Practices and Challenges of Ideological and Political Education for Contemporary College Students

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Abstract

In the context of the new era, the complexity and comprehensiveness of ideological and political education have become more and more obvious, due to the rapidly changing external environment, there is its own fracture and fragmentation phenomenon, accelerating innovation is important. In order to satisfy the new requirements of ideological and political education in the new circumstances, colleges and universities can take traditional teaching concepts and methods as the basis for the implementation of ideological and political education, associated with the actual requirements of the students and ideological changes, to improve the teaching concepts and methods in a targeted manner, to build a multi-dimensional, all-round mode of education, to emphasize the intrinsic motivation of ideological and political education and to facilitate the cultivation of highly qualified talents for all-round development.

Keywords

New Era; Ideological and Political Education; Innovation Strategy.

1. Content of Ideological and Political Education for College Students

The content of these courses for college students is shown in Figure 1, through these fundamental theoretical education, helping college students to master the basic principles of Marxism, and to enhance their identification and confidence in the socialist path with Chinese characteristics. In addition, it helps college students understand the domestic and international situation and national policies and enhances their cognition and adaptability to the country and society. With the passage of time, the ideological and moral capacity and basic quality of college students will be improved, providing high-quality talents for the state and society’s sustainable development.

Figure 1. The curriculum of ideological and political education for college students
2. The Significance of Carrying Out Ideological and Political Education Work in Colleges and Universities

2.1. Promoting Educational Reforms in Colleges and Universities Education

The practice of these for students is an important part of promoting educational reform in universities. Educational reform in universities covers a number of aspects, such as teaching philosophy, course contents, teaching methods, etc., and the practice of these is an essential way to guide students’ thoughts and promote comprehensive development. On the one hand, it is possible to promote the reform of education and teaching in colleges and universities through the practice of these. In practice, the students have to combine the knowledge they have learned in theory with the real situation in order to enhance their practical skills, their ability to innovate, etc. Meanwhile, they can also find the problems and inadequacies of teaching, we should develop the sustainable measures, and push the education and teaching in colleges and universities to develop and improve continuously. On the other hand, it is possible to promote the creation of curricula at colleges and universities through the practice of these. Through practice, students can gain a greater understanding of social reality and needs, and discover their own shortcomings, so that they can learn and improve themselves and perfect themselves in a more targeted way.

2.2. Promoting the Building of Campus Cultures

First of all, this work is conducive to guiding students to set up correct values, cultivating their ideological and moral qualities and civic awareness, which helps to form a positive cultural atmosphere on campus. By strengthening the education of socialist core values, it helps to create a good school style, learning style and teaching style, and form a spiritual culture with school characteristics. Secondly, this work organizes students to participate in various forms of campus cultural activities and social practice activities, such as cultural and artistic competitions, scientific and technological competitions, volunteer services and so on, which helps to cultivate the comprehensive quality of students. These activities not only enrich the content and form of campus culture, but also help to improve the quality and influence. Finally, it also emphasizes on strengthening the interaction and communication between teachers and students, establishing good teacher-student and peer relationship, and creating a harmonious interpersonal relationship atmosphere. It can enhance the cohesion and centripetal force of teachers and students, and promote the stability and sustainable development of campus culture. In addition, it is also a preparation for creating a better environment for these courses.

3. Challenges of Ideological and Political Education for College Students

3.1. Changes in the Social Environment

As society has developed and changed, the social environment has become increasingly complex, and various social problems have arisen that have posed major challenges for these courses at colleges and universities. For example, diversified values, cultural background and social structure make it necessary for it to pay more in-depth attention to cultivating students’ comprehensive quality and adaptability. In addition, the way of information dissemination has changed a lot in modern society, and the popularization of digital media such as the Internet and cell phones has made the ways for students to obtain information more diversified and convenient. However, the dissemination of information in these new media often lacks effective supervision and screening, which leads to a large amount of undesirable Information on the net that can easily erode students’ thoughts and lead to their behavioral deviations in real life. Both ideological and political education should focus on cultivating information literacy and critical thought among students so that they can use the Internet properly. With the reformation of the
system of education, the aims and content of ideological education at colleges and universities have also changed considerably. Educators need to constantly innovate teaching methods and approaches to better meet the requirements of social development, and students themselves need to strengthen their self-management and self-education abilities to better justice to the requirements of social change.

3.2. The Impact of Pluralistic Values
One of the challenges that this course at universities faces is the impact of multiculturalism. With the evolution of globalization and informatization, various cultural exchanges and collisions have become more frequent, and there is a large influx of Western culture and values, which has a profound influence on the ideology and values of students. The impact of multiculturalism has brought new challenges to these courses in universities. Under the multicultural environment, college students may be influenced by Western values, resulting in liberalism and individualism. At the same time, the impact of multiculturalism also makes some students resist and resent the ideological education, thinking that it is "brainwashing" and "indoctrination" and lacks pertinence and effectiveness. To cope with the impact of multiculturalism, it is necessary for ideological educators in universities to take a variety of measures to enable them to better cope with the challenges of multiculturalism, including, but not limited to, respecting cultural diversity, strengthening socialist core values education and focusing on cultivating students' ability to think independently.

