

## Investigation on the Women Ideological and Political Education of in Sichuan-Shaanxi Soviet Region

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**Abstract:** In the process of Chinese revolution and construction led by the Communist Party of China, ideological and political education has its own characteristics and advantages. In the course of the establishment of the Sichuan-Shaanxi Soviet Region, the Communist Party of China effectively carried out multi-level, multi-form and all-directional ideological and political education for women in the Soviet area around the central task of armed struggle, thus prompting 300000 women in Sichuan and Shaanxi to take part in the revolution and prompting the development of Sichuan-Shaanxi Soviet Region.

### 1. Introduction

Sichuan-Shaanxi Soviet Region is located in the foothills of Qinling Mountains and Daba Mountains. Most of its areas are located in northern Sichuan and southern Shaanxi, with a vast territory, four or five hundred miles across, an area of about 42000 square kilometers and a population of between 4 million and 7 million. Chinese women account for 1/2 of the country's population and are an indispensable force in China's revolution and construction. In the Sichuan-Shaanxi revolutionary base area, the Party regards women's ideological and political education as an important part of the whole ideological and political education of the Party. Proceeding from the needs of both the revolution and women, the Party has done a good job in the ideological and political work of the vast numbers of women to start women into the revolutionary torrent.

### 2. Tragic Situation of Women in, Sichuan-Shaanxi Soviet Region

Chinese women were oppressed by feudal society for more than two thousand years. Although the political and social reforms after the Republic of China alleviated such oppression and exploitation to a certain extent, they did not fundamentally solve the problem of women's demands for liberation and equality between men and women. For a long time, the majority of women were oppressed by power, theism, clan and their husband, so they lived at the bottom of society. Mao Zedong said in an article called *The Investigation of Seeking Wu*, "their work is not fragmented, they have no political status, no personal freedom, and they suffer more than any other people's congress".

Politically, women in feudal society did not participate in power; economically, women were not entitled to divide fields and were exploited with the same rent, usury, and exorbitant taxes as men. The border women's social status was low and their living conditions were poor, and they lived a difficult life under the oppression of feudal patriarchal system. Not only do they have no political and economic rights, but they also generally take on heavy housework, resulting in poor health, so some women choose to commit suicide when they are suffering from the hardships of life. The male-centered feudal society deprived women of their right to education, resulting in generations of illiterate women, so, illiteracy became synonymous with women. Until the arrival of the Red Army, this state has been maintained for thousands of years, and its deep-rooted degree is self-evident.

### **3. Four Measures for the Party to Carry out Ideological and Political Education for Women**

#### **3.1 The Education of Women's Liberation consciousness.**

Women's liberation and equality between men and women are the most realistic problems faced by women. If we grasp and solve the most realistic suffering of women, we can arouse their enthusiasm and attract them to stand with the Party. Therefore, the, Sichuan-Shaanxi Soviet Region government, firstly, strengthened the education of women's independent personality, liberated women from the ideological cage of dependence and obedience to men, and prepared the prerequisite for women to join the revolution.

The Chinese Communists, such as Li Dazhao, Mao Zedong, Xiang Jingyu, Deng Yingchao, and so on, all cast their eyes on these most oppressed and lacking independent persons. They began by criticizing feudal ethics and morality, and advocated human dignity. Called on women to rise to the shackles of old traditional ideas, pursue personality independence and spiritual emancipation, and consciously participate in the torrent of revolution. At the same time, the Party has also vigorously advocated equality between men and women. It has proposed equality between men and women in education, professional equality. We hope that these publicity and education can make the broad masses of women understand that our party's stand is for the benefit of the broad masses of women. In view of the educational propaganda and mobilization work of women the base area has also set up a special educational propaganda team. In the process of educational propaganda it also pays attention to formulating suitable and easy to understand propaganda contents according to the new situation and new changes.

#### **3.2 Technical training and marriage education.**

In order to enable the majority of women to master certain farming techniques, on the one hand, women cadres took the lead in breaking the feudal traditional concepts, taking the lead in learning the techniques of plowing and raking fields, and then passing them on to other women. On the other hand, women's labor education committees were set up to teach women farming techniques hand in hand. The Party's call on women to participate in production practice was based on the needs of revolutionary forms and on the other hand, only when women were economically independent can they achieve ideological independence. Therefore, the material premise and guarantee of ideological and political education for women was to carry out production practice. The Land Law of the Soviet Republic of China of November 1931 said that working people, men and women are alike to have the right to be allocated land. The division of fields linked the majority of women to the fate of the base area more closely, and women obtained land, which provided the first material basis for women to fight for their personal independence and ideological liberation.

