

# Community Education under the Concept of Lifelong Learning

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**Abstract:** Community education is based on the development needs of community residents and reflects a high degree of humanistic care. It is closely connected with the concept of lifelong education and the construction of a learning society. In each stage of its development, it has been endowed with specific connotations of The Times. This form of education has broken through the basic function of traditional education, showing unique advantages in promoting social management innovation. Making full use of community resources and fully excavating the deep function of community education is of great significance to promote the benign development of community education.

**Keywords:** Community education; Lifelong learning; Community education system

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In 2016, nine government functional departments, including the Ministry of Education, issued the Opinions on Further Promoting the Development of Community Education (CE), which clearly proposed to “improve the professional level of community educators and strengthen the training of community education staffs”. In opinion of many people, community education belongs to the category of non-formal education. They believe that this kind of education does not play a strong role in promoting people’s development and has little significance. There is a big mistake in this view. With the continuous development and progress of the society, the requirement for people to learn is getting higher and higher, and the traditional way of learning can no longer meet people’s needs. The update speed of knowledge is getting faster and faster. In order to adapt to the speed of social development and change, people need to learn new knowledge in different ways to ensure that they will not be eliminated by the society. Nowadays, the need of human’s survival and development has been inseparable from lifelong learning, this concept is very important to establish and promote.

CE is a very key work in the process of establishing and promoting the concept of lifelong learning. Its purpose is to change the education concept of community residents in time, help them to establish the ideas of keeping pace with The Times and cultivate lifelong learning into their own interests and hobbies, so as to adapt to and adapt to the needs of social development. In the process of the development of livelong learning, the universality of education becomes more and more obvious. The school no longer holds the independent privilege of education, the traditional way of learning is broken, and the open society education gradually replaces the old and closed campus education. Integrating learning into life is the biggest feature of CE, in which people can better realize lifelong learning. The lifelong learning breaks the concept of “learning for diploma” and effectively promotes individual learning and development.

The implementation of lifelong learning needs the support of various educational resources. The basic unit of society is community, in which there are many hidden educational resources. The key to construct community education system (CES) is how to allocate these educational resources reasonably and effectively. The traditional idea holds that only by effectively integrating educational resources can the function of resource sharing mechanism be brought into play. However, according to relevant studies, community colleges do not have enough ability to excavate out all the educational resources, so it is urgent to integrate all necessary educational resources to promote community education<sup>[1]</sup>.

Nowadays, the management thinking of CE is closed to a certain extent. The community has not developed a sense of integrating educational resources, which leads to the fragmentation of educational resources. For example, the schools and

cultural palaces in the community are in “separate-island” state in terms of educational functions<sup>[2]</sup>. Therefore, it is necessary to excavate and integrate these educational resources to bring complementary advantages into full play the overall benefits. The relevant community education propaganda documentaries should be made according to the actual situation of the community, so as to popularize community education and ensure that community residents can obtain educational information of the community through more channels. The establishment and improvement of the network platform for CE need to be considered, community residents can make full use of network resources to obtain more precise educational information. With the acceleration of the informatization process, in order to make CE better meet the needs of lifelong learning, it is necessary to use various information technologies to meet the differentiated needs of community residents and expand the coverage of community educational information. For example, establishing a database of community learning resources, break the limits of time and space, and integrate the educational resources of various regions in a larger scope, at the same time, the resources of schools, cultural departments, educational institutions, enterprises and the government are fully mobilized to form a perfect learning system combining online and offline. The information-based community education platform can help community residents break regional restrictions and realize resource sharing in a wider range. In addition, the network “credit bank” of lifelong learning for community residents could be established to realize the free transfer between learning outcomes and credits. After completing the learning tasks through the community education system, the educatee can receive corresponding credits, which will be deposited into the online credit bank of individual residents. After the credits have accumulated to meet the standards for the exchange of academic certificates and vocational qualification certificates, the corresponding academic and vocational qualifications can be obtained. Therefore, taking the online teaching project as the carrier will effectively strengthen the integration and sharing of network resources, promote the cooperation among various communities, closely contact each educatee in the community, protect the rights and interests of multiple market subjects, and form a long-term cooperation mechanism.

