

# Exploration of the Development Path of Youth Camp Education Based on the Background of the New Era

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**ABSTRACT.** Education must advance with the times and meet the demands of the development of the times. Youth camp education has become a new hot spot for investment, research and discussion in my country. Camp education presents eight characteristics such as fun, openness, and contextuality. It has the functions of sharpening the will, cultivating team spirit and innovative thinking for young people, and can complement school education. The development process of youth camp education in my country can be divided into three stages: budding and preparation, growth, and rapid development. The development of youth camp education in my country in the new era should focus on the following strategies: First, learn new ideas to make camp education more attractive; second, facing the new situation, owning a camp is the most critical; third, developing new courses and building a first-class teacher team.

**KEYWORDS:** the new era, camp education, research and study tour

## 1. Introduction

In recent years, as the party and the state have paid more and more attention to the comprehensive quality of young people, more and more families and schools hope that children will become a new generation of healthy, active minds and bodies. Camp education is an effective extension and beneficial supplement of family education and school education. It plays a positive role in promoting youth experience and enhancing their overall quality. At the end of 2016, the eleven ministries and commissions, including the Ministry of Education and the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League, issued the "Opinions on Promoting Primary and Secondary School Students' Research and Study Tour", incorporating research tourism into the education and teaching plans of primary and secondary schools, and put forward guiding opinions on the construction and organization of research and study tour bases.

## 2. Camp and camp education

The term "camp" in the "Modern Chinese Dictionary" refers to a place where the army is stationed or a place for short-term activities and rest set up in the wild by groups or organizations. It can be understood as four meanings: one is the earliest place where the army camps, which is a fixed place; the second is in the nature outdoors; the third is short-term, mainly activities and leisure. The camp referred to in this article refers to the place of activity, and camp education is based on the innovative form of education in the camp. Students can achieve the purpose of education by living in the camp and participating in various experience activities. Therefore, youth camp education is based on nature, based on team life, with experiential learning as the main educational model, based on interdisciplinary theories such as pedagogy and psychology, and organized by professional teachers to promote youth growth class quality education activities.

Camp education has been developed in Western countries such as Europe and the United States for more than 150 years, affecting the growth of generations of young people. The youth camp education in mainland my country started late, and the early forms were mainly youth summer camp activities. In 1954, the China International Children's Summer Camp organized by the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League in Qingdao, Shandong Province was the earliest summer camp after the founding of New China [1]. Camp education forms include winter and summer camps, spring and autumn trips, outdoor education, research trips, and comprehensive practice outside the school. There are very few camps that can provide safe and standardized camp facilities, professional teachers, and mature courses in major cities across the country.

At present, the Ministry of Education and the State Sports General Administration are actively providing policy support and financial support for the development of camp education. Because of the different responsibilities, the Ministry of Education is responsible for promoting the construction of camps for the study and practice of primary and secondary school students, while the State Sports General Administration is responsible for promoting the construction of outdoor sports camps for young people [2]. Since the funding of the first national youth outdoor sports camp in 2004, the State Sports General Administration has supported and established more than 150 national youth outdoor sports camps nationwide. In April 2018, the General Office of the State Sports General Administration issued the notice of "National Youth Outdoor Sports Camp Construction Specifications and Equipment Catalog", which clearly put forward the camp construction specifications and provided equipment catalog reference. In December 2017, the Ministry of Education published the "list of the first batch of national primary and middle school students' research and practice education camps" on its official website. Fourteen institutions including Shijiazhuang Youth Social Comprehensive Practice School became the first batch of national primary and middle school students' research and practice education camps. The work points of the Department of Basic Education of the Ministry of Education in 2018 clearly pointed out: vigorously promote off-campus education, and urge all localities to accelerate the construction of

demonstration comprehensive practice bases. This article discusses a youth research and practice education camp where professional teachers carry out various quality education activities for young people. The main features are as follows:

