

Advantages or Disadvantages and Precautions of College Students' Online Part-Time Work

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Abstract: This paper objectively analyzes the advantages of college students' online part-time job by summarizing and analyzing the convenience and attitude and purpose of college students' online part-time job. Through the influence of college students' online part-time job on students and the common types of students' online part-time, it is pointed out that college students will be hurt by fraud. Through the above analysis and discussion, this paper puts forward the prevention and education of college students' online part-time job fraud. For example, it is suggested to establish a special supervised online part-time platform for college students. In addition, the crime scene is revealed by actual cases, so that students can clearly see the content and background of the crime.

Keywords: Internet Fraud; Online Part-Time Work; Special Supervised; The Crime Scene

1. The Convenience of College Students' Online Part-Time Jobs

Analysis of Online Part-time Jobs among College Students. A survey conducted in Suqian (Suqian University School of Management, Jiangsu Province, 223800) revealed that 86.77% of college students have participated in online part-time work, with 31.74% currently engaged in such positions. When asked why they chose online over offline jobs, 92.06% cited "convenience and accessibility" as the primary reason, followed by 93.65% for "diverse job opportunities," 30.16% for "flexible schedules," and 11.11% for "less complex interpersonal relationships." With technological advancements enabling seamless digital transformation, the gig economy has made short-term, flexible work arrangements increasingly popular. Many students now find traditional 9-to-5 jobs physically and mentally exhausting, making online part-time work an ideal alternative.

2. Attitudes and Purposes of College Students on Online Part-Time Jobs

While most students maintain a positive attitude toward online part-time work, some express concerns about potential academic impacts. The motivations for college students engaging in such work are diverse: 94.71% choose it to "develop personal skills and enhance practical abilities"; 89.95% seek to "earn income and ease family financial burdens"; 24.87% aim to "gain work experience and prepare for employment"; and 10.05% pursue "social exposure". This indicates that when considering online part-time opportunities, students generally have clear objectives—seeking both financial gain and skill development through these platforms.

3. The Impact of College Students' Online Part-Time Jobs on Individual Students

A 2022 survey conducted by Beijing Union University's College of Applied Arts and Sciences on part-time work among Beijing university students revealed that 82.46% of respondents believed part-time jobs could help with employment, while only 17.54% thought they were unhelpful. Part-time work helped students understand job-related information including workplace competency requirements (28.52%), salary packages (24.34%), workplace regulations (22.07%), and employment trends (21.92%). The improvement in students' competencies through part-time work was mainly reflected in interpersonal skills (29.67%), psychological resilience (25.20%), work capabilities (16.12%), professional ethics (16.06%), and technical expertise (11.65%). Results showed that four factors—monthly income from part-time work, psychological development, social experience, and career planning—were significantly correlated with employment outcomes at the 0.05 significance

level, with correlation coefficients of 0.473, 1.009, 1.630, and 1.472 respectively, indicating positive correlations. Effect size analysis indicated that changes in monthly income, psychological development, social experience, and career planning would lead to employment assistance effects of 1.604, 2.742, 5.104, and 4.369 respectively. [1] These data suggest that enhanced social experience positively promotes student employment. Part-time work provides students with practical exposure to social norms, interpersonal dynamics, and workplace etiquette, fostering greater maturity and adaptability during job interviews and internships, thereby enhancing their competitiveness in the job market. Survey data reveals that 57% of respondents attribute part-time experiences to clearer career goals and improved employability. Meanwhile, 58% of students report positive psychological impacts from these engagements, noting that developing mental resilience enables better handling of employment challenges. Employers particularly value candidates demonstrating strong psychological resilience. Additionally, part-time positions often offer higher monthly incomes, typically due to technical demands or demanding workloads. Skilled workers who demonstrate perseverance and hard work naturally become preferred candidates. The correlation between part-time employment and job-related skill levels is statistically significant at the 0.10 level (correlation coefficient: 0.692, positive correlation with effect size of 1.998). Higher technical complexity in part-time roles enhances both theoretical knowledge and practical experience, indicating stronger professional competence that employers value [2-3]. Analysis of Beijing university students' part-time participation shows predominantly positive attitudes toward such arrangements. Part-time work primarily has a positive impact on students' academic performance, which correlates with three key factors: extracurricular study time, psychological development, and professional awareness. As long as students maintain sufficient study time and a positive mindset, part-time work won't negatively affect their studies. Part-time employment also positively contributes to career development, linked to five elements: monthly income from part-time jobs, psychological growth, social experience, graduation planning, and technical skills, with

