

On the Scientific Development Concept's Guiding Role in Scientific Development of Higher Education

Yanmin Ren

Dezhou University, Dezhou 253023, China

E-mail: wxrym@sina.com

Abstract

The scientific development concept reveals the essential demands by the development of Chinese socialist modernization cause and reflects Marxism values as well as scientific outlook of world and history. Providing the answer to a series of basic issues including the purpose, direction, path and strength of development in an overall, systematic and scientific way, the scientific development concept serves as an important ideological weapon to guide the scientific development of China's higher education.

Keywords: The scientific development concept, Higher education, Development

The scientific development concept reveals the essential demands by the development of Chinese socialist modernization cause and reflects Marxism values as well as scientific outlook of world and history. Providing the answer to a series of basic issues including purpose, direction, path and strengths of development in an overall, systematic and scientific way, the scientific development concept serves as an important ideological weapon to guide the scientific development of China's higher education. It is of practical significance and profound historical significance for the overall implementation of CPC's educational guidelines and the strategy of developing the country through science and education, further improvement of the quality and level of higher education as well as the cultivation of high-quality socialist constructors and qualified successors to actively promote the reform and development of China's higher education cause with the guidance of the scientific development concept.

1. The Scientific Development Concept Further Clarifying the Purpose of Developing Higher Education

The purpose of development is the fundamental starting point and end-result of the scientific development concept as well as its primary issue. With socialist modernization construction being a brand new cause related to Chinese people's fate, it is the key to national revitalization to greatly develop the educational cause and to comprehensively improve the Chinese nation's overall quality. It is early in the preliminary period of the foundation of People's Republic of China that Chairman Mao proposed that our educational guidelines should help to develop the educated people's morality, intelligence, physical condition and other aspects and to cultivate educated laborers with socialist consciousness based on the purpose and requirement of socialist construction. For the past over half century, this educational idea has served as an important guideline for the development of China's educational cause, guided by which New China has cultivated an array of talents with high moral and cultural qualities, hence exerting a huge role in national economic construction and development in science and technology. Inheriting Chairman Mao's all-round development idea, Xiaoping Deng put up with the cultivation goal of new generations with lofty ideals, moral integrity, good education and a strong sense of discipline and further clarified specific standards for education, hence reflecting the requirements for talent quality in socialist spiritual and material civilization construction. Affirming the goals proposed by Xiaoping Deng, Zemin Jiang clearly pointed out that education should be the cradle for innovative talents with innovative spirits. Education is vital to the cultivation of innovative talents, which is committed to special historical mission in the aspect of cultivating innovative spirits and talents. The Party Central Committee with Jintao Hu as general secretary has enriched and developed the former leaders' important ideas on socialist construction as well as clarified the purpose and direction of higher education development. First, the scientific development concept clearly points out the human-oriented idea, further confirming the value pursuit of higher education. To be human-oriented means to be based on people's fundamental interests and to aim at achieving people's all-round development and to stick to the idea that development serves people, depends on people and benefits people. When guiding universities with the scientific development concept, an idea should be established firmly that education is based on educating people dominated by students and school running should be based on talents and dominated by

teachers. On one hand, students should be centered on and their overall development should be promoted; on the other hand, teachers' role shouldn't be neglected. Instead, their activity and enthusiasm should be fully stimulated. Second, this concept clarifies the purpose of higher education. As a top priority, scientific development is intended to achieve human orientation. Higher education is a systematic project since educating people has to go through a complex process, which will go in the wrong direction without a definite purpose and scientific guidance.

2. The Scientific Development Concept Guiding the Development of Higher Education

With the issue of direction being the fundamental one in scientific development, many nations' experiences in higher education have shown that the right direction is of significance for scientific development of higher education. In fact, the scientific development concept has provided a scientific answer to the question of "what development should be pursued in China's higher education" with theory and practice combined.

2.1 All-round Development of Higher Education

Here, all-round development refers to achieving higher education's overall progress in China with economic construction as the center. Since higher education is the intelligent source for the development of economic society, financial resources should be concentrated to construct an array of key colleges, common colleges should be developed and vocational schools' development should be attached importance to with private colleges and Chinese-foreign cooperatively-run schools' educational level and strength further standardized and improved in order to cultivate talents at different levels and in different types demanded by economic construction. Inside universities, two centers, teaching and research, should be centered on, educational innovation should be stuck to, educational reforms should be deepened, educational structure should be optimized and educational resources should be reasonably allocated to further improve teaching quality and management level as well as to promote quality education in an all-round way.

