

## Exploratory research on trial of undergraduate tutorial system in Military Academies

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**Abstract**— According to the characteristics of undergraduate tutorial system, the existing problems of the undergraduate tutorial system practice in general universities is in-depth analyzed, on the base of which the necessity and feasibility of trial of the undergraduate tutorial system in military academies is proposed, and the trial is advised to start from making duties clear, establishing complete evaluation system and matching examination and inspiration mechanism. Conclusions can provide some reference for a new mode of education innovation and talents cultivation in military academies.

**Keywords**-undergraduate tutorial system; military academies; education innovation; talents training

### I. BASIC CONCEPT OF UNDERGRADUATE TUTORIAL SYSTEM<sup>[1-3]</sup>

Tutorial system was first originated in Oxford University of the United Kingdom in the 14th Century, which is one of the symbols being proud of. The system has brought great honor to Oxford. For hundreds of years, there have been 46 Nobel-Prize winners, and more than 70% of the 41 Prime Ministers in history of the UK have graduated from the Oxford University. Following the Oxford, universities in America benefit a lot, while the undergraduate tutorial system is also widely promoted around the world.

The so-called undergraduate tutorial system is the mechanism that organizing discipline (academics) leaders and skeleton teachers to take charge of the students' ideological and political work and study instruction. Essentially, tutorial system is "interaction, opening, integration and innovation". "Interaction and opening" is the core of tutor mode. The so-called "interaction" means that the "instruction" process is an interactive process of mutual influence and mutual adaptation. The so-called "opening" means that in the "instruction" process not only there are forming a system of information interaction between tutors and students, but also tutors and students are learning systems opening to out. "Integration and innovation" is the key to tutorial system. The ultimate objective of "instruction" is to achieve continuous innovation and great-leap-forward development of the "instructor-students" community. The connotation of undergraduate tutor system includes: first, exerting the leading function of teachers in the teaching process. Teachers' leading function is mainly in the guidance on the direction of growth of all students and instruction in learning methods for students; Second,

exerting student's main function in the teaching and learning processes. Students' main function is: being the masters of learning, and treating learning activities in the "master's" attitude; under the instruction of teachers, learning actively, study independently, reaching the goal of comprehensive development, personal development and comprehensive quality improved.

### II. PROBLEMS EXISTING IN THE PRACTICE OF UNDERGRADUATE TUTORIAL SYSTEM IN GENERAL UNIVERSITIES [4-6]

In the late of 1990s, an increasing number of colleges in our country were putting credit system into practice, which led the development of tutorial system. Since 2002, Beijing University, Tsinghua University, Wuhan University, Zhejiang University and so on have implemented the undergraduate tutorial system, the other colleges are at the pilot exploration stage of different levels. As a new thing, undergraduate tutorial system is still at a preliminary stage, the results of different colleges' implementation were not consistent, and there are a lot of shortcomings for promotion and implementation, so it has a lot to be done for developing and improving. According to the trial results in general colleges, problems of undergraduate tutorial system in practice mainly focus on the following aspects:

#### A. Understanding is not correct

First of all, because of the influence of the management mode of traditional education, leaders of some colleges take the substance, characteristics, advantages and disadvantages of undergraduate tutorial system as confusion, and are failure to scientifically set down programs of undergraduate tutor system, which contributes to the Colleges and Departments' indifference to undergraduate tutorial system. Secondly, considerable teachers cannot deal with properly the relationship between teaching and education, even some teachers think that learning is something belonging to students themselves, so they artificially dissever teaching from education. At the same time, some teachers think that being a part-time tutor may influence their own teaching and research. In addition, some students newly coming to college still immerse in happiness and relaxation and have not yet adapted to college life. These students' lack of activity and motivation, lack of enthusiasm and interest, affects the interactive process of the implementation of tutorial system.

#### B. The education resource allocation is not reasonable

From 1999, colleges began to expand enrollment in and universities, the number of students has sharply increased, but the number of teachers and the education outlay don't equal to it. The most prominent issue is that the number of instructors can not fit the demand of the undergraduate tutorial system. The ratio of instructors to students is 1:17 on average, which has been the bottleneck in the implementation of undergraduate tutorial system, and is the main reason for the poor learning ethos and the lowness of college students' comprehensive qualities. Colleges with tutorial system generally require tutors in-service to have intermediate title or master's degree at least, thus the disparity will be larger. Judging from the implementation in some colleges, one result was that one tutor is instructing 30~50 students on average, so the tutorial system was just a formality; another result is that implementation of tutorial system is just in individual one or two department or class, a tutor instruct 3~6 students and they benefit from each other, but it is unfair for most students in classes with no implementation of tutorial system.

### *C. Deficiency of running mechanism*

The implementation of undergraduate tutorial system needs a range of systems to match with. In many colleges now there existing the following problems: on the one hand, the management system such as instruction conditions, course-selection system, practice and experiment system, management of school roll system, instruction system and so on is distempered and faulty. On the other hand, personnel system, student affairs, financial management, logistics service in colleges do not match, making it difficult to implement undergraduate tutorial system under the actual credit system.

In addition, the lack of effective management and system is also the reason for the unsatisfactory implementation of tutorial system in colleges at present.

