

# Research On the Influence of Entrepreneurship Education in Vocational Colleges and Universities on Enhancing Students' Innovative Ability

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**Abstract:** Innovation ability is one of the important qualities needed for the current social development, and vocational colleges, as an important base for cultivating applied talents, undertake the important task of cultivating students' innovation ability. Therefore, it is of great significance to study the influence of entrepreneurship education in vocational colleges on students' innovation ability. The purpose of this paper is to explore the influence of entrepreneurship education in vocational colleges on enhancing students' innovation ability and analyze its influence mechanism. Firstly, the definition and characteristics of entrepreneurship education, and the concept and importance of students' innovation ability are elaborated. Secondly, it discusses the specific impact of entrepreneurship education on students' innovation ability, including the cultivation of innovative thinking, entrepreneurial awareness, teamwork and practical ability. Then, it analyzes the influence mechanism of educational content and curriculum, faculty construction, practical teaching mode, school culture and atmosphere, and school funding policy on students' innovation ability. Finally, countermeasure suggestions such as improving the curriculum system, strengthening the construction and training of faculty, promoting the combination of industry, academia and research, creating a cultural atmosphere of innovation and entrepreneurship, and increasing the support are put forward to promote the enhancement of students' innovation ability.

**Keywords:** Entrepreneurship Education; Innovation Ability; Vocational Colleges and Universities

## 1. Introduction

With the rapid development of social economy and the continuous progress of science and technology, innovation ability has become one of the important qualities needed in the current society. Innovation ability is not only a key factor in promoting social progress and economic development, but also the basis for personal success and career development. Under such a background, the importance of cultivating students' innovation ability has become more and more prominent in the education sector. Vocational colleges and universities, as an important base for cultivating applied talents for the society, undertake the important task of cultivating specialists adapted to the needs of modern industries. In vocational colleges and universities, entrepreneurship education, as a special form of education, aims to cultivate students' innovative consciousness, innovative thinking and innovative ability in order to adapt to the rapidly changing social needs and innovation-driven economic development. Therefore, it is of great theoretical and practical value to study the impact of entrepreneurship education on students' innovation ability in vocational colleges.

## 2. The Relationship Between Entrepreneurship Education and Students' Innovation Ability

### 2.1 Definition and Characteristics of Entrepreneurship Education

Entrepreneurship education is a form of education aimed at cultivating students' entrepreneurial spirit and innovation ability<sup>[1]</sup>. It emphasizes students' practical ability and teamwork spirit in the process of entrepreneurship, and encourages students to be innovative and realize their self-worth. Compared with traditional discipline education, entrepreneurship education pays more attention to cultivating students' creativity, innovative

thinking and practical ability. It not only pays attention to students' knowledge learning, but also pays more attention to students' ability cultivation and quality improvement.

Entrepreneurship education has the following characteristics: firstly, it focuses on cultivating students' creative consciousness and innovative thinking. By stimulating students' innovative potential and cultivating innovative thinking, entrepreneurship education encourages students to come up with unique solutions when facing problems and cultivates their ability to take risks and accept challenges. Secondly, entrepreneurship education focuses on cultivating students' entrepreneurial awareness and entrepreneurial ability. Entrepreneurship education enables students to understand the entrepreneurial process and entrepreneurial environment by carrying out practical entrepreneurial activities and simulated entrepreneurial projects, cultivating their entrepreneurial spirit and entrepreneurial ability, and equipping them with entrepreneurial awareness and ability. Finally, entrepreneurship education focuses on cultivating students' practical ability. Entrepreneurship education emphasizes the cultivation of students' practical operation and practical problem solving ability, and through practical activities and real-life case studies, students are able to apply what they have learned in practice and exercise their ability to solve problems and meet challenges<sup>[2]</sup>.

## **2.2 The Concept and Importance of Students' Innovation Ability**

Students' innovative ability refers to the ability of students to think independently, propose innovative solutions and transform innovative thinking into practical actions when facing problems. It is a comprehensive performance of students in terms of knowledge, skills and attitudes, including creative thinking, problem solving ability, practical ability and teamwork ability.

