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Study on fair education, social mobility and long-term economic growth

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ABSTRACT

Promoting fair education and social mobility is an urgent requirement for realizing long-term economic growth. Through the analysis of the main existing problems about educational fairness, social mobility and long-term economic growth, immediately following having a discussion in depth of the interaction mechanism among fair education, social mobility and long-term economic growth, and then putting forward that it is necessary to strengthen the government's policy guidance, narrow the gap between rich and poor from different classes, balance development of education system between different regions, urban-rural areas and groups, improve the management mechanism of social mobility, and precipitate flexible development of whole society in order to form a positive interactive cycle among the three.

KEYWORDS

Fair education; Social mobility; Long-term economic growth; Interactive.



INTRODUCTION

Since the reform and opening up, China has made rapid development and great progress in the cause of education, however there is still a wide gap compared with developed countries. China's education remains grim, and especially educational equity issues become increasingly prominent, then how to achieve educational equity has not only always been the difficulty of building a harmonious society, but also need to be solved urgently. On November 2013, "the decision on major issues concerning comprehensively deepening reforms" that been adopted at the Third Plenary Session of 18th CPC Central Committee, which clearly states that "vigorously promote equity in education, improve funding system for students from poor families, build the effective mechanism of using information means to expand the coverage of high quality education resources, gradually narrow the gap between regions, urban and rural, inter-school." Again promoting social education equity on the agenda.

The main connotation of education fairness, is that everyone enjoys the equal rights of education in law; in the field of education policy, is that everyone equally has public education resources; and in education activities, everyone is equally educated, everyone has equal access to make academic achievement and employment prospects^[1]. In other words, education fairness is the basic rights the individual should enjoy, it is the foundation for long-term economic growth and social healthy development, which coincides with "for one hundred, education for this" strategic idea. At the same time, the education not only has the function of the rich individual consciousness space, also is a kind of selection mechanism of social resources effective allocation. The higher the individual education accomplishment is made, the more the ability to flow from one class to another class status, that is, the greater the likelihood of its social mobility. Social mobility refers to the social members in the social relations of space from a certain social location move to other social position^[2], if the existing class moves to a higher social status from a lower social status that can be called "a rising flow", whereas called "drop flow", two kinds of flow patterns are collectively referred to "vertical flow"^[3].

In contrast, horizontal flow refers to the social members flow transversely in the same area or different geographical range within a certain class^[4]. From a certain extent, social mobility is a measure standard of the creativity of social economy, the higher social mobility means that people create wealth and struggle consciousness is strong, and positive attitude towards life. But in recent years, a new set of "rich second generation", "officer the second generation" and "poor second generation", all reveal the social mobility is not high in China currently, the class structure is curing and polarization is serious, which directly endanger the long-term economic growth. Therefore, in order to better promote long-term economic growth, improve China's competitive advantage in international status, systematically research the action mechanism among education fairness, social mobility and long-term economic growth, undoubtedly there is very important theoretical and practical significance.

THE EXISTING MAIN PROBLEMS OF EDUCATION FAIRNESS, SOCIAL MOBILITY AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC GROWTH IN CHINA

Currently, the fields of education fairness, social mobility and long-term economic growth still exist many deficiencies, which has greatly hindered the long-term health of China's economic development in practice. Only analyzing deeply our country's education fairness, social mobility and long-term economic growth respectively and the main problems existing between the three overall can we suit the remedy to the case. It is good to guide the long-term sustainable development of the national economy, to improve further the international competitiveness of our country, and then realize the rapid development of our country's economy.

Fair education is difficult to implement

The famous Swiss educator Torsten Hasen thought fair education is mainly refers to the equalization of education opportunity, including education opportunity fairness, education process fairness and fair education results^[5].

To pursue the maximize of fair education is an important content of building a harmonious society, it has a huge impact on a particular country or region of human resource quality directly. But the current situation of China's educational fairness is still not optimistic, it is embodied in three aspects:

Firstly, the education opportunities is difficult to meet a full range of fairness, and the education opportunities among different areas, urban- rural areas, and professional class presents the unfair development trend.

For instance that the eastern coastal areas of China whose geographical position is superior, economic development level is higher, the annual per capital income is more optimistic, and most families can afford basic educational fee and accept high quality education opportunities. However a lot of the Midwest rural population whose family's economy is difficulties, most income is used for the basic cost of living. So they don't have the ability to access to higher education opportunities compared with high-income people. Secondly, the allocation of education resource is more difficult to balance. Although in recent years, China has introduced a series of policy for example encouraging college students support education to the western, improve infrastructure configuration for western education and so on.

