

# Research on Undergraduates' Cultivation Mode of Independent College

Qin Juanying, Ding Yongqing, Huang Xuqiang

Sontan College of Guangzhou University, Guangzhou, P.R.China, 511370

(E-mail: qinjy2005@whut.edu.cn, hardyding2000@sina.com.cn, xbbjhxq@163.com)

**Abstract** Based on the strategic goals of prior development of modern service industry proposed by the "Outline of Pearl River Delta Regional Plan on Reformation and Development" and all-around amendment of talents cultivation plan arranged by the Department of Education of Guangdong Province of China, the paper expounds service-style profession structures and enactment of talents cultivation plan as well as present viewpoints about amendment of new-round talents cultivation plan.

**Key words** Modern service industry; Service-style talents; Cultivation plan

## 1 Introduction

The inter-disciplinary talents, applied talents and service-style talents are outcome of the functions that modern colleges educate students, do researches and serve society, which embody colleges' service function and represent concept of undergraduates' cultivation goal. As a system, the college originated from Europe in around A.D. 1100 and then was applied by France, UK, Germany, Russia and US. The mainstream in this time held opinion that the college was an educating or civilizing organ, which cultivated heritors for the beau monde and took responsibility to foster social elites. 800 year ago, British educationalist John Henry Newman (1801—1890) considered that the true college education was not professional teaching or technical education but the liberal arts education. With social development, especially rapid industrialization in the Western World, function of college had been gradually evolved. Some scholars, such as the Humboldt School of German Berlin University, believed that the college was not only a organ to teach but a center to research and create culture and knowledge. In the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century, the US became a strong industrial nation, which proposed that the college should serve society besides functions of inheriting culture, imparting knowledge and creating culture and knowledge, and it also emphasized on services which college should supply industrial development, agricultural production and other business services for society. In this way, science technology became major content and goal for colleges. From the development of functions of college, we can discern college's track from elite cultivation to mass education. We will deliberate that cultivation of inter-disciplinary talents, applied talents and service-style talents in colleges is also requirement of social and economic development.

## 2 Analysis of Connotation of Inter-disciplinary Talents, Applied Talents and Service-style Talents

There are many opinions about orientation of undergraduate education and objectives of talents cultivation. The applied talents are often mentioned. The inter-disciplinary talents are proposed as discussion of the applied talents cultivation. Basing on characteristics of the independent college, the concept of the service-style talents is presented in the background of transformation of Chinese industry structure from manufacturing to modern service industry. We will expound the above three concepts.

### 2.1 Inter-disciplinary talents

Due to the rapid development of modern science and technology, amalgamation of subjects is becoming more and more obvious. To abandon education mode of specialization and to propose comprehensive cultivation are main reason for college reform. People may hold different ideas about the inter-disciplinary talents. Make short of the matter that the inter-disciplinary talents are students who master at least two subjects and apply the professional knowledge in undergraduate cultivation. For instance, the talents are familiar with finance and IT or people majoring in marketing can speak a foreign language fluently. The knowledge and capability of inter-disciplinary depend on knowledge they study in colleges and studying competence to apply the knowledge. The cultivation of the inter-disciplinary talents is popular in postgraduate or dual-degree education. For instance, many postgraduates majoring in management and finance have such bachelor degree as electronic information or computing. At present, many colleges cultivate inter-disciplinary talents through supplying

dual-degree, auxiliary subject or auditing inter-profession courses for student. In addition, the design of talents cultivation plan supplies different combination of modularization of professional courses for students, which is important way for undergraduate inter-disciplinary education.

## **2.2 Applied talents**

The applied talents, comparing with research-style talents, are a concept with reference to undergraduate talents cultivation after discussion of comprehensive talents education in China, which is orientation and goal of many colleges' undergraduate education. With development of education and various demand for talents, colleges in China gradually are divided into three kinds, namely teaching-style, teaching-researching style, and research-style. However, nearly all of the colleges treat undergraduate education as applied talent cultivation. What are the applied talents? Colleges have various connotations about it but always have same goals. The applied talents require that graduates have capability to apply their theoretic knowledge and fundamental skill to practice, who can be familiar with social lives and production. The concept emphasizes on application of knowledge. Undergraduate education requires that students apply the fundamental knowledge to production and lives, which is a high standard. Application of knowledge is innovative activity. The comprehensive applied talents are high-quality. Of course, different kinds of colleges have different opinion and orientation about the applied talents, while the independent college should pay more attention to service-style applied talents.

