

The Correlation Effect of China's School Coalition

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Abstract. ‘School Correlation Effect’ is education quality multiplication effect that on the basis of school’s all human capital accumulation, influenced by education effect and forms gradually in the course of different quality schools’ competition, cooperation and learning. Generally, we regard ‘School Correlation Effect’ as a positive influential effect, in which conceptual framework, this paper will conclude several manifestations of ‘School Correlation Effect’.

Manifestations of Correlation Effect

Manifestation 1:Exchange Effect.Exchange Effect refers to that different schools with similar education levels and some relevance build cooperation relationship,exchange human capital cultivation patterns and exchange students in some certain geographic spaces. The result under that cooperation pattern is always better than the accumulated results got by each school’s independent work, which benefits of differential section are the manifestations of correlation effect. Besides, the exchange of different schools lay particular stress on differentiation function. The cooperation of two adjacent schools will be meaningless if they are totally same, which can only increase the exchange cost, however, in our real economic life, there are no two totally same schools. At the same time, if the levels of two schools have a big difference, the possibility of their exchanges and cooperation will be small. For example, the subject emphasis of Tsinghua University and Peking university are different,one putting more emphasis on natural science, the other putting more emphasis one social science, however, in general situation, the times of their cooperation will be more than that between one of the two schools and one certain third-grade college, that means that a big different education levels of different schools will influence the exchange function between them in a big degree. So the cooperation criterion of different schools is that the two schools are able to exchange and also they can get their own strength when the combined function reached to the biggest degree.

Manifestation 2:Competition Effect. This effect refers to that the competitive relation existing between two schools with little quality difference cause the formation of mutual promotion effect. If two competitors can master the information of each other totally, furthermore these information can influence the two schools’ quality level, in another saying, if one school’s increase of quality level brings pressure to the other, by now,the other school will improve its quality level by learning and communication such ways and the ultimate goal is to increase the efficiency or benefit of the group made up with competitive subjects, that is the ‘School Correlation Effect’. In reality, government sometimes invests more resources to the organizations which achieve the stated objectives, such as talent cultivation,which phenomenon is common in universities and colleges. Under the precondition of same research content, the existed research result and basis is one important index for judging whether one research application qualified and measures like this promote the competition between institutions and knowledge creation, besides, the third-party institution also promote the information expansion and the competition effect function development. In order to meet the needs of scholars’ education investment and schools’ quality competition,many ranking agents will invest manpower and cost to get ranking and a result with high credibility, as a signal,will promote the competition between schools. This competition relation is more obvious between the schools with similar ranking, such as, generally Beijing Fourth will pay close attention to the ranking of Three Sails Middle School, but seldom pay attention to the ordinary schools in Tongzhou city.

Manifestation 3: Learning Effect. This effect refers to the course that in school subsystem, for two schools with different quality, the weaker one follow and learn from the stronger, which course also has effect on improving education output and then forms ‘School Correlation Effect’, which is called learning effect. Learning effect is reflected in the comovement relation between schools with different levels, which is mainly showed in the copy and learning of personnel training mode and school administration mode. In the history of China, the carrying out of university credit system is the illustration of learning effect. From 1978, some qualified schools including Peking University started to try out credit system, after that, this model began to be promoted gradually and has expanded to more universities and colleges, to now, it almost covers all the universities and colleges. In addition to that, the cross-institutional elective system, cross-institutional and transnational students exchange system are also experiencing or going to experience the course from ‘Model School’ to ‘Ordinary School’. From the influence course of learning effect, learning effect is firstly carried forward in high quality universities and colleges and then come to the colleges and universities under local authorities. The reason for this feature is because the exertion of learning effect needs preconditions, so the ordinary colleges and universities can start to operate only after they get the increase of their teaching management ability and administrative capacity. Take the credit system as an example, the free-select-course system at least cause the school rolls record to become more complicated, and then certainly increase the workload of curriculum administrative staff, which require the managing personnel to deal with this situation with enough ability. And also, the construction of computerized management system and the increase of ability of course arranging teachers all need enough time to guarantee, for the ordinary colleges and universities, they need to spend a lot of time on investing manpower and material resources, however for the colleges and universities with high quality, they have stronger ability than the ordinary colleges and universities, so the carrying forward of learning effect is from high quality to ordinary.

