

A Study on the Cultivation and Practice of Socialist Core Values by Teachers in Xinjiang Universities

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Abstract: *As one of the important transmitters of socialist core values, teachers in Xinjiang colleges and universities have a great influence on the depth and breadth of cultivating and practicing socialist core values among college students in Xinjiang. Therefore, it is of great theoretical value and practical guidance to study them. However, due to the special geographical environment of Xinjiang, there are three problems of insufficient awareness of theoretical research, single way of theoretical research, and disconnection between theoretical research and practical exploration. In this regard, this paper puts forward the following three suggestions: 1. improve the ideological awareness of theoretical research; 2. continuously improve the awareness of self-development; 3. focus on the combination of theoretical research and practical exploration.*

Keywords: *Xinjiang; College teachers; Core socialist values*

1. Introduction

"Socialist core values are the dominant standard of understanding and evaluation of value issues formed by the Communist Party of China in the process of socialist construction and reform." [1] Their main contents are summarized as "prosperity, democracy, civility, harmony, freedom, equality, justice and rule of law, patriotism, dedication, integrity and friendship." [2] at the national, social and individual levels respectively. "If a nation and a country do not have common core values, and if there is no consensus, and no one to follow, then this country will not be able to move forward." [3] It can be seen that cultivating and practicing socialist core values are related to the long-term governance of the country, and it plays an important inspirational power of condensing the spirit and gathering the energy.

Under the strategy of "One Belt and Road" initiative, Xinjiang has become the core area of "One Belt and Road" and the window of northwest China, with prominent location advantages. Whether Xinjiang can achieve social stability and long-term peace and security is directly related to whether the national "One Belt and Road" initiative can be effectively promoted. "The future of a nation depends on the power of youth." [4] Whether the young generation in Xinjiang "should hold high the banner of unity of all ethnic groups and firmly establish the sense of nationhood, civic consciousness, and the sense of Chinese national community among all ethnic groups" [5] determines whether the various ethnic groups in Xinjiang can become like pomegranate seeds. The key to whether the ethnic groups in Xinjiang can cling together like pomegranate seeds. However, minority students in Xinjiang universities account for a large proportion, and they have huge differences in "ethnic composition, cultural background, religious beliefs, customs and habits, ideological understanding, language and writing" [6] compared with students in mainland colleges and universities. Therefore, how to reach a value consensus through cultivating and practicing socialist core values on the basis of their "multiple value judgments and behavioral orientations", so as to consolidate the fruits of national unity and maintain the general situation of social stability and long-term stability in Xinjiang is an inescapable issue for every teacher in Xinjiang universities.

As the representatives, disseminators and creators of Xinjiang universities' ideas, the depth of their own understanding and practice of socialist core values directly represent the research level and practice level of socialist core values in Xinjiang universities. Because they are related to the depth and breadth of students' cultivation and practice of socialist core values. Therefore, it is of great research value to include the group of teachers in Xinjiang universities in the study of cultivating and practicing socialist core values and to actively play their role. However, due to various reasons such as the geographical environment, historical issues, and cultural customs in Xinjiang, the research on them has led to the following three problems.

2. Problems of cultivating and practicing socialist core values among teachers in Xinjiang universities

2.1 Insufficient awareness of theoretical research

In the context of "One Belt and Road", Xinjiang's location advantage is prominent, but due to the geographical location and environmental conditions in Xinjiang, there is an extreme shortage of full-time teachers, teaching assistants and administrative staff in universities, such as Xinjiang University, which is a 211 project school, compared with Guizhou University, the number of full-time teachers is "1818:2739"[8]. Therefore, some Xinjiang university teachers have a heavy task of teaching, scientific research, social service and administrative tasks than other teachers in the mainland, which leads university teachers to take cultivating and practicing socialist core values more as a political task and do not study it deeply as a professional academic issue. Meanwhile, some teachers think that cultivating and practicing socialist core values is "the main position of Civics education"[9] and the field of research for Civics teachers, not related to teachers of other disciplines, resulting in some teachers' extremely weak awareness of their theoretical research.

2.2 Single method of theoretical research

The cultivation and practice of socialist core values involve many fields such as sociology, education, culture and broadcasting. For example, scholars such as Jia Chunyan, Guo Jianrong, Li Yanxia and Wang Chao have studied the response strategies of teachers in Xinjiang universities from the perspective of linguistics, while scholar Chen Xi has discussed the role and function of teachers in promoting students' identification with socialist core values from the characteristics of ethnic students. Secondly, the research materials were mainly obtained through literature review, and the action research through in-depth practice was lacking.

2.3 Theoretical research is detached from practical exploration

Specific practice without theoretical guidance is purposeless. In fact, teachers in Xinjiang colleges have participated in many practical activities with the carrier of national unity education, corps spirit and special culture and so on. Moreover, many of the practical activities they have participated in are carried out with college teachers as important "researchers and practitioners" [10], which have the function of enhancing the socialist core values of college teachers in a subtle way. For example, the special activity of "five common and one promotion"[11] of Tarim University shows that teachers in Xinjiang universities have a significant role in cultivating core values. All these show that there are many specific practical activities of Xinjiang university teachers in cultivating and practicing socialist core values with regional characteristics, but at the level of theoretical research, scholar Yao Chong believes that "the logic of psychological identification of university teachers with socialist core values contains 'knowledge, emotion, intention and action'[12].. Scholar Fang Zheng fully affirms that teachers in colleges are the "key force" in cultivating and practicing socialist core values [13]. Although these scholars have affirmed the important status of college teachers in cultivating and practicing socialist core values, they have not understood their special status, significance and practical paths in Xinjiang, and their theoretical guiding power for cultivating and practicing socialist core values of college teachers in Xinjiang is limited, so that the theoretical research is seriously disconnected from the practical exploration in Xinjiang.