2.2 Coordinative Development of Higher Education

Here coordinative development of higher education means comprehensively arranging the scale, quality, structure and benefit of education, education at different levels and in different types, education in different regions as well as the reform, development and stability of education. Popular higher education helps to solve the problem related to schools' scale, to satisfy the demands for talents by economic society and to satisfy a majority of people's desire to go to college. It is worth our attention that it is the key to the scientific and sound development of universities how to maintain the coordinative and unified development of scale, structure, quality and benefit after the expansion of scale.

2.3 Sustainable Development of Higher Education

Higher education's sustainable development refers to higher education's development based on guaranteeing the sustainable development and utilization of educational resources, aiming at coordinative development of economy and education in a persistent, constant and steady way and with achieving the sustainable development of social economy to the largest degree as a guideline. It is the target of socialist education as well as the basic requirement of scientific development to maintain higher education's sustainable development and to provide powerful intelligent support for the sound development of economic society. Making use of their advantages, higher education cultivates talents with the ability of sustainable development to provide human resources support for the development of economic society. With the talents with the sense of sustainable development serving the society, the idea of sustainable development can be accepted by the whole society. Accordingly, higher education calls for reform according to the theories and principles of sustainable development, which will solve the challenges facing higher education and a variety of issues existing in its own development so as to keep its vitality.

3. The Scientific Development Concept Confirming the Path for Higher Education's Development

The reason why the scientific development concept is scientific lies in that it is based on faster and better development, focused on the exploration into the layout, pattern, process and system of development and aims at revealing development rules.

Solving the issue of "how to develop higher education", the scientific development concept indicates China's higher education has been on the track of scientific development. First, it is emphasized in the scientific development concept that development should be implemented in an integrated development layout as a reasonable development layout is a precondition and basis for the scientific development concept. In order to establish and implement the scientific development concept in higher education, this concept should be employed to take the whole picture into account and have overall consideration to promote coordinative

development. 1) Planning the coordinative development of higher education and economic construction as a whole and straightening the relationship between the two thoroughly and dialectically; 2) planning the coordinative development of higher education scale and quality as a whole and achieving synchronous improvement in scale and quality; 3) planning the coordinative development of connotation and denotation as a whole and achieving the comprehensive utilization of higher education resources; 4) planning the coordinative development of different types of higher education as a whole; 5) planning the coordinative development of higher education at different levels as a whole; 6) planning the coordinative development of higher education with different ownerships as a whole. The above six overall planning is the internal requirement by socialist educational orientation and path as well as an urgent issue for current educational development. Second, the scientific development concept emphasizes achieving development during the course of unified development. Here unified development means a combination of all-round development, coordinative development and sustainable development to achieve scientific development. A relatively unified development process is an important condition to resist against and prevent freaky development. Therefore, in China's higher education development, not only the relationship between the development of key points and all-round progress, between rapid development and coordinative development, between current development and long-term development but that between the development of education and society, between speed as well as scale and quality as well as benefit, between educational growth and faculty force and between reform and stability should be emphasized, hence guaranteeing China's higher education developed in the right direction during the process of unified development. Third, it is emphasized that higher education should be developed in innovation. Since innovative development is an inevitable course for the development of economic society, strengthening independent innovative ability should be regarded as the centre in the adjustment of economic structure, the conversion of economic growth methods and the improvement of competitive power and constructing an innovation-oriented nation should be regarded as a major strategic decision for future development. As an important base for talent cultivation, higher education takes the responsibility of national revitalization in the 21st century. Accordingly, it has to obey and serve the requirements of economic society's development, follow the road of innovative development, stick to educational innovative, deepen educational reform, optimize educational structure, reasonably allocate educational resources, improve educational quality and management level, thoroughly promote quality education and cultivate high-quality innovative talents with scientific attitudes, innovative spirits as well as practical abilities.

4. The Scientific Development Concept Confirming the Relied Forces for Higher Education

It is the basic starting point and objective of the scientific development concept on education to stick to human orientation, according to which both teachers' dominance and students' principal status are emphasized, fully reflecting the main idea in historical materialism on people's propelling force in historical development. Scientific development in education is characterized by the integration of students' all-round development and scientific development as well as teachers and students' development and depending on their joint efforts to fully exert CPC's leading role in higher education, to actively encourage teachers as well as students' enthusiasm and to thoroughly promote China's higher education to be more profoundly developed.