The importance of students' innovative ability is reflected in several aspects. First of all, innovation ability is an important factor in promoting social progress and economic development. With the continuous progress of science and technology and rapid changes in society, innovation ability has become the core competitiveness of various industries and fields. Students with innovation ability can propose novel solutions and realize innovative

breakthroughs when facing complex problems and challenges, bringing new development opportunities for the society. Secondly, students' innovation ability is crucial to personal success and career development. In the highly competitive modern society, students need to have the ability to innovate in order to adapt to the ever-changing work environment and demands. Innovation ability enables students to quickly adapt to new technologies, knowledge and methods, possess entrepreneurial spirit and innovative consciousness, and be able to show unique competitive advantages in the workplace. In addition, students' innovation ability also has an important impact on their lifelong learning and development. Innovative ability equips students with the ability of active learning and independent inquiry, and enables them to continuously update their knowledge and skills and adapt to the learning needs of different stages and fields. It cultivates students' spirit of exploration and innovative thinking, and equips them with the motivation for continuous learning and self-development.

## **2.3 Impact of Entrepreneurship Education on Students' Innovation Ability**

The impact of entrepreneurship education on students' innovation ability is positive and far-reaching. First of all, entrepreneurship education cultivates students' innovative thinking and creativity. In the process of entrepreneurship, students need to face various challenges and problems, which stimulates their ability to think actively and find innovative solutions. Through entrepreneurship education, students learn to break the traditional thinking stereotypes, explore and try, and cultivate the habit and ability of innovative thinking.

Secondly, entrepreneurship education provides a practical platform to promote students to transform innovative thinking into practical actions. Entrepreneurship education focuses on the cultivation of students' practical ability, and through organizing entrepreneurial practice activities and projects, it allows students to personally participate in and practice innovative ideas and entrepreneurial plans. This practical process hones students' hands-on ability and enables them to put their innovative ideas into practice and gain feedback and experience from them.

Finally, entrepreneurship education develops students' teamwork skills. During the

entrepreneurial process, students need to work closely with team members to solve problems and achieve goals. By organizing team projects and cooperative practices, entrepreneurship education develops students' team awareness, communication and collaboration skills, and leadership abilities, so that they can effectively cooperate with others and jointly promote the implementation of innovative projects.

### **3. Influence Mechanism of Entrepreneurship Education on Students' Innovation Ability in Vocational Colleges and Universities**

#### **3.1 The Influence of Educational Content and Curriculum on Innovation Ability**

Reasonably designed entrepreneurship education content and curriculum can stimulate students' innovative potential and ability. By providing the cultivation of knowledge and skills related to innovative thinking, idea generation, market analysis, business model design, etc., students can systematically learn and master the theoretical and practical knowledge of innovation and entrepreneurship. This comprehensive educational content and curriculum helps to cultivate students' innovative way of thinking and entrepreneurial ability, and to enhance their innovative consciousness and creative ability. However, entrepreneurship education content and curriculum can also have some negative effects if they are not reasonable. First of all, if the curriculum is too theoretical or detached from practice and lacks the introduction of practical sessions and real cases, it may be difficult for students to transform what they have learned into practical application ability. Innovation and entrepreneurship require practical experience, and purely theoretical teaching may not be able to meet the practical needs of students. Secondly, if the content and curriculum of entrepreneurship education are too fixed and rigid, lacking flexibility and individualized training, it may not be able to meet the different interests, needs and development directions of students. Innovation and entrepreneurship is an individualized process, and students' innovative ability and entrepreneurial potential vary from person to person. Therefore, entrepreneurship education should focus on individualized cultivation and provide diversified course options and practice opportunities to meet the needs of students at different levels and in different fields.

