

# Research on the government functions in the development of modern apprenticeship in higher vocational colleges in Tianjin

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**Abstract:** Taking Tianjin as an example and from the current situation of function fulfillment of Tianjin municipal government in promoting the development of modern apprenticeship system, this study summarizes the role orientation and function of the government in promoting the development of modern apprenticeship, and combines the practical experience of Tianjin municipal government in the fulfillment of its functions in promoting the development of modern apprenticeship system to find out the problems of Tianjin municipal government in performing its functions. At the same time, it is proposed that local governments need to perform their functions, conduct comprehensive guidance, coordination and supervision to promote the long-term and in-depth development of modern apprenticeship.

**Key words:** higher vocational colleges; modern apprenticeship; government functions

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## 1 Introduction

The full implementation of modern apprenticeship is the only way to deepen the reform of higher vocational education, and it is also one of the important ways to accelerate regional industrial upgrading and high-quality economic development. Nowadays, the pilot of modern apprenticeship system has been promoted and tried out nationwide. However, limited by the construction of "double-qualified" teachers in modern apprenticeship system, the training objectives of higher vocational colleges and cooperative enterprises are different, and the participation of third-party entities such as industry associations is complex. The problems formed in the trial process of modern apprenticeship system appear one by one. At this time, local governments need to perform their functions, carry out comprehensive guidance, overall planning, coordination and supervision, and promote the long-term and in-depth development of modern apprenticeship system.

## 2 The status quo of government functions in the development of modern apprenticeship in higher vocational colleges in Tianjin

### 2.1 The performance of the system construction function

Tianjin Municipal People's Government has provided a strong guarantee for the healthy development of modern apprenticeship in higher vocational colleges by formulating clear policy documents, strengthening policy implementation, encouraging system innovation and exploration [1].

In the *Implementation Opinions of Tianjin Municipal People's Government on Accelerating the Development of Modern Vocational Education*, Tianjin Municipal People's Government clearly put forward the development goal of

promoting modern apprenticeship, emphasizing key elements such as government guidance, school-enterprise cooperation, and work-study alternation, and providing clear policy guidance for the implementation of modern apprenticeship in higher vocational colleges.

#### 2.2 The performance of the overall planning function

Tianjin Municipal People's Government has shown a strong overall planning function in the development of modern apprenticeship in higher vocational colleges. Through policy guidance, strategic planning, resource allocation and pilot promotion, the Municipal Government has effectively promoted the development of modern apprenticeship in higher vocational colleges and provided strong talent support for local economic and industrial development.

In terms of pilot promotion, Tianjin Municipal People's Government has selected a number of qualified higher vocational colleges as pilot units of modern apprenticeship system, and given them key support and guidance. Under the guidance of the Municipal Government, these pilot units have actively explored new models of school-enterprise cooperation, improved talent training programs, and strengthened the construction of teaching staff, which achieved remarkable results.

#### 2.3 The implementation of the guidance and coordination functions

Through close cooperation with Tianjin modern apprenticeship pilot higher vocational colleges, Tianjin Municipal Government has actively carried out the function of guidance and coordination in platform construction and financial support. These measures not only promote the in-depth development of modern apprenticeship in higher vocational colleges, but also improve the quality and efficiency of personnel training, and provide strong talent support and intellectual guarantee for local economic and industrial development [2].

#### 2.4 The performance of supervisory functions

The Tianjin municipal government has provided a strong guarantee for the smooth progress of the modern apprenticeship system in higher vocational colleges by constructing a perfect supervision system and continuously improving the supervision effect. In particular, the professionalism and independence of the supervision work is ensured through the establishment of special supervision institutions, such as the Tianjin Vocational Education Modern Apprenticeship Pilot Work Supervision Committee, which not only helps to promote the modernization reform and development of higher vocational colleges, but also makes a positive contribution to the improvement and innovation of China's vocational education system.

### **3 Problems in the performance of government functions in the development of modern apprenticeship in higher vocational colleges in Tianjin**

#### 3.1 The government's policy guidance is insufficient, and the popularity of modern apprenticeship is insufficient

In the course of the investigation, we found that nearly 80% of the students knew nothing about the modern apprenticeship policy before enrollment, and there was almost no special choice for a certain college or major due to the modern apprenticeship system. What is more surprising is that even after enrollment, more than 20 % of students still know nothing about the modern apprenticeship policy. For those students who have knowledge of the policy, their understanding is limited to the general direction of the policy, and their cognition of the specific application policy, training mode, policy advantages and other details is quite vague. For higher vocational colleges, this situation undoubtedly greatly restricts their ability to absorb high-quality students and expand the scale of enrollment.

3.2 The government's overall coordination is not in place, and the phenomenon of "school hot and enterprise cold " is difficult to improve

The implementation of the modern apprenticeship pilot will undoubtedly rekindle the enthusiasm of school-enterprise

cooperation, and promote the rise of school-enterprise cooperation in quantity and quality. However, we must face up to the fact that in the wave of cooperation, the enthusiasm of industry enterprises does not seem to be synchronized with it. The pilot leaders generally reflect that most of the enterprises currently participating in the cooperation are long-term partners of the school [3]. Based on the trust and interest considerations accumulated in the past cooperation, they are willing to set foot in the pilot of modern apprenticeship. In contrast, the number of new enterprises that actively take the modern apprenticeship as an opportunity to cooperate and actively seek cooperation with colleges and universities is still relatively limited.

