

Exploration into Construction of Moral Education in Colleges and Universities in a New Period

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Abstract

Colleges and universities assume the important historical mission of cultivating socialism modernization constructors and reliable successors with lofty ideals, integrity, knowledge and a strong sense of discipline. Colleges and universities should carry out the educational strategy of the Communist Party of China in an all-around way, push ahead with education for all-around development and improve education quality. In order to enable students to be developed in aspects of morality, intelligence, physique and art, the schools have to insist on the principle of human education oriented and moral education first, and regard moral establishment and human education as the fundamental task of education.

Keywords: School, Moral education, Construction

In the CCP's Seventeenth National Congress, the General Secretary Hu Jintao definitely mentioned, "we should carry out the educational strategy of the CCP in an all-round way, insist on the principle of human education oriented and moral education first, implement education for all-round development, improve the modernization level of education, cultivate socialism constructors and successors with all-round development in morality, intelligence, physique and art and offer education satisfactory to the people." This calls for definite requirement for moral education in schools in a new period. Therefore, we have to come deeply to realization of importance of moral education, make clear the important mission burdened by colleges and universities, offer moral education in a new situation, firmly establish the new moral education idea of human-oriented, advance with the times, blaze new trails, promote moral education with the method of reform, study moral education with an innovative spirit, improve moral education with a developmental vision, make attempts to make moral education in schools better embody the temporal spirit and grasp regularity, good at creativeness.

1. To come fully to realize the importance and urgency of moral education construction in schools in a new period

In the complex international environment, struggle between international hostile forces and socialism countries will exist for a long time in terms of penetration and counter-penetration, subversion and counter-subversion, peaceful evolution and counter-peaceful revolution. At home, opposition and struggle between the lofty ideal of communism and the corrupted thinking of the bourgeoisie will also exist for a long time. Schools, especially higher colleges and universities, have always been the important battlefield for struggle between domestic hostile forces and CCP. We have to get a clear understanding of the new situation, directed by the Scientific Outlook on Development, accurately grasp the new characteristics of the ideological and moral behavior of contemporary students, further improve our recognition of the importance of moral education in schools in a new period and practically realize the sense of responsibility and sense of mission for moral education.

Firstly, reinforcement of moral education in schools should be place in the first position to carry out the educational strategy of CCP and push ahead education for all-round development. Students are the constructors for the future of the country and are successors for the career of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Their ideological and moral condition is directly connected with the overall quality of the nation and with the future and the national destiny of the country. High emphasis on cultivation of moral education among young students and attempt to improve the ideological and moral quality of students is the good tradition of CCP and is the important guarantee that the cause of the CCP and the state has qualified successors. It is exactly in this sense that the General Secretary Hu Jintao emphasized on Teachers' Day that, we should insist on the principle of human education orientation and moral education first and regard moral establishment and human education as the fundamental task of education. We have to unify the ideological concept and action into requirements by the Party Central Committee and the State Council and into speeches by the General Secretary Hu Jintao and the

spirit of the Seventeenth National Congress and regard moral education as the most important task in the whole education.

Secondly, reinforcement of moral education in schools is to adapt to needs of the current social development characteristics of China. At present, reform development in China is in a critical period, in which social interest relations are quite complicated, new situations and new problems emerge in endlessly, and people's ideological activities exhibit more obvious diversity otherness. Although some ugly social phenomena, such as moral misconduct, honest loss, forged and fake commodity, feudal superstition and heresy and pornography, gambling and drug abuse, and some negative and corrupted problems, such as abuse of power for personal gains, including negative information online, are not the mainstream of social ideas, they can bring negative influences to healthy growth of young students that can not be ignored. As a result, students' thinking might be confused, their discipline might be demoralized, moral standard reduces, money worship becomes popular, individualism is worshiped, selfless contribution is regarded as petrification, collectivism becomes conserved, the spirit of Lei Feng is ridiculed, and they just pursue individual needs, not the lofty ideal of communism. Obviously, these situations do not suit the educational strategy of CCP and go counter to the requirements for qualified talents for construction of socialism modernization with lofty ideals, integrity, knowledge and a good sense of discipline. All these are new problems and new challenges for ideological and moral education among young students and for moral education in schools. In order to resolve these new problems, respond to these new challenges and eliminate interference and corruption of these negative social factors to healthy growth of young students to the largest degree, we have to put moral education in schools in the first place of education.

