

**On Collaborative Training on General Practitioners in the
Region of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei Province from the Views
in China and Abroad on Regional Cooperation of Education**

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Abstract: In April, 2016, the Framework Agreement of strategy Cooperation was signed by and between four medical universities and it opened up a new road for promoting the collaborative and innovation development of medical education in the region of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei Province of China. There are accumulated experiences in the mature regional cooperation in higher education which are beneficial to our exploration and meanwhile we should take into consideration of present development in this field in our country as well. Therefore, it is necessary to explore the cooperation of higher medical education and coordination in the aspect of training general practitioners in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region with respect to top design, development of cooperation project and increase of investment by virtue of advantages such as policies, resources and regional advantages integrated with the present training paths of general practitioners in our country in order to develop a originative concept and mode in the training of general

practitioners.

Key words: general practitioners; Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei collaborative development; cooperation of regional higher education; higher medical education.

In April 2015, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the CPC has reviewed and approved in its plenary the Outline of Collaborative Development of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei Province, which indicated that the collaborative development of Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei as one of the national significant strategic decisions has began to be implemented and attracted the attention of education researchers and decision-makers. Since the regional cooperation in education involves in many factors and demands in reality such as politics, economy and culture and so on, many organizations emerged in China and abroad seeking originative cooperation in regional education and breaking through regional barriers. Because the concept of general practitioners has been introduced in our country in just less than 30 years, it is immature in building discipline of general practice and talents training due to the late starting. However, along with the State's successive issuance of a series of policies, how to increase the numbers of general practitioner and improve the service level has become an important task in the aspect of medical reform in China. Supported by the policies, resources and regional advantages, the further discussion exploring new

concept and mode in the education and training of general practitioners depending on the experiences in the cooperation of regional education at home and abroad shall be significant to the collaborative development of Chinese medicine in colleges and universities.

1. Experiences and present situation of cooperation in regional higher education in China and abroad

1.1 The experiences in cooperation in regional education in U.S.A.

On the purpose of interstates sharing resources and view exchanges, the interstate collaborative organizations of higher education have been established in U.S.A. since 50's last century, including mainly (relative larger) Western Inter-state Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), Southern Regional Education Board, Midwestern Higher Education Compact and New England Board of Higher Education. After development in more than a half of century, such mode of cooperation in regional higher education in U.S.A. has become the successful exemplar in this field.

1.1.1 The scientific and proper organizational structure

The cooperation board of regional higher education including at least one educator is generally composed of 3-5 members from each member State. The board members shall be appointed by the State Governor and each term in office shall be four years. There are legislative advisory committee and work council under the board responsible for respectively

the legislative consultancy, cooperation and coordination and ascertainment of specific projects between member States. The composition assured the scientificness and feasibility of project as well as the complementary advantages and the equal interests among the member States. The efficient operation of whole organization has been guaranteed by the division and cooperation of functional departments.

1.1.2 Sufficient sharing resources on the created multi-platforms

In addition to the students' exchanging program appeared in 1980's, driven by the rapid development of IT, now each regional cooperation organization of higher education has focused on creating educational and technical cooperative platform and exchanging platform in courses of e-learning. It provided to the students with more abundant teaching resources and superior teaching services and lowered the teaching cost by means of strengthening the interstate flow of factors such as personnel, materials, fund and information.

1.1.3 Synergy of policies stimulated by services like data analysis

Each organization of regional higher education pays attention to build special database on topics based on analysis through collecting, sorting and analyzing relevant data in order to provide a solution of problems confronted in the educational cooperation and support to the decision-makings and researches of relevant policies.

1.2 Experience of Erasmus Programme in EU (European Union)

Erasmus Programme, namely the European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students that has been in existence since the late 1980's, the flagship project of exchanges of higher education issued for international education by EU. The Erasmus Plus Programme has been issued in 2014 for furthering and expansion of the project.

