

The Influence of Economic Factors on Educational Philosophy: A Case Study of Fengyang, Anhui Province

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Abstract

The condition of social economy has an huge impact and influence on the development of education, in both positive and negative aspects. This paper briefly analyzes the positive effects of the economy on education, with the aim of better developing education.

Keywords

Regional economy; Development of education; Influence.

1. Introduction

Economic factors are important elements that influence the macroeconomics of an entire region. In a society where having a higher education background makes it easier to be respected, people's views on education are also much more important. Normally people with higher incomes will be more willing to spend higher amounts of money and energy on their offspring's education, especially focusing on its diversity. Those countries with higher economic growth all have one thing in common: they place a high priority on the development of education, which makes a good education one of the most important elements of economic development. The priority of education development is not only a common rule for economically and culturally backward countries to build a mature and civilized market economy, but also an inevitable choice for China to build a mature and civilized market economy. As a country is, so is the family. Some families put their hopes on their children's education, devoting all their efforts to make their children have a good educational environment in order to span across social classes. This paper will study how economic factors in Fengyang, Anhui Province affect natives' views on education.

2. Organization of the Text Related Theoretical Basis and Research Status

The educational concept is the degree to which each person values education. Education is not only limited in school, but also exists as the process of using knowledge as a tool to teach others to think about how to use what they have to create higher social wealth, to realize their self-worth, and to spread culture, so that education is the foundation of a nation. The educational concepts include the concepts of people-oriented, comprehensive development, quality education, creativity, and subjectivity.

First, the concept of people-oriented. Modern education emphasizes people-oriented, and the spirit of valuing people, understanding them, respecting them, loving them, and promoting and developing them is infused into the whole process. In the 21st century, society has evolved from a science and technology-oriented to a people-oriented era, standing for the spirit of the times. Therefore, modern education puts more emphasis on this specific concept, constantly improving people's spiritual and cultural tastes and quality of life, along with their ability to survive and develop, and promoting their own development and perfection.

Second, the concept of comprehensive development. This concept is to promote the all-round development and perfection of every student in moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetic and labor aspects (德智体美劳), and to create talents with all-round development as its mission, also

refers to the comprehensive, coordinated and free development and education of both students' body and mind. The comprehensive development is not only the simple addition of "moral, intellectual and physical" (德智体), but also the comprehensive, coordinated and free development of body and mind. Free development means that education should promote not only the healthy development of students' psychology, but also their physical development. It is important not to be biased, and not to develop students' intelligence at the expense of their physical health. An education that is too traditional could add an excessive burden on students. Since 1949, the Party and the State have made "cultivating a well-rounded person" an important part of national education policy.

Third, the concept of quality education. This concept mainly emphasizes the interaction, dialectical unity and harmonious development of knowledge, ability and quality in the overall structure of human resources. With the basic educational goal of helping students learn to explore and strengthen their qualities, this particular educational concept aims to fully develop students' potential for all kinds of qualities. Quality education is to require students to learn basic professional knowledge, but also to set up a self-request standard on their morality, so that they can be comprehensive talents. The concept of quality education lays the foundation for the function of university education, and also puts forward new requirements for contemporary college students. The quality of human being is diversified, with the comprehensive development of body and mind. The society is in need of people not only accompanied with knowledge, but also having different abilities and healthy psychological quality, otherwise it will be difficult for them to adapt to the high-tech, highly competitive society, thus difficult to compete with other nations.

Fourth, the concept of creativity. The prerequisite for creative education is the elevation of the status of human being itself and respect for his or her individual value. It is about discovering the value of people, and in the process of education, understanding that people are not machines, but independent individuals with souls and ideas. Education is not about turning people into products that come out of a mold, but about each person discovering his or her own role and value, gaining his or her rightful place and fulfilling themselves. Creative talents are the backbone of China's economic and social development at present and in the future, and the cultivation of creative talents in colleges and universities is at the same time a major initiative of strategy of invigorating China through science and education (科教兴国). Cultivating creative talents is inseparable from creative education, and the opportunity of the "double world-class project" (双一流) construction in China has put forward new requirements for universities and other institutions to cultivate creative talents, leading them to deepen their own reform and comprehensive development around this educational concept. Otherwise, the progress of a country would be dragged down by the lack of creativity.

Last but not the least, the concept of subjectivity. Subjective education is the process of mutual inspiration and guidance between the subject and the object of education, and the process of bringing into play and developing the subjectivity of the object of education, which is the concept of "student-centered" education, the core of which is to cultivate and develop the subjectivity and innovative ability of the educated.

3. Field Research and Interviews

For this study, we conducted an interview with the natives to understand the local economic situation and the public's concept of education. In comparison with several nearby villages, Xiaogang Village is not as poor as we predicted. The economic situation is relatively good, relying chiefly on tourism industry. Most of the villagers choose to give their land to enterprises, also called rural land scale. The large-scale operation of rural land can help save the cost of farming, effectively improve the productivity of agricultural labor, help liberate the surplus

labor in rural areas, and accelerate the development of rural labor to the city. Meanwhile, some villagers barely concealed their impatience or even directly leaved, which is also a reflection of a small number of people are dissatisfied with the current life or feeling disturbed by the development of Xiaogang's tourism industry.