2. Construction of human-oriented moral education mode directed by the Scientific Outlook on Development

Moral education is an important component for implementation of education for all-round development in schools, which runs through the whole process of education and teaching in schools and all aspects of daily life of students and penetrates in intelligent education, physical education, art education and labor education, playing a role of direction, motivation and guarantee in healthy growth of young students and in work of the schools. Only if the schools firmly establish the education idea of "human-oriented", grasp the breakthrough of education, focus on moral construction of teachers, regard all sorts of activities as the carrier and conduct moral education practically, can they achieve good effects.

2.1 To construct the moral education management system

In order to conduct better moral education, we should continue to update our concepts, strengthen the new consciousness, set up a new mechanism, grasp the new orientation and pursue progress and development of moral education in innovation. In the process of carrying out education for all-round development, the schools should be established in the idea of running a school of "respecting morality, initiating intelligence and encouraging extensive learning", establish the directive thought of moral education of "setting up a school with morality", set up positively the management strategy of "establishment of morality first for educating people", really carry out "moral education among all people, overall moral education, moral education in the whole process and moral education with focus" directed by the Scientific Outlook on Development, construct the moral education management mechanism with the center of "stimulation", get a mastery of the initiative of moral education, seek for fundamental methods for new development of moral education, put moral education work in the primary place of all management work, construct the three major systems of moral education management through carrying out the long term development plan and implementation plan for moral education in the schools, namely, moral education team system, moral education course system and moral education network system, perfect the moral education mode of "students' independent development" and form education among all people in the whole process and for all aspects and the new pattern of moral education with the trinity of school, family and society. The schools should cultivate students' moral conduct with humanistic education with selection, mould students' soul with the outlook of value of human-oriented, develop students' ability with the harmonious social outlook and gradually fulfill the moral education target of cultivating excellent university students with lofty ideals so as to form the school-based characteristics of moral education.

2.2 The principle of moral education of human-oriented

All education should be based on humanity, which is the basic outlook of value in modern education. Therefore, in moral education in schools, the schools should regard respect of students' individual characters as the directive thought, follow the individual developmental characteristics of young students, aim at formation of students' good ideological and moral as well as behavior habits all their life and at the all-round development of students, help students establish their self-confidence and encourage students to overcome difficulties. With deep change

of current educational environment and education situation, students' ideological and moral construction are also faced up with austere challenges. Therefore, in moral education, the schools should pay attention to combination of practice of the school and take into consideration of students' physical and psychological development characteristics, and persist in the following several principles: firstly, the principle of integration of directionality and temporal spirit. They should not only insist on correct political direction and education orientation, but should also take into consideration of the practice of development of the times and the ideological condition of students. Secondly, the principle to get close to reality, life and juveniles. The schools should not only follow the general rules of ideological and moral education, but should also adapt to the characteristics of physical and psychological growth of students, starting out from their ideological reality and life reality and conducting effective education activities. Thirdly, the principle of unification of knowledge and behavior. The schools should not only concentrate on knowledge impartation, but should attach great importance to emotional experience and social practice. Fourthly, the principle of combination of education with management. The schools should not only conduct delicate ideological education, but should also strengthen scientific and strict management, realizing organic integration of self-discipline and discipline by others and stimulation and constraint. Fifthly, the principle of combination of resolution of ideological issues and practical issues. The schools should not only convince people by reasoning and move people by emotion, but should also help students resolve actual difficulties and problems encountered in their study and life in practice.

