# POWER RENT-SEEKING GOVERNANCE IN SCHOOL SPACE

### Zhiguo Xu

School of Marxism, Xi'an University of science and technology, Xi'an 710054, Shaanxi, China Email address: 1455242729@qq.com

#### **Abstract**

Power rent-seeking activities in school space are deeply harmful and greatly destructive. Based on the perspective of rent-seeking theory, the inherent hidden veil of school power rent-seeking is mainly manifested in the horizontal and cross-layer power rent-seeking behavior between students and teachers, teachers and schools, schools and government departments. The alienation of power in schools destroys legitimate values and forms a vicious circle in the education system, which will eventually pollute the whole social ecology. Therefore, to reduce and eliminate the rent-seeking activities in school space, through clean government culture education and mainstream values education to strengthen power rent-seeking education governance, through legal supervision and legal punishment to strengthen the power rent-seeking legal level governance, through the prevention mechanism and operation mechanism to strengthen the mechanism of power rent-seeking governance. The object is to ensure that the school has always been moving forward along the track of cultivating people by virtue and serving the country and the people.

Keywords: school space; power rent-seeking; education equity; clean government education

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Institutions of higher learning are important places for talent training, scientific research, cultural inheritance and serving the society. They carry the important mission and responsibility of cultivating people by virtue, promoting learning and preaching, teaching industry and solving doubts. Therefore, as an important source of culture and civilization, colleges and universities are undoubtedly a pure holy land in the minds of all people, and college workers should also be moral models and social models for self-denial, noble moral character and selfless dedication. However, under the situation of high-pressure and anti-corruption in recent years, some "power rent-seeking" behaviors in colleges universities have been exposed to the sunshine of law and justice. The power of rent-seeking in colleges and universities is characterized by strong concealment, great destructive power and far-reaching social influence." It not only destroys the national conscience, but also seriously damages the image of education.<sup>[1]</sup>

College cadres and staff have emerged from violations of discipline, dereliction of duty to power trading, and corruption, and some of the century-old universities and famous schools, such as the Tsinghua University and Peking University, which makes people surprised, but also cannot help but regret. From the then minister of science and technology Wan criticized the corruption black hole of university research funds, to a university to openly collect fees in the hotel for professional title evaluation, to the corruption warning on the People's Daily Online issued a series of events, revealed the particularity and seriousness of the rent-seeking power in colleges and universities, but also made the power is questioned and criticized. Therefore, strengthening the

rent-seeking governance of universities and preventing power corruption is an important issue to promote the development of universities and social governance.

### II. PERFORMANCE OF THE POWER AND RENT-SEEKING IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Rent-seeking was first known as an economic concept. With the deepening of academic research, it began to penetrate into many other disciplines, and can also be used in the analysis of inhibiting corruption in universities. The derivative concept of power rent-seeking means that power is regarded as a special capital used to seek personal economic interests, commodify its power, and participate in market competition and commodity exchange. In short, "Power rent-seeking means the exchange of power and money, power for money, and power for personal gain."[2]At present, the overall cases of laws and discipline in universities are on the upward trend, and power rent-seeking has become the biggest challenge facing colleges and universities, which is mainly manifested in the following three levels.

# A. Power for rent-seeking between students and teachers

In the traditional teacher-student relationship, teachers and students are only the instillators and receivers of knowledge. However, with the enhancement of individual academic power of teachers and the marketization development of educational knowledge, there are complex and diversified rent-seeking activities between teachers and students. Take the current graduate training as an example, the tutor responsibility system is implemented in the current graduate training system.

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Each step of graduate course completion, conference experiment, thesis writing and graduation defense requires the guidance, approval and signature of the tutor. Therefore, although the graduate tutor is not the real authority to develop the degree conditions, but it is the gatekeeper to review whether you can get the degree, and the tightness of the "gatekeeper" becomes the scope of rent. For on-the-job graduate students, they need to keep their existing job and have to get a degree smoothly. Facing the temptation of these dual interests, they finally turn to carry out rent-seeking activities to their tutors. The power of rent-seeking by tutors and graduate students in this process presents various forms of gifts, cash and subject funds with not equal value and price. In addition, there are such as tampering with exam results, random names, academic papers and other phenomena. Rent-seeking in colleges and universities is from these small imperceptible activities, and also lays a huge hidden danger for the potential emergence of continuous and collapse of college corruption.

