

The Influence of College Entrance Examination Policy on Educational Equity in China

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Abstract. The fairness of the college entrance examination is an important index to measure whether society is fair, and the college entrance examination policy is the decisive factor in the fairness of the college entrance examination. The college entrance examination is called Gaokao in China. In today's era of rapid development of science and technology, all countries have a great demand for high-quality talents. Therefore, it is essential and necessary to ensure the fairness of education and to explore and educate students with potential. So this paper is mainly divided into four parts. The first part mainly introduces the definition of fairness and how to reflect fairness in Gaokao policy. The second part introduces and analyzes the previous research. The third part mainly introduces the current situation and significance of the Gaokao system. The fourth part mainly analyzes the embodiment and existing problems of the education gap between big cities and rural areas in the Gaokao policy. This study believes that through the analysis of the above contents, it can better improve the fairness of the Gaokao system and establish a more scientific way of talent education and training so that more people can get a complete and excellent education. Gaokao has always been a major event widely concerned by the whole society in China. Through the improvement of the fairness of Gaokao, a fair and just atmosphere can be promoted to improve society's overall quality.

Keywords: College Entrance Examination; Equity; China.

1. Introduction

China is by far the most populous country in the world. By 2020, China's population aged 0-24 will account for 28.77% [1]. This shows that the number of people in need of education in China is enormous. As of 2015, the average school life expectancy in China is only 14 [1]. In China, the age of adulthood is 18. That means there are many kids who are not getting a complete education. However, China's spending on education is also limited. In 2018, China only spent 3.5 percent of its GDP on education, ranking it 123rd in the world [1]. How to guarantee the impartiality of China's college entrance examination education becomes extremely crucial and difficult in the context of such a large population and a lack of education spending. In this study, the author hopes to further explore the gap and problems between urban and rural areas in college entrance examination policies by studying policies and data and further solve the gap in educational resources caused by population and historical problems in different regions to fill the inequality of Gaokao policies. The first step in maximizing the realization of fairness in Gaokao is to comprehend what it means to be fair. The limit of fairness is tough to divide. Therefore, the author will first divide and define fairness and combine it with Gaokao. Secondly, as a topic of widespread concern in Chinese society, the college entrance examination has been analyzed and studied by many scholars. Therefore, in this part, the author will learn the thoughts of predecessors and combine them with the current situation in China. The author will introduce and evaluate the current scenario in the third section. This essay will conclude by outlining the reform strategy and underscoring the necessity of the fairness of the policy regarding Gaokao. The significance of this study is not only to point out the current inequity of Gaokao and correct it but, more importantly, to enable more students to receive a complete education and cultivate good quality truly. More skills could spur rural prosperity and rejuvenation if urban and rural students were treated equally on college entrance exams. In addition, the fairness of the college admissions test can encourage a fair environment in society and raise society's standard of living in general.

2. Define Fairness

Fairness is essential and necessary in any society. In China, a lot of students' futures are decided by the college entrance exam. Hence, to a considerable part, the equity of the college entrance exam reflects the justice of society. However, as everyone knows all know that it is unrealistic to achieve complete equality, but College Entrance Examination Education in China should be as fair as possible.

Equity mainly describes the rational interest distribution relationship between social individuals and social groups. Specifically, it can be reflected in six basic levels, namely, opportunity equity, rights equity, rule equity, Distributive justice, efficiency equity and social security equity [2]. This article will analyze each in turn.

(1) Opportunity Equity. Equality of opportunity means that individuals participating in social activities should have equal opportunities during the activities [2]. In this regard, China's college entrance examination policy is well implemented. All students of the right age have the chance to take the exam, and even students who fail the first time can have the chance to take the exam again.

(2) Rights Equity. Equality of rights means that individuals should be endowed with relatively equal resources and power [2]. Moreover, it is this aspect that causes great resistance to the fairness of the college entrance examination policy. Different historical backgrounds in different regions result in uneven distribution of educational resources. Students in big cities, such as Beijing and Shanghai, have better quality and lots of schools, teachers, and textbooks. While some children in rural areas may have only one teacher for several grades, they do not have enough resources to help them learn. So that is a loophole in fairness.

(3) Rule Equity. Rule equality means that individuals participating in social activities should be selected according to the same criteria [2]. The policy of college entrance examination needs to be viewed from different angles in this aspect. In China, different regions have different levels of difficulty according to the actual situation. Undeniably, this approach allows many students with poor learning resources to have the opportunity to further their studies at better universities. However, such a method also seeks some people with bad intentions to "the college entrance examination immigration" to get higher scores.