First is fun. The novel outdoor environment, relaxed and interactive learning, and entertaining teaching methods make young people feel relaxed and happy, excited, and arouse strong interest in learning. Second, situational. Carrying out practical teaching in a real and open learning environment can trigger more reflection, blending of situations, and let young people learn to understand, learn to appreciate, and learn to be grateful. Third, interactivity. Camp education is usually carried out in the form of teamwork learning, which promotes multi-dimensional interaction between students, teachers and students, groups, classes, and nature. Fourth, growth. Camp education is usually guided by the core literacy of Chinese student development issued by the Ministry of Education, integrates multidisciplinary knowledge, and promotes the growth and improvement of youth ideals, beliefs, mental states, and comprehensive qualities. Fifth, generative. During the camp education process, the preset goals are continuously achieved, new themes are constantly produced, the best time to be taught frequently appears, new goals are constantly generated, and students' experience, reflection, and growth will continue to deepen. Sixth, autonomy. Camp education returns to the main body of learners. Learning no longer depends on teaching, but on the self-motivating curiosity of young people and the learning actions that start automatically. At the same time, camp education believes that every student is unique and noble, fully respects the interests and hobbies of young people, and try to let young people choose and participate independently, determine their own learning goals, content and methods, and teachers become learning assistants. Seventh, openness. Camp education allows young people to get out of the classroom, out of the campus, into the society, and more open to contact with nature; let experts in a certain field and field become instructors, and the learning results will be presented in more forms. Eighth, experience. The essence of camp education is experiential learning of "experience, sharing and reflection, and growth". It emphasizes process experience and emotional interaction. Curriculum design and the level of teachers will directly affect the quality of camp education.

### **3. The development process of youth camp education in my country**

In my country youth camp education developed earlier in Hong Kong and Taiwan, but started late in the mainland [3]. He has gradually developed according to the different understandings and needs of the country, society, school and parents in different periods. Before the 1980s, youth camp education mainly appeared in the form of group activities, extracurricular activities, winter and summer camps, and later in the form of study tours, winter and summer camps, and spring and autumn trips. With the emergence of experiential education bases such as expansion training bases, comprehensive practice bases, youth camps and outdoor education camps, schools and parents have more choices. The development of youth camp education can be divided into three stages in China:

### ***3.1 Germination and preparation stage***

After the founding of New China, due to the historical needs of the time, the academic circles thoroughly criticized Dewey's educational thoughts. The development of experiential education courses such as extracurricular education and extracurricular activities was thus hindered to a certain extent. Tao Xingzhi's "life education" thoughts the development of Chen Heqin's "living education" thought was also criticized because of Dewey's educational thought.

At this stage, out-of-school education is the supplement and extension of school education. Youth camp education is only in its infancy. It mainly focuses on group activities, extracurricular activities, winter and summer camps, etc. It is an effective means to promote personality development for all. At that time, in addition to conducting some participatory and experiential activities through qualified schools, the Communist Youth League and the education department also carried out extracurricular activities and winter and summer camps relying on youth palaces, youth homes, and league schools in various regions. During the Cultural Revolution, my country's out-of-school education suffered a major impact [4-5]. It was not until the 1970s that it began to recover. A number of youth activity centers and student activity centers were built one after another. The purpose is to allow more young people to accept the nurturing of nature, strengthen their bodies, and promote cooperation. Learn skills and cultivate their good qualities of loving the motherland, hometown, collective and sports.

The long-term practice and development of youth palaces, youth homes, youth activity centers, and student activity centers in various regions have prepared venues, talent reserves, operating experience, curriculum design, and international exchanges for the development of youth camp education in my country.

### ***3.2 Growth stage***

After the reform and opening up, with the rapid economic and social development of our country and the continuous improvement of living standards, society has more expectations for the growth of young people. However, the impact of test-oriented education has caused some young people to experience excessive weight, decline in physical fitness, high myopia rate, and heart and lung poor functions, weak hands-on ability, lack of team spirit, low sense of responsibility, and difficulty adapting to social competition and development.

