

# Analysis on the Phenomenon of "A Difficult to Find" in the Study Room for Postgraduate Entrance Examination

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**Abstract:** With the continuous expansion of undergraduate colleges and universities in recent years, the number of undergraduates is increasing, and the number of graduates is also increasing. The employment problem of college students is highly concerned by the society. Most college students find it difficult to get an ideal offer after graduation. So a new way, "postgraduate examination", "examination public", "examination compilation" and other words began to enter people's attention. In recent years, the number of college students taking the entrance exam has increased dramatically, with the number of applicants exceeding 4.74 million in 2022 and expected to reach 4.91 million in 2024. With the improvement of education level and teaching facilities, students' understanding of academics has also been further developed. Although most students choose to take the postgraduate entrance exam due to employment problems, there are still some students who take the entrance exam for academic research. Therefore, with the prevalence of "research craze", the state also began to adopt the policy of expanding the enrollment of graduate students. In addition, most colleges and universities have opened up special classrooms or self-study rooms for their own candidates, and the surge in the number of students has also led to the "one difficult to find" self-study rooms. Therefore, this paper will start from the analysis of the phenomenon of the entrance examination craze, the analysis of the main motivation of students and the impact of the entrance examination craze. The phenomenon of research craze brings deep thought to individuals and society.

**Keywords:** Entrance examination fever, Employment motivation, Entrance examination study room.

## 1. Introduction

Facing graduation, choosing employment or postgraduate entrance examination is a very difficult problem for contemporary graduates. Direct employment means stepping into society, you can find a good offer with your own professional advantages, and live a 996 and 007 life from now on, but it also means leaving the campus forever. Taking the postgraduate entrance exam means that while others are sending out resumes one by one, you can travel around with the admission notice and briefly enjoy the best time of your life (after landing, of course); Realistically speaking, it is to improve your academic level if you have the ability to get a better offer or more opportunities. In recent years, "entrance exam craze" has gradually evolved from a cultural and educational issue to a social topic, and now parents see their children have to say: you see so many people taking the postgraduate entrance exam, you also go to the postgraduate entrance exam? The true meaning of the entrance examination seems to have been lost, and people no longer look forward to the Gospel brought by the entrance examination. Therefore, we need to think about and face the motivation behind the decision of college students.

## 2. Analysis of the Phenomenon of Postgraduate Entrance Examination Fever

### 2.1. The main body of the phenomenon -- SWOT analysis of college students

Overview of SWOT model: SWOT analysis is composed of four English acronyms of "strengths", "weaknesses", "opportunities" and "threats" [1].

#### 1. Strengths:

The advantages of college students mainly include the following aspects:

(1) Knowledge reserve: College students receive systematic professional knowledge training during university, and have high learning ability and knowledge reserve.

(2) Young vitality: College students usually have high energy and vitality, and can withstand greater work pressure.

(3) Learning environment: The university provides a good learning environment and resources, providing students with a broad learning space and opportunities.

(4) Social skills: college students have the opportunity to make friends with all kinds of talents during school, and have cultivated strong social skills and team spirit.

#### 2. Weaknesses:

The disadvantages of college students mainly include the following aspects:

(1) Lack of work experience: College students often lack practical work experience and may not know enough about the requirements and challenges of the workplace.

(2) Employment pressure: With the increase in the number of graduates, the job market is highly competitive, and college students are facing greater employment pressure.

(3) Self-management ability: College students need self-management in study and life, but sometimes lack self-discipline and time management ability.

Professional skills: College students may have deficiencies in some professional skills, which need to be further improved and perfected.

#### 3. Opportunities:

Opportunities for college students mainly include the following aspects:

(1) Internship and practical opportunities: college students can accumulate work experience and improve their competitiveness through internships and practical activities.

(2) Study and development: College students can improve

their professional quality by continuing their studies, learning new knowledge and skills, and participating in various competitions.

