

Beijing VET Qualification Framework Reform for Lifelong Learning: A Bridge between Workplace Learning and School Education?

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Abstract:

Lifelong learning is an important education ideology in China, lifelong learning and learning society are became the significant mission statement in Chinese national education agenda. As a big country with large population, in order to achieve the mission of lifelong learning, each sector of education have their role, so with the VET. In the earlier of 2010s, Beijing start a reform called *VET Fenjizhi*(分级制改革), I called this reform BVQF reform, it is a kind of qualification framework building project in the VET area, the purpose of the reform is to build a path way between school education and workplace learning, the vocational schools, vocational colleges, enterprises and labour market are the stakeholders, so the students and workers in the working place can be easily transferred and the skilled workers can be became the teachers in vocational schools/colleges under this framework. After the theoretical preparation, the reform officially lauched in 2011, about 20 vocational school/colleges with hundred enterprises joined this BVQF project. The BVQF project select some occupations which labour market in Beijing are needed most as the pilot subject. In the process of this reform, the typical steps in one subject are: 1.analyze the demand—2.establish the “occupation warehouse”—3.setting the standard of each level of the qualification—4.description of the ability in each level—5.design the learning pathway—6.curriculum design— 7.quality monitoring and evaluation. As I involved the process of this BVQF reform, it is try to borrow the idea of SCQF in Scotland, AQF in Austrian and the experience in HK as well, it changes the VET teachers’ mind, to change the tipical pathway of the vocational students as a lifelong learner, but however, I have to admit, it is not a successful reform. There are some reasons: culturally, the students are still want a degree, not diploma or qualification especially in the capital city of Beijing, the system are still not open enough with the central government control all the resources and not easy to change. This BVQF reform was end in 2014, the new reform now is to build link between vocational schools and universities, not enterprises and labour market, it is the time to review and rethink about the BVQF, is the qualification framework is a mission cannot be achieved?