Present Situation, Problems and Countermeasures of the Graduate Education Internationalization in China

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Abstract - With the opening-up policy constantly deepened and the strategy of the science-education and the talent fully implemented, the graduate education internationalization has become an important way of promoting the innovation ability. Deeply understanding the connotation and development tendency of the graduate student education internationalization, analyzing the present situation and the existing main problems of the graduate student education, it is great significant that we explore the countermeasures on the graduate education internationalization a healthy development from the training target, teaching content and method, system arrangement in our country.

Index Terms - Graduate Education; Internationalization, Study Abroad

1. Introduction

It is a very common phenomenon that the excellent students in Chinese universities choose to go abroad after graduation. The loss of high quality students will directly affect the quality of the graduate education. We face an important topic that how to strengthen international cooperation in graduate education, making full use of the foreign high-quality education resources to attract and retain the top students and improving the quality of graduate education. Therefore we have to take further measures to intensify highly the graduate education internationalization in response to the international competition pressure. In today's world, the graduate education must follow the times’ requirements and provide the international services.

2. Theory Overview

A. Connotation and Characteristics

Generally speaking, the graduate education internationalization can be understood a international communicational trend on education thought, mode, content and curriculum, teaching materials, teachers, students. The graduate education internationalization has some characteristics.

First, it should be an opening education and need a close international cooperation and communication. Second, the graduate education need to constantly pay attention to the international development trend and continuously optimize and integrate its system during the process of drawing lessons and absorbing the international advanced science and technology. Third, the graduate education should develop high-level talents with an international concept and vision and fully respecting other cultures and rights base on our culture. Fourth, the ultimate goal of the graduate education internationalization is to cultivate high-quality talent with creative consciousness, innovation, entrepreneurship, and international competition ability.

B. Development Trend

The internationalization of the graduate education is an inevitable trend. The graduate education is at the highest level of the higher education and its characteristics of the combination of teaching and research is more outstanding than undergraduate course and it more emphasizes studying in learning. A high level of scientific research depends on a high level of tutor and discipline, and the international education can offer the chance to study with of international academic master and understand academic frontiers. The experiences of international education have important influence on graduate student's professional level and mode of thinking. It not only can cultivate the graduate student's consciousness of international competition and the ability of necessary knowledge and skills to master the international work. More important, the foreign experience can enhance the graduate students to understand the world and its multi-cultural and broaden the graduate student's horizons and become a high-quality talent of the global consciousness and vision.

3. Present Situation

In recent years, the universities and colleges in our country attaches great importance to the internationalization development of graduate education. The graduate education internationalization shows the characteristics of frequent exchanges and cooperation. It mainly manifested in two aspects of study abroad and the cooperation in running schools.

A. "Going out" ——to Study Abroad

Study abroad is an important indicator showing the degree of the education internationalization. The 21st century is the era of highly development of economic globalization, and the education internationalization will inevitably get a new development in this period. China has the world's highest proportion of students going abroad. At the end of 2011, there are nearly 340000 students studying abroad in China, located in 103 countries and regions, of which 90% concentrated in the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia and other countries, and among them, more than 50% of the students are going to get the graduate degree.
Chinese students studying abroad have three characteristics. First, the major is mainly concentrated in the computer, biological medicine, law, engineering technology, language, and other areas of the popular major. Second, the students return back after graduation. In the past, many people stay in abroad because of high-level talent shortage in the world, and who are able to study abroad are mostly domestic talent. In recent years, due to the increasingly difficult employment abroad, even at one's own expenses study abroad, the students’ returning back is also relatively common. Third, the professional level is unbalanced. Some students strive for mastering the profound professional technology and skill, others only run at a college degree, even there is the phenomenon of fake diplomas.

B. "Bring in"——Cooperation in Running Schools

Training the graduate students cooperating with the foreign institutions is the product under the reform and open policy and the education international development in China. Chinese-foreign cooperation in running schools is accord with China's national conditions. It is in favor of mobilizing the enthusiasm of each respect. Chinese-foreign cooperation in running schools of the graduate education in our country has a larger development since the mid 1990s. Then China draws up some relational policies to promote the rapid development of the Chinese-foreign cooperation in running schools.

