

15th Five-year Plan and Youth Responsibility: Interactive Construction Logic, Global Perspectives and Chinese Approaches

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Abstract

In the context of the evolving global governance structure and the in-depth advancement of Chinese-style modernization, the 15th Five-Year Plan period constitutes a pivotal transitional phase for basically accomplishing socialist modernization. The strategic execution of this plan and the fulfillment of youth responsibilities have developed a profound interactive constructive relationship. Current academic research predominantly centers on the unidirectional guiding role of national plans for young people or examines specific youth practice cases. It lacks systematic theoretical construction of the “plan-youth” interactive relationship and insufficient cross-regional comparative studies on the coordination between youth development and national plans against the backdrop of globalization. Grounded on this research gap, with interactive constructionism as the theoretical underpinning, this paper integrates global cases of the coordination between youth development and national strategies. It proposes a “multi-dimensional dynamic adaptation” theoretical framework, thereby uncovering the two-way empowerment mechanism between the 15th Five-Year Plan and youth responsibilities. Employing a mixed research methodology that combines qualitative case comparison, in-depth interviews, quantitative questionnaires, and policy text analysis. This study systematically explores the core dimensions, practical paths, and guarantees systems for youth responsibilities to align with the 15th Five-Year Plan. It offers theoretical support for optimizing China’s youth development policies and enhancing the efficiency of plan implementation. The constructed “national plan-youth responsibility” coordination model provides Chinese solutions for developing countries to resolve the disconnection between youth development and national strategies.

Keywords

15th Five-year Plan, Youth responsibility, Interactive construction logic, Mixed research methods, Global governance

Introduction

Against the backdrop of accelerating global changes, challenges facing young people have emerged as widespread barriers to global modernization processes. These include the growing unemployment problem and the misalignment between youth development and national strategic goals. Meanwhile, China is in a crucial stage of formulating and implementing the 15th Five-Year Plan. The objective of basically realizing socialist modernization places more stringent demands on young people’s innovative capabilities and sense of responsibility [1]. Clarifying the inherent connection between the 15th Five-Year Plan and youth responsibilities and addressing the bottlenecks in their coordination hold significant theoretical and practical

value.

A review of existing academic literature reveals three key research gaps: First, at the theoretical level, there is a lack of systematic theoretical construction regarding the interactive relationship between the two, with most studies adopting a unidirectional analytical framework [2]. Second, at the methodological level, qualitative analysis dominates the existing research. There is a shortage of mixed research designs that integrate qualitative and quantitative methods, which restricts the scientific and universality of research conclusions. Third, at the perspective level, research is confined to single national contexts. It fails to fully draw on the diverse global experiences of coordinating youth

development and national plans, making it difficult to respond effectively to global youth development challenges [3].

Based on this, the core research questions are: How to construct the interactive mechanism between the 15th Five-Year Plan and youth responsibility? What are the core dimensions and practical approaches for youth responsibility to adapt to the plan? How to build an empowerment guarantee system with Chinese characteristics and global reference value? This study aims to fill existing research gaps. This study aims to fill existing gaps. It proposes an innovative “plan-youth” interactive construction theoretical framework. It provides practical solutions for efficient plan implementation and comprehensive youth development. It contributes to solving the global disconnect between youth development and national strategies.

Research methods

This paper adopts a mixed research approach, integrating the advantages of qualitative and quantitative research to enhance the scientific and reliability of conclusions. Specific methods are as follows:

Qualitative research methods

First, the case comparison method. Three countries at different development stages: China (emerging economies), Germany (developed countries) and Brazil (developing countries). By collecting policy texts and implementation reports on youth and national plans in these countries. An in-depth analysis of coordination models and key influencing factors under different contexts is conducted. These include Germany’s dual education system and national industrial plan coordination, Brazil’s youth rural revitalization policy practices, and China’s integration of youth development into the 15th Five-Year Plan. The research compares similarities and differences of coordination models [4,5]. Second, the in-depth interview method. A total of 60 respondents is selected for semi-structured interviews. These include 15 government staff from relevant departments: the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Education, and the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League. Another 30 are youth groups covering key fields such as scientific and technological innovation, rural

revitalization, and opening up. The remaining 15 are youth development experts. Interview content focuses on practical bottlenecks, demand orientation and policy expectations of “15th Five-Year Plan-youth responsibility” interactive construction. Interview materials are sorted and coded using NVivo software to extract core themes.

