

# Exploration on the reform of social work talent training from the perspective of new liberal arts

*Daxia Lei*

Yibin University, Yibin 644000, China

**Abstract:** The new liberal arts, as a brand new educational trend of thought and pattern, has been gradually concerned and favored by the educational circle. It is not only the integration of traditional disciplines, but also a re-examination and refinement of the humanistic spirit. The new liberal arts emphasizes the integration of disciplines, tries to break the boundaries of traditional disciplines, encourages students to observe and analyze problems from multiple angles and dimensions, and cultivates their comprehensive thinking and innovation ability. Because of these characteristics of the new liberal arts, it provides new ideas and methods for the training of social work talents. Social work is not only a technology and method, but also a concept of humanistic care and service. Under the guidance of the new liberal arts, colleges and universities can better train social work talents with both professional skills and humanistic spirit, so that they can serve the society more effectively and promote social harmony and progress. Therefore, this paper is devoted to exploring the connotation and characteristics of the new liberal arts, analyzing the current dilemma of training social work professionals, and the new path of training social work talents under the background of the new liberal arts, in order to provide a new thinking direction for the training of social work professionals.

**Key words:** new liberal arts; Social work; interdisciplinary

## I. Connotation and characteristics of the new liberal arts

The new liberal arts, as an increasingly valued educational concept, is not simply a combination of disciplines. Its real value lies in its deep interpretation and extension of the humanities. Its grand conceptual framework explains the disciplines for us. First of all, from the perspective of integration of disciplines, the new liberal arts tries to break through the boundaries between traditional disciplines, in which each has its own independent research fields and methods. However, in the concept of the new liberal arts, there is a natural connection between disciplines. This integration is not only reflected in the content of knowledge, but also in research methods and ways of thinking. The new liberal arts especially emphasizes interdisciplinary research methods. In the process of education in the new liberal arts, students should not only learn professional knowledge, but also learn how to draw nutrients from other disciplines, and how to use multidisciplinary research methods to explore problems in depth. The learning mode of the new liberal arts aims to cultivate students' comprehensive thinking ability, so that they can face complex social problems, not limited by a single disciplinary perspective, but can carry out in-depth thinking and analysis from multiple angles. The new liberal Arts encourages interdisciplinary learning and research, believing that real intellectual innovation and solutions often come from the intersection of multiple disciplines. This can not only help students broaden their horizons, but also cultivate their comprehensive analysis and problem-solving abilities. The construction of the new liberal arts should be based on the localization of China, the world and The Times, and comprehensively enhance the creativity and competitiveness of China's humanities and social science research and education. Talent training and knowledge production system innovation are the two core tasks of the new liberal arts construction.

In addition, the new liberal arts also emphasizes the importance of technology in social work. In the digital age, technology such as big data and artificial intelligence can help social workers analyze social problems more accurately, predict social changes, and formulate effective intervention measures. This technology-driven approach to social work not only retains the traditional humanistic care, but also has the high efficiency of modern technology.

Compared with the traditional liberal arts, the new liberal arts puts more emphasis on the application and practice of knowledge, encouraging students to apply what they have learned to real life and work, so as to cultivate their practical operation ability and problem-solving ability. Different from the traditional classroom teaching, the new liberal arts pays more attention to practical teaching. For example, students are organized to go on field trips, carry out project research, participate in social practice activities, etc., so that students learn and apply knowledge in practice. In the new liberal arts education, students should not only learn knowledge, but also learn how to define problems, analyze problems and come up with solutions. This requires developing students' critical thinking, innovative thinking and teamwork skills. The new liberal arts also encourages schools to cooperate with enterprises, governments, non-governmental organizations, etc., and provide students with internship and practical opportunities. In this way, students can apply what they have learned in a real working environment, accumulate experience and improve their competitiveness.

## II. The dilemma of social work personnel training

1. The professional training objectives are not clear, and the social needs are not sufficiently oriented

The construction of the new liberal arts aims to cultivate new talents with high professional quality, excellent academic ability, strong comprehensive strength, creative vision, sustainable development ability and modern governance ability who go beyond the limitations of existing majors and disciplines. With cross-integration, collaboration and sharing as the main approaches, it promotes cross-disciplinary and

deep integration. From discipline-oriented to demand-oriented, from adaptive services to supportive leadership, social work, as a profession dedicated to improving the well-being of individuals, families and communities, has a core concept of meeting the needs of society with The Times. First of all, due to the lack of clear guidance for the cultivation of social work talents, the teaching content is likely to ignore the urgent problems that need to be solved in the current society. The teaching content often stays in the traditional and fixed framework, and the training and guidance provided for emerging social problems are far from sufficient, making it difficult for students to meet the real needs of society after graduation. Secondly, the lack of social demand orientation means the disconnection between education and practice. Due to the lack of sensitivity to social needs, practical cooperation is still far from enough, resulting in limited practical opportunities for students and affecting the cultivation of their vocational skills. Finally, the cultivation of social work majors is not only to cultivate students' professional skills, but more importantly, to cultivate their professional attitudes and values. The lack of social demand orientation may lead to the decrease of students' enthusiasm for the profession and sense of belonging, and the lack of sympathy and understanding for the real needs of the clients, which will affect their work effectiveness and satisfaction.