### B. Power for rent-seeking between teachers and schools

With the transformation of the economic system, the Chinese education system has also produced corresponding changes. The autonomy of institutions of learning has been enhanced, administrative power of colleges and universities is gradually generalized. Therefore, it artificially sets barriers for college education, aggravates the so-called "human relationship" and part of the "black box operation", and breeds the power rent-seeking of colleges and universities. In the university space, almost all resource allocation needs to be operated through administrative power, and the administrative power of universities that master the allocation of these resources has become the root cause of power rent-seeking. In this process, some leading cadres in colleges and universities use rent-seeking power, or use loopholes in the existing education system to create rent-seeking conditions, so that students, hometown and teachers in the rent-seeking space in universities have to "submit". Especially in the space of universities, teachers' professional title evaluation, scientific research, education and education, academic exchanges and so on are under the jurisdiction of the school. Moreover, the complex labor of teachers cannot be directly transformed into political interests and political power, which means that they have a very low status in the administrative power of colleges and universities. Therefore, "Teachers' power rent-seeking has become an important way to compensate for their own social status." [3]This is outstanding in the university teachers are very keen on professional title evaluation, scrambling, but the most critical education and teaching quality of the school is perfunctory.

# C. Rent-seeking power between schools and higher competent authorities

The interest relations in the university space have multiple subjects. Among them, the superior competent authorities of colleges and universities are the most important ones. Although the operation mode and management system of colleges and universities have broken through a single "plan", universities are not the main subjects of running schools, or the direct

management relationship under the condition of relative autonomy given by the superior competent authorities. this relatively centralized management system, the spatial autonomy of colleges and universities is constantly restricted and interfered by administrative power, which loses the independence of universities and leads to the extreme expansion of administrative institutions. In this mode, the university administrative personnel have become the tools for the competent government departments to implement the executive will of power, and the government administrative power monopolizes and determines the resources and opportunities of colleges and universities. Therefore, the superior competent departments of colleges and universities can easily set up rent through the forms of evaluation, investigation and distribution, which can induce the rent-seeking activities in colleges and universities to a certain extent. Similarly, in order to obtain more government resource allocation, to improve the discipline ranking, for the recruitment and introduction of personnel and the promotion of their own leadership positions, universities will also "actively" carry out various rent-seeking activities under the face of institutional loopholes. Although China is constantly promoting the reform of the university system, however, if the interference of administrative power with academic teaching is not weakened, then the reform of the university system is only a "disguised purge of intellectuals based on the official position"<sup>[4]</sup>

### III. THE HARM OF RENT-SEEKING POWER IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

In addition to the above three main manifestations of power rent-seeking in college space, there are also this horizontal and cross-level rent-seeking behavior. The particularity of the education field also determines that the power rent-seeking behavior in the college space is more harmful. Power rent-seeking in efficient space is the source pollution, which can cause the pollution of the entire education system and the social system.

### A. Dissimilation of educational function

The alienation of educational function in college space mainly refers to the value alienation of teachers, students and administrators. Teachers play the role of students 'beacon in the whole educational activities. The teachers' personal words and deeds and the moral environment of the school are the objects of self-learning and imitation for students who are not mature. However, with the decentralization of independent power in colleges and universities, the power of college teachers administrators has also expanded accordingly. For example, in the selection of exceptional courses, graduate recommendation, the best selection of summer camp activities, and doctoral application examination in the enrollment examination, the proportion comprehensive interview in these education system is constantly increasing. In this process, it is impossible for teachers to completely eliminate subjective awareness and human factors, and it is more likely to potentially generate power rent-seeking activities. Even if the teachers themselves abide by the principles and the

bottom line, students and parents will try to attract judges or exams under this human-controlled education system selection. Finally, selling face, through the back door, greeting, bribery, to students and teachers have hard work and real learning has become the second illusion. "What is more serious is that it destroys the legitimate values of the society and forms a vicious circle of cultural orientation." [5] eventually alienated students into faithful pursuers of fame and wealth, and teachers into fanatical rulers of power rent-seeking, distorting the whole social values.

