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Research on the Current Status and Strategies of Higher Vocational Education in Supporting Rural Revitalization——A Case Study of Yunnan Forestry and Technical College

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Abstract: At present, the national rural revitalization strategy is deeply implemented, and higher vocational education (hereinafter referred to as "higher vocational education"), as one of the education types most closely related to economic and social development, plays an irreplaceable role in promoting rural revitalization. This paper first analyzes the current situation of rural revitalization in higher vocational services, including the achievements and problems, and then puts forward some strategic suggestions for rural revitalization in higher vocational services, in order to provide strong talent support and intellectual guarantee for promoting rural revitalization.

Keywords: Higher vocational education; Rural revitalization; Current situation; Strategies

Fund Project:

(1) 2024 Central Finance Forestry and Grassland Science and Technology Project - Promotion and Demonstration of High-Yield Cultivation Techniques for Macadamia (Yunnan [2024]TG23);

(2) "Double High Plan" Construction Project of Yunnan Forestry Technological College - Elite Online Course "Impressions of Yunnan - Exploring the Secrets of Edible Mushrooms" (LZSGJH-JPKC-2022162);

(3) School-level Scientific Research Project of Yunnan Forestry Technological College - Screening of Edible Mushroom Species Suitable for Cultivation in Forest Land (KY(ZD)202405)

Introduction

Amidst the in-depth implementation of the National Rural Revitalization Strategy, higher vocational education (hereinafter referred to as "HVE"), as one of the educational types most closely linked to economic and social development, plays an irreplaceable role in promoting rural revitalization. Rural revitalization represents a vital strategic deployment of the Party and the country, aimed at achieving comprehensive development and prosperity in rural economies, societies, and cultures. It serves as a crucial measure to drive high-quality rural economic development and facilitate urban-rural integration. Only by achieving comprehensive revitalization of China's countryside can we fundamentally stem the roots of poverty and achieve the socialist modernization goal of common prosperity .

1. Current Status of Higher Vocational Education Serving Rural Revitalization

1.1 Precisely Aligning with the Needs of Rural Revitalization and Clarifying Talent Cultivation Orientation

In recent years, higher vocational education has closely aligned with the inherent needs of the rural revitalization strategy, continuously optimizing professional settings and curriculum systems, strengthening practical teaching links, and deepening school-enterprise cooperation mechanisms. Tailored to different levels and types of student groups, institutions have meticulously designed individualized talent cultivation programs, implementing categorized teaching and precise cultivation strategies. For instance, Yunnan Forestry Technological College has implemented a "Platform + Module" composite talent cultivation model and a "3+2" high-vocational to undergraduate connectivity model in recent years. It has also carried out practices such as "double-qualified teacher"

team construction, "flexible educational system," and "modularized curriculum teaching," effectively nurturing a large number of high-quality talents who possess both professional skills and innovative capabilities.

1.2 Deepening the Integration of Industry and Education, Expanding Social Service Functions

Higher vocational colleges have actively explored new paths for the integration of industry and education, establishing solid cooperative relationships with local governments, agricultural enterprises, and others to jointly promote rural industrial upgrading and technological innovation. Through the joint construction of training bases, research and development centers, and other platforms, they have achieved a deep integration of educational resources and industrial resources, forging a seamless connection between the education chain, talent chain, and industrial chain, as well as the innovation chain. Yunnan Forestry Technological College stands out in this regard, having recently added emerging majors such as Chinese Medicinal Materials Cultivation and Processing Technology and Grassland Technology, and established multiple industrial colleges. It has continuously leveraged central and provincial forestry and grassland science and technology promotion demonstration projects to strengthen the supporting role of forestry and grassland science and technology in rural revitalization.

2. Issues in Serving Rural Revitalization through Higher Vocational Education

2.1 Relatively Weak Educational Resources and Faculty Strength

At present, the distribution of educational resources in China's higher vocational education (HVE) exhibits a pronounced imbalance, primarily manifested in the excessive concentration of resources in urban areas while rural regions grapple with resource scarcity. Compared to the general higher education system, HVE lags behind in terms of faculty strength, teaching infrastructure construction, and research investment, significantly hindering its comprehensive development and quality leap. In 2021, Yunnan Forestry Technological College took the lead in establishing the Yunnan Ecological Civilization Construction Vocational Education Group, seizing the significant opportunities presented by the national and Yunnan provincial policies to promote the integration of industry and education and accelerate the reform and development of vocational education, actively serving ecological civilization construction and regional economic and social development.

2.2 Urgent Need to Improve Talent Cultivation Quality to Meet the Demands of Rural Revitalization

Under the ambitious blueprint of rural revitalization, the demand for high-quality and specialized talents in agriculture, rural areas, and other related fields has soared unprecedentedly. However, some higher vocational colleges lag behind or have unreasonable layouts in agriculture-related majors and curriculum systems, making it difficult to precisely align with the actual needs of rural revitalization. This disconnection is not only reflected in the lack of forward-looking and targeted major settings but also in the failure of course content to keep pace with market dynamics and rural development trends, thereby creating a significant gap between talent cultivation outcomes and market demands.

