Research on the Quality Management System of Dissertation for Professional Degree Students

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Abstract

With the rapid development of my country's economy and society, the demand for high-level application-oriented professionals in all walks of life is growing. However, there are many quality problems in postgraduate dissertations when inspecting by Ministry of Education and other departments. It is imperative to strengthen the whole-process management of professional dissertation quality and improve the training quality of full-time professional degree postgraduates. This paper first analyzes the current situation of the quality management of professional master's thesis, then sorts out the experience of domestic and foreign universities' master's thesis quality management, and finally proposes a comprehensive professional master's degree thesis from the aspects of training plan, supervisor selection, supervision and management, system guarantee, etc. The quality management improvement suggestions provide useful reference for improving the quality of professional master's training and promoting the construction and development of degree authorization points.

Keywords

Dissertation, postgraduate training, quality assurance

Introduction

In order to enhance and guarantee the quality of postgraduate talent cultivation, the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council and the Ministry of Education have jointly issued the Opinions on Strengthening the Construction of Quality Assurance and Supervision System of Degree and Postgraduate Education and the Measures for Random Inspection of Doctoral and Master's Degree Theses since 2014. These regulations clearly put forward the in-depth management of random inspection of doctoral and master's degree theses. At the same time, relevant departments of the Ministry of Education and the Graduate Education Development Center have also carried out online evaluation work on dissertations and random inspection and assessment management of master's theses one after another. In 2020, the Opinions on Further Strictly Regulating the Quality Management of Degree and Postgraduate Education issued by the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council and the Ministry of Education will further clarify the management measures on the quality of postgraduate degree dissertations from multiple aspects.

The academic community has conducted extensive and in-depth discussions and research on the way to improve the quality of postgraduate dissertations, from the construction of the postgraduate cultivation management education system, the stage process management of postgraduate dissertations (Wu Hongxiang, 2007). The academic community has discussed and researched extensively on how to improve the quality of postgraduate dissertations (Yao Xiuying, 2008). The academic community has given relatively good suggestions on how to improve the quality of postgraduate dissertations (Song M, 2012). With the expansion of the admission scale of master's degree students in recent years, some
scholars have proposed to further improve the quality of graduate dissertations by controlling the quality of graduate students, improving the construction level of the faculty, and improving the process of writing graduate dissertations and the quality management system (Zhang Min, 2017). From the results of the sample examination of postgraduate dissertations, the quality of some postgraduate dissertations is problematic. For instance, there are six major problems, containing insufficient scientific research ability of authors, insufficient standardization of academic dissertations, low degree of innovation and value of dissertations, low quality of literature review, the need to improve the author's academic attitude and academic misconduct, and the lack of topic selection and meaning and rigor of dissertations (Li Min, 2017). Therefore, by analyzing the main problems faced in the quality management of postgraduate dissertations and drawing on the practical experience of universities at home and abroad, this paper provides suggestions for improving the overall quality management of professional master's degree dissertations, with a view to improve the quality of postgraduate training.

1. Current situation of quality management of dissertations of professional degree students

The professional dissertation can accurately judge and evaluate whether the students have achieved the cultivation objectives of the professional field. At present, many colleges and universities are facing problems such as lack of professionalism in choosing the topic, lack of innovation in content, falsification of experimental data and confusion in the framework system. This situation reflects that students do not have a solid grasp of the basic knowledge of the discipline and have low practical innovation ability, and cannot reflect the graduates' mastery of professional knowledge and advanced technology (Lv Xiaofang et al., 2020). At the same time, many postgraduates face confusion and problems at the beginning of the topic, such as they do not have the clue of designing experimental framework, what preparation they need to do before the experiment, and how to design comparative experiments. Some of the postgraduates are busy with job applications and examinations in the process of writing the dissertation, and they lack the basic attention to the dissertation. Among the various factors affecting the quality of dissertation, the lack of ability to collect data and process analysis is one of the important factors affecting the quality of dissertation of postgraduates (Zhou Wenhui et al., 2017). In the process of postgraduate training and education, postgraduates learn knowledge in traditional professional knowledge-based courses, and there are few courses related to the collection of literature and the analysis and processing of literature in the curriculum (Zhang Yongze, 2017). In the face of the vast amount of academic materials, it is difficult to know how to collect the required information faster and better. The basic knowledge of learning is integrated in all stages of postgraduate study, and different stages of study have different basic knowledge to be supplemented and reviewed (Zheng Gang, 2019). The seemingly boring basic knowledge is often the most practical. For example, while simulation and design are important for postgraduate students in mechanical engineering, the underlying fundamentals and principles are the foundation. A lack of basic knowledge can make it difficult for postgraduate students to write their dissertations.

