



Chinese Modernization and the Innovative Development of Higher Education Reform

Yao Yin

Guizhou Normal University, Guiyang, Guizhou, China.

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Corresponding author: Yao Yin, Guizhou Normal University, Guiyang, Guizhou, China.

Abstract

This paper discusses the relationship between Chinese-style modernization and the reform and innovation development of higher education. In today's globalization, China is facing a major task to realize modernization. As an important part of modernization, the reform and innovation development of higher education is of vital significance to Chinese-style modernization. Through the interpretation of Chinese-style modernization, this paper elaborates the inner logic and important significance of reform and innovation development of higher education. At the same time, this paper provides an in-depth analysis of the challenges, opportunities, and future directions faced by the reform and innovation development of higher education at present. Finally, the paper calls on higher education reformers to grasp the opportunities of the times, adhere to the ideological self-confidence and the road with Chinese characteristics, strengthen the theoretical research and practical exploration on the reform and innovation development of higher education, and provide strong support for Chinese-style modernization.

Keywords

Chinese modernization, Higher education, Reform and innovation, Current status, Future direction

1. Introduction

With the rapid development of China, Chinese-style modernization has become a topic of global concern. As an important part of the modernization process, higher education is also undergoing continuous reform and innovation. The relationship between the two is inseparable. The practical experience of Chinese-style modernization is an important inspiration for the reform and innovation of higher education, and the reform and innovation of higher education also provide strong support for Chinese-style modernization. This paper will discuss the relationship between Chinese-style modernization and higher education reform and innovation from the historical background and current situation, and propose the direction of higher education reform and innovation in the future.

2. Historical Background

At the beginning of the 20th century, China faced national and ethnic crises. After the fall of the Qing Dynasty, China entered a period of turbulence. Political instability, economic backwardness, cultural decay, sharp social contradictions, and ethnic crises were rampant. To get rid of these predicaments, China began a series of modernization reforms in politics, economy, culture, and other aspects. Among them, the reform of higher education became an important part of Chinese-style modernization. Initially, China's higher education was mainly developed according to Western models. However, due to historical and cultural reasons, the development of higher education in China encountered many difficulties and

challenges (Jiang Yundong, 2017).

Firstly, China's higher education system is not perfect. At the end of the Qing Dynasty, China began to establish modern higher education institutions. However, under the circumstances of national political and economic instability, the development of these institutions was greatly affected. In addition, China's higher education system was also limited by Western models. Secondly, the content of China's higher education is not enough in line with national conditions and modernization needs. Due to historical and cultural reasons, the content of China's higher education is mainly a combination of traditional culture and Western knowledge. Although this education method has promoted China's modernization process to a certain extent, it also has many shortcomings. For example, there is a lack of practicality and innovation, and it is not close enough to social and market demands (Tan Hong, 2020). Finally, China's higher education methods also need to be improved. The traditional teaching method mainly involves lecturing and memorization, which has many drawbacks. For example, students' understanding and application abilities of knowledge are insufficient, and the quality of teaching is difficult to guarantee.

In order to solve these problems, China has launched a series of reforms in higher education. These reforms include many aspects such as the educational system, educational content, and educational methods, which have been gradually improved and developed through continuous practice. In terms of the education system, China has undergone multiple reforms (Päällysaho Seliina, 2021). Initially, higher education in China was mainly controlled by the state and students advanced through exams. However, after the reform and opening-up, China began to introduce market mechanisms, encouraging private investment and the development of private higher education institutions. In addition, China also implemented the "211 Project" and the "985 Project", aiming to improve China's higher education level and international competitiveness. In terms of educational content, Chinese higher education is also constantly adjusting and improving. China focuses on cultivating students' comprehensive qualities and innovative abilities (Kyle M. L. Jones, 2020). Therefore, Chinese higher education institutions have introduced a large number of excellent foreign textbooks and courses while emphasizing the cultivation of students' practical and innovative abilities. In terms of educational methods, Chinese higher education is also continually introducing advanced teaching methods and technologies such as online education and artificial intelligence to improve teaching efficiency and quality. Additionally, China is actively exploring and promoting the "dual-teacher" teacher education model, in which professors and business experts jointly teach.

As China's modernization process continues to accelerate, higher education is also developing and improving. The reform of higher education in Chinese style modernization has undergone a long and tortuous development process but has made remarkable achievements and progress. Today, China's higher education has become an important support for national modernization and an important base for talent cultivation.

At the same time, China's higher education is still facing some challenges and problems. For example, excessive commercialization of higher education and uneven quality of teaching and learning. These problems require continuous efforts and improvements by Chinese higher education institutions and the government to ensure sustainable development and improve the quality of education in higher education.