(4) Distributive Justice. Distributive justice is by no means equal distribution but a rationalization of distribution [2]. Additionally, the protocol of college entrance exams requires urgent modification. A more logical distribution of educational resources is necessary due to the diverse populations and educational environments in various locations.

(5) Efficiency Equity. In the process of seeking fairness, it must be built on the basis of a reasonable efficiency system. Absolute fairness does not exist. How to achieve reasonable fairness, it must properly consider the efficiency factor [2]. This is exactly what the college entrance examination policy finally seeks and accomplishes. How to maximize the fair treatment of all students in Gaokao is the point that China should focus on and the education system's reform measures.

(6) Social Security Equity. Social security equity includes the protection and tendency of relatively vulnerable groups [2]. The policy of college entrance examination also has corresponding measures in this respect. For example, in some poor areas or the children of martyrs give the policy of deduction. Some government officials recently suggested that children of doctors who contributed to the outbreak should also be given a reduced score. This policy has aroused many people's opposition. Therefore, relevant departments need to grasp the degree of score reduction in Gaokao.

Through the above classification of the definition of fairness and the combination with the college entrance examination policy, it can be found that China tries its best in terms of the fairness of the Gaokao policy, but there is still room for improvement.

3. Previous Research

The college entrance examination has always been a big hot topic in China; it determines the fate of many people. Therefore, many scholars continue to pay attention to and analyze the college

entrance examination. This part of this paper will interpret and analyze some scholars' literature on the fairness of the college entrance examination.

Generally speaking, fairness and scientific issues are fundamental. In other words, the improvement of science is conducive to the realization of fairness, and the improvement of fairness is also conducive to the enhancement of scientific talent selection. However, such a harmonious and unified relationship is similar to the Great harmony society and tends to be an ideal state [3]. The fairness of the college entrance examination is also facing such a dilemma. At present, the unified college entrance examination proposition organization mode is mainly divided into provinces' independent propositions. Such a proposition can help each region adjust the degree of difficulty according to the situation of educational resources. There is no denying that such a way is scientific, but it also increases the occurrence of unfairness. The uncertainty of the difficulty of the question and the lack of effective supervision of the college entrance examination system resulted in the phenomenon of favoritism, such as college entrance examination immigration and cheating. This is a point the government needs to balance in carrying out reforms. In Liu Liang's 2016 paper, the propositional question of the college entrance examination was also explicitly discussed. He pointedly pointed out that people are not so much questioning the provincial approach as they are worried about the fairness brought about by the diversity of methods and admission channels [4]. This shows that the fairness of China's college entrance examination policy is not perfect, and people do not fully recognize the college entrance examination system. The Chinese government should have the courage to reform the college entrance examination policy.

In addition to the problems arising from the proposition, there is also the problem of inequality between urban and rural areas, which is also the main topic of this paper. The first is the inequality of educational resources, which is a long-term problem caused by history and needs a long-term process. This process should be accompanied by economic development and gradually promote rural revitalization to ease gradually. However, the inequality between urban and rural areas is also reflected in admissions policies. As far as China is concerned, there are too many quality education resources in Beijing and Shanghai. Take "Project 985" schools as an example; there are 39 schools in China, of which 10 are in Beijing and Shanghai. Because the admission system is skewed in favor of local students, it is unfair for students in big cities like Beijing and Shanghai to get in, while students in other cities cannot get into better schools, no matter how good they are [5].

Besides, since the examiners have lived in cities for a long time, this will cause problems that rural students do not know about when the questions are written. For example, the essay question of the college entrance examination in Shaanxi Province in 2015 ways: a father was driving on the highway to make a phone call. The child repeatedly reminded him not to make a phone call, but the father refused to listen to the dissuasion and finally, the child chose to call the police. After the police came, the father was criticized and educated. The question asks the candidate to write a letter to the father, the child or the relevant department. Some people think the question is unfair to rural students who do not know the rules of highways and have no phone calls on expressways [6]. This is also a controversy caused by the difference between urban and rural areas.

The literature analysis shows that the fairness of China's college entrance examination is in urgent need of reform. Both propositions and policies reflect the lack of fairness in Gaokao.

4. Current Circumstances

In the latest figures on the percentage of people with universities in each region of 100,000, the top-ranked schools are all developed regions in China. However, the college enrollment rate in most provinces has not exceeded the average, which shows that the college entrance examination policy needs to be improved in terms of rights fairness because the population and development levels of different regions are different, but the number of university admissions is fixed. This has resulted in a "dropout" situation for students in many provinces with large populations or those that are underdeveloped and have little investment in education.