Core arguments and in-depth discussions

Argument 1: Theoretical construction of “plan-youth” two-way empowerment mechanism from the perspective of interactive constructionism

Based on existing theoretical gaps. This argument takes interactive constructionism as the core theoretical support. It breaks through one-way analytical frameworks. It constructs a dynamic two-way empowerment theoretical model between “plans and youth”. Core discussions are as follows:

(1) Core connotation of interactive construction relationship

The relationship between the 15th Five-Year Plan and youth responsibilities is not a simplistic “guidance-response” dynamic. It is rather a mutually constructive and empowering relationship. This relationship is formed on the basis of interest alignment and resource complementarity [6]. On one hand, the 15th Five-Year Plan delineates directions and constructs platforms for young people to fulfill their responsibilities through policy guidance, resource allocation, and scenario provision. For instance, the strategy of “integrating education, science and technology, and talent development” in the plan emphasizes strengthening the cultivation of young scientific and technological talents. It offers financial and project support for young people’s participation in scientific and technological innovation. It also establishes a favorable institutional environment for young people to assume the responsibility of achieving technological self-reliance and self-improvement.

On the other hand, youth promote plan optimization through innovative practices, demand feedback and active participation. As the group most sensitive to social changes and technological innovations, youth can timely identify mismatches and deficiencies in plan implementation. For example, in the digital economy field. Youth innovative practices in digital finance and

e-commerce can provide revision suggestions for the “Digital China Construction” task in the plan. This improves the plan’s pertinence and effectiveness. This two-way interaction forms a dynamic cycle of “plan guidance - youth practice - feedback optimization - plan upgrading”, promoting coordinated development of the 15th Five-Year Plan and youth responsibility.

(2) Core dimensions of interactive construction mechanism

The two-way empowerment mechanism is constructed around three dimensions: First, the goal integration dimension, which refers to the precise alignment between young people’s personal development objectives and the strategic goals of the 15th Five-Year Plan. This alignment serves as the foundation for forming interactive constructive relationships. From the perspective of Ogamba capability approach, the personal development of young people constitutes the core of value realization, while the strategic goals of the plan provide extensive development space. Only when these two types of goals are integrated can the organic unity of individual value and national development be achieved [7]. For example, the career development goals of young people in the new energy sector are consistent with the plan’s strategic objective of “promoting the transformation of the energy structure”. This can stimulate young people’s enthusiasm for shouldering responsibilities.

Second, the resource sharing dimension. The plan provides policies, funds and platforms for youth, while youth provide human capital and innovative momentum for plan implementation. The 15th Five-Year Plan allocates special funds for youth development to support the construction of youth innovation and entrepreneurship platforms. As the most dynamic group, youth have strong learning ability and innovative awareness, which can inject new impetus into plan implementation.

Third, the risk sharing dimension. Confronted with risks such as the global economic downturn and the accelerated pace of technological change. The plan provides a bottom-line guarantee for young people’s development. For example, the plan proposes strengthening employment support for young people and improving the social security system to assist them in coping with employment risks. Young people, in turn,

can contribute to resolving risks in plan implementation through innovative practices. For instance, amid global technological competition. Breakthroughs made by young people in key core technologies can enhance the country’s technological competitiveness. This facilitates the plan’s achievement of the goal of “technological self-reliance and self-improvement”.

(3) Theoretical innovation value

This theoretical model fills the gap in existing research regarding the systematic construction of the interactive relationship between the two. The application of interactive constructionism to the field of national plans and youth development expands the theoretical application scenarios. Meanwhile, clarifying the core dimensions and action paths of two-way empowerment provides a unified theoretical analytical framework for subsequent research. In comparison with existing unidirectional analytical frameworks. This model emphasizes the initiative and interactivity of both parties. It enables a more accurate revelation of the inherent connection between the 15th Five-Year Plan and youth responsibilities. It lays a theoretical foundation for formulating targeted youth development policies.

Argument 2: Core dimensions and practical approaches for youth responsibility to adapt to the 15th five-year plan

Based on preliminary questionnaire and interview data. Combined with typical global cases. This argument clarifies the core dimensions of youth responsibility adaptation to the 15th Five-Year Plan. It proposes differentiated practical approaches. Core discussions are as follows:

(1) Core dimensions of adaptation

Through mutual verification of quantitative and qualitative research, four core adaptation dimensions are identified: First, innovation capability adaptation, corresponding to the plan’s “scientific and technological self-reliance” core task, requiring youth to have frontier technology R&D and industrial innovation application capabilities. Questionnaire results show that 68.3% of interviewed youth believe innovation capability is the core capability to adapt to the plan. In the scientific and technological innovation field, youth’s original and transformative technological innovation capabilities directly affect the achievement of the plan’s “breaking

through key core technologies” goal.

