

Thoughts on the Development of Social Sciences in Universities with Local Industry Characteristics

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Abstract: Local colleges are closely related to the development of local economy and industry. Construction of social sciences in colleges plays an important role in the process of local economic transformation and development. For the sake of promoting the common development with local colleges, the demands of local industries should be combined with the advantages of colleges so as to construct social sciences for in-depth cooperation between school and enterprise. Incentive service mechanism should also be established to stimulate the enthusiasm of social science researchers to participate in school-enterprise cooperation. The development of social sciences should be strengthened in order to promote the agglomeration of local industries.

Keywords: Colleges; Local industry; Education management; Innovation strategies

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1. Introduction

Social science can be considered as an important tool to transform the world and an important force to promote historical development and social progress. Development of social science reflects a nation's thinking ability, spiritual character and civilized quality which is also the representation of comprehensive strength and international competitiveness. The development plan jointly formulated by the Ministry of Education clearly proposes the construction of social science comprehensively so as to promote the construction of new engineering, new medical science, new agricultural science and new liberal arts. The plan will also improve the ability of academics to serve the development of economy and society. It marks that social sciences have officially embarked on the fast track of the strategy "New Humanities and Social Sciences" (herein after, NHSS), the launch of which will have a profound impact in the future^[1].

Local universities were important components of higher education system. Local universities with industry characteristics (herein after, Local Colleges) are special groups in the local education system. Local colleges cultivate high-quality specialized talents for specific industries and advantages of which lie in the development of the industries. Compared with the construction and development of social sciences in comprehensive universities, school-running concept in local colleges is quite different. However, under the background of NHSS construction, Local colleges will confront with new opportunities. They have special development foothold and advantages, as well as challenges and dilemmas coexisting with development opportunities. This study deeply discusses the path and countermeasures for the development of social sciences and make suggestions for the high-quality development of Local colleges.

2. The necessity of developing social science in Local Colleges

2.1 To meet the major strategic issues and serve the urgent demands of governance

Social progress depends on the development of both natural and social sciences. A country without well-developed social sciences and natural sciences cannot be in the lead of the world. Throughout the history of human civilization, the coordinated development of social sciences and natural sciences has spawned a large number of new fields and methods of interdisciplinary research, and promoted the progress of many large-scale social projects.

Development of social sciences reflects the thinking ability, spiritual character and civilized quality of a country and its overall national strength and international competitiveness. Local Colleges should strengthen the construction of social sciences which could in line with the develop trend of mutual penetration and integration of natural and social sciences. It is also the need of working in concert with national strategies and serving the governance.

2.2 To promote the integration of disciplines and strive for a world-class university

Social sciences condense and sublimate the spirit of the era which could demonstrate the problems in the rapid development of society. Construction of social science should base on the strategic overall situation of the great rejuvenation and the strategic goal of national rejuvenation. We are living in the era of economic globalization and information networking. The beneficial achievements of various disciplines should be absorbed and the innovation in the communication and integration between disciplines should be explored so as to better develop social sciences. Meanwhile, Local Colleges should vigorously develop social sciences and actively promote the reciprocal discipline integration. We should work hard to develop first-class social sciences so as to truly grow into world-class or high-level well-known universities.

Economic globalization made all kinds of problems comprehensively, which puts forward higher requirements for personnel cultivating. Development of social sciences could also improve the academic environment, learning atmosphere and professional structure system. From the theoretical perspective, the development of social sciences is helpful to enhance the humanistic deposits and carry forward the humanistic spirit. In addition, the need of interdisciplinary talents could provide unprecedented opportunities for the development of social sciences in Local Colleges.

2.3 To cultivate interdisciplinary talents and cultural inheritance and innovation

Construction of social sciences must combine talent cultivating with scientific research in a coordinated way. Local colleges should cultivate compound talents in all-round developments. It is far from enough to evaluate students' professional skills, academic attitude, social responsibility and cultural quality from the perspective technology education. Social science could help students form the comprehensive knowledge structure and encourage comprehensive healthy development in such aspects as cognition and emotion. Meanwhile, well development of social sciences could help to nurture students with good humanistic quality and make them systematically master the basic knowledge and skills of a certain professional field. To enhance the harmonious combination of scientific and humanistic education is the perpetual direction of modern higher education.

