Shaping Strong Base Plan in Chinese Higher Education Reform: a Policy Forecasting Perspective

Jian LI | ORCID: 0000-0002-3228-8163
Associate Professor, China Institute of Education Policy, Faculty of Education, Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China
Corresponding author
jianli209@bnu.edu.cn

Kun LI | ORCID: 0000-0002-7138-9856
Doctoral Student, Institute of Education History and Culture, Faculty of Education, Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China
2023010009@mail.bnu.edu.cn

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Abstract

As a pilot program of enrollment reform, the strong Base plan is more of an exploration of the cultivation path of top innovative talents. It needs to achieve self-improvement and innovation during challenges, constantly standardize the rights and obligations of each subject in the process of policy implementation, constantly clarify the content and standards of college entrance examination and comprehensive evaluation, and constantly improve the connection between each link, to ensure that the purpose and effect of the strong base plan are basically the same. It is a long way to go for the “Strong Base Plan” to explore a way to cultivate top-notch innovative talents with Chinese characteristics. It is necessary to coordinate and cooperate with various departments of planning, finance, human resources and social security, science, and technology, increase policy preference and resource investment, effectively improve the treatment and status of talents in basic disciplines.
Keywords

the reform of strong base plan – Chinese education reform – education development in China – educational reform

1 Background

At the beginning of the implementation of the Strong Base Plan in 2020, it faced the question of “cold reception”. With the deepening of the policy publicity, the social recognition of the Strong Base Plan continues to improve. Data show that the total number of applicants for “Strong Base Plan” in 2021 is over 300,000, and the final number is about 6,000, which is less than 2%. The competition is quite fierce (Zhang and Yang, 2020; Deng, And Zhong, 2020; Yan and Wu, 2021; Song and Jing, 2021; Huang and Chen, 2021). As a pilot program of enrollment reform, the Strong Base Plan is more of an exploration of the cultivation path of top innovative talents. It needs to achieve self-improvement and innovation during challenges, constantly standardize the rights and obligations of each subject in the process of policy implementation, constantly clarify the content and standards of college entrance examination and comprehensive evaluation, and constantly improve the connection between each link, to ensure that the purpose and effect of the strong base plan are basically the same. Standing on the value and practice, the academic circle discusses the reform direction and expected effect of the Strong Base plan and constructs the idealized state of the Strong Base plan (Yan and Wu, 2021; Song and Jing, 2021; Huang and Chen, 2021). Therefore, this study aims to shaping Strong Base Plan in Chinese higher education reform from a policy forecasting perspective. Reform direction and policy value of Strong Base Plan has been examined in this study and the conclusion also include in the last.

2 Reform Direction and Policy Value of Strong Base Plan

In the strong base plan, the comprehensive quality evaluation is included in the investigation, but it still lacks the unified understanding of the dimensions and standards of the evaluation. There is no theoretical basis to support the weight of college examination results and comprehensive quality evaluation in the total scores of college entrance examination. On the one hand, on the basis of adhering to the college entrance examination scores as an important entry threshold, on the other hand, the weight of school test scores should be appropriately increased, the autonomy of colleges and universities in student
assessment should be expanded, and the assessment of high school students’ comprehensive quality results should be clearly incorporated into the college assessment system, so as to encourage students to participate in social practice and carry out various research studies. Guide high school schools to pay more attention to the cultivation of students’ learning interest and comprehensive quality. On the other hand, it is suggested to improve the testing system of colleges and universities. Based on specific disciplines, we should implement interdisciplinary comprehensive ability testing, rather than the past single subject testing, and put the focus of school testing on the comprehensive ability of students to find and solve problems (Zhang and Yang, 2020; Deng and Zhong, 2020; Yan and Wu, 2021; Song and Jing, 2021; Huang and Chen, 2021). The first is the connection between basic education and higher education. Secondary schools, as the cradle of top talents in basic research, should take the initiative to meet the development needs of higher education and constantly deepen curriculum reform.

The implementation of the strong Base plan would have an important positive guidance effect on breaking the branch education of high school education, stopping the practice of not offering the national curriculum, developing quality education, cultivating the core qualities of students, and promoting the further integration of basic education and higher education. The university takes the factors into account, such as the national policy documents and the development trend of The Times, the local education reform plan and talent demand, the orientation of school enrollment and talent training programs and so on, and timely adjusts the talent cultivation mode, thus, to promote the university, the government, and enterprises to establish a close and stable triple helix relationship (Huang and Chen, 2021).