1.2.1 Collaborative participation and management by many departments

Provided that it is guided and managed by European Commissioners, the Erasmus Plus Programme has been delegated to other agencies to operate, e.g. Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency are entrusted to carry out the activities of publicizing, guidance on site and release and spread the researching result. The Directorate-general for Enlargement is responsible for supervising and capital appropriation. The European External Action Service is responsible for determining the strategic direction and the like^[1].

1.2.2 Intensifying the mobility and originative cooperation

On the one hand, the mobility crossing the border can be achieved for students, teachers and education management personnel through overseas study, training project and collaborative courses for cultivating talents, on the other hand, the knowledge and technical association among the

educational, training and commercial agencies can improve the cooperation and exchanges in different levels.

1.2.3 Great impetus to policies reform

Besides formulation and support of policies provided by partner countries, the originative system under the guidance of successful experience is also one of the important part of the Erasmus Plus Programme for establishing and perfecting trans-cultural cooperative system of education and more humanized implementing mechanism.

1.2.4 Increasing investment for expansion of the beneficiaries

The total budget of Erasmus Plus Programme is Euro 14.7 billion which is 40% more than Erasmus Programme, i.e. about 4 million people in Europe will have the opportunity for studying and communicating abroad. It will further speed up the exchanges and communication within EU and between EU and other countries and enhance the influence of EU on higher education in the world.

1.3 The present development of regional cooperation in the aspect of higher education in Yangtze River Delta Area in China

From the issuance of Guidance on Further Promoting Opening and Reform And Economic Society Development In Yangtze River Delta Area in China by State Council in 2008 till the issuance of Guidance on Further Promoting Educational Reform And Cooperative Development In Yangtze River Delta Area in China by Ministry Of Education in 2014, no

prominent effects of cooperation in the regional higher education in this area have appeared as expected although it has been implemented in many years. The causes of this situation are mainly : a) The lack of intense demand for the "Cooperation" resulted from the limitation of school-running system of colleges and universities and management system; b)The lack of permanent entity organization, which is authorized by government, being composed of education and administration officers and able to act on behalf of the interests of members; c) The lack of clear capital protection system in the cooperative mechanism; and d) Contending in acquiring resources among colleges and universities and unfair competition in the market.

2. Speculation on collaborative training of general practitioners in the region of Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei

2.1 To fulfill top design by setting up an concentrated and collaborative organization

The successful experience abroad in regional collaborative education has demonstrated that the leading and promoting function of government plays an important role. Both cooperation of regional education and collaborative training of medical talents in the regional of Beijing, Tianjin, and Hebei Province shall be planned as whole based on overall situation on the purpose of accelerating the top design. It is necessary to set up soon a permanent entity organization composed by experts in the fields of

education and medical treatment being able to act on behalf of the interests of all parts in the region of Beijing, Tianjin, and Hebei Province under the leadership of government for assuring the authority, expertise and balance of decision-makings.

In addition to formulating relevant policies and making plans for cooperative projects, the relevant information and data should be released periodically by such organization with respect to recruitment and employment of students with medical education background of general practitioners, standardization trainings and job-transfer trainings of general practitioners organized by medical treatment institutes in all levels and progress and effects of implementing cooperative projects, etc. in the region of Beijing, Tianjin, and Hebei Province . The survey analysis and open information shall be carried out as an important work for providing references for education cooperation according to actual demand so that it may provide orientation in decision making in next steps in order to assure the positive cycle and continuous development of collaborative development.

2.2 Vigorous development of collaborative projects for realizing factor mobility and sharing resources

2.2.1 For mobilizing the academic education and teacher training via sharing the existed experiences

At first, all the general practitioners and students may share the most excellent educational resources which can be utilized in maximum limit by means of teachers exchanges among colleges and universities, mutual recognized academic credits, training project exchanges over provinces and cities as well as creating platforms of network courses, dialogues and view exchanges. For achieving this objective, the education management personnel shall make a breakthrough in the original school-running concept and create a scientific, strict and feasible management mode and platform.

