

Preliminary Investigation of the Interest Education of Retired College Teachers under Lifelong Education

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Abstract: China has a large base of aging population, and its speed entering the aging society and the growth rate are higher than the average level of the world; however, China's awareness and actions against the population aging are relatively backward. Aging education is an important part of lifelong education; more importantly, it is an important manifestation of education to deal with the aging society. The interest education of retired college teachers is an important component of the aging education and lifelong education; laying a solid foundation for the interest education of retired college teachers would make great contributions to China's aging education. Helping the retired college teachers to realize second advancement and promotion of their enterprises, as well as realizing self-values via the guiding method of interest education is an essential way under the scientific outlook on development. The realization of the interest education of retired college teachers lies in three steps; i.e. intensifying college teachers' acknowledgement of the interest education, building and perfecting the interest education institutions for the college teachers, as well as conducting the interest education of the retired college teachers.

Keywords: Lifelong education; Retired college teachers; Interest education

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1. Introduction

2016 Statistical Bulletin for National Economic and Social Development of the PRC indicates that the proportion of the population aged 60 and above account for 16.7% and the population aged 65 and above account for 10.8% of the total population. China has a large base of aging population, and its speed entering the aging society and the growth rate are higher than the average level of the world; however, China's awareness and actions against the population aging are relatively backward. College teachers are our country's important human resources and possess excellent humanistic qualities. It is necessary to guide them through interest education to make good use of their talents and bring strong contributions to the development of the society within a certain period after their retirement; in addition, this would help the college teachers to realize personal progress and development, improve their life quality and happiness index

while fully exploring such high-quality human resources.

2. Connotation of the Retired College Teachers' Interest Education

The concept of lifelong education was first raised by Paul Lengrand in 1965 at the meeting of the third international committee of promoting adult education held by the UNESCO. He published *An Introduction to Lifelong Education* in 1970 and pointed out that the main features of the lifelong education are the lifelong nature of the education time, full inclusion of the target and the integration of the methods. Undoubtedly, aging education is an important part of lifelong education; more importantly, it is an important manifestation of education to deal with the aging society. The interest education of retired college teachers is an important component of the aging education and lifelong education; laying a solid foundation for the interest education of retired college teachers would make great

contributions to China's aging education. In China's current practice, aging education is a pretty narrow concept; it refers to the non-academic education offered to the elderly to improve their ideological, ethical, scientific and cultural qualities, helping them to increase their knowledge, enrich their lives, cultivate their tastes, promote their health and serve the society^[1]. Retired college teachers is an important component of the aging education community, and also an important group of China's lifelong education and aging education. This group has a high concentration of medium and senior intellectuals of China's elderly. The interest education of the retired college teachers aims to guide them to participate in the aging education voluntarily through interest education, guide them to be aware of the dominant role among the elderly and assist them to fully realize their life values.

3. The Necessity for Conducting the Interest Education of Retired College Teachers

3.1 Guide Their Positive Cognition of the Retirement Life

Conducting the interest education of the retired college teachers has crucial significance. College teachers worked hard on their teaching posts for a fairly long time, once they reach the retirement age and leave their posts, they'd get lonely very easily. They will get trapped in the small circle once they retire from the busy the rich teaching posts, which is harmful to their physical and psychological conditions. Since they lose the defined living and learning targets, they will relax their vigilance both physically and mentally. Therefore, conducting interest education for them can offer an opportunity and channel for the teacher community to make wider contact with the society, cultivate sentiment, adjust their bodies and minds, firm their beliefs and cultivate their tastes; all these would improve the life quality of the retired teacher community^[2]. Meanwhile, retired college teachers possess features not possessed by other elderly groups, include high technology, high quality and high taste. Conducting interest education of them can expand their capabilities and standards besides their works, cultivate their wide interests and hobbies, specialties and disciplinary strengths, make them keep contributing to society at the later stage of their lives, as well as providing strong thrust forces for the society's development while improving their personal values.

3.2 Guide the Active Construction of Lifelong Development

Conducting the interest education of retired college teach-

ers also fully reflect China's Scientific Outlook on Development. It is beneficial to stimulate the self-cognition of lifelong development and initiative of the retired college teachers by satisfying their psychological needs, health needs and spiritual destination via people-oriented interest education. Since the teacher community possesses a solid cultural base, their endowment is crucial for the smooth running of the interest education; meanwhile, at the age of retirement, they are free from the household affairs and can devote fully into the interest education; they also have certain willingness and material conditions to support the second growth and progress of their own capabilities.

4. The Possibility for Conducting the Interest Education of Retired College Teachers

4.1 The Interest Education of the Retired College Teachers Has Started

From the current development condition, many college teachers would start their career of interest teachers after retirement; many science teachers usually continue their work; they'd use social resources and their own strengths and working on industry-university-research cooperation in enterprises, or they'd establish their own economic entity via financing; retired teachers used to teach laws and economics would probably use their specialties again to be legal consultants and engage in corporate management etc.^[3]; or retired teachers may expand their interests and hobbies and find suitable cultural or sports activities; at the same time, some teacher communities establish groups for information exchange to demonstrate their values. The above interest activities organized by the teachers themselves indicate that the teacher community has full preparation and longing for the interest education. Under such a trend, conducting the interest education of the retired college teachers is imperative.

