

Examining the status and role of legal education from the perspective of the objectives of legal education

Linpen SHI

Yili Normal University, Yining 835000, China

Abstract: This study focuses on the goals of legal education, and analyzes its evolution process to reveal the key position and role of legal education in realizing the construction of national rule of law and cultivating high-quality legal talents. The study finds that the goal of legal education is constantly evolving from traditional knowledge to competency development and quality education. In this context, the quality of legal education has become the core factor affecting the construction of the rule of law and the cultivation of talents. In order to improve the quality of legal education, this study proposes a goal-oriented approach to legal education, including strengthening practical teaching, paying attention to quality education, and cultivating innovative ability. In addition, in view of the development trend of legal education in the future, corresponding educational reform suggestions are put forward.

Key words: legal education; target; status; function; quality improvement

1 Introduction

In the continuous progress and development of human society, the status of law as an important tool for maintaining social order and adjusting social relations has become increasingly prominent [1]. In order to meet the urgent needs of the country's rule of law construction, legal education shoulders the mission of cultivating high-quality legal talents and has become an important pillar of the country's rule of law construction. However, in the face of many challenges brought about by social change, how to stick to the original intention of legal education in the continuous adjustment and change to achieve the goal of cultivating high-quality legal talents has become the focus of attention of the legal community. Through an in-depth analysis of the goals of legal education, this study aims to reveal the status and role of legal education and provide useful insights for improving the quality of legal education.

2 The objectives of legal education and its evolution

2.1 The Classical Period: the germination and initial development of legal education

In the Classical Period, the goal of legal education was mainly focused on imparting legal knowledge and developing legal practice skills [2]. During the ancient Greek and Roman periods, legal education was mainly carried out in the form of master-apprenticeship and lecture system, focusing on the teaching of legal knowledge and the cultivation of practical skills. Although legal education during this period had not yet formed a systematic education system, it played an active role in cultivating legal talents and laid the foundation for the development of legal education in later generations.

2.2 The Middle Ages: the institutionalization and professionalization of legal education

In the Middle Ages, with the establishment and improvement of the university system, legal education began to move towards institutionalization and specialization. During this period, the goal of legal education was to cultivate legal research ability and legal practice ability in addition to imparting legal knowledge. Students received systematic legal education at universities, passed rigorous examinations to obtain degrees, and became legal talents with certain legal literacy.

2.3 Modern times: diversification and globalization of legal education

Since modern times, with the social transformation and the development of the rule of law, the goal of legal education has gradually changed from traditional knowledge transmission to ability training and quality education. During this period, legal education showed the characteristics of pluralism and globalization, and students needed to learn international law, comparative law and other related knowledge on the basis of mastering their own laws to adapt to the increasingly complex international legal environment. In addition, legal education has also begun to pay attention to the cultivation of students' innovative ability, practical ability and comprehensive quality, so as to provide more high-quality legal talents for the society.

2.4 Contemporary: challenges and innovations in legal education

In modern times, legal education is facing unprecedented challenges, such as knowledge explosion, rapid development of information technology, and globalization trend [3]. In this context, the goal of legal education has been further expanded, aiming to cultivate legal talents with an international vision, innovative spirit and comprehensive quality. In order to cope with these challenges, legal education has carried out a series of innovations in educational content, educational methods, practical teaching, etc., so as to achieve the goal of cultivating high-quality legal talents.

3 Examine the necessity of legal education from the perspective of the objectives of legal education

The goal of legal education is not only to cultivate legal talents, but also to maintain the rule of law and order of the country and promote social fairness and justice. Therefore, examining the necessity of legal education from the perspective of the goals of legal education will help us to understand the value of legal education more deeply, strengthen our belief in the rule of law, and cultivate watchmen of social justice. First, legal education is an important means to realize the construction of the rule of law in the country [4]. The construction of the rule of law in a country cannot be separated from high-quality legal personnel. Through the systematic transmission of legal knowledge and the cultivation of practical ability, legal education enables students to deeply understand the connotation and spirit of law, master the skills of using law, and thus have the ability to maintain the rule of law and order. Only through high-quality legal education can we provide the country with legal talents with professional qualities and moral qualities and promote the construction of the country's rule of law. Second, legal education is a key way to improve social fairness and justice. Fairness and justice are the cornerstone of social development and the common expectation of the people. Legal education equips students with the ability and determination to uphold fairness and justice by cultivating their legal awareness and the concept of the rule of law. Under the influence of legal education, students will form a belief in respecting and fearing the law, consciously resist illegal acts, and safeguard social fairness and justice. Therefore, legal education is an important way to improve social fairness and justice, and a key link in cultivating social justice watchmen. Third, legal education is an important way to train future social leaders. The leaders of the future society need not only to have rich knowledge and excellent ability, but also to have high moral character and a sense of social responsibility [5]. It is precisely through cultivating students' belief in the rule of law and the concept of justice that legal education endows them with high moral character and a sense of

social responsibility, and makes them become qualified leaders of the future society. Therefore, legal education plays an important role in developing future social leaders. Fourth, legal education is an important way to improve the legal literacy of the whole people. In a society ruled by law, the rule of law literacy of the whole people is directly related to the stability and prosperity of society. Through popularizing legal knowledge, legal education enhances the legal awareness of the whole people, so that all citizens have basic legal literacy, consciously abide by the law, and maintain social order. Therefore, legal education plays an irreplaceable role in improving the legal literacy of the whole people.