## III. NECESSITY, FEASIBILITY AND PROPOSITIONAL MEASURES OF UNDERGRADUATE TUTORIAL SYSTEM ON TRIAL IN MILITARY ACADEMIES [7-9]

### *A. Necessity of tutorial system in military academies*

After graduating cadets are directly distributed to the army, so the lack of employment pressure lead to a lot of students' lack of learning drives, negative and pessimistic attitude to life, even being tired of army life. Tutorial system can strengthen the guidance to students' learning and thinking, and is conducive to students' development and progress and the security and stability of the army. The freshman and sophomore are mainly lack of power to study. By implementing tutorial system, students will be well guided well in learning methods and efficiency, and they will have serious science spirit, full learning enthusiasm and active attitudes to learning. As for junior and senior, they are mainly lack of power for life. The implementation of tutorial system can train their ability of behaving, instruct students to actively participate in research, practice and innovation activities, which will improve their abilities of applying, operation and coordination.

Compared to general colleges, military academies are more necessary to implement tutorial system. Cadres are short and it is not enough to depend on to instruct students. Furthermore these cadres only play a role of domestication, instead of humanization advocated by tutorial system. By implementing tutorial system, a tutor is responsible for 3-5 students, and can help students progress according to their personality and experience. Cadets are in the stage of physical and mental development, many of which have not yet adapted to the college life. Especially now most of the participants are post 90s, they are lack of experience in social life and do not adapt to military management system, even resist the strict military management, which seriously influence their study and development. In short, tutorial system needs to be inducted so that tutors can instruct and guide students' thinking, learning, training and living in time.

### *B. Feasibility analyses on implementation of tutorial system in military academies*

Implementation of tutorial system in military academies is much easier than that in general colleges. The complete system in military academies, a high degree of attention to ideological work, can not only resolve the problem of responsibility in the implementation process, but also match up to the implementation by running a range of mechanism.

From the point of cadets, according to current research, undergraduate courses are too large for students to study only in class and teachers have very few opportunities to stay with students after class. So problems students encounter in learning or competition issues can not be promptly solved, which easily discourage students' enthusiasm and activity. Trial implementation of tutorial system can help pertinently instructing students' study and competition, so that not only the pressure of teaching teachers is relieved, also students have more time to study independently.

From the point of tutors, the ratio of faculty men to cadets is relatively higher in military academies, so that teachers have sufficient time and effort to communicate with undergraduates, better grasp the students' ability of acceptance and cognizance level, and give proper guidance and education betimes at the beginning of college life when students are most in need of help, accordingly to dig students' creative potential and instruct students' development and progress.

When implementing, a trial in a small specialty could be considered. On the one hand, a small specialty has few students, which make for the tutors' playing the role and student's progress and development. On the other hand, it is convenient for us to solve the problems during the trial process and accumulate experience, so as to achieve the perfection and development of undergraduate tutorial system.

### *C. propositional measures to trial implementation of undergraduate tutorial system*

#### *1) Making duties clear*

Inspiring teachers and students' activity is a prerequisite for the implementation of tutorial system. Before the implementation in military academies, students and tutors should be clarified and make clear the purpose and intent of the system, and also clear about their rights and obligations so that they can cooperate and interact well with each other during the implementation. Teachers should recognize that "teaching" and "education" are indivisible, so they can assume the responsibility of "preaching, teaching and disabusing".

Through interpretation, the responsibilities of tutors should be clear. Tutors responsibilities mainly represent in guiding students' rationally arranging their learning processes and contents, helping students to understand their majors, correcting their attitudes towards learning, stimulating their learning motivation, helping students understand their potential and characteristics, imparting students studying methods, cultivating students' ability to learn, and helping students to adapt to college life, clarify goals of life and build up correct attitudes to life, world and value.

#### 2) *Establishing complete evaluation system*

Strengthening construction of selection, training, judgement and examination systems and establishing complete operation mechanism can make the tutorial system working under rules and running smoothly.

Perfect the system of selection and choose competent and conscientious teachers to serve as tutors. Establish the tutor training system and provide information about instruction to make the work more efficient. Develop the judgement system, stipulate tutors' work, and clarify how to carry out guiding work. Build the examination system, regularly estimate tutors' work and hold conversation to grip the tutors' performance and the students' reflection.

#### 3) *Matching examination and inspiration mechanism*

It is a comprehensive work to establish and implement the tutorial system, which basically consists of tutors, students, agencies and student teams. The implementation of undergraduate tutorial system undoubtedly requires tutors to pay much more time and energy, besides teaching and research, but the time and energy paid by different tutors are also different and in practice these differences cannot be measured, so some teachers prefer research to the work of undergraduate tutor. In this case, instructors must be given a certain amount of special remuneration, and a system of inspiration mechanism should be set up combined with examination mechanism to improve the activity of tutors. Colleges should scientifically calculate instructors' workload, counted as a part of teaching hours; award excellent tutors and give them priority in job promotion; those incompetent instructors should be criticized and the tutor qualifications be canceled next year.

### IV. CONCLUSIONS

The undergraduate tutorial system reflects a new mode of education innovation, which contains concepts of seeking innovation by encouragement and exploration, cultivating students by a long-term edification, and promoting development by communication between teachers and

students, to provide a new mechanism of teaching and education for colleges' keep up with times, and to provide a approach for students' personal development, all of which deserve our exploration and practice. Moreover, the implementation of tutorial system can not only improve the students' activity, enhance the pertinency of teaching and prompt students' personal development, but also effectively promote tutors improvement. To instruct different kinds of students and solve their problems during studying and life, tutors have to make use of all possible opportunities and a large number of books and documents to improve their own qualities, which objectively contributes to the improvement of the overall quality of teachers.

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