

Study on Problems in the Ideological and Political Education of College Students and Countermeasures from the Perspective of Institutionalization

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Abstract: Strengthening the institutional construction of ideological and political education in colleges and universities is an important part in practicing the core socialist values and realizing the great "Chinese Dream". This paper expounds concrete measures which can strengthen the institutional construction of ideological and political education of college students from the aspects of problems and causes, and provides theoretical reference for the implementation of ideological and political education activities in colleges and universities.

1. Introduction

College students are the pillar of society. Their ideological and political qualities profoundly affect the stable and healthy development of the whole society. The institutionalization of ideological and political education in colleges and universities has a variety of functions. On one hand, it promotes the integration of ideological and political education theory with practice, and helps this subject to develop scientifically. On the other hand, it creates a good environment for the healthy growth of college students. At present, many colleges and universities have made great achievements in the process of institutionalizing ideological and political education, but in actual practice, there are a lot of arbitrariness and obstacles which produce bad influence on the future development of college students. Therefore, in order to improve the ideological and political literacy of college students, to cultivate talents who possess both political integrity and ability, and to create a new situation for the development of ideological and political education in colleges and universities, higher educational institutions should actively explore the path of ideological and political education from the perspective of institutionalization.

2. Problems in the Institutionalization of Ideological and Political Education of College Students

With the vigorous development of ideological and political education, relevant mechanisms in colleges and universities have realized the integration of education, management and service. Corresponding methods, measures and carriers are becoming more abundant and effective. The concept of student service mechanism has been strengthened, while the service contents has been gradually deepened. However, through tracing and reflecting on the course of institutionalization of ideological and political education in colleges and universities, following problems are found in the processes of policy making, implementation and evaluation. [1] The forces of ideological and political education in colleges and universities are scattered, which seriously impedes the further development of institutionalization of ideological and political education in colleges and universities.

The lack of a perfect system on ideological and political education in colleges and universities. The establishment of system is the premise and foundation of institutionalization. The lack of a perfect ideological and political education system is a major obstacle in the process of institutionalization. [2] This problem is mainly manifested in following aspects. Firstly, the system content is incomplete. Corresponding supporting systems, such as the ideological and political education system for international exchange students are missing. Secondly, the system is too closely

connected, which leads to over reliance of ideological and political education on the system. Mismanagement happens afterwards, leading to the deformed development of ideological and political education system. Third, the ideological and political education system is demoralized. Nowadays, money is the motif of the whole nation. People are lacking of believes, and tend to ignore the socialist core values.

The executive forces of ideological and political education system in colleges and universities are not strong enough. Knowledge starts with practice. To test the effectiveness of a system, implementation is more important than the normative and scientificity inspection. However, the executive forces of relevant systems in colleges and universities are not strong enough. Higher education institutions pay much more attention on scientific research than ideological and political education; they do not have a clear understanding on the status of ideological and political education. Though ideological and political education occupies the key position in colleges and universities, the school authority usually spend much more time on the daily management of students, but pay little attention on ideological and political education. The phenomenon of formalism occurs in the ideological and political education system frequently. Although colleges and universities set up the ideological and political education curriculum in accordance to the requirements of the state, the implementation effect is unsatisfactory and far from our expectation.

The ideological and political education systems in colleges and universities are ineffective. At present, the effects of institutionalization of ideological and political education in colleges and universities are not satisfactory. [3] First, the level of students' actual participation is not high. Related activities organized by schools are not pertinent and lack of attraction; students do not interest in organizing ideological and political education activities by themselves. Second, the effects cannot last long. The effect of ideological and political education activities cannot last long, which eventually leads to formalism in ideological and political education activities. Third, the evaluation mechanism is unreasonable. At present, the assessment of ideological and political education in colleges and universities mainly relies on quantitative evaluation. Written materials of students' examination results and comprehensive evaluation determine the assessment results. The ideological and moral features of college students are ignored. In addition, the evaluation system is utilitarian. In the assessment process, the result is emphasized while the process is ignored, which leads to the lack of effectiveness.

