

Practice and Exploration of Linking Adult Secondary and Higher Education and Sustainable Development

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Abstract: Adult secondary education and adult higher education are two different stages and levels of education of the same nature. They play an important role in training applied skilled talents in different periods of economic and social development. Taking Shanghai's "TV Secondary School-TV University through course" as an example, this paper briefly introduces the background, significance, implementation process, and ten years of practical research results and ideas of the "through course" in order to provide suggestions and experiences for the development of adult education.

1. Introduction

Adult secondary education and adult higher education are two different stages and levels of education of the same nature. They play an important role in the cultivation of applied skilled talents in different periods of economic and social development needs ^[1]. In the middle of the 20th century, foreign countries began to implement the linking education mode between secondary vocational education and higher vocational education, closely linking secondary vocational education with higher vocational education, formulating a brand-new education system and teaching units, and using the hierarchical method to expand its teaching depth, making the teaching logical sequence clearer, the linking more compact and the learning more efficient.

Adult education, as an important foundation for the stable development of our society, plays an important role in people's life and practice. Entering the 21st century, with the transformation of China's economic growth mode, the adjustment of industrial structure, the change of the structure of social and economic development's demand for talents, it has become an indisputable fact that the demand for talents tends to a higher level. Economic development has put forward new requirements for vocational skills ^[2]. Therefore, with the development of adult higher education, it has become an important and urgent problem for the sustainable development of adult education. In this paper, taking "TV secondary school TV University through course" in Shanghai as an example, the practical results and ideas of "through course" project in the past ten years are briefly introduced, in order to provide suggestions and experience for the development of adult education.

2. Background of "through Course"

Shanghai TV Secondary Specialized School (hereinafter referred to as TV Secondary School) was founded in 1979 and was headed by Shanghai Open University. TV Secondary School subject to the administration of Shanghai Education Commission and entered its heyday with more than 42,000 students in 1998.

Since 2000, due to the adjustment of the Admission policy, many urban branches, industrial branches and learning centers of Shanghai TV Secondary School have stopped running schools. The scale of running schools has shrunk dramatically and the number of students has dropped sharply. By 2007, there were only 4,000 students in the school. Shanghai TV Secondary School has entered the trough of development.

In order to maintain a relatively stable scale of students, it is necessary to innovate the education model and develop a distinctive adult secondary education. For this reason, in 2008 Shanghai TV

Secondary School and Open University (formerly Shanghai TV University) jointly launched the “TV Secondary School-TV University Through course” mode in combination with their own school-running practice, and officially started Admission in 2009.

The “through course” mode of running a school is a set of secondary and junior high school continuous reading modes tailored for junior high school graduates. The through course is a junior college course, which is the standard to measure whether the students have the ability to continue learning. Under the guidance of Open University, the teaching is organized and the junior college teaching materials are used. The students take the examination organized by Open University. During the period of studying in TV secondary school, students shall implement “single subject accumulation, credit management” and issue secondary school graduation certificate with qualified scores. Only after passing the examination of the through course organized by Open University, can students obtain the corresponding credits of Shanghai Open University specialty, and enjoy the exemption^[3].

3. The Meaning of “through Course”

3.1 Provide a New Learning Platform for Children Who Move with Their Parents

With the rapid development of Shanghai economy, Shanghai, as a mega economic center, attracts a large number of outsiders to participate in urban construction every year. The adjustment of industrial structure and the rapid promotion and application of high and new technology require more and more workers' cultural quality and skill level^[4]. The secondary education needs of migrant workers in Shanghai are bound to show up, and they gradually become the main learners of adult secondary education. In 2007, there were 6.6 million floating population in Shanghai, among which 4.03 million migrant workers came to Shanghai, accounting for 61%. In 2008, the number of students receiving compulsory education for floating population in Shanghai exceeded 400,000, that is, about 45,000 floating children graduated from junior high school every year. A small number of them return to their domicile to continue their high school education, but most students who graduate from junior high school mean dropping out of school. These migrant children who grew up in Shanghai and completed nine years of compulsory education have in fact become “second generation immigrants”. Their parents have a strong desire for them to continue their studies, hoping to acquire professional skills and survival ability through continuing to receive academic education, thus changing their lives. Therefore, the children who move with them have become the most widely studied group in adult secondary education. The “through course” model provides seamless connection between the secondary education and higher education for the children who move with them.

