

10.70711/rcha.v2i12.6312

Research on the Path of “Specialized Innovation Integration” in Application oriented Private Universities

-- Taking Preschool Education as an Example

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Abstract: This article focuses on the practical difficulties in achieving the integration of specialization and creativity in the field of preschool education. It explores in depth from multiple dimensions, such as comprehensively building a sound educational policy framework, creating a “five in one” practical teaching model, and strengthening the cultivation of a “dual teacher dual ability” teacher team. It is expected to provide new perspectives and strategies for the development of “specialization and creativity integration” in preschool education majors, and further promote the overall progress and development of preschool education majors in private universities.

Keywords: Application-oriented private universities; Early childhood education; Specialized Innovation and Integration

The concept of “integration of innovation and entrepreneurship” refers to the process of combining innovation and entrepreneurship education with professional education^[1]. This not only promotes the deepening of innovation spirit and entrepreneurial ability^[2], It also emphasizes the complementary relationship between the two, aiming to jointly promote the comprehensive development of students majoring in preschool education.

1. The significance of "specialized innovation integration" in preschool education major

1.1 Realizing the goal of cultivating talents in the field of preschool education

According to the requirements of application-oriented private universities for talent cultivation programs, the innovation and entrepreneurship education of preschool education majors focuses on shaping correct employment concepts and entrepreneurial spirit through theoretical and practical teaching, cultivating students' qualities of hard work and perseverance, and mastering necessary knowledge and skills of innovation and entrepreneurship. This goal reflects the further transformation of private universities from the initial focus on "applied and practical talents" to "advanced skilled talents" in the direction of talent cultivation. The close combination of the two can not only stimulate the enthusiasm of students majoring in preschool education in the classroom, but also enable them to deeply understand the significance of professional learning in practical activities, continuously improve their practical abilities, and better adapt to social needs^[3].

1.2 Implementing the mission of developing preschool education in private universities

In its World Declaration on Higher Education in the 21st Century: Prospects and Action, UNESCO emphasizes that cultivating the abilities and spirit of university students in innovation and entrepreneurship should be one of the core goals of higher education. Based on this guiding ideology, application-oriented private universities should clarify their educational philosophy and regard enhancing students' employment and entrepreneurship abilities as a key link and driving force for promoting local economic and social development, in order to achieve a positive interaction between school development and regional demand^[4]. As important members of the future preschool education faculty, students majoring in preschool education need to closely focus on the standards and requirements of preschool professional talent cultivation in their respective universities. In the process of continuously promoting the integration of the two, they need to make necessary adjustments and innovations to the existing teaching system and training methods, fully committed to creating composite talents with innovative consciousness and entrepreneurial ability that society needs. At the same time, this is also the main direction and breakthrough point for many applied private higher education institutions seeking transformation and upgrading.

2. The practical dilemma of the integration of specialization and innovation in preschool education majors

2.1 The concept of "specialized innovation and integration" is not deep enough

Innovation and entrepreneurship education is one of the important components of the teaching system in applied private universities.

And this type of education is a comprehensive and systematic project, requiring university managers to have a global perspective and comprehensive thinking ability. However, in practice, the concept of "integration of specialization and innovation" has not been fully valued, and innovation and entrepreneurship education is often carried out independently of professional education. Whether it is the construction of the teaching staff, the choice of teaching methods, or the design of assignments, they tend to follow traditional models and fail to effectively reflect the close integration with professional education.

2.2 The mechanism of "specialized innovation integration" is not sound

The integration of specialization and innovation not only emphasizes theoretical integration, but also places greater emphasis on practical integration. However, currently, application-oriented private universities have not yet established a complete "specialized innovation integration" system. Firstly, there are obvious shortcomings in terms of teaching staff. Many private universities have not yet equipped a certain number of "dual teacher dual ability" teachers according to the proportion of students, and the existing innovation and entrepreneurship education teachers often lack practical entrepreneurial experience, resulting in a single teaching method that focuses too much on theoretical explanations and neglects the cultivation of students' practical abilities. Secondly, the curriculum mechanism also needs to be improved. A scientifically reasonable curriculum arrangement is the cornerstone of achieving the integration of specialization and creativity, while effective practical activities are the key to ensuring teaching quality. However, many private universities find it difficult to achieve the desired results in practice. Some teachers have set teaching goals that are not clear enough, the content is relatively isolated, and lacks specificity, making it difficult to form a systematic "specialized innovation integration" education standard.