3. Causes of Problems in the Institutionalization of Ideological and Political Education of College Students

There are some obstacles in the process of institutionalizing ideological and political education. Through further analysis, the causes of these problems can be found in many aspects, including environmental factors, the lack of supporting system and defects in the subject system.

The institutional environment of ideological and political education in colleges and universities should be optimized. With the development of social economy, social culture is becoming increasingly diversified. All kinds of Western thoughts, such as money worship and hedonism are now spreading in colleges and universities. College students may be brainwashed by these unhealthy thoughts, which may lead to confusion in their value orientation and moral interests, as well as vague ideal belief. In addition, college students may be affected by bad family environment, resulting in emotional awkwardness, apathy, isolation and keen on benefits. Although college students live and study in campus, the objective influences of family and social environment are inevitable. Lacking of cooperation with students' families and social environment, ideological and political education of college students cannot achieve good results.

There are limitations in the subject of ideological and political education of college students. The ideological and political education system in colleges and universities need strong operability and timeliness. But at present, there are limitations in the subject of education, include the lack of motivations, the existence of cognitive deviations and the insufficient attentions. These limitations can lead to the one-sided development of ideological and political education and college students. The ideological and political education system in colleges and universities is usually formulated by

the decision-making level. Teachers and students cannot express their opinions in the process of system formulation. The system set up by a single subject is not sound. In addition, now in colleges and universities, ideological and political education is more like an auxiliary tool for teaching service; the leading status of ideological and political education is in jeopardy.

The system of ideological and political education of university students is defective. The system is external to university students; but an effective system should be close to students' life and close to reality. In 2012, the Ministry of Education issued Opinions on the Improvement of the Overall Quality of Higher Education, and again pointed out that the people oriented quality education should be carried out comprehensively; the fundamental standard which measures the level of personnel training should be the promotion in students' overall development and the satisfaction of social requirements. [4] But in colleges, the system is used to restrict students for most of the time. The core of this system is to control students and make them comply with the system, rather than serve students. The advanced concept is not embodied in current system; students are unwilling to accept the system of constraint.

The supporting system on college students' ideological and political education is not yet perfect. In order to achieve expected results, a series of supporting systems are required in the implementation of ideological and political education in colleges and universities. Supporting systems include supervision system, rewards system and punishment system. Supporting systems are essential in the implementation process. For example, almost all the colleges and universities have clear provisions which stipulate that students should attend class on time. Those students who absent from class, or come to lectures late and leave early will be punished. But in fact, due to the lack of appropriate supervision and punishment systems, above phenomena occur repeatedly. To put an end to such a situation, it is necessary to formulate a matching supervision, reward and punishment system and strictly enforce. A good ideological and political education system without supporting system cannot be well implemented; it will eventually become a mere scrap of paper and become a mere formality.

The system of ideological and political education of university students is lack of innovation. At present, the ideological and political education systems in universities are lack of innovation and vitality. The problem is mainly reflected in two aspects. First is the lack of concept innovation. The construction of ideological and political education in colleges cannot be limited in traditional development ideas. Relevant officials should face the reality, absorb advanced experience from foreign countries and related systems, abandon backward systems which do not accepted by students, and constantly renew the idea of institutionalization of ideological and political education. Second is the lack of innovation in system operation modes. Students who were born in 1990s pursuit for personality development. The traditional top-down operation mode in ideological and political education system cannot meet their requirements. Bottom to top operation modes, as well as the existing of various models are more favorable.

4. Countermeasures of Strengthening the Institutionalization of Ideological and Political Education of College Students

In the process of constructing institutional ideological and political education system in colleges and universities, only the good regulations can guarantee good governance, and help the system to play its functions. Colleges and universities should stick out the institutionalization of ideological and political education in the whole process. Based on education principles, corresponding supporting mechanisms should be perfected; a scientific and rational ideological and political education system should be formulated and carried out to build a good learning and living environment for college students.