2. Experiences of Quality Management of Master's Degree Theses in Universities at Home and Abroad

2.1 Learning from domestic experience

In response to the further deepening reform of the national postgraduate training work, domestic universities have strengthened the management of postgraduates, enhanced the sense of responsibility of supervisors. They enhanced the continuous research and innovation of the dissertation quality management mechanism in universities. The experiences of domestic universities in the management of dissertations are mainly in the following aspects.

Firstly, we should build an assessment mechanism oriented to the quality of the dissertation and strengthen the tutors' sense of responsibility. As the direct person in charge of the dissertation, the supervisor should regularly organize students to participate in academic exchange activities and enhance the academic level of master students by organizing more academic lectures related to academic writing. At the same time, supervisors should start from themselves to strengthen the supervision and guidance of the dissertation writing process. Faculties need to integrate, improve and optimize the existing supervisory resources of their units. Furthermore, universities can increase the opportunities for teachers to communicate with world-renowned universities by establishing international exchange platforms to improve teachers' academic guidance and their own academic capacity, thereby enhancing the soft power of cultural exchange in schools.

Secondly, the students' dissertation innovation will be further enhanced through the establishment of an innovation project. The establishment of innovative projects will not only improve their creative abilities but also the level of in-
novation in their dissertations. By actively introducing new and up-to-date disciplines in the development of the times, giving full play to the school's disciplinary strengths, increasing case studies, actively collaborating with top universities and companies. In this way, it can be achieved to increase the aim is to increase research and innovation projects in vulnerable areas.

Finally, postgraduate students are assured of the overall quality of their thesis by undertaking a self-assessment of their thesis. In recent years, a large number of schools have conducted quality assessment of postgraduate education. Taking Fudan University and Beijing University of Technology as examples, statistical analysis has been conducted on postgraduate enrolment, discipline development, degree conferment and employment (Li Ruijiao, 2017). By evaluating the overall resources of postgraduate teaching and research activities, the faculty can reveal the problems faced by the university in postgraduate education and training, and clarify the direction of rectification.

2.2 Foreign experience

2.2.1 Learning from the US experience

In the United States, postgraduate professional degree education is spearheaded by a medical degree (Liu Haifang, 2010) with a greater focus on the overall development of the student and the improvement of the overall quality of the student as its goal. Through the study of professional degree master's training in the United States, we can understand how to improve the quality of master's training, accurately put the current education stage into practice, learn from their successful experiences, and link these successful experiences with the reality in China to maximize the application to our professional degree postgraduate training. Therefore, it is helpful to become part of our professional degree thesis quality assurance system.

We should study the cultivation model of professional degree students in the United States, and adapt it to our national conditions. The United States can deeply grasp the direct needs of individual students and real-time feedback, and they can adjust accordingly in real time and cultivate dynamically. Finally, cultivating application-oriented talents is the starting and ending point of the United States. It can be concluded that they pay much more attention to pay more attention to students' daily practice, focus on developing students' practical thinking, and enhance their professional ability and innovation ability. Therefore, for the cultivation of professional degree students, apart from the daily courses and theoretical foundation, it is also necessary to improve the professional practice ability.