(3) Entrepreneurial opportunities: Now the entrepreneurial environment is good, the state encourages college students to start businesses and gives entrepreneurial welfare, college students can seize entrepreneurial opportunities to realize their entrepreneurial dreams.

4. Threats:

Threats to college students mainly include the following aspects:

(1) Lack of social experience: blind optimism, insufficient pressure resistance and psychological preparation.

(2) Weak market concept: eager to succeed, lack of security awareness, easy to be cheated, like some investment traps and so on.

(3) Fierce market competition: talent replacement, survival of the fittest, employment situation is grim.

## 2.2. The cause of the phenomenon of "research fever"

With the popularization of China's higher education and the intensification of competition, the craze for entrance examination has become a common phenomenon. Although those with a high degree of education may not be guaranteed to find a good job, most undergraduates are still unable to obtain employment opportunities with both social status and favorable pay through the effect of intergenerational transmission. At this time, the path of postgraduate entrance examination can be obtained through their own efforts, rather than the so-called "hidden rules" [2].

First of all, as far as employment pressure is concerned, the craze for postgraduate entrance examination is driven by the fierce competition in the job market. With the increasing number of college graduates, the imbalance between supply and demand in the job market has become increasingly

prominent. Many college students find it difficult to find an ideal job with only a bachelor's degree, while a graduate degree can improve employment competitiveness. Therefore, the entrance exam has become a way for them to improve their competitiveness.

Secondly, in terms of personal development, the craze is also driven by the desire of individuals to pursue further academic studies. Many students hope to improve their academic level and research ability by studying for a postgraduate degree, so as to engage in scientific research or enter the field of higher education in the future. They believe that a graduate degree can provide them with more academic resources and opportunities to help achieve their personal career development goals.

In addition, family and social expectations are also one of the reasons for the craze. In traditional Chinese culture, education has always been regarded as an important way to improve social status and change destiny. Many families hope that their children can pursue graduate degrees for better employment opportunities and higher social status. The society also generally believes that the graduate degree is a symbol of a person's ability and quality, so for many people, the entrance examination has become a way of social recognition and value affirmation.

Finally, policy factors have also played a certain role in promoting the formation of the research craze. The government has increased its support for postgraduate education, providing more scholarships and funding opportunities, and providing better conditions for postgraduate entrance exams. In addition, some policies also encourage undergraduate graduates to pursue graduate degrees, such as some local governments to provide preferential employment policies for graduate graduates, further stimulating the formation of the research craze.

The chart below shows the number of postgraduate students taking the exam in five provinces in recent years

**Table 1.** Number of applicants for the postgraduate entrance examination in five provinces from 2018 to 2022

YEAR/PROVINCE	JIANGSU PROVINCE	SHANDONG PROVINCE	HENAN PROVINCE	GUANGDONG PROVINCE	SICHUAN PROVINCE
2018	17.1	21.4	18.6	10.8	11.0
2019	21.2	25.4	23.4	14.0	14.2
2020	24.9	31.3	28.0	17.4	17.48
2021	26.3	34.8	30.2	20.2	21.7
2022	29.9	41.6	37.9	26.3	26.5

Existing studies have also confirmed that the geographical location of a school and the degree of regional economic development are the main factors affecting the students' school selection, even exceeding the weight of their own strength, school conditions, funding policies and other factors [3].

Employment pressure is one of the main motivations for taking the entrance exam, according to an official report on the 2022 recruitment. Among them, 40% of applicants lack confidence in employment and worry about whether they can find an ideal job in the future [4]. Obviously, more and more undergraduates are having difficulty finding a desirable job, and for those undergraduates who have two or three books, the competitiveness is far from the same as that of one undergraduate student. It can be seen that education is still the first choice for many employers to consider. Therefore, in order to find employment, many college students choose to take the postgraduate entrance examination to continue their

studies and have obtained a higher degree.

