Research on the Existing Problems and Optimization Strategies of Higher Education Hierarchical Structure in China

Chao ZENG¹ and Ying SHI²,*

¹Jiangxi Normal University Science and Technology College, Nanchang, China
²Jiangxi Normal University Education College, Nanchang, China
*Corresponding author

Keywords: Higher education, Hierarchical structure, Existing problems, Optimization strategy.

Abstract. The hierarchical structure of higher education must meet the needs of economic and social development and the diversified needs of the educated, and whether the structure of higher education is reasonable or not will influence the function of higher education. Based on the analysis of the connotation of higher education structure and existing problems, and put forward the hierarchical structure optimization suggestions like rational adjustment of the ratio between various levels, clear positioning the level of higher education to construct higher education overpass.

Introduction

The structure of higher education refers to the composition of the elements within the higher education system, including macro structure and micro structure. Whether the structure of higher education is reasonable and optimized is related to the quantity and quality of high-level specialized personnel training. Higher education hierarchy is a macro structure of higher education, it is adjustment and optimization subject to the economic and social development needs, but also has great practical significance to our country's higher education quality as well as the political, economic and cultural development.

The Basic Connotation of the Hierarchical Structure of Higher Education

The higher education level structure is also called the higher education horizontal structure, mainly refers to the different degree and the request higher education constituent condition, including the higher specialized education, the undergraduate education, the graduate student education three levels. The hierarchical structure of higher education is determined by the technical structure of national economy to a great extent, and reflects the vertical section of social division of labor. The national economic and technological structure in different periods have different requirements of a number of specialized personnel and the level proportion, influence and even determine three higher education level ratio of the specialty education, undergraduate education, Graduate Education.

The major of secondary vocational education is the skilled and applied talents who are directly facing the needs of social economy, with higher professional basic knowledge and strong practical ability. Undergraduate education cycle is generally 4 to 5 years, the study time is adequate, students can systematically master the basic knowledge and professional knowledge in a professional field, basic skills are solid. In contrast, undergraduate education pays more attention to academic ability. Graduate education is the highest level of higher education. It is the elite education in the popularization stage of higher education. Its training objective is cultivate academic and research talents who engage in scientific research and technological development. The hierarchical structure of higher education changes with the development of social economy and the adjustment and upgrading of industrial structure. Only by optimizing the structure of higher education can we make full use of the function of higher education.
The Existing Problems of the Hierarchical Structure of Higher Education in China

At present, China's higher education level structure problems mainly exists in the following aspects:

The Proportion of Higher Education is Unreasonable

Since the enrollment expansion in 1999, the scale of our country's higher education has expanded rapidly. In 2002, the gross enrollment rate of higher education in China reached 15%, which realized the transformation from elite to mass. Higher education has made remarkable achievements, higher education specialist, undergraduate and graduate students number increased significantly, but still has a large gap compared with the pagoda type structure of higher education in developed countries such as the US and Japan.

From the experience of higher education in developed countries such as USA and Japan, college community colleges in the United States, Japan's junior college s and higher specialized schools promote the popularization of higher education, the low level of community college to meet the needs of society, still the main force of the development of American higher education. The higher education in developed countries is in the shape of Pyramid, and is highly praised by the world's higher education for its unique characteristics. China's current higher education level proportion, although not a top school size, large middle and small at the bottom of the diamond, but the data suggest that graduate education and college education are still the focus of the future optimization of hierarchical structure of higher education in china. In addition, the employment structure of our country is inverted Pyramid. This shows that the undergraduate education is in large scale and college education is in small scale, and are inconsistent with strategic objectives of "improve the popular research, the expansion of higher education" and is not very fit the personnel structure needed in our society. The development of the social economy is a certain level of the gradient structure of the demand for talent, the level and efficiency of the gradient structure of talent demand in the match is proportional to the degree, and the reasonable distribution of school size and teaching resources, is the premise in order to ensure the quality of higher education. Different levels and different types of college enrollment, enrollment ratio should be according to the object of school size, teaching resources and training target, and constantly adjust, blind expansion will bring the irrational distribution of human resources and waste.