That make some progresses and have great change to the backward area in overall situation. But in the process of practical education, the poles case of education resource allocation is still serious. The hardware configuration, teaching staff and other resources of underdeveloped areas is not optimistic. As shown in the table one, the areas with higher per capital GDP have more plenty of teacher resources than underdeveloped regions. Thirdly, the gap between educational outcomes is big. Schools in underdeveloped areas of quantity, quality, number of students to complete their studies each year, and number of degrees awarded per year have huge differences with respect to the developed areas. This is the inevitable result of the educational starting point and process which the amount of resources put into. As shown in Table two, the higher development level of the eastern region whose the number of school and staff engaged in R&D is far more than the Midwest area, respectively accounting for forty percent and fifty percent of the total number of the national school or above, meanwhile its educational output quality is much better than Midwest. And the R&D personnel in the proportion of women is significantly less than men. The success possibility of women accepting the higher education opportunities are relatively low, it further hinders the fairness of education.

TABLE 1 : Different parts of the ordinary institutions of higher learning full-time teacher faculty situation in 2012

Area (per capital GDP: Yuan)	total	Senior title	Sub-senior title	intermediate title	primary titles	no title
Shanghai (85373)	40118	6781	12610	16498	2877	1352
Zhejiang (63374)	54154	7196	16437	24111	3908	2502
Fujian (52763)	41119	4546	11329	15742	7226	2276
Hunan (33480)	62541	6543	18017	25340	8555	4086
Jiangxi (28800)	50205	5033	13715	19828	9074	2555
Guangxi (27952)	35027	3445	9160	13456	5286	3680
Guizhou (19710)	22803	2148	7040	8595	3266	1754

(Note: this data comes from the 2013 Statistical Yearbook of China:57/698)

TABLE 2 : Number of high college R&D personnel from different areas in 2011

Area	Number of Schools	R&D personnel				
		Number of Schools	women	PhD.	Master degree	bachelor degree
Nationwide	2409	631772	230197	144219	227873	207042
Eastern area	1059	325976	122791	87006	112544	98296
Central area	769	174984	62735	33806	67048	60832
Western area	581	130812	44671	23407	48281	47914

(Note: this data comes from the 2012 China Statistical Yearbook of Science and Technology:112-113)

Social mobility lacks of vitality relatively

Pitirim Sorokin Higher came up with "education is the important ladder for social members flowing from the bottom to the upper"^[6]. Generally speaking, the social mobility of an area is high, which means that the area's structure transform in different layers is frequent, people can obtain the necessary success through their own efforts, then to enjoy the ideal living and working state, and do not rely on seeking a specific social relations to do something smooth. It means people can play their own quality, knowledge, skills, and follow self-consistency rules of social mobility, instead of based on individual innate or some congenital factors, such as family background, family relations, racial and religious beliefs and so on^[7].

It will greatly improve the living and job satisfaction and happiness, and it is conducive to the construction of harmonious modern society. But our country has not formed the scientific and reasonable social mobility mechanism, the social mobility activity showed a negative development trend, mainly in the following two aspects: first, the existing social structure is curing more in particular market economic and political environment.

Although in recent years, "rich second generation" and "officer the second generation" phenomenon due to the constant media disclosure has improved, the society in a variety of "in search of the doorway, rely on the relationship" situation is difficult to avoid. It is for that China is a country that pay much attention to human relationship succeeding thousands of years, and it will result in inter-generational inheritance of occupation identity become higher. And many members of society due to congenital factors cannot realize the rise flow of the social status, large extent hitting social mobility determination of most social members and reducing China's social mobility.

Second, institutional defects are bad to continuously improve our social mobility. From the flow region, social mobility in China mainly refers to the less developed area population flowing to the more developed regions, to achieve a certain matter income or the spirit of enjoyment. However there is a big difference between urban and rural system, social security, household registration and education system still cannot solve well when the rural population move to the urban, especially the city's household registration system and the migrant worker's children education system is not reasonable seriously. It leads to reduce the flow of social member in our country, and hinder our social mobility tending to rationalize.

The long-term economic growth is facing with grand challenges

China as the world's largest developing countries plays a decisive role in the position of international context, especially after the reform and opening up, China's economic development speed is rapidly growing, and economic development strength is greatly improved. But in recent years due to the uncertainty of external economic environment enhancements and the development of the domestic situation is in transition period, the pace of China's long term economic is growing more and more slowly.