At the same time, under the influence of their parents' social environment, most people begin to prefer high-welfare jobs such as civil servants, teachers, and doctors, for the simple reason that they have stable jobs and secure retirement. Taking education as an example, due to the fewer professional restrictions applied for this discipline and the wide range of employment, most graduates can become educators and enter public units, so the annual education cross-examinees account for more than 50%, and some schools and professions even reach 70% to 80%. In addition, the number of applicants is also increasing significantly. For example, 735 people applied for Teacher Education College of Jiangsu University in 2019; In 2021, the number of applicants rose to 1,188, an increase of 61.63 percent in three years. In the past five years (2018-2022), among all the national lines for the re-examination of disciplines, only education has maintained a sustained and significant upward trend, with the national line for the re-

examination rising from 320 points to 351 points, with an average annual increase of 8.2 points, indicating the high popularity of the re-examination of its disciplines [5].

### **3. Analysis of College Students' Motivation for Postgraduate Entrance Examination**

#### **3.1. Bright current commentary: The research craze reflects the problems existing in talent evaluation**

With the improvement of social and economic level, the more people can realize the importance of only suitable for education, the more parents pay attention to the investment in education, the pursuit of higher education, a good job and a good life is also common sense. Therefore, some scholars put forward that the craze of entrance examination is an inevitable trend and an inevitable result of social and economic development. The "war" of 2020 postgraduate entrance examination has ended, with the number of applicants reaching 3.77 million, an increase of 360,000 compared with 2019, once again refreshing the record number of postgraduate entrance examination. In the face of the continuous heating up of the "entrance examination fever", some public opinion believes that the entrance examination has become the "second college entrance examination".

#### **3.2. Analysis of motivation for postgraduate entrance examination**

With the development of society and the intensification of competition, more and more college students choose the graduate school to enhance their competitiveness and job prospects. However, the motivation for choosing to take the entrance exam may vary from person to person. This article will analyze the motivation of college students from three aspects: personal development, employment pressure and academic interest.

##### **1. Personal development**

First of all, personal development is an important motivation for college students. For some students with pursuit and ambition, the entrance exam is a way to achieve personal development. By studying for a graduate degree, they can deeply study the subjects they are interested in, broaden their knowledge and improve their professional quality. In addition, a graduate degree is also considered a symbol of social status and can lay a solid foundation for one's career development. I believe we have all heard an old saying: education is a stepping-stone. Under the "diploma contempt chain", undergraduates lose the original employment dividend in the job market, and the requirements of "introducing high-level talents" and "preferring employment of master and doctoral students" have become the norm in the job market, and the "internal examination" of professional competition has forced the "internal examination" of postgraduate entrance [6].

Second is pay. The sensitivity of the job market to academic qualifications is most directly reflected in the salary, and it is obvious that different levels of education bring different salaries. I have heard a lecture, some big cities in order to carry out talent introduction plan, will introduce masters, doctors into the science and technology park work, which reflected in the salary of the most obvious part is the housing provident fund, up to millions. The salary gap of doctoral,

master, undergraduate and college students presents a ladder distribution. In fact, undergraduates are not completely unable to find a job, but the level of salary has already explained everything. According to the survey, the salary of most undergraduate interns is only between 4,000 and 6,000, and it is still uncertain whether they can be turned into full-time employees. Not to mention undergraduate students who want to pursue their dreams in big cities. Take Chinese language major as an example, Chinese language doctor can work in Suzhou through "talent introduction", and can get about 3.5 million housing subsidies, master can get about 1.5 million, graduate students can only get hundreds of thousands. It can be seen that the promotion of education reduces job access.

##### **2. Employment pressure**

Employment pressure is also an important motivation for college students. With the increasing number of college graduates, the job market is becoming increasingly competitive. Many college students believe that by pursuing a graduate degree, they can improve their competitiveness and increase their job opportunities. A graduate degree is seen by many businesses and institutions as a mandatory requirement for hiring, and candidates with a graduate degree usually receive more attention and opportunities.