3.2 Exploring the Running Path of “Overpass”

In 1998, China approved for the first time four universities to carry out a pilot program of distance education. In the following years, distance education in universities has developed rapidly. In Shanghai, which covers an area of 6,300 square kilometers, there are hundreds of learning centers in local and foreign colleges and universities, and various adult colleges and universities in the city have formed a huge circle of competition for students. Therefore, a good development of “through course” will definitely bring positive effects to the academic education of Shanghai Open University and truly implement the “overpass” of adult secondary and higher academic education.

4. The Implementation Process of “through Course”

4.1 Preliminary Construction of “Overpass” for Talent Growth

The “through course” running mode launched by Shanghai Open University and Shanghai TV Secondary School provides a brand-new running mode for TV Secondary School and even the whole domestic TV Secondary School system. In the initial period of trying to take up secondary and tertiary education, considering the continuity of relevant courses and the progressive progress

of students' basic knowledge, TV Secondary School and Open University jointly chose three public courses, namely “Introduction to the Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics”, “Practical Writing” and “Office Automation”, which are relatively easy for students to understand, as through courses.

The implementation of this project complied with the demand of adult secondary education, which reversed the situation of declining admission year after year. Since then, the number of TV Secondary School students has remained at about 2400. The exploration of the established docking mode between adult secondary education and adult higher education has also played a positive role in reserving students for the open specialties of Open University, and “through course” has initially set up a “overpass” for talent growth.

4.2 Research and Design Secondary School Docks with Junior College Major and Curriculum

From 2009 to 2013, “through course” has been running for five years and received feedback from the research. the mechanism of the “through course” docking scheme is not flexible enough, and the existing three public courses cannot meet the needs of some students. However, secondary specialized courses are mostly selected from specialized teaching materials of higher education. The teaching contents overlap with specialized courses. The depth of basic theories does not increase obviously after the secondary specialized courses are completed. The specialized theories studied by students in secondary specialized courses are repeated after the secondary specialized courses are completed. As a result, students are unable to generate enough interest in learning knowledge and waste their time and money. The branch school suggested that on the basis of public courses, some specialties closely related to the specialty should be selected, and “through course” should be designed that is layered and not repeated, and reflects the professional convergence of teaching gradient.

Subsequently, Shanghai TV Secondary School and Open University summed up the experience of integrating public courses together, studied and designed the model of professional and curriculum integration between colleges and secondary schools, and formulated the course model of professional integration to further deepen the “through course” education.

In the autumn of 2013, the specific implementation measures for TV Secondary School to integrate with Open University's “pre-school education” specialty, “logistics management” specialty and “community management” specialty were successfully launched. The total number of direct courses reached 12. So far, the “through course” school has been increasingly improved from the connection of professional courses, forming a direct course school with both public courses and professional courses. Figure 1 for direct courses.

4.3 Open Up a “High School-College through Course” to Attract Adult High School Students

According to the increasing number of students enrolled in Shanghai TV High School, TV Secondary School extends bridging education to the direct connection between high school and TV University, and adds “Open English I” and “Office Automation” courses to high school, in an effort to enable TV Secondary School adult high school students who did not originally enroll in colleges and universities as the main ones to continue to enroll in TV University after graduation. Thus, a “high school-college through course” has been set up, forming a through course for TV secondary school-Open university education.

