

DISCUSSION AND DESIGN OF HIGH VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

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Abstract: To set up a vocational technical college within a university is in accordance with the tendency of international high education. It is an important and practical move to develop high vocational education based on China's realities. Although there is much controversy on decision-making and difficulties in operation, in a sense and in a particular period of time, promoting the all-round development of vocational education can not be underestimated. To greatly and timely promote this cause is one of the Key points in the developments of China's 21st century vocational education.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Major Adjustments in the Structure of China's Higher Education from 1998-1999

The dual features of high vocational education, talent mode and education scale are the major subjects of how education adapts to economy, social development, esp regional economic development, strengthen comprehensive national power, raise the qualities of laborers, forming a diversified integrated educational structure.

2. Position and Task of High Vocational Technical College in Universities

It is the banner and symbol of educational quality and diploma credit, therefore is an integral part of high vocational educational system: a special arm in promoting quality education and deepening teaching reform. Its function can't be replaced.

3. Vocational Technical College of Zhengzhou University, Past and Present

The college was set up in 1989. It was originally called vocational education centre, mainly engaged in short term vocational training and self study exam guidance. In 1998 it turned to high vocational education. In 1999, it recruited 374 students in 5 specialities in the province. The ratio of registration and admission is 13:1 for liberal arts and 5:1 for science. In December 1999, it changed to Vocational Technical College, a second-rate independent college according to the requirement of State Educational Department.

4. The Statistical Data of Specialities and Students in the University and College

Our school was founded in 1956 and is the only "211 project" school of the Province at present. It occupies an area of more than 1,600 mu. The total area is 350,000m². It possesses more than 164 million copies of books, 10 libraries and three laboratories. There are now 8 departments, 43 specialities, 10781 students and 1080 professional teachers. It plans to recruit 4196 students in the year 2000 (3800 undergraduate students, 396 vocational students) Vocational Technical College is one of the seventeenth departments of our university. It has a teaching building of 2553m² integrating teaching and training.

II. WORK RETROSPECT

In accordance with the principle of taking reform of educational ideas as the forerunner, educational reform as the core, education facilities construction as the base and management as the impetus, trying to form its own special feature.

1. Change of Concept and the Training of Management Personnel

High vocational education in the modern sense has a history of more than 100 years in China. It had many ups and downs. The reason for this is that the educational theories and ideas are adversely affected by traditional educational ideas and foreign modes. Therefore a new idea on talent, occupation, teaching quality, curriculum, teachers, education management should be formed.

* **Information Exchange**

Increase the subscription of more than ten kinds of newspapers and periodicals on vocational education, actively symposiums, carrying out inter-school communications.

* **Discussion of Teaching Methods**

Teachers and staff members routinely hold discussions on the topic of high vocational education, such as the features of vocational education, basic requirements for training and practice, key courses construction, teaching materials construction, management, service and ideological work etc.

* **Expert guide**

Invite experts, leaders to give academic reports

* **Investigation and research**

Conduct investigations to **Shanghai** and Shenzhen

* **Training of Management Personnel**

Carrying out 2 terms of computer management training

* **Adjustment of Management Organizations**

Establish and strengthen training and management department, job guidance department

2. Specialty Setting up and Courses System

* **The Initiation and Work of the three-in-one Specialized Guiding Committee**

It is formed by relevant persons in charge of the industries, enterprise personnel, educational specialists. Main functions stipulated in the <regulations>: making educational plans and supervise its implementation, forecasting vocational education development and setting requirements of capability qualities, taking part in the selection of teachers, guiding its training, helping in the verification of job qualification certificates and providing consultancy.

* **Investigation of Social Professions and Forecasting of Industry Development**

* **Preliminary Attempt at Experimental Unit of the Integration of Production, Research and University**

Through self-raising capitals and loans, set up 3-4 multi-functional laboratories integrating design manufacture and practice.

*** Teaching Plans and Curriculum Design**

Teaching plans of each specialities are consisted are consisted of study period, work ranges, relevant qualification certificates, job capabilities, course type (key courses, vocational technical courses, vocational practical training, etc.), time proportions and implementation details

3. Infrastructure Construction for Training and Study

After ten years of development, the college has possessed basic teaching facilities. In order to open up new prospect of high vocational education and repay society for its trust. It has invested more than 60 thousand in the first half of 1999 and plans to loan 30 million in the construction of infrastructure facilities including:

- * Set up Practical Training Department and Training (Experiment) Centre (3-5 Multi-functional Imitation Training Laboratories)**

- * Promote Multi-media Teaching and Build for Distance Computer Education Facilities**

Meanwhile, give full play to the resource advantage of universities; investigate the resource-sharing mechanism between universities and colleges, between universities and enterprises:

- * Resource-sharing mechanism of the experiment teaching within university**

- * Training base network outside university, including form the inter-university complimentary relationship of teachers, experiments and training between the strong and the weak**

- * Cooperate with government and enterprises in employment guidance**

- * Self-study coach for those on the job and out of school**

- * Short-term Vocational Training Jointly Conducted with, or Entrusted by Government Institutions and Enterprises.**

4.Tasks of Teaching and Learning

*** System of Teacher's Qualification Evaluation, Training and Appointment**

Openly recruit teachers from the university or society. Before start teaching, teachers should study <The Principled suggestions to the Formulation of Teaching plans in high Vocational Education > and relevant documents, drafting teaching plans (including experiment and training plans).

