A Research on Methods of Cultivating Non-Intelligence Factors in Ideological and Political Education of Higher Education Institutions

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Abstract

With the social development and progress in China, the role of cultivating non-intelligence factors of college students in the ideological and political education is increasingly recognized and valued. The relevant theoretical study also has more development. However, the relevant theoretical viewpoints are still not perfect on how to cultivate college students’ non-intelligence factors in order to promote the ideological and political education for college students. The methods of cultivating non-intelligence factors can directly determine the success or failure in the ideological and political education for college students so they are important.

Key words: College students; Ideological and political education; Non-intellectual factors

INTRODUCTION

The ideological and political education should follow the laws of formation and development of people’s ideology and morality. It is the prerequisite and foundation of the implementation of ideological and political education. The formation and development of an individual’s ideology and moral character contain five psychological factors: ideological and moral understanding, ideological and moral emotion, ideological and moral belief, ideological and moral will, ideological and moral behavior. Among them, except ideological and moral understanding is the intelligence factor, the other four are non-intelligence factors. Therefore, to some extent, the process of ideological and political education mainly is the process of cultivating non-intelligence factors. In order to better understand, identify with, and internalize the ideological and moral understanding, the only intelligence factor, we have to be with the aid of the four non-intelligence factors. So establishing and improving the methods of cultivating non-intelligence factors for college students have the great significance for the ideological and political work. The following points should be strengthened mainly.

1. CHANGE EDUCATIONAL CONCEPTS

1.1 Strengthen Modern Concepts

The modern consciousness refers to the ideological and political education to meet the needs of contemporary culture, science, technology and social development. We not only require modern educational equipment but also have deeper requirements which need us to renew our educational thoughts and concepts for adapting to a changing world so that the ideological and political education can be more scientific, rational and effective. First, we need to further emancipate our thinking. The ideological and political education should be scientific and open to other education. It should be under the guidance of Marxism, Leninism, Mao Zedong thought, Deng Xiaoping theory and the important thought of “Three Represents” and learn from the modern management knowledge closely related with the socialist market economy, modern literature, historical study, aesthetics, psychology, etc. Second, the ideological and political education needs to change its concepts and keep high efficiency in the ideological and political education.
Specifically, colleges and universities should make full use of networks, media, films, radio broadcast and other modern communication tools create a positive effective environment in the Ideological and political education and also need to build good cultural activities centers, sports centers and other places for students to improve the educational effects through various extracurricular lives. Third, we should actively reform the system of ideological and political work to achieve normalization. For example, we should strive to establish a good work system, improve the content of ideological and political education, and build a guarantee mechanism in ideological and political education, etc. Fourth, we should modernize the ideological and political work methods in colleges and universities. For correct understanding the objective world, we should be based on a modern way of thinking. We need to implement modern and scientific methods and skills in the ideological and political education for students’ establishing a correct outlook on the world. Friedrich Engels said: If a nation wants to stand in the forefront of science even for a moment, can not do without theoretical thinking (The Complete Works, 1971). The key of modernizing the ideological and political work is a modern way of thinking. At the same time, we should continue to progress and establish new concepts and thinking ways so the ideological and political education will produce new ways and methods for fully training students’ overall quality.

1.2 Enhance the Forward-Looking

There are two connotations in the forward-looking. First, face the future, the work of Ideological and political education should face the future. The vitality of the ideological and political education is that we look to the future, the future of the society, the future of the culture. Based on the reality, we should inspire college students to learn, make efforts, and innovate for the future. Second, we should take preventive measures. In the reality, the ideological and political education should not only solve a problem after the problem occurs, but also be good at according to the students psychological characteristics, personality, emotion and other factors to find students’ ideological trends in some special period of time and find students’ possible problems ahead of time. At the same time, we should promptly give college students ideological and political education to reach the purpose of preventive measures. At present, most of the ideological and political education is in a passive state and is lack of active exploration and discovery. The education does not match the requirements of the new era. In addition, the forward-looking needs to point out a clear direction for the development of the ideological and political education. When we know the development directions of college students’ ideological states, we will have better forward-looking. Because of the characteristics of the students, the trends of their development are different and diversified. Such diversification puts forward new requirements for our work of ideological education. Therefore, how to cultivate modern consciousnesses and innovative thinking in everyday education also become deeper problems of the ideological and political education.