4.1 Promoting Development by Improving CPC's Leading Ability in Higher Education

CPC's leadership is the basic guarantee for the implementation of the scientific development concept, so it helps to clarify universities' goals in party construction as well as to guarantee the right direction for higher education to combine the scientific development concept and party construction so as to promote development by improving ability and to improve ability by promoting development. Actually, the scientific development concept calls for scientific educational ideas. In order to further improve CPC's leading ability and role in universities, first of all, educational ideas have to be updated to firmly establish the idea of "human orientation and all-round development" and "overall planning and emphasizing quality and benefit", hence being adapted to new situation, putting up with new measures and achieving new development. Because the scientific development concept is development conforming to rules, the rules of higher education development and those of economic society's development should be researched to actively explore a new path for higher education's reform and development in the new situation in order to endow our work with temporal spirit, regularity and creativity. With development as the most important thing in governing and rejuvenating the country, CPC's governing power should be manifested in their leading role in universities' great-leap-forward development as well as their coordinative and sustainable development. In order to achieve scientific development, scientific planning is required. Therefore, university administrators' planning ability should be constantly improved to realize four unifications including macrography and concreteness, systematism and key points, reality and prospect as well as stability and development, which are the key to higher education's scientific development. In

addition, pragmatic as well as innovative efforts should be made to achieve scientific development since seeking truth from facts is the basic requirement of scientific development and innovation is the key to sustainable development. Therefore, we should implement the scientific development concept with pragmatic and innovative spirits and styles to combine theoretical and practical innovation, system innovation and scientific innovation as well as leadership innovation and that in teachers and students, hence creating a favorable environment for development by forming systems and developing relevant habits and promoting development to be on the track of scientific development.

4.2 Promoting Development by Facilitating Teaching Staff's Construction

Teaching staff's construction is an important task in universities' educational reform and development since no high-level university can be established and no high-quality talent can be cultivated without high-level and stable teaching staff. It is the key to higher education's constant sound development and will actively stimulate teachers' enthusiasm and creativity to stick to the idea of "human orientation and the priority to talents" to show respect for knowledge, talents, labor and creation. Great efforts should be made to introduce high-level talents, strengthen teaching staff, thoroughly improve teachers' comprehensive quality, facilitate the overall development of universities' talent resources, satisfy the actual demands in universities' reform and talent cultivation, provide powerful talent support for higher education's sustainable development and establish teaching staff with the scientific development concept, stable political stand, strong professional ability as well as tough working style.

4.3 Promoting Development by Stimulating Students' Activity and Creativity

Since college students are the principle part in creation to promote educational development as well as the main recipients of higher education, it is unlikely to achieve development without students' enthusiasm and creativity. Human orientation, emphasizing students' principal status, helps to stimulate college students' enthusiasm for learning knowledge. With the overall improvement of college students' comprehensive quality being the fundamental requirement of the scientific development concept, the efforts to promote higher education development depending on students' enthusiasm and creativity actually mean sticking to historical materialism, CPC's ideological route and the world outlook and methodological analysis embodied in the scientific development concept.

To sum up, inheriting Maoism, Deng Xiaoping Theory and the idea of Three Representatives, the scientific development concept profoundly reveals the objective rules for Chinese society's development, hence the right theory to guide the sound development of all social and economic undertakings in China. By employing the scientific development concept in universities' reform and development, we are bound to welcome sound and sustainable development in China's higher education cause.

References

- 100 Questions on the Report to the 17th CPC National Congress. The Party Construction Reading Press, 10.
- Ji, Baocheng. (2008). Developing High-level Universities and Promoting Higher Education's Development. *China Higher Education*, 1.
- Li, Chaoxian. (2007). Sticking to Scientific Development and Promoting Quality Project. *Beijing Education*, 10.
- Li, Dasheng. (2007). Implementing Quality Project to Comprehensively Improve Undergraduate Teaching Quality. *Higher Agricultural Education*, 12.
- Mao, Ming. (2007). Ensuring Teaching Construction in an all-round Way and Making Efforts to Construct Guarantee System for Quality Project. *China Higher Education Research*, 9.