Construction and Strategies in Economics and Management Emulation Laboratory in Higher Education of China

HU Fang^{[a],*}; ZHOU Xiaolin^[a]; ZHANG Aiwei^[a]

^[a]Lecturer. School of Economics & Management, Changchun University of Science and Technology, Changchun, China. *Corresponding author.

Received 23 June 2013; accepted 3 September 2013

Abstract

The construction of economics and management laboratory has become a common understanding of the economics and management subject in the development of higher education in China, but the constructing immersion teaching experimental environment does not keep in pace with increasing requirement. In this paper, combining with the fact of the laboratory center, we investigate some related problems on the construction of comprehensive emulation laboratory of economy management and propose some relative strategies for development.

Key words: Economics and management; Emulation laboratory; Higher education; Construction

HU Fang, ZHOU Xiaolin, ZHANG Aiwei (2013). Construction and Strategies in Economics and Management Emulation Laboratory in Higher Education of China. *Higher Education of Social Science*, 5(3), 49-53. Available from: URL: http://www.cscanada. net/index.php/hess/article/view/j.hess.1927024020130503.2829 DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.3968/j.hess.1927024020130503.2829

1. NECESSITIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT LABORATORY

1.1 Construction of an Economics and Management Laboratory Is an Effective Way to Cultivate Compound Talents

The primary goal of cultivation in the majors of economics and management is "wide knowledge, thick foundation, application and innovation", with the function to cultivate the students' practical ability and professional personnel training ability to solve problems. During the processing of theory education, we must pay attention to the education practices to students. The generalized scope of experimental teaching includes experiment, special professional training, comprehensive practice etc, which are important methods in cultivating talents. Therefore, we should pay more attention to the construction of laboratory in economics and management major and experiment teaching in colleges and universities.

The construction of laboratory in the economics and management majors will be a very important practical simulation platform. It's a project of construction with software and hardware and its economic benefits and social benefits cannot merely be illustrated by specific figures. The main task of higher education is to cultivate high-quality talents; talent value cannot be measured by benefit. The economic management laboratory construction and development will provide a powerful effect on teaching professional. It can improve teaching effect of practice training in the economics and management majors greatly and provide good hardware and software environment for the cultivation of composite type, application type talents, so as to improve the quality of talent training and bring great economic and social benefits to the society.

1.2 Construction Meets the Requirement of Teaching and Scientific Research Development

Teaching and scientific research are integrated intercommunication with each other. The construction of laboratory provides a platform for the relevant professional teachers in teaching and scientific research, which offer conditions and create environment for improving the quality of teaching. The achievements in scientific research can be used not only in teaching, but also in guiding student in internship, so that's a perfect combination between theory and practice. The construction of laboratory in economics and management majors depends on experimental teaching and social service content design and development from the economic management of scientific research of new technologies. Conversely, the achievements in scientific research can also serve the society and it will become a new starting point and a new foundation for research. So the laboratory in economics and management majors could build one communication platform, both in integration and in social reality, which is to explore and seek the construction and development in higher education. The development of information technology provides a new method and tool for scientific research and economic management, and widen the research space of the subjects of economic management, economic management discipline in the traditional qualitative, pure speculative type as the research methods and means the subject has become increasingly unsuited to the requirements of social development, and the economic management laboratory provides modern economic management of scientific research platform for researchers and teachers, to study economic management problems from the analysis of the current situation of development for the future. At the same time can also be multi joint, give full play to the resource advantages, development to the society, the enterprise oriented research activities and training activities, to undertake the project research enterprise solutions, instruct enterprise practice, the perfect combination a theory and practice, and make it become an important platform for social services.

1.3 Construction of Economics and Management Laboratory Is the Fundamental Way to Solve Specialty Practice Problems

The lacks of specialty practice have become a long-term problem in the majors of economy and management. From the point of view in business, with serious competition in the market economy environment, the enterprises encounter a series of problemS such as full schedule, heavy working pressure, so they cannot make the time to arrange the practice schedule for the students and no more available profit. Sometimes they have to cope with it for the personal relationship and partnership with high school. Meanwhile, with the development and maturity of the computer hardware, software technology and the scale of enterprises, most steps in management and transaction processing in big and medium-sized enterprise have been dealt with by computer processing. According to the considerations of system data security and confidentiality, even if they accepted practice, they will not let students contact with the system directly without experience. Therefore, actually, there is no working opportunity for the students in the practice and they cannot participate the real processing of management and transaction. Although students are able to recognize that the internship is a practical application combined with training opportunity, for the lack of funds and the concentrated practice time, site dispersed the practice teacher's guidance and answering questions, the production practice is often a mere formality and it cannot achieve the desired effect. Facing the social reality which brings to the activity teaching of economic management major difficulties, the construction of laboratory in economics and management major has become an important link of practice teaching in universities.