As the following picture one shown the GDP in 2013, according to preliminary accounts published in 2014 January by the National Bureau of statistics, in addition to the GDP growth rate is 7.9% during the first quarter 2012, other each quarter transformation is between 7.6% and 7.7%, the rate of economic growth is relatively soft, long-term economic growth faces various challenges from home and abroad, the main factors are: Firstly, the international economic situation is increasingly deepening, every country is more closely linked, that may occur accidental shock from some country at any time which mainly from the developed country financial crisis spread.

This requires that all countries need to be able to cooperate and improve their international competitiveness in higher quality cooperation in the competition. Secondly, contradiction between talent supply and demand becomes greater in China, the actual demand of talent and quality does not match, and the information between two are not smooth. It leads to embarrassing situation that companies are unable to recruit suitable talent frequently and the talent cannot find the ideal employer. And making human resources wasted and enterprise's development more difficult, hindering the further development of the economy.

Thirdly, compared with other developed countries, the economic development structure lags behind in our country, and relied too much on the development of labor intensive industry, technology intensive industry and capital intensive industry is relatively backward, the awareness of independent innovation is weak, and economic benefit is low, therefore the need to get rid of "Chinese" label is urgent. To optimize industrial structure adjustment, to improve the human capital stock and the talent supply structure to adapt to the transformation of economic development mode, striving for the early completion of the transition period, to implement innovation drive development and promote national economy maintained a good momentum of growth in the long run.

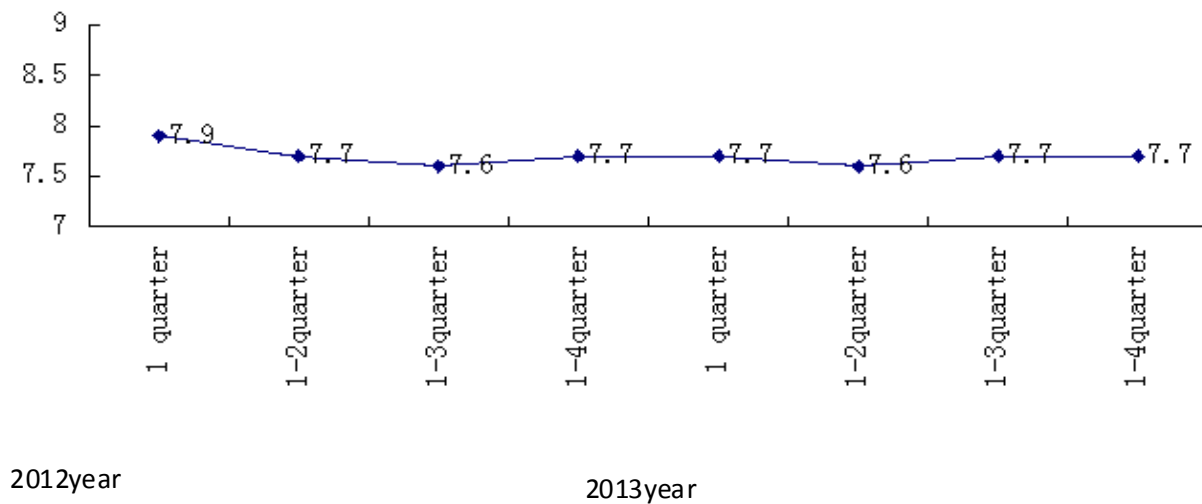


Figure 1 : The GDP growth rate (the cumulative year-on-year)

(Note: this data comes from http://www.stats.gov.cn/tjsj/zxfb/201401/t20140120_502082.html)

The mutual promotion function between fair education, social mobility and long-term economic growth is not obvious

In recent years, our country has issued a series of policies and regulations to protect the rights and interests of vulnerable groups, in order to making up for the defect of the education unfairness in our country from the angle of system, and to some extent solving the trouble back at home of vulnerable groups in social mobility, to promote social mobility and achieve economic growth. However it is still not maximize inner mutually promotion among educational fairness, social mobility and long term economic growth, and we has not yet formed benign coordination system that all three advancing and gradually improve. Although thousands of years ago Confucius put forward "make no social distinctions in teaching" ideological education, the great thought in modern times has been unable to carry out, because the resource allocation can't reach the average, there must have differences in resource, and only through policy and other ways to maximize the equity of education as much as possible, the key lies in the government's policy.