##### **3. Prestigious school complex**

It is not ruled out that some college students fail in the college entrance examination, in order to be able to enter the desired institutions, so they want to fight to enter the famous schools. Whether it is from the aspects of teachers, resources, school spirit and so on, the famous university must be crushing some other universities, so it has become the "sweet cake" in the hearts of postgraduate students. According to the survey, 20.2% want to improve themselves through graduate school and make a contribution to the construction of the motherland; Those who like academic research and want to continue their education accounted for 16.4%; Out of personal interest, I want to know more about my major. 8.3% of the total; 7.6% want to ease the employment pressure by taking the postgraduate entrance examination and do not want to enter the society too early; Most of the students around are preparing for the postgraduate entrance examination, and 6.1% are affected by the "postgraduate entrance examination trend"; For utilitarian reasons, 41.4%[7].

##### **4. Academic interest**

Academic interest is also an important motivation for college students. Some students have a strong interest and love for the subject they study, and they want to further research and explore their field of interest by pursuing a graduate degree. For these students, the entrance exam is a way to realize their academic dreams, and they are willing to invest more time and energy in pursuing academic breakthroughs and innovations.

### **4. The Impact of The Phenomenon Is Hard to Figure Out**

With the popularization of higher education in China and the intensification of competition, the entrance examination for postgraduate studies has become an important way for many college students to pursue further study and improve themselves. However, in recent years, the study room of the entrance examination is difficult to find a phenomenon gradually appeared, which has brought no small trouble to the students.

First of all, the phenomenon that study rooms are difficult to obtain is closely related to the craze for postgraduate entrance exams. With the increasing number of applicants for postgraduate entrance examination, the demand for study rooms for postgraduate entrance examination also increases. However, due to the limited resources of the study room of the university, it can not meet the needs of all the students, resulting in a study room is difficult to find. Secondly, the phenomenon that study rooms are difficult to obtain is also related to the learning needs of students. Graduate students usually need a quiet, focused study environment in order to better prepare for the exam. The study room provides such an environment, so it has become the first choice for graduate students. In addition, the study time of postgraduate entrance examination is long and the task is heavy, so many students need to study in the self-study room for a long time, resulting in the shortage of resources in the self-study room. In addition, the phenomenon that study rooms are difficult to obtain is also related to poor management of study rooms. Some study rooms have problems such as waste of resources and occupy seats, which leads to lower efficiency of effective use of study room resources. At the same time, the opening hours of some self-study rooms are not long enough to meet the learning needs of students, which also aggravates the phenomenon of self-study room tension.

Take the campus as an example: the biggest problem in the campus study room should be the problem of occupying seats. Most colleges and universities are equipped with some self-study teachers and libraries. The libraries have a large number of books and chairs for the students who are studying here. When you go into a library, you may find that the desks in each reading room are full of books, school supplies, and even tissues or snacks. Apparently, this reading room has been used by students for self-study. Come to the hall, many round tables in the center of the hall may also be placed with many "books" but not books, but students' textbooks, those who do not occupy a seat in the reading room can only retreat to the hall to occupy a seat. For most colleges and universities, the phenomenon of "one is difficult to find" is too common, with the increasing number of students taking the postgraduate entrance examination every year, an ordinary college may have nearly 1000 or so students have the intention to take the postgraduate entrance examination. Of course, in order to solve the problem of occupying seats, some universities have taken charging measures. On April 22, 2002, Yanzhao City Daily published an article entitled "Study Rooms for postgraduate Entrance Examination 30 Yuan per person - The relevant departments say that university library seat fees are not proper". The article said: a college library in Hebei province set up a review room for students who are more than three years old to prepare for postgraduate examination, charging 30 yuan per person per year, and buyers are unusually enthusiastic, and there is even 30 yuan to buy seats and 50 yuan to sell "black market transactions." The leaders of the museum are also prepared to charge more than 10,000 yuan for the management of the "postgraduate entrance exam seat" to open up new study rooms to meet the needs of students. However, it later issued the opinion of the relevant leading departments that the move was not appropriate, and it was soon cancelled. In the third issue of the Journal of University Library in 2002, the title of "University library's establishment of postgraduate entrance examination fees to do controversy" was abstracted and transferred, but the "improper" was changed to "dispute". It can be seen that the