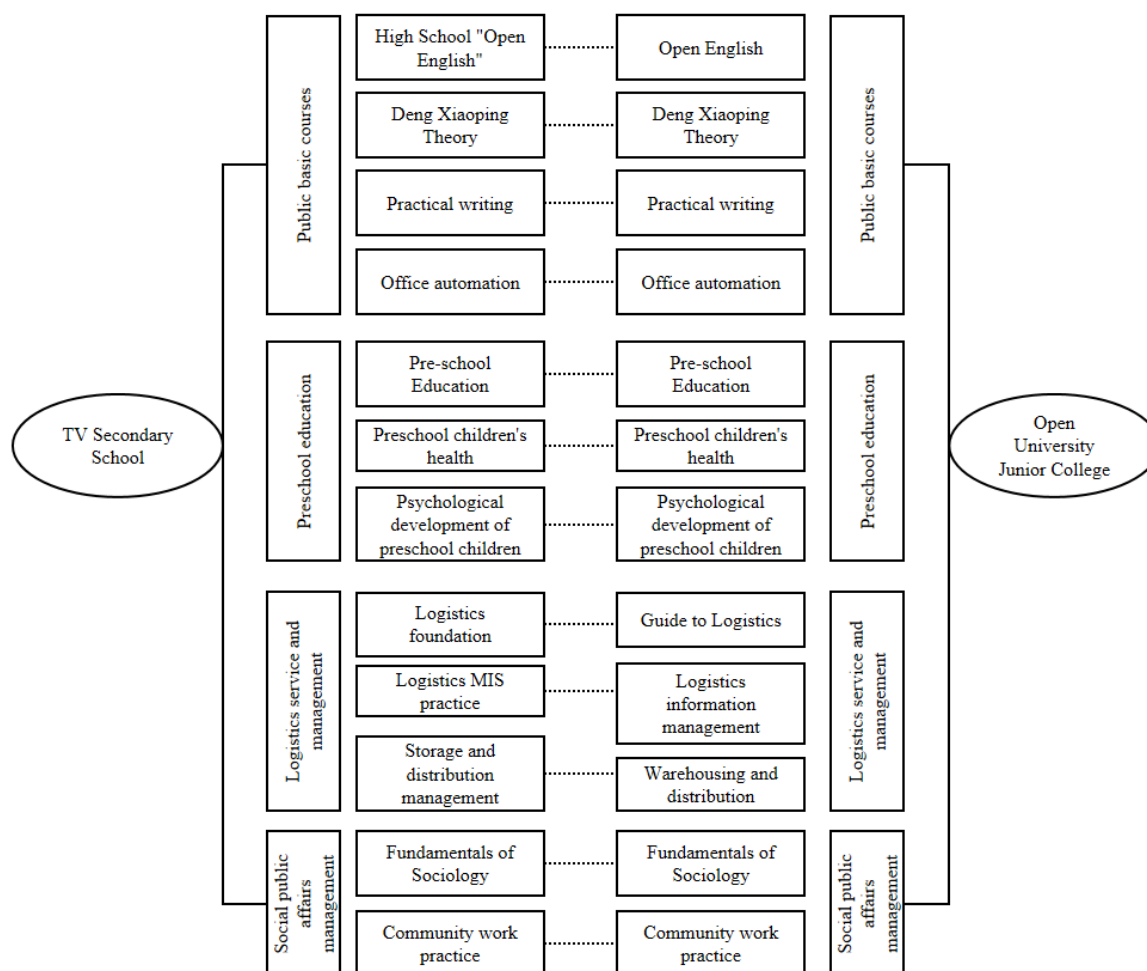


Figure 1 2013 Tv Secondary School-Open University through Course

5. Defining the Mission of Running a School and Breaking through the Bottleneck of Development

Enter a new era and start a new journey. In the new era, the party and the state have clearly proposed to actively participate in the construction of a lifelong education system and promote the construction of a learning society. This is a new historical mission given by the party and the state, and it is also the way for Shanghai TV Secondary School to adapt to the times. The leadership of the TV Secondary School realized that without scale, there would be no development. To expand the scale of the school, it is necessary to clarify the path and mode of running the Shanghai TV Secondary School.

Since 2016, the leaders of TV Secondary School have led many research tours to various districts, enterprises, Anhui, Jiangsu and other places. They have held many seminars, listened extensively to the opinions of the Education Commission, Open University leaders, experts and front-line principals, and explored the mission, mission and mode of running Shanghai TV Secondary School. Through investigation, it is determined that Shanghai TV Secondary School is an important link in the lifelong education system, an important supplement to the construction of a learning-oriented city, and a school-running orientation of an important position for migrant workers in cities to improve their cultural quality and academic level. Under the framework of Shanghai's construction of first-class open education, Shanghai TV Secondary School has made clear its mission of creating an "overpass" of lifelong education for students with diversified school-running modes, open school-running concepts and effective export channels. It has established the mission of Shanghai TV Secondary School to uphold morality and cultivate people, cultivate "aspiring, responsible and loving" socialist builders, and contribute TV Secondary School's strength to the construction of a learning society in Shanghai, promote educational equity and enrich