#### **3.2 Influence of Teaching Staff on Innovation Ability**

High-quality faculty can provide students with professional knowledge and practical experience, and stimulate their innovative thinking and creativity. Teachers' academic background and professional ability are crucial to cultivate students' innovative ability. Teachers with rich practical experience can cultivate students' practical skills and problem-solving abilities through case analysis, project guidance and practice-oriented teaching methods. At the same time, teachers can also act as mentors for students' innovation projects, provide personalized guidance and support, and help students grow and develop in innovation practice. However, if teachers lack knowledge and awareness of the field of innovation and entrepreneurship, they may not be able to provide students with the latest knowledge and trends. The field of innovation and entrepreneurship is changing rapidly and requires teachers to have the ability to continuously learn and update their knowledge to stay current with the industry. If faculty knowledge and experience lags behind, it may limit the development of innovative skills in students. If the faculty lacks diversity and inclusion, it may not be able to meet the diverse needs and backgrounds of students. Innovation and entrepreneurship are interdisciplinary fields that require a combination of expertise and perspectives from different fields. Schools should encourage the recruitment of teachers with different backgrounds and specializations to promote interdisciplinary exchanges and cooperation and provide students with broader learning opportunities and innovative resources.

#### **3.3 Impact of Practice Teaching Mode on Innovation Ability**

The impact of practice teaching mode on the innovation ability of students in vocational colleges and universities is significant. The practice teaching mode develops students' innovation ability by putting them in a real innovation environment and providing actual innovation practice opportunities<sup>[3]</sup>. First of all, the practice teaching mode focuses on students' active participation and practical operation. Through practical activities, students experience the innovation process firsthand, acquire knowledge and skills from it, and develop

problem-solving and innovation abilities. Secondly, the practice teaching mode emphasizes interdisciplinary cooperation and communication. By cooperating in teams and solving practical problems together, students can not only cultivate teamwork and communication skills, but also obtain diversified thinking and viewpoints from the communication of different disciplines and stimulate innovative thinking. Finally, the practice teaching model connects students with real innovation projects and enterprises, providing practical opportunities and resource support. Students can cooperate with enterprises, participate in real innovation projects, and understand market demand and industry trends, so as to better cultivate innovation ability. Through these influencing mechanisms, the practice teaching mode can stimulate students' initiative and creativity, cultivate their innovative thinking and practical ability, and lay a solid foundation for their future path of innovation and entrepreneurship.

### **3.4 The Influence of School Culture and Atmosphere on Innovation Ability**

The influence of school culture and atmosphere on the innovation ability of vocational college students is important and far-reaching. A school culture and atmosphere that actively encourages innovation can stimulate students' innovative potential and creativity. If the school emphasizes innovation, encourages students to come up with new ideas and try out new thoughts, and provides them with support and resources, students will feel the importance and value of innovation and thus be willing to take the initiative to participate in innovative activities. In addition, if the school promotes an inclusive and open culture and encourages students to engage in interdisciplinary cooperation and communication, innovative and entrepreneurial thinking and abilities will be better cultivated. However, if the school emphasizes too much on competition and utilitarianism and ignores the process of innovation and the value of exploration, students may be influenced by utilitarian thinking, pursuing results and ignoring the process of innovation. This may lead to a lack of patience and perseverance in innovation, with students focusing on short-term results at the expense of long-term innovation development. Schools should provide innovation resources, practice opportunities and program support to provide a platform and environment

for students to innovate. If the school lacks attention to innovation and lacks an innovation incentive mechanism and evaluation system, students may feel a lack of motivation and support, and the development of their innovation ability will be limited.