On October 29, 1997, the State Education Commission issued the "Several Opinions on Actively Promoting the Implementation of Quality Education in Primary and Secondary Schools" and emphasized: "To fully implement the national education policy and actively promote quality education in primary and secondary schools is an urgent task before us a major task for the community." The government, the media, and all sectors of society began to seriously reflect on Chinese education and attach great importance to the growth and development and physical and mental health of young people. At this time, off-campus education and

school education are equally important and complement each other. The education system has begun to build agricultural bases and experience practice bases for primary and secondary school students across the country [6]. The Youth League Central Committee and the National Youth Work Committee have launched a youth experience program with experiential education as the core in the field of out-of-school education, which is well received by parents and young people. Zhao Yong, who was then the Standing Secretary of the Central Committee of the Youth League, wrote the first monograph on "Experience Education" in 2002, laying a theoretical and practical foundation for the use of experiential education to develop youth quality education.

Private capital has created many farm-type and expanded youth camps in major and medium-sized cities across the country, which has promoted the construction of youth camps. However, due to lack of theoretical support, inconsistent understanding, and insufficient planning by investors, relevant government departments' support and supervision are insufficient at this stage, there are many problems in youth camps, such as low entry barriers, poor quality of teachers, uneven service levels, frequent safety incidents, waste of resources, etc., which have not really promoted the scientific, healthy and orderly development of youth camps.

### ***3.3 Rapid development stage***

In 2001, the Ministry of Education issued the "Basic Education Curriculum Reform Outline (Trial)", which initiated a new round of basic education curriculum reform. Curriculum reform has played a key role in the overall implementation of quality education, and the concept of quality education has further penetrated into the hearts of the people. All localities pay attention to moral education first, educate people, and actively develop sunshine sports to enhance students' physical fitness and promote their all-round development. The National Welfare Lottery Fund has invested a total of more than 17 billion yuan in the three five-year plans of the "15th, 11th, and 12th Five-Years" to support the construction of comprehensive practice bases, requiring each county and district to have a comprehensive off-campus educational institution for children and children, these institutions have gradually become the main force of youth camp education.

In order to adapt to the development of the new situation, the State Sports General Administration has promoted the construction of a number of demonstrative and exploratory "youth outdoor sports camps" since 2004. This is the state officially proposed the construction of "youth outdoor sports camps" since the founding of the People's Republic of my country. The system and norms for the construction of youth camps in China have been gradually improved. However, due to the late start of the development of youth camp education in my country, curriculum development and the level of teaching staff are in urgent need of improvement. In December 2016, the Ministry of Education, the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League and other eleven departments issued the "Opinions on Promoting the Research and Study Travel of Primary and Secondary School Students". In September 2017, the Ministry of Education officially issued the

"Guidelines for Comprehensive Practice Activities in Primary and Secondary Schools". This series of policies was introduced. It has attracted attention from all walks of life in camp education. Subsequently, major forums and seminars were held one after another, and my country's youth camp education entered a period of rapid development.

#### **4. The development path of youth camp education in my country in the new era**

##### ***4.1 Learn new ideas, camp education is more attractive***

The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China established the historical status of Xi Jinping's thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era and opened a new journey of comprehensively building a modern socialist country. General Secretary Xi stood at the height of achieving the "two centenary" goals and ensuring the successor of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics. He emphasized that focusing on education means focusing on the future, and focusing on education can win the future. He placed education in the strategic position of priority development. General Secretary Xi pointed out that the young generation has ideals, capabilities, and responsibilities, the country has a future, and the nation has hope. He encourages young people to establish ideals and beliefs that are in the same direction with the theme of the times. Lofty, diligent, progressive, pursuit of excellence, strong physique, healthy body and mind, temper the will, and fortify tenacity; hope that contemporary young people will have the courage to shoulder the historical responsibility given by the times, inspire diligence, study hard, and shine youthful light in the passionate struggle, healthy growth and progress. To learn new ideas, that is, to integrate the party's and the country's talent education concepts into camp education to cultivate the ideals, beliefs, spiritual state and overall quality of the young generation; to integrate new development concepts into camp education to let people interact with themselves, others, and nature. Harmonious and harmonious integration with society and common development; Combine the physical and mental health development, survival ability of young people with camp education, and list outdoor nature education, life education, traditional education, life skills, humanities and social science education, handcraft, etc. as camp education the main content highlights the unique social education charm of camp education. Government departments such as education, tourism, and sports must integrate resources to achieve complementary advantages and make social and economic benefits more significant. Governments, schools, families, camps, insurance agencies, etc. must be linked to allow young people to enjoy better services. To this end, the camp needs to cooperate with schools and enterprises to promote the training of full-time and part-time personnel; it is necessary to establish a talent pool of tour guides, teachers, doctors, lifeguards, volunteers, and college students in related majors to make the camp education courses more professional. Only by truly understanding and practicing General Secretary Xi Jinping's important exposition on education in the new era can we better implement the camp education concept.