2.3 Basic methods of moral education with a combination of theory and practice

Moral education of the school should continuously focus on the trend of social development and educational development, intensify moral education scientific research, continuously update moral education concept according to reality of the schools and social development changes and moral education means, break away from machine-parsable moral education management thought based purely on experience and let moral education advance with the times and eradicate new vigor in continuous innovation. Firstly, to bring into full play the major channel role of moral education course in ideological and moral education of students, integrate the latest achievements of chinization of Marxism, basic content of theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and basic requirement of socialism central value system into teaching, make close contact with social reality and life of students, respect the rule of physical and psychological development of students, focus on knowledge learning and formation of concepts, attach more importance to emotional cultivation and behavioral formation and strengthen pertinency of education, its pragmatism, temporal spirit and appeal. Secondly, to exert the ideological and moral education function of teaching other courses. According to characteristics of different courses teaching, the schools should conduct education to students in terms of patriotism, socialism, modern and contemporary Chinese history, fundamental realities of the country and national unity, in terms of scientific spirit, scientific methods and scientific attitude, in terms of solidarity, cooperation and stubbornness, in terms of aesthetic concept and aesthetic sentiment and in terms of devotion and entrepreneurship. Thirdly, to play the role of ideological and moral education of practical training and internship. The schools should take into consideration characteristics of practical training and internship, conduct education of occupational morality in terms of devotion and honesty, in terms of occupational discipline and safe production, cultivate students' emotion of love of labor and love of the working people and strengthen students' awareness of pursuing security, observing discipline, focusing on quality and seeking for efficiency.

3. To firmly conduct education, build up good atmosphere for moral education and combine education with management

3.1 To strengthen moral construction of teachers and reinforce the consciousness of demonstration

The primary task to strengthen ideological and moral construction of students is to strengthen occupational moral education among teachers. The schools should vigorously conduct activities of education about construction of teachers' morality and style, ask the vast majority of teachers to improve quality and be a model of virtue for students; they should attach great importance to the work of class advisers, improve the system of class advisers, select excellent teachers to hold the position of class advisers with good ideological quality, high occupational level and strong dedication spirit, and realize educating people through teaching, management and service. The leading cadre of the schools should often cultivate their "morality of politics", intensify the moral demonstration of teachers, that is, "example is better than precept", form the network of a moral education team which educates all people in the whole process, and lead the overall development of students with lofty sentiment in terms of morality, intelligence, physique and art.

3.2 To focus on edification of atmosphere and reinforce direction of public opinions

To take the initiative in bringing into play the moral education battlefield of the schools and concentrate on

building strong moral education atmosphere. The schools should make full use of such opportunities as the general meeting of teachers and students, class meeting and league organizations and such propaganda battlefields of campus broadcast, blackboard newspaper and bulletin board to conduct etiquette education, environmental protection education, responsibility education, filial piety education and gratitude education to students. They should ask all teachers to care about their students and offer care to students' study, life and psychological health; they should conduct "activities of heart-to-heart talk", and ask teachers to go to dormitory of students and families of students to communicate with them and become good teachers and helpful friends with them. Besides, the leading cadre should also go deep into the front line of teaching, communicate with teachers and students, analyze the current situation of moral education and resolve practical issues. At the same time, the schools should strengthen direction of public opinions, make full use of such forms as media, theme team activity, symposium, speech competition, variety show and quiz show, etc, that can be easily accepted by young students, to vigorously propagandize the directive spirit of the Central Committee of CCP and the State Council and all sorts of laws and regulations, and publicize in time special reports that are helpful for healthy physical and psychological growth of young students and typical examples of advanced young students, and form an atmosphere of public opinions for moral construction which is generally concerned, supported and participated by the whole society.

3.3 To intensify the consciousness of self-discipline and cultivate the capacity of independence

Firstly, the schools should bring into full play enthusiasm of leaders of student union and leaders of all classes and leagues, organize leaders of students and league members to take turns to be on duty through a series of training and supervision and through a arrangement with order and flexibility. Secondly, evaluation of routines, such as environmental sanitation and etiquette, etc, in which the student union should control operation, give scores of quantification and finally decide the performance. Thirdly, students should participate in the following activities: administrative affairs week, being on duty in turns in the dormitory, management of dining hall, supervision of classroom, assessment of civilized class, assessment of civilized dormitory, assessment of quality of class-break setting-up, club activities, sports activities of students and party of the New Year's Day, in which they cooperate in the form of a team and take responsibility with a leading role, so that the ability of self management and self education of students can be gradually excavated, cultivated and improved in practical operation. Fourthly, to let students participate in administrative management of the schools. In such a way, their participation function and supervision function can be reflected, and their democratic consciousness, legal consciousness and responsibility consciousness can be cultivated, so that their function of independent management and independent education can be fulfilled. It has been proved through practice, participation of students in management practice can be helpful to continuous strengthen their consciousness of independence, consciousness of self-discipline, consciousness of the team and consciousness of the law and be favorable to let students learn to survive in practice, learn to care about others, learn to study and learn to conduct themselves.