In the marriage of men and women, the majority of rural women in social and family life in a low status. The Communist Party of China was deeply aware of the crux of the problem. On April 8, 1934, the Marriage Law of the Soviet Republic of China was promulgated, which stipulated that: "the principle of freedom for marriage between men and women shall be established, and the system of all arranged, forced and bought marriages shall be abolished, and child brides shall be prohibited." Mao Zedong once said that "this democratic marriage system broke the feudal chains that bound people, especially women, for 4,000 years in China."

#### **3.3 Diversified and pragmatic literacy education.**

In order to enlighten the class consciousness and improve the cultural and political level of the masses, the **Soviet** area vigorously launched the literacy movement. To this end, the interim Central Government stipulated: "the Ministry of Culture at all levels shall set up half-day schools for women and organize literacy classes for women. The teachers shall be appointed by the government and local school teachers and cadres of mass organizations." In combination with the reality of women in the Soviet area, the universal literacy education takes various forms - Night schools, half-day schools, literacy classes and clubs. Evening schools are schools for workers and peasants to learn to read at night. They are generally set up in places where the population is relatively concentrated. There is a relatively fixed time, place and establishment for study. Its task is to

eradicate illiteracy and raise the political and cultural level of the masses without hindering their production and work. In addition to specialized literacy courses for women, there are more gender mixed literacy classes, with women generally accounting for more than 60 per cent of students; The club, on the other hand, is a self-education organization for the broad masses of workers and peasants in the Soviet region. The club is led by a management committee and carries out sports, games, music, performance activities, publishing wall newspapers, and organizing newspaper reading groups in a popular form. Due to the attention and efforts of the Soviet governments at all levels, and the enthusiastic support and active participation of the women in the Soviet areas, the general literacy education with sweeping education as the main content achieved remarkable results.

### **3.4 Training and education of women cadres.**

Cai Hesen, the early leader of the Communist Party of China, pointed out in the Women's Movement that "the weakness of the Chinese women's movement is the lack of leadership". With the expansion of the revolutionary war and the revolutionary base areas, the development of various construction undertakings in the base areas increasingly requires the strength of this army of women, most of whom come from workers and peasants, and their political, ideological and cultural qualities need to be improved urgently. In order to solve the shortage of cadres and adapt to the needs of the revolutionary war, the training and training of women cadres has become more and more important and urgent. Stepping up the training of women cadres has become one of the first tasks of education in Soviet areas and an important part of women's education in Central Soviet areas. In order to attract thousands of women to join the revolution with facts, the Red Army strengthened its leadership over women's work, especially the training and leadership of women cadres. Soviet governments at all levels issued a series of instructions demanding the opening of cadre training courses as soon as possible in order to train women cadres. As a result of the efforts of the Soviet governments at all levels, training courses for women cadres have been carried out in various localities, such as special provincial party schools or short-term training courses organized by the county committees. In short, a large number of female cadres were trained in various forms in the base areas, such as Zhang Qinqiu, director of the General political Department of the Red fourth Front Army, Zeng Guanglan, political commissar of the Women's Independent Regiment, Tao Wanrong, commander of the Women's Independent Battalion, and Lin Yueqin, commander of the Women's engineer Battalion, Lei Mingzhen, the Soviet government of Daxian, Wang Dingguo, the Soviet government of Yingshan County, and they later grew into the backbone of the women's liberation and revolutionary movements in the base areas.

## **4. The Historical Significance of the Party's Ideological and Political Education for Women.**

In Sichuan-Shaanxi Soviet Region, the Party carried out effective ideological and political education for women, which greatly supported the revolutionary cause and made important contributions to the victory of the revolution. Stalin said: "in human history, any great movement of the oppressed cannot be without the participation of working women." The vast number of women in Sichuan and Shaanxi not only supported the front branches, joined the local armed forces, and were able to cooperate with and support the Red Army in battle, but also actively supported and encouraged the young and middle-aged men in their families to join the revolution and join the Red Army. The Red fourth Front Army can be continuously supplemented by its personnel in the cruel war. The growing strength of the Red Army lies in the participation of the broad laboring masses in the army enthusiastically. Carrying out effective ideological and political education for women in Sichuan and Shaanxi is a useful exploration and attempt in the practice of emancipation of working women carried out by our Party during the agrarian revolution, and this laid the foundation for the development of the cause of women's liberation in China, also, it accumulated valuable experience and lessons, and provided historical inspiration for the development of women's ideological and political education.

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