However, in the aspect of improving education fair policy in China is shortage than the developed countries, it is unable to ensure the basic rights and interests of the disadvantaged groups, and there are many members cannot accept knowledge education, they usually can be engaged in some simple, no technical work, this will block the opportunity for them to flow to the upper class and in the bottom of society for long time.

This will be greatly conducive to improve social mobility, suppression of sustainable economic development, easy to form the negative impact of the containment and block with each other. If things go on like this for long, it will harm the social harmonious development, contain the long-term economic growth, and even cause the backward of social development. Therefore, we should be objective to master the interaction mechanism among educational equity, social mobility and economic growth in the long run, to find a breakthrough to make the system toward the good direction, to pay attention to the

coordinated development between the three in one by one at the same time, and in order to realize the maximization of economic benefits of the system among educational equity, social mobility and the long-term economic growth.

THE ANALYSIS OF THE INTERACTION MECHANISM ABOUT EDUCATION EQUITY, SOCIAL MOBILITY AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC GROWTH

Education fairness, social mobility and long-term economic growth is the different content in different social areas, but there exist a certain interactive connection among the three, only accurately recognizing and grasping the interactive mechanism, can lay a solid foundation for better achieving the coordination interaction.

The relations of promotion each other between education equity and social mobility

Fair education for the promotion effect on social mobility can be attributed to social mobility function of education. In knowledge as a kind of fashionable whole world production factors in today's era, education has become the main way for individuals to change their own destiny, "knowledge change destiny" hidden behinds the importance of promoting the vulnerable groups to upward. According to the screening hypothesis theory, education is a kind of important signal helping employers identify the job seekers effectively^[8].

In other words, the higher individuals achieved degree, the more likely they are to flow from an existing class to better class, to realization of individual upward mobility. It reveals the education has the action mechanism by improving the quality of human capital to promote individual to upward mobility. But fair education as key factors in the education system has a great influence on the education function of social mobility, only to realize the maximization of educational fairness, can ensure the most effective use of the education function of social mobility, and constantly promote social mobility tending to rationalize.

On the other hand, social mobility is able to improve and enhance the fairness of education. Each class through their own efforts to find the stage showing ego strength, its time value increases gradually, and then improves their income and their class status, which makes the judgment of the education opportunity and abundant education resources are no longer the privilege of the writ of a group, each individual may enjoy.

For a long time fair education will gradually been popularization along with the improvement of the social mobility mechanism, ensuring the audience maximization of education fairness, and eventually it will form virtuous cycle that the education fairness promoting social mobility, and social mobility reaction in the process of the education fairness.

Key role in fair education and social mobility for the long-term economic growth

Fair education system contributes to cultivating more high-quality talent, improving the "quality" and "quantity" of education talents, optimizing the structure of human capital, and promoting the talent power in our country. According to the education of "spillover effect", higher level education of groups master new technology much easier, their ability to accept new things and adapt to rapid technological reform is better.

Not only that, high-quality talent is the carrier of technology innovation, is the main power to speed up technological progress and plays an important role in the development of the society, it further illustrates the important role of fair education for long-term economic growth. In addition, the inevitable result of the educational equality improve the talent quality is to regulate social mobility, improve the ability of flowing upwards of the social members especially vulnerable groups, enrich its range of career choices and types, and then improve their income and social status. Individual positive flow state is the foundation of the benign development of the social production, is also the key to long-term economic growth.

On the one hand, it is advantageous to construct principle of fair competition in the market, stimulate the individual breed better development motivation and desire, and then targeted promotion by self to promote the all-round development of individuals, so as to improve the labor efficiency of individual to narrow the "gap between rich and poor", to promote coordinated economic growth. On the other hand, individuals must be conscious to raise their strength, strengthen self-construction in the flow process, and gradually improve human capital stock of society as a whole.

To a certain extent it will be beneficial to build the economic structure adapted to high-quality talents, gradually get rid of the single economic structure that do not tally with the time development, further enhance the level of economic development in our country and stimulate the economy's long-term growth.

Anyway, promoting the fair education is to enhance the level of human capital accumulation and optimize the structure of human capital in our country, and the ultimate goal of promoting social mobility is in order to achieve the optimal allocation of production factors especially in human resource, so as to improve the efficiency of production factors. Both plays a vital role in promoting long-term economic growth.