1.3 Expand Our Vision

The expanding our vision refers to the ideological and political education should guide students to broaden their horizons, face the world and look to the future when the world is moving toward internationalization and information explosion with science and technology moving forward with unprecedented speed. First, we should educate students to establish a correct direction and take a responsibility to make the country strong. The students should strive to learn scientific and cultural knowledge, cultivate their keen insight, improve their ability to accept new things, have an open mind, actively study modern knowledge, and enhance their knowledge structure. The students should always walk in the forefront of the times, advancing with the times, to emancipate their minds for bearing the heavy responsibility of building the motherland. Second, we should educate students to make the past serve the present and make foreign things serve China. At the same time, we should educate students to abandon past enclosed state in China and students should not be crazy about foreign things and obsequious to foreigners. We should educate students to establish national self-improvement consciousness, face the world, and learn the advantages of other nationalities to make our country strong. We should educate students to establish a goal to strive for the national prosperity and be constantly moving toward the positive direction. After students have the correct concept, they will not be complacent and they will have the healthy and positive attitude towards the world.

2. DEFINE THE TASK OF EDUCATION

(a) We should change traditional education ideas and correct students’ learning motivation. An objective requirement for colleges and universities’ cultivating non-intelligence factors of students is that students are expected to provide a strong impetus for the development and progress of the society. In the higher education, we generally pay attention to teaching knowledge and students’ ability of memory and imitation, but young students need to cultivate their autonomous learning attitude, know the correct methods, and be able to infer other things from one fact even to learn without teachers. Students should truly grasp substance of knowledge and know how to use knowledge to solve practical problems. So students can set up a correct motivation to learn, be good at learning and be fun in learning. Therefore, college education should discard those old concepts which hinder the development of students and should meet the objective
requirement of the society. The college education should develop students’ ability of learning knowledge, mastering knowledge, and integrating knowledge, and fully mobilize the students’ subjective initiative. The college education should correct students’ learning motivation and make the training model of the higher education meet the needs of the social development truly. The training model will meet the objective requirement of the society.

(b) We need to adjust curriculums, update teaching ideas, and stimulate students’ interest in learning. Although colleges have traditional positions as offering quality education, colleges’ curriculums should be more flexible and innovative. The setting of various courses should be differentiated and adjusted based on different professions and levels. And colleges can even be bold to try some exploration courses as long as these courses can help to improve students’ quality. Courses can have many forms: lectures, forums, seminars, experiment and so on for students being truly in accordance with their interests and hobbies to choose courses. It is important to stimulate students’ interest in learning and fully mobilize their enthusiasm of learning. At the same time, we need to pay attention to strengthening the humanistic education, cultivating college students’ positive outlooks on life, values and outlooks on the world. We can cultivate non-intelligence factors of college students and improve college students’ quality for the comprehensive and overall balanced development through a variety of productive courses and extracurricular activities.

(c) We should be the people-oriented, have good cultural environment on campus and bring up the healthy emotion of students. A change of environment will make an individual do adaptive adjustment to adapt the new environment. It is human nature and also reflects environment’s crucial function for fostering human quality. Therefore, good cultural and humanities atmosphere of a campus plays a crucial role for cultivating college students’ non-intelligence factors. Rigorous and practical learning atmosphere and healthy, harmonious cultural environment will be able to fully create a good external environment for improving university students’ quality. A learning environment will enable students to maintain a pleasant mood and to foster a positive learning interest and emotion.

(d) We should comprehensively cultivate students, give them multiple assessments, and pay more attention to the students’ personality development. For changing examination oriented education to quality education, it is necessary to study the universities’ existing education models and assessment indexes, reform educational methods that hinder the cultivation of non-intelligence factors, change simple models of education, judge the level of students’ learning ability not simply from the students’ test scores, take the assessment with relatively rich content and forms, pay attention to the role of practice in the assessment, strengthen students’ practice ability, enhance students’ recognition for their professions, stimulate their interest in learning and their study enthusiasm, and promote students to fully master scientific and cultural knowledge. At the same time, these methods can also improve students’ learning ability and sense of innovation.

