



Problems and Perspectives of Continuing Education in Chinese Academic Universities

Dr. Huaixin, Zhu Zhejiang University, China





Background

- Chinese higher education is on the process of popularization. It is estimated that the rate of enrollment will be 25% in 2010.
- With the rapid social and economic development in China, various fields require their employees to be with more professional qualities.
- The development of network makes the continuing education for the people in service possible.



 In the past, the academic universities in China focused on the profound scientific research and academic education instead of professional education related to the social development.

Newadays, the universities think

bighly of the function of social service



- In China, it is the developmental requirement that those who have finished formal higher education continuingly get education in their working careers.
- The government and the mass hope that universities take the responsibility to carry out continuing education at the post graduate level, so as to sever the society much better.



Problems

- For the academic universities, the existing problems in continuing education are mainly as the following:
 - The anxiety that continuing education will impact the academic feature of university;
 - The neglect of the social service functions causes the neglect of continuing education;
 - The shortages of trainers of continuing education;
 - The lack of teaching abilities for continuing education for the university professors;
 - Unawareness of the relationship between
 scientific research and the educational training.





- External problems:
 - The development of network impacts the traditional forms of knowledge imparting
 - Because of the market feature, universities are short of competitiveness in competing with the social training institutions.





 Facing such realities, most of the topuniversities have the common sense that the continuing education should be professionalization, including the professionalization of the teachers and trainers.



Perspectives

- The academic universities in China have realized that the modern higher education should be inclusive of under graduate education, post graduate education and continuing education.
- In the past, Chinese universities mainly implement full time degree education for academic aims.



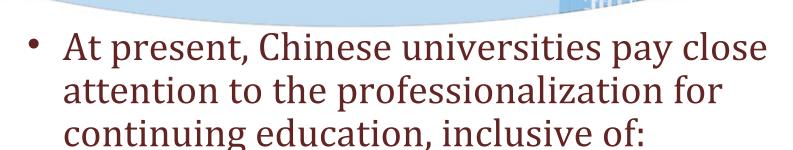


- This year, the Ministry of Education in China decides to decrease the number of enrollment for academic degree education, instead, the number of enrollment for professional degree education (mainly in-service) will be greatly increased, such as Master of Education, Juris Master, MBA, etc. .
- In 2007, the Ministry of Education issued an important documentation, claiming that the academic universities carry out continuing education based on their disciplinary superiority.



- Thus, most of the academic universities implement liberal education in the schools of humanities and science for the students before they choose different professional schools to continue their study.
- The professional schools provide the following education:
 - Academic degree education(Master and Ph.D.)
 - Professional degree education, mainly for the people in service
 - Professional continuing education for the people in service





- -The professionalization for the system
- -The professionalization for the trainers
- The professionalization of the training contents







 Setting up and improving the system of continuing education according to the

professional standard:

Laws and regulations, responsibilities and obligations

University's policies, aims, institutions and



The professionalization of the trainers

- The trainers should be the professional people with specialized knowledge, skills.
 - Insights of the national strategies, the trend of the economic development;
 - A bilities of obtaining and exploring the training resources;
 - A bilities of contacting with other sections in the society;
 - A bilities of planning, organizing and controlling the training activities so as to ensure the realization of training aims;



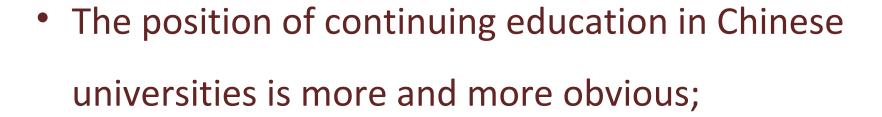


- Continuing education is the extending and supplement of formal education;
- It is the process of the updating of new knowledge, new theories, new skills and new methodologies;
- Continuing education must take the role of promoting social development and progress directly.



- University continuing education must provide professional training so that the semi-professional vocations develop to be higher level professions;
- University continuing education must help the professional people to be more professional, so that they are irreplaceable;
- The range of university continuing education is inclusive of such fields as administration, management, economy, finance, law, education, architecture, information, agriculture, medicine, tourism, and so on.





- The academic universities are strongly stressing the professional development of the trainers;
- Relevantly, the university continuing education itself is going to be professionalized.



Thanks