#### B. The education system has collapsed

Power rent-seeking in colleges and universities will produce a chain reaction and destroy the ecological stability of education. From the internal aspect, universities can be used as a relatively independent "social system" because of their large area, large number of teachers and students, full supporting facilities and wide social activities. Therefore, in the space of universities, there are huge consumer groups, and behind these consumer groups also mean huge commercial profits, and the access of merchants has become a kind of rent creation activity in colleges and universities. This mode of rent creation in colleges and universities also opens the gap of power rent-seeking. The development focus of colleges and universities is gradually transformed from education and scientific research system to "business management system", destroying the original system balance. From the external perspective, there is imbalance in China's educational resources itself, and the shortage of quality educational resources is more. Therefore, the competition of educational resources between parents and schools, between teachers and schools, and between schools is intensified. In this fierce competitive environment, people even began to capture resources or monopoly through power rent-seeking by any means, thus exacerbating the injustice of higher education and even polarization. Power rent-seeking in the university space has found a way for students to enter first-class famous schools, teachers to jump jobs and win scientific research projects, and also laid a road for managers and leading cadres to add officials. After these people successfully conduct power rent-seeking through their own rent, in order to make up for the loss of resources will continue to make up the rent, and eventually form a vicious circle, paralyzing the education ecosystem.

### C. Social and ecological deterioration

Power rent-seeking in university space will produce a "marginal effect", spread to the social ecology, and evolve rent-seeking into corruption. First, even if the university power rent-seeking is imperceptible and secret, but it will eventually be directly or indirectly manifested as the power-money transaction. In terms of compulsory education in China at the present stage of time, people did not feel the convenience and savings brought by compulsory education because of the reduction of tuition and miscellaneous fees, but began to make endless money investment in order to strive for high-quality education resources. A lot of this money investment is spent on delivery and unnecessary social networking, which increases the family burden more than the explicit tuition and miscellaneous expenses. Second, in the power

rent-seeking activity, people are forced or take the initiative to exchange resources through money investment, so that the focus of teaching is shifted, will pay more attention to top students, take special care of related students, and look at the children of Gao Gan. Finally, it destroys the fairness of higher education and promotes the bad social atmosphere. Third, rent-seeking power in colleges and universities creates educational corruption, which exacerbates the deterioration of officialdom ecology. "Rent-seeking and corruption are always next of kin."[6]University administrators use their power to gain fame and wealth, gain political capital, are keen to pursue leadership positions, and regard one-school governance as a stepping stone to their promotion. Power rent-seeking in the university space has great destructive and far-reaching and lasting negative impact, and eventually spreads to all corners of the society, turbid the social atmosphere, polluting the social development environment, and causing the deterioration of the whole social ecology.

### IV. GOVERNANCE AND CONSERVATION OF RENT-SEEKING POWER IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Power rent-seeking activities in university space not only reduce work efficiency and waste educational resources, but also alienate the educational function, collapse the education system and worsen the social ecology. It produces physical damage, and most importantly, it also brings emotional damage, making people lose confidence in educational fairness and the pursuit of social justice. Therefore, to reduce and even eliminate the rent-seeking activities in the college space, we need to govern from the existing root causes and possibilities.

# A. Strengthen the rent-seeking education governance of power in colleges and universities

First, we will strengthen the education on clean government culture. Cultural education of clean government belongs to the moral category, is a kind of informal institutional education, is the most long-term and the most effective kind of power rent-seeking governance mode. First, we should in the space of universities thoroughly implement the concept of clean government culture, and make it a university cultural characteristics, value mainstream, educational goal and fine tradition. We will use ideological and political courses and other carriers, and carry out comprehensive education on Party members and cadres in Party laws and regulations, national laws and school law and discipline education. Second, be good at exploring the deeds and figures of clean government around you, and set up a model of clean government to infect people. It can also combine the construction of clean government culture with campus culture, and use stories, essays, singing, performances and other forms to actively publicize the construction of clean government so that people consciously in the good. Third, be good at creating a clean government cultural landscape. Clean government cultural landscape is an important part of the campus moral environment, is the embodiment of a school temperament and atmosphere environment.

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Campus buildings, squares, badges, slogans can be used as a cultural landscape to highlight the cultural education of clean government.

Second, strengthen the education of mainstream social values. Power rent-seeking subjects in the space of colleges and universities are mainly intellectuals. Their rent-seeking behavior comes from the lack of certain beliefs and the distortion of values, so we should educate their values. First, we will strengthen education on core socialist values. And as the code of conduct and ethics of all teachers and students, teachers and students, in the education and work management of teaching and consciously practice. Second, strengthen the awareness of fair competition and transform the "human face" culture. Encourage teachers and students to obtain achievements and rewards through fair competition, despise and dilute the human face relationship." To transform and weaken the warmth of acquaintances in the college space, and to cultivate and strengthen the sense of competition in the modern society."[7] third, strengthen the ability of the idea, the implementation of the mediocre, the capable. Use the classroom to carry out popular open classes, and use the school media to play a positive role of public opinion guidance, and the school resource acquisition and social exchange are firmly concluded on the personal ability.

