

Bridges and Bonds: The Connotations, Relationships, and Mutual Influences of People-to-People Exchange and the Opening-up of Education in the Era of Globalization

Shaoqin Lu¹ Baozhen Wang²

¹ Academic Affairs Office, Changzhou College of Information Technology, Changzhou, Jiangsu, China

² Division One Office for People-to-People Exchange Mechanism, China Center for International People-to-People Exchange, Ministry of Education, Beijing, China

¹Corresponding author. Email: lushaoqin@czcit.edu.cn

ABSTRACT

With the development of globalization, international People-to-People exchange and the opening up of education play an extremely important role in establishing mutual trust and understanding between nations. The article first defines the connotations of international People-to-People exchange and education, and by analyzing their interplay and role in promoting social diversity and internationalization, it points out that international People-to-People exchange can promote educational innovation and reform by providing a platform for cross-cultural understanding. At the same time, education also provides a solid foundation for international People-to-People exchange by cultivating talents with an international perspective. The positive impacts of international People-to-People exchange on education mainly include enhancing the quality of education, promoting the sharing of educational resources, and bringing new ideas and methods to education. The research results indicate that the opening up of education and international People-to-People exchange are complementary to each other, and together they promote the modernization of education and the enhancement of international competitiveness.

Keywords: Educational opening-up, International People-to-People exchange, Cultivation of international talents, International cooperation.

1. INTRODUCTION

In June 2020, the Ministry of Education of China and seven other departments issued the "Opinions on Accelerating and Expanding the Opening-up of Education in the New Era," which clearly pointed out the need to intensify the reform of Sino-foreign cooperative education, enhance the international competitiveness of talent cultivation in higher education, accelerate the training of high-level international talents with a global perspective, and build a vocational education system with international advanced standards and Chinese characteristics. Education is the foundation of cultural exchange; it not only imparts knowledge and skills but is also a key way to cultivate personal values, cultural identity, and a global outlook. Education and international People-to-People

exchange promote each other and jointly advance the diversification and internationalization of society. International People-to-People exchange are an extension of education, transcending the boundaries of the classroom, providing students and educators with opportunities for personal experience and practice through international conferences, academic discussions, cultural exchange activities, and study abroad programs. Education supports international People-to-People exchange by cultivating talents with an international perspective, and the practice of international People-to-People exchange, in turn, enriches the connotations of education, improving the quality and effectiveness of education.[1]

2. THE CONNOTATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE EXCHANGE AND EDUCATION

In the new era, international People-to-People exchange and education have a close and complex relationship, influencing and promoting each other. Together, they facilitate the growth of individuals, the inheritance and innovation of culture, and the harmony and development of society. International People-to-People exchange and the opening up of education help build open and inclusive societies, promote dialogue and understanding between different cultures, reduce conflicts and misunderstandings, and cultivate international talents who can work and communicate in multicultural environments.

2.1 The Essence and Characteristics of International People-to-People Exchange

International People-to-People exchange is communications and activities primarily carried out by people. These exchanges refer mainly to interactions between China and other countries. They aim to enhance mutual understanding and trust between nations and their peoples, focusing on people-oriented, open, equal, respectful, inclusive, appreciative, mutually beneficial, cooperative, and sustainable development principles. The goal is to shape a positive national image and to lay a solid foundation of public opinion. The purpose is to promote mutual understanding, friendship, and cooperation between different countries and regions, to reduce misunderstandings and biases, to deepen mutual knowledge, to encourage cultural diversity and mutual learning, and to advance global peace and development.[2]

For China, international People-to-People exchange aim to facilitate mutual understanding between the people of China and other countries. In summary, they aim to strengthen the foundation, promote development, serve development, enhance capabilities, and build a community[3]. This includes solidifying the social and public opinion foundation for China's opening up to the outside world, promoting the economic and social development of the nation, improving the ability and level of participation in global governance reforms, serving the development of major-country diplomacy, playing a supportive role, and

cooperating for mutual benefits with countries around the world to advance the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

The main connotations of international People-to-People exchange are communications and interactive behaviors in various fields such as literature and art, philosophy, politics, economy, education, science, journalism, and sports.