Long-term economic growth reacts in fair education and social mobility

Promoting fair education and social mobility is helpful to guide the long-term economic growth, and on the contrary, the long-term economic growth has reaction in fair education and social mobility, it is the material basis of carrying out the education fair and promoting social mobility. The implementation of fair education needs not only reasonable policies mechanism to guide, a correct culture concept and so on, but also needs to stable economic conditions for the support. Unfair education problem mainly comes from the larger demand for limited education resources, people of education demand and the supply of education resources is not balanced, and causing the resulting "some people have to learn, some people don't learn" and "unfair" education resource allocation problems.

Only keep the economy's long-term growth, can guarantee to carry out the economic base of fair education, and then increase investment to education, increase the education input and education resource supply to the backward area in particular to make better the local condition of teaching, that leads into more excellent teacher resources to improve the faculty, to support the part of the people in need of help, to let more people enjoy the education resources.

On the other hand, the long-term economic growth also is the material guarantee of social mobility tending to rationalize. In a sense, the higher level of economic development in the region, the higher the social mobility, because the social atmosphere of entrepreneurship and investment is higher in the long-term economic growth, that from the professional field into another professional fields, and from this class to another class state.

Economy to maintain long-term growth and make further improve the living standards of social members, especially the backward area as well as the social vulnerable groups improved economic conditions. According to the theory of "Maslow's five hierarchy of needs", as the improvement of economic conditions, they are no longer satisfied with basic physiological needs and security needs, but flow to other social relations to find a solution to the social demand, respect demand and self-actualization needs. It will further improve the social mobility, optimize human resources optimal allocation, and promote social class structure trending to perfect situation.

Above all, there exist mutual influence and interaction relationship among fair education, social mobility and long-term economic growth. Enhancing the fair education is beneficial to improve the quality of educational talents, and promote social mobility.

Then the improvement of social mobility feedback on fair education, both is an important content of promoting the long-term economic growth, and maintain a long-term economic growth is counter-productive to both, which is a material component to carry out the fair education and improve social mobility. As is shown in Picture two:

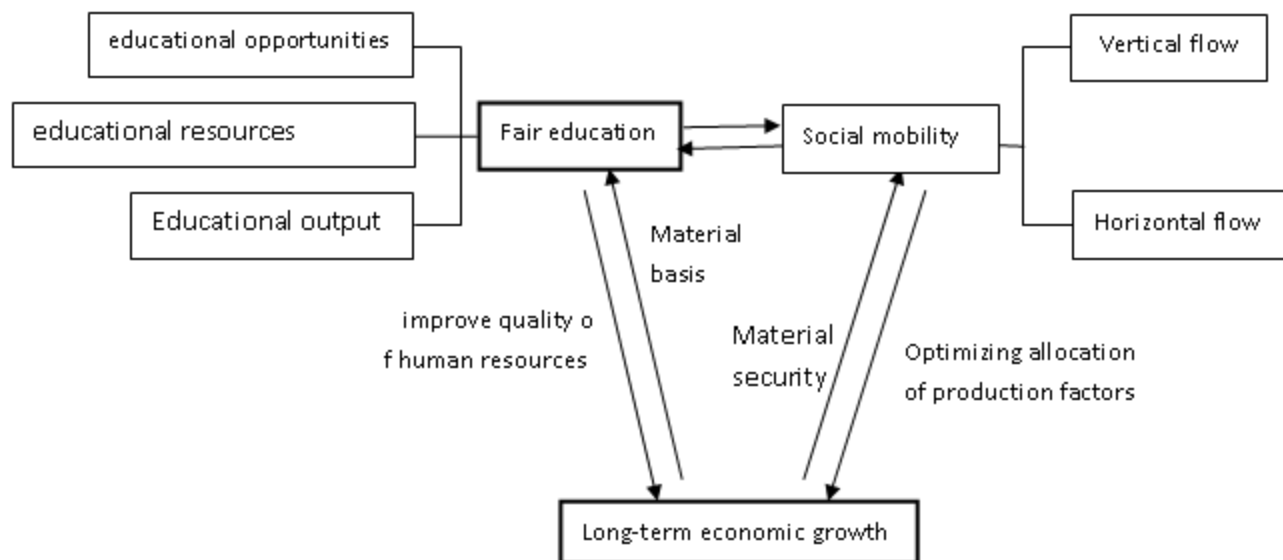


Figure 2 : The interaction mechanism figure of fair education, social mobility and long-term economic growth.

FEASIBLE MEASURES OF REALIZING BENIGN INTERACTION BETWEEN FAIR EDUCATION, SOCIAL MOBILITY AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC GROWTH

Through analyzing main problems of fair education, social mobility and long-term economic growth, found the interaction among the three are not greatly, which hindered the further increase of our country's competitive power. Therefore putting forward the following five suggestions from the systematic and comprehensive perspective, in order to realize the benign interaction among fair education, social mobility and long-term economic growth.