2. PROBLEMS OF THE CONSTRUCTION IN ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT LABORATORY AND ITS ANALYSIS

With the increasing attention of the laboratory construction, more and more university has made a big progress in the planning of construction in economics and management laboratory. But many problems still exist influenced by the higher educational environment, finance method and other factors.

2.1 Backwardness of Experimental Teaching Idea and Lack of Understanding of the Role of Experimental Teaching

In recent years, some of the universities have built a series of high level laboratory, but in most of their teaching idea, the teachers still are considered as the main role and the center of the model, with the lack of independent analysis of students and cultivate the ability to solve practical problems. Compared with the theory courses, experimental courses of economics and management majors are in a lower position, which directly affects the teaching practice. Some of the colleges and universities with the majors in science and technology still prefer to invest in the science and engineering laboratory which can bring obvious benefit, so that it leads to backwardness in the construction of economics and management laboratory.

Many limitations and shortcomings still exist in the experimental facilities and staff. The teaching content of economics and management in practice courses cannot keep in path with the curriculum course system. Subsequent courses have been arranged without relevant economics and management elective courses, and it always happened in various professional groups. The interface is not enough on the knowledge system of the courses and we lack the necessary practice teaching. With the enlargement of the gap between theory and practice, students can only learn some skills and knowledge of economics and management without any constitute curriculum system. So the difficulties of communication between teachers and students increase and so does the quality of experimental teaching in a certain extent.

2.2 Poor Effect of Emulation Laboratory in Teaching of Practice and Comprehensive Skills in Economics and Management Majors

Many enterprises consider the students in practice as a burden, so they will not let students touch the core sector and related management affairs with the prevention of disclosure in commercial secrets. Especially for the students of economics and management majors, it became worse. The students who major in the finance are not allowed to access to credit during the practice in the financial department, and students who major in the management and marketing cannot understand the enterprise a full set of production processes and marketing planning, the students cannot contact with foreign customers during the department internship. We cannot achieve the predetermined effect through the practice. Although some universities have established a number of practice bases off campus, they can only make sure the supply of practice place, main problems during practice cannot be deal with according to the operating result. Due to local personnel changes and other factors, the content of practice is limited and vulnerable, which result in many off campus practice base cease to exist except in name. The experimental teaching software to buy, developed and lack of strength, the experiment teaching content, means and method of backward, out of touch with the modern information technology and the contents of subject construction, economic management experimental room set up, most for students to learn the basic knowledge of computer and Internet access to information, simply cannot carry out research and innovative experiment.

Influenced by traditional teaching ideas, many of the leading believe that experiment teaching is assistant work of the teaching, which result in the experiment and theory of teacher cannot equal pay for equal work, the teacher is very difficult to have the opportunity to further their education, and it is difficult to "go out" to communicate with other institutions. Although the experimental teaching is very important, but because of driven by economic interests, so the majority of teachers are not willing to be engaged in the experimental teaching, and even many of the teachers did not know how to carry out the experimental teaching and designing the experimental teachers team.

2.3 Imbalance in the Experimental Teaching and Theory Teaching

In such a long time, we pay more attention to the curriculum theory teaching in the economics and management majors. On the contrast, the courses of experiment and the experimental teaching are considered as supplementary course to the theory teaching. Some of the experimental courses are just repeated in the content of theory teaching by computer. Experimental teaching becomes more and more formality and no more attention were paid to the reform and innovation of experimental teaching because of the stereotypes in education. Some courses in experimental teaching become more and more formality. Due to the lack of effective experimental teaching syllabus and textbooks, students have no reference and analytical experimental guide which make the effect of experiment worse.

2.4 Quality of Experimental Teachers Needs to Improve

Compared with professional teacher, the salary of experimental teacher is slightly low, and the chance of promotion is more difficult relatively with less experience in higher education. So most of the experimental teachers lack enthusiasm for work, which result in the low effect in the management of experimental teaching. And the experimental teachers with higher educational background prefer not to join the team. Modern education needs qualified experimental teachers and the quality of experimental teachers needs to be improved.

3. STRATEGIES OF CONSTRUCTION IN ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT EMULATION LABORATORY

3.1 To Reform Experiment Teaching and Experiment Teaching System

To bring up the high quality skill-oriented talents, colleges must reform the management system of professional laboratory, strengthen the training of teachers to improve the quality of faculty, increase the investment, upgrade instruments and equipment, and enhance the hardware construction. We should pay more attention to the reform of experimental teaching system, leaching materials construction, administrative system and opening form. We should build one series of mechanisms which construct a scientific experiment teaching system in terms of reforming laboratory administration system, deepen experiment teaching reform, and strengthen the supervision of experiment teaching quality and improving working conditions of laboratory technicians.

