P-ISSN 2708-6453	Pakistan Languages and Humanities Review	Jan -Mar 2023, Vol. 7, No. 1
O-ISSN 2708-6461	http://doi.org/10.47205/plhr.2023(7-I)47	[538-550]

Pakistan Languages and Humanities Review
www.plhr.org.pk

RESEARCH PAPER

Vocational Education as a Tool for Socio-economic Development: A Case Study of Wuling Ethnic Areas

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ABSTRACT

Vocational education has transformed the world rapidly to a developed world in number of arenas. There are a number of examples through which it can be seen that the idea and philosophy has transformed the world and one of the best examples for this is the China and the life style of the Chinese citizens. This article discusses the vocational education as a tool for the socio-economic development in the China in general and Wuling ethnic areas in particular. The research objectives are to understand the basic development in the region after increase in the vocational colleges and universities which are considered as the key factor for the socio-economic development. Similarly, it is pertinent to observe the development in a single ethnic group of Wuling. For this research study research methodology is the field work and anthropological method, along with the historical analytical method. it is crucial to understand the basic notion of vocational training and the development with the same analytical approach. It is highly recommended that the more work should be done in the field of the vocational training and education as it is the root cause for the socio-economic development in the region of Wuling.

KEYWORDS Ethnic Groups, Vocational Education, Wuling

Introduction

Vocational education fosters the development of applied abilities, namely the management and skilled talents that are at the forefront of production. Vocational education must take into account regional and industry features in addition to adapting to and serving area economic and social growth. Understanding the connection between vocational education and economic and social development will help the Wuling ethnic area not only improve economically and socially, but also help the region's vocational education grow (Friedman, 2016).

Literature Review

The study of rural socio-economic models was the main focus of the area in its early years, which was just 70 years after economic anthropology was originally brought to China. In order to support the comprehensive social and economic development of ethnic minority regions following the founding of the People's Republic of China, the government organized a number of extensive economic and social surveys in these areas. These surveys also laid the groundwork for the growth of economic anthropology in China. The research on the growth of western areas in China and the acceptance of minority economics as a formal subject in economics signaled the beginning of the

formal localization of economic anthropology by academics in the late 1970s (Ma, Zhu & Wu, 2014). China is a mountainous country with a great diversity of landform and geomorphology. This diversity underlines the need for regionalization and classification. This study defines the mountain terrains and regions with three criteria - elevation, relative height, and slope, and examines the extent of mountainous regions by using county as the basic administrative unit. According to the three parameters of economic base, resident income and development potential, we classified the economic development level in mountainous regions of China. The findings reveal that the extent of the mountainous region accounts for 74.9% of the Mainland China's total area. The economic development of mountainous regions in China is classified into 4 main types and 23 subtypes (Fang & Ying, 2016). In the Yangtze River Economic Belt, there is currently a clear regional division in the protection of intangible cultural heritage (ICH). The spatial distribution of ICH and the viability of corridor building in this area are investigated using the ArcGIS spatial analysis approach and minimal cumulative resistance (MCR) models. The strategies for building heritage corridors are suggested based on this. The findings demonstrate that the density and distribution of ICH in the Yangtze River Economic Belt exhibit distinctive regional characteristics: whereas the majority of high-density areas are located in the eastern region, the low-density areas are primarily found in the western region. From west to east, there are fewer locations that are appropriate for building heritage corridors, and these areas are mostly concentrated in the west (Zhang, et al, 2023).

Social and Economic Development Status of Wuling Ethnic Area

Entering a new era, the economic and social development of the Wuling ethnic area has undergone historic changes, with some new characteristics and emerging trends. The main characteristics are as follows:

Healthy Development of Agricultural economy and continuous Expansion of Functions

In the Wuling ethnic area, agriculture has been actively developed, presenting a new situation of ecological livability, prosperous industries, and a new look in the mountainous areas. The agriculture in the Wuling ethnic areas has opened up a new situation mainly through high-quality planting and market development. Zhangjiajie in the Wuling ethnic area focuses on picking, leisure, and sightseeing, developing green ecological planting, introducing and promoting green ecological economic crops such as Chongming Rose, Jufeng, Yongyou, Xiahei, and Zuijinxiang. In 2020, the economic crops in Zhangjiajie alone increased their output value by over 20 million yuan. Among them, "Drunken Golden Fragrance Grape" won the gold medal at the 4th Hunan Provincial "Hunan Portugal Green Tasting Cup" grape tasting event in 2017. The "Chongming Rose" and "Jufeng Grape" won the gold medal at the 5th Hunan Provincial "Hunan Portugal Green Tasting Cup" grape tasting event in 2018. Economic crops are harvested independently, ordered through phone and WeChat, and all grapes in the Wuling ethnic area are sold out without leaving the village (Diera, et al, 2022).