The Orientation of Higher Education is not Clear

The higher education of our country is lack of clear goal in the direction of running a school, school level, school running mode, the influence of higher education quality, lack of features, no sharp stratification of higher education system. College education is a concentrated undergraduate education, the application is not strong; undergraduate education professional division too small, lack of basic knowledge of education; and graduate education become the continue of undergraduate education, lack the cultivation of research ability.

The level of specialized education is weak, the development is not stable enough, the form of running schools is relatively single, and the adaptability is not strong. On the one hand, the training target of the school is not clear, and the specialized curriculum has no features, and it is similar to that of the undergraduate school. As a result, the students who are trained not only lack the ability to engage in theoretical research and technological innovation, but also lack practical skills, and are not popular in the job market. On the other hand, some colleges and universities have developed to a certain scale and accumulated valuable experience in running schools. They upgraded blindly and become a comprehensive local university, which seriously restricts the steady development of higher education at the specialized level. In addition, many people attribute to the higher vocational education is not clear, the policy oriented social disadvantage, many people have been considered inferior in Higher Vocational colleges.

Undergraduate professional education division too small, lack of basic knowledge education; relatively large scale and rapid expansion. By undergraduate student teacher ratio is too large, decline in average education resources, leading to employment and graduate entrance pressure increase, affecting the quality of postgraduate and undergraduate education. It is not in keeping with
the goal of training. In particular, some key colleges and universities undertake special education tasks, which not only affect undergraduate education, but also make it difficult for them to make special characteristic. Some regional undergraduate university, not based on its basic characteristics, in efforts to pursue "comprehensive", "research", the goal of training pursue the "high end", separate from the school's foundation and objective external conditions.

Lack of graduate education development, the quality needs to be improved. In particular, the general management slack and the lack of necessary quality monitoring and evaluation system which are important reasons for the quality problems. In recent years, although the graduate education in China has a certain development, but there is still a considerable distance from the needs of social development.

The Connection between Higher Education Levels is Poor

According to the principle of system theory, different levels of relative differentiation not only have their own characteristics and laws of motion, but also are interrelated and interactive among different levels. At the same time, each educational level structure connects with the upper and lower levels, forming an organic whole. However, the reality is not the case. In recent years, every year by the middle of September, with the enrollment of college freshmen coming to an end, the loss of the freshmen at the specialized level has gradually become clear. In order to solve some college level new report the loss of the problem of high admissions to provinces enrollment based on College level. The reasons for the low registration rate of junior college students are complicated, but there is no denying that one of the most important reasons is that the connection between junior college and undergraduate is not smooth. After the overwhelming majority of students enter the college, the only way out is to go to social employment after graduation, so that they can not meet their needs for further study. Although through the "upgraded" exam, part of higher vocational college students can continue to ascend to the undergraduate college to study, but at the expense of their original education system, they go to the academic education system, instead of occupation education system. This approach not only brings difficulties to their study, but also leads to the recessive atrophy of the scale of vocational education, which is not conducive to the development of technological human resources, thus exacerbating the imbalance between supply and demand of advanced technical talents. According to the principle of system theory, structure is the inner basis of function, and the function of the system can be brought into play only when the structure is reasonable. However, in reality, the structure of higher education with mutual fragmentation and poor cohesion is restricting the structure and function of higher education. As Beijing Normal University professor Wang Yingjie said: "our higher education system as a lack of corridor building, are separated from the house, and only one door, a door, this is a terrible phenomenon."

