system; and make short-term vocational training.

1. Introduction

After decades of development, China's adult education has now encountered the bottleneck of development. It's also a new development opportunity. In the following exposition, I will divide into three parts to illustrate the theme: (1) the adult education system of the contemporary developed countries; (2) the adult education system of ancient China; (3) the direction of today's Chinese adult education.

2. Comparative Study of Adult Education and Developed Countries

In some developed countries, the concept of Adult Education (or life-long education) has been deeply rooted in people's hearts, and there are many good well-designed systems: Many community colleges have been set up to facilitate adults to receive various adult education. These community colleges are very cheap, but the credits are recognized by many excellent universities. If they work hard enough, community college students have the opportunity to transfer to some very good universities for further study [1-3]. At the same time, the society and schools also provide various student loans for those who are temporarily unable to afford them, or even scholarships that cover all the tuition fees. So that those who are interested in learning will not be afraid of adult education because of the problem of tuition. In addition, the enrollment time of the community college is very flexible, and the school system is also very humanized. It fully takes care of the working people or the parents who take care of their children at home. That they can obtain the degree in the most flexible and convenient way while ensuring the academic quality. Community colleges also provide a wide range of short-term vocational education, they training accounting assistants, secretaries, dental assistants and other talents urgently needed in the market.

In these countries, the administrations in some wealthier areas are working to completely exempt the tuition fees of community colleges, so that those who miss the education at school age or those who enter the society can get free adult education without worrying about the tuition fees. At the same time, the social also encourages adults to "return" to school in various ways to learn career related skills or major they are deeply interested in, so as to realize their dreams of life. From this point of view, they have achieved the goal of "teaching without discrimination" and the sustainable development of human resources.

As we all know, the 21st century is a century of talent competition. The education investment with talent training as the basic task is also the most important investment of a country. In some countries, their constitution stipulates that the government should invest in education according to the proportion of 4% of GDP, through the construction of educational facilities, recruitment of teachers, provision of academic education and vocational education, so as to help the development of members of society and realize the all-round development of society.

3. Adult Education System of Ancient China

China is an ancient country of education and a great country of education. We are proud of our country's long education history and advanced education concept. As early as the spring and Autumn period and the Warring States period, China has produced many great educators, the most famous of which is Confucius. His educational ideas, such as "teaching in accordance with one's aptitude", "combination of learning and thinking", "combination of learning and review", still have strong vitality. At the same time, the concept of respecting teachers and education in ancient China has deeply influenced some neighboring countries, such as Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Vietnam, etc., so that these countries are called "Confucian cultural circle". In addition, since the Tang Dynasty, the imperial examination system with fair selection of talents as administrative bureaucrats has been implemented in China, so the academy system matching the imperial examination system is also very developed [4]. Since the Song Dynasty, people of all ages and different classes have studied ancient classics in these academies, exchanged views with each other, and invited famous teachers from all over the country to teach. To enter these academies, there are no restrictions such as age, nationality, class, education, etc., and they have achieved the goal of "teaching without discrimination" advocated by Confucius, thus greatly promoting the development of ancient Chinese society.

4. Direction of Today's Chinese Adult Education

Since modern times, in a quite long period of time, Chinese society has focused on the education of the people of the right age, while ignoring the necessity and importance of adult education or lifelong education.

In recent years, similar community colleges have been set up in China. However, the community college is still in the stage of the University for the elderly, which provides some courses and training in music and calligraphy, and only provides some retired leisure and entertainment projects for some elderly friends. Such a community college, of course, has its meaning. However, there is still a big gap with the mission that real community colleges need to shoulder to help social members achieve lifelong education. Of course, it has something to do with our investment in this part of education and the shortage of teachers. It may also reflect that the current social attention to adult education has not reached the level that should be achieved.

. However, in recent years, China's society is facing the crisis of aging population and minority children, which makes adult education more important and more critical in the new historical conditions.

For the breakthrough in the development of adult education in China, I think we can start from the following aspects:

4.1 Society Should Develop the Concept of "Lifelong Education" and Break the Old Idea That Adults Do not Need Education

In our country, many people think that when they reach a certain age, they can't pursue higher education and dreams like young people. Or it's useless to pursue it, because some companies are only open to people under the age of 35 with age limit in recruitment.

In my opinion, no matter for individuals or society, such ideas and practices are totally wrong. For various reasons, some very studious people, when they are young, do not have the opportunity to receive education or they do not realize the importance of education when they are young. When they get into the society, in their middle age, they still have the desire for a high degree, or deep interest in a major. At this time, the society should encourage these people to follow their inner dreams, return to the classroom and receive education.

Because no matter who they are, no matter what age they are, they have the right to pursue their dreams. If a person has a dream, it means that he is still young, whether he is nineteen or ninety years old.

In addition, many adults, especially those in their thirties and forties, have experienced many

setbacks after their working and family lives (or even raising children), which makes their mentality more mature, handling affairs more skillful, and their interpersonal skills more than those of some young people. At some time, because they know what they really want, they will work harder once they put into study. If they can receive some high-quality education, they will make greater contributions to the society.

