

A Study on the History of Student Work Changes in Colleges and Universities Since the Establishment of People's Republic of China

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Abstract—This paper mainly focuses on the development and student work changes in colleges and universities since the founding of new China. First of all, it defines the concept and source of student work in colleges and universities. Secondly, the student work is divided into four stages since the founding of new China. Respectively, it is from the founding of new China to the end of the Cultural Revolution. It is the period of setting wrong things right. It is from the beginning of the reform and opening up to 1990s. And it is from 1990s to this day. And then, it analyzes the reasons for the student work function changes in colleges and universities. The continuous changes of higher education are the external driving forces of the changes of student work function. The continuous improvement of the subjective position in the school education is the internal driving force of the student work function changes. Finally, it discusses the main enlightenment of the student work function changes to the student work in the future in colleges and universities. Also, it tells the ways to achieve student - centered, comprehensive, harmonious and sustainable development.

Keywords—*People's Republic of China; student work changes in colleges and universities; the historical changes; function*

I. INTRODUCTION

Why shall we study history? Facing this topic, people always ask themselves this question firstly. The answers of most people are curiosity. There is no doubt that the curiosity is one of the most important reasons. Usually, curiosity promotes the human to find the problem, and to explore the unknown fields. Human beings are destined to exercise the spiritual rights. And then, it will have this reaction. According to Toynbee's argument, "There is no curiosity, and there is no creativity. And then, there are no new challenges." "

The strong and vivid social changes stimulate the curiosity of mankind. In the face of challenges, people will always ask the ways that A is evolved from B. The method of this paper will adopt Ivan Stellan's context studies. It is not just a textual analysis. And the text should be put back in

the context in which it is generated - ¹the great history in that era. In this method, the context is not a series of common knowledge that is attached to the theoretical discussion. On the contrary, the context is the "influence" that is not worth mentioning. It is odds and ends and insignificant. It believes that the types of historical reality determine the types of student work. It is the internal logic of the student work changes hiding behind the text. It can be divided into two different types. They are internal context and external context. The internal context mainly refers to the meaning and constraints that the student workers want to express in the text. And the external context refers to the work of the student in a wide range of external worlds such as politics, religion, aesthetics, economy and other concepts in integrated society.

II. THE DEFINITION OF STUDENT WORK AND ITS ORIGIN IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The student work in colleges and universities is originated in the middle ages of Europe. At that time, the modern universities had grown up. The early student work was not clearly defined because of the deficiency of university function. Until 1890, there was the first provost in Harvard College. In addition to teaching, the first provost was mainly responsible for student discipline, enrollment and registration and other affairs. It established independently the student staff. And then, student work was born as a relatively independent department in colleges and universities. After the First World War, colleges and universities in European and American countries set off "student personal movement". And in 1937, The Student Personal Point of view was published by the American Board of Education. It put forwards a series of principles of student work. These principles are still the basis to guide the management of student affairs in colleges and universities in European and American countries. In the late 1950s, the application theory of student work was flourishing. The theory on human development, consultation and personality theory, human ecology theory and the fuzzy management

Fund Project: Scientific research and Education Planning in Zhejiang Province in 2016 (Colleges and University) (No. 2016SCG034)

¹ [US] Ivan Stellan. The four myths in the twentieth century - Cassirer, Iliad, Levi Strauss and Malinowski. [M]. Beijing: Sanlian Bookstore, June, 2012, P13-P17

theory of Michel Cohen & James March had profoundly influenced the development of student work.

Student work in our country is a distinctive term. The definition of its connotation has also made changes with the development of the times. Some scholars had made the definition in the summary of student work functions. Student work refers to those works on education, management and service. And the student work is directly on the students. It is organized by the specialized agencies and personnel in purposeful, planned, and organized methods. It is helpful to develop and improve the politics, thought, characters, psychology, and character quality for students. And it is also helpful to guide students to correct behaviors. At the same time, some scholars believe that "student work" is basically the same to the student affairs management in the European and American countries. It specifically refers to make the education on the students in colleges and universities through non-academic affairs and extracurricular activities. It is to standardize, guide and serve students, and to rich campus life. And then, it can promote students to grow in the organizational activities. The concept of localization characteristics is the same to a synonymous noun of the international concept. It can be seen that education, management, service and development of students work should be one of the characteristics.

III. THE HISTORY OF STUDENT WORK CHANGES SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

This paper is on the history of student work changes. It mainly analyzes the history of student work changes from the perspective of "structure - function" in sociology. And it explains the management mode, organizational structure, work function and counselor system of student work in colleges and universities.

