Study on the Feasibility and Necessity of Setting Up Student Learning Center in Private Higher Education Institution

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Abstract: In view of the rapid development of private higher education institution in China and the differences between instructors and students composition and public universities, some students have some problems in learning methods and learning initiative. Setting up special guidance and improving students' learning and development ability is an important measure to improve the teaching quality of private universities, which is also feasible and necessary. Learning from the successful experience of "Learning Guidance and Development Centers" of universities at domestic and abroad, this paper explores a student learning support system in accordance with the characteristics of private universities, and improves students' independent learning ability by setting up learning guidance courses, consultation, discussion and peer assistance.

1. The Development of Learning Guidance Centers for University Students at Domestic and Abroad

Academic guidance can be traced back to the earliest American universities. In the early 20th century, some American universities offered guiding lectures on university learning goals and learning guidance courses for learning planning and career planning. With the increase of enrollment in American universities, some universities have established independent learning centers, which are mainly used to provide students with support in terms of learning methods, examination preparation, reducing learning anxiety, professional article writing, etc., and can also solve other problems that students encounter in their studies. In 1979, the American Association for Learning Guidance (NACADA) was established. At that time, most universities in developed countries set up student learning guidance centers.

One of the main tasks of these learning centers is to cultivate students' ability of "autonomous learning", that is, "autonomy is the ability to be responsible for their own learning." (Henry Holtz proposed) "Holmes and James & Garrett pointed out in 1991 that" in order to help learners better control their learning, it is important to help them realize the strategies they have used or may use. "Most universities and vocational institute in North America also have different forms of student learning development centers. For example, California State University Fullerton Branch of the United States provides academic counseling for undergraduates. "The counseling courses are mainly junior courses, general education courses, high credit courses and low pass rate courses" [1] The counseling forms include one-to-one counseling, learning group counseling and small seminars; We also regularly hold learning seminars, "to provide students with effective learning strategies, help them build self-confidence, improve learning efficiency, and more effectively study and research", "Mainly in time management, listening and note taking skills, learning skills, test anxiety and examination strategy" to help students. [1]

The University of Sydney Learning Center provides strong support in the basic skills and qualities that students need to master, "For example, thesis writing and citation and quotation skills in thesis writing; clear writing style; training of clear reading and thinking skills; research ability and examination skills; training of oral expression, effective communication and discussion skills; learning of comprehensive and critical writing skills." [2] Provide help to students through courses or lectures.

Domestic universities have been relatively late in guiding students' learning. Tsinghua University established the Student Learning Development Center in 2009. In the same year, dozens of universities in China also established similar institutions. Now more than hundreds of universities across the country have set up centers to guide students' learning. The student learning development centers in some universities operate well, which has greatly helped to promote students' autonomous learning ability and learning methods. The activities organized by them are also to solve the problems and puzzles faced by students in their learning, especially for freshmen. For example, the Student Learning Guidance Center of Shandong University of...
Technology and Fudan University mainly includes teacher and student learning groups, one-to-one counseling, academic conferences, seminars, English learning guidance projects, and courses and other guidance for freshmen.

In recent years, the state has attached great importance to the ideological and political aspects of university students. There is a relatively perfect instructor system and system for student management. Private universities have strict requirements on the management of students' daily behaviors, and more guidance on students' life planning, personal development, employment, innovation and entrepreneurship. Due to the lack of professional staffs, there are relatively few academic guidance and learning problems solves for students. There are few student learning guidance and development centers or similar institutions. When students encounter learning and learning problems, they do not know where to go for help.

2. The characteristics of private universities and the current situation of students' autonomous learning ability

Private higher education is an important part of China's education. By 2020, "There are 773 private colleges and universities in China, accounting for about 28% of the total number of colleges and universities. With the increase of the number of private colleges and universities, the number of students enrolled in colleges and universities will also increase. In 2020, the number of students enrolled in private colleges and universities will reach 2.36 million, accounting for 24.4% of the total number of students enrolled in colleges and universities. The number of students on campus will reach 791 million, accounting for 24.09% of the total number of students in colleges and universities." [1] According to statistical data, the number of private universities in China has been increasing year by year in recent years, and the proportion of students and enrollment has also been rising steadily.