In addition to planting economic crops such as grapes, there is also Xiangxi Golden Tea from the Wuling ethnic areas. In late autumn, follow the clean and spacious fried sand road to enter the "First Village of Xiangxi Golden Tea" - Aikou Village in Majiao Town. Under the blue sky and white clouds, rows of tea gardens spread out from the mountains along the terrain, adorned with neat and orderly residential buildings.Relying on development models such as refined tea management, standardized processing and industrial chain extension, the tea garden area of Aikou

Village has grown from 130 acres ten years ago to over 19000 acres now, becoming the origin and core production area of golden tea in Jishou City. In 2021, the village achieved a per cap;ita income of over 20000 yuan (Clark, 2001).

In the Hongli tea house in the village, many people come to taste tea every day. Zhang Tianzhong and Mo Hongli are big tea makers in the village, hardworking and hardworking. Not only are the houses tidy and beautiful, but the annual tea sales are also considerable. Mo Hongli introduced that nearly 1000 kilograms of dry tea have been produced and sold this year. There are 785 households in Aikou Village, almost every household grows tea to make tea.

In 2022, Jishou City will vigorously develop the Xiangxi golden tea industry in accordance with the development concept of "revitalizing the city with tea, enriching the city and enriching the people". The government has issued a series of documents to support the development of the tea industry, introduced incentive policies and measures such as new tea gardens, fertilizer subsidies, free provision of tea seedlings and everyone's enthusiasm has increased. "The party branch secretary of Aikou Village, Xiang Tianshun, introduced that the village is now developing tea tourism integration, building landscape platforms and Sima tea houses, and developing products such as tea meals, tea sets, and tea pillows, attracting many tourists every year, The channels for increasing villagers' income are becoming increasingly broad. The "Xiangxi Golden Tea" has truly become the "Wealth Making Tea".

Jishou City has formed an industrial development pattern of "East Fruit, West Garden, South Vegetable, North Tea and Middle Processing" by focusing on the development of characteristic industries and reasonably planning industrial layout. The work of "agriculture, rural areas and farmers" has played a "ballast stone" role in the development of the city. In 2021, the added value of agriculture in the city was 8.057 billion yuan, an increase of 1221.25% compared to 2020.In recent years, the agriculture in the Wuling ethnic area has been based on the local area and developed a characteristic economy, achieving many achievements (Tu & Li 2003).

Firstly, the supply capacity of agricultural products in the Wuling ethnic area is constantly improving. In Jishou City, located only in the Wuling ethnic region. The total grain production of the city reached 74000 tons in 2021, an increase of 10.2% compared to 2020. The total vegetable production reached 106000 tons; The supply of agricultural products has shifted from "having enough to eat" to "eating well" and "eating safely". Secondly, the industrial brand effect in the Wuling ethnic areas is increasingly evident. We firmly adhere to the path of "establishing tea with quality, promoting tea with brands, supporting tea with policies and promoting tea through cultural and tourism activities". Only in Xiangxi, the Golden Tea has built a base of 155000 acres, with a recoverable area of 102000 acres. During the validity period of the planting industry in the entire region, the number of "three products and one standard" agricultural products reached 29. Awarded as one of the "Top 100 Tea Counties in 2021", the Fenghuo Miao Jiang Golden Tea Characteristic Industrial Park has successfully established a provincial-level demonstration park for modern agricultural characteristic industries. Thirdly, the improvement of rural living environment in Wuling ethnic areas has greatly improved. The cement road access rate in administrative villages has reached 100%, achieving 100% rural fiber optic access rate, broadband access rate, and 4G coverage rate. Solidly carry out the construction of "Beautiful Wuling", coordinate and promote key work such as improving village appearance, garbage treatment, sewage treatment, toilet revolution, and resource utilization of agricultural production waste. The urban-rural integrated garbage collection system of "household collection, village collection,

and city transportation" is basically complete, and the appearance of mountainous areas has taken on a new look.

