

Xi Jin-ping's Inheritance and Development of Mao Zedong's Thought on Youth Education

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Abstract: *The Communist Party of China has always attached great importance to youth education and has formed a systematic and complete youth education ideology. From a vertical point of view, the Chinese Communist Party's youth education ideology has inherited and developed, reflecting the unity of continuity and development. Xi Jin-ping's thoughts on the importance, goals and methods of youth education have a high degree of inheritance and development to Mao Zedong's thoughts on youth education. The two are in the same line and keep pace with the times.*

Keywords: *Mao Ze-dong; Xi Jin-ping; thought on youth education*

1. Introduction

The Communist Party of China has always attached great importance to youth education and has high hopes for them. As the first-generation leadership core of the party, Mao Zedong formed a series of youth education views in the long-term revolution and construction practice, laying a solid foundation for my country's youth education. Entering the new era, Xi Jinping, on the basis of summing up previous experiences and proceeding from the reality of our country, put forward new viewpoints and new requirements for youth education, and formed a series of important discourses on youth education. In-depth study and study of Xi Jinping's inheritance and development of Mao Zedong's youth education concept is of great significance to the current and efficient development of youth work.

2. Mao Zedong's view of youth education

In his youth, Mao Zedong devoted himself to China's revolutionary cause. In his revolutionary practice, he recognized the active role of youth in social development and formed a set of logically rigorous views on youth education. Mao Zedong vividly compared youth to the vanguard of revolution, placing high hopes on it, and advocating the cultivation of youth with comprehensive development of morality, intelligence, and physical fitness through theory and practice.

2.1 *The importance of youth education: youth is the vanguard*

No matter in the period of revolutionary war or the period of socialist construction, Mao Zedong always regarded youth as the future of the motherland and the hope of the nation, and that the problem of youth education is a problem related to the future of the revolutionary cause and the socialist cause. Mao Zedong regarded youth as "the most active and vibrant part of the social forces" [1], and they play a very important role in the construction of the motherland. As the vanguard of the revolution, young people have always stood in the forefront of the revolutionary ranks, united with the broad masses of workers and peasants, and further advanced the revolutionary cause to new heights. During the War of Resistance Against Japan, Mao Zedong called the northern youth "vanguards in the struggle for national liberation" in exchanges and conversations with American reporters. After the founding of New China, Mao Zedong often visited schools in various places to learn about youth education. When inspecting the Shaoshan school, Mao Zedong emphasized to Teacher Jiang Songren, who was working as a student team at the time, that "youth work is very important," and he must do his own job well. Mao Zedong believed that youth is the core of all undertakings and the key to the victory of the revolutionary cause, and highly affirmed the contributions made by the youth to the revolutionary cause.

2.2 The goal of youth education: talents with all-round development of morality, intelligence, and physical fitness

Mao Zedong was educated in a feudal private school in his childhood, and he was well aware of the drawbacks of feudal education that hindered the overall development of students. He criticized only the study of theoretical knowledge and did not pay attention to the education of morality and sports. As early as when he was a student, Mao Zedong advocated that young people should be fully developed in moral education, intellectual education, physical education, etc., to achieve the "three educations", and called on students to learn knowledge while not neglecting physical exercise, and to participate in sports activities. Strengthen one's physical fitness. It is precisely because of his good habit in his youth that he can have a strong physique as a foundation in his future revolutionary career. After the founding of New China, Mao Zedong launched a call for "good health, good study, and good work" to the vast number of young people. In terms of the relationship between morality, intelligence, and physical education, Mao Zedong believes that moral education is first. "Morality" is the highest standard for evaluating a person's ideological and moral character. The correct political direction and good work style are the embodiment of moral education; intellectual education is the core. Mao Zedong emphasized that young people should arm their minds with Marxism to increase their talents; sports is the foundation. A strong physique is the primary prerequisite for other activities. While learning knowledge, physical exercise should not be neglected.