2.3 Stimulating the Potential of Youth Talent for Rural Employment and Entrepreneurship

Despite the introduction of numerous incentive policies at the national and local levels aimed at guiding university students to go deep into grassroots levels and serve rural areas, issues such as disconnection from the rural economy's realities and unclear employment and entrepreneurship orientations persist in higher vocational education practices. This directly affects students' abilities and confidence in rural employment and entrepreneurship, making them more inclined to choose urban areas over rural ones when facing career choices.

3. Strategies for Serving Rural Revitalization through Higher Vocational Education

3.1 Mobilizing Multi-faceted Forces and Strengthening Top-level Design

It is imperative to construct a strategic plan and policy system that emphasizes both forward-looking vision and practical effectiveness. Incentive policies should be formulated to attract resources from all sectors of society into higher vocational education, reinforcing its pivotal role in agricultural modernization, rural industrial upgrading, and farmer income growth. Policy guidance and resource allocation should be enhanced to ensure that higher vocational education plays a significant role in facilitating agricultural modernization, rural industrial upgrading, and increasing farmers' income.

Taking the "2024 Central Financial Forestry and Grassland Science and Technology Project – Macadamia High-yield Cultivation Technology Promotion and Demonstration" project at Yunnan Forestry Technological College as an example, this project established a 400-acre demonstration base in Jiangcheng County, Pu'er City, showcasing advanced technologies such as cultivar optimization and efficient management. Through training and outreach, it effectively drove the local macadamia industry, providing a vivid practice and invaluable experience for higher vocational education on how to precisely align with the needs of rural revitalization and serve local

economic development.

3.2 Precisely Aligning with Market Needs and Enhancing Training Quality

To precisely match the talent demands of rural revitalization, it is necessary to conduct in-depth market research, flexibly adjust major settings and curriculum content, establish agricultural-related specialized majors, and strengthen practical teaching components. The aim is to cultivate interdisciplinary talents who possess both professional skills and innovative capabilities. Simultaneously, efforts should be intensified to build up the teaching staff by introducing and nurturing outstanding teachers with practical experience and industry insights, thereby forging a high-level teaching team. Regular teaching seminars, skill enhancement workshops, and other activities should be organized to continuously enhance teachers' professional competence and instructional capabilities, while motivating them to delve into rural industries, engage in technological innovation and industrial upgrading, and thereby enhance the effectiveness of serving rural revitalization through practical actions. The scientific research project titled "Screening of Suitable Edible Mushroom Species for Forest Land" conducted by Yunnan Forestry Technological College serves as a case in point. This research identified multiple high-yield and high-quality edible mushroom varieties suitable for cultivation under different forest environments, enriching the utilization of forest resources and achieving a harmonious coexistence of ecological and economic benefits, thereby providing a model for higher vocational education in serving rural revitalization.

3.3 Innovating Service Models and Expanding Service Areas

In recent years, some higher vocational colleges have deeply integrated into rural revitalization by establishing a comprehensive service model that integrates "majors + culture + industries + party building," precisely aligning with rural characteristic industries and nurturing skilled talents. This approach now encompasses sectors such as agriculture, forestry, tourism, and e-commerce. Additionally, emphasis is placed on protecting rural culture by promoting traditional culture through courses, activities, and cultural venues, thereby enhancing cultural self-confidence. Leveraging professional strengths, these colleges participate in rural industrial planning and innovation, facilitating industrial upgrading. For instance, Yunnan Forestry Technological College established a practical base in Wangya Village, Ximeng County, in 2023, promoting agricultural and specialty products and accelerating the transformation of scientific and technological achievements through school-enterprise cooperation. This has fostered new business forms and enhanced rural economic benefits. Notably, by strengthening party building leadership and closely collaborating with rural party organizations, these colleges have jointly promoted the modernization of rural governance, providing a solid guarantee for rural revitalization.

3.4 Enhancing the Role of Informatization in Boosting Rural Revitalization Services

By integrating modern information technology, we aim to establish a smart education platform that facilitates seamless integration between higher vocational education and rural revitalization. Through innovative models such as online education and remote training, geographical barriers are overcome, thereby broadening learning paths for rural students and enhancing accessibility to educational resources. Relying on platform data analysis, we can gain precise insights into rural educational needs and talent development trends, providing data support for strategic educational planning. Deepening school-enterprise cooperation with internet enterprises and agricultural technology leaders, we jointly promote the "Internet + Agriculture" new ecosystem, constructing agricultural product e-commerce trading platforms and smart agricultural management systems. This not only expands the market boundaries of agricultural products but also promotes intelligent agricultural production and refined management. For instance, the "Double High Plan" construction project at Yunnan Forestry Technological College, the elite online course "Impression Yunnan - Exploring Edible Mushrooms," introduces the wondrous world of edible mushrooms in Yunnan in a vivid manner, showcasing the charm of rural resources and nurturing a talent pool with broad horizons and solid knowledge for rural revitalization.

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