The Wuling ethnic areas have a vast territory and numerous agricultural industry development models. In addition to planting characteristic economic crops, the Wuling ethnic areas advocate characteristic agriculture such as seed agriculture, boutique agriculture and sightseeing agriculture in the context of rural revitalization strategy, which has a significant contribution to the growth of total agricultural output value. However, due to the special circumstances of sparse population, diverse geographical environment and insufficient arable land, the agricultural productivity in the Wuling ethnic areas is relatively low, However, due to the development of characteristic industries, the added value of agriculture in the Wuling ethnic area is relatively good. In the past three years, the added value of the primary industry has remained above 5%. The characteristic industries in the Wuling ethnic area have expanded the development space of agriculture in the Wuling ethnic area, opening up a new path for the sustained growth of agricultural output value in the Wuling ethnic areas. Seed agriculture, boutique agriculture, and sightseeing agriculture extend traditional agriculture to the secondary and tertiary industries, which are important ways to achieve industrialization and modernization of agriculture. Sightseeing agriculture provides a green barrier for the environment in Wuling ethnic areas, providing natural places for urban residents to relax, exercise, and travel. At the same time, it also integrates agriculture into the process of urbanization, thus accelerating the modernization of agriculture and the urbanization of ethnic areas

In recent years, local governments in ethnic minority areas have introduced the "Standards and Evaluation Methods for Tourism Agriculture Demonstration Parks", which has improved the standardization of tourism agriculture. In the past three years, agricultural tourism and leisure parks have received 10 million tourists and generated 500 million yuan in income. The proportion of tourism agriculture output value to the total agricultural output value has reached 13.3%. Various forms such as picking, fishing, leisure farms and science and education bases have further highlighted the characteristics of "green, leisure, participation and experience" in sightseeing agriculture (Dequan, 2016).

The Rapid Development of Industrialization and the Tertiary Industry has Promoted the Economic and Social Development of the Wuling ethnic Areas

Since the 13th Five Year Plan, the industrial structure has been continuously adjusted, and non-agricultural industries have developed rapidly. With the rapid economic growth, the industrial structure of ethnic regions is constantly adjusting, and the tertiary industry is accelerating its development. In 2022, the added value of the tertiary industry in the Wuling ethnic areas reached 265.44 billion yuan, an increase of 9.4% compared to 2021. The proportion of non-agricultural industry added value in ethnic areas has increased from 6.9% in 2015 to 68.1% in 2022, and the proportion of non-agricultural industry employees has increased from 35% in 2015 to 58% in 2022. The healthy development of township enterprises in Wuling ethnic areas has become an important carrier for employment and income growth. By 2022, nearly 5000 industrial parks have been built in the Wuling ethnic areas are attracting over 500000 surplus labor force from ethnic areas every year.

In 2022, the total revenue was 685.06 billion yuan, an increase of 9.4%, and the total profit increased by 20.2%, achieving a synchronous increase in speed and efficiency. This created 500000 new job opportunities for the transfer of labor force to

the secondary and tertiary industries in the Wuling ethnic minority areas and provided a 54% income share for farmers. Among them, the non-public economy continues to maintain rapid growth, with the main indicator growth rate exceeding the average growth rate of industrial park enterprises by 10 percentage points. The added value of the secondary and tertiary industries accounts for about 58% of GDP, and the vast majority of local enterprises have undergone varying degrees of restructuring and begun to recover; Preliminary formation of an industrial system in ethnic regions with a batch of pillar industries, large-scale enterprises, and brand products; The tertiary industry has developed rapidly in recent times, with a number of industries such as real estate, logistics, tourism, and intermediaries in the ascendant.

Rapid Development of Urbanization Construction in Wuling Ethnic Areas

After the 18th National Congress of the CPC, urbanization has become a major strategy for China's development. Urbanization is a huge engine for China's economic growth. The greatest development potential in the coming decades is urbanization. The degree of urbanization is an important indicator of the modernization level of a country or region and also one of the important driving forces for future economic and social development. Under the promotion of rural revitalization strategy, urban development speed and quality of Wuling ethnic areas are relatively fast (Jing, 2009).

