Evaluate the University Education and Teaching Reform from the Perspective of Current Status of University Students Employment

Qingzhu Zhou

Abstract

Along with the scientific and technological development and social and economic progress, there is an increasing demand for technical talents. Therefore, so as to help more students get better jobs, many schools have established a new teaching model and transformed from theoretical teaching to applied teaching model so as to cultivate the applied talents that conform to the demands of social development. As this new model still exists at the exploration stage, it still remains unclear whether it can enhance the employment rate of college students. However, from the perspective of the specific practice, such teaching model is very feasible. In light of the current status of university students employment, this paper offers an exploration into university education and teaching reform with a view to increasing the employment rate of university students and advancing the educational reform in universities.

Keywords: University Students Employment; University Education; Teaching Reform

1. INTRODUCTION

As the call for “mass entrepreneurship and innovation” was put forward, the university students face up with promising employment prospect. However, with respect to the current social demands, the all-round talents and innovative talents are in need. From the angle of current teaching model in universities, there is a gap between school education and social demands and between the educational reform and social changes. Most of the graduates find that it is difficult to find a job consistent with their majors or that they cannot meet the development demands of the enterprises with their knowledge theories. Such situation has always been an important influential factor resulting in the low employment rate of graduates. Therefore, it is of prime importance to strengthen educational reform and transform teaching model to address such issues.

2. Analysis of the Current Status of University Students Employment

In the analysis of the current employment situation, there are numerous people in bad need of jobs in the society; among whom, university students have great difficulties in finding jobs. The employment of university students employment has become one of the hot topics of great concern to the whole society. It is noted that the quantity of university students in China has exceeded 4 million with very high growth rate. The quantity of university graduates is not in direct proportion to their employment rate. So far, no measure has been found to eradicate
these issues. The situation of university students employment over the past few years can be summarized as follows:

First, constant increase in the quantity of university students. In many provinces and cities, the quantity of university students increases substantially compared with the previous years with the proportion of freshmen rising. Under such circumstances, the graduates will be confronted with enormous employment pressure. The posts cannot meet the employment demands of all the graduates. Therefore, there is a huge contradiction between the large number of graduates and limited job opportunities.

Second, social competitive pressure. In face of the limited jobs, students have to obtain the corresponding posts through fierce competition. In this process, students have to enhance their proficiency through the specialized study at school. However, simply the theoretical knowledge cannot meet enterprise’s demands for talents, or demonstrate the comprehensive quality or practicable ability of students. Therefore, enterprises usually turn some of the graduates down with this excuse but choose students with outstanding technical skills. As the result of the flow of rural labor forces to urban areas, the proportion of postgraduate students and number of “returned students from foreign countries” are also on the rise, which enhance the competition with the university graduates and their unemployment rate.

3. Analysis of the Reasons for Employment Difficulties

(1) The Teaching Model in Universities

Most of the universities still adopt the theoretical teaching as the major teaching method with more emphasis on the students’ mastery of the theoretical knowledge but less on their consciousness of innovation. Under such circumstances, students still have a temporary mastery and understanding of the knowledge. Therefore, the tremendous employment and competition pressure will substantially undermine their competitive strength. For example, in face of the professional questions from interviewers, the graduates from ordinary universities are unable to completely summarize or answer. As the result of their too much reliance on memories and tension, their performance during the interview cannot satisfy the interviewers. It demonstrates the deficiency of such teaching model, in which students find it difficult to master all the specialized knowledge in face of the complicated and tremendous knowledge system. Such teaching method also prevents the students from finding an effective learning method, who have to acquire knowledge simply through their memories and fail to apply what they have learned to practice.

(2) Employment Guidance for Students

In some universities, employment guidance is an advantageous tool that will facilitate students’ employment. However, most of the schools do not attach sufficient importance to this course, or fail to adopt an effective teaching model for guidance. As a result, students are denied access to the relevant guidance information and unable to resolve the problems popping up when choosing an occupation or finding jobs. For example, some of the enterprises lay stress on the personal quality and politeness of the applicants and usually set some in-depth examinations. Students who have never received such guidance will directly overlook these issues and leave a bad impression on the interviewers.
(3) The Psychological Factors of Students

In light of the current status of university students’ employment, the unemployment of most of the students is caused by their psychological factors, such as their unbalanced personal preference, blind employment, passive employment, insufficient employment preparation and high expectations. In the environment of intensive employment, students will be eliminated by the society if they fail to treat the social situation correctly. These concepts of employment are demonstrated in the field of teaching, reflecting the lack of guidance of students’ values on employment in the process of teaching.