Manifestation 4: Demonstration Effect. In school subsystem, for the two schools with different qualities, the course of stronger one guiding and driving weaker one to cause externality can also happen, and this externality also has influence on education output, which influence is called demonstration effect. Comparing to emulating effect, demonstration effect also put stress on the importance of difference, one difference is that the emulating effect is the imitation of weak from strong, however, the demonstration effect is the driving effect of strong for weak, furthermore, the second situation often happens as government’s policy consideration in certain period. In china, there are two reasons for this driving effect, one is the demonstration effect under external force. One typical example is the construction of ‘Model School’ in Beijing and the plan of ‘985’ and ‘211’, which expanded the exertion of demonstration effect in some particular period. However, this kind of policy intervention reflects more in resources competition rather than the resources reasonable allocation. College and university development in that pattern improves the demonstration effect in short period along with happening of Matthew Effect--the stronger is stronger and the weaker is weaker, as a result, the function of Matthew Effect is beyond the demonstration effect, as for this situation our country begins to adjust policy recently. Another reason is the demonstration effect without external force. Comparing with production field, getting benefits is not the main aim for higher educational institutions, especially in China, where government-run school system is the main type. Different from the enterprises, the ‘Model School’ hopes the other schools to learn and follow in some certain degree so that they can raise their school prestige. So the function of ‘Model School’ is only proving the reference for ordinary schools, which has some certain meaning, however, if we want to make the following schools enjoy the benefit got from such model, one effective way is to do not leave the ordinary schools behind too far.

Manifestation 5: Chain Effect. School Correlation Effect does not only exist between two schools, and such relation of communication, competition and demonstration will get extension by certain transmission mechanism and this extended function is called chain effect. This effect can be found in internal and external education system. Internally, this chain effect reflects in the extension of the above effects, such as, school consolidation-- many schools with relatively weak ability make an alliance to build the school. Some schools or embranchments start communication and cooperation

with each other by participating or hosting training and meeting with various teachers and students. Externally, the production of enterprises by purchasing the patent of colleges and universities, the combined practical activities by schools and enterprises and the employ of educated labor force by enterprises are all belong to the chain effect between schools and related organizations. If the chain effect of production field has relation with the extension of production chains, then the chain effect of education field has relation with the intratelluric economy development and public welfare, because school is the important human capital accumulation tool, innovative impetus source and culture construction base.

Manifestation 6: Stimulatory Effect. Stimulatory effect is one exogenous effect outside of education system. The local government can usually recognize the importance of education on local development, and the stimulatory effect play a role of promoting the effective exertion of communication effect, competition effect, learning effect, demonstration effect and chain effect, which can promote the good development of local schools and build basis for its achievements, so this course will bring positive influences to education quality. Undoubtedly, the local government hopes that its own schools quality beyond the others and in the local government's stimulatory effect, the probability of the appearing of communication effect, competition effect, imitation effect, driving effect and chain effect in certain geographic space will increase. Take Hebei province as an example, almost all the schools under local authorities will have communication and cooperation, meanwhile, the competition between them will also be strong, obviously, provincial university---Hebei University of Economics and Business generally take comparison with universities in Hebei and Yanshan, and seldom take comparison with universities in Hainan.

Conclusion

All in all, communication effect and competition effect are often reflected in the correlation between schools with similar quality, and learning effect and demonstration effect are often reflected in the correlation between schools with certain quality difference. The chain effect is the cross influence among more than two schools, which is more extensive, besides, stimulation effects reflect the influence of government on education.

Reference

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