

## Impact of the Lifelong Education Concept on the Educational Management System of Chinese Colleges and Countermeasures Research



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**ABSTRACT:** With the development of the times and the progress of society, the importance of education has become more and more obvious, and people's attitude towards education has changed from "short-term" to "long-term", and the emergence of the concept of lifelong education is a product of the development of global civilization to a certain point. Lifelong education is the sum total of education received throughout one's life, providing knowledge and skills in different modes or types of education. Colleges and universities are one of the most crucial places for school education, and are the cradle for cultivating specialized and modernized talents. The development of college education should be people-oriented, always implement the concept of lifelong education, promote the scientific, rational and perfect college education management system, and cultivate more compound talents for the modernization construction. Now the current situation of China's college education management system under the concept of lifelong education is analyzed and reform strategies are given.

**KETWORDS:** Lifelong education; Chinese colleges; College education management system; System reform

The concept of lifelong education was created in the 1960s (Field, 2001), and was vigorously promoted and popularized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Subsequently, the concept of lifelong education has developed rapidly around the world. Nowadays, the concept of lifelong education has become more and more rich in content and involves more and more fields and groups of people, and many countries have taken the concept of lifelong education as a fundamental basis for the formulation of national education policies and the construction of education systems, and have actively developed their own education on this basis. After a long period of practice, the concept of lifelong education has played a good role in the cultivation of talents, and has gained the strong support and wide recognition of the public (Blossfeld & Vonmaurice, 2019).

When the concept of lifelong education came to China, there was already a set of mature theoretical system, in which the advocated view of learning, talent cultivation mode and cultivation goals are highly compatible with the educational requirements put forward by Chinese universities. How to better integrate the concept of lifelong education into the process of education reform in Chinese universities is the requirement of global education trend, and is the requirement of the global scientific and technological and economic development. With the deepening of China's university education reform, the optimization of college education management system is imminent. Therefore, this study will be based on the concept of lifelong education, analyze the problems in China's college education management system from multiple perspectives, and give corresponding suggestions.

### 1. INTRODUCTION TO THE CONCEPT OF LIFELONG EDUCATION

#### A. The Concept of Lifelong Education

The concept of lifelong education is widely spread and used around the world, fixed concept, different educationalists have different views, but in general it refers to the sum of the education that a person receives during his or her lifetime, the sum of

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various types and modes of education, and the content of education can be knowledge or technology. It emphasizes the continuity, comprehensiveness and individualization of education and aims to cultivate talents with innovative spirit and practical ability (English & Mayo, 2021). Establishing the concept of lifelong education in the college education management system helps to promote the optimal allocation of educational resources and improve the quality and effectiveness of education (Cropley & Knapper, 2021).

### **B. The function of the Concept of Lifelong Education in Education**

First, the concept of lifelong education proposes that learning is lifelong, continuous and uninterrupted, that there is no need to distinguish between the working stage and the learning stage, and that education should last throughout one's life. Second, the concept of lifelong education elevates the importance of social education, changes the old idea of school education as the center, builds a bridge between different types of education, breaks the monopoly of school education and expands the space of education. Thirdly, it has changed the attitude of teachers and students towards education, no longer simply thinking that education is only the transmission of knowledge, promoting the multifaceted nature of education and making people more adaptable to the changing environment. Fourth, from the ideological point of view, it inspires the educated to expand their value standards, improve themselves and perfect themselves, so as to achieve the ultimate goal of “ people-oriented ” education (Li et al., 2019).

## **II. PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OF CHINESE UNDER THE CONCEPT OF LIFELONG EDUCATION**

### **A. Promoting the Comprehensive Development of Human Beings**

At present, China is in an important stage of transition from traditional education to modernized education, and all fields such as society, economy, science and technology have undergone great changes, and the talents cultivated by traditional education methods can no longer meet the needs of society. Therefore, how to cultivate comprehensively developed compound talents is crucial. Under the concept of lifelong education, China's college education management system emphasizes people-oriented, defines “ethics, intellect, physique, aesthetics and labor” as the value orientation, gives full play to the subject position of educated people in college education, provides them with an open, independent and comprehensive education environment and learning resources, and helps them realize their own value and social value. The college education management system under the concept of lifelong education provides strong support and guarantee for the comprehensive development of individuals by building a flexible and open education system, strengthening the cultivation of practical and innovative abilities, promoting individualization and comprehensive development, promoting the construction of lifelong education culture, and reinforcing international exchange and cooperation. This is not only an inevitable choice for adapting to the changes of the times and cultivating the talents needed by the future society, but also an important way to realize educational equity and promote harmonious social development.