In view of the problems in laboratory construction, we should make the discussion in the work of laboratory construction in colleges and universities in terms of fostering the thought of laboratory construction, and the establishment of rules and regulations, stability of the staff, and the verification of the plan of purchase of apparatus and management of the purchase of low-cost consumable materials. On the basis of grasping the current situation of university education technology laboratory, we should make the plan in how to construct and reform the laboratory, with using the open laboratory teaching pattern. Aiming at the problems that construction and management exist in university laboratory, we should put forward the direction that training the student ability to innovate and strengthening university laboratory construction, which has certain reference meaning to university laboratory construction.

3.2 To Make Different Levels in the Experimental **Courses and Diversified in the Teaching Method**

We should strengthen the construction of extracurricular open experimental teaching system. Extracurricular experiment is a continuation of the experiment, some students in class experiments with operation, the capacity of understanding and grasping is low, which cannot make full use of extracurricular experiment to master. In addition, the extracurricular experiment also is a kind of organization of open experiment; students can apply for the test items, the laboratory approval test. We let the students participate the project in practice according to their own expertise and preferences, with creating an open, free experiment environment.

Meanwhile, we should approve the method of differentlevel teaching. The teaching experiments are divided into three phases, which are prophase preparing phase, applying collaborative study to the researching study phase, and summing up phase. In the original form of teaching, more general verification experiment and less designed experiment in experiment teaching, according to the independent class in the university, the whole experiment teaching is beneficial to teaching in different levels.

The first level is just demonstrating, simulation operation. In this level we mainly intend to train the students to seek from facts and scientific attitude, to cultivate the students' practical ability and to master the basic skills test. We require students to master the methods and steps of basic experiments, finish the experiment report with skilled independent completion of the experiment by using the familiar routine experimental equipment, under the guidance of teachers.

The second level is just in the design of the main experiment. This is the main stage of the training of students' independent thinking ability and design ability. The experimental scheme, steps and the required equipment should be completed by the students themselves, their selection for the deployment of experimental instruments, software and so on. Through the experimental teaching, we can make them more comprehensive and design in the University during the period of operation of the ability to obtain the real culture.

In the third level, we can set up comprehensive elective experiment course gradually. Students are required to complete some experimental project with more difficulties or more challenges which can design their own hobbies and all experiments were performed by using the conditions of the laboratory. In the implementation process of the experiment, we can also hold some comprehensive experiment design competition and examination, in order to foster innovation ability. For the students with relatively solid foundation, strong practical ability, we should offer

them enough space to explore the spirit of team-work, and they can help the teacher to complete the research project, not only in further stimulate the enthusiasm of students, but also in the achievement of the experiment teaching and scientific research.

3.3 To Build the Laboratory System of Multiple Functional Adapt to the Majors in Economics and Management

The requirements of teaching and scientific research are both important, but there are still differences, especially in the majors of economics and management. Therefore, the lab will adapt to the different requirements of teaching and scientific research with different functional forms. We should build a large-scale experimental center of corresponding or multi-functional laboratory wide coverage, comprehensive to ensure the sustainable development of laboratory construction and reform, according to the needs of the professional teaching reform in University and the classification of experimental curriculum system and experiment. Also we should establish a new model of simulation teaching and practice basement.

With the instruction of the development of market demand and major characteristics, we should make full use of school resources, to seek the cooperation and support actively, to find the effective operation mode among the university, research institute and enterprise based on cooperation mechanisms and common development, to establish a new model of the social practice, with the combination between scientific research work and practice training, to establish a new model of scientific research training, research training mode to College students.

CONCLUSION

The construction of economics and management laboratory and experiment teaching system construction are still in the exploration stage. In general, many colleges' economics and management laboratories can only satisfy the need of basic teaching. Most experimental projects only play a role of validation or training, and further exploration and research should be implemented in improving the students' ability of innovation and application in the experiment teaching process. The traditional teaching mode cannot meet the needs of modern talent cultivation in the majors of economics and management. Teaching and scientific research must be closely combined with experimental teaching. To build strong business capability, experiment teaching team of professional and technical skills is a pressing matter of the moment. Therefore, in the process of construction in economics and management laboratory, we must recognize the necessity of laboratory construction and put forward some strategies. From the aspects of laboratory hardware and software, we should try to realize the combination and cultivation of qualified, high-level economic management talents for social and economic development.

REFERENCES

- Miao, Q. R. (2010). The research on experiment method and cultivation of talent. *Education Research*, (10).
- Wu, L. (2012). The analysis of experiment teaching and cultivating innovative ability. *Information Science*, (07).
- Yin, E. S. (2009). The research on some issues of economics and management laboratory. *Research and exploration in laboratory*, (07).
- Zhang, X. (2010). A comparative study on the economic and management specialty laboratory construction mode. *Journal of Southwestern Normal University*, (05).
- Zhao, G. M. (2011). Exploration on the construction of experimental teaching system in the management of the economy. *Journal of North China Institute of Technology*, (01).