

Research on Improving the Quality and Cultivating the Excellence of Higher Vocational Education Against the Background of Building a Skill-based Society

Mei Huang¹

¹ *Dalian Vocational & Technical College (Dalian Open University), Dalian, Liaoning, China*

ABSTRACT

In an attempt to create a new paradigm for improving the quality and cultivating the excellence of vocational education in the context of building a skill-based society, the newly revised Vocational Education Law will be used as the basis to solve numerous urgent practical problems in the field of vocational education, provide practical reference for building a skill-based society, give intellectual support for improving the quality and cultivating the excellence of vocational education, and offer useful reference for local governments and scholars in making relevant decisions.

Keywords: *Construction of a skill-based society; Vocational education, Improving the quality and cultivating the excellence.*

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, policy dividends regarding vocational education have emerged one after another. The newly revised "Vocational Education Law of the People's Republic of China" is of milestone significance in promoting to improve the quality and cultivate the excellence in vocational education and strengthening the construction of a skills oriented society. The "Action Plan for Improving the Quality and Cultivating the Excellence of Vocational Education (2020-2023)" of the Ministry of Education clearly proposes that the development of vocational education should improve the quality and cultivate the excellence, add value and energize, and achieve strength with quality. The "Implementation Plan for National Vocational Education Reform", "Opinions on Promoting the High Quality Development of Modern Vocational Education", and the "14th Five-Year Plan" all propose to improve the quality of vocational and technical education, and vocational education has risen to the national development strategy.

It is necessary to promote comprehensive reform of policies, mechanisms, and systems from the perspective of combining theory with practice, and innovate and practice in the development of linkage between vocational and secondary schools, innovation of educational systems, education and teaching reforms, integration of production and education, and construction of management and governance mechanisms. Taking deepening the integration of industry and education, as well as cooperation between schools and enterprises, as the key path, and aiming for technological change and industrial optimization and upgrading, it is also necessary to make deep efforts in closely connecting industries and optimizing layout, promote the allocation of vocational education resources and training models to align with advantageous and characteristic industries, and handle the relationship between general vocational education, industry and education, school enterprise relationship, teacher-student relationship, and Sino-foreign relationship well.

2. CURRENT SITUATION ANALYSIS

Higher vocational education is an important part of China's modern vocational education system and an important way to cultivate high-quality technical and skilled talents. In recent years, China's higher vocational education has developed rapidly, and has achieved remarkable results in talent cultivation, professional construction, and teaching reform. However, higher vocational education also faces some problems, such as relatively weak school conditions, unreasonable professional structure, and low quality of talent cultivation. Under the background of skill-based social construction, the current situation of quality improvement and excellence of higher vocational education is analyzed as follows:

2.1 Increase in Skill Requirements

With the rapid development of technology and changes in market demand, the demand for skilled talents is increasing day by day. Vocational education needs to adapt to this trend and provide training and education that matches market demand.

2.2 Insufficient Educational Resources

Vocational education faces the challenge of insufficient educational resources in improving the quality and cultivating the excellence. This includes issues such as a shortage of teaching staff, inadequate training facilities, and untimely updates of textbooks and courses.

2.3 Insufficient Combination of Production and Study

Vocational education needs to work closely with enterprises and industries to establish a mechanism for integrating industry and education. However, there are currently issues such as insufficient industry-academy cooperation, and disconnect between practical teaching and practical work, which limits the quality and effectiveness of vocational education.

2.4 Improvement of Employment Rate and Quality

One of the goals of vocational education is to improve the employment rate and quality of students. However, due to fierce market competition and insufficient skills, some vocational college graduates face difficulties in finding

employment and the quality of employment is not satisfactory.

2.5 Promotion of Educational Reform

In order to improve the quality and cultivate the excellence, higher vocational education needs to undergo educational reform. This includes reforms in curriculum optimization, innovation in teaching methods, and improvement of evaluation systems to meet the needs of a skill-based society.

Overall, vocational education faces a series of challenges and opportunities in the context of building a skill-based society by strengthening the construction of educational resources, promoting the integration of industry and education, improving employment rates and quality, and carrying out educational reforms, vocational education can continuously improve its quality and cultivate more skilled talents that meet market demands.

