

# The Predicament and Improvement Path of Educational Innovation in Medical Universities: The Perspective of Regional Higher Education Integration

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## Abstract

Based on the perspective of regional higher education integration, this paper analyzes the dilemma of educational innovation in local medical colleges and universities, and proposes the improvement paths of establishing educational innovation and development thinking, optimizing regional educational resource allocation, and promoting collaborative governance of diversified subjects, to enrich the research perspective of regional medical and health care and economic development, and also contribute to the coordinated development of medical education, regional economy, and society.

## Keywords

**Educational Innovation; Collaborative Governance; Medical Universities; Regional Higher Education Integration.**

## 1. Introduction

From the perspective of the historical process of social development, education is closely related to socio-economic development. Different local economies and societies, while playing and improving their economic characteristics, also influence the scale and speed of education development and the changes in the content, concept, and structure of education. At the same time, the regional education system contributes to regional socio-economic development through people and technology. As a part of higher education institutions in a certain region, medical schools are also influenced by the changes in the pattern and spatial pattern of regional higher education development and construction. Especially in the process of "Healthy China" strategy, the significance of regional medical higher education innovation is becoming more and more prominent. Therefore, it is important to analyze and grasp the development dilemma of regional medical higher education innovation, and explore the ways to improve it, to study the sustainable development model of "regional higher education integration" and promote the prosperous development of regional medical and health undertakings.

## 2. Related Concept Elaboration

### 2.1. Regionalization of Higher Education

Jane Knight, a British scholar who has studied the regionalization of higher education, provides a theoretical framework that regionalization of higher education refers to the formation of closer collaboration and alliances between higher education actors and systems within the same framework is known as regions and areas[1]. A process of closer collaboration and alliance between higher education actors and systems within the same framework known as regions and areas. This process requires different steps and processes, such as commitment to cooperation, the establishment of regional organizations, and signing of cooperation contracts.

Although the process of regionalization of higher education has different characteristics the degree of cooperation, Integration, Community, and Interdependence all represent a more formal, institutionalized, and all-encompassing partnership that is the trend in the development of regional integration of higher education.

## **2.2. Regional Higher Education Integration**

From the perspective of the degree and level of economic and social development, regional education integration is a dynamic stage of progressive development. In the context of unified regional economic and social development, regional higher education integration has gradually become an active response to economic and social development. Regional higher education integration is an organic ecosystem formed by coupling the activities within the higher education system and interacting with the external areas of the system[2]. This connection is geographically adjacent to each other, with the characteristics of a similar geographical location, similar history ,and culture, and close economic level, rather than the mere fusion of universities between regions into a whole.

## **3. Analysis of the Factors that Hinder the Innovation of Education in Local Medical Universities**

### **3.1. Lack of Clear Perception of Regional Higher Education Integration**

Thinking is the precursor of action, from the current situation of regional higher education development in China, the integration of local higher education cooperation is still in a relatively loose cooperation stage, and there is no clear understanding and knowledge about how to reach a win-win synergy based on the goal of linkage and integration development between regions. From a deeper perspective, education integration at this stage is more reflected in shallow inter-school interactions, and there is still an urgent need to make a breakthrough in the substantive development of education cooperation and research; from a thicker perspective, because the form of higher education cooperation and sharing is more important than the connotation, the education cooperation and sharing between regions still lacks a normalized mechanism; from a wider perspective, the field and scope of education cooperation and sharing in the region still need to be further broadened, and it is more limited to In terms of breadth, the fields and scope of intra-regional educational cooperation and sharing still need to be further broadened, but more at the external level such as forming alliances and building forums.

### **3.2. Conflicting Educational Interests and Contradictions in the Process of Educational Innovation**

Any kind of innovation will have an impact on the existing related interest groups. In the process of promoting local higher education synergy, the existing uneven development will lead to different contradictions and interests in higher education reform in the region. For all parties, the conflict of educational interests and social problems in the educational reform and innovation are objectives, and the key to testing the policy wisdom of education policymakers is how to gather the greatest consensus on the coordinated development of education based on the objective existence of this conflict. In the context of "new medical science", local medical universities need to actively consider how to integrate into the "Healthy China" strategy together with all relevant stakeholders, and grasp the "new medical science" and "medical education and research". In the context of "new medical science", local medical universities need to actively consider how to integrate into the "Healthy China" strategy with all stakeholders, and grasp the development opportunities of "new medical science" and "synergy between medical education and research".