Second, service capability adaptation. It corresponds to the strategic tasks of “common prosperity” and “rural revitalization”. It requires youth to have grassroots service, resource integration and public service supply capabilities. In-depth interview results show that grassroots units have an urgent demand for youth service capabilities. This is especially true in rural areas. Youth participation in rural education and medical care can effectively improve rural public service levels.

Third, global competence adaptation, corresponding to the “high-level opening up” task, requiring youth to have cross-cultural communication, international cooperation and global problem response capabilities. With the deepening of China’s opening up. Youth participation in international exchanges and cooperation is increasing. Their global competence directly affects China’s voice and influence in the global governance system.

Fourth, sense of responsibility adaptation, corresponding to the “cultivating socialist core values” task, requiring youth to have family and country feelings, social responsibility and risk responsibility. The sense of responsibility is the ideological basis for youth to take on various tasks in the plan and the guarantee for promoting coordinated development of the plan and youth.

(2) Field-specific practical approaches

Combined with the above adaptation dimensions, two targeted practical approaches are proposed for key fields of the 15th Five-Year Plan:

First, in the scientific and technological innovation field, construct a “university-research institute-enterprise” collaborative youth innovation training system. Universities should optimize talent training models, strengthen the connection between disciplines and plan needs, and cultivate youth innovative thinking and practical ability. Research institutes should strengthen cooperation with youth, provide research platforms and guidance, and support youth participation in key scientific research projects. Enterprises should play the main market role, set up special funds for youth scientific research, and provide financial support and market channels for youth innovative achievements. Meanwhile, establishing a youth scientific and technological achievement transformation mechanism

and improving the incentive mechanism to stimulate innovation enthusiasm.

Second, in the opening field, implementing the “Youth International Exchange Program”. Supporting youth participation in international organization works and cross-border cooperation projects to improve cross-cultural communication and international cooperation capabilities. Strengthening education internationalization, carry out Sino-foreign cooperative education, and cultivate youth global vision and international competitiveness. Encouraging youth to tell Chinese stories well, spread Chinese voices, and enhance China’s cultural soft power in international exchanges.

(3) Global insights for practical approaches

The formulation and implementation of practical paths should be based on China’s national conditions while drawing on beneficial international experiences. For example, in the training of young people’s skills. We can learn from Germany’s dual education system. Strengthening the integration of school education and enterprise practice. Improving the matching degree between young people’s skills and the needs of the plan. Germany’s dual education system combines theoretical learning with practical training. Enterprises participate in the entire talent training process. This can effectively enhance young people’s practical abilities. We can draw on this experience to promote the integration of industry and education and establish a number of practical training bases for young people.

At the same time. We can refer to the implementation experience of Brazil’s “Youth Rural Revitalization Plan”. Improve the guaranteed policies for rural young people. Increase policy support for their innovation and entrepreneurship. Brazil’s plan provides rural young people with a package of supportive policies, including funding, training, and technical guidance, which has effectively promoted their participation in rural revitalization [8]. We can learn from this experience to improve the policy support system for young rural people and enhance the attractiveness of rural areas to young people.

Argument 3: Construction of an empowerment guarantee system for youth responsibility with both Chinese characteristics and global reference value

Aiming at practical bottlenecks in the “youth responsibility-15th Five-Year Plan” interactive

construction process. This argument constructs a multi-subject collaborative empowerment guarantee system. The system considers both Chinese characteristics and global reference value. Core discussions are as follows:

(1) Core framework of the guaranteed system

Constructing a “government-led, market-driven, social participation and youth-oriented” multi-subject collaborative guarantee system, clarifying the core responsibilities of each subject. The government is responsible for policy formulation, resource coordination and bottom-line guarantee. It focuses on improving youth employment, entrepreneurship and education policies and regulations. It formulates targeted support policies according to the plan’s core tasks.

The market plays a resource allocation role. It encourages enterprises to set up youth talent training funds. It builds innovation and practice platforms. It improves youth practical ability through market-oriented mechanisms. Social forces (universities, research institutes, social organizations) are responsible for providing education and training, skill training and psychological counseling services. Universities and research institutes provide intellectual support and talent guarantee for young people to fulfill responsibilities. Social organizations play a bridge role, connecting the government, market and youth, and providing personalized services. Youth groups actively participate in the construction and improvement of the guaranteed system, putting forward needs and suggestions to improve policy pertinence. This multi-subject collaborative framework can give full play to the advantages of each subject and form a joint force to promote youth to fulfill their responsibilities.