### **B. Promoting the Joint Capacity of School Education, Family Education and Social Education**

The concept of lifelong education advocates a state of learning that is open, continuous and lifelong, and requires a combination of resources from all areas to realize this learning process. The education a person receives is the sum of family education, school education and social education, which cannot appear or exist separately, and the union of the three can maximize the effect of education. Therefore, university education must strengthen the cooperation among family, school and society. The management system of Chinese universities has set up relevant departments and taken the initiative to establish links with the government, enterprises and communities by means of cooperative schooling and order cultivation (Xue & Sun, 2024), which provides more positions for students' internships and employment, and realizes the maximization of the utilization of resources both inside and outside the university. Universities give full play to their own professional advantages and provide training services for the community, realizing the sharing of educational information and resources. Universities have set up departments for psychological counseling, life supervision, poverty financing, and evaluation of awards and merits to solve the problems in students' study and life, and to stimulate students' desire for education. In general, the management system of Chinese universities fundamentally takes into account the articulation of educated people from home to school and school to society, improves the joint cultivation capacity of family, school and society, and is conducive to the development of lifelong education.

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### **C. Establishing a Relaxed and Free Educational Atmosphere**

China's traditional school management system emphasizes the teacher's main position, teachers teach and students listen, students' subjective initiative is weak, the classroom atmosphere is serious and dull, it is difficult to stimulate students' enthusiasm for learning. Moreover, under the influence of old thinking, the cultivation of other abilities of students is not emphasized, so that students' desire for education after leaving school is not high. Under the guidance of the concept of lifelong education, universities abolish traditional teaching ideas and emphasize a loose and free educational atmosphere. Schools take students as the center, consider the needs of students' physical and mental development, optimize educational services, enrich educational modes, improve educational facilities, provide students with a better learning atmosphere, and guide students to actively participate in school management and social practice. Universities strengthen students' self-management and independent learning, advocate students to have correct learning concepts and lifelong learning consciousness, so that they have independent thinking and clear career planning, and choose the most suitable way of development for themselves. Universities establish a scientific and reasonable evaluation system, focusing on the evaluation of the learning process of students rather than only focusing on the examination results. Through the introduction of peer evaluation, self-evaluation, project evaluation and other evaluation methods, students' learning outcomes and ability development are comprehensively and objectively reflected. At the same time, it respects students' individual differences, encourages them to give full play to their strengths, and realizes personalized development.

### **D. Promoting Educational Equity and the Internationalization of Education**

Through measures such as optimizing the allocation of educational resources and expanding the coverage of high-quality educational resources, the college education management system strives to narrow the educational gap between urban and rural areas, regions and schools, so that more people can enjoy high-quality higher education. At the same time, universities also actively participate in international exchanges and cooperation, introducing advanced foreign educational concepts and educational resources, promoting the internationalization of higher education, and enhancing the country's international competitiveness and influence. The concept of lifelong education has promoted the innovation and reform of China's college education management system. Facing the fast-changing social demands and scientific and technological progress, universities must constantly update their teaching contents and methods to adapt to the development of the times. Led by the concept of lifelong education, universities have begun to actively explore new education modes, such as online education and blended teaching, in order to provide more flexible and diverse learning pathways. At the same time, universities have also strengthened their ties with the society and promoted the optimal allocation and sharing of educational resources through university-enterprise cooperation and the combination of industry, academia and research, so as to create more favorable conditions for students' learning and growth. The concept of lifelong education has promoted the internationalization of China's college education management system. In the context of globalization, international exchange and cooperation has become an important trend in the development of universities. The concept of lifelong education emphasizes the continuous learning and cross-cultural communication of individuals on a global scale, which requires universities to actively expand their international vision and strengthen cooperation and communication with international advanced educational institutions. Through the introduction of foreign high-quality educational resources, international academic cooperation, and the promotion of international exchanges among students, universities can continuously improve their own level of education and international influence, and provide students with a broader space for learning and development.