#### ***4.2 Facing the new situation, owning a camp is the most important***

On May 3, 2017, General Secretary Xi pointed out during a visit to China University of Political Science and Law: “China’s future belongs to youth, and the future of the Chinese nation belongs to youth. The ideals, beliefs, mental state, and overall quality of the young generation are vital to the development of a country. An important manifestation is also an important factor in a country’s core competitiveness.” This is the party’s expectations for the younger generation, and it is also a requirement for the Ministry of Education and the Communist Youth League to deepen reforms. Experiential education models such as research trips, camp education, and comprehensive social practice are all effective educational reform and innovation models, which can better promote teaching students in accordance with their aptitude and provide more diverse and higher-quality education for the majority of young people. This has become a hot spot for the government, society, and families. With the support of national policies and the investment of funds, industries such as real estate, tourism, education and training, construction, and financial institutions have begun to invest in camp education. There are more and more camp education institutions, and the demand for camps will increase. The land policy is tightened, and it is difficult for camp education institutions to own their own camps. In the future, whether or not to have its own camp will be the threshold for entering the market. At present, there are not many large-scale and systematic camps in large and medium-sized cities across the country, but there will definitely be more and more operating institutions. At present, most of the domestic camp education institutions do not have camps, and they are mainly cooperative camps. If they only exist as an operating organization, they can rent camps, but only by owning camps can they gain a foothold in the market for a long time.

#### ***4.3 Develop new courses and build a first-class teaching team***

The curriculum system is the core competitiveness of camp education. Combining the camp’s geographical advantages, humanities and customs, and natural resources, it covers history, culture, nature, sports, and science and technology, and develops camp courses that meet the needs of students and can truly cultivate students’ comprehensive qualities. The work done by the camp is actually a linking process, that is, to promote student-student linking interaction, linking interaction with tutors, linking with nature and cultural landscapes, and linking with growth needs. Through participating in the course, students acquire qualities and abilities such as teamwork, communication, decision-making, problem solving, leadership, sports and art. It is impossible for each camp to hire a large number of professional teachers full-time, but there must be an experienced camp director. They are the main force of training camp mentors. Nowadays, there are few camp management majors in domestic colleges and universities, but related majors will gradually move in this direction in the future. Camp organizations should actively sign school-enterprise cooperation agreements with colleges and universities, so that students of related majors can train and practice in camps, and find talents to enrich

the teaching staff. Such young people understand pedagogy and child psychology, are good at developing courses, and will guide children. After training, they will become the most popular camp education tutors. Camp education is a continuous service, which requires continuous optimization of the curriculum according to the needs of the school and parents. Therefore, the camp must establish a membership system, do a good job in a member management system, deposit customer information, and use software and big data analysis to do a good job in customer maintenance and management. These data are important for the business development of the customer service team and the secondary development of the curriculum system, both are of great significance. The more customers the camp accumulates, the greater its commercial value.

### **5. Conclusion**

As a timely supplement to school education, camp education can comprehensively cultivate the comprehensive quality of young people. At the same time, with the rapid development of the times, camp education has also caught the ride of social progress in recent years. The society generally recognizes the importance of camp education in youth education. Therefore, our country should learn more from the development of camp education in developed countries, and carry out the innovation and development of camp education based on national conditions, so that camp education can better serve our youth.

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