### **3.3. Shortcomings in the Construction of Educational Innovation Sharing Platform in Local Medical Universities**

With the booming development of global education informatization, issues such as sharing and cooperation of teaching resources have become a key concern in the global education informatization process. However, due to geographical constraints, medical schools in some regions are faced with insufficient investment in R&D and innovation, lack of capacity to share educational information resources, slow progress in establishing educational research platforms and support and security systems, and insufficient openness to existing large instruments and equipment, which limit medical students' access to professional knowledge through educational resource sharing platforms. In addition, under test-based education, people are generally eager to get high scores, which in effect restrains the initiative and creativity of teachers and students, which is also an important factor hindering educational innovation.

## **4. The Improvement Path of Medical College Education Innovation from the Perspective of Regional Higher Education Integration**

### **4.1. Establishing a Framework of Thinking for the Innovative Development of Regional Higher Education Integration**

To build a closer community of integration and development, it is necessary to establish a common vision based on long-term strategy and to guide and stimulate the spirit of win-win cooperation and development. In the face of this problem, higher education institutions must pay attention to and change their mindset, understand the meaning of education resource sharing more accurately, and realize that education resource sharing is a kind of collaboration, which can help higher education institutions achieve win-win results in cooperation. Especially in medical schools, although medicine, as a unique profession, has always emphasized experimentation and practice as its foundation, with the rapid penetration of cutting-edge technologies such as big data analysis and artificial intelligence into the field of medical science and technology in recent years, cross-fertilization among various professions will certainly promote the development of current medical talents, medical technology innovation, clinical application of medical services and public health in all aspects.

### **4.2. Optimize Regional Diversified Education Resource Allocation**

Regional educational collaboration refers to respecting the existing administrative division and localization strategy of education, mobilizing various resources, creating the environment, and introducing policies in the whole urban area, and various departments in the region collaborate in the construction of digital resources, and the construction results are shared by teachers and students in the schools in the region[3]. To promote regional education collaboration, it is crucial to promote the optimization of local government educational resource allocation and deepen the cooperative resource sharing system. On the one hand, schools should make use of modern technology and cloud services for the cooperation of high-quality teaching resources, and form a modern teaching resources integration and sharing platform based on education as one. On the other hand, it is also necessary to strengthen the connotation construction and institutional guarantee of educational cooperation and resource sharing, and further enrich and expand the depth, thickness, and breadth of cooperation and sharing of teaching resources in the region. The construction of "new medical science" emphasizes that modern medicine must further highlight the characteristics from individual to team, from micro to macro, and from partial to comprehensive, to meet the increasingly urgent challenges of reality, and carry out overall strategic planning of medical education reform with a new integration concept.

### 4.3. Promote Collaborative Governance of Regional Education Pluralists

The key to promoting education integration lies in breaking through the traditional fragmentation of the education system based on governmental boundaries, to promote coordinated and innovative development of education. Therefore, it is necessary to form a mechanism for coordinating interests based on cooperative and innovative development. From the perspective of regional governance, the modernization of local higher education management capacity should not only bring into play the governmental guidance and policy incentive function of local governments in the process of economic integration, but also mobilize the collaborative and innovative vitality of local medical schools based on the modernization of governance capacity, to promote the all-round collaborative development of local economy and society. For local medical higher education, although there are still many obstacles to the synergy of medical education at macro and micro levels[4], it is still necessary to further strengthen the cooperation and co-construction between institutions and regional communities of interest in education and teaching, technology platforms, scientific research projects, talent teams, regional culture, etc., and focus on integrating the comprehensive advantages of local medical colleges and universities, the advantages of local government policies and resources, and the advantages of regional industrial resources. In addition, we should further change the current policy and practice of the university. In addition, we should further change the current management model of exam-oriented education, further enhance the status and function of teaching innovation in the evaluation system, form a scientific, diversified, and innovation-promoting teaching evaluation system, and create a teaching ecology that values individuality and respects innovation, enhance the endogenous power of teaching innovation, and stimulate the teaching innovation potential of all teachers[5].

## 5. Conclusion

Building regional higher education integration and promoting educational innovation of local medical colleges and universities, are not only related to the future development of regional medical colleges and universities, but also related to the coordination between medical education and regional economic and social development, as well as to the creation of the brand effect of regional medical education. In the process of promoting medical education innovation, medical schools must pay attention to using the heterogeneous resources of different institutions in the region, enrich the extensiveness and hierarchy of institutional cooperation, change the ideological viewpoint, plan the development of medical specialties with new ideas, promote the construction of medical education with a new orientation, improve the training system of medical students with new connotations, and coordinate medical education innovation with new medical disciplines.

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