Preliminary establishment of a multi-level urban system

At present, the Wuling ethnic areas have formed a three-level urban system framework, with Jishou, Zhangjiajie, Huaihua, Tongren, Qianjiang, Enshi and other regional first level central cities, county and county-level cities as regional second level central cities, and central and general organic towns as tentacles (Yanpei, 1993).

Significant improvement in urban infrastructure

In the past five years, Enshi Prefecture has closely focused on key areas such as "blackening of urban roads, cleaning of river channels, standardization of pipeline networks and greening of urban areas". The total investment in urban construction in the prefecture over the past five years has reached over 32 billion yuan, with an additional 1 million square meters of urban roads added, a city greening rate of 32.42%, and a total area of 2171 hectares of urban garden green land.

Rapid growth of regional economic aggregate

From 2009 to 2019, the total economic output of the Wuling ethnic area increased from 188.6 billion yuan to 688.4 billion yuan. The increase in income has brought about an improvement in the quality of life of urban and rural residents in the Wuling ethnic area.

Changes in industrial structure

In 2021, the added value of the tertiary industry for the entire year reached 44.43 billion yuan, an increase of 17.6% compared to the previous year, accounting for 34.3% of the gross domestic product. The labor force in ethnic minority areas engaged in the tertiary industry accounts for 17.6% of the total labor force. The thriving tertiary industry has played an important role in promoting urbanization, promoting economic development and social prosperity in ethnic regions.

The living standards of the people have significantly improved.

In 2020, the per capita net income of farmers and the controllable income of urban residents in the Wuling ethnic areas almost doubled compared to 2010.

The Economic Value of Vocational Education

The Industrial Revolution, in which machines replaced manual operations, increased labor productivity. Humans are increasingly realizing that relying on knowledge and technology to improve labor tools can greatly increase labor productivity. Therefore, the economic value of education in social progress is gradually emerging. In the 20th century, with the rapid development of science and technology, more and more new knowledge and technologies have been applied in the economic field. Traditional educational concepts and economic development models have been severely challenged and education has greatly promoted economic development, receiving increasing attention from humanity. Education can not only improve the comprehensive quality of the educated, but also bring better economic benefits to them. It can not only bring more talent reserves to the country and society but also greater economic development. Education is the direct driving force for economic development and economic development can in turn promote education improvement.

There is a close relationship between education and the economy, which has greatly influenced the economic development of countries around the world and also promoted the progress of educational policies and practices. Vocational education directly drives economic development, so there is a lot of investment entering vocational education. From the perspective of investors, there are mainly three sources: government, society, and individuals. The economic value of investing in vocational education mainly includes the value obtained by investors and social value; The value and time of investing in vocational education mainly include short-term value and long-term value.

Vocational Education Investors gain Value

The value obtained by investors mainly refers to the economic income they receive, while social value refers to the economic benefits that investors cannot possess alone and are shared by other members of society. For example, vocational education creates more economic benefits for the enterprise, is shared by other employees, improves product quality, reduces production costs, and is shared by all members of society. Among them, investor value refers to the difference in economic benefits between before and after investing in vocational education, and it is necessary to correctly evaluate the proportion of vocational education in economic benefits. The content of social value is extensive and difficult to calculate, and personal value is easier to measure than social value (Teng, 2015).

The Short Term and Long-Term Value of Vocational Education

Recent value refers to the benefits obtained by vocational education investors and related members. There are two main aspects, one is the direct income from the process of vocational education, namely the knowledge and technology obtained by the educated during the process of receiving vocational education, and the remuneration obtained by the organizers of vocational education. The second is to apply knowledge, technology and related consumer rights to obtain benefits that belong to the educated themselves, that is, the salary benefits obtained by vocational education recipients after employment. Long term value mainly refers to the long-term benefits that vocational education brings to the entire economic and social development as well as the benefits

that the government and units give back to investors, individuals, and other members of society. The statistical analysis of recent economic benefits provides a comparative basis for calculating long-term economic benefits. Measuring long-term economic benefits requires measuring the increase in national income caused by vocational education investment (Yaping, 2007).

The Role of Vocational Education in Human Resource Development

Vocational Education is an Important way to Develop Human Resources

Talent reserves are an important foundation for the transformation of economic growth patterns and the upgrading of industrial structures. Vocational training for laid-off and unemployed individuals is the entry point for market demand. To ensure effective development of human resources, it is necessary to base oneself on the grassroots, face production and service, improve the quality of human resources, and transform population pressure into human capital. Among all resources, talent resources are the most important, which can create huge benefits through development and scientific management, and the main means of development is vocational education. By fully leveraging the role of the market in optimizing the allocation of educational resources and the active role of vocational education in human resource development. Vocational colleges can improve and develop themselves, and enhance their core competitiveness.