4 The impact of legal education objectives on legal education

4.1 The impact of legal education objectives on the content of legal education

First of all, the objectives ensure that the educational content is scientific and systematic. The objectives of legal education stipulate the basic knowledge and abilities required by legal talents, which provide a basis for the selection of legal education content. In line with the objectives, the content of legal education should be systematic, comprehensive and scientific, covering both basic legal theories and legal practice, so as to ensure that the cultivated legal talents have a solid foundation in law. Second, they emphasize the practicality and applicability of educational content. Therefore, the content of legal education should focus on practical teaching, strengthen teaching links such as case analysis, mock court, and internship practice, and improve the practical operation ability and problem-solving ability of legal talents.

4.2 The impact of legal education objectives on legal education methods

First, advocate diversified teaching methods. In order to achieve the goal of legal education, legal education should adopt diversified teaching methods, such as heuristic teaching, case teaching, seminar teaching, etc., to stimulate students' thinking ability and innovation ability, and cultivate legal talents with independent thinking and judgment ability. Second, strengthen the application of information technology in legal education: The goal of legal education requires the cultivation of legal talents with strong information literacy, so legal education should make full use of information technology, such as online teaching, online courses, virtual simulation, etc., to improve the quality and effect of teaching.

4.3 The impact of legal education objectives on the evaluation of legal education

On the one hand, establish a scientific and reasonable evaluation system. The objectives of legal education provide a basis for the evaluation of legal education, and require that the evaluation system should be comprehensive, objective and fair, which not only focus on students' level of legal theory, but also on their practical ability and comprehensive quality, so as to ensure that the cultivation of legal talents meet the objectives. On the other hand, advocate the combination of formative assessment and summative assessment: the goal of legal education requires that the evaluation of legal education should fully consider the development process of students, so the combination of formative assessment and summative assessment is necessary. Formative assessment focuses on students' learning process and progress, while summative assessment focuses on students' comprehensive abilities and qualities, and the two complement each other and jointly promote students' all-round development.

5 Ways to improve the quality of legal education: guided by the goals of legal education

5.1 Adhere to the scientific outlook on development and clarify the goals of legal education

To improve the quality of legal education, we must first adhere to the scientific outlook on development and clarify the goals of legal education. The scientific outlook on development emphasizes people-oriented and all-round development, which provides the basic principles for the establishment of legal education goals. In order to better cultivate the legal talents needed by society, we need to deeply study the demand for legal talents in social development, combine the experience of legal education at home and abroad, and clarify the goals of legal education. The goals should cover legal knowledge, ability and quality, and provide a clear direction for legal education. In terms of knowledge, the objectives of

legal education should include the acquisition of solid basic legal knowledge, such as the constitution, civil law, criminal law, etc., as well as the understanding of domestic and foreign laws and regulations. In terms of ability, the goal of legal education should be to cultivate students' legal thinking ability, analysis and problem-solving ability, communication and collaboration ability, etc. In terms of quality, the goal of legal education should pay attention to the cultivation of students' moral character, sense of social responsibility, and innovative spirit. At the same time, attention should also be paid to the individualized development of students, respecting their interests and strengths, and making the goals of legal education more in line with the actual needs of students. For example, for students with research interests, they can be guided to participate in project research and develop their independent research ability; for students with practical needs, practical courses can be arranged to allow them to gain experience in practical work. Through individualized teaching, the goal of legal education truly serves the all-round development of students.

5.2 Optimize curriculum and enrich the content of legal education

Curriculum is an important way to achieve the goals of legal education. In order to improve the quality of legal education, we should optimize the curriculum and enrich the content of legal education. First of all, strengthen the education of basic legal theories, so that students can master solid basic knowledge of law and form rigorous legal thinking. In this process, we can invite well-known legal experts at home and abroad to give lectures, so that students can understand the cutting-edge trends in the field of law and broaden their horizons. For example, for constitutional law courses, Chinese constitutional experts can be invited to give explanations, so that students can deeply understand the basic principles and institutional design of the constitution. At the same time, we should pay attention to legal practice education, and improve students' practical operation ability and problem-solving ability through case analysis, mock court, internship practice and other teaching links. These practical teaching sessions enable students to combine the theoretical knowledge of law with practical work, and improve their ability to comprehensively apply legal knowledge. In the civil law course, students can play the role of lawyers, judges and other roles in the form of mock courts, conduct case trials, and cultivate their legal practice ability. In addition, we should also pay attention to the quality education of students, and provide courses in moral education, mental health, communication and cooperation, etc., to cultivate students' comprehensive quality. These courses are designed to develop students' moral character, psychological qualities, and interpersonal communication skills, making them fully developed legal talents. In addition, legal ethics courses can be carried out to allow students to deeply explore issues such as legal professional ethics and social responsibility, and cultivate their good legal ethics literacy. Furthermore, various extracurricular activities, such as legal debate competitions and legal knowledge competitions, can be held to exercise students' communication and expression skills and teamwork spirit.