A. *From the Founding of New China to the End of Cultural Revolution (1949-1976): To Lead Everything with Political Education Function*

This student work in this stage is equivalent to "student ideological and political work" or "student political work". It should carry out revolutionary, political and ideological education to eliminate feudal, fascist thought. It should establish a correct view and method, and carry forward the idea of serving the people as the core content of the political education work. And it is the core task to control and to overridden everything.² From October 6, 1949 - October 14, 1949, it hold the standing committee of the central committee of the new democratic youth league of China. Jiang Nanxiang, the deputy secretary of the Youth League, had made a report on the working policy of the Youth League of colleges and universities at the meeting. Jiang Nanxiang proposed that the work of youth group in the school must pay attention to the basic difference between the student work in liberation and the student work in the future. It should carry out the new nationalist study. And it should be the central task of student work. During this period, the Communist Youth League of colleges and universities had

² Gong Haiquan. The Reform of student work management system [J]. Higher Education Research, 1988 (1), P29

undertaken most of the ideological and political education task and the student management in the present sense. And it was one of the most important organizations in the student work at that time.

At that time, in the functional orientation of student work, the function of political education was fully amplified. And the functions of management, service and development were basically not being valued. And even, they were not recognized.

In the term of political counselor system, Tsinghua University made the first attempt. Since 1953, Tsinghua University has implemented the cadre assuming administrative as well as professional responsibility system. According to the selection of backbone students who were both socialist-minded and professionally competent, and it is in comprehensive development. And these students could be the counselors. The connotation of training objectives and excellent students should be specification and personalization. And then, these students would make good examples and exemplary roles for all students. The specific ways are to select senior undergraduate students as counselors for the junior students. And it created the first political instructor system of cadre assuming administrative as well as professional responsibilities since the establishment of People's Republic of China.

B. *The Period of Setting Wrong Things Right (1977-1979): To Adjust the Status of Educational Function, the Function of Management Slowly Emerged*

From the end of the Cultural Revolution to 1979, the State Education Commission restored the political counselor system. During this period, the educational functions in the student work had been adjusted. It had made self-examination on one-sided emphasis on the political civilization. The management functions slowly emerged. On October 4, 1978, the Ministry of Education issued "Notice on the Discussion and Trial of the Regulations on the Interim Work of the National Colleges and Universities (Trial Draft)". It should set political counselor or head teacher in the first grade and the second grade to strengthen the ideological and political work from next year in the notice. It should select someone with a certain political work experience from the full-time cadres of party and government, teachers of political theory and other young teachers. Political counselors should not only do ideological and political work for students, but also adhere to learning. If the counselors were convenient, they should adhere to semi-sabbatical study, and should have teaching task.³

And in the organizational structure, it began to establish different types of specialized student work institutions in different regions. In this stage, there were two important development trends in the student work area, which had made a profound impact on the follow-up changes of student work in colleges and universities. Firstly, the ideological and political teaching work of students should be independent

³ Fen Gang, Shen Zhuanghai, The chronicles of moral education of colleges and universities in the People's Republic of China [M]. Beijing: Renmin University of China Press

from the student work. It should make the development in the professional teaching, vocational teaching according to the law of education. Of course, it was different from the general academic teaching tasks. The ideological and political teaching work of students was still not divorced from the broad scope of student work. And it had a close interactive connection with the student work system. Secondly, with the objective adjustment of the status of the educational function in the student work, it began to pay attention to the management work of students gradually. And the importance of the management function in the student work began to slowly emerge.

C. The Early Stage of Reform and Opening up to the Beginning of 1990s (1980-1993): Both Education and Management Were Important

During this period, with the increase of management of students, the status of management functions in student work continued to rise and eventually became a key function with the educational function. Especially in the end of 1980s, in the building work to strengthen the school spirit in colleges and universities, "student management" had gradually become a formal term in student work. And in 1990, it was put forward as the key words in the official documents issued by the State Education Commission for the first time. And its definition was also clear. The student management in regulation was the management in the stage from the entrance of students to graduate. It was the standards on lives and behaviors for the students in colleges and universities. 4

As a result, the management function had achieved the same important position as the educational function. The student work was mainly developed on the student education (to correct the political position of the students, and to hold the belief that China must take the socialist road) and the student management (to build good school spirit and style of study).

In the counselor system, Tsinghua University vigorously promoted the postgraduate education after the reform and opening up. The master and doctoral students gradually became the main body of the counselor team. The political counselor system of cadres assuming administrative as well as professional responsibilities was efficient to strengthen the ideological and political education of the students. The counselors had experienced the same learning process as their classmates. They could gain a deeper understanding of the ideological trends of the students and understand the practical difficulties and problems the students faced in their study and life. And then, it should make the effective work timely. The system of assuming administrative as well as professional responsibilities required the counselors to learn, and to learn the ideological and political work of the students, which made the counselor team to become an important force in the ideological and political education work. And it also made the counselors exercise themselves. And they could get greater growth in this process. They had steadfast ideals and beliefs, good academic performance, and strong

⁴ Lv Chenfei. The changes and enlightenment of the student work function of colleges and universities in China [J]. *The School Management and Reform*. 2008 (4), P47

business ability. They were both socialist-minded and professionally competent. The educational effect of the model of learning was infinite.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Education approved Nankai University and other 12 colleges and universities to set up the ideological and political education for the first time on April 13, 1984. And they were pilot universities. In 1984, the number of student enrollment of 12 colleges and universities was 360. It also laid the foundation for the professionalization of the counselors in the future.