Regarding the ways in which vocational education provides human resources, one is to provide opportunities for the workforce to study and find employment, and to mobilize the workforce to actively participate in vocational education activities. The second is to develop vocational training for employees and organizations in enterprises and institutions, combining learning and work, so that vocational training is synchronized with personal development, unit development is harmonious with personal career development, and the work process is also the process of talent development. The third is the cultivation development of vocational colleges, which is the focus of human resource development. The country has issued a series of documents to vigorously develop vocational education. During the 14th Five Year Plan period, over 40 million skilled talents were trained for society. Various forms of vocational training have further developed, training hundreds of millions of urban and rural workers annually, significantly improving the quality of Chinese workers. The scale of vocational education urgently requires the improvement of its quality. Only by effectively improving the quality and efficiency of vocational education can we truly promote the development of human resources. Therefore, the level of vocational colleges and the quality of education directly affect the quality of human resources and the technological capabilities of the country. The fourth is the self-development of labor force, which also requires vocational education institutions to provide a platform for them.

Vocational Education provides Human Resource support for Regional Economic Development

Vocational education is tailored to the needs of regional economic and social development, with specific regional and targeted characteristics. It is the most interconnected part of education and economy. Therefore, facing the market and adapting to social needs is the vitality of vocational education. Generally speaking, vocational education is mostly based on the value orientation of local economic development needs, therefore, vocational education must be rooted in the development

of local economy. The development of vocational colleges is generally related to the economic rise and fall of the areas they serve, and is interdependent, mutually conditional, and mutually promoting with regional economic development, forming a compound relationship of mutual restraint and promotion.

The Development of Vocational Education can Develop Human Resources for the Regional Economy

The important reason for the economic development history of developed countries lies in the important role played by applied development talents. The United States is the earliest country in the world to establish vocational education. Its vocational education system includes community colleges, technical colleges, regional schools and industrial management colleges, among others, with multiple levels and types. They not only trained a large number of technical talents for the United States, but also became an accelerator for economic growth in the United States. Germany is a country with highly developed vocational education. According to a survey conducted in the 1970s alone, out of 5.752 million employed individuals in the Federal Republic of Germany, 3.911 million have received vocational education, accounting for over 68% of the total employed population. Former German Chancellor Kohl once pointed out that vocational education is the "secret weapon" for Germany's economic takeoff.

Shenzhen is a small fishing village and after 20 years of development, it has risen to become a first tier city in China. The development of a small fishing village into a modern city is not only due to special policies and good geographical advantages, but also due to the advantage of human resources, especially the high proportion of advanced applied talents. According to statistics, as early as 1995, there were 704.4 people in Shenzhen with a college degree or above per 10000 people, and 2089 professional and technical personnel per 10000 employees, which is slightly lower than Beijing and Shanghai, and significantly higher than other provinces and cities in the mainland. By 2017, the above numbers had increased to 1340 and 2339 respectively. Nevertheless, the Shenzhen Municipal Government still provides strong support to Shenzhen Higher Vocational College, with an annual investment of hundreds of millions of yuan. The school also cultivates thousands of advanced applied talents for Shenzhen and surrounding areas every year (Yong, 2008).

The development of vocational education helps to improve the quality of workers and accelerate the development of social productivity

American economist Walgan pointed out that "education and training are the only path to economic success. Vocational education should become one of the most important economic development projects for a country." According to research by some experts at the World Bank, in the first three years of employment, for every year of increased education for workers, the average GDP growth rate can reach 4%. A clear trend in today's world economic development is that competition between countries mainly lies not in the scale and quantity of development, but in the level and quality of development, and it is clearly only the overall quality and ability of individuals that determine the level and quality of development.