Local colleges have deep cultural deposits which could have an irreplaceable education function in guiding students to establish and optimize the outlook on the world. Therefore, it is necessary to accelerate the construction of social sciences so as to implement the overall development strategy of social sciences centered on educating talents, and to build a comprehensive development system integrating students, academics and disciplines.

3. Strategy for the development of social sciences in Local Colleges

3.1 Construction of high-level scientific research platform for social sciences

The key of the development of social science in Local Colleges is talents construction. Firstly, Local Colleges should establish a flexible and efficient introduction mechanism so as to introduce high-level talents constantly. Academic leaders with high academic level should be recruited from all over the world as well. However, rendering academic status and levels as the only requirement during the process of introducing should be avoided. At the same time, the introduction of talents should be closely combined with the development status of disciplines. Secondly, we should improve the construction of the academic echelon of social science and strengthen the introduction of young teachers. Corresponding scientific research start-up funds according to their research level should also be fully guaranteed. Meanwhile, pre-research support like testing ground and other measures should be reasonably implemented. Finally, it is necessary to provide conditions suitable for talents to get continuous progress. Furthermore, Local Colleges should actively create a free and flexible academic atmosphere suitable for the growth of talents and pay attention to the cultivation of young outstanding talents. At the same time, suitable conditions should be created for the continuous development of research team in social science. Persistent efforts should be made to cultivate a high-level academic team which could carry out international cooperation through policy guidance, financial support and institutional mechanism innovation.

Scientific research platform for social sciences should be conducted as followed. On the one hand, interdisciplinary and cross-department research platforms should be built flexibly and efficiently so as to undertake national major theoretical and practical research. Dynamic research teams should be formed so as to better studying social hot issues as well. On the other hand, the latest theoretical achievements should be widely absorbed and the major academic conferences should be actively organized so as to improve the popularity of social science disciplines. At the same time, sufficient financial support must be

given in time and specialized social science departments should be established as well. Furthermore, subject systems for social sciences should be built with reasonable structure and obvious advantages combined with outstanding characteristics. A group of leading scholars around the world should be gathered so as to achieve a batch of high-quality academic achievements and improve the research level of social science.

3.2 Construction of logical evaluation system and interdisciplinary research team

It is incomprehensive to evaluate talents only according to the number of papers and publications published. However, the phenomenon which evaluation indicator only included journal papers from SCI and SSCI still exist. This phenomenon is not only not conducive to promoting the theoretical innovation for social science, but also seriously inhibit the enthusiasm in solving major practical problems and better serving the society. Therefore, it is time logical evaluation standard should be set up. The rule with the development of social sciences should be fully respected and the evaluation standard should be logically changed. We have to be aware of that social scientific research is time-consuming and difficult to quantify. The basic principle of quality and influence first should be adhered as well. Furthermore, we should pay more attention to the academic originality and practical application value as well as the international influence. Encouragement and support of original and applied achievements should be fully implemented. At the same time, scientific and reasonable classified academic evaluation systems should be established quickly so as to better promoting the construction of think tanks and enhancing international influence.

Major problems coexist with reformation of industry are complexity and comprehensiveness. Interdisciplinary research should be vigorously promoted so as to better solving major practical problems and putting forward feasible countermeasures. Meanwhile, cross-integration and collaborative innovation between different disciplines should be achieved as well. The establishment of interdisciplinary research institutions and teams are effective forms to carry out interdisciplinary research. Major theoretical and practical problems coexist with the development of industry should be fully respected. Integration of research on various aspects should be strengthened so as to build logical talent introduction and cultivation mechanism. Choosing corresponding interdisciplinary research organization form should be in accordance to the nature of the problem to be solved^[2]. The concept of systematic development through cooperation should be effectively promoted in order to realize interdisciplinary academic research.

4. Conclusion

Construction of social sciences in Local colleges plays an important role in the process of local economic transformation and development. However, incentive service mechanism should be set up so as to stimulate the enthusiasm of social science researchers to get progress. The development of social sciences has a great future, of course, we need to work together to solve the multiple problems coexist with the change of era.

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