The development of community education system (CES) is inseparable from the active participation of community members, so it is very important to cultivate community residents’ awareness of active participation in lifelong education. Modern media technologies such as Internet, TV, blog and We-Chat public accounts can be widely publicized to promote the concept of lifelong learning. Leaflets can also be pasted on display boards and bulletin boards in the community, and public welfare activities can be carried out to create a learning atmosphere and impenetrably infiltrate the concept of lifelong learning into the daily life of community residents. The community education system should conduct research on residents’ learning needs before each learning activity, and take the learning activities most needed and concerned as the theme project to attract more residents to participate in learning activities. Finally, the CES should clarify the learning objectives, formulate a reasonable learning plan, pay attention to the assessment and transformation of learning results, gradually improve the quality of education and study, build residents’ learning results as a “benchmark”, attract more residents to participate, realize self-appreciation, and form a scale effect.

Traditional community education focuses on vocational education, which is not comprehensive enough. With the continuous development of the concept of lifelong learning, community educators gradually accept the people-oriented concept and set up a variety of courses to meet the different needs of residents. The main educatee of CE is the residents in the community, however, on account to the differences in age and occupation of the residents, they also need different learning contents. Therefore, according to the actual situation, CES should provide residents the education of vocational skills education, humanistic spirit, personality training and other aspects. For example, by offering courses to cultivate the mind and strengthen social skills or some others, the residents can choose according to their different needs and interests. For adults, CE is not purely theoretical learning. So as to activate the atmosphere of community education, some activities could be held frequently in the process of education to meet the needs of residents for lifelong learning. For example, holding vocational skills competition, carrying out paper-cutting activities, speech activities, fitness activities and calligraphy competitions etc., can allow community residents to fully show themselves, that could be helpful for improving their enthusiasm and initiative in learning. Moreover, residents can deeply appreciate the significance and value of lifelong learning and enhance their motivation to learn through diversified community education activities. Compared with other formal education, CE has some differences, the purpose is to meet people’s learning needs, entertainment needs and vocational needs. So it actually needs a more flexible form.

To ensure the educational needs of community members can be met, it needs to constantly promote the healthy development of the community. Scientific development view and sustainable development theory are the guiding ideology

that must be adhered. The development of the CES cannot be separated from the support of the government. The government should clarify the development direction at the macro level, provide necessary policy support, as well as diversified and precise guarantee service, and do not interfere too much in its internal management and operation. The Ministry of Education has direct management and leadership over community education. In addition, it should promulgate laws and policies, clear the responsibilities and rights of relevant departments and market subjects, avoid the management and operation confusion caused by the unclear division, to provide support for the development of CES. The development of community education system needs the cooperation of multiple market subjects, in this case, the coordination function of government is particularly important. A mechanism of equal dialogue should be established to protect the rights and interests of all market entities. What needs to be emphasized is that the government should stimulate the enthusiasm of multi-market subjects to participate through reasonable benefit distribution.

Therefore, in order to promote the long-term healthy development of the CES and coordinate the relationship between the multiple market subjects, the government should provide a transparent information disclosure and resource sharing mechanism. The running situation of the CES and the contribution of each market subject should be publicized regularly, mutual understanding and communication between each market subject and the community should be enhanced, a more stable cooperative relationship should be established, so as to solve problems in time.

The CES is a non-profit learning organization, nonetheless, while providing public welfare free learning resources for all community residents, some brand projects can also be set up to provide customized education services for residents with special learning needs, and it is reasonable to charge appropriate education service fees to help them obtain more professional knowledge. In addition, it can also provide services for various market entities, realize the external output of learning resources, and jointly promote the market-oriented development of community education system to supplement the subsequent development funds.

In short, the construction of community education system needs to be explored for a long time. Community educators must optimize the allocation of community education resources, apply the modern education technology to integrate all kinds of high-quality education resources, and give full play to the leading and infiltrating role of CES for meeting the personalized and high-quality learning needs of the residents, and eventually ensure the realization of community residents' lifelong learning.

## **References:**

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