### **3.5 Impact of School Financial Aid Policy on Innovation Ability**

The school financial aid policy provides financial support for students, which reduces their financial burden of participating in innovative activities and stimulates their enthusiasm for innovation. This support can make students focus more on innovation practice and improve their innovation ability and outcome output. In addition, the school funding policy also provides innovative resources and facilities support, which provides the necessary resources and platforms for students' innovative projects and promotes their innovative practices and ability development. However, the school funding policy may also have some negative impacts. First, over-reliance on school funding may make students lack the motivation and ability to innovate on their own. If students rely too much on external funding, it may reduce their willingness to explore and innovate on their own, and lower the cultivation of innovation ability. Secondly, the school funding policy may create the problem of uneven distribution of resources, and some students may not be able to obtain sufficient funding support, limiting the development of their innovation ability. In order to maximize the positive impact, schools should balance the design of their financial assistance policies to provide the necessary financial and resource support while encouraging students' self-directed explorations and the development of their innovative abilities. In addition, schools should strengthen innovation education and guidance for students to cultivate their sense of independent innovation and capability, so as to reduce their reliance on external funding and achieve sustainable development of their innovation capability.

## **4. Countermeasures and Suggestions for Enhancing Students' Innovation Ability**

### **4.1 Improve the Curriculum System of Entrepreneurship Education in Vocational Colleges and Universities**

To enhance students' innovation ability, it is recommended to improve the entrepreneurship education curriculum system of vocational colleges and universities. Firstly, diversified courses should be designed, including innovative thinking cultivation, creative development, teamwork and other aspects, in order to comprehensively cultivate students' innovative consciousness and innovative ability. Secondly, practical teaching should be emphasized so that students can experience the innovation process and exercise the practical ability of problem solving and innovation through project practice and field trips. At the same time, corporate mentors or entrepreneur lecturers should be introduced to expose students to real entrepreneurial experience and industry needs, so as to enhance their practical ability and innovative thinking. In addition, the assessment and feedback mechanism of innovation education should be strengthened to provide students with personalized guidance and feedback through regular assessment of their innovation achievements and ability development, and to promote the continuous improvement of their innovation ability. Finally, docking with social resources, establishing an innovation and entrepreneurship practice platform, and providing students with support such as innovation project incubation and entrepreneurship training, so that they can transform their innovation ability into actual innovation results and entrepreneurial opportunities. By improving the curriculum system of entrepreneurship education in vocational colleges and universities, we can provide students with comprehensive and systematic innovation education, cultivate their innovation ability and entrepreneurial spirit, and lay a solid foundation for their future innovation and entrepreneurship road.

#### **4.2 Strengthen the Construction and Training of Teachers and Teachers' Team**

First of all, schools should focus on selecting and hiring teachers with innovative consciousness and practical experience to establish a specialized teaching team. These teachers should have the ability to teach innovative thinking and methods, and be able to stimulate students' innovative potential and cultivate their innovative ability. Second, schools should provide teachers with training and professional development opportunities in

innovation education. This includes holding seminars on innovation education, inviting experts to conduct training, and organizing teachers to participate in innovation projects to enhance their level and ability in innovation education. At the same time, schools can also establish a teacher exchange platform to promote experience sharing and cooperation among teachers and jointly improve the quality and effectiveness of innovation education. In addition, schools can cooperate with enterprises and research institutions to invite industry experts and practitioners in the field of innovation to participate in teacher training, so that teachers can learn about the latest innovation trends and practical experiences and update their concepts and knowledge of innovation education. By strengthening the construction and training of teachers, schools can improve teachers' innovation education literacy and competence, provide students with a better innovation education environment and guidance, and effectively enhance their innovation ability and innovation spirit.

#### **4.3 Promote the Combination of Innovation Education and Industry-University-Research Institutes**

Promoting the combination of innovation education and industry-university-research is one of the important countermeasures to enhance students' innovation ability. First of all, schools should actively establish close cooperation with external partners such as enterprises and research organizations. Through cooperation with industry, students can be exposed to real innovation needs and practice scenarios, and learn about the latest technology and industry trends, so as to cultivate innovation ability related to practical applications. Secondly, schools can carry out industry-university research programs to combine students' innovation projects with practical applications. By cooperating with enterprises, students can participate in real innovation projects and work with professionals to solve real problems, thus enhancing their innovative and practical abilities. At the same time, schools can also introduce industry-academia-research mentors, where professionals guide students' innovation projects, provide practical experience and professional guidance, and enhance students' innovation practice and ability cultivation. In addition, schools can establish innovation platforms such

