

Literature Review on Vocational Education Corruption Research

Lu Song, Zhao Li

Qiannan Preschool Education College for Nationalities, Qiannan Guizhou, 551300, China

Abstract

With the rapid development of education, corruption has gradually spread, and gradually become the biggest problem facing the development of Higher education in China. Many scholars have carried out researches on the corruption of higher education, but few literatures have sorted out and analyzed the existing researches. Therefore, this study summarizes the existing studies on education corruption from three main bodies: the current situation, manifestation and governance mechanism of corruption in higher education.

Keywords

Vocational Education; Corruption; Literature review.

1. Introduction

Through over 70 years of development, education in China has made brilliant achievements, especially since reform and opening up (Dong, 2020; Zhou, 2019). The development of Vocational education with Chinese characteristics was compiled by the Vocational and Technical Education Center of the Ministry of Education of China in 2018. It points out that China's vocational education has made brilliant achievements after years of development. The achievements of vocational education include created the world's largest vocational education system, formed a basically perfect legal system of vocational education and explored flexible and diversified modes of running vocational education. China's vocational education has built a characteristic development road (Li, 2019). However, in recent years, the corruption in vocational education in China has a tendency of spreading and aggravating, which is one of the hot issues concerned by the current society and academic circles in China, and also a practical problem that cannot be avoided (Min, 2020). The corruption seriously restricts the improvement of teaching quality in vocational colleges and the accomplishment of its missions to serve the society and carry on culture, weakens its social credibility and image, and hinders the benign and healthy development of higher education in China (Cao & Hu, 2019). The severity and complexity of corruption in vocational colleges reflects that the current mechanism of corruption governance for vocational colleges has been unable to meet the demands of China and social citizens for vocational education (Liu & Li, 2021).

With the rapid development of vocational education, corruption has also begun to spread and gradually become the biggest problem facing the development of China's higher education. Without regulation, any public power can easily be abused and even lead to corruption (Cai, 2019). In order to reduce the occurrence of vocational educational corruption and increase the understanding of vocational educational corruption, it is necessary to sort out the existing related research on vocational educational corruption. Therefore, this study combs the existing research from three aspects of the current manifestation of educational corruption and corruption governance mechanism.

2. Current Situation and Characteristics of Corruption in Vocational Colleges

Corruption crime is accompanied by the development process of human political civilization, and exists to varying degrees in any country and any era, which is determined by the characteristics of power itself (Mu, 2016; Sheng, 2019). In recent years, corruption crimes in China have become more and more serious, and all kinds of corruption phenomena exposed are shocking (Du & Song; 2019). Liu (2018) comprehensively analyzed the corruption incidents in China's vocational colleges by literature analysis and case analysis, and found that the current corruption in China's vocational colleges is characterized by frequent corruption, long incubation period, hidden crime means, diversified crime themes and so on. Shi (2017) points out from the perspective of official corruption that the main characteristics of corruption in vocational colleges are as follows: a large number of corruption cases; corruption is concentrated in recruitment, personnel, infrastructure and procurement; the form of crime is strong concealment; corruption receives low social attention; the damage of corruption runs deep. Mei (2020) extensively collected the corruption incidents of vocational colleges from 2012 to 2018 from official websites such as The Inspection daily China Judgments Document Network, China Education Daily, etc. Through the analysis of these incidents, it is found that the characteristics of corruption in vocational colleges are as follows: university leaders become the subject of corruption, and collective corruption is prominent; infrastructure and logistics are the areas of high incidence of corruption; corruption lasts for a long time, latent time is long.

3. Specific Manifestations of Corruption in Vocational Colleges

At present, there are many expressions about the manifestation of corruption crime in universities. For example, Chong and Xu (2007) believed that the manifestations of corruption in universities could be classified as follows: corruption caused by the expansion of college enrollment autonomy; corruption in the procurement of infrastructure projects and the use of funds for teaching and research; corruption of leading cadres; corruption caused by imperfect financial management system. UNESCO published school Corruption: What's the Way out in 2008, which lists 5 forms of corruption, namely embezzlement, bribery, fraud, extortion and nepotism (Cao, 2010). In 2010, JiuSan Community submitted to the National People's Congress of China a proposal-Eliminating Administrative to Governance of Corruption in Universities, in which it pointed out that there were several kinds of corruption in Chinese universities, such as corruption in logistics infrastructure construction, corruption in enrollment and corruption in academic studies (Wang, 2017). Although the above statements have divided the corruption in universities from different perspectives, but most of them are just lists of some corruption phenomena, lacking certain logic, so it is not desirable. Currently, the opinion of Liu (2019) is widely accepted by the academic community (Li & Sheng, 2018; Li, 2020), he classifies corruption events in universities into economic corruption, industrial corruption and academic corruption through sorting out corruption events in recent ten years.

Economic corruption in universities refers to the corruption phenomenon found in the external and internal economic activities of universities. Such corruption crimes mostly occur in the functional departments involving finance and management (Sheng, 2019). Li and Sheng (2018) believe that economic corruption in universities refers to corruption crimes occurring in economic activities of universities. For example, the abuse of power, corruption and bribery occurred in the university infrastructure construction project and logistics management; Corrupt behavior of accepting kickbacks in the process of purchasing bulk materials such as books, teaching materials, teaching instruments and daily office equipment in universities. For example, the dean of a university was sentenced to 10 years in prison because he provided convenience for others to contract basic projects and received bribes 534000CNY. Another

example was the equipment buyer of a university who took advantage of his position to illegally accept kickbacks from others in the process of purchasing equipment and took bribes of 5000CNY.