social experience, career planning, and psychological development being the primary contributors. Students who have clear career goals, a proactive attitude, and accumulated social experience naturally have higher chances of successful employment. Therefore, society, schools, and families should pay more attention to student part-time work, allowing it to play a more active role in talent cultivation.

4. Common Types of Students' Online Part-Time Jobs

Through extensive searches on online part-time platforms, we observe limited job options available to college students. Common positions include role-playing games, translation, creative design, live streaming, software promotion, and content editing – roles that typically require high technical skills and specific qualifications. Most students prefer easy-to-learn tasks like typing and order padding. These positions often advertise "high pay with low effort," but lacking discernment, many fall victim to such deceptive promotions[4].

Another significant online part-time job category for college students is the private tutoring market targeting primary and secondary school students (a 2019 study by Hubei University of Arts and Science). According to 2018 national education statistics, there were 103.3925 million primary school students, 46.5259 million junior high school students, and 23.7537 million senior high school students. The massive demand for educational resources from such a large student population naturally led to the formation of the private tutoring industry. College students have inherent advantages in this field: 1. Age gap facilitates communication: Having progressed through middle school entrance exams and college entrance exams themselves, college students better understand their clients' needs. The smaller age difference between teachers and students creates a more intimate relationship, enhancing communication effectiveness. Without generational gaps, educators can impart knowledge more effectively while students absorb it more readily. 2. Cost-effectiveness: Tutoring platforms primarily employ part-time college students whose hourly rates are lower than professional teachers, making them preferred choices for families with moderate incomes. 3. Personal safety: When providing face-to-face tutoring, college students offer higher security and reliability. This is

particularly crucial as personal safety remains the most vulnerable aspect when conducting face-to-face tutoring. College students, lacking social experience and self-protection capabilities, are frequently victimized during private tutoring sessions, with cases of female college students being harmed particularly common[4]. The College Student Part-time Tutoring Service Platform, which requires real-name registration and operates under a one-on-one tutoring model with transparent information disclosure, ensures a certain level of security. After signing contracts, the platform monitors mutual compliance through self-reporting mechanisms, enabling both parties to provide feedback that safeguards their legal rights[5]. Fourthly, this service reduces time and space constraints for both tutors and students. By efficiently utilizing time to enhance learning efficiency, it expands the temporal-spatial scope of tutoring while allowing students to schedule sessions autonomously—effectively overcoming the limitations of traditional face-to-face tutoring. Leveraging internet infrastructure, the platform enables students to access academic guidance anytime, anywhere, significantly improving teaching convenience and efficiency. Upon registering as a user, students can log into the platform to find subject-specific instructors, arrange tutoring sessions, and engage in real-time guidance through the platform[6].

5. The Harm of Fraud to College Students' Online Part-Time Jobs

5.1 The Prevalence of Fraudulent Online Job Postings Stems from Two Primary Sources: Employers and Recruitment Platforms

Regulatory gaps in online employment supervision have enabled scammers to exploit false information for fraud. Meanwhile, college students—immersed in campus environments with limited social experience, discernment skills, and cybersecurity awareness—are particularly vulnerable to scams. Recruitment agencies further fuel this crisis by exploiting students' greed through exaggerated claims. For instance, unscrupulous agencies often demand "prepayments" from graduates lacking professional networks, then disappear after receiving such payments. This "intermediary fee" scamming phenomenon has become rampant in the gig economy sector, creating an increasingly complex and volatile job market[7].