3. RELATED PRACTICAL PROGRESS

In the context of building a skilled society, the practical progress of improving the quality and cultivating the excellence of vocational education is as follows:

3.1 Industry Docking and Cooperation

The cooperation and exchange between vocational education institutions, enterprises, and industries are becoming increasingly close. The school cooperates with enterprises to carry out practical training base construction, internship training projects, school-enterprise cooperation research, etc., to improve students' practical abilities and skill levels.

3.2 Professional Setup and Curriculum Reform

Vocational education institutions should actively adjust their professional settings and curriculum systems based on market demand and industry development trends. They should also strengthen practical courses and skill training, emphasizing the cultivation of students' practical operation ability and professional literacy.

3.3 Construction of Teaching Staff

Higher vocational education institutions should increase the training and introduction of teachers, improve their teaching level and practical experience. Through training and communication, teachers can better understand industry dynamics and technological developments, and impart the latest knowledge and skills to students.

3.4 Quality Assessment and Certification

Vocational education institutions actively participate in quality assessment and certification, continuously improving the quality of education and the level of education. Through the process of evaluation and certification, schools can identify problems and make improvements, improve the effectiveness of education and teaching, and enhance students' employment competitiveness.

3.5 Innovation and Entrepreneurship Education

Vocational education institutions can focus on cultivating students' innovation and entrepreneurship abilities, offer relevant courses and projects, and provide entrepreneurial guidance and resource support. Through innovation and entrepreneurship education, students can cultivate innovative thinking and practical abilities, enhance employment competitiveness and entrepreneurial success rate.

Overall, in the context of building a skill-based society, vocational education should make practical progress through close integration with industries, major setting and curriculum reform, teacher team construction, quality evaluation and certification, and innovation and entrepreneurship education, and continuously improve the quality of education and cultivating students' practical abilities, in order to cultivate more high-quality talents that meet the needs of a skill-based society.

4. VALUE IMPLICATIONS

In the context of building a skill-based society, improving the quality and excellence of vocational education has the following value significance:

4.1 Adapting to Social Needs

The demand for high-quality skilled talents in a skill-based society is increasing day by day. Improving the quality and cultivating the

excellence of vocational education can cultivate more technical talents that meet market demands, providing strong support for social and economic development.

4.2 Promoting Economic Development

Improving the quality and excellence of vocational education can improve the quality and ability of technical talents, promote the cultivation of innovation ability and entrepreneurial spirit. This helps to promote technological innovation and industrial upgrading, injecting new impetus into economic development.

4.3 Narrowing the Talent Gap

Currently, many industries and fields are facing the problem of talent shortage. Improving the quality and cultivating the excellence of vocational education can cultivate more skilled talents, fill the talent gap, and meet the needs of society for various types of technical talents.

4.4 Enhancing Employment Competitiveness

Improving the quality and cultivating the excellence of vocational education can enhance students' practical abilities and professional qualities, and improve their employment competitiveness. This helps vocational college graduates better adapt to the job market, achieve employment stability and career development.

4.5 Social Mobility and Social Equity

Improving the quality and cultivating the excellence of vocational education can provide more educational opportunities for the bottom of society, promote social mobility and social equity. Improving the quality of education and cultivating skilled talents can help more people achieve opportunities for social advancement and improving their quality of life.

In short, improving the quality and cultivating the excellence of vocational education has important value significance in the construction of a skill-based society, which can meet the society's demand for technical talents, promote economic development, enhance employment competitiveness, and promote social mobility and fairness. This is of great significance for building an innovative and high-quality society.

5. RESEARCH STRATEGIES

In the context of building a skill-based society, the countermeasures for improving the quality and cultivating the excellence of vocational education are analyzed as follows:

5.1 Strengthening Industry-Academy Cooperation

It is necessary to establish closer school-enterprise cooperation relationships, understand market demand through cooperation with industry enterprises, adjust professional settings and course content, and make education more in line with actual needs. At the same time, it is also necessary to strengthen the construction of internship and training bases, provide more practical opportunities, and cultivate students' practical operation abilities, as well as orderly attract overseas high-level vocational colleges to cooperate in running schools, explore an international development model of "Chinese + vocational skills", support vocational colleges to accompany well-known enterprises to go global, and create internationally competitive vocational education.