It is necessary to clarify the most significant features of the Strong Base plan compared with other policies for cultivating top talents and highlight the supporting and leading role of specific basic disciplines in key fields. We should take basic subject courses as the main content of talent training, focus on consolidating students’ knowledge accumulation of basic subjects in undergraduate stage, improve the depth and breadth of students’ study of relevant basic courses, cultivate their internal affinity with specific subjects, implement flexible course replacement and exemption system, explore the art of “leaving blank” in the cultivation of top talents. It is necessary to strengthen curriculum construction, promote the effective integration of general education and professional education, and establish the concept of general curriculum construction under the guidance of all-round development, interdisciplinary, result-oriented and lifelong education. According to the characteristics of training top-notch innovative talents, curriculum objectives are constructed from three dimensions of knowledge, skill and value. General education
courses are carried out in three aspects: building general education courses by modules, obtaining quality teachers through multiple channels and joint management of colleges and universities. It's the real-time course feedback, adjustment, and update of general education curriculum implementation that ensure the scientific implementation of general education curriculum. The examination and enrollment system is the national legal education system and the core of the educational evaluation system. As a new attempt, Strong Base Plan is of great significance for deepening the comprehensive reform of college entrance examination and establishing the college entrance examination system with Chinese characteristics (Huang and Chen, 2021; Liang P., 2023; Yan G. & Du J., 2022; Du R., 2021).

The Strong Base Plan has abolished the admission system of lowering scores and set gaokao scores as the main threshold, which is a response to the shortcomings of submitting false materials, the disorderly development of competition and training institutions, and the competition for high-quality students among universities during the implementation of independent enrollment. The Strong Base program selects students based on their college entrance examination scores, comprehensive assessment results of colleges and universities, and comprehensive quality evaluation, which reflects a more comprehensive evaluation of students and restrains the tendency of utilitarianism in education (Zhang and Yang, 2020, Deng. And Zhong, 2020; Yan and Wu, 2021; Song and Jing, 2021; Huang and Chen, 2021). It is helpful to guide the healthy development of basic education and promote the college enrollment system towards the direction of fairness. We should also get rid of the “score only” stereotype and actively use comprehensive evaluation (Song and Jing, 2013).

The Strong Base Plan implements the spirit of the National Education Conference, summarizes the experience and practice of using comprehensive quality evaluation in the comprehensive reform of college entrance examination in Shanghai, Zhejiang and other places, explores the enrollment mode of evaluating students based on the unified multidimensional index of college entrance examination, and explicitly takes comprehensive quality evaluation as one of the dimensions of college admission for the first time. That is, colleges and universities should verify and evaluate the relevant contents of students’ comprehensive quality files in the examination, and the evaluation results should be included in the comprehensive examination results of colleges and universities. For the candidates with excellent comprehensive quality, it provides another way to realize the ideal of life, to get rid of the “only score”, to realize the all-round development of people. We should break through the disciplinarian tendency and investigate students’ ability and thinking in depth (Song and Jing, 2021; Huang and Chen, 2021). The “Strong Base Plan”
requires universities to change the practice of subject-based knowledge examination, and actively explore ways to test students’ ability to analyze and solve problems and innovative thinking through written tests, interviews, and practical operations, so as to make talent selection more scientific. We will improve the implementation mechanism for cultivating virtues and talents, explore multi-dimensional assessment and evaluation models, and strive to achieve the organic unity of student growth, national talent selection, and social equity (Liang P., 2023; Yan G. & Du J., 2022; Du R., 2021).

3 Conclusion

It is a long way to go for the “Strong Base Plan” to explore a way to cultivate top-notch innovative talents with Chinese characteristics. It is only a small incision in the field of education. It is necessary to coordinate and cooperate with various departments of planning, finance, human resources and social security, science, and technology, increase policy preference and resource investment, effectively improve the treatment and status of talents in basic disciplines. And the whole society should together protect the heart of these talented young people to serve the country (Zhang and Yang, 2020, Deng. And Zhong, 2020; Yan and Wu, 2021; Song and Jing, 2021; Huang and Chen, 2021).

References

