Problems and Countermeasures for the Internationalization of Education in Local Universities

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Abstract: The internationalization of local university education is the need of education development and the inevitable trend of social development. In order to solve the problems such as lack of leadership attention, lack of systematic internationalization planning, lack of sufficient financial support, and imperfect international learning environment, we should deepen the international education of local universities from introducing international running concept, perfecting internationalization strategic action plan, building international campus culture, using modern education resources, and creating modern learning atmosphere, etc., to cultivate students who can adapt to the national and international education. The international talent needed for future growth.

Keywords: Local universities; Internationalization of education; Development

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1. Introduction

Along with the process of China’s internationalization, the internationalization of education in local universities has become a trend. Especially in the context of the construction of the “Belt and Road”, the “Action Plan for Promoting Education in Building the Belt and Road” clearly states that local colleges and universities should realize the modernization of educational concepts and methods through cooperation with neighboring colleges and universities, and through innovative ways of talent training. We aim at building a university education system with Chinese characteristics and raise the level of internationalization.

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2. Problems Faced in the Process of Internationalization of Education in Local Universities

(1) Lack of a Leadership Team with an International Perspective
The smooth development of the internationalization process of local university education cannot be achieved without the support and attention of the relevant university leaders. Restricted by the location, status and educational goals of universities, some leaders in some local universities still focus on improving teachers’ professional skills and students’ employment development, neglecting the development of international education. Because the leaders lack an overall view of higher education work, they lack the relevant work layout in the overall working arrangements of higher education institutions, and do not conduct relevant training and re-education for teachers in a targeted manner.

(2) Lack of Systematic Planning for International Education
Strategic planning is the basis for the successful implementation of university education. Although some universities have started international teaching practices, most of these projects are independent and lack systematic planning, which affects the implementation of projects and activities. In many local universities, individual faculties establish cooperation with other international universities, but the lack of a master plan for the whole university not only affects the smooth progress of the project, but also conflicts with the overall plan of the university.

(3) Lack of Adequate Financial Support
The process of internationalization requires not only enough energy and human resources, but also a large amount of financial support. The reason why international education in many local universities is limited is the lack of funds. At present, the funding for international education in many domestic universities comes from local financial allocations. Due to the different economic development of local universities, the annual education funding varies, which directly affects the smooth development of international exchange activities of universities. Especially in the southwestern part of China, due to the relative backwardness of the local economy, coupled with the lack of revenue-generating projects and low tuition fees, the lack of funding is even more serious, and some schools even take out loans to ensure the smooth running of their projects.

(4) The Constraints of an Internationalized Learning Environment
Studying abroad is currently the most common way of international education for students in local colleges and universities using international resources. Although studying abroad allows students to directly experience international culture through expo-
sure to foreign environment, it is still a niche way of international education due to high cost and high language requirements.

The use of on-campus internationalization resources can effectively promote the internationalization of school education. However, due to the lack of special management team for international students in many local universities, there is a generation gap between international students and Chinese university students, and there is no real communication between them.

In addition, some local university teachers’ weak English language foundation, outdated educational concepts, and backward research standards have led to their low enthusiasm in participating in international projects and activities, and discouraging or even suppressing students’ participation in related activities, which not only sets a bad example for students, but also directly affects the degree of internationalization of local universities.

3. Strategies for the Internationalization of Local University Education

(1) Introduction of an International School Concept

The educational philosophy is the guide to educational behavior. The concept of international schooling requires, firstly, that the relevant local university leaders are aware of the importance of internationalization of education and reflect it in their work arrangements, instilling the significance of modernization of education in the relevant teachers and students. Secondly, the relevant leaders should use their own resources and those of their schools to actively establish contact with the internationalized schools and deepen the communication between them through specific projects and activities. Thirdly, based on the concept of international schooling, relevant leaders should constantly change the educational methods, educational philosophy and educational evaluation system of their universities, manage with a more open attitude, and provide a relaxed research environment for teachers.

(2) Sound Strategic Action Plan for Internationalization

The internationalization of education is not only reflected in the increase in the number of international students and international programs, but more importantly, through the entire university’s strategic action plan for international education, to provide teachers and students with a series of international exchange and learning opportunities, so that they can conduct scientific research and professional learning in a broader environment. The internationalization of education strategy should permeate all aspects of the university’s work, from management strategies, educational programs
to teaching quality.

(3) **Campus Culture of International Exchange between Teachers and Students**

The deepening of the internationalization process of local universities requires the active cooperation of both teachers and students. According to the characteristics of different majors, schools can send some teachers with language foundation and professional research ability to international schools to receive re-education in order to enhance teachers’ enthusiasm for internationalization. Through the process of “going out” to study, teachers can expand their knowledge, have rich experience in transnational cultural exchange and learning, and use this experience to motivate and infect other teachers and students, which provides the basis for updating the teaching concept. At the same time, universities can improve their internationalization level by recruiting highly educated talents with international learning foundation.

Students can directly feel the development of internationalization of the university, in the management of the university can increase the communication between international students and domestic students, increase mutual understanding, so that local students can understand the international culture through the resources of our university. On the other hand, through the systematic project cooperation between universities and other international schools, some students can be sent out to enjoy international education and understand foreign culture more directly.

(4) **Making Full Use of Modern Educational Resources**

With the continuous development of information technology, the educational resources of local colleges and universities in China are increasing. In order to increase the degree of internationalization of local universities, schools can, on the one hand, strengthen cooperation with local international enterprises, jointly cultivate international talents, and help students understand the international development process of their majors. On the other hand, with the bringing of the knowledge sharing era, schools can share libraries with other international universities and directly introduce international teaching resources and research results through virtual sharing of digital library resources, which will facilitate teachers’ scientific research and students’ professional learning. Moreover, this nationalization approach can greatly save education funds and prevent schools from successfully internationalizing their education due to lack of funds.

(5) **Strengthening the International Campus Culture**

Programs, activities and internationalization courses can improve the internationalization process of local universities, and international campus culture construction can also influence the degree of internationalization of the school. By internationalizing the visual image of the university, such as the design of the road, landscape and
other visual image systems, and holding international campus cultural exchange activities, we can provide students with an international campus atmosphere, which will in turn influence the international awareness of the entire university.

At the same time, the local universities should communicate with the local government to increase the publicity of their universities, so as to attract top scholars to give lectures on their campuses and enhance the internationalization of their universities.

4. Conclusion

The internationalization of education involves all aspects of university education, including management system, professional curriculum arrangement, campus culture, international exchange programs and international awareness of teachers and students. The development of internationalization of education in local universities needs the support and attention from the top to the bottom of the university, the recognition of internationalization by the relevant leaders, and the introduction of international talents to create an international teaching atmosphere in the campus.

In order to promote the process of internationalization of local universities, local universities need to deepen the cooperation with international universities and enterprises, update the philosophy of running universities and create a strong international teaching atmosphere through the strategy of combining “going out” and “bringing in”. The internationalization of university education directly affects the modernization of Chinese university students. With the continuous improvement of China’s international status, only talents with international vision can be invincible in the social competition and truly represent China in the international stage in the future.

Works Cited