2.2 The Connotations and Characteristics of Education

Education is a purposeful, organized, and planned social activity that aims to cultivate and develop an individual's knowledge, skills, character, and thinking abilities through the imparting of knowledge, development of skills, and shaping of values. It promotes the comprehensive development of individuals and the progress of society.

Broadly defined, education encompasses aspects such as social education, family education, and school education. Narrowly defined, education mainly refers to school education.

As a social activity, education has the characteristics of purposefulness, organization, planning, social nature, individual development, and continuity[4]. The purpose of education is to address three key questions: what kind of people to cultivate, how to cultivate them, and for whom to cultivate them. The fundamental task is to moralize and cultivate individuals (to understand great virtues, to abide by public morals, and to strictly adhere to personal ethics), and to develop well-rounded socialist builders and successors with moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetic, and labor education. It aims to cultivate talents for the Party and materials for the country.

Considering the connotations of international People-to-People exchange and education, the relationship between Chinese and foreign People-to-People exchange and the opening up of education to the outside world can be mainly summarized into the following three aspects: the first is the impact of international People-to-People exchange on the opening up of education; the second is the impact of the opening up of education on international People-to-People exchange; and the third is the mutual influence between international People-to-People exchange and the opening up of education.

3. THE IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE EXCHANGE ON EDUCATION

Regarding the impact of international People-to-People exchange on education, the main

considerations are based on the following points: What can international People-to-People exchange do on the basis of existing education? How can they promote the development of education towards a higher level and higher quality? The impact of international People-to-People exchange on education is shown in “Figure 1” below.

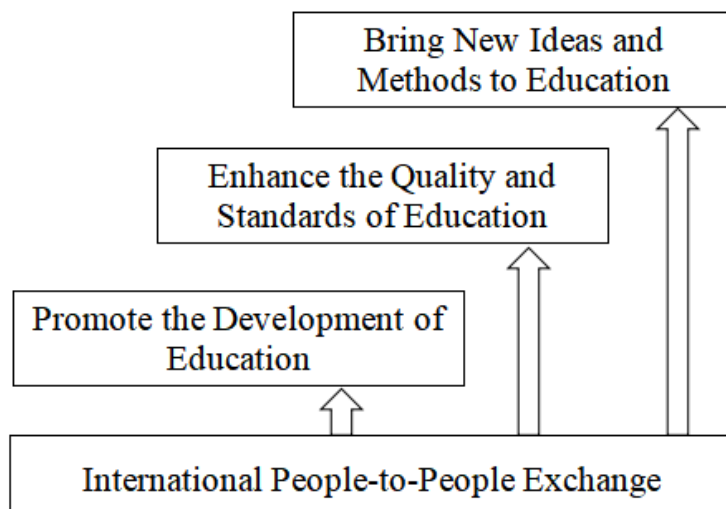


Figure 1 The impact of international People-to-People exchange on education.

3.1 *International People-to-People Exchange Promotes the Development of Education*

Through international People-to-People exchange, education can gain experiences and wisdom from different cultures and countries, promoting the diversification and internationalization of educational development.

- It promotes cross-cultural understanding and respect. International People-to-People exchange provide opportunities for education that allow students to better understand and respect different cultures, values, and traditions.[5]
- It fosters innovation and reform in education. International People-to-People exchange can inspire the drive for educational innovation and reform. By sharing experiences and educational philosophies with educators from other countries and regions, one can draw on and absorb advanced educational concepts and practices, propelling the development and reform of education in one's own country.
- International People-to-People exchange actively promote the opening up and international development of education. Through educational cooperation and

exchanges with other countries, China and foreign parties have signed agreements on the mutual recognition of academic degrees and qualifications, promoted the establishment of Sino-foreign cooperative education institutions and projects, and launched Chinese education programs and Confucius Institutes, which have facilitated mutual learning and exchange between Chinese and foreign education and culture.