D. Since the 1990s, the Service Functions Have been Highlighted, and the Trends of Education, Management, Service and Development Have been Strengthened

Since the 1990s, the reform of China's higher education has made the progress rapidly and deeply. In this context, student work has more difficult challenges. A large number of student affairs that are difficult to integrate into the field of moral education and traditional student management areas have emerged continually. For example, it would provide multi-faceted financial assistance for students with financial difficulties (to provide direct financial support and work-study programs). It should provide consultation services and assistance for students with psychological stress or mental illness. Also, it could provide employment guidance services for the students in a wide range. Especially, it should provide targeted and personalized help for the students with employment difficulties. With the development of these new types of business, student work begins to provide services for the majority of students and the specific student groups. The service function in the work of the students has emerged. And it is also rapidly strengthened. And then, it has become an important part of the definition of the function of contemporary students. There is even a call for "service providers - consumers" to relearn the student work.

The highlight of the service function has greatly impacted the traditional pattern of student work. In this process, it began pay attention to the concept of student affairs management of colleges and universities in Europe and the United States. The student affairs management could objectively cover all aspects of education, management, and service, and so on. And it should be more easily to integrate into the international standards. Therefore, some scholars have respected the concept of student affairs management. They adopt this concept to describe the student work in the new term.

In general, to eliminate the neglect of management and the old concept of service is necessary in this stage. It should recognize the four functions of education, management, service, and development. Also, it should actively promote the coordination of these functions. And then, it gradually becomes the mainstream consensus of the continuous development of student work in colleges and universities.

IV. AN ANALYSIS ON THE REASONS OF THE CHANGES OF THE STUDENT WORK FUNCTIONS IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

It is necessary to examine the change path of the student work functions in colleges and universities. It is "Educational

function as the core—both education and management are important—the harmonious development of education, management and service". And we can see that there are two strong driven forces in the evolution courses.

A. The Continuous Changes of Higher Education Are the External Driving Forces of the Student Work Functions

Since the reform and opening up, especially in the 1990s, China's higher education has carried out a series of deep and wide reforms. And in this process, two aspects of the changes are worth to be noticed particularly.

Firstly, the trend of popularization of higher education has been increasing continually. With the development of higher education, the government-oriented social forces and other social forces actively participate in the formation of the school-running patterns. And the total number of student enrollment steadily increases. In 2006, the full-time enrollment of colleges and universities in China has reached 5.4 million people. The gross enrollment rate of higher education has reached to 23%. And higher education has basically entered the popular development stage. And it was internationally recognized.

Secondly, the higher education for the market and the community continue to increase. With the increasing trend of popularization of higher education, the "wall" between universities and society is becoming clearer. Higher education is paying more and more attention to the needs of the market. And as an important basis, it is necessary to adjust its education direction and mode flexibly. Also, it is necessary to enhance the relevance and effectiveness of its professional education.

The function of student work must be adjusted according to these two aspects of important changes.

Popular higher education makes it possible for student supervisors to face a large student community. And the elite of this group is fading. Also, the differences within the group increase. Under such dual pressures, the importance of the management function and service function of student work continues to increase. At the same time, the difficulty of carrying out the functions of education, management and service is also increasing.

Higher education pays high attention to the market and society. And it puts forward higher requirements on their own educational function. As an important part of the school education in the student work, it would inevitably need to bear the education pressure with high contribution rate continually. Thus, the educational functions of student work need to be creatively fulfilled, and management and service functions need to be implemented efficiently. It should continue to contribute to the work of the student workforce from the perspective of moral education. And it should provide good protection for the development of academic affairs through the quality of management and services.

B. The Continuous Improvement of the Status of Students in the School Education Is the Internal Driving Force of the Student Work Function Changes

In the context of the reform of higher education, the status of students in school education has also undergone fundamental changes accordingly. From the traditional emphasis on "inculcation teaching", "parental training" to the current emphasis on "student-oriented", "the respect for student differences", "to encourage students to create", the status of students in school education has gradually transformed from passive recipients to subjects with sufficient initiative. With the deepening of the concept of quality education, the emphasis on the cultivation of innovative talents is increasing. The subjective status of students has been strengthened. Therefore, the student work must be followed by the functional adjustment. And the work objects of the student work are the students. The educational method on dogmatic training is obsolete with each passing day. The difficulties of implementation of educational functions further increase. The traditional management model is strict and single. And then, it gradually failed. It should strengthen the scientific and institutional requirements of management.