With the arrival of the world's new technological revolution and the era of knowledge economy, the competition in technology and economy is becoming increasingly fierce. In this situation, the education and cultivation of talents are very important and urgent. This requires not only attaching importance to general higher education, but also vigorously developing vocational education, cultivating advanced

applied technical talents, achieving rapid and effective transformation and application of scientific and technological achievements, and improving the knowledge and technological added value of economic growth. By developing vocational education, not only it can supplement the shortcomings of ordinary higher education in terms of total quantity and meet the growing demand for higher education among the people. It also the quality requirements and ability structure of talents can be aligned with the requirements of economic and social development, thus establishing a higher education system that truly cultivates various abilities and quality talents for economic development.

The development of vocational education is conducive to cultivating talents in short supply in the market, accelerating the adjustment and optimization of regional industrial structure

Agriculture is the foundation of the national economy and the primary industry that provides essential production goods and raw materials for the development of other industries. However, its modernization process is slow, which has resulted in unreasonable transformation in both technology and management. Although more than 80% of the labor force has been accumulated. labor productivity is very low, forming a dual economic structure where the economy of agriculture and ethnic regions is disconnected from the urban economy, which hinders the modernization process.

The development proportion and level of the tertiary industry which is mainly composed of the service industry is an important indicator of a country and region's economic development level. It is an inevitable trend for further development of social division of labor and continuous improvement of labor productivity and an important feature of economic modernization. However, in the Wuling ethnic minority region, the overall level of the service industry is still at a relatively low level.

The secondary industry, mainly focused on manufacturing. It has developed unilaterally due to the influence of the past "catch-up strategy". However, the imbalance in industrial structure leads to unreasonable allocation of talent resources. About 80% of senior talents are concentrated in a few departments such as engineering and technology, education and health, but there is a shortage of talents in the vast agriculture, secondary industry, tertiary industry, and emerging industries. The lack of talent in turn exacerbates industrial backwardness and disharmony in industrial structure, constraining the development of emerging industries.

From the above analysis, it can be seen that talent factors constrain the upgrading and development of industries. There is an urgent need to cultivate a large number of scarce talents. Vocational education, due to the vocational orientation and market targeting of talent cultivation, can effectively alleviate this contradiction. Essentially, vocational education is a market-oriented and social oriented education. In addition to cultivating advanced applied talents, its professional settings, curriculum development, and talent cultivation are all aimed at market needs. Vocational education cultivates what kind of talents the market needs, thus it will have a significant role in cultivating scarce talents and promoting the adjustment and upgrading of industrial structure.

The development of vocational education is conducive to cultivating high-quality technical talents and promoting the improvement of regional economic level

The development of vocational education mainly plays a role in improving economic level by continuously producing new knowledge and providing internal impetus for economic development. Modern society has entered the era of knowledge economy, and knowledge production is the core of the economy. The goal of economic activities is to develop new knowledge products, provide new knowledge services, transform knowledge products into tangible goods, and achieve knowledge appreciation by utilizing knowledge. Therefore, knowledge innovation is crucial. To develop the economy, it is necessary to continuously create new knowledge, new ideas, new technologies, new processes and new management, fundamentally improving the productivity and creativity of knowledge. Education, especially university education, has always been an important base for innovative knowledge. It provides advantageous conditions such as information, talent, disciplines, academic environment and technology for knowledge innovation, becoming the soil and hotbed for the emergence of new knowledge, new ideas, new technologies, new processes, and new management. The development of knowledge has shown that in the past 20 years, nearly 70% of the world's major discoveries in basic disciplines have been achieved in universities. University education is increasingly becoming an important base for producing new knowledge and ideas, playing a strong driving role in economic development.

The development of higher education has a higher correlation with economic and social development, as well as the development of the tertiary industry compared to other education (primary and secondary education). Among many social factors, the proportion of the working population and the proportion of the tertiary industry have a significant correlation with higher education. American economist Schultz studied the relationship between American education investment (1929-1957) and economic growth and concluded that the average return on education investment is 17%, the proportion of the return on education investment growth to the return on labor income growth is 70%, and the proportion of the return on education investment growth to national income growth is 33%. The arrival of the knowledge economy indicates that the knowledge industry will account for the highest proportion of social employment structure.