3.2 *International People-to-People Exchange Enhances the Quality and Standards of Education*

International People-to-People exchange enhances the development of education by attracting more and more foreign students to learn Chinese and understand Chinese culture, promoting the inheritance and exchange of culture, and fostering students' cultural confidence.[6]

- By interacting with students and educators from different countries, students can broaden their horizons and develop cross-cultural communication and collaboration skills.
- Students can participate in exchange programs, study abroad, and international

academic cooperation, providing them with opportunities to learn about diversity.

- International People-to-People exchange can promote the sharing and cooperation of educational resources and mutual learning. Educational institutions from different countries can share educational resources and best practices through cooperative projects and academic exchanges, jointly improving the level of education.
- International People-to-People exchange fosters the development of students' global perspectives and international competitiveness. By interacting with students and educators from different countries, students can understand educational trends and employment demands in the context of globalization, and adapt early to the competitive environment of internationalization.

3.3 International People-to-People Exchange Brings New Ideas and Methods to Education

International People-to-People exchange can promote the exchange and cooperation in education between different countries, learning from each other in terms of educational philosophy, teaching models, and methods.

- Through international People-to-People exchange, the exchange of culture, art, language, and other aspects between different countries and regions can enrich educational content and teaching methods.

- Students and educators can participate in international exchange programs to experience firsthand the education systems and teaching methods of different countries, promoting the reform of teaching models and the innovation of educational philosophies through mutual learning.
- International People-to-People exchange can promote the sharing and cooperation of educational resources. For example, collaborative education programs, study abroad, mutual visits, research studies, and other exchange activities provide students with broader learning opportunities and facilitate the sharing and transformation of academic achievements across wider geographical areas.

Based on the impact of international People-to-People exchange on education, people can change their perspective and look at what education can do for international People-to-People exchange.

4. THE IMPACT OF EDUCATION ON INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE EXCHANGE

Education is not only about imparting knowledge and skills, but also an important means to promote mutual understanding and exchange between different countries and cultures. The impact of education on international People-to-People exchange is shown in "Figure 2" below.

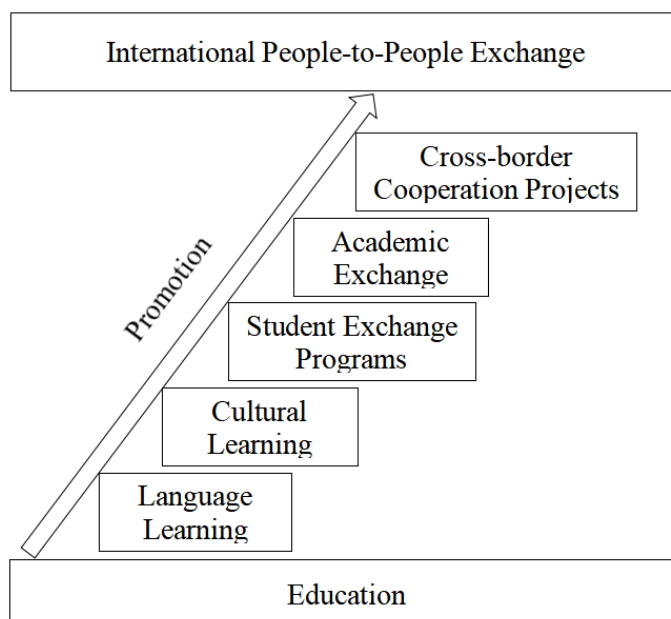


Figure 2 The impact of education on international People-to-People exchange.