4.2 Retired College Teachers Possess the Educational Resources for Conducting Interest Education

An important link in conducting the interest education of retired college teachers is the issue about the teacher resources. Among them, China's comprehensive universities and normal universities have sufficient teaching equipment and resources. They can effectively push the strong development of the interest education via integration of the teaching faculty strength and equipment resources; for example, teachers interested in sports can contact a retired PE teacher of a university to solve the educational resource issue effectively via appropriate stimulation and making the best use of the circumstance; meanwhile,

for retired teachers who love calligraphy, singing and dancing; they could carry out cultural and entertainment activities with other retired teachers with the same interests. All in all, there is a relatively big loyal group of the interest education among the retired teacher community. Many teachers have made plans for their retirements. At the same time, the human resources and interest resources possessed by the college teachers allow them to realize their interest education without any barrier and can stimulate the teachers' initiative for the interest learning. The retired college teachers also possess rich knowledge and skills as well as corresponding start-up resources when they decide to do business again; many teachers could realize independent entrepreneurship and in turn, their own values through reasonable organization and utilization of resources. Colleges shall offer strong supports to the retired teachers' interest education during the period; this can also boost the efficient utilization of resources to a certain extent.

4.3 Colleges Have both Comprehensive Veteran Cadres' Center and Organization Structure

Normally, the veteran cadres' centers built by colleges have sufficient staffs and wide space for cultural and entertainment activities and can satisfy the retired teachers to engage in playing chess, cards and mahjong etc., they also allow the retired teachers to sing and dance. According to relevant investigation, the cultural and entertainment activities of teachers are often self-organized and the management personnel of the activity centers only coordinate and manage the spaces. We can see that the retired teachers do possess sufficient initiative in conducting interest interactions; from the organization effects and quality, we can see that they do possess sufficient ability to organize these activities well. At the same time, the veteran cadres' centers in colleges provide platforms for smooth running of such activities. Although issues on funds, teaching content, personnel and schoolhouse may exist during the interest activities, the interest education of the retired college teachers can develop from small to big, from point to surface with the active organization and preparation by the retired college teachers and the activity venues provided by the colleges.^[4]

5. Channels for the Interest Education of the Retired College Teachers

5.1 Enhance the Theoretical Exploration of the Interest Education of the Retired College Teachers

In order to effectively promote the interest of retired

teachers in education, colleges must vigorously carry out public education on interest education and theoretical research, to create a relaxed social atmosphere for the interest of teachers in colleges, but also enable each member of colleges can profoundly recognize the retired teachers' importance of interest education to ensure the interest of retired teachers education can be smoothly carried out in the context of the interaction of all parties. The specific approach is to establish a sound research team and fully analyze the researches on the reality, feasibility, necessity, mode, principle, purpose and operation of retired teachers in interest education. In this way, to achieve the effect of the transition from theoretical research to practical operation, to achieve the re-education of teachers of interest from scratch, and through careful consideration of why, what and how to solve the idea for the development of interest education to lay a sound theoretical foundation for research, so as to ensure follow-up practice to explore evidence-based, but also on the use of resources in colleges and universities and in the community to conduct a full study, and through continuous publicity of interest in the importance of education and necessity to change the thinking and behaviors of retired teachers, and thus enhance the feasibility of retired teachers' interest education.

5.2 The Colleges Shall Establish the Organization Structures to Carry Out the Interest Education of the Retired College Teachers

The colleges' Party committees shall actively establish the organizations for retired teachers' interest education; they shall first be aware of the interest education conditions of the retired college teachers and adjust their working ideas actively. Currently, the cultural and entertainment activities conducted in the activity centers engaged by the retired college teachers do not belong to the interest education; though their natures and connotations are related, their essences are different. The very basic feature of the interest education is to improve the teachers' self-values and create high-quality human resources via the establishment of comprehensive teaching faculty and set up interest subjects suitable for retired college teachers. When constructing the educational organization structure, the colleges must fully realize the deep connotation of interest education and shall actively call the management to prepare the interest educational organization structure. At the same time, the teaching faculty is also an important resource in conducting the interest education, many teachers of the interest education hold important posts in colleges and may not have enough time or energy. Teaching staffs from the society can be hired to enrich the faculty structure of the retired teachers' interest edu-

cation. All in all, both economics and the teaching faculty resources must be enough, so that the interest education activities and institutions for the retired college teachers can run smoothly.^[5]

5.3 The Colleges Shall Conduct Interest Education with the Veteran Cadres' Organizations as the Carriers

The reasonable planning of the interest teaching contents is very important to the smooth running of the interest educational activities; many retired teacher groups are formed by individuals and this provides a convenient channel for conducting the interest education for the retired college teachers. Among them, there are sports and exercise platform, cultural and entertainment platform, social interaction platform and second pioneering platform. The colleges shall categorize the teachers under different platforms according to their interests and hobbies and guide the teachers to elect their own leaders of the groups; and set flexible learning modes based on the learning progress and learning modes of the teacher community. The colleges shall construct the interest learning mode and combine theory and practices, and guarantee the teaching quality of the interest education while preserving the retired teachers' body function.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, the interest education of retired college teachers is an important part of China's elderly education. Because the retired college teachers possess high profession skills and humanistic quality, redevelopment of their potentials is crucial for the enrichment of China's human

resources and lifelong education. In order to guarantee the smooth running of the interest education of the retired college teachers, the colleges shall assume the largest responsibility; they shall first publicize the interest education, actively establish and prepare the learning institutions by mobilizing all personnel related; they shall also formulate scientific learning schemes according to the physical functions and learning features of the retired college teachers, make sure the interest education of the retired college teachers can run smoothly.

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