2.2.2 Learning from the UK experience

In British education, the education system of professional degree postgraduates is relatively complete compared with that in China. There are quite a number of development experiences and features worthy of reference. First of all, the UK attaches more importance to the internationalization of professional degrees in the construction of the postgraduate education system. China should actively learn from and refer to the advanced educational concepts of the UK to gradually expand exchanges and cooperation with the outside world in order to improve the development of China's professional degree education. Secondly, in the daily study and life of postgraduate students of professional degrees in the UK, most of the dissertation writing materials come from the classroom (Chen Mingye, 2014). This is due to the fact that the classrooms of the UK professional degree students are not only the best place to study, but also the best place to learn. The postgraduate supervisors focus on the integrated teaching methods of applied courses, case studies and field teaching, which provide direct materials for postgraduate dissertation writing, and accumulate writing materials in the form of group question-and-answer reports. In this way, the task of dissertation writing can be equally distributed to each student's study and daily life. In contrast, such a research environment is lacking in the process of professional degree postgraduate education in China, and domestic universities generally focus on theoretical teaching in the classroom, with practical teaching as a supplement. This results in the cultivation of comprehensive quality and the improvement of comprehensive skills of postgraduates being greatly hindered in the contextual environment of teacher-oriented professional degree postgraduate education.

3. Suggestions for improving the overall quality management of the dissertation of professional degree students

At present, the number of applicants for master's degree in China has reached a record high, and the competition for master's degree students in society has become more and more fierce. The quality management of dissertation is particularly important as the quality of postgraduate training needs to be improved. The quality management of dissertation should become a system project of the whole staff, the whole process and the whole link. Through understanding the current situation of quality management of professional master's degree theses in various universities and relevant expe-
riences at home and abroad, the following suggestions are summarized.

3.1 Improve the training program and standardize the selection of tutors

The program of training talents should be further improved, the relevant curriculum system should be improved. According to the direction of the chosen topic, courses on dissertation guidance should be set up for various types of dissertations such as case studies, research reports and project management, so as to provide standard scientific demonstrations for students to write their dissertations. The supervisors should be clear about the differences between professional master's degree and academic master's degree in terms of cultivation objectives; they should combine the topic of the dissertation with professional practice, pay attention to the guidance of students' professional practice, and actively guide students to combine the problems found in the process of professional practice with theoretical knowledge and carry out in-depth research to complete a high-quality professional dissertation with practical characteristics.

3.2 Sound supervision network, the whole process, all-round supervision

Electronic writing standards for dissertations are essential to enhance the quality of dissertations, depending on the effort expended by each in the process of writing the dissertation with regard to the format of the essay, the content of the research and the graphs, data and documentation. It will also help tutors to concentrate more on the substance of their students' dissertations. On the other hand, a review system is established for students in the process of writing papers and receiving guidance from tutors. This review system should have functions such as data integration, screening and writing alerts. In addition to the above functions, the review system should also record the whole process of each student's dissertation writing, so that the student's revisions, the supervisor's guidance process and the expert's review suggestions can all be traced (Chen Yiqin, 2020). With the support of the data in the evaluation system, it is easier for the university to carry out the evaluation of the dissertation, and it is easier for the inspectors to check the progress of the dissertation and the supervisor's guidance at any time. Thus, the evaluation results are more objective, which is conducive to the supervision of the whole process and all-round quality of the dissertation.

3.3 Improve institutional safeguards

Standardize the supervisor evaluation and guidance system, and the supervisor will be regularly evaluated for the guidance of academic theses. For the supervisor who has many problems in the blind examination and random inspection of students' theses, the supervisor's enrollment will be reduced or stopped in the following year according to the actual situation, and the proportion of random inspection of theses supervised by the supervisor will be increased in the following years. In this way, it can strengthen the establishment of quality standards for dissertations and improve the corresponding evaluation system. The committee of professional degree education should build a bridge between the relevant educational units and the experts and scholars in the professional field, so as to propose the guidance standards for postgraduate dissertations that are more suitable for the characteristics of the specialties through research.

4. Summary

The quality management of master's theses is directly related to the quality of master's training, which is the core of the overall improvement of master's education (Kang Kai, 2014). This paper analyzes the reasons for the decline in the quality of professional master's theses. It also analyzes the reasons for the decline in the quality of the thesis of professional master's degree students, and gives corresponding solutions and suggestions for improvement with reference to successful experiences at home and abroad. At the current stage, the enrollment scale of master's degree students in universities is gradually expanding, and through quality improvement and control measures to ensure the improvement of thesis quality, the comprehensive strength of professional degree master's students themselves can be improved. According to its own needs, the university should optimize all aspects of each link scientifically. Based on the characteristics of professional degree master's degree training, and constantly improve the quality assurance system of the dissertation, so as to provide basic guarantee for cultivating higher-level talents.

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