educational supply. Through investigation, it is found that TV secondary school has not only accumulated the relevant experience of academic education connection, but also has the conditions to carry out diversified school running on the basis of many years of direct course project. Therefore, Shanghai TV secondary school started TV secondary school on the basis of direct opening of TV Secondary School -Open University School and adult college entrance examination, online college entrance examination, art college entrance examination and other secondary and higher education running and practice, promote the rapid expansion of TV secondary school running scale, and also play a positive role in the reserve of Open University ^[5].

6. Results of “through Course”

In the past ten years, the implementation of the “through course” model has effectively eased the decline of TV Secondary School students. Entering a new era, on the basis of the “through course” project, Shanghai TV Secondary School, with the care and support of the leaders of the Education Commission and Open University, has promoted the continuous growth of the student scale through all employees' overcoming difficulties and pioneering and innovative diversified school-running modes. By 2019, the number of students in TV Secondary School reached 13,616, the highest number since 2003. TV Secondary School has entered a new stage of development.

From 2009 to 2019, the “through course” program has been in operation for ten years and has become the main mode of running Shanghai TV secondary schools. The number and percentage of through course students are as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 from 2009 to 2019, the Number and Proportion of through Course Admissions

Year of enrollment	Enrolment Number	Enrolment of Through Course	Proportion
2009	1478	1263	85.5%
2010	1316	918	69.8%
2011	1304	1082	83.0%
2012	1645	1331	80.9%
2013	1556	1271	81.7%
2014	1095	867	79.2%
2015	1813	1443	79.6%
2016	1678	1304	77.7%
2017	1492	991	66.4%
2018	2386	1439	60.1%
2019	3631	2131	58.7%
Total	19394	14040	72.4%

Table 2 Students in TV Secondary School in the Past Four Years (2016.9-2019.9)

Past years		
Year	Number of students in school	Remarks
2016	5068	
2017	7456	47% higher than 2016
2018	10116	99.6% higher than 2016
2019	13616	168.7% higher than 2016

Table 3 TV Secondary School “through Course” Students in 2016-2019

Year	Number of Secondary School Students	Number of Through Course Students	Remarks
2016	2276	1650	
2017	2755	1922	17% higher than 2016
2018	3457	2193	33% higher than 2016
2019	5241	3220	95% higher than 2016

As can be seen from Table 1, the number of “through course” students are increasing year by year. Through course has effectively activated the admissions of TV Secondary School, reversed the unstoppable decline rate of TV Secondary School for many years, and played an irreplaceable role in maintaining a certain school scale. Similarly, Table 1 also reflects that from 2016 to 2019, the proportion of “through course” admissions are gradually decreasing, with two main points: first, the number of prison schools (through course) has been reduced by half compared with the previous one; On the other hand, the development of other diversified schools in TV Secondary School has greatly increased the total number of students in TV Secondary School. For details of the number of students in TV Secondary School in recent four years and the number of students in TV Secondary School through course in recent four years, please refer to Tables 2 and 3.

Practice has proved that the correct orientation, mission and mode of running a school are the key to the breakthrough of TV Secondary School's development in the past ten years. Shanghai TV Secondary School's distinctive mode of running a school has set up a new path to success for those students who need to improve their academic qualifications.

7. Conclusion

The convergence of secondary and higher education is the only way for the development of adult education and vocational education in our country. It is a breakthrough in secondary education, a perfection of higher education, and an innovation to adapt to social and economic development under the new situation ^[6]. Tv secondary school-TV university through course has been implemented for ten years and has achieved the effect of turning over students. However, scientific, reasonable and easy-to-operate teaching management system and corresponding management system should be established in the curriculum setting. On the basis of fully clarifying the “through course” education, Shanghai Open University and TV Secondary School will continue to carry out exploration and research on the training mode of adult medium and high-level talents, in the optimization of talent training programs, the cultivation of teaching staff, and the compilation of teaching materials. , The development of curriculum standards and other aspects to strive to build an advantageous platform to contribute to the construction of a lifelong education system.

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