The Optimization Strategy of the Hierarchical Structure of Higher Education

Adjust the Proportion Relationship between Different Levels Rationally

We should further adjust the proportion of the three levels of specialized education, undergraduate education and graduate education, and appropriately reduce the focus. Learn from the experience of most countries in the world, with reasonable structure should be the pagoda, college education appropriate to expand the scale ;undergraduate education need control the speed of development, focus on improving the quality of education; graduate education need develop the number moderately and steadily on the premise of quality assurance. The hierarchical structure of higher education should be adjusted to meet the needs of the society as the starting point, the decision to advance, to the number of expansion in the hierarchy based on the reasonable quantity, scale and level and achieve structure benefit, avoid blind upgrade production structure dislocation in the process of popularization of higher education. Handle the hierarchy within the applicability and suitability of external relations, scientific planning and prediction of the college enrollment ratio, pay attention to speed up the training of more with higher scientific and cultural qualities of ordinary workers in the training of high-level personnel, while
avoiding excessive education and the quality of workers is generally low. In order to use the limited resources faster to improve the quality of workers in our country, give full play to the social function of the popularization of higher education; handle the relationship between the elite education and mass education, training a process in the development of mass education in Colleges and universities in our country to promote the level and function of differentiation, constitute the institutions of higher education establishment dominated by a small number of research universities in undergraduate education, University and a variety of occupation technology education based College of various levels and types of, Diversified higher education system.

Make the Orientation of All Levels of Higher Education Clear

In the process of optimizing the hierarchical structure of higher education, all levels should be clearly defined so that different types and levels of higher education institutions can train all kinds of talents needed for social development. First of all, college education should be oriented to the higher occupation education, "employment oriented, service for the purpose of" cultivating specialized talents with professional knowledge and skilled occupation skills, practical skills, have good occupation morals and technology innovation spirit. At the same time, specialized education also undertakes the tasks of transfer education, continuing education, compensatory education and leisure education. Secondly, undergraduate education should be scientifically positioned according to different social needs. The same undergraduate, different types of schools to cultivate different types of personnel. The key universities should not only cultivate application-oriented talents with specialized knowledge and skills for the society, but also for graduate education delivery and most outstanding students; local colleges should be located in cultivating application-oriented and innovative talents, actively adapt to the local science and technology, education, culture and the needs of economic construction. Thirdly, graduate education should be developed both academically and practically. Doctoral education aims to cultivate high-level innovative talents; and postgraduate education in addition to providing a backup source for PhD graduate education, mainly to cultivate high-level talents for all walks of life, such as MPA, MBA etc.

Build Overpass of Higher Education

There should be a certain cohesion between the different levels of universities in China, so that there is a reasonable transition between the different levels. There should be a certain ambiguity between the different levels, and this ambiguity can only be a broad and narrow distinction between teaching content and knowledge. The specialties and specialties of the same major have some similarities in basic courses, but they differ greatly in specialized courses. For example, the specialist emphasizes its application and skill, while the undergraduate education emphasizes its theory and research. In order to ensure the different characteristics of college and University, and the college students in undergraduate study, not the same old stuff, all levels of the curriculum setting should take into account the cohesion, characteristics of different levels, so that the layers of communication, not repeat layers. The contact and communication between the higher education level is mainly reflected in the connection between the three levels, namely into the low level students (especially college students) to flow from low level to high level, in order to give education to provide more selective, provide more convenient education opportunities for them. In this regard, Burton Clark had a more thorough understanding, in his masterpiece "the system of higher education academic organization of multinational research" wrote: "if you join a unit, does not mean that into a dead end, so people pay great attention to the equality of opportunity will be better able to accept the level difference. If there are second and third opportunities to choose, transfer from one level to another and the possibility of transferring from one school to another, unpleasant events will be reduced".

Summary

Higher education reasonable structure is conducive to enhance the quality of higher education, if we neglect the structural problems that will affect the development of higher education, hinder the
progress of the society, therefore, optimizing the structure of higher education in China has become a pressing matter of the moment. In addition, the structure of higher education reform is a long process, it involves a comprehensive reform of the system of higher education, the achievement of the reform is directly related to the development of China's higher education and the development of the whole country, therefore, China should focus on improving the structure of higher education in the future for a long period of time, to promote the reform of higher education, and promote the development of higher education in China.

References