(4) Social Environment

The constantly increasing degree of social and economic development is accompanied by greater demands for innovative and technical talents, thus enhancing the employment pressure of the students. The specific social influential factors can be analyzed from the following perspectives: First, enterprise. Under the system of socialist market economy, most of the enterprises organize their own talent teams by selecting the top talents so as to enhance their strength, take up a position in the market and strengthen their competitiveness. Under such circumstances, the advantages of students from regular institutions of higher learning will be weaker than that of the technical talents and postgraduate students. The enterprises will obviously prefer the latter. Second, endless emergence of top talents. In the trend of economic globalization, some of the large-scale enterprises will recruit technical talents or “returned students from foreign countries” to upgrade the enterprise scale to international level, thus increasing the number of technical talents and students going abroad for further studies. The advantages of graduates from higher vocational colleges and specialized colleges are higher than that of students from regular institutions of higher learning. For example, most of the enterprises will choose technical talents with excellent expertise instead of the students simply with theoretical knowledge so as to carry out the internet business model. Such reason also increases the unemployment of students.

Third, educational reform. The not all-inclusive and unimproved strategies or reform adopted by the relevant governmental departments fail to handle the employment pressure facing the university students. In recent years, although the government has been encouraging the university students to set up their businesses and even providing them with more support in this regard, such policies are still not accepted by all the students. Considering the large number of students, it cannot fundamentally resolve the employment difficulties.

4. Analysis of University Education and Teaching Reform

University education and teaching model are the important influential factors determining the future development trend of students. Therefore, the educational departments and institutions should attach sufficient importance to education and teaching reform and seek efficient approaches to provide students with more guarantees before they leave school.

(1) Innovate the Teaching Model

Teaching model should be innovated according to the real demands of social practice and renewed on the basis of the traditions. At the same time, it should follow the market-oriented approach to cultivate applied high-end talents. Schools should enable students to reflect on what they have learned through the well-targeted practical activities. Based on the market, the
teaching model should also accelerate the educational reform pace in terms of school-running mechanism, model and thoughts. Schools should cooperate with the social enterprises under the approval of educational departments and train their ability of applying knowledge by providing them with the corresponding posts to enhance students’ skills. Schools should also formulate the reasonable teaching objectives and adjust the disciplines and majors in accordance with the employment rate and social demands. In line with the school-running plans, schools should formulate reasonable recruitment plans in order to fundamentally address the issues of difficult employment.

In light of the huge disparity between unbalanced knowledge system of graduates and social demands, schools should spare more efforts to train the students’ abilities of employment, practice and innovation and cultivate their comprehensive quality with credit system, minor course system and dual degree system so as to create favorable conditions for the students. In the process of teaching, schools should also proactively draw upon the advanced teaching thoughts and methods from foreign countries and set small-scale and comprehensive simulated social environment according to different majors so as to enhance students’ professional skills, formulate reasonable practice and teaching plans and enhance their comprehensive abilities and competitiveness.

(2) Strengthen Employment Guidance

Different employment evaluation standards vary from each other in various enterprises. However, it can be basically divided into two categories, one is skill type and the other is etiquette type. These standards can strengthen students’ training through employment guidance. Therefore, in the teaching process, schools should strengthen their employment guidance and adopt teaching methods that are to the taste of students to impact employment-related knowledge. When offering the employment guidance, teachers should also strengthen interactions with students, give full play to their initiative and enable them to master employment-related knowledge under the lively atmosphere. Besides, school should improve the network platform system, collect and integrate the recruitment information, upload them to the employment guidance website platform so as to alleviate students’ psychological pressure. Various effective means are adopted to improve the employment guidance teaching system for the purpose of providing students with a favorable employment guidance environment and better guarantee.

(3) Improve Students’ Outlook on Employment

Many students lose their job opportunities due to psychological factors. With respect to this issue, it is of prime importance to improve students’ employment concepts. In school education, school should attach equal importance to the imparting of professional knowledge and the finding and mastery of students’ psychological changes. When teaching, teachers should provide the students with positive examples according to their teaching content. Through the combination of examples and social status quo, it is targeted at cultivating students’ correct values on employment and job selection and encouraging the innovation of students. Teachers should not be limited to their own majors; instead, they should interact with other teachers, especially the psychological counseling teachers. By working with other psychological counseling teachers, they can alleviate the psychological pressure of student.
5. Conclusions

Against the backdrop of the severe social employment situation, colleges and universities should adopt scientific and reasonable measures to innovate the educational methods and teaching models. Through innovation, it can provide employment guarantee for students, enhance their comprehensive competitiveness and alleviate their pressure so as to cultivate more quality talents and promote social harmony and stability as well as sustainable development.

References