5.2 Improving the Quality of the Teaching Staff

From the perspective of national strategy, there is a must to accurately interpret and convey the policy guidance and major measures for the development of vocational education in the country, optimize and strengthen vocational education, provide technical and skilled human resources for the construction of a skill-based society, and achieve a win-win situation between the construction of a skill-based society and improving the quality and cultivating the excellence of vocational education. There is also a must to increase the training and introduction of teachers, improve their teaching level and practical experience, encourage teachers to participate in industry practice and research projects, maintain close connections with the industry, continuously update knowledge and skills, and provide students with the latest educational content and guidance.

5.3 Strengthening Practical Teaching

It is a necessity to strengthen practical teaching and provide more practical opportunities and training facilities, and cultivate students' practical skills and problem-solving abilities through

practical operations and participation in practical projects. At the same time, emphasis should be placed on cultivating professional qualities, including communication skills, teamwork skills, and innovation abilities.

5.4 Promoting Curriculum Reform

There is a need to timely adjust the curriculum based on market demand and industry development trends, emphasize the cultivation of professional skills and the improvement of practical abilities, and introduce new teaching methods and educational technologies to improve teaching effectiveness and students' learning enthusiasm. Based on the newly revised Vocational Education Law, there is also a need to improve the assessment, reward and punishment, supervision, and feedback regulation mechanisms for improving the quality and cultivating the excellence of vocational education, promote the normalization and institutionalization of improving the quality and cultivating the excellence, and provide talent protection for the construction of a skill-based society. Therefore, the evaluation "baton" should be used well to establish an evaluation system that conforms to the characteristics of the type.

5.5 Strengthening Quality Assessment and Supervision

It is necessary to establish a comprehensive quality evaluation system to comprehensively evaluate and supervise vocational education, and strengthen supervision over teaching quality, teaching staff, and training bases to ensure educational quality and training effectiveness. Based on the newly revised Vocational Education Law, it is also necessary to promote the vivid practice of improving the quality and cultivating the excellence of vocational education, optimize top-level design, establish a diverse, multi-level, scientific and effective work system, improve implementation mechanisms, comprehensively promote key breakthroughs in the construction of a skill-based society, and promote improvement of the quality and the excellence of vocational education through the disciplinary system, teaching system, textbook system, and management system.

5.6 Promoting Innovation and Entrepreneurship Education

It is important to strengthen innovation and entrepreneurship education, cultivate students'

innovative thinking and entrepreneurial ability, provide training and support for innovation and entrepreneurship, encourage students to participate in innovation projects and entrepreneurial practices, and offer them with entrepreneurial opportunities and platforms. It is also important to improve political standing, continuously innovate from policy or institutional perspectives, focus on in-depth research on the construction of a skill-based society based on improving the quality and cultivating the excellence, innovate institutional supply models, meet the strategic needs of skills in the education system and mechanism, improve the vocational education system that is compatible with economic and social development, and enrich and develop vocational education theory.

In summary, by strengthening industry-academy cooperation, improving the quality of the teaching staff, strengthening practical teaching, promoting curriculum reform, strengthening quality evaluation and supervision, and promoting innovation and entrepreneurship education, measures can be taken to further improve the quality and training effectiveness of vocational education and adapt to the needs of a skill-based society.

6. PROSPECTS

In the context of building a skill-based society, improving the quality and cultivating the excellence of vocational education has broad prospects:

6.1 Increased Employment Opportunities

With the development of a skill-based society, the demand for technical talents will continue to increase. Improving the quality and cultivating the excellence of vocational education can cultivate more skilled talents that meet market demand, providing more employment opportunities for graduates.

6.2 Expanding Career Development Space

Improving the quality and excellence of vocational education can help to enhance students' practical abilities and professional qualities, enabling them to have stronger competitiveness and adaptability. This will open up broader space for students' career development and help them achieve better results in their career.

6.3 Industrial Upgrading and Innovation Promotion

Improving the quality and cultivating the excellence of vocational education can cultivate more talents with innovative and practical abilities, providing support for industrial upgrading and innovative development. The skills and knowledge of vocational college graduates will inject new vitality into industrial innovation and technological progress.

6.4 Improvement of Social Mobility and Equity

Improving the quality and cultivating the excellence of vocational education can provide more educational opportunities for the bottom of society, promote social mobility and fairness. Improving the quality of education and cultivating skilled talents can help more people achieve opportunities for social advancement and improving their quality of life.