Then, there is a critical problem demanding prompt solution, i.e. the lack of teachers with professional background of general practice such as solid theoretical knowledge, sound basic skills and excellent communicating ability, whether in medical college and university or training base of general practitioners, especially in the medical treatment and healthy institutes. As one of the important tasks in the collaborative cultivating medical talents of general practice in the region of Beijing, Tianjin, and Hebei Province, the medical colleges and universities, practice bases and township clinics, especially in underdeveloped rural areas should select and send the teachers with background of general practice or the teaching doctors to the institute with powerful strength and rich experience for taking a part in the training of teachers of general practitioner. Meanwhile, some capable institutes or those with similar

projects should conclude the agreement of assistance and support proactively with targeted counterparts to improve the service and teaching levels of grass-root medical institutions.

2.2.2 To stimulate the development of agricultural and grass-root medical and sanitary career

Firstly, for the problems of insufficient and decreasing practitioners engaged in medical and sanitary and health care in rural areas, the American Western Higher Education Compact has launched the Experimental Programs Of Training Primary Care physicians In Rural Area on the purpose of improvement of possibility of student graduated from colleges and universities going back to work in rural areas, integrated with the talent retention programs in communities^[2]. Therefore, the colleges and universities in the region of Beijing, Tianjin, and Hebei Province, particular those located in Hebei Province should carry out the targeted training, free of charges, of physicians with academic background of colleges and universities in an extensive extent according to the order from rural areas for exploring the training mode of practical general practitioners and constructing a system of practice and teaching for training oriented to grass-root talents in rural areas.

Secondly, in the practicing phase of standardize training and job-transfer training, it is necessary to establish three-level training system with the 3rd level comprehensive hospitals as the transition bases

to the hospitals of county and district and focused on the township clinics and community service centers. Since the area of Hebei Province is dozen times bigger than Beijing and Tianjin and there are 20 county level cities, 101 counties and about 2000 towns in Hebei Province from the view of administration division, the full mobilization and utilization of all hospitals in county and township level there as the grass-root practicing base of general practitioners in the region of Beijing, Tianjin, and Hebei Province can avert the over-crowded problem and facilitate the development of grass-root medical and sanitary career.

Thirdly, along with the implementation of integrated medical construction in the region of Beijing, Tianjin, and Hebei Province , many large top 3A-grade hospitals in Beijing have began to transfer excellent medical resources to hospitals in Hebei Province in various ways such as association, branches, etc. The well-known Top 3A-Grade Hospitals with mature general practice in the region of Beijing, Tianjin, and Hebei Province should take this opportunity not only to bring such concept and experience to the grass-root hospitals and clinics, but also encourage the authorities to develop with the radiating and group type, inspired by "The section of general practice in comprehensive Top 3A-Grade First Class Hospitals shall not only be set up and opened in the hospital, but also extended to the hospitals in the levels of county, township and community. ^[3]"

2.3 Great investment assuring the successful and thorough implementation of all policies

In order to expand general practice, State has provided capital assurance in the aspect of free training, teacher training and the particular students. In the next step, competent authorities shall increase the investment for the improvement of treatment to the general practitioners. On the one hand, the standard treatment for general practitioners in training period shall be set up according to the standard training of resident physicians, on the other hand, the attraction of the grass-root medical institute such as clinics in township level and service centers in communities in cities shall be enhanced so that the general practitioners are willing to come and stay. Only when the treatment and status of general practitioners improved, can more and more people be attracted to join the team of general practitioners^[4].

For the region of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei Province, the regional cooperation of higher education is a long term career characterized by high expenditure without obvious indications of the effect. It determined that the paying attention to the regional cooperation of higher education shall be embodied by carrying out with long and stable expenditure and investment, rather than stayed in the concept or policies, or Declaration, framework agreement or slogans^[5]. Therefore, all governments in the region of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei Province shall appropriate special

project capital from financial budget for establishing the mutual fund to support and institutionalize the cooperation between colleges and universities^[6]. Then, the competent authorities shall assure the express and transparent application and management of such expenses.

Acknowledgement:

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