5.2 Personal Information Leakage

China's inadequate personal information protection system leaves citizens vulnerable to data breaches, primarily manifested in three aspects: (1) Article 253 of the Criminal Law's provisions on information protection are overly broad and lack practical enforceability. (2) The rampant proliferation of information in online part-time job platforms, coupled with complex data complexity, significantly complicates public security authorities' oversight. (3) Criminals exploit phishing attacks and system intrusions to obtain citizens' personal data, then engage in organized trafficking of such information.

5.3 Scam Cases of Financial Losses

Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine analyzed 71 part-time job fraud cases among college students in 2019, categorizing them into three types. The first type involved fraudulent charges such as intermediary fees, security deposits, and review fees (13 cases). The second type involved victims attempting to recover losses after discovering fraud but being defrauded again under the guise of "labor fees" (1 case). The third type involved scams through fake transactions like shopping, purchasing game cards, or phone cards to "boost ratings and credibility" (57 cases), which appears to be the most prevalent form.

6. Analysis of Subjective Causes of Network Fraud among College Students

6.1 Characteristics of Unrealistic Part-time Jobs among College Students

The primary characteristics of part-time jobs among many students are low technical requirements, limited information sources, and claimed high returns. The subjective reasons for college students falling into fraud traps include "low technical demands and high returns." Case Analysis: On October 12, 2013, victim Zhang used his dorm phone to search for part-time jobs (limited information channels). While browsing web pages, he received a recruitment notice for online part-time work on 58.com. Criminal suspect Xiao Tang, the customer service representative, instructed Zhang via QQ to purchase game cards to boost credit ratings (low technical requirements), promising to return the principal plus 5% commission upon completion (high returns). Believing this, Zhang purchased

three game cards from the provided URL link each time, paying 500 yuan per transaction, totaling 1,500 yuan loss. It is evident that these features—low technical demands, high returns, and limited information channels—are common in online scams[8]. The author analyzes that due to the generally lower educational backgrounds of fraudsters, they find it easier to explain "low technical requirements" part-time jobs like "shopping orderers" with no real skills. In such cases, the promised 5-10% commission helps attract lazy college students. When encountering "credit brushing" scams, students may have forgotten their original purpose—to enhance practical skills and gain work experience—while searching for part-time jobs through online channels.

6.2 Weak Prevention Awareness and Blind Trust in "Scam Scripts"

The fundamental element of fraud is to mislead victims into voluntary property disposal through carefully crafted schemes. Scammers devote all efforts to designing elaborate traps that make college students believe in fabricated facts. From the tragic case of prospective student Xu Yuyu who was defrauded to death, to a renowned university professor who lost 17.6 million yuan, scam scripts have become increasingly sophisticated. While some propose the mnemonic "All transfers are scams," certain part-time job scams require financial transactions to "boost credibility." Some scammers initially invest small amounts to build trust, then gradually increase payment amounts after receiving commissions. For instance, on May 7, 2014, a victim received an online recruitment for purchasing mobile recharge cards to earn commissions. After contacting the scammer via QQ, they were deceived by the suspect's claim of boosting online store credibility and offering commissions. The suspect sent a "link" instructing the victim to follow it. The victim made three payments totaling 1,080 yuan, 2,000 yuan, and finally 23,920 yuan, only to realize their loss. When attempting to recover funds through Baidu, the victim was tricked into transferring money under the pretext of labor fees, plunging them into another scam script[9].

6.3 Value Deficiencies in Online Part-time Work among College Students

A typical example is the so-called "credit

enhancement" tasks offered by fraudulent websites. But can credibility really be bought? Engaging in such part-time work not only shows a lack of professionalism and integrity, but also reveals poor social skills. Being scammed through credit enhancement attempts isn't just a case of "losing more than you gain"—it exposes systemic issues in ideological education and student management systems[10].

