

# Research on the role of higher education in regional economic development

Gao Fanghui

University of Jinan, Jinan, Shandong, 250024, China  
sh\_gaofh@ujn.edu.cn.

**Abstract:** *In order to achieve the overall goal of harmonious development of higher education and regional economy, this paper conducts an in-depth study of the role of higher education in regional economic development. First, it systematically analyzes the current situation of higher education and regional economic development. Secondly, it expounds the significance of colleges and universities in promoting local economic and social development under the current historical background from three aspects. Under the historical background of knowledge economy, the local economy and society are gradually transformed, and colleges and universities provide them with talent training and intellectual security; Colleges and universities will gradually form new growth points for local economic and social development in the process of their construction; Through higher education, we should train technicians with high moral quality and create an excellent humanistic environment to promote the healthy development of the socialist market economy. Through the in-depth study of the impact of the construction of colleges and universities on local economic and social development, we can improve the quality of the construction of colleges and universities, and then promote the development of local economic and social progress.*

**Keywords:** *Higher Education; Regional economy; Talents; Cultural environment*

## 1. Introduction

Along with the transformation of China's economic and social development mode and the industrial structure adjustment of the national economy, the Chinese government is also in the process of "much starker choices-and graver consequences-in development" to further strengthen the policy support to the development of key industries, and made the important measures to realize the national strategic emerging industry development, also in the process further explicitly put forward the demand for high quality, high technology talents[1]. Therefore, higher education will become a key factor that can affect the development of local economy and society. Regional economic development needs higher education to transport more professional and skilled talents for it. Through the overall development and construction of higher education and regional resources, the goal of mutual promotion and development can be realized. Higher education is an important position to train applied talents. With the help of the organization and planning of higher education, it can provide good support for regional economic construction from various angles and accelerate the comprehensive development of regional economy and society[2,3].Therefore, it is necessary to further study and discuss the impact of higher education on regional economy, achieve the overall goal of promoting the coordinated development of both, lay a solid foundation for the development of education, effectively manage regional economy, and show a new development trend. Higher education promotes the sustainable development of China's socialist market economy by providing high-quality talents and intellectual support for regional economic development.

## 2. Current situation of higher education and regional economic development

### 2.1. Current situation of higher education

In recent years, China has not only focused on the speed and extent of higher education development, but also paid more attention to the high-quality development of higher education. Since the reform and opening up, the achievement of higher education has reached the advanced level in the world [4]. Firstly, the scope of higher education in China is rapidly expanding. School size and gross

enrollment ratio have grown steadily. Second, the teaching quality of China's higher education will be improved. The quality of college teachers, discipline construction and personnel training have been significantly improved. Third, China's demand for higher education has been basically met and spread smoothly. At the same time, equality in education is also constantly developing, and the construction of infrastructure is constantly improved. Finally, the comprehensive national strength and international competitiveness of China's higher education have been continuously enhanced [5]. On the one hand, the number of Chinese students studying abroad in other countries has been expanding in recent years. On the other hand, the number of Chinese students studying abroad is the first in the world. The construction of high-quality higher education system is the main guarantee of China's modernization. We should give full play to the basic, leading and overall functions of higher education in the "national and party plans", and accelerate the development of high-quality higher education [6]. To develop high-quality higher education, we need to transform efficiency efforts from total expansion to quality improvement, from scale to structural renewal, and from investment driven factor development to innovation driven overall development. The most important challenge is to solve the imbalance and underdevelopment of higher education, manage higher education more equitably, improve quality and expand inclusiveness to meet the needs of the people.

## ***2.2. Current situation of regional economic development***

Since the reform and opening up of the socialist modernization of the market economy, the focus of development has been the coastal areas, since then the coastal areas have gained a leading advantage in development. In the course of long-term development, the gap between inland and coastal areas and between rich and poor has gradually widened, which is why China has adopted an overall strategy of balancing and coordinating the situation [7]. Efficiency-first unbalanced development has made China the world's second largest economy, but it has also made China's regional economic development more unbalanced.

Since the 1990s, China has recognized the importance of coordinated development of regional economy and actively adjusted and optimized its development strategy. Regional coordinated development has also been formally put on the agenda: from coastal development to western development, to the extensive revitalization of the old industrial bases in the eastern region, to achieve balanced regional development, until vigorously promoting growth in the central region, and implementing the "the Belt and Road" initiative. In the process of achieving the goal of common prosperity, we should allow some regions and some people to become rich first, and then encourage other regions and others to become rich together. With the deepening of opening up and development of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, China has begun to focus on multi-level development and coordinated development. Different areas of economic development began to emerge, especially Chengdu Chongqing Economic Circle and Guanzhong Tianshui Economic Circle, which promoted multi-level development [8].