4.1 Language Learning

Education provides opportunities for language learning, enabling people to learn languages from other countries and thereby communicate better with people from other nations. Through language learning, people can communicate more effectively with individuals from other countries, eliminate misunderstandings and barriers, and enhance mutual understanding and friendship.

4.2 Cultural Learning

Education can help people understand the uniqueness of other cultures by teaching knowledge about the history, literature, art, and other aspects of different countries[7]. By learning about other cultures, people can better understand and respect the cultures of other nations, promoting cultural exchange and integration.

4.3 Student Exchange Programs

Educational institutions can organize student exchange programs, giving students the opportunity to study and live in other countries. Such exchanges allow students to experience other cultures firsthand, enhance their understanding and friendship with other nations, and develop the ability to communicate across cultures.

4.4 Academic Exchange

Educational institutions can organize academic exchange activities, inviting scholars from other countries to visit and give academic lectures and seminars. This kind of exchange can promote cooperation and exchange in the academic community, and promote academic research and knowledge sharing between different countries.

4.5 Cross-border Cooperation Projects

Educational institutions can collaborate with those in other countries to carry out educational projects, jointly cultivate students and teachers, and promote the sharing and exchange of educational resources. Such cooperation can enhance educational collaboration between different nations and improve the quality and standards of education[8].

From the above five points, it can be seen that language learning and cultural learning are the foundations of international People-to-People exchange, while student exchange programs,

academic exchanges, and cross-border cooperation projects are the activities and vehicles of international People-to-People exchange.

In hosting various international educational activities, they often serve both as educational activities and as international People-to-People exchange, with a relationship where you contain me and I contain you.

5. THE PURPOSE OF OPENING UP EDUCATION TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD AND INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE EXCHANGE

Educational opening-up refers to a country or region's opening of its educational sector to the outside world, including student study abroad, teacher exchanges, academic cooperation, and more. International People-to-People exchange refers to the interactions and communications between different countries and regions in areas such as culture, art, language, and history. Before discussing the joint impact of education and international People-to-People exchange, it is necessary to understand their individual purposes.

5.1 The Purpose of Educational Opening-up

In May 2023, the state proposed to improve the strategy and tactics of educational opening-up, to coordinate the two major tasks of "bringing in" and "going out", to effectively utilize world-class educational resources and innovative elements, and to make our country an important world educational center with strong influence. It is necessary to actively participate in global education governance, vigorously promote the "Study in China" brand construction, tell Chinese stories, disseminate Chinese experiences, and make Chinese voices heard, thereby enhancing the international influence and discourse power of the nation's education.

5.2 The Purposes of International People-to-People Exchange

International People-to-People exchange is a reflection of soft power, and with strong soft power, the resistance to political, diplomatic, and economic activities decreases. Cultural cooperation requires little investment, has a significant impact, and lasts for a long time. The key is to value it and carry it out in a subtle way, like "a gentle breeze that enters the night silently and moistens things without a

sound," to promote people-to-people connections and exert cultural influence. From this, we can conclude that openness, exchange, and cooperation are means, and win-win cooperation is the goal of international People-to-People exchange.

Thus, it can be concluded as follows: first, education is the foundation and prerequisite for international People-to-People exchange; second, international People-to-People exchange provide education with a broad stage and abundant resources; third, international People-to-People exchange can promote the internationalization and diversification of education, and are an important means to enhance the level of educational opening-up.

6. CONCLUSION

International People-to-People exchange and the opening up of education serve as both purposes and means for each other, with international People-to-People exchange and education complementing and supporting each other. By expanding the breadth and depth of bilateral and multilateral educational cooperation between China and other countries, it is possible to effectively enhance the country's ability to participate in international governance in the field of education, promote mutual exchange of different cultures between countries, broaden each other's horizons, and increase understanding and respect for other cultures. The opening up of education and Chinese and foreign People-to-People exchange work together to concentrate efforts and build strong foundations for the construction of a strong educational nation, and they are also pillars and foundations for building a community with a shared future for mankind.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

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