4.2 The government should strengthen the Publicity of Adult Education

In fact, since the early 1980s, a large number of continuing education colleges have been set up in China. From Peking University, the best university in China, to the most common college, there are colleges of continuing education. This kind of college is completely open to people of different ages [5-6]. They take a low standard of admission, they provide evening and weekend classes, so as to facilitate adult office workers to obtain education. However, due to the lack of effective publicity, not many people know the existence of such education colleges and their mission. It makes people who need lifelong education unable to enjoy the adult education provided by these college. This situation did not fully meet the original intention of the country to establish a college of continuing education.

So the government needs to learn to promote adult education as entrepreneurs promote products, and even consider setting up "Adult Education Day" in the form of legislation. So that the concept of adult education deeply rooted in the hearts of the people, so that everyone who intends to accept adult education can easily find the right school, the right major, and the right degree.

4.3 The Government Needs To Give Economic Encouragement and Support to Adult Education, and Establish a Perfect System of Student Loans and Scholarships for Adult Education

Because of the lack of advanced student loan and scholarship system in China's continuing education colleges, some people know about this kind of education, but they dare not enter the door of adult education because of lack of money. As these people may need five or six days a week of work to pay for their own and their families' huge expenses. The cost of continuing education may be an important factor for them.

Ancient Chinese educators once said that it takes ten years to grow trees but a hundred years to rear people. This means that the positive impact of investment in education can be as long as 100 years. The education investment to the nation has always been regarded as the investment way with the least investment, the biggest income. If the government is committed to investing in lifelong education, it will get the maximum return at the lowest cost. Therefore, the government and society can design a set of perfect system of student loan and scholarship for these students, so that adults can receive further education without too much economic pressure and realize the development of life.

4.4 The Enrollment Time and System of Adult Education in China, As Well As the Credit Link System, Need to be More Flexible and Intelligent

For adult education, school authorities can implement a system of multiple school hours in a year, so that adults can start their study career as soon as possible. At the same time, it also designs more than one semester in a year, which is convenient for adults to study the credits required for their graduation as soon as possible. The above measures can help adult students to finish their studies as early as possible under the premise of guaranteeing academic quality.

In addition, adult schools should strive to establish the mutual recognition system between the credits of adult schools and universities. At the same time, the adult schools can also sign agreements with these universities to ensure that those adult students who are have both excellent qualities and learning can directly enter these universities for further education. In this way, it can not only increase the credibility of adult education, but also provide high-quality student resources for these universities, so as to achieve two goals with one stone.

School authorities may even consider introducing an "application for admission system", an open system in which no examination is required but credits are required for graduation, so as to further

encourage adults to receive life-long education.

4.5 Adult Education Can also Develop Short-term Vocational Education for the Needs of the Labour Market

In some developed countries, short-term vocational education is very important components of the adult education system. These vocational training courses are for adult students who want to acquire vocational skills quickly. Such as assistant accountant, secretary, dental assistant, etc. Such professional skills have strong practicality. The human resources market is also in great demand. However, it does not need a degree or education. After short-term intensive professional training, it will soon enable adult students to acquire the basic knowledge and practical skills required by these professions, so that they can enter the workplace quickly and achieve career development.

If adult schools can provide these courses, on the one hand, it can greatly meet the needs of the human market for these highly practical employees; on the other hand, it has also made great contribution to solving the employment problem.

5. Conclusion

To sum up, China's adult education has a broad development prospects, and huge development space. At the same time, the development of adult education and adult human resources determines whether our country can continue to occupy a leading position in the next hundred years in the highly competitive economic globalization environment. Therefore, it is worth every member of this society, whether the government authorities or the general public, should pay attention to and promote its development.

References

- [1] Wu Zunmin. Out of understanding misunderstanding: deep thinking on the connotation of contemporary lifelong education theory [J]. Journal of Hangzhou Normal University: Social Sciences Edition, 2008, 30(3):107-111.
- [2] Ma Liangsheng. The construction and implementation of lifelong education system [J]. Jiangsu Higher Education, 1998(3):77-80.
- [3] Hao Keming, Wang Jian. Building a Lifelong Education System to Create a Learning Society -- Experience and Enlightenment from Australia and New Zealand [J]. Peking University Education Review, 2003, 1(4):105-112.
- [4] Four weeks xi'an, yang lili. Construction and Enlightenment of Lifelong Education System in Developed Countries [J]. Journal of Anhui Institute of Education, 2005, 23(4):99-102.
- [5] Lu Guoliang, Gui Jiansheng. A comparative study of the lifelong education system in developed countries and China [J]. Continuing Education, 2010(3):11-14.
- [6] Liu Hui, Tang Xiaomeng. On the timing of integration of education at all levels into the lifelong education system [J]. Educational Research, 2013(9):89-94.