(e) We should let teachers play a main role and mobilize students’ enthusiasm for learning. Teachers of colleges and universities as guiders and implementers in the higher education play a crucial role in the cultivation of students’ non-intelligence factors. A teacher’s every word or action on the podium transfers a kind of culture and personality charm to have a direct impact on young students’ learning effect. In teaching activities, a teacher plays the role that no one can replace, even his unconscious behavior has a subtle influence over the students’ thoughts and personality, so college teachers should not only possess broad knowledge, rigorous academic attitude and rich teaching methods, but also have the noble personality, a positive attitude towards life and correct political thoughts.

If a teacher loves teaching and is good at teaching, he will put his feelings into his lectures, so he endows knowledge with some emotion. The students will be attracted by the emotion and be interested in the learning so that the students stimulate their own learning motivation, establish the right direction for the learning, and actively put themselves into the learning under the controlling of their non intelligent factors, so as to achieve the purpose of learning and the teaching goal. If a teacher is not good at arousing students’ interest in learning, then his courses will lose vitality. Facing young students’ strong desires for knowledge, teachers should constantly update their knowledge in the breadth and depth, advance with the times, and be able to keep up with the pace of the development and change of the society. Teachers should be good at modernized teaching methods, make full use of recreation in the teaching activities to inspire students to learn, and ultimately achieve the goal of teaching.

(f) Teachers should strengthen the management of daily behavior of college students and cultivate their good habits. In addition to innate qualities, an individual ability, to a greater extent, depends on nurturing. In the process of cultivating non-intelligence factors, the cultivating education has the following characteristics: mandatory training, such as laws and regulations, rules of a university, mandatory discipline; the influence character by environment, such as in students’ daily life, study life, various types of positive, healthy, and good environment educating students so that students develop good habits in the influence character by environment; environmental influence, actively create a good environment for training of non intellectual factors and let students adapt to the environment, at the same time, developing good study and living habits, a healthy personality, strong willpower and so on; self education, exert students’ subjective action and
let them consciously regulate their self-consciousness and behavior to comply with social ethics, morality, laws and regulations so as to develop good health habits, get rid of bad habits, and make a healthy and stable development of non-intelligence factors.

3. ENRICH EDUCATION CONTENT

3.1 Use Relevant Theories of Psychology
Along with the improvement of life, people’s concepts are changing. In higher education, how to adapt to the rapid social change has become an urgent problem for ideological and political educators. The process of the ideological and political education mainly is the cultivation of young students to “understand honor and shame, know reasonable thinking, temper the will, and have a firm faith and combine knowing and doing.” We need to reform the traditional and simple education model of “instilling the reasoning”, fully understand connotations and the practical significance of non-intelligence factors, change education ideas to effectively improve the cultivation of non-intelligence factors, pay attention to the change of thoughts and psychological structure of the students, introduce the achievements of psychology research into ideological and political education, break through the bondage of traditional education model, and improve relevant work with scientific methods.

According to relevant theories of psychology, the formation process of ideology, moral character, personal qualities actually is a complex psychological transformation process. In long-term working practice of ideological and political education, we have formed many psychological theories that are relevant with the education. These psychological theories have been put into practice and verified for a long time. They point out the direction for the ideological and political education in our higher education institutes. According to dialectical materialism, a human psychology is the human subjective initiative responses to objective reality in practice activities. According to the dialectical relationship between matter and consciousness, matter determines consciousness and consciousness has the active effect to matter. Psychological activities belong to the category of ideology, and the objective reality belongs to the category of matter, that is to say, a human psychological activity is the process of the human thinking activity’s reflecting the objective world. Human psychological activities can also play an important role in changing objective things and the objective world through human subjective positive initiative. In the ideological and political education, thoughts belongs to human ideology, politics belongs to the direction, and education is a kind of subjective practice, so the ideological and political education can be interpreted as according to certain requirements of social development, in accordance with a definite directional target, cultivating workers to adapt to requirements of the social development, thereby promoting social progress. Ideological and political education has its class nature and represents the ruling class ideology, so the ideological and political education in higher education institutions should take the responsibility for the historical mission of “cultivating people for whom, cultivating what kind of people”. In our socialist society, the goal of ideological and political education is to cultivate workers with strong political thoughts, noble moral quality, noble personality charm, and all-round development in moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetic, and work aspects. This education requires us to follow laws of psychological development in carrying out ideological and political education, and be able to use laws of psychology in the educational activities for better guiding the ideological and political education.