## **III. DRAWBACKS OF CHINA'S COLLEGE EDUCATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

### **A. Implementation of the Concept of Lifelong Education is Relatively Slow**

At the end of the 20th century, China's college education management system began to be reformed in order to ease the slow development of college education and improve the quality of talent training. The Chinese government has continued to decentralize the management of education, giving Chinese universities more autonomy in management and opportunities for teaching reform. Colleges and universities have chosen the most appropriate college education management system by taking into account local resources and characteristics, such as economic development, natural environment, and humanistic features, etc. For more than 20 years, the reform has achieved many remarkable results, and China's college education management system has continued to improve and mature. However, because the exchanges between schools are mainly within China, there is no timely understanding and introduction of international excellent education concepts, which makes China's teaching concepts relatively lagging behind,

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and the development of China's education management system's innovation ability is slow. For example, the concept of lifelong education has been put forward at the beginning of the 20th century, but China's college education management system has only begun to reform from the end of the 20th century (Yu, 2023), and the concept of lifelong education can not be applied to China's teaching management in a timely manner. At present, some Chinese universities still pay too much attention to traditional academic education, taking degree conferment and employment as the main goals of education, and neglecting the cultivation of students' lifelong learning ability. This concept of education is contrary to the concept of lifelong education, resulting in a lack of motivation for students to continue learning and self-improvement after graduation. The concept of lifelong education is of great significance in promoting the reform and development of higher education. However, there are still many challenges in implementing the concept of lifelong education in universities at present.

### **B. Educational Management Method is on the Basis of One-dimensionality**

China's contemporary education management is based on balanced education management authority (Zhong, 2022), and the reform of education management has made some progress compared with the past, but in essence there are still large loopholes in the management. Compared with the developed countries in education, it is not only lagging behind but also has a single. Colleges and universities recognize the importance of education management reform, but did not take positive action, only to solve the immediate problems, there is no systematic innovation, when new problems arise, it is difficult to solve them in a timely manner. For example, the current college education management system is mostly based on the administrative management mode, which leads to the difficulty of coordinating part of the system with the actual situation of the school's own development. In the implementation and realization of these systems, there are often delays, poor docking and long process times, etc. These problems seriously affect the overall management efficiency and limit the role of the educational management system. The long-term reliance on rigid and unchanging educational management methods has made universities form inertia thinking about this, leading to a lack of enthusiasm and motivation to take the initiative to carry out management system reform and innovation in schools. Therefore, we need to review and adjust the college education management system in depth to improve its flexibility and effectiveness.

### **C. Inadequate Educational Supervision Mechanism**

In the current field of higher education, there are still imperfections in the educational supervision mechanism of Chinese universities. Such imperfections may not only affect the steady improvement of education quality, but also have a far-reaching impact on the overall development of students and the prosperity and stability of the future society. First of all, from the perspective of the regulatory system, the existing regulatory system of university education is still rough in details and lacks sufficient refinement and pertinence. For example, in key aspects such as curriculum, teaching methods and evaluation systems, the regulatory standards are often too general and difficult to effectively guide specific practices. This leads to a certain degree of blindness and arbitrariness in the actual operation of some universities, making it difficult to ensure the scientific and systematic nature of education and teaching. Secondly, there are obvious deficiencies in the implementation of supervision. Although the relevant policies and regulations to regulate the educational behavior of universities, but in the actual implementation of the process, due to various reasons, these provisions are often difficult to be fully implemented. Some universities may consider their own interests and take a selective attitude to comply with the regulatory requirements, which undoubtedly weakens the authority and effectiveness of the regulatory mechanism. Furthermore, the regulatory mechanism of university education needs to be strengthened in terms of informatization. With the rapid development of science and technology, informatization has become an important means to enhance the effectiveness of supervision. However, at present, many universities are still unable to collect, organize, analyze and utilize regulatory information, which not only affects the scientific and timely regulatory decision-making, but also restricts the sustainable improvement of the quality of university education.