Vocational Education Promotes the Improvement of Labor Productivity

Education can not only improve labor productivity by improving people's knowledge and skills, but also affect labor productivity by influencing the subjective effort level of workers. The same level but different types of education have different impacts on labor productivity. Labor productivity is mainly determined by factors such as the average proficiency level of workers, development level of science &technology and production organization and management. Vocational education improves labor productivity by improving workers' ability to operate and adapt to new technological processes which is increasing their average proficiency level. According to the China Statistical Yearbook data, the average length of education for the population aged 25 and above in China in 2019 was 8.9 years. In major developed countries, the average length of education for the population aged 25 and above is mostly 12 years or more. China's overall education level is relatively low and improving labor productivity through education is a necessary path to improve labor resources. Vocational education mainly focuses on vocational skills and learning abilities, with strong targeted, lifelong and economic benefits. It enhances the ability and potential of talents to learn vocational related skills and skills. It achieves the improvement of production efficiency and output

quality. Vocational education improves resource allocation efficiency, avoids extensive investment waste and avoids vague and unrealistic educational investment resources and waste of student time (Xinxiang, 1998).

The trend of China's return on capital and labor investment is decreasing. Developing high-level vocational education and promoting factor productivity through improving human capital levels is an inevitable path to promote long-term sustainable economic growth. From the perspective of the neoclassical economic growth model, economic growth depends on the input of labor and capital factors, as well as technological progress. The growth rate of China's capital stock calculated by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences has decreased from 15.6% in 2010 to 8% in 2019, and it is expected that the potential growth rate will decrease to 5.4% by 2029; The weighted labor growth rate has decreased from 0.90% in 2010 to -0.26% in 2019, and it is expected that the potential growth rate will decrease to -0.62% by 2029. The main reason for the decline in China's potential economic growth rate is the decreasing investment in capital and labor factors.

By stabilizing and improving total factor productivity, China is still expected to maintain medium to high growth rates for a long period of time and continuously improve its growth drivers. The factors that affect total factor productivity mainly include institutional change, structural optimization, and factor upgrading. High quality vocational education can improve the level of human capital and promote the upgrading of labor factors. Optimize the efficiency of resource allocation, thereby increasing the potential level of economic growth.

Continuously improving people's living standards requires continuous improvement of labor productivity and economic development level. Education plays an irreplaceable key role in ensuring the scale, comprehensive quality, and skill development of the employed workforce. China's economic development has entered a new era, and many industries in the manufacturing and service sectors are facing profound changes. It is urgent to improve towards the direction of independent and controllable entire industry chain, high-quality and cutting-edge advanced manufacturing, high knowledge technology, and added value of professional services. In this historical process, vocational education undertakes the historical mission of cultivating and delivering high-quality and professional talents to various industries and its high-speed and high-quality development is of long-term necessity (Yingjie, 2007).

In recent years, the international situation has undergone a series of profound changes, with the rise of trade protectionism, globalization being challenged, and geopolitical conflicts intensifying. The development of China's economy requires new momentum, coupled with rapid changes in the international environment, and the urgency of industrial upgrading and transformation has further increased. The demand for Chinese talents in the new situation is undergoing profound changes, requiring the Chinese education system and talent cultivation model to provide effective support for the country's long-term strategic goals. The development of vocational education is not only a long-term inevitable requirement, but also an urgent need at present. In the future, the government will vigorously promote vocational education, and enterprises will actively respond to a virtuous cycle.

Vocational education can enhance the average proficiency of workers and is an important way to improve labor productivity. In 1978, China's labor productivity was only 0900 yuan and it has steadily increased year by year. By 2022, it has increased to

152900 yuan, an almost 169-fold increase. Since 1978, the average annual growth rate of labor productivity in China has been 7.5%, which is higher than the world average during the same period and also ahead of the labor productivity growth rate of major economies. China's labor productivity is still relatively low, only 40% of the world average. As measured by the ratio of GDP to total employment in 2020, labor productivity in China is only 19600 US dollars, compared to 135700 US dollars in the United States during the same period. China is not as high as 15% of the United States (Weiping, 2009).

Conclusion

In a lot of areas, vocational education has quickly converted the globe into a developed one. One of the best examples of how the thought and philosophy have changed the globe is China and the way of life of its people. There are many instances where this can be witnessed. This article covers the role of vocational education in China in general and Wuling ethnic areas in particular as a vehicle for socioeconomic development. The goal of the study is to comprehend the fundamental changes that have occurred in the area since the number of universities and vocational schools, which are important drivers of socioeconomic development, has increased. In a similar vein, it is important to track progress within a particular Wuling ethnic group. With the vocational training, it is seen that the Wuling ethnic region has developed in all the perspectives related to society and the economy of the region**.**

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