# B. Strengthen the legal governance of rent-seeking power in colleges and universities

First, strengthen the legal supervision of rent-seeking power in colleges and universities. Once public power is divorced from the constraints and monitoring of the law, then power is likely to become a tool for personal gain. Because " the coercive and dominance of power itself makes power objectively contain expansionary and corruption."[8]Therefore, needs clear legal provisions to regulate the operation of power and strengthen the legal supervision over rent-seeking power in colleges and universities. On the one hand, we should continue to improve the supervision and legislative work through field research, and expand and clarify the internal supervision, external supervision and social supervision of the education system. Educational information, administrative management and reform measures of colleges and universities should be published to the public in an appropriate form, and consciously accept supervision, so that power can run in the sunshine. On the other hand, look for the legal basis, to realize the power system of power. It is necessary to reasonably allocate the power of different organs of power inside and outside the education system, so as to achieve the balance and moderate decentralization of power, and realize the mutual restriction and supervision of power. Second, strengthen the law of colleges and universities. To indulge the power of the law, its power and punishment. Law indulgence indulgent power and punishment. Headaches, legal sanctions become a profit of high people, the legal coercion and serious sanctions as a long-term effective mechanism to enhance the cost of power leasing law. Activity within the legal limit, the prohibition code is legal sanctions procedure and prohibited code, prohibited code is forbidden code, prohibited code is forbidden code is forbidden code,

prohibited code is forbidden code, prohibited code is prohibited code. There are also the legal planning department, national law, administrative punishment and sanctions, regret behavior, as well as the legal mechanism of double progressive system. The initial edition of the first edition of the law, seriously damaged the threat to this, seriously damaged the threat to this.

# C. Strengthen the mechanism governance of power leasing in colleges and universities

What this sentence means is that if you want to effectively avoid or eradicate force rent, the mechanism is the lowest and effective method. In fact, there is no high confrontation between teachers and social status, and there is a big gap between the groups who oppose technical confrontation. This situation still exists in political status and professional differences that provide the possibility of power tax. Therefore, it is necessary to emphasize the education lessons of teachers from inside and outside schools, society and countries, cut off the status and treatment of senior teachers, and adopt the respect of leading the whole society, and social respect is also a kind of internal self-supervision, which can effectively avoid power. Secondly, one of the root causes of the high school air rental industry is the shortage of resources and uneven distribution. The novel from Hong is the emptiness of "the contradiction between unbalanced and inadequate development of the growing Chinese people for a better life" in colleges and universities. Because to strengthen the construction of educational resources, balanced allocation between the central and western regions, urban resource allocation is to meet people's demand for high-quality educational resources, and the pursuit of educational equity.

Second, optimize the operation mechanism of the power of the university. All the teachers and leading cadres who have been investigated and dealt with for power rent-seeking also want to treat the public, shine, and even do a lot of practical things in their own posts. The reason why violations of discipline and law occurred later is largely the rigid system of internal power operation, and independent people are bound by the system and drift with the tide. The most important link of optimizing the mechanism of power operation is to realize the de-administration of education, appropriately adjust the functions of government departments in the field of education, and reduce excessive and direct administrative intervention. We should attach importance to creating a school education atmosphere and moral education environment, give top priority to teaching tasks and scientific research, limit the authority of managers to a certain extent, and realize extensive consultation between teachers and students and joint governance by home-school. Secondly, it should be necessary to constantly remove the institutional obstacles to the development of universities through reform and innovation, and " improve and perfect the education system adapted to the socialist modernization construction." [9] should authorize" parent committees "and" academic committees " to play democratic efficiency and make the exercise of power more open and transparent.

#### V. CONCLUSION

Power rent-seeking activities have complex political, economic and social factors. Based on the perspective of rent-seeking theory, the inherent hidden "appearance" of power rent-seeking in the current university space is revealed. The physical damage and emotional damage caused by such power alienation in colleges and universities is difficult to estimate, and it has great destructive power to educational function, educational system and social ecology. It is better to take precautions. We should explore the power transformation of colleges and universities, appropriately delegate the excessively concentrated power, transform the power exercise from rigid to soft, and the admiration of professional authority and the admiration of personality charm.

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