2.3 The method of youth education: a combination of theory and practice

As a staunch Marxist, Mao Zedong discussed the importance of combining theory with practice as early as in "On Practice." An important manifestation of the combination of theory and practice during the revolutionary period is the integration of young people with the broad masses of workers and peasants and production and labor. The youth movement before the founding of the People's Republic of China was a history of the development of the integration of youth with workers and peasants. In May 1939, Mao Zedong analyzed the reason why the Chinese revolution had been unsuccessful for a long time. It was that the masses of workers and peasants had not been mobilized. Therefore, the vast number of young people must know the truth of "arousing the people". Only in this way can they truly overthrow imperialism and feudal forces and build a new China. In addition, in Mao Zedong's view, combining with workers and peasants is the criterion for judging revolutionary youth. The reason why the Yan'an youth was a model for the youth of the country at that time was because they were united with the workers and peasants, and while studying revolutionary theory, they also carried out production campaigns and developed wasteland. After the founding of New China, Mao Zedong emphasized that the "principle of combining education and labor" should not be changed or shaken. Relevant departments require all schools to list production labor as a formal curriculum, and stipulate that every student must participate in labor, devote himself to production practice activities to hone themselves, gain practical experience, and contribute to the cause of socialist construction.

3. Coming down in one continuous line: Xi Jinping's inheritance of Mao Zedong's view on youth education

In his youth, as an educated youth, Xi Jinping spent seven years with the local people in Liangjiahe, digging wells, building dams, and methane gas together with them... He did what the people needed. Doing everything steadily for the masses is people's evaluation of Xi Jinping. On the basis of his own practical experience, Xi Jinping's important expositions on the importance, goals and methods of youth education are in the same line with Mao Zedong's views on youth education.

3.1 The importance of youth education: youth is a barometer

Xi Jinping spoke highly of the status of youth, "Youth prosper the country, and the youth is strong, the country is strong. The young generation has ideals, skills, and responsibilities, the country has a future, and the nation has hope." [2] "Youth is The most sensitive barometer that marks the era." [3] Whether young people have lofty ideals, superb skills, and missions, not only affects the success of young people, but also relates to the development of the country. Young people are the most pioneering and innovative group in society. On the one hand, they can adapt to the rapidly developing society and learn new knowledge proactively; on the other hand, they can also influence society with their own meager power. Young people are full of vigor, vitality and creativity are always with them. Their

passion in practice enables deepening of practice, and their pioneering spirit in society enables the development of society. Xi Jinping pointed out that in order to realize the Chinese Dream, it is necessary for the broad masses of aspiring young people to establish a spirit of continuous struggle. Today's world is a world closely linked to reform and innovation. Youth is the most innovative social group and the engine of China's social development in the future.

3.2 The goal of youth education: newcomers of the era who have ideals, skills, and responsibilities

Being ideal, capable, and responsible are Xi Jinping's earnest hopes for the youth. In the new era, young people have more opportunities to show their talents and realize their ideals. At the same time, they must follow in the footsteps of the party and shoulder the important tasks of the times. Ideals require young people to "not forget their original aspirations and keep their mission in mind." If ideals and beliefs are not firm, it will lead to mental "deficiency". In the new era, young people must closely integrate their own development with the needs of the people, do things for the people, and realize their self-worth at the service of the people; talents require young people to "learn diligently, think well, and increase their talents." ". To realize their ideals, they must have a wealth of knowledge and strong skills. In the current era of frequent information iteration, young people in the golden age of learning should take learning as the primary task, increase the urgency of knowledge renewal, enrich their own knowledge reserves, and lay a solid foundation of knowledge; Responsible requires young people to "dare to act and assume responsibility", to make selfless dedication to the people, to perform their duties with due diligence to their work, and to be unswerving in reforms.

3.3 The method of youth education: the unity of knowledge and action

"The one who knows starts with the action, and the one who walks knows the accomplishment." This is the discussion of the relationship between knowledge and action by the ancients, that is, only "action" guided by "knowledge" can be effective, otherwise it is blind action. Xi Jinping attaches great importance to practice, emphasizing that young people should actively exert their own initiative, combine theoretical knowledge with actual conditions, gain true knowledge in study and life, and improve themselves. Learning knowledge from books is the first way for young people to gain cognition. More importantly, they should get out of campus, enter society, apply what they have learned, hone themselves in the big class of society, test their thoughts, and further integrate their theoretical knowledge. Transform into one's own inner quality and ability, and use knowledge to solve practical problems. Comrade Xi Jinping emphasized the special role of social practice in the process of youth growth and talent, and advocated the fine tradition of youth returning to labor, experiencing the value of labor in various forms of labor, feeling the glory of labor, fostering the feelings of labor, and forming labor habits. .