### **D. Lack of Student Subjectivity**

The subject position of students is often neglected. Students have little participation in the curriculum, teaching methods and evaluation system, making it difficult for them to personalize their learning according to their individual interests and career development needs. In addition, students have limited opportunities to participate in school management and decision-making, which is not conducive to the development of their civic awareness and leadership skills. Students under this management system are more passive receivers than active learners and creators. Under the traditional education management model, universities tend

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to focus more on administrative orders and uniform norms, and students' voices and needs are often ignored or put on the back burner. Curriculum, teaching methods and even evaluation systems are mostly decided unilaterally by educators, without fully absorbing and respecting students' opinions. This “one-size-fits-all” management model makes it difficult to meet the individual learning needs of different students, leading to confusion and frustration in learning for some students, and even an aversion to learning. At the same time, the limited opportunities for students to participate in school management is also an important manifestation of the lack of subject status. Although in recent years many universities have begun to try to set up a student representative assembly, student advisory committees and other institutions, with a view to enhancing the degree of student participation, but in practice, the influence of these institutions in decision-making is often limited, and more often than not only play a role in the transmission of information and the collection of opinions, and failed to participate in the decision-making of the core links.

### **IV. REFORM STRATEGIES OF CHINA'S COLLEGE EDUCATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM UNDER THE CONCEPT OF LIFELONG EDUCATION**

#### **A. Implementing the Concept of Lifelong Education**

In order to implement the concept of lifelong education, lifelong universities need to take a series of innovative initiatives. First of all, they should build a diversified curriculum system, which includes the learning of basic theoretical knowledge as well as the cultivation of practical skills, and should also introduce interdisciplinary and cross-cultural course contents to meet the diversified learning needs of students. Secondly, flexible and diversified learning modes should be promoted, such as online learning, flipped classroom, project-based learning, etc., in order to adapt to the learning rhythm and preferences of different students. At the same time, universities should also strengthen their ties with the society and provide students with more practice opportunities and career development paths through university-enterprise cooperation and industry-university-research integration. In addition, establishing the concept of lifelong education also requires a change in the role of teachers. Teachers are no longer only the transmitters of knowledge, but also the guides and facilitators of learning. They need to constantly update their knowledge structure and master advanced teaching methods and tools to stimulate students' interest in learning and creative potential. At the same time, teachers should also pay attention to the individual differences of students and provide personalized learning support and guidance. For universities, establishing the concept of lifelong education also requires the establishment of corresponding guarantee mechanisms. This includes perfecting the credit system, realizing mutual recognition and conversion of learning achievements; establishing a lifelong learning resource base to provide students with rich learning materials and resources; and strengthening exchanges and cooperation with international educational institutions to broaden students' international outlook and cross-cultural communication skills.

#### **B. Promoting Education Informatization and Improving the Efficiency of Information Resource Utilization.**

With the rapid development of information technology, education informatization has become an important way to improve the quality of higher education and promote education equity. As the cradle of knowledge innovation and talent cultivation, universities should actively embrace the wave of informatization, promote the process of education informatization through scientific planning and effective implementation, comprehensively improve the efficiency of the use of information resources, and create a better teaching and learning environment for teachers and students. The first aspect is to optimize the allocation of resources. Establish an information resource management mechanism to scientifically categorize, effectively integrate and rationally allocate all kinds of educational resources, and avoid duplicated construction and waste of resources. Through the sharing platform, promote the interconnection of internal and external resources and expand the coverage of resources. The second aspect is to strengthen user services, build a user-oriented information service system, deeply understand the needs of teachers and students, and provide convenient and accurate information resource retrieval, access and use guidance. A feedback mechanism will be established to collect users' opinions in a timely manner and continuously improve service quality. The third aspect is to promote knowledge innovation and sharing, encourage teachers and students to participate in research projects, academic exchanges, online collaboration and other activities, and utilize the information platform to promote knowledge creation, dissemination and application. Intellectual property protection mechanisms are established to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests in knowledge sharing and stimulate



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the vitality of innovation. Educational informatization is an important symbol of the modernization of higher education, and improving the efficiency of information resource utilization is the key to achieving high-quality development of education. Universities should keep pace with the times, constantly innovate education informatization promotion strategies, optimize information resource allocation and utilization mechanisms, provide teachers and students with more efficient, convenient and personalized teaching and services, and jointly promote the cause of higher education to a new height.