3.2 The Cultivation of College Students’ Attention to Current Events
With the arrival of the information era and the rapid social change, the content and form of ideological and political education should adapt to social requirements for following the development and change of the society. First of all, the human society has entered the “global village” stage. Through networks and media, you can see a thing which is occurring thousands of miles away instantly. The objective reality of the information explosion era requires ideological and political education to meet young students urgently desire for knowledge. In the development of the times, the globe is whirling, and students as the builders and successors of the future society must keep a keen political awareness and correct judgment, which request ideological and political educators to be able to keep up with the development and change of international political situation, master the college students’ political and ideological trend in time, help students to establish correct political emotion for eliminating the negative and decaying political thoughts, and plant advanced ideas in students’ minds; second, with the development of market economy, the gap between rich and poor is increased further. A lot of negative influence has infiltrated campuses, these pure lands. The ideological and political education in colleges and universities should focus on nurturing students’ correct values and world outlook, and guide them to have a correct view to the negative influence of the society because the negative influence is not consistent with the ideal in the education. So they will be correct locating self when they go out of campuses and go into the community, i.e. they will not become the lambs to resign themselves to adversity, or become young cynics to detest the world. In a word, we should follow the development of the times and constantly enrich the content of ideological and political education to meet the needs of students’ quality education and the objective requirements of the social development.
4. THE TRAINING OF HIGH-QUALITY PEOPLE IN THE IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION

Teachers play a crucial role in the university political education. Teachers include not only professional teachers, but also include student counselors. Teachers can put the cultivation of non-intelligence factors into their teaching, combine the cultivation and teaching knowledge. In teaching, in addition to teaching knowledge, teachers should set the cultivation of non-intelligence factors of students as the main goal of teaching and teachers should have the ability of developing non-intelligence factors, so students through learning, not only get knowledge, but also cultivate the ability to use non-intelligence factors. In teaching materials, a teacher should explore some materials to develop students’ non-intelligence factors or add some materials about non-intelligence factors.

At the same time, college counselors have played a crucial role in the establishment of students’ outlook on life and world, values, belief and non-intelligence factors. It can be said that quality of college counselors directly affects and decides quality of the students; therefore, it is necessary to improve quality to counselors for enhancing quality of the students. Only high-quality counselors can train more qualified students. Ideological and political counselors should pay attention to improving their own level and quality and we should strengthen college counselors’ teams. We need counselors to better grasp the party’s principles and policies, learning pedagogy, psychology and other relevant knowledge, establish the people-oriented and student-centered ideas, pay attention to improving their own quality, flexibly instruct students’ learning and activities with a higher level, work for a certain goal and strengthen the cultivation of non-intelligence factors of students and so on. Counselors should play their own role well, strictly demand on themselves, and focus on the improvement of students’ quality.

In short, ideological and political counselors and professional course teachers should make joint efforts, make full use of all the resources and means for the cultivation of non-intelligence factors of students, and let students have all-round and free development. Of course, it is necessary to do a long-term and careful work for the cultivation of non-intelligence factors. The development of non-intelligence factors is a systematic project and needs joint efforts of many people.

The ultimate goal of the cultivation of non-intelligence factors is to meet the really reasonable needs of educational objects through a large number of detailed, implicit educations and persuasion, teaching by precept and example, and typical demonstration practice, let them produce reasonable motivation to achieve a desired education effect under the control of the motivation. Only in this way, we can finally realize the ultimate goal of ideological and political education.

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