Strengthening the government's policy guidance

Reasonable and effective government policy plays a key role in the process of promoting fair education and social mobility, guiding the direction of the development. The government should strengthen the macro-control, quicken the change of education system, key support the education status of vulnerable groups, make fair education policy, constantly improve their education opportunities, increase the investment of education resources in different areas and communities pertinently, improve the educational system of all types and at all levels and so on.

Through policy tilting in a step-by-step and focused manner, gradually raising the level of knowledge and social skills of vulnerable groups, then effectively improving the flow ability, it is advantageous to improve the society flow ability as a whole, that creates favorable conditions for long-term economic growth.

Narrowing the gap between rich and poor from different classes

The big gap between rich and poor is the important factors of hindering fair education, social mobility and the further economic growth, therefore it is very urgent to narrow the gap between rich and poor from different classes. We should accelerate the construction of new socialist countryside, improve the living standards of rural underclass, promote the employment quality of the rural population.

At the same time deepening the reform of the income distribution system, standardizing the order of income distribution and perfecting allocation mechanism, to balance growing coordination of economic income among all levels of class as a whole. Priority supporting and helping low-income people, and gradually improving education opportunities of disadvantaged groups, encouraging to break background of the existing class in order to appropriate social mobility, so as to continue to improve their income level and realize the healthy development of national economy.

Balancing development of education system between different regions, urban-rural areas and groups

As the so-called "education is the basic", building fair education system is necessary condition to achieve the rational social flow and economic growth. China should promote the education help from the developed areas to backward areas, introduce the part of the elite team, opportunities for education and education resources into backward area, improve allocation efficiency of education resource.

In a planned way breaking the barrier of the urban-rural segmentation, attaching great importance to the construction of rural education, including effective integration of rural education facilities, the allocation of resources and so on, to build synchronous mechanism of education development from the country to the city and from urban to rural.

Attaching importance to the building of a weak education system, providing relevant compulsory training for weak groups, prompting them to master a certain level of new knowledge and technology, thereby to strengthen weak class mobility ability of upward from an existing class, to maintain the dynamic changes of the social class structure, and it is conducive to long-term economic growth.

Improving the management mechanism of social mobility

Currently reduction of social mobility directly reflects the drawbacks existing in Chinese social mobility management mechanism; social mobility management mechanism reforming is needed. In-depth excavation of the institutional factors which hinder social mobility, improving social mobility management system, broadening the channels for all levels of the social mobility, abolishing disadvantage of relevant systems such as the household registration system, employment system, personnel system, social security system and so on, lessening institutional barriers of underprivileged class to upwards, encouraging under-represented class to have vertical and horizontal flow in order to prevent class structure curing, greatly improving the living standards of the underclass and stimulating its rich social vigor. This also is helpful for further implement of fair education to promote collaborative growth of long-term economy.

Precipitating flexible development of whole society

Flexible development is a new development way against the more and more unpredictable external environment. Government entities at all levels should actively promote the transformation of economic development way, speed up the optimization adjustment of industrial structure, build interconnected system of more developed areas supporting backward area and mature industry driving growing industry, and increase investment in technology innovation, develop and introduce technical knowledge talents, integrate social resources adequately so as to excite flow energy at all levels of talents, by and by improving the knowledge and skills of practice and innovation.

At the same time, encouraging enterprises to optimize structure development of adjustment to ease of excessive dependence on labor, increasing investment in technology, encouraging enterprises to improve creativity in order to improve the ability to cope with the external environment, gradually from the point to the surface to improve the flexibility of social development and to strengthen the economic development power in our country, providing material insurance for implementing education fairness and social mobility.

CONCLUSION

Promoting fair education and social mobility is not only an important content of building a harmonious society, but also is important to promote the growth of the long-term economic. Based on our country's existing problems including that fair education is difficult to implement, social mobility lacks of energy, long-term economic growth faces significant challenges and promoting coordinated system has not been formed among three, it reveals the necessity of deeply researching interactive mechanism among fair education, social mobility and long-term economic growth.

At last putting forward the corresponding measures from the view of system research in order to realize the virtuous circle among three: strengthening the government's policy guidance, narrowing the gap between rich and poor from different classes, balancing development of education system between different regions, urban-rural areas and groups, improving the management mechanism of social mobility, precipitating flexible development of whole society.

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