3.4 To grasp routine of moral education and reinforce behavioral norms in a long time

Firstly, to emphasize campus as the major battlefield for moral education. Regarding etiquette education, citizen education and behavioral standard education of students as the focus, the schools should carry out students' regulations and daily behavioral norms, strengthen ideological and moral education of students by taking classroom meeting, team activities, campus broadcast, blackboard newspaper and colloquium as the carrier, conduct campus cultural activities by taking into consideration important anniversaries and traditional festivals, organize students for occupational skill competition, artistic program, talent and skill and etiquette style and bring ideological education into specific activities in an effective way; they should bring into full play the role of students leader and excellent students, supervise and examine students' uncivilized behaviors, form the strong situation of education of propaganda, and build up good atmosphere for construction of a civilized and harmonious campus.

Secondly, to emphasize routine details of moral education. The routine moral education in the schools has the core idea of "moral education with details", that is, to put moral education in all life and learning. To insist on the system of students' being on duty and the system of sanitary examination, assessment of "excellent students" and "civilized students", and on the theme education activities through important festivals and anniversaries. In the teaching activities of the schools, moral education should be fully embodied by various forms and different channels.

Thirdly, to intensify construction and management of the classroom collective. Considering the reality of the schools, the schools should carry out plans for classroom management and class adviser performance assessment, integrate management of construction of the classroom collective and construction of management of the class

adviser team, and combine ideological and moral education of students together with construction of “safe campus”, “civilized campus” and “harmonious campus”.

Fourthly, to attach importance to summary, reflection and stimulation. The schools should make summary of moral education and summary of good habits of students, overcome and correct students’ negative habits, commend and encourage good people and good deeds, set good examples of learning for students and encourage them to emulate those better than themselves.

4. To construct the big moral education network and build a beautiful tomorrow for students

Moral education is a systematic project, which needs the joint forces from the schools, society and the families. On one hand, the schools should carry out “education for all people”, and realize the condition in which “there is no unoccupied persons in education and every body has to be educated”. It should be emphasized that each staff has the responsibility to teach and educate, they should focus on excavating rich moral education materials in all subjects, carry out penetration plan for moral education of the subjects and conduct moral education penetration in teaching in the classroom. On the other hand, the schools should attempt to build up a good environment for ideological and moral education among students. They should strengthen communication with the society and the families, let class advisers with experiences exchange experiences about education with the parents and discuss together methods of family education. The teachers should often organize home visiting and make close their contact with the parents. The schools should offer military training to newcomers, cultivate their spirit of self-discipline and independence, invite leaders of the police, fire fight and traffic police to give a speech about legal education and traffic security education; they should often organize students to participate in practical activities after the class, facilitate students’ correct recognition of the society and cultivate their sense of collective honour and team spirit. Through constructing the large moral education network, the schools should bring into full play enthusiasm in all aspects and build a beautiful tomorrow for the new generation.

In sum, the school is the base for education. It is a fundamental issue what kind of people to cultivate, which is related with success or failure of education, and with the future and destiny of the country. Bearing in mind the ardent hope of CCP and the people and with deep emotion, the schools should offer good ideological and moral education among students with great responsibility. In combination with the practice of constructing a harmonious society and considering the physical and psychological characteristics of young students, the schools should take the initiative to explore rules of ideological and moral education construction of young students in the new period, insist on human orientation and educate and lead young students to set up lofty ideals, correct world outlook, life outlook and outlook of value. In such a way, students can form lofty ideological quality and good moral sentiment. The schools should make an effort to cultivate the new generation with “Four Haves” of morality, intelligence, physique and art and open a new situation for moral education in schools.

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