2.3 Unifying the approach of "specialized innovation and integration"

At present, the "specialized innovation integration" teaching mode of application-oriented private universities is relatively single, and for students majoring in preschool education, the correlation between their educational content and innovation and entrepreneurship education content is weak. At present, innovation and entrepreneurship education activities within this major are mainly focused on social practice. However, such activities often lack opportunities to closely integrate with professional skills, resulting in students' understanding of innovation and entrepreneurship remaining at a relatively superficial level, believing that its technical content is not high. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the connection between innovative education and professional courses, especially in cultivating students' innovative spirit, entrepreneurial spirit, and craftsmanship spirit, in order to promote deeper professional knowledge learning and practical ability enhancement.

3. Exploration of the Path of "Specialized Creation Integration" in Preschool Education Major

3.1 Building an education policy system that integrates specialization and innovation

Private higher education institutions should strive to combine the construction of "application-oriented high-level universities" with the construction of innovative and entrepreneurial education systems, forming a comprehensive teaching model that integrates general education, professional training, cultivation of innovative spirit, and practical operation. On the basis of adhering to the value orientation of innovation and entrepreneurship education, continuously optimize the certification process of preschool education majors, led by the academic affairs department, and based on students' existing knowledge level, design a set of preschool professional talent training programs that can deeply integrate innovation and entrepreneurship concepts^[5]. In addition, it is necessary to develop a "specialized innovation integration" education curriculum that is in line with the characteristics of preschool education, and write relevant textbooks or teaching aids to enhance students' opportunities to participate in entrepreneurial activities both on and off campus.

3.2 Creating a 'Five in One' Practical Teaching Model

Applied private higher education institutions should place the concept of innovation and entrepreneurship education at the core, comprehensively plan teaching activities for preschool education majors, cover the goals, content, and methods of practical teaching, and use innovation and entrepreneurship effectiveness as a key indicator for evaluating teaching quality. In this process, it is necessary to focus on the following aspects: firstly, to build an innovation and entrepreneurship education system centered on the three major courses of "compulsory, elective, and practical", following the principle of combining practical operation and application, closely linking with the actual situations of conservation education activities, various regional activities, and environmental innovation arrangements in the park, and focusing on cultivating the practical ability, innovative thinking ability, and entrepreneurial spirit of preschool professional students; Secondly, reconstruct the content layout of innovation and entrepreneurship education, making it an organic combination of theoretical learning, practical activities, and practical operations; Finally, establish a teaching and training mechanism that combines knowledge and skills, evaluation and feedback, and strive to transform knowledge learning into ability cultivation, in order to ignite the innovation enthusiasm and entrepreneurial awareness of preschool education majors and continuously improve their entrepreneurial abilities.

3.3 Strengthen the construction of specialized teachers with "dual teachers and dual abilities"

Due to the special nature of talent cultivation in preschool education, application-oriented private universities must strengthen the construction of a backbone teacher team with innovative and entrepreneurial spirit and professional quality in the process of "integration of specialization and innovation" development. One is to optimize the age structure of innovation and entrepreneurship professional teachers, cultivate young backbone teachers through innovation and entrepreneurship education and training, and give full play to their role as role models and subject leaders. The second is to hire workers from public kindergartens, teaching and research institutions, outstanding enterprise representatives, or experts in related positions to serve as off campus practice mentors for students. Through lectures or teaching demonstrations, students can be inspired to personally experience the charm of innovative spirit or practical ability. The third is to build a platform for teacher communication. Organize preschool education teachers to jointly explore the integration of innovation and entrepreneurship education with early childhood education. Innovation and entrepreneurship is a comprehensive task, and private universities should make full use of their own advantages, encourage communication and cooperation between teachers and students, and jointly promote the sustainable development of innovation and entrepreneurship education for preschool education students.

4. Conclusion

In summary, when implementing the 'integration of specialization and innovation' education model in preschool education majors of applied private colleges and universities, more emphasis is placed on stimulating students' active learning attitudes and innovative abilities. Under this comprehensive training framework, students can not only continuously improve their professional level from the perspective of professional skills, but also fully unleash their creative potential from the perspective of innovative thinking.

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