as innovation labs or maker spaces to provide students with innovation resources and facilities support, build a platform for exchange and cooperation between students and industries and research organizations, and promote the organic integration of innovation education and industry-university-research. By promoting the combination of innovation education and industry-university-research, the school can provide a more close-to-the-ground innovation education environment and opportunities for students to exercise their innovation ability in actual scenarios, cultivate the ability to solve practical problems, and lay a solid foundation for their future innovation and entrepreneurship path.

#### **4.4 Shaping A Good Cultural Atmosphere of Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

Shaping a good cultural atmosphere of innovation and entrepreneurship is one of the key countermeasures to enhance students' innovation ability. First of all, schools should advocate and establish positive innovation and entrepreneurship values. This includes the attitude of encouraging students to try, accept failure and learn from it, as well as recognizing the value and impact of innovation and entrepreneurship. Schools can organize innovation lectures, entrepreneurial experience sharing and other activities, so that successful innovators and entrepreneurs can interact with students and stimulate their enthusiasm for innovation and entrepreneurial willingness. Secondly, schools can set up innovation and entrepreneurship reward mechanisms to encourage students to participate in innovation programs and entrepreneurial practices. By setting up awards, providing financial support or offering business incubation services, students are motivated to actively participate in innovation and entrepreneurship activities, and their innovation results and entrepreneurial achievements are recognized and rewarded to create a good competitive atmosphere and innovation incentives. Finally, schools should strengthen the publicity and education of innovation and entrepreneurship culture. By organizing innovation and entrepreneurship theme activities, offering relevant courses and workshops, they can popularize innovation and entrepreneurship knowledge to all students and improve their innovation consciousness and entrepreneurship literacy. At the same time,

schools can establish innovation and entrepreneurship clubs or student organizations to provide a platform for students with innovation and entrepreneurship interests to communicate and cooperate, and form a positive atmosphere of innovation and entrepreneurship culture.

#### **4.5 Increase Support to Facilitate the Sustainable Development of Innovative Behavior**

In order to promote the sustainable development of students' innovation ability, increasing support is one of the necessary countermeasures. First of all, schools can set up innovation scholarships or innovation funds to provide financial support and incentives for students who have outstanding performance in the field of innovation, and encourage them to continue innovation practice and research. Such support measures can not only help students focus on innovative work, but also provide them with more resources and opportunities to promote the continuous development of their innovative behavior. Second, schools can establish an innovation and entrepreneurship mentor system to provide personalized guidance and support by equipping students with mentors or instructors. Mentors can guide students' innovative projects and research, help them solve problems, expand their ideas, and provide professional advice and feedback through regular mentoring meetings, project reviews and discussions. This kind of personalized support can help students continue to grow in the innovation process and improve and refine their innovative behaviors. In addition, schools can actively cooperate with enterprises and research organizations to provide students with internships, practical training or practice opportunities. Through cooperation with external partners, students can access broader innovation platforms and resources, communicate and collaborate with professionals, and expand their innovation horizons and practical abilities. Schools can work with partners to develop practical projects or curricula to ensure that students are able to sustain their creative exploration and practical activities in real-world projects.

#### **5. Conclusion**

Entrepreneurship education in vocational colleges and universities has an important impact on improving students' innovation ability.

It can effectively promote the development of students' innovation ability by improving the educational content and curriculum, building excellent faculty, adopting practical teaching modes, creating a favorable cultural atmosphere of innovation and entrepreneurship, and providing school funding policies. However, in order to further enhance students' innovation ability, it is necessary to strengthen the improvement of the curriculum system, teacher training, the combination of industry-university-research, the shaping of the cultural atmosphere, and the support of financial aid policies, so as to help students achieve better results in the field of innovation.

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