7. Prevention and Education against Fraud of College Students' online Part-Time Jobs

1) To establish a specialized and regulated online part-time platform for college students, researchers from the School of Foreign Trade and International Studies at Haikou University of Economics proposed the aforementioned initiative in 2020. The platform is designed to help students find suitable part-time jobs while assisting enterprises in identifying qualified candidates. Through partnerships with legitimate businesses, the platform ensures job security by providing information security guarantees for student job seekers. The platform screens and regularly updates job listings and requirements. Job seekers can submit their needs through the platform, where matching employers connect them via video interviews, face-to-face meetings, or text/voice communication. For inquiries about job positions or employer details, the platform provides background checks including verified employer information and candidate references. After agreement is reached, both parties must fulfill contractual obligations and undergo platform certification. Violations such as fraudulent behavior, unauthorized absences, malicious wage withholding, or false information will be penalized. Verified false information will be promptly removed, with regular content audits to safeguard data security for all participants.

2) By presenting real-life crime scenarios through case studies, students gain a clear understanding of criminal activities and their contexts. The Student Affairs Department employs victim testimonies in the "People Around Us Share Their Stories" initiative to enhance collaboration with law enforcement agencies. This approach helps students grasp standard evidence-gathering procedures for cybercrimes, such as requesting video calls or WeChat location verification before transfers. Through exposing common scripts, tactics, payment methods, and investigative techniques

used in part-time job scams, the program increases the difficulty and financial burden on criminals, thereby achieving crime prevention and reduction goals.

8. Conclusion

With the increasing emphasis placed by universities and relevant departments on safety education and legal awareness training for college students, their risk prevention awareness and legal literacy will be enhanced. Universities will further strengthen the construction of safety education courses, enrich the teaching content and forms, and through case analysis, simulation exercises and other ways, to make college students more understand the risks and prevention methods in online part-time jobs. Relevant departments will also intensify legal publicity, through the holding of legal lectures, distribution of publicity materials and ways, to popularize the laws and regulations related to online part-time jobs, and enhance the legal awareness and rights protection awareness of college students. In the future, college students treat online part-time jobs more rationally, be able to accurately identify risks, and safeguard their legitimate rights and interests in accordance with the law.

Future research can be carried out from the following directions. First, in-depth research can be conducted on the dynamic changes the online part-time job market, including the innovation of part-time job types and the evolution of market demand. With the rapid development of technology, new part-time job are constantly emerging, such as artificial intelligence training and virtual reality content creation. Researching the characteristics, development trends, and requirements for college students of these emerging part-time job types provide more forward-looking guidance for college students, helping them better adapt to market changes and choose suitable part-time positions. Second, we can further explore how to strengthen the cooperation between universities and enterprises to provide more high-quality and safe part-time job opportunities for students. Universities can establish long-term and stable cooperative relationships with enterprises, carry out customized-time job projects according to the needs of enterprises and the professional characteristics of students. Enterprises can provide students with internship opportunities, allowing them to learn professional knowledge

and improve practical skills practice; universities can provide enterprises with talent support, helping enterprises solve the problem of talent shortage. Through strengthening the cooperation between universities and enterprises, a win-win situation can be, creating more practice opportunities and development space for college students. Third, research can be conducted on how to use new technologies, such as blockchain and smart contracts, to improve the security transparency of online part-time platforms. Blockchain technology has the characteristics of decentralization, immutability, and traceability, which can effectively guarantee the authenticity and security of parttime information. Smart contracts can automatically execute contract terms, avoid human interference, and improve the efficiency and fairness of part-time transactions. Through research and application of these new technologies, can provide stronger technical support for the development of the college student online part-time market and promote the healthy development of the market.

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