Strengthening the leadership awareness and improving the ideological and political education system. To strengthen the construction of ideological and political education system, we should start from the management layer of colleges and universities. School authorities should strengthen their system consciousness, attach more importance to the system, take the lead in strict implementation, and take the initiative in carrying out scientific research on ideological and political education system. In the process of establishing an ideological and political education system of college students, school

authorities should adopt the measures of symposium and suggestion box, in order to widely collect students' opinions and suggestions and understand the trend of students' ideological and value changes, so that to formulate a more comprehensive and concrete ideological and political education system. In addition, ideological and political education should be appropriate. Colleges and universities should focus on improving the work responsibility system as well as the ideological and political education evaluation system, and strengthen the institutionalization of ideological and political education through the construction of relevant systems.

Improving the operational mechanism and fully grasping the ideological changes of students. Based on the timeliness of ideological and political education, colleges and universities are required to ensure the operation of education systems. Thus, it is necessary to establish an open communication mechanism which can coordinate and collect feedback information, so as to ensure the smooth operation of the ideological and political education system, to grasp the characteristics of college students' ideological changes, and to study the inherent laws of education. Secondly, we should strengthen the construction of information channels. The distribution of information is fragmentary. In order to improve the efficiency of information feedback, relevant departments in colleges and universities should train personnel to integrate ideological and educational information effectively, and to share information in time to ensure the smooth information transmission. The school publicity department, the department of student affairs, the school league committee and other functional departments should make efforts and cooperate with each other, so as to set up a systematic information collection and feedback system which can support researches on ideological and political education, and instill energy to the institutionalization of ideological and political education.

Building an incentive mechanism to enhance the implementation effects of education system. The existing incentive mechanism is single in form, non-transparent and undemocratic. Common forms are certificate and bonus. Such incentive methods are traditional and formalistic. In order to improve the effectiveness of the educational system, it is necessary to formulate clear incentive mechanisms such as the Standard of Merit Student Evaluation and The Evaluation of Scholarship Levels for Excellent Student, and to achieve the combination of material and spiritual rewards. At the same time, the education and teaching conditions should be improved. The treatment of ideological and political teachers should be enhanced. Work related to ideological and political education should be considered in teachers' professional title evaluation. In addition, in the process of constructing campus environment, we should adhere to the concept of "Education - Management - Service", trying to create positive campus culture and a good atmosphere for education.

Establishing evaluation mechanism and scientifically evaluate the effects of ideological and political education of college students. The combination of qualitative and quantitative assessment can be used to establish a more scientific assessment mechanism. The single evaluation criteria cannot fits all students. The evaluation of the process and effects can start from questionnaires, interviews and other ways. After the information collection process, data are organized and processed for follow-up evaluation process. Counselors, class teachers and professional teachers can participate the evaluation process. The evaluation of ideological and political education should be carried out regularly, like in every 3 or 2 years. The results of assessment should be stipulated in terms of excellence, good, middle and poor. In addition, evaluation results should be shared timely to achieve timely adjustment. The evaluation feedback can be combined with various adjustment mechanisms to form a virtuous cycle.

Strengthening supervision mechanism to ensure the implementation of ideological and political education. A supervision system is essential in the implementation of ideological and political education in colleges and universities. The strengthening of supervision mechanism can be carried out from three aspects. First, a bottom-up supervision mechanism should be established. Colleges and universities should take the initiative to collect information from teachers, students and experts who understand ideological and political education. Through irregular surveys and visits, the effective supervision can be realized. Second, an evaluation and supervision mechanism on public opinion should be constructed. Through the publicity, people from all walks of life can understand the institutionalization of ideological and political education in colleges and universities, and supervise

the implementation of this system. [5] Third, supervision channels should be increased and improved. Only under the supervision from multiple channels, can the work of ideological and political education in colleges and universities be systematically and comprehensively supervised. Meanwhile, problems can be objectively reflected to provide a solid guarantee for the institutionalization of ideological and political education in colleges and universities.

5. Conclusions

Ideological and political education in colleges and universities cannot get effects instantly. It exert a subtle influence on students' characters, and has to go through the process of internalization and externalization. The institutional construction of ideological and political education of college students should comply with the requirements of the times. A wider field of vision and innovative thinking method should be applied in this process. Through continuous summary and improvement, the institutionalization of ideological and political education of college students could be comprehensively promoted, so as to realize an effective and feasible ideological and political education system which can mobilize the initiative and enthusiasm of college students and can train a number of talents with excellent ideological qualities for our country.

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