### 3.3 The government's incentive guarantee is insufficient, and the construction of "double tutors" is still absent

In the practice of modern apprenticeship, school teachers and enterprise masters need to work together to undertake the important mission of talent training. Although there are differences in the roles of the two, there are also strict requirements for the knowledge reserve and teaching level of the enterprise masters. However, the current selection and appointment process of enterprise masters mostly depend on vague concepts such as "skilled masters" and "skilled craftsmen". Although some colleges and enterprises will consider their professional titles and work competition experience when selecting masters, they still lack a complete and systematic selection, appointment and incentive mechanism as a whole. How to effectively carry out teaching and what kind of teaching effect to achieve are long-term exploration problems for both schools and enterprises.

3.4 Government supervision and guidance are not in place, and the rights and interests of modern apprenticeship are difficult to guarantee

The core of modern apprenticeship lies in the "dual system", that is, apprentices have the dual identity of both students and employees. However, according to our research results, the protection of the identity rights and interests of apprentices as "prospective employees" is still not perfect. The current *Labor Law* mainly focuses on the rights and interests of full-time workers, but there is a gap in the identification and protection of the rights and interests of the special identity of apprentices [4]. This not only brings legal and institutional obstacles to the confirmation of the dual identity of apprentices in modern apprenticeship, but also increases the risks and loopholes in the process of apprenticeship management for colleges and enterprises.

## **4 Countermeasures and suggestions on the optimization of government functions in the development of modern apprenticeship in higher vocational colleges in Tianjin**

### 4.1 Deepen the function of system construction

Tianjin Municipal People's Government should effectively assume the main responsibility for the development of modern apprenticeship, and resolutely implement the spirit of the relevant meetings and documents of the central and higher levels on the development of modern apprenticeship and school-enterprise cooperation. In particular, it is necessary to implement the relevant policy guidelines to the local level, and closely combine the local reality, so that the modern apprenticeship system can formulate specific and operable implementation rules or regulations in all aspects, fields and multi-level development [5]. At the same time, it is necessary to clarify through legal provisions, policies and regulations that enterprises can enjoy the right to use talents only after fulfilling the obligations of modern apprenticeship personnel training, so as to strengthen and enhance the sense of responsibility of enterprises to participate in modern apprenticeship personnel training, promote enterprises to consciously transform their participation in modern apprenticeship personnel training into subconscious behavior, realize the standardized and legal development of modern apprenticeship personnel training mode and promote the healthy and orderly development of modern apprenticeship.

### 4.2 Deepen the overall planning function

Tianjin Municipal People's Government should firmly grasp the school-running direction of "serving development and promoting employment", strengthen the macro-control of higher vocational colleges and enterprises, build a professional dynamic adjustment mechanism, timely warn the regional economic development model, industrial structure and layout, so as to guide higher vocational colleges to dynamically adjust professional settings according to market orientation and regional future development trend, coordinate the cooperation between industry enterprises and higher vocational colleges, promote professional docking industry, professional chain docking industry chain, school docking regional characteristic economy, especially for the pillar industries of Tianjin, according to the requirements of the actual development of enterprises for high-quality technical and skilled personnel. It is also necessary to formulate corresponding talent training programs, refine the training catalogue and outline, so that the high-quality technical and skilled talents trained by the school can meet the actual needs of local economic development and industrial restructuring, promoting the symbiosis and win-win situation among the government, schools and enterprises.

#### 4.3 Deepen the guidance and coordination function

When formulating industrial support policies, Tianjin Municipal Government can increase modern apprenticeship as a necessary content, and guide enterprises in the industry to actively participate in the training of modern apprenticeship talents. It has become the future orientation and trend to encourage the reform of mixed ownership and joint-stock school running, adhere to the development of enterprises as the main body and higher vocational colleges as the basic support, and focus on improving the core technology of the industry to develop modern apprenticeship. In the leading industries of regional economic development, a number of key enterprises with modern apprenticeship talent training foundation, a high degree of motivation to participate in school running and great discourse power in the industry are selected as the pilot enterprises of modern apprenticeship system to carry out key construction and cultivation. It can also give some educational resources to the children of enterprise managers and technical backbone personnel [6].

#### 4.4 Deepen the supervision and guarantee function

According to the relevant policy mechanism of local modern apprenticeship, the relevant departments of Tianjin Municipal Government should find out their own role positioning, grasp the function, focus on the supervision object, clarify the scope of supervision, carry out supervision and management according to law, and strive to achieve effective monitoring and supervision at each key time node of the development of modern apprenticeship. It is necessary to establish a special committee for the supervision of modern apprenticeship system, led by the Education Supervision Office of Tianjin Municipal Government or the Performance Appraisal Office of Municipal Party Committee, composed of leaders and business backbones of Municipal People's Congress, Municipal CPPCC, municipal relevant business departments, scientific research institutes, enterprises, higher vocational colleges and other units, so as to guide and coordinate the development dilemma of modern apprenticeship system in the region, supervise and implement the behavior and effectiveness of modern apprenticeship system, and deepen the development of modern apprenticeship system with typical demonstration.

## 5 Conclusion

In order to promote the in-depth development of modern apprenticeship in higher vocational colleges and promote the transformation and optimization of the functions of Tianjin Municipal Government, this study proposes to lay a foundation for the development of modern apprenticeship by deepening the functions of system construction. To deepen the overall planning function, the development depth of modern apprenticeship, as well as the guidance and coordination function and enhance the participation of modern apprenticeship, we should deepen the supervision and guarantee function, realize the benign development of modern apprenticeship and other countermeasures and suggestions, ensure the healthy and long-

term development of modern apprenticeship, and promote the high-quality development of regional economy.

### **Conflicts of interest**

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

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