## **3. Analysis of the positive effect of higher education on regional economic development**

### ***3.1. Provide talent support and intellectual guarantee***

According to the research on the development experience of developed countries, talent is the first element of a country's rapid development. The important factors affecting social and economic development are mainly the professional knowledge and practical skills of human resources, as well as the knowledge literacy of staff themselves and their ability to acquire new knowledge. Higher education adopts targeted training for different types of talents to meet the goal of regional economic development and accelerate regional economic transformation. The development of society needs the promotion of talents. This stage is in the era of knowledge economy. How to improve the sharing of knowledge resources is crucial to regional economic development. In the stage of regional industrial upgrading and optimization, technical talents play an indispensable role, which can further enhance the core competitiveness of enterprises. In order to achieve a stable and rapid transformation, regional economic industries must rely on strong support for high-quality talents. In order to keep pace with the times, the regional economy needs to update and optimize the industrial structure, improve the development mode, and achieve a reasonable transformation, starting from the emerging industries in traditional industries and technology-based industries. This process is a long-term systematic stage, requiring a large number of talents to ensure that the quality of talents is high enough, with strong professional skills and solid theoretical knowledge. In addition, in terms of talent demand, the

component has evolved from physical and first-skill talents to technical talents [9]. At the present stage, China's economy is developing rapidly, and the demand for talents is constantly increasing. High-quality talents can not meet the needs of rapid economic development. In terms of qualified personnel and technical personnel, colleges and universities need to invest heavily in training. The ideal combination of higher education and regional economy can meet the demand of regional industries for talents, help enterprises timely update and update the existing production concepts and products, improve management skills, make the operation mechanism more reasonable and efficient, and thus improve the core competitiveness of enterprises. Therefore, in view of the frequent changes in the professional structure and the continuous development of science and technology, higher education can make regional economic development more dynamic.

### ***3.2. Become a new growth point of regional economic development***

In recent years, when choosing the address of a new campus, colleges and universities in China usually choose to build in remote areas of the city, which will drive the rapid economic development of the surrounding areas. After completing the infrastructure construction of the campus, it is necessary to build a large number of campus infrastructure and improve the preparation of teaching work. With the increase of the number of students, in order to ensure the smooth progress of teaching quality and normal teaching work, universities are bound to invest a lot of money in infrastructure construction, thus promoting the development of certain industries in this region. In order to better coordinate the development of higher education, local government departments will also carry out investment promotion, and invest more funds to ensure better teaching, thus promoting regional economic growth. With the establishment of colleges and universities, the development of China's market economy, and the continuous improvement of the higher education system, the enrollment scale has been expanded and the number of students has continued to increase. College students as a special consumer group, they have a large number of students, strong consumption ability and consumption characteristics of nearby to solve, in addition, they like to try new things, to the unknown curiosity by experiment, and the predecessors have different values and attitudes, which makes their consumption demand is high, greatly promoted the rapid development of regional economy, It quickly improves the economic environment of the surrounding area and makes the university become the center of regional economic development in a short time.

Tax is an important source of local tax. According to the tax policy, the salaries of teachers and lecturers need to pay individual income tax according to law; The fees collected in the process of cooperation between universities and non-profit institutions, as well as the income from individual research projects and horizontal topics, shall be subject to business tax; The business income of the company operated by the school shall be subject to enterprise income tax. With the development of college education, tax revenue has increased significantly, which is a good support for local finance.

According to the theory of education starting consumption [10, 11], colleges and universities should broaden enrollment channels and increase social support and investment in higher education, which can stimulate consumption and provide more employment opportunities. Employment is an issue of people's livelihood. At present, the more important issue for government departments is to solve the employment problem of unemployed people with local registered residence. The settlement of colleges and universities requires a large number of staff, which not only solves the employment problem, but also increases the income and consumption ability through work, thus promoting the development of regional economy to a certain extent.

### ***3.3. Create a good cultural environment to promote economic development***

As one of the four functions of universities, cultural inheritance and innovation are closely related to higher education. At present, various social contradictions are prominent due to the crisis of honesty and morality, which affects the economic development to a certain extent. By inheriting and developing China's excellent traditional culture, absorbing and disseminating excellent cultures from foreign advanced cultures, colleges and universities innovate and cultivate emerging cultures suitable for the economic development of The Times, and help future talents establish correct world outlook, outlook on life and values. Higher education is conducive to cultivate them into talents with higher moral and professional qualities needed by the economy and society, so as to create a harmonious division for the healthy and orderly development of the regional economy.

With the continuous advancement of economic globalization and integration, not only has the

internationalization of education history and talent market been promoted, but also colleges and universities have gradually become an integral part of internationalization [12, 13]. The connection and exchange of higher education between different regions of the world has led to knowledge transcending the boundaries of countries, nations and cultures. To a certain extent, colleges and universities are not only cultivating talents for their own country, but also for the whole world. On the other hand, through international cooperation and exchange, colleges and universities are conducive to introducing international knowledge and advanced scientific and technological achievements, providing international resources for the economic development of the region, thus promoting the international development of regional economy, and realizing the regional economic development strategy of "introducing" and "going out".

#### 4. Conclusion

This paper studies the role of higher education in the process of local economic and social growth from three perspectives: transporting applied talents for regional economy, forming new growth points of regional economic growth, and forming excellent cultural development environment to promote regional economic and social growth. At the same time, I also hope that the results of the analysis can provide some guidance for the relevant work of higher education construction in the future, coordinate the relationship between colleges and universities and regional economic and social development, and maximize the function of higher education in regional economic and social development. Based on the comprehensive economic development, this study also has some shortcomings, and I hope to make a more comprehensive and thorough analysis in the future research.

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