The level of operating private universities is diversified, including full-time undergraduate, full-time higher vocational, college upgraded, (3+2) vocational students, etc. Some colleges also have educational background education, self-study examination, short-term vocational training and other school running modes. The enrollment methods of students in private universities are also diversified. Compared with public university at the same level, their tuition are higher, so some students in private university have lower enrollment scores, especially some students at higher vocational levels. While (3+2) vocational students have not obtained ordinary high school education, and most students have not developed a good learning habits and self-discipline is also relatively poor, so their learning effect is relatively low.

Due to the unbalanced development of education in China, the teaching conditions and quality of junior and senior high schools in urban schools are relatively high, and their students also participate in more after-school training. In recent years, the university entrance examination scores of urban students are relatively higher than those of rural and county school's. The majority of students from private universities come from rural and county areas. Because of the teaching conditions in secondary schools, their learning methods and self-learning abilities are also different from those of students from public universities. In this way, some students cannot quickly adapt to the learning life of universities, especially some students from private vocational colleges, and some private undergraduate colleges have poorer teaching quality than public colleges at the same level. There for, the learning effect of students will be affected. Some college students have some problems in their learning: "For example, their learning motivation is not strong and their learning goals are not clear. They use more exam oriented learning strategies and lack effective autonomous learning strategies. They have less time management ability, weak self-regulation ability, and indulge in online games. They are not interested in learning, lack good learning habits and effective learning methods. They are under great learning pressure and have high levels of test anxiety." [4]

Compared with public universities, private universities in China have a relatively short history of operating schools, but they have developed very quickly in the past decade, so the proportion of young teachers is relatively higher. Young teachers basically have a master's degree or above, and some middle-aged teachers only have bachelor's degrees. However, most private universities have employed retired professors who come from public universities, and the number of externally employed professors in some universities reaches about (15-20)% of full-time teachers, Because the teacher-student ratio is relatively low, the workload of teachers in private universities is also high, which will have a certain impact on teaching quality.

3. The Necessity of Cultivating Students' Self learning Ability, Learning Habits and Methods in Private Universities

With the rapid development of economy and the large increase of private colleges and universities and the improvement of enrollment scale, the source of students in private colleges and universities has also changed. More than a decade ago, most of them were students with relatively good family economic conditions and low college entrance examination scores. Now, students in applied private colleges and universities are mainly from rural or county areas. "The real reason for the unsatisfactory academic performance of the students in private colleges and universities is that they have not formed a good study habit. It is very necessary for them to develop a good study habit, most of whom rely only on a temporary impulse or a sudden attack before the exam." [5]

In addition, students' learning strategies are also very important; Zhang Mohan and others pointed out that
"students' learning strategies are significantly and positively correlated with learning efficiency, ability development, emotional management and learning environment satisfaction. For students in private universities, there is a large difference in learning basis. Whether they can effectively use learning strategies to improve learning quality has unique importance and urgency, with the focus on improving the level of cognitive strategy application."[6] To improve the teaching effect of private universities, in addition to improving teachers' teaching level and adopting advanced teaching methods, it is also necessary to change students' ideas and enhance students' motivation for independent learning. The basic factors of learning initiative include learning emotion, self-control, interaction and self-consciousness; In private universities, it is found that there is a significant correlation between these four factors, so there should be some internal path correlation between them, and even there may be some causal relationship, or there may be direct or indirect effects.[7]

Private universities should help students design learning goals scientifically, and give more help and support to students in psychology and learning methods. Zhang Mohan and others pointed out that "to enhance the sense of learning goal setting efficacy and the sense of learning ability judgment efficacy in students' sense of learning efficacy; at the same time, focus on the development of students' cognitive ability."[8] To improve students' ability to remember, apply, synthesize, extract and create knowledge and information, and combine teaching to carry out learning strategy training to improve students' learning efficiency. The student learning guidance center is an effective auxiliary measure to cultivate students' autonomous learning ability and develop good learning habits and methods. The successful experience of the student learning guidance center in universities at domestic and abroad also proves that the student learning guidance center can improve the teaching quality. Compared with public universities at the same level, the students in private universities have relatively low learning emotion, self-control, interaction and self-consciousness; In private universities, some students' sense of efficacy in goal setting and learning ability judgment is also relatively low. In order to improve students' learning efficiency and cultivate students' ability to learn independently and continuously, it is necessary to guide students in learning and academic aspects beyond normal teaching. The successful experience of student learning guidance centers in some domestic and foreign universities also shows that it is very necessary to set up student learning guidance centers in private universities.