merits of this move can be debated [8]. In the author's opinion, this is a happy thing, for students, only 30 yuan can buy a good atmosphere of learning environment, and the cycle of postgraduate examination is only one year, compared to the required teaching auxiliary books and teacher courses in the process of postgraduate examination, this 30 yuan is nothing. For the school, not only the phenomenon of occupying seats is reduced, but the fees collected can also be used to invest in new study rooms for postgraduate entrance exams. To some extent, charging fees on campus may violate certain rules and regulations, so it is open to question.

## 5. The Reflection Behind the Phenomenon

There was a group of photos of "college students explaining why they want to take the postgraduate entrance exam" that went viral on the Internet. In the photo, each graduate student came out holding a sign to write down his reasons for taking the postgraduate entrance exam: "entering the society later", "convenient employment", "personal interest"... It can be seen that there are thousands of reasons for taking the entrance exam, such as avoiding the employment peak, taking the entrance exam for parents, wanting to further study, enhancing the overall competitiveness, etc., but there are very few who really take the entrance exam for academic research.

Many schools encourage students to take the postgraduate entrance examination, and even compare the number of students taking the postgraduate entrance examination, taking pride in the majority of the number of postgraduate entrance examination and the majority of the number of ashore, but have they ever thought about why their students do not want to retain the school's education? Is it really all about the encouragement of the school? The entrance examination was originally only a desire of students, but now it has become a task of schools. Relevant survey: The number of graduate students in prestigious universities such as Renmin University of China and Zhejiang University is basically equal to that of undergraduates, and some even exceed that of undergraduates.

In addition to students and schools, postgraduate examination training institutions as a driving force in the postgraduate examination market can not be underestimated. Although the education authorities have issued documents to strengthen the management of postgraduate entrance examination guidance activities, as the head of a postgraduate entrance examination institution said, "postgraduate entrance examination training is like cutting leeks, cutting one crop after another."

Of course, the expansion of enrollment has brought about the devaluation of academic qualifications. Xiong Bingqi, a professor at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, analyzed that university teaching is completely centered on the transfer of postgraduate entrance examination, which essentially turns the entrance examination into the second college entrance examination, and students study around the entrance examination subjects and do not receive systematic university education [9].

With the surge in the number of postgraduate entrance examination, the number of people landing each year seems to be changing, different professional scores in different fields, which leads to different professional talent absorption, but from the content of postgraduate entrance examination, mathematics, English politics is a common discipline, most

candidates need to participate, then it seems that as long as the study of these subjects can get a higher score in the initial. According to the National Employment Status of College Graduates, the employment rate of master's students has declined continuously since 2005, when the number of students taking the postgraduate entrance examination exceeded one million for the first time. From the relevant national statistics, it is found that the employment rate of postgraduate students is even lower than that of undergraduates and vocational school students.

Zhang Tao, a professor at the School of Materials at Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, believes that the expansion of undergraduate enrollment has brought in a group of low-quality middle school students. The expansion of master's degree has brought many low-quality undergraduates. The expansion of doctoral enrollment has resulted in many low-quality masters among doctoral students. We produce more and more doctorates every year, but we do sacrifice a certain amount of quality. Therefore, even if they are masters or doctors, they are rejected by many large enterprises because they have only academic qualifications but no real strength.

## 6. Peroration

The development of society makes the development of science and technology inevitable. While reflecting on the phenomenon of "research craze", people need to reflect on themselves, whether they really want to go with the flow, and whether they have the ability to go with the flow. But in fact, no matter how the road ahead, we are always concerned about how to continue to write their own development, postgraduate entrance examination or not, landing or not, but a choice in life. As college students, they should pay attention to their own healthy development while paying attention to their academic development. As a university, while paying attention to the development of the university, it may pay attention to the cultivation and enlightenment of students; The

social environment, the most need to do is to follow its development, in the right way to guide.

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