4. Main Problems

In recent years, under the guidance of national policy, the graduate education internationalization in our country has made some achievements, but the graduate education internationalization faces many new situations and new problems.

A. Lack of the Internationalization Consciousness

The economic globalization presents higher requirements on the quality and standard of the talents. It needs us to grasp bilingual, familiar with foreign cultures and proficient in international affairs. However we still continue of traditional education mode and thinking. Our country has great gap compared with other countries in the graduate education. We must change ideas, draw lessons from foreign advanced experience in education and integrate actively into the mainstream of the international graduate education.

B. Lack of the Internationalization Training System

Chinese higher education is still mainly the traditional system and is not with the international advanced education system. Compared with the international postgraduate entrance exam which is more flexible and is paid attention to all-round development, we over-emphasize on knowledge exam entrance exam system and lack of comprehensive quality. The postgraduate seminar is not common and the curriculum scope is too narrow. They don’t pay attention to training the research ability and ignore to train the graduate student's self-study ability. Furthermore the funding for graduate students is relatively small and the imperfect finance system restricts the development of the graduate education internationalization.

C. Lack of High Level Teachers

Though it is set in accordance with the internationalization of the teaching content in some Chinese cooperation in running schools in colleges and universities, the teachers' ability and level is a problem. In some open classes there are no competent people, do barely in improving teaching quality, and develop students' potential and creativity. In other classes the teachers who study abroad at an early age have learned this course, but with the development of science and technology their knowledge has lagged.

5. Countermeasures

The graduate education internationalization is based on the concept of international understanding, is supported by the international resources, is guaranteed by the standard postgraduate international quality, and eventually to make graduate students' degree certificate achieve widespread recognition. Chinese universities should continuously reform and improve the training target, teaching content, faculty and the system arrangement in order to promote the healthy development of the graduate education internationalization.

A. Formulating the Training Objective According With the Requirements of the International Education

An important goal of the graduate education internationalization is to train the research talents of adapting the economic globalization and high speed information. So firstly we should be clear that we should train the students’ international idea and consciousness and global open idea. Secondly we should make the students raise the international communication ability and get along with foreigners, respect for foreign.

B. Cultivating the International Cooperation on Multi-Channels

At present there are mainly two forms in cooperation training the graduate student between the domestic and foreign universities. One is the inter-school training agreement; the other is the international cooperation projects. The international cooperated training can promote the higher education’s internationalization between the postgraduate schools, districts, or even countries. It can make the experiences on the international school-running mode, professional curriculum, teacher training and quality assurance measures share together. It is helpful for students to expand their horizons and build more balanced foreign cultural viewpoint. Due to the gap on education level, the domestic universities have little international training. So we should also engage in cooperation with domestic colleges and universities whose academic level has reached the international leading field.

C. Promoting the Curriculum Internationalization and Enriching the Teaching Contents

In face of the economic globalization, the demand of talents in China will have a big change. The talents should understand the international knowledge, familiar with the foreign culture, master the WTO rules understand the
international practice and international communication ability with good adaptability. Therefore, firstly we should select and update the teaching materials and directly import the original textbooks from abroad. Secondly, we should strengthen the internationalization of curriculum contents in order to train the students he international and professional social skills in a multinational background.

D. Promoting the Faculty Internationalization and Improving the Teaching Level

The key to the development of the modern university is the teachers. The university teachers must have high knowledge level and communication ability because they bear the mission of cultivating the international graduate talents. The international teaching is the important content of the graduate education internationalization. In recent years, many colleges and universities adopt various forms to increase the number of teachers to visit abroad and hire teachers and scholars all over the world. The colleges and universities pay more attention to update the teacher’s educational thought and knowledge structure and improve teachers’ teaching level for the purpose of adapting to the new teaching requirements.

E. Correctly Handling the Relationship between the Graduate Education Internationalization and Localization

The purpose of studying the higher education internationalization is to absorb the advanced ideas and practice in the field of higher education and reform the defects. It doesn’t mean that we would negate the higher education in our country. The internationalization cannot replace the nationalization. Considering that China’s policy environment, operation mechanism, social services, funds and culture conditions are different with foreign, we must set a socialist graduate education system with Chinese characteristics as soon as possible. Therefore, in the process of the graduate education internationalization, we must maintain the localization of postgraduate education and “Chinese characteristics”.

References