3.3. Disconnect between Education and Practice
One of the problems that confronts in this course at colleges and universities is the gap between theory and practice. Some ideological and political course teachers lack practical experience and are unable to connect theoretical knowledge with practice, resulting in a lack of relevance and effectiveness in the teaching of these courses. Simultaneously, some students also lack understanding of and participation in practical activities, and are unable to apply theoretical knowledge to real life. Fundamentally, some of the teaching materials for these courses focus on theoretical presentation too much and lack the support of concrete cases and practical activities, making it difficult for students to truly understand the connotation and value of theoretical knowledge. In addition, teachers of these courses may rely too much on textbooks and read from the book, lacking innovation and flexibility to effectively combine theoretical knowledge with practice and stimulate students' interest in learning. Finally, students may lack practical experience to connect theoretical knowledge with real life, making it difficult for them to understand and apply what they have learned. In order to solve the problem of the gap between theory and practice, Educators in this field at colleges and universities should take various measures, and it also requires students to strengthen their practical ability and sense of participation, so that they can better apply their theoretical knowledge to real life.

4. Practice of Ideological and Political Education for College Students
4.1. Giving the Right Guidance to Students
Educating students in ideology and politics is an essential way to cultivate the ideological concepts of students, values and moral concepts, which can support students in developing the right world view, attitude to life and values, and promote the holistic development and healthy growth of the students, by giving them positive guidance. For this purpose, students’ ideological and political education should focus on cultivating students’ patriotism, collectivism and socialism, and helping them to establish correct values and ideological concepts. At the same time, fostering a sense of social responsibility among students can be the center of gravity. They not only impart knowledge, but also guide the students’ thinking and accompany them on their growth path. Teachers need to have a high level of professionalism and moral character, and be
able to set a good example to guide students in determining correct values and behavioral norms. Meanwhile, teachers also need to update the concept of education constantly, innovate teaching methods and approaches, arouse the interest of the students and initiative in learning, and cultivate more excellent talents with comprehensive quality and innovative ability.

4.2. Innovative Teaching Methods

In order to ensure the quality of teaching, universities should innovate in teaching methods actively. First, blended teaching methods such as online learning, classroom lectures, group discussions, case studies, etc. can be used, which not only strengthen the leadership role of teachers, but also encourage students’ interest and initiative in learning and improve their learning effect. Secondly, research-based teaching that is a problem-oriented, student-led and teacher-guided teaching method, can be adopted. It emphasizes students’ independent learning and research ability, and fosters their creativity and problem-solving ability by posing questions, collecting information, analysis of problems and problem solutions. For example, teachers can guide students to carry out research on topics, write papers and other activities to enhance their research ability and comprehensive quality. These courses requires the renewal of teaching methods to meet the evolution of time and the needs of the students.

4.3. Enhancing Analysis of the Social Environment

China is currently in a phase of social transition, and profound changes are taking place in the economy, politics and culture, which also have an impact on these courses at colleges and universities. The popularization of the Internet has also made the dissemination of information faster and more convenient, but at the same time, it has also brought some negative impacts, such as false information, network violence, etc., all of which have to pose new challenges for educating these courses at colleges and universities. To this end, teachers should make sufficient preliminary preparations, understand the current social development trend, educate college students on socialist core values, and guide them towards a correct world view, life view and values. Education can be carried out in various forms such as classroom teaching, campus cultural activities, special lectures, case studies and social practice as shown in Figure 2, so as to strengthen cultural self-awareness and value identity of college students, and to improve their ideological and moral quality and their strong sense of responsibility to society.

![Figure 2. The Right Way to Establish Three Views](image)
4.4. Combining Theory and Practice

The connection between theory and practice in these courses at colleges and universities is a central link for the education of a comprehensive quality of students. The following section presents some methods that can be used to combine theory and practice. First of all, when teaching the courses, it is necessary to emphasize the connection between theoretical knowledge and real life, and guiding students to focus on social reality and current issues, so that students can better comprehend and master the theoretical knowledge. Second, a variety of practical teaching forms are used to let students feel and understand theoretical knowledge through personal participation and practice. At the same time, it can also use Virtual Reality (VR) and other means to simulate real scenes and events, so that students can carry out role-playing and scene simulation, so as to enhance the sense of reality and immersion in practical teaching. Thirdly, teachers are the key factor in realizing the combination of theory and practice. Colleges and universities should improve the education and training of teachers and develop their practical teaching skills, so that teachers can better guide students to apply theoretical knowledge to practice. At the same time, teachers should also constantly update their knowledge structure and teaching methods to improve their teaching level and ability, which can better realize the goal of combining theory and practice.

5. Conclusion

In summary, the ideological and political education of students is of tremendous importance for cultivating highly qualified talents and promoting the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics. It is a necessary means of comprehensively promoting high-quality education. However, affected by objective factors, at this stage, these courses in colleges and universities still faces many challenges. Teachers should be aware of their own great responsibility, change their inherent way of thinking and teaching methods, and apply a variety of new pedagogical concepts to provide students with new learning experiences, help them instill the right values, and to fully realize the intrinsic value of ideological education.

References