3. Reasons for the problems of cultivating and practicing socialist core values among teachers in Xinjiang universities

3.1 The contradiction between the advantage of location prominence and the disadvantage of marginal geographical location

Since the development of western China, the state's financial investment and policy support to Xinjiang have become stronger than before. For example, in 2010, "the state invested more than 1.6 billion yuan to subsidize the construction of low-cost housing in Xinjiang"[14]. Since the "One Belt and Road" initiative, Xinjiang has become the core area and its location advantage has been highlighted. However, the geographical location on the edge of Xinjiang has caused inconvenient transportation, backward economy, closed-mindedness, and backward education; the harsh climate and yellow sand everywhere have made the area sparsely populated, so that many outstanding people from the mainland

and even from the international community are still unwilling to come here. Therefore, this contradiction between the advantages of location and the disadvantages of marginal location has made many teachers dominated by the idea of "going or staying" for a long time, and it is difficult for them to think deeply about the meaning, role and methods of cultivating and practicing socialist core values, and their research awareness is extremely weak.

3.2 Teachers' low awareness of self-development

President Xi Jinping emphasized at the second central symposium on Xinjiang work that "we will resolutely carry out the Party Central Committee's policy of governing Xinjiang, ensure the long-term peace and stability of Xinjiang region, prevent the breeding and development of ethnic separatist forces, ensure the health of people's minds, adhere to the rule of Xinjiang according to law, unite and stabilize Xinjiang, build Xinjiang in the long term, and strive to build a united and harmonious, prosperous, civilized and progressive socialist Xinjiang." [15] At the same time, it is emphasized that "we should adhere to the priority of education to attract more outstanding talents to join education, and more national education funds should be invested in Xinjiang." [16] It is due to the guidance of national preferential policies for Xinjiang in various aspects, such as counterpart support policy and minority backbone program. Teachers in Xinjiang colleges and universities have slightly better entry conditions and salaries than some places in the mainland, and at the same time, the requirements for teachers' comprehensive quality such as scientific research are relatively low; in such a relaxed environment compared with the competitiveness of the mainland, some teachers have the idea of resting on the status quo and slacking off, and their sense of self-development is not strong.

3.3 Differences in the language and culture of various ethnic minorities

Xinjiang is the largest provincial-level administrative region in China in terms of land area. In the long historical evolution, it has formed a multi-ethnic settlement with 47 ethnic components and 55 ethnic groups living together. And as a result, multi-ethnic languages such as Chinese, Uyghur and Kazakh have been formed. This makes Xinjiang have colorful local characteristics of minority cultures, but also brings the objective reality of language barrier, different customs and inconvenient communication among minority groups, which greatly limits the difficulty of localized theoretical research and practical exploration based on the actual situation in Xinjiang by teachers in Xinjiang universities. At the same time, it also increases the difficulty of academic exchange between universities in the mainland and Xinjiang.

4. Research suggestions for teachers in Xinjiang universities to cultivate and practice socialist core values

4.1 Raise the awareness of theoretical research

Cultivating and practicing socialist core values is a systematic project, involving political, economic and cultural dimensions, which puts forward higher requirements on the ability of Xinjiang college teachers to cultivate and practice socialist core values. Therefore, teachers in Xinjiang colleges and universities should not only focus on the knowledge output of classroom teaching, but also constantly improve their academic standing and academic awareness, and attach great importance to the research on the status, role and principles of cultivating and practicing socialist core values of teachers in Xinjiang colleges and universities. At the same time, they should not only accept the cultivation and practice of socialist core values as a political task passively, but also turn passivity into initiative and clarify the issues such as its connotation and extension. At the same time, teachers in Xinjiang colleges should change the thought that the research on them is only a matter for Civic Science teachers and has nothing to do with other teachers, and constantly improve their research awareness.

4.2 Continuous improvement of self-development awareness

The Vision and Action for Promoting the Construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road jointly issued by the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce clearly put forward that "the spirit of friendship and cooperation of the Silk Road should be inherited and carried forward, and cultural exchanges should be carried out extensively." [17] Therefore, teachers in Xinjiang universities should

take the initiative to seize this development opportunity, actively open their vision, carry out research on it from a multidisciplinary and multidimensional perspective, and continuously improve their awareness of self-development. With the mutual development of education in countries and regions along the "One Belt and Road", multiple cooperation platforms have been established, such as the "Silk Road University Alliance" [18], teachers in Xinjiang universities should seize this opportunity and actively "go out" to the mainland and border areas. "Finally, teachers in Xinjiang universities should actively participate in training at school, local, corps and national levels to improve their theoretical and practical skills and combine theoretical and empirical research. At the same time, they should make use of the Internet, self-media and other technologies to broaden the scope of data collection.

4.3 Combining theoretical research and practical exploration

As one of the representatives of "soft power" of Xinjiang universities, teachers of Xinjiang colleges have a direct influence on the breadth and depth of cultivating and practicing socialist core values of students in Xinjiang universities in terms of their theoretical research and practical level. Therefore, first of all, leaders and departments at all levels in Xinjiang should develop policy guidance and financial support, and take effective measures such as increasing the introduction of high-quality talents outside Xinjiang to expand the quantity and quality of theoretical, practical and composite talents in Xinjiang universities. Meanwhile, they should increase the selection and cultivation of localized theoretical and practical talents in Xinjiang universities to provide a talent base for localized research in Xinjiang universities. Secondly, Xinjiang universities should further improve the management system, reward system and training system of universities, clarify the responsibilities of various teachers, and create a favorable research atmosphere for full-time teachers to carry out action research combining theory and practice. They also need to increase the