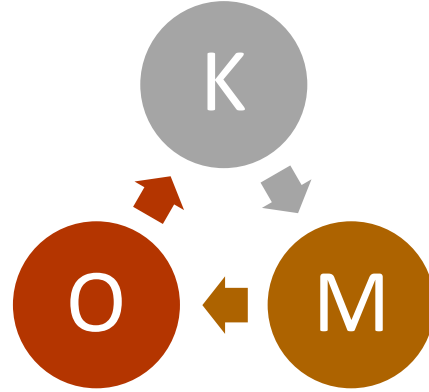


PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY LABOR MARKET THROUGH LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION AT A CHINESE JOINT VENTURE UNIVERSITY

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Focus of the Study

There is a mismatch of skillsets among Chinese graduates compared with the skills needed in the 21st century labor market in China. There is a lack of soft skills, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills, in particular among Chinese graduates.



Research Questions

- ❖ What is faculty's knowledge and motivation related to the development of 21st century skills through the liberal arts curriculum?
- ❖ What is the interaction between the university's culture and context and faculty's knowledge and motivation?

Methods and Data Analysis

Interviews

Participants

- ❖ 11 interview participants recruited.

Data collection

- ❖ 30 - 60 minutes face-to-face interviews

Document Analysis

Findings

Knowledge

- ❖ Not all faculty have a solid understanding on liberal arts education;
- ❖ Faculty members connect liberal arts education with development of 21st century skills;
- ❖ Faculty adopts various teaching activities to develop students' skills in their classes;
- ❖ Teaching strategies are constantly finetuned based on various feedbacks.

Motivation

- ❖ Faculty see great value in liberal arts education;
- ❖ Faculty demonstrated high expectation in their teaching;
- ❖ Faculty are confident in their own ability in offering effective teaching;
- ❖ Students' pragmatic mentality affects faculty's efficacy in developing students' 21st century skills.

Organization

- ❖ There is a need for the university to better define its liberal arts concept;
- ❖ Lack of comprehensive assessment tool for student skill development.
- ❖ Non-academic support to facilitate faculty's teaching;
- ❖ Conducive collaboration on academic front;
- ❖ The university Faculty generally has heavy work load in UOT

Recommendations

- ❖ Integrate the idea of liberal arts education in university culture and include a specific session in the orientation program for new faculty;
- ❖ Implement a more comprehensive student assessment plan;
- ❖ Establish a faculty mentoring program.

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