## **2.3 Service-style talents**

The concept of service-style talents are gradual subdivision of orientation of college applied talents in the background of industrial structural transform to modern service industry. The service-style talents, with characteristics of comprehensive talents, belong to category of applied talents and are idea that colleges serve economic development. Taking Guangdong province as an example, the Outline of Pearl River Delta Regional Plan on Reformation and Development (2008-2020) (the Outline thereafter) planes that the delta region will establish modern industrial system from 2008-2020 and strategic goals of prior development of modern service industry. In order to implement the Outline, the Department of Education of Guangdong Province promulgated the Guidance of implementation of the Outline of Pearl River Delta Regional Plan on Reformation and Development in July 2009 required that teaching-style or applied-style colleges took service as their tenet and employment as guidance, promoted mode of talents cultivation mode, enhanced comprehensive talents cultivation, paid more attention to cultivation of the second-degree, dual-subject and inter-disciplinary talents, and improved students quality and competitiveness. It also demands that impulse college's comprehensive reform from schooling idea, mode of talent cultivation, education content and teaching method so as to meet various talents requirement.

We can understand from the above that the inter-disciplinary talents, applied talents and service-style talents make orientation from different aspect of undergraduate education. The inter-disciplinary talents lean to structure of knowledge, intersection and amalgamation of professions from high-level, middle-level and low-level; the applied talents, comparing with research-style talents, highlight on application of knowledge, namely capability of problems-resolving. Of course, there are high-level, middle-level and low-level requirements; the service-style talents high-standard applied talents in modern service industry. The service-style talents include combination theoretic knowledge of undergraduate with applicable knowledge. In a certain sense, *the Outline* proposes direction of teaching-style or applying-style colleges, and explains that the inter-disciplinary talents, applied talents and service-style talents illustrate that colleges serve society.

## **3 Seize the Opportunity and Close Follow Local Service-style System**

The modern service industry involves in many professions, such as scientific service, outsourcing industry, information service, telecommunication service, commerce service, finance service, transportation service, traveling service, commercial chain service, exhibition industry, logistics industry, cultural creative industry, material supply service, storage service. With adjustment and development of the Pearl Rive Delta industries, it is estimated that grow demand for modern service industry require inter-disciplinary talents. The independent colleges should seize the opportunity to close follow local service-style system.

### **3.1 Structure service-style inter-disciplinary and inter-subject causes**

We should make full use of advantages that there are comprehensive subjects in college, to structure inter-disciplinary and inter-subject causes, which benefit for service-style applied talents cultivation. Prime Minister Wen Jiabao emphasized many times not to enhance boundary between arts

and science, and integrate the two sides. Many Chinese leading scholars are familiar with the both. The development of modern science and new industries also prove that knowledge structure of high education is inverse triangle and the top is intelligent treasure that all kinds of talent share, which reflects on amalgamation and similarity of knowledge. So, college education develops from elite to the public and undergraduate education is only high-level of public education. To decrease boundary of undergraduate's professions and structure service-style inter-disciplinary and inter-subject causes are basis to cultivate inter-disciplinary talents.

### **3.2 Structure a uniform public discipline**

The boundary between traditional professions gradually weakens. Many colleges don't distribute students to different subjects in the first or second year and structure a uniform public discipline. The Ministry of Education emphasizes firm foundation. We can learn cultivation of inter-disciplinary talents from document promulgated by the Ministry of Education and the Department of Education of Guangdong Province. Review of past a few years' talents cultivation plan in our college, we can find eagerness to divide subjects, even early arrangement of professional courses in first or second semester. The reason is that we don't realize deeply relationship between foundational courses and professional courses. It is well-known that solid and comprehensive foundation is valuable for student further studying. Even if it is not innovative idea to adopt idea of liberal education, the important adjustment basing on the idea still require every department unity of thought and unity of understanding.

### **3.3 Systematization and modularization of courses arrangement**

It is necessary to systematize and modularize courses of talents cultivation plan, which can break situation of lack of communication and unilateral -teaching. Only relying on textbooks, there is repetition and missing of content; in the limited teaching time, it is difficult to consider all aspects of textbooks and many problems will appear. So, every teacher should attend to discuss establishment of talents cultivation plan and teachers should have clear understanding for function and their relationship that the courses play role in the system. In addition, we should invite public course teacher to study and formulate the plan. The college should invite experts to analyze basic courses arrangement of great subject and inter-disciplinary from college's cultivation orientation.

## **4 Conclusion**

To seize the opportunity, to close follow local service-style system, to study cultivation goal of service-style undergraduates and to structure service-style theoretical and practical teaching system are basic work for teaching reform of the independent college. To accelerate reform traditional and single knowledge system and profession structure is long-term strategy for the independent college.

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