4. Advance with the times: Xi Jinping's development of Mao Zedong's youth education outlook

In the new era, on the basis of inheriting Mao Zedong's view on youth education, Xi Jinping's important exposition on youth education has its own unique features. The specific manifestations are as follows:

4.1 The importance of youth education: youth is a bridge for cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries

Young people are creative and willing to communicate with others. The 14th Five-Year Plan clearly states that it is necessary to "close... youth and other group exchanges to form a diverse and interactive humanistic exchange pattern." [4] While the exchanges between youths strengthen the feelings of young people, it also builds up China and other countries. A bridge of communication. In 2013, when Xi Jinping addressed youth in Moscow, he pointed out that youth is not only the future of the motherland, but also the future of the friendly partners of China and Russia. He encouraged the youth of China and Russia to strengthen exchanges and contribute to the cause of friendship between the two countries. Internally, young people are the main body to inherit and develop the excellent traditional Chinese culture. Externally, young people can absorb and learn from the excellent foreign culture. This requires young people to be able to tell the story of China well in the international community, tell the story of China to the international community, and let the world understand a real China. In 2014, Xi Jinping encouraged the youth of the two countries to learn from each other, strengthen exchanges, and

promote cooperation at Seoul University in South Korea, to contribute to the friendship between China and South Korea, and to participate in the journey of rejuvenating Asia. Youth is the future of the country, and promoting youth exchanges between different countries is to contribute to the cause of cooperation between different countries.

4.2 The goal of youth education: the main force of innovation and entrepreneurship in the new era

Innovation is an inexhaustible driving force for the development of a country. As the group with the most innovative potential, young people should be at the forefront of the innovation and entrepreneurship team. From the perspective of social development, Xi Jinping focuses on the self-development and value of young people, and emphasizes that young people should strive to cultivate innovative awareness, establish innovative concepts, improve innovative courage, and enhance innovative capabilities, and give full play to their personal value in innovation and entrepreneurship to achieve comprehensive development. On the one hand, young people must strengthen their skills in innovation and entrepreneurship. Xi Jinping emphasized that young people should emancipate their minds, be pioneering and enterprising, have the fighting spirit to surpass the predecessors, have the courage to meet rivers and bridges, have a truth-seeking and pragmatic style, and have the courage to be pioneers, devote themselves to the practice of innovation and entrepreneurship, and improve their talents in practice. , Strengthen skills. On the other hand, society must provide a good atmosphere for innovation and entrepreneurship. Youth innovation and entrepreneurship require the efforts of the whole society. Xi Jinping emphasized that all sectors of society must provide good conditions and build a broad stage to attach importance to supporting youth innovation and entrepreneurship activities. Party committees and governments at all levels must do a good job of supporting and guiding, and provide relevant policies and financial support. "Young students are full of imagination and creativity, and they are the vital force of innovation and entrepreneurship." [5] The majority of young people should increase their talents and wisdom in innovation and entrepreneurship, temper their will and quality, and become the main force of innovation and entrepreneurship.

4.3 The method of youth education: Strengthen the education of excellent traditional culture

In today's society, information dissemination is not restricted by time and space. Various social thoughts may have an impact on young people. How to make young people have the correct value orientation is the challenge we face. The excellent Chinese traditional culture is China's beautiful cultural business card on the international stage, and it is also a cultural symbol showing the charm of China. Regarding Chinese traditional culture, Xi Jinping proposed that while "passing on the fire and protecting it from generation to generation", it is necessary to "advance with the times and bring forth the new." On this basis, he emphasized the need to educate young people on excellent traditional culture, so that young people can draw nourishment from it, and shape good characters. It also helps to enhance their cultural self-confidence and more proactively inherit and carry forward the excellent traditional Chinese culture. In 2021, Xi Jinping proposed during an inspection tour in Fujian that it is necessary to activate the vitality of Chinese excellent traditional culture with the spirit of the times, and combine the spirit of the times to educate young people on excellent traditional culture. This can not only inject fresh blood into the excellent traditional culture of China, but also strengthen the youth educate. Young people promote traditional culture, not only absorb nourishment for themselves and improve their personal qualities, but also create a good atmosphere for the society to inherit and carry forward the excellent traditional Chinese culture.

5. Conclusion

On the basis of inheriting the core content of Mao Zedong's youth education view, starting from the current youth education work, based on the two centennial goals and the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, Xi Jinping creatively proposed the grand blueprint of the "dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation" And the socialist core values of "twenty-four characters" have injected fresh blood into the Chinese Communist Party's view on youth education. Xi Jinping's important discourse on youth education inherited and developed Mao Zedong's view of youth education, endowed with distinctive Chinese characteristics of Marxist youth education thought, and is of great significance to the effective development of youth education at the moment.

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