5.3 Innovate teaching methods to improve the effectiveness of legal education

Innovative pedagogical methods are key to achieving the goals of legal education. In order to improve the quality of legal education, we should innovate teaching methods and improve the effectiveness of legal education. We should actively explore diversified teaching methods, such as heuristic teaching, case teaching, seminar teaching, etc., to stimulate students' thinking ability and innovation ability. These teaching methods will encourage students to actively participate and think positively, thereby enhancing their interest in learning and self-directed learning ability. First of all, in the criminal law course, teachers can guide students to deeply explore the basic principles and specific provisions of criminal law through case analysis, so as to cultivate students' legal thinking and analytical ability. At the same time, we should make full use of modern information technology, such as online teaching, online courses, virtual simulation, etc., to improve the quality and effect of teaching. These technical means can break through the time and space limitations of traditional classrooms, provide students with richer and more convenient learning resources, and meet personalized learning needs.

Secondly, through the online course platform, students can watch lectures by legal experts anytime, anywhere and learn about the latest developments in the field of law. In addition, it is necessary to strengthen practical teaching, and cultivate students' practical ability and teamwork spirit through internship practice, moot court, debate competitions and other forms. Practical teaching enables students to test and consolidate what they have learned in practical operation and improve their ability to solve practical problems. Finally, in the civil procedure law course, teachers can organize moot court activities, allowing students to play the role of judges, lawyers, etc., and conduct case trials, so as to develop their litigation skills and court etiquette. In general, innovative teaching methods are important means to improve the quality of legal education. Educators should continue to explore and try, combine diversified teaching methods with modern information technology to strengthen practical teaching, cultivate students' comprehensive ability, and make legal education more effective.

The evaluation system is an important means to ensure the quality of legal education. In order to improve the quality of legal education, we should improve the evaluation system to ensure the realization of the goals of legal education. It is necessary to establish a scientific and reasonable evaluation system, which should pay attention not only to students' level of legal theory, but also to their practical ability and comprehensive quality. The evaluation system should fully reflect the comprehensive development of students, so that the evaluation results are more targeted and referenceable. For example, in the evaluation system, multiple aspects such as theoretical knowledge assessment, practical ability assessment and comprehensive quality assessment can be set up to ensure the comprehensive evaluation of students. At the same time, we should advocate the combination of formative assessment and summative assessment, fully consider the development process of students, and promote the all-round development of students. Formative assessment can be carried out in the teaching process, focusing on students' learning process and growth changes, which helps to identify problems in time and adjust teaching methods. In addition, teachers can regularly evaluate students' classroom performance and homework completion, and give timely feedback and guidance. A summative assessment is conducted at the end of the course to summarize and evaluate the students' overall performance. In addition, we should strengthen the supervision and evaluation of the teaching process, improve the quality of teaching through teaching quality assessment, teacher teaching evaluation and other links, and ensure the realization of the goals of legal education. Finally, teaching quality evaluation can be carried out regularly, and students, peer experts, etc. can be invited to evaluate the teaching quality, so as to detect problems in time and improve teaching. At the same time, teacher teaching evaluations can be carried out to evaluate teachers' teaching level and teaching methods, so as to promote teachers to improve teaching quality. In short, improving the evaluation system is the key to improving the quality of legal education. We should establish a scientific and reasonable evaluation system, pay attention to the all-round development of students, and strengthen the supervision and evaluation of the teaching process to ensure the realization of the goals of legal education.

6 Conclusion

To sum up, improving the quality of legal education is an important task for the development of today's rule of law society. By optimizing the curriculum, enriching the content of legal education, innovating teaching methods, as well as improving the effect of legal education, and improving the evaluation system, the quality of legal education can be comprehensively improved and high-quality legal talents can be cultivated that meet the needs of the times. Let us work together to contribute to the construction of the rule of law in our country, and write a brilliant chapter in legal education for the realization of the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation!

Conflicts of interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

References

- [1] Zhang H. 2018. Research on the reform and innovation of legal education. *Journal of Legal Education*, 1:35-42.
- [2] Li XH. 2021. Research on the strategy of improving the quality of legal education. *Legal Research*, 4:98-104.
- [3] Chen M. 2020. Modernization of legal education and reform of practice teaching. *Legal Education Weekly*, 2:67-73.
- [4] Zhou J. 2019. Challenges and countermeasures for the development of legal education in China. *Jurist*, 3:89-96.
- [5] Zhao CY. 2019. Curriculum reform under the background of internationalization of legal education. *Law Forum*, 3:48-53.