3. Analysis of the Current Situation

With the acceleration of China's modernization process, higher education is also constantly developing and innovating. In terms of the education system, China has undergone a significant transformation from "exam-oriented education" to "quality-oriented education". This transformation is reflected in the diversification and marketization of higher education. The diversification is manifested in the number and types of universities, while marketization is reflected in the financial and management systems of universities. For example, China now has different types of higher education institutions, including undergraduate colleges, independent colleges, vocational schools, etc., which provide students with more diverse education choices. At the same time, universities are gradually getting rid of their dependence on government financial subsidies, focusing on independent revenue generation and improving economic efficiency. This trend is becoming more and more evident in China's higher education.

In terms of educational content, Chinese higher education is also constantly adjusting and improving, focusing on cultivating students' comprehensive qualities and innovative abilities. With the development of Chinese society, the mission of higher education has shifted from simple knowledge transmission to the cultivation of students' comprehensive qualities, including moral character, cultural literacy, scientific quality, humanistic literacy, etc. Therefore, Chinese higher education institutions have introduced a large number of excellent foreign textbooks and courses, emphasizing the cultivation of students' practical and innovative abilities. For example, many universities have opened courses in innovation entrepreneurship and practical teaching, providing more opportunities for students to engage in practical work and innovation.

In terms of educational methods, Chinese higher education is also constantly introducing advanced teaching methods

and technologies, such as online education, artificial intelligence, etc., to improve teaching efficiency and quality. Chinese higher education institutions actively explore and promote the "dual-teacher" teacher education model, in which professors and business experts co-teach to promote the integration of teaching and practice. In addition, Chinese universities also actively promote "globalized education", encouraging students to participate in international exchange projects to increase their international perspective and cross-cultural communication abilities.

At the same time, the practice of Chinese-style modernization has also provided important experience and inspiration for the reform and innovation of higher education. For example, concepts such as the "Three Represents" and the "Scientific Outlook on Development" proposed by China have provided guiding ideas and theoretical foundations for the reform of higher education. In addition, China's international development in the field of higher education has also achieved certain results, such as actively participating in international academic exchanges, attracting international students and teachers, etc., and providing strong support for the globalization of higher education.

However, Chinese higher education also faces some challenges and problems. For example, the over-commercialization of higher education and uneven teaching quality are issues. The over-commercialization of higher education is mainly manifested in the intensification of internal competition within universities and the rise of fees such as tuition, which makes it difficult for some students and families to afford the high cost of education. The uneven teaching quality issue also exists in some universities, affecting the quality of education and the learning outcomes of students. In addition, higher education also faces talent development problems, especially in fields related to scientific and technological innovation, where more talents with innovative thinking and practical abilities are needed. In order to address these challenges and problems, Chinese higher education institutions need to further reform and innovate. Firstly, it is necessary to further improve the market mechanism of higher education, enhance the autonomous revenue-generating ability of universities, and increase economic benefits and financial independence. Secondly, it is necessary to further strengthen quality supervision and evaluation of higher education to ensure steady improvement of teaching quality. At the same time, attention should be paid to cultivating students' innovative and practical abilities and promoting the transformation of higher education towards a more innovative and application-oriented direction.

4. Future Directions

4.1 Improve the quality of education

In today's society, higher education has become an important force in shaping the future of a nation. In this era, improving the quality and innovation ability of higher education has become a key concern for governments around the world. Therefore, higher education institutions need to explore and innovate in terms of educational content and methods in order to cultivate outstanding talents with more innovative and practical abilities.

In terms of educational content, higher education institutions need to pay attention to cultivating students' comprehensive qualities and innovation ability. With the changes in social development, the task of higher education has shifted from simple knowledge transmission to the cultivation of students' comprehensive qualities. Students' ideological and moral qualities, cultural literacy, scientific qualities, as well as humanities literacy, all need to be given sufficient attention. At the same time, higher education institutions should also pay attention to cultivating students' practical abilities and innovation abilities. Higher education institutions can provide students with more opportunities for practice and innovation through practical teaching courses, innovation and entrepreneurship courses, etc. These courses can help students master more skills in practice, improve their practical application abilities, and cultivate their innovative spirit and ability.

In terms of educational methods, higher education institutions need to introduce advanced teaching methods and technologies to improve teaching efficiency and quality. For example, higher education institutions can use new technologies such as online education and artificial intelligence to carry out teaching work. Online education can provide students with more convenient and flexible learning methods and also enable educational resources to be more widely disseminated and utilized. Artificial intelligence technology can provide more precise and personalized services for education, helping students better grasp knowledge and skills. In addition to introducing new technologies and methods, higher education institutions can also implement a "dual-teacher" teaching model, where professors and industry experts jointly teach. This model can help students acquire more practical knowledge and skills, and also increase the practicality and applicability of teaching.