### **C. Improving the Supervision Mechanism of the Lifelong Education System of Universities**

Constructing and perfecting the supervision mechanism of the lifelong education system in universities is an important guarantee to ensure the continuous improvement of education quality, promote the fair distribution of learning resources, and realize the close connection between education goals and social needs. For the supervision of teaching quality, detailed teaching quality assessment standards are formulated, including the setting of course objectives, updating of teaching content, innovation of teaching methods, student participation and evaluation of learning outcomes. Comprehensive inspection and improvement of teaching quality is conducted regularly through peer review, student feedback, external expert assessment and other means. As for the supervision of curriculum resources, it is ensured that the curriculum resources are rich and diversified and meet the needs of society and personal development. The supervision mechanism should cover the scientific, practical, timely and copyright compliance of the course content, and encourage the development and sharing of high-quality course resources. As for the supervision of teachers, a teacher evaluation and incentive mechanism should be established to comprehensively evaluate teachers' qualifications, teaching ability, scientific research contributions, and teacher ethics and morals. Through regular training, academic exchanges, and teaching competitions, we promote the professional growth and sustainable development of the teaching force. For the supervision of learning support services, we pay attention to students' learning experience and needs, and supervise the accessibility of learning resources, the effectiveness of learning counseling, and the comfort of the learning environment. Establish a rapid response mechanism to solve problems encountered by students in the learning process in a timely manner.

### **D. Increasing Financial Investment and Improving the Education Financial Guarantee Mechanism**

In the current era of rapid development of higher education, increasing funding and improving the financial security mechanism of university education is not only a key initiative to improve the quality and competitiveness of China's education, but also an inevitable requirement for the realization of fair and sustainable development of education. The first aspect is to strengthen the leading role of the government and increase financial input. Through the establishment of special funds and increased budget allocations, the operating funds and research grants of universities should be directly enhanced to provide a solid guarantee for the construction of high-level faculty, the improvement of teaching facilities and the enhancement of research and innovation capabilities. The second aspect is to broaden funding channels and diversify financing. Encourage and guide social capital to participate in the development of higher education through donations, the establishment of foundations, and joint construction and sharing projects, forming a diversified funding pattern in which the government, society, and schools jointly invest. The third aspect is to optimize the funding allocation structure and improve the efficiency of use. Establish a sound performance evaluation system for the allocation and use of funds to ensure that funds are precisely invested in the front line of teaching and research, especially in basic disciplines, cutting-edge technologies and areas of major national strategic needs. We will strengthen the monitoring and auditing of budget execution, project progress and output, implement refined management, avoid waste of resources, and enhance the transparency and efficiency of the use of funds. The fourth aspect is to strengthen international cooperation and exchanges and attract overseas funds Utilizing global educational resources, deepening cooperation with international higher education institutions, and attracting overseas funds and technical support through joint school running, scientific research cooperation, and international student education. The construction of a perfect mechanism for guaranteeing the funding of university education requires the joint efforts of the government, schools, society and individuals.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

The concept of lifelong education emphasizes the importance of continuous learning and updating of individuals throughout their lives, which puts forward higher requirements for college education management system. The traditional college education management system in China tends to focus on short-term educational goals and fixed teaching programs, which is difficult to adapt

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to the rapidly changing social needs and diversified learning needs of individuals. Therefore, reforming the college education management system and establishing a more flexible, open and inclusive education system has become an important way to improve the quality of education and promote the comprehensive development of individuals. The concept of lifelong education has brought about a profound demand for change in China's college education management system, which requires colleges and universities not only to impart knowledge, but also to cultivate students' lifelong learning abilities in order to adapt to the rapidly changing social needs. Through policy guidance, faculty construction, platform construction, optimization of resource allocation and improvement of evaluation and incentive mechanisms, the college education management system can be effectively promoted in the direction of more openness, flexibility and efficiency, and new vitality can be injected into the sustainable development of China's university education.

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