4. Feasibility and Operation Mode of Setting up Student Learning Guidance Center in Private Universities

Private universities have their own characteristics of operating a school. The extracurricular activities of students are carried out very well, and the management of students' daily behaviors is relatively strict. However, some students have low learning effects, schools attach great importance to teaching quality, and it is feasible and necessary to set up student learning guidance centers. First of all, it is necessary to establish an university students' learning guidance center with relatively complete functions, integrate teachers and courses on campus, especially professors from other universities in private universities, form an efficient operating mechanism, equip professionals and guidance teachers, guide students in academic skills, academic and some courses, and help students to solve problems and puzzles encountered in the learning process, especially for freshmen in universities, Professor Gardner of the American Association for Academic Guidance pointed out that "the experience of the first year of freshmen needs the joint efforts of the whole country and the world to develop".[9] A former president of Harvard University pointed out that; "If students can successfully pass the first semester of university, they can basically complete their university life and achieve certain results." Tsinghua University and Fudan University have set up "Freshmen Guidance Course" and "Freshmen Navigation Course" respectively. Their courses are very helpful to freshmen, create a good learning atmosphere for freshmen, and provide solutions and solutions to difficulties they may encounter in their future study and life. Therefore, private university and colleges can set up "Freshmen Learning Introduction", "College Student Learning Guidance", "Time Management", "Examination preparation and examination strategy" and other courses and lectures, as well as public courses for junior students, to guide and help, make full use of the advantages of peer education, jointly establish a forum on learning and academic issues with student associations, and hold seminars and experience exchanges on learning and academic issues. The Q&A workshop, English Corner, postgraduate entrance examination forum, learning methods workshop, and the publicity of learning style construction set up by the Student Learning and Development Guidance Center of Shandong University of Technology are also very effective for the construction of learning style and the improvement of students' learning effect.

Private universities can make full use of the advantages of "Internet +" to establish a learning guidance platform for online students on campus, and link with the websites of learning guidance centers of other universities at domestic and abroad, so as to train students to effectively use the Internet, "Searching for global high-quality educational resources on the Internet, as well as guidance on learning methods, realizing the integration of high-quality educational resources and openness, and complementing resources inside and outside the classroom can promote the cultivation of
students' lifelong learning ability".[8] On these websites, students can learn a lot about learning methods, time management, overcoming exam anxiety, critical thinking, academic, scientific and business writing knowledge, methods of taking notes and learning notes, etc. Some websites of foreign universities also provide information on how to learn English and how to write English essay.

Establish a student learning guidance and consultation system, make full use of the advantages of excellent teachers and professors, provide one-to-one consultation and academic guidance to students, and provide other helps in learning and career planning. "The student learning guidance center can make up for the deficiencies in traditional teaching, play an effective complementary and extending role in classroom teaching, help strengthen the communication and interaction between teachers and students, and facilitate teachers to provide more guidance and help for students' autonomous learning".[10]

5. Conclusion

Through the operation and effect of the existing student learning guidance centers in universities at domestic and abroad, it can be concluded that the student learning guidance centers can improve students' autonomous learning ability, and the learning effect of specific students is obvious. The website can provide students with relevant methods and knowledge to improve learning effect. Private universities can combine the characteristics of teachers, teaching resources and students, learn about students' learning problems, investigate students' needs for learning and academic guidance, learn from the successful experiences of domestic and other country universities and make use of some excellent resources, set up student learning guidance and development centers, provide personalized and diversified guidance to students, and help students through answering questions, offering courses, special lectures, learning forums, workshops and online resources. To provide help and guidance for improving the teaching quality of schools and students' autonomous learning ability, it is necessary and feasible to set up student learning guidance centers in private universities.

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