At the same time, the development and popularization of information technology and the intensification of social competition have further aggravated the socialization pressure of students in colleges and universities. And it also has raised the degree of differentiation of their needs. Faced with such a strong desire to develop, personality differences among the great school groups, whether it is on education, management, or service, and its work intensities and difficulties would have a sharp increase.

V. THE MAIN ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE CHANGES OF STUDENTS WORK FUNCTION IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

A. The Review of the Process Will Help Us Better Understand the Current Macroeconomic Situation of the Student Work: Crisis and Opportunity

Functional changes highlight the major adjustments in the status of student work in higher education. At present, the importance of moral education is still widely recognized. However, compared to the traditional ideological and political work, the status of student work has declined in a certain degree clearly. At the same time, with the accelerated pace of reform of personnel system in colleges and universities and the intensification of internal competition in the higher education system, student work and student work team are having an unprecedented challenges. On the one hand, work pressure continues to increase, and work requirements continue to improve. On the other hand, educational achievements are more difficult to be quantified directly. And the contribution rate of student work on education is also having challenges. In this situation, it is clear that students are deeply experiencing a sense of crisis.

At the same time, it was in the deep sense of the crisis. And there are some great opportunities in the current situation. The functions of student work are evolved from the

initial political education to harmonious promotion of education, management and service. And a new stage of development comes quietly. It is believed that many student workers will have such experiences. In these years, the adjustment in the means of education and the functions on management and service has been strengthened. And the majority of students should strengthened the sense of identify and the degrees of needs. It is clear that it has lost the illusory and special status over the other things through the functional changes. And then, it has got the broad stage which could be connected with the international standards. And it can get the students' supports. Also, it will be able to have sustainable development.

B. Retrospective Analysis on the History of Changes Will Help Us to Better Grasp the functional orientation of the Student Work in New Era: the Harmonious Promotion of Education, Management and Service

There are two errors in the current student work. The first thing is the deficiency of adequate sense of service and management. It deals with the management and services in student affairs with the traditional ideological and political work. The second thing is to pay much attention to the performance of management and service functions. And the investment in the education functions is relatively inadequate.

With the review on the changes of student work functions, it can be aware of these questions clearly. And then, it can avoid such two errors. On the one hand, it should face up to the management and service functions. And it should constantly enhance the management capacity and sense of service. And then, it can complete the management and service work in efficient and high quality. On the other hand, the emphasis on management and service does not mean the loss of the critical position of the educational functions. In fact, in order to better respond to new challenges, and to enhance the contribution rate of education, the effective implementation of educational functions for student work is more important. At the same time, the three functions of education, management and service are interpenetrated in the specific works. An activity often can reflect both the management intention, service function. Also, it can be given educational purposes. Therefore, it should make efforts to maintain the interaction and coordination of education, management and service. It is to ensure the inevitable choice of education effectively.

From the perspective of international experience, it should select the United States as the example. The student affairs management has experienced the mode "to take the place of parents—student personnel—the development of students". The function orientation process also has proved that it is equally erroneous to act as a parent-based trainer or to make high or low evaluation on the student work. The coordination of education, management and service is the only way for the development of student work.

C. A Review of the History of Changes Will Help Us Better Understand The Scientific Concepts of Student Work: Student-oriented, All-around and Sustainable Development

The scientific outlook on development requires that it should make the development as the first meaning, the people-centralization as the core, comprehensive and sustainable development as basic requirements. And it should earnestly grasp the fundamental approach to the overall balance. The history of the evolution of the student work functions in our country is a process of constantly defining the development goals. And it is continuously to strengthen people-oriented, and constantly to pursue a comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable development. The students are simply regarded as educatees and managers firstly. It is gradually to recognize its dominant position. And it should pay attention to its subjective initiative. The student-oriented core concept is gradually established. At the same time, the mutual penetration and the harmonious development of education, management and service are helpful to comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable development of the student work. And the path of development is clear.

VI. CONCLUSION

In the face of the sustained and far-reaching impacts of knowledge economy, globalization, informationization and other development trends, it must fully sum up the historical experience, and firmly establish the scientific outlook on development. And it should develop along the path of student-oriented, comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable scientific development. And it is developed by the student work of several generations. They would work hard to explore the student affairs. And the initial experience is mature. Also, it should make the exploration and innovation in more diligent and more rigorous ways. It should truly grasp the opportunities in the times. Then, the student work is promoted to a new stage of development. It is the most glorious historical mission for contemporary student workers.

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