*** Relevant Documents Management**

Experiment report, methods of management of status as a student, teacher's files, etc.

*** Quality Evaluation and Supervision**

Draft <Courses and Teachers Evaluation and Investigation Form>, encourage students to give marks to courses and teachers, routinely conduct examinations about teacher's ideologies and teaching levels, carrying out teaching and research activities.

*** Selection and Compilation of Textbooks:**

Basically using the high vocational textbooks recommended by the Educational Department, other teaching materials will be evaluated by experts.

*** Varied and Colorful Community Activities of the Students:**

- * Emphasize the Education of Political Ideology and Professional Ethics
- * Lay stress on the construction of cultural and scientific facilities, setting up teacher's reference room and student's reading room, preliminarily putting in 2000 to subscribe more than 10 kinds of specialized periodicals and books, setting up a fixed fund to encourage scientific competition activities.
- * Compulsory Labor
- * Scientific, human and English lecture
- * Cultivation of creativity and work capability
- * Part-time work and Part-time study, subsidies for poor students

5. Problem for Discussion

Quality and unique feature is the life line of vocational education. At present these still exist the following dilemmas and problems:

- * Covert and extrovert conflict between ideology category facing high vocational education and structural category
- * The backwardness of vocational investigation and the lack of guidance in employment prospect forecast and job-hunting
- * The proper role of government and enterprises
- * The customary practice of mono vocational ethics (moral) education and education reform
- * Entrance qualifications and the dilemma of/the "flyover" conception
- * The lack of relevant credentials. The application of the qualification certificates of comprehensive and overlapping specialities such as accountant computer calculation, construction supervision and the certifications for English grade test.
- * Endless controversies of the teacher's teaching habit and quality standard, subject standard and capability standard
- * Discussion of English, Chinese, computer and business lessons
- * Development of new curriculum
- * Confinable study
- * Development of teaching and management manpower resources
- * Students' insurance in the training
- * Teaching quality appraisal system
- * Buildings, equipment and capital

6. Design For The Year 2000-2002

*** Tasks and Environment Analysis:**

Economy, credit; the estimation of the phenomena of "escalation" of diploma by employing units under society, government and university, including Henan's economic development forecast; analysis of the mechanism of mainly relying on tuition and supplemented by government subsidies; society's recognition of diploma population and employment pressure; analysis of government education, personnel, labor policies; research on the adjustment and reform measures of university; analysis of the needs of parents and students

*** Set up 7-8 Key Specialities, the Scheduled Number of Students Will be 1200-1300**

- * The selection and initiation of 1-2 high and new technology-intensive and job-elastic choice specialities, determine the development strategies of the specialities and the foundation of the“flyover” according to investigation of labor market
- * The experiment unit of integrating production, teaching, training and research-managing capital, solving the problem of lack of understanding between universities and enterprises, planning to set up comprehensive multi-functional training centre
- * Realizing the systematic planning of experiment and training, highlighting the feature of vocational education
- * Set up 15-20 stable practical training bases
- * Establishment of long distance educational network, enlarge inter-collegiate communication and information exchange
- * Enlarge capital investment on buildings and equipment through multi-channel efforts
- * Set up a teaching team consisted of full time and part-time teachers
- * Reform of management mode and system, improve the system of appointing, training teachers as well as the tutorial, evaluation and personnel check-up system, explore the ways of elective course and the credit system
- * Reform of the existing curriculum and reorganization of the curriculum system as well as curriculum appraisal-explore the content and modes of quality education, continuable education, conducting research on the lessons of Marxism’s-theories, DengXiaoPing’s theories, physical training, culture and arts, labor for public good, vocational ethics (moral) lesson as well as selective curriculum of arts and science covert curriculum.
- * “Elevate” 1-2 four-year schooling high vocational undergraduate specialities, making academic and talent preparations for the application of master’s degree station.
- * Strengthen teaching and scientific research, accomplish 2-3 large and medium-sized academic tasks entrusted by the government or by cooperating with enterprises, trying to get research funds
- * Gradually compile textbooks of the college itself, actively taking part in the national, provincial and municipal compilation of teaching materials
- * Explore students’ activities of mass organization mainly for skills competition and management service activities centering on labor insurance.
- * To appeal for the establishment of a provincial and regional labor market analysis system and a community technical training centre
- *Conduct multi-level before job, after job vocational training and self study exam guidance

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