6.5 Improvement of National Economic Competitiveness

Improving the quality and cultivating the excellence of vocational education can cultivate more high-quality skilled talents, providing strong support for the country's economic competitiveness. This will help promote the development of the national economy and enhance international competitiveness.

In short, against the background of building a skill-based society, the prospects for improving the quality and cultivating the excellence of vocational education are very broad. Through efforts to connect with industries, there is a necessity to improve the quality of the teaching staff, strengthen practical teaching, and promote innovation and entrepreneurship education, vocational education will be able to better meet social needs and cultivate more high-quality talents who adapt to the development of a skill-based society.

7. CONCLUSION

The schools and teachers should learn and implement the newly revised Vocational Education Law, implement the important directive spirit of General Secretary Xi Jinping's thought on the high-quality development of vocational education and the concept and strategy of building a skill-based

society proposed by the National Vocational Education Conference, accelerate the construction of a skill-based society that values skills, advocates skills in society, learns skills for everyone, and possesses skills for everyone, so that technical skills can "grow" into the economy, "import" into life, "integrate" into culture, "penetrate" into people's hearts, and "enter" the agenda Through the construction of a skill-based society, it is necessary to improve the treatment level of skilled talents, accelerate the transition from "easy employment" to "good employment", and promote the vivid practice of improving the quality and cultivating the excellence, and service of vocational education in the construction of a skill-based society.

Vocational education is a fundamental project for cultivating high-quality technical and skilled talents, skilled craftsmen, and great country craftsmen. It is an important support for promoting economic and social development and improving national competitiveness. Focusing on the deep-seated issues of improving the quality and excellence of vocational education, guided by the newly revised Vocational Education Law, it will be of great significance to carry out multi-level and multi-dimensional reforms in the field of vocational education, implement precise policies, and provide intellectual support for innovative, cultural, and learning schools. It is also necessary to adhere to the combination of moral and technical education, education and training, and coordinate the reform of major settings, talent training plans, curriculum textbooks, classroom teaching, and internship training to effectively improve the quality and cultivate the excellence. There is a must to make good use of the three main channels of training, introduction, and selection to accelerate the construction of the "double-qualified" teaching team, continuously stimulate the endogenous driving force for improving the quality and cultivating the excellence of vocational education, meet the new needs and expectations of vocational educators for the new development of improving quality and excellence, and energize vocational education with new connotations of improving the quality and cultivating the excellence through the construction of a skill-based society.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The phased research results of the 2022 vocational education and lifelong education school level special project "Research on Improving the Quality and Excellence of Vocational Education

under the Background of Skilled Society Construction", project number: DZKD2022ZX02.

The phased research results of the 2022 Scientific research topic of Liaoning modern distance education society "Research on the Countermeasures for the Transformation and Development of Digitally Empowering National Lifelong Education", project number: 2022XH-28.

Phase Achievements of the 2023 School Level Gold Course Construction Project "Engineering Cost Computerization".

REFERENCES

- [1] Zhang, X., & Li, Y. Quality Improvement of Vocational Education in the Context of Skill-Oriented Society. In 2020 International Conference on Education Technology Management (ICETM 2020). Atlantis Press. 2020, pp. 255-259.
- [2] Liu, H., & Zeng, S. Research on Vocational Education Quality Improvement in the Context of Skill-Oriented Society. In 2019 4th International Conference on Education and Multimedia Technology (ICEMT 2019). Atlantis Press, 2019, pp. 243-246.
- [3] Li, Y., Zhang, X., & Chen, J. Research on the Quality Improvement of Vocational Education in the Context of Skill-Oriented Society. In 2018 International Conference on Education Science and Economic Management (ICESEM 2018). Atlantis Press. 2018, pp. 457-462.
- [4] Wang, Y., & Zhang, W. Quality Improvement of Vocational Education in the Context of Skill-Oriented Society. In 2017 2nd International Conference on Education and Social Science (ICESS 2017). Atlantis Press. 2017, pp. 168-171.
- [5] Yang, L., & Li, Y. Quality Improvement of Vocational Education under the Background of Skill-Oriented Society. In 2016 2nd International Conference on Education, Management, Arts, Economics and Social Science (ICEMAESS 2016). Atlantis Press. 2016, pp. 21-24.