In addition to innovating in educational content and methods, higher education institutions should also pay attention to cultivating students' innovation awareness and ability. Innovation is an important force driving social development, and cultivating innovative talents has become an important task of higher education. Higher education institutions can cultivate students' innovation ability by offering innovation courses, organizing innovation competitions, and encouraging students to participate in innovation projects and practical activities to continuously improve their innovation ability.

4.2 Strengthen internationalization

With the acceleration of globalization and the deepening of international exchanges, the internationalization of higher education has become a trend in its development. In order to improve the level of internationalization of higher education, higher education institutions need to increase their efforts in international academic exchanges, introducing internationally renowned scholars, and attracting international students. Firstly, higher education institutions need to actively participate in international academic exchange activities. Participating in international academic exchange activities can enable higher education institutions to better understand and grasp the latest academic trends and development tendencies on an international forefront. Higher education institutions can engage in extensive exchange and cooperation with the international academic community through participating in international academic conferences, organizing international academic seminars, etc. This can provide strong support for the introduction of cutting-edge academic achievements and outstanding academic talents. Secondly, higher education institutions need to increase their efforts in introducing internationally renowned scholars. Introducing internationally renowned scholars can bring broader academic perspectives and rich academic resources to higher education institutions. Higher education institutions can attract more internationally renowned scholars to join them by setting up special professor positions, inviting internationally renowned scholars to give lectures, etc. This can improve the academic level and international influence of higher education institutions. Thirdly, higher education institutions need to actively attract international students. Attracting international students can not only enrich the student population of higher education institutions but also promote cultural exchanges and interactions between different countries and regions. Higher education institutions can attract more international students to study by offering preferential scholarship policies, offering English-taught courses, etc. At the same time, higher education institutions should also provide more comprehensive services and support for international students to let them feel more cared for and helped during their studies. Finally, higher education institutions also need to strengthen the cultivation of international talent. International talent cultivation refers to cultivating outstanding talents with an international vision and a global perspective. Higher education institutions can provide students with more internationalized learning environments and training modes by offering fully English-taught courses, organizing international talent cultivation programs, etc. At the same time, higher education institutions can also encourage students to participate in international exchange programs and practical activities, allowing them to better understand and integrate into the international community.

4.3 Promote information technology

With the continuous development and popularization of information technology, educational informatization has become a trend in the development of higher education. In order to improve teaching efficiency and quality, higher education institutions need to further develop and apply advanced technological means in educational technology and teaching platforms, such as online education and artificial intelligence. Firstly, higher education institutions need to strengthen the construction and application of online education. Online education can provide students with more convenient and flexible learning methods while also enabling educational resources to be more widely disseminated and utilized. Higher education institutions can provide students with a more free and diverse learning environment through the establishment of online courses, online learning platforms, and other means (Benjamin Martin, 2020). At the same time, higher education institutions can also use the advantages of online education to provide students with more comprehensive and personalized teaching services. Secondly, higher education institutions need to strengthen the application of artificial intelligence technology. Artificial intelligence technology can provide more precise and personalized services for education, helping students better grasp knowledge and skills. Higher education institutions can provide students with more efficient and convenient learning experiences through the development of AI-based teaching platforms, intelligent tutoring systems, and other means. At the same time, artificial intelligence technology can also help higher education institutions better manage and utilize teaching data, improving teaching quality and efficiency. Thirdly, higher education institutions need to strengthen the research and innovation of educational technology. The research and innovation of educational technology can provide higher education institutions with more advanced and efficient teaching tools and platforms. Higher education institutions can achieve innovation and breakthroughs in teaching methods through the development of courses based on virtual reality technology, the development of intelligent teaching tools, and other means. At the same time, higher education institutions can also strengthen cooperation and communication with technology companies, introducing the latest educational technology achievements and excellent technical talents, and improving the teaching level and competitiveness of higher education institutions (Weiqi Chu, 2019). Finally, higher education institutions also need to strengthen the training and popularization of educational technology. The training and popularization of educational technology can enable students and teachers to better master and apply educational technology, improving teaching quality and efficiency. Higher education institutions can provide students and teachers with more comprehensive and in-depth training on

educational technology knowledge and skills through the development of educational technology training courses, the establishment of educational technology exchange platforms, and other means.

5. Conclusion

Chinese-style modernization and the development of higher education reform and innovation are inextricably linked. In the future, higher education reform and innovation need to continue to advance to meet the development needs of Chinese-style modernization, while also focusing on keeping pace with international development. Only through continuous innovation and development can Chinese higher education better serve the modernization process of the country and society.

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