However, China's Gaokao policy is also gradually becoming fairer. The new round of Gaokao has implemented a series of compensation policies to increase the educational opportunities for children of disadvantaged groups so that they can enjoy shared development. In the new era, Gaokao reform should deal with the relationship between efficiency and fairness and should not overemphasize the fairness of Gaokao selection while ignoring efficiency. After all, higher education should first emphasize the core value of efficiency [7]. The quality of schooling varies to address the issue of diverse populations in diverse geographic areas. In terms of policy, the scores are different in different provinces, and the exam papers are different in different regions. Use easier test questions in areas where education is poor. Such educational reform has largely satisfied the fairness of Gaokao. The fairness of Gaokao can be well guaranteed by making up for the differences in education levels through the differences in the difficulty of the examination papers. However, it also allows many people to take advantage of the loopholes, which are often referred to as "the college entrance examination immigrants". Such behavior also undermines fairness. Therefore, in this respect, the relevant departments still need to strictly control the registration of students to ensure the correct implementation of the policy.

Although the current policy reform is constantly improving, the phenomenon of inequity still exists. For example, students in Beijing, Shanghai and other cities receive more and better educational resources. Many students in remote areas have to learn by themselves. According to the definition and analysis of equity in the first part of this paper, China needs to reasonably allocate educational resources to ensure the equal rights of examinees in different regions. This is where China's college entrance examination policy needs to be improved.

5. Findings

Through the analysis of data and policies, it can be seen that China's College Entrance Examination policy is gradually becoming more equitable. However, because of the differences between regions and large populations, it is difficult to raise equity to the highest level. In terms of policies, China should provide further guarantees to students in poor areas, for example, by lowering the threshold for admission in certain areas. For example, the children of doctors who have made significant contributions to the epidemic do not need to be marked down. There is no denying that these doctors are great, but this has nothing to do with the educational environment and resources of the students themselves. Giving parents too much help just because they have made a contribution to society will also cause injustice. However, if a national martyr died at a young age without giving the child the education and care of his parents, this situation can be given relevant help in the Gaokao policy. However, in the new round of Gaokao reform, the implementation of special plans and the equivalence of scores in different subjects affect the standard of procedural fairness to a certain extent, which leads to the unfairness of the results and affects the authority and scientific nature of the examination [8]. However, as the article said above, relevant government departments should strive to grasp the bottom line of poor areas.

Secondly, the government can use the current situation of the developed Internet to open online courses. So that students in remote areas can receive guidance from famous teachers. This method of using the Internet is also not a permanent solution, only in a short period of time to provide students who do not have the ability to provide high-quality education. The state should actively recruit normal students and strictly control the quality of teachers' qualifications. Only in this way can China gradually meet the demand for educational resources in remote areas. In order to better ensure the implementation of fairness, relevant departments in China still need to further improve the policy. At the same time, train more excellent teachers and build more schools.

It is also worth noting how difficult the questions are. The paper is difficult and conducive to solving problems of high level, strong ability of students; Easy examination papers benefit the average student. Therefore, in a large-scale examination like the college entrance examination, when higher education has entered the popularization stage and is close to the threshold of popularization, and the

admission rate has reached more than 85%, the difficulty of the examination must be appropriate and must match the overall level of all the middle schools and all the examinees. Too difficult or too easy will affect fairness. In addition, the examiners should ensure that the questions are understood by students in rural areas to avoid unfair questions [9]. The examiners should ensure that the questions are understood by students in rural areas to avoid unfair problems in the preparation of the questions.

The fairness of the college entrance examination policy is of great significance. In the current era of "targeted poverty alleviation", we should strive to increase the income of the poor. The cheapest way to reduce poverty is to invest in education and to "reduce poverty" through education [10]. Therefore, the reform of the college entrance examination policy is not only to promote education but also to promote social progress.

6. Conclusion

Through the definition of fairness, literature review, and the introduction of the current situation, scheme and significance, this paper makes a detailed study of the fairness of China's college entrance examination policy. Education is at any time an important factor for the state and society to ensure the quality of the people. However, in the case of China's large population, it is extremely important to ensure the quality of education. Many people change their own destiny, or even the fate of their entire village, by studying hard and doing well in the college entrance examination. If it is college entrance examination not fair, then the fate of these people will always be confined to small villages. The country has also lost many of its instinctive talents. Secondly, the college entrance examination plays a very important role in society. If the fairness of the college entrance examination policy is not guaranteed, society will become unhealthy. Even people may become disappointed with the Chinese government and cause political problems, which no one wants to see. Reforming the college entrance exam policy is crucial and necessary to ensure the equity of education.

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