2. It is difficult for the related majors of social work talents to form cross-development, and the composite ability of training talents is weak and the social adaptation surface is narrow

In the modern social science education system, the division of various disciplines is particularly clear, and the specific organizational structure of the department further strengthens this barrier, which limits the exchange and cooperation between various disciplines. As a result of this phenomenon, the talents cultivated are relatively weak in their compound ability and narrow in their coping methods and perspectives to various social problems. However, the problems faced by social work are often complex and multi-level, requiring in-depth analysis and research from multiple perspectives. Only by mastering the knowledge of multiple disciplines can we have a comprehensive understanding of the problems and find the most appropriate solutions. Interdisciplinary research methods emphasize multi-angle and multi-level research, requiring students not only to master the basic knowledge of each subject, but also to learn how to integrate these knowledge to form their own research perspectives and methods.

3. The training model is rigid, the learning, teaching, research and production are disconnected, the curriculum, knowledge and industry needs are not communicated, and the parties lack of coordination in personnel training

Social work is not only the application of theoretical knowledge, but also the accumulation of skills and experience in practical operation. It is difficult for traditional classroom teaching methods to meet this demand, resulting in many graduates finding that there is a big gap between what they have learned and what they have used when they enter the actual workplace. Secondly, the disconnect between learning, teaching, research and production means that there is a gap between academic research and practical production. At present, most universities have relatively little cooperation with social organizations, enterprises or government departments. This disconnect makes it difficult for research results to be translated into practical applications, and it also makes the demand for new technologies and new methods within the industry not timely feedback and satisfaction. Finally, there is insufficient coordination among all parties. In the training of social work professionals, cooperation among universities, governments, social organizations and enterprises is still insufficient. The lack of a unified and coordinated training system limits the effect of personnel training.

### **III. The path of social work talent training under the background of new liberal arts**

1. Demand-oriented, the introduction of interdisciplinary "dynamic curriculum"

Pinpoint the abilities students should have. Based on the original "government-university-institution" talent training model of social work major, together with the integration of other resources, a guiding framework of teaching model for the purpose of talent training, scientific research and social service has been formed. Colleges and universities need to work closely with social work practice institutions to jointly formulate long-term goals for social work education. This requires a multi-stakeholder and interactive mechanism to ensure that the goals have both theoretical depth and practical breadth. Re-examine the existing curriculum and integrate basic courses in related disciplines into the system of social work.

2. Establishment of interdisciplinary platforms

Scholars and practitioners are encouraged to carry out interdisciplinary research, and deeply explore how to better integrate the knowledge of other disciplines in social work, so as to provide theoretical support for the training of complex talents. At the same time, an interdisciplinary exchange platform will be established so that experts in various disciplines can learn from and communicate with each other. With the advancement of science and technology, social work also needs to introduce new techniques and methods to better serve the community. The new liberal arts encourages the introduction of the latest technologies and research methods, such as data analysis and virtual reality, to provide students with more diversified learning resources.

3. Business groups promote professional practice of social work

The new Liberal Arts believes that practice is the best way to test theory. Professional education in social work should provide students with more hands-on opportunities to apply what they have learned in a real work environment, thus deepening the integration of theory and practice. Social workers are encouraged to cooperate with experts from other disciplines to form teams and jointly provide services to objects in need of help. This will not only meet the needs of individuals more comprehensively, but also allow social workers to continuously learn and accumulate interdisciplinary experience in their practice. Social work majors can be trained in real-world work practices. The specific approach is to rely on the reform of the career group carried out by the Social Work Teaching and Research Office of Yibin University, and try to combine the curriculum with the actual operation of extracurricular social service projects. Students are no longer simulating the role

of social workers, but actually experiencing the role of social workers, so that they can acquire knowledge in class and apply knowledge in projects, and effectively enhance the interest and practical value of courses.

#### 4. Improving the talent training and evaluation system

A more comprehensive evaluation system should be established, emphasizing the cultivation of practical ability, communication skills and innovative thinking. For interdisciplinary complex talents, there needs to be a corresponding evaluation system to comprehensively evaluate their knowledge and skills in various subject areas. In this way, it can ensure that these talents truly have comprehensive abilities across disciplines, and not just superficial multidisciplinary knowledge. The new liberal arts emphasizes innovation and autonomy, encouraging students to jump out of the traditional educational framework and explore and learn independently. In the professional education of social work, students should be encouraged to carry out their own projects and come up with new theories and methods, so as to cultivate their innovative thinking and independent learning ability.

## IV. Conclusion

The new liberal arts construction aims to respond to The Times demand of high-quality talents, and points out the direction for promoting the high-quality development of talents training in higher education in our country. Under the current professional personnel training dilemma, the social work major, guided by the social demand, can better provide high-quality social service talents for the society through improving the personnel training model, promoting the integration of production, university and research, building interdisciplinary platforms, and constructing reasonable talent evaluation mechanism.

## References:

- [1] Baoxin Long. The connotation of The Times and the direction of construction of China's new liberal arts [J]. Nanjing Social Sciences, 2021(1):135-143.
- [2] Qi Ning. Social Demand and the Core Task of New Liberal Arts Construction [J]. Journal of Shanghai Jiao Tong University (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition), 2019, 28(2):13-17.
- [3] Sibin Wang. Introduction to Social work [M]. 3 Ed. Beijing: Higher Education Press, 2014:9.
- [4] Mingyu Wang. Construction of "New Liberal Arts" in colleges and universities: Concept and action [N]. Chinese Journal of Social Science, 2019-03-21 (004).
- [5] Da Xia Lei, Lijiao Gong. Exploration on Teaching Reform of "Community Work" Course based on OBE concept [J]. Industry and Science and Technology Forum, 2019, 18(22):199-200.

**Fund project:** "Sichuan Province First-class Undergraduate Major Construction Project (Social Work)" (project No. : 409-SYLZY202008), Sichuan Province's first new liberal arts research and practice project "' Business Group 'Promotes the Exploration of New Liberal Arts Grassroots governance talent training mode'" (project No. : 160-JG20211291).