(2) Core guarantee measures

First, policy guarantee. Incorporating youth responsibility ability cultivation into the plan implementation evaluation system and establishing a dynamic policy implementation effect monitoring mechanism. Regularly evaluating the implementation effect of youth development policies and adjusting and optimizing policies in a timely manner according to evaluation results. Improving the youth development legal system, formulating and improving laws and regulations related to youth rights and interests’ protection, and providing legal guarantee for youth to

fulfill responsibilities.

Second, resource guarantee. Establishing a national youth development fund, integrates social capital to form a diversified capital support system, focusing on supporting youth innovation and entrepreneurship and grass-roots services. Increasing financial investment in youth education and training, improve the quality of education and training, and enhance youth’s ability to adapt to the plan. Strengthening the construction of youth public service facilities, building a number of youth activity centers and innovation and entrepreneurship parks, and providing platforms for youth study, work and life.

Third, incentive guarantee. Establishing a youth responsibility fulfillment effectiveness evaluation system. Taking innovation contribution, social value and practical effect as core indicators. Conducting an objective and fair evaluation of youth performance. Setting up a youth responsibility commendation system. Commending and rewarding outstanding contributors. Set up models. Improve the talent evaluation mechanism. Take innovation ability, quality, effect and contribution as the orientation. Breaking the single evaluation standard based on academic background and professional title. Stimulate youth’s enthusiasm for innovation and creation.

(3) Global reference value

This guaranteed system is rooted in China’s national conditions and absorbs the experience of multi-subject collaborative empowerment from OECD countries [9]. The constructed four-dimensional guaranteed framework of “policy-resource-service-incentive”. It can provide a reference for developing countries. To address issues such as insufficient resources for youth development and ineffective policy implementation. Many developing countries are confronted with problems such as inadequate financial investment in youth development and unsmooth coordination among multiple subjects. The multi-subject collaborative framework and diversified resource support system in this guaranteed system can offer effective solutions.

Meanwhile, the design concept of “youth-oriented participation” is consistent with the core trend of global youth development [10]. The 2023 Global Review by the UNDP points out that young people’s participation in policy formulation and implementation is an

important direction for global youth development. This system encourages young people to participate in the construction of the guaranteed system. It not only can improve the pertinence of policies but also provide a reference for the formulation of global youth development policies, contribute Chinese wisdom to promoting the improvement of the global youth development governance system.

Conclusion

Through theoretical construction and empirical analysis, this paper draws three core conclusions: First, the 15th Five-Year Plan and youth responsibility present a profound interactive construction relation, and building a two-way empowerment mechanism is the core key to realizing their coordinated development. The two-way interaction forms a mutually promoting dynamic cycle, which can effectively improve plan implementation efficiency and youth development level.

Second, the adaptation of youth responsibility to the plan needs to focus on four core dimensions: innovation capability, service capability, global competence and sense of responsibility, and implement field-specific targeted practical approaches. Different fields have different requirements for youth capabilities, and only targeted practical approaches can effectively give play to youth's role.

Third, building a "government-led, market-driven, social participation and youth-oriented" multi-subject collaborative empowerment guarantee system. It is important to support young people to fulfill their responsibilities. The joint force formed by multi-subject collaboration can solve practical bottlenecks in youth responsibility fulfillment and provide comprehensive guarantee for coordinated development of the plan and youth.

This study verifies the scientificity and feasibility of the "plan-youth" interactive construction theoretical model through mixed research methods, filling existing theoretical and methodological gaps. The coordinated development of the 15th Five-Year Plan and youth responsibility. It is not only an inherent requirement for China to basically realize socialist modernization but also an important measure to respond to global youth development challenges, and contribute Chinese solutions to global governance.

As the core force driving global development, the coordination model between young people and national plans exerts a significant impact on the process of global modernization. The "plan-youth" interactive construction model and empowerment guarantee system constructed in this paper. It not only provides practical solutions for China, but it also offers a reference for countries at different development stages. To resolve the disconnection between youth development and national strategies. In the context of the evolving global governance system. China's exploration of paths can provide a new perspective for the global youth development governance system, promote its optimization and upgrading, contribute to the achievement of the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

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Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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