The crime of occupation corruption in universities refers to illegally seeking profits by virtue of the particularity of occupation, taking professionalism as a kind of power, using the advantages of occupation to enrich their own pockets and make ill-gotten gains (Sun, 1996). The occupation corruption in universities mainly refers to the corruption in the activities of enrollment teaching and student management. This kind of crime in universities has obvious characteristics of the education occupation, mainly manifested in: abuse of power in enrollment work; corruption crimes such as corruption, bribery and demand in student management activities (Sheng, 2019). For example, the dean of a university illegally accepted 2230,000 CNY from the parents of 19 examinees in the recruitment process. Another example is that college counselors ask students to give gifts, otherwise they will encounter trouble in normal study.

Academic corruption in universities refers to various behaviors that officials with administrative power or academic power abuse their power to seek personal or small collective interests in academic research activities and academic management activities in universities (Sheng, 2019). There are various forms of academic corruption in universities, including the corruption in scientific research projects, the corruption in the evaluation of professional titles and the corruption in the publication of academic achievements (Li, 2017). For example, a scientific researcher in a university embezzled 1000000CNY of the team's scientific research funds; The scientific research paper provided by a university teacher when evaluating the title of associate professor was falsified.

4. The Chinese Government Attaches Great Importance to the Mechanism of Combating Corruption in Education

There are many reasons for corruption in vocational colleges, among which the imperfect corruption governance mechanism, the highly centralized power and the lack of supervision are the most important reasons (Shi, 2017; Zhang, 2016; Zhou, 2016; Yang, 2017; Liu, 2017; Mei, 2020). Power is the basis of corruption, and the lack of supervision of power creates conditions for corruption (Zhou and Dong, 2014; Guo and Zhang, 2017; Yang, 2018; Wu, 2019;). Since 2010, in the face of the severe situation of high incidence of corruption in education, the Chinese government attaches great importance to the fight against corruption, insists on both punishment and prevention, constantly promotes the design of corruption governance mechanism and institutional system. Finally, the fight against corruption has achieved a stage victory (Zhang, 2018; Mei, 2020). In 2010, The State Council of China issued The Outline of China's Long-Term Education Reform and Development Plan (2010-2020), which clearly proposed to strengthen the construction of corruption prevention system in universities, and strengthen the innovation of education, supervision, reform and system. Resolutely punish corruption in education (China State Council, 2011). In November 2011, the Ministry of Education of China formulated The Measures of the Ministry of Education on the Implementation of the Responsibility System for building Party conduct and clean Government, which calls for solid progress in the construction of a system for punishing and preventing corruption that reflects the characteristics of education, focusing on prevention and strengthening comprehensive control. In 2014, the Ministry of Education issued the Opinions of the Ministry of Education of the Communist Party of China on further promoting the construction of the system of punishing and preventing corruption in institutions of higher learning, which pointed out that we should strengthen the innovation of anti-corruption system and mechanism and institutional guarantee, unswervingly oppose corruption, and do a good job in higher education that the people are satisfied with. In 2017, Chen Baosheng, the Minister

of Education, pointed out that "the anti-corruption situation in the Education system is still severe and complex, and comprehensive efforts should be made from punishment, deterrence, restriction and supervision, Education and guidance (Ministry of Education of China, 2017).

5. Research on Corruption Governance Mechanism

At the same time, Chinese scholars have conducted in-depth studies on corruption governance mechanism from different fields. In the social field, Wang (2016) pointed out that the governance mechanism of social organization corruption in China mainly includes legal governance mechanism, action governance mechanism and structural governance mechanism, and analyzed the connotation and constituent elements of these three mechanisms and their relations. In the field of enterprise management, Chi and Zhu (2019) made an empirical analysis of the corruption governance mechanism of listed companies and pointed out that listed companies could not only suppress selfish desires through rigid governance mechanism, but also avoid corruption through flexible governance mechanism. In the field of network supervision, Li (2017) analyzed the existing problems and causes of network supervision mechanism in China's corruption governance with the help of power restriction theory, and proposed strategies to optimize network supervision mechanism. In the field of education, Mei (2020) puts forward the theory of corruption governance mechanism in vocational colleges based on the governance theory, mechanism design theory, and combining the research results of relevant scholars at home and abroad on governance mechanism and corruption governance. He pointed out that the mechanism system of corruption governance in vocational colleges includes governance motivation, governance logic, governance rules and governance process. Governance motivation refers to the functional force that promotes the operation of governance, which is generally the material force, spiritual force and information force caused by the main contradiction of governance, the transformation of power structure and the transformation of governance technology. These forces determine the intensity of governance function. Governance logic is the logical starting point of corruption governance, which determines the running direction and evaluation scale of the mechanism. Governance rules refer to the regulations and instructions for interaction and cooperation between governance participants. It stipulates how the participants undertake responsibilities, interests, conflicts and punishments. Governance process refers to the different types of governance actions taken by governance participants.

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