According to the investigation results in Xiaogang, it is believed that the educational concept of subjectivity is similar to the one of people-oriented education, which is an understanding of what kind of people education cultivates based on the philosophy of subjectivity, also a concept of education or educational philosophical thought, comparing to dependent education or object education. Its basic ideas are: human being is the starting point of education; human value is the highest value of education; cultivating and perfecting human subjectivity, making it the subject of social and historical activities needed by the times; centering on students; valuing, understanding, respecting and loving people, which is also the main philosophy of one of the interviewees, Ms. Yang, in educating her children.

Table 1. Education, incomings and outgoings

		Fengyang District	Xiaogang Village
Education	Teaching quality of rural teachers	Extremely low enrollment quotas to universities of "Project 985" and "Project 211"	Relatively low undergraduate enrollment quotas
	Faculty background	Master degree	Master degree
	After-school time	Students often buy snacks and clothes along the pedestrian street.	Some of the students suffer from high pressure, while parents are not so strict with their children, only hoping them a happy and easy life.
	Remedial classes	Most of the students born after 2010 have once attended or are attending remedial classes.	Students seldom go to cram schools, while there are compulsory summer vocation classes.
Incomings and outgoings	Average incomings	80000 RMB a year	60000-70000 RMB a year
	Housing prices	Rent: 10000 RMB per month in old city region (with school districts); 15000 RMB per month in new city region	Most of the residents are natives or from nearby villages, with relatively developed tourism industry.
		The difficulty of owning real estate is not extremely high nor low for normal families.	Most of the residents feel contented enough, with a relaxing life pace, while a small amount of people are not satisfied with their living conditions.

Ms. Yang is a local resident of Xiaogang, with an annual income of about 80,000 RMB to cover her normal expenses. She has two children, one in a boarding high school and one already in college in Hefei. Ms. Yang often communicates with the school about her children's academic life to better help them achieve the desired results. Ms. Yang's children have achieved the desired grades without taking any remedial classes. The eldest son, who is studying in college in Hefei, does not have a part-time job and will return home for New Year, which shows that the original residents from Xiaogang is still very sticky to their hometown. Ms. Yang is a mother who cares a lot about her children's mental health and happiness in life. She adopts free-range parenting to enlighten her children and prefers them to be happy rather than feel very stressful

on their school works. "It's good enough that they are happy", she said. This inherits the philosophy of people-oriented education, never allowing children to sacrifice their health for academic achievements. Ms. Yang feels contented to live in Xiaogang, and there is little pressure. "Ordinary and uneventful" is her comment on her own life.

Mr. Guo, the second interviewee, is a parent who adopts the educational concept of quality and comprehensive development, contrary to examination-oriented education, aiming on improving the moral, scientific, cultural, physical, psychological and labor skills of citizens, cultivating their abilities and developing their personalities. Mr. Guo runs a snack bar in Xiaogang, earning about 100,000 RMB a year. He is willing to talk about the education of his four children, who all have been working. One of the daughters graduated from Tianjin University, and two daughters both become doctors, which is also inseparable from Mr. Guo's parenting all along, hoping that they can develop in all aspects. Mr. Guo is very pleased with their achievements, and shared his main parenting idea which is "say no to examination-oriented, say no to beat and scold, say yes to tolerance and reasoning". According to Mr. Guo elaborated, when his children were all at school, the family's outcoming was too high to sustain. However, he still put the children's education in the first place, expecting that they can get out of the countryside. Now all four children have jobs and live independently.

The third interviewee, Mr. Guan, has a propensity for creative education. The educational concept of creativity is a process in which creative students are developed by creative teachers through creative educational methods in a creative management and school environment. Creation is the transformation of previous wisdom into real creative energy, while innovation is the real efficiency of this creative transformation. Although Mr. Guan agrees to this educational idea, he is still a conservative follower of examination-oriented education and traditional filial duties. On the other hand, the income of the whole Guan's family per year is only around 70000 RMB, leaving them a relatively uptight living condition. Thus, Guan's two sons didn't show much innovation capacity, both ending up with junior college degrees. Mr. Guan's grandson is in middle school, studying for over 9 hours every day. According to him, life in Xiaogang can hardly be described as happy, but still, idle to some extent.

4. Reflection and Conclusions

Does nowadays society's over-valuing of education background put too much pressure on students? For example, an average rural 7th-grade-student now has to study for more than 10 hours a day, showing the "double reduction" policy (双减政策) does not reach to what government expected. In 2020, China's detection rate of depression among adolescents is 24.6%, of which the prevalence of adolescent females is significantly higher than that of males. Also in 2020, China's overall rate of myopia among children and adolescents is 52.7%, while 84.1% of high school students' average daily sleeping time is less than 8 hours, which is a very scary set of data. If it has become commonplace to sacrifice health for good grades, then exam-oriented education is truly in need of reforming. However, this kind of education philosophy and education method, which is detached from the needs of social development and aims to cope with all levels of entrance-examinations, has already institutionalized.

After the field research and investigation, it is found that there are some other factors that contribute to a village's strong desire for education. For example, if once there was a student achieved first place in college entrance examination from a particular village, then there would be a stronger desire for the coming generations to reach for a better education in this village. Or if a village continually suffers from poverty and hardship, then residents here would put high hope on future generations' education to leave the countryside.

The economic situation in Xiaogang is better than that in other rural areas, with an average annual income of 30,000 RMB in 2021, comparing to the one nationwide only reached 18,900

RMB. Thus, the residents of Xiaogang normally do not have a strong wish of making their children enter good colleges. However meanwhile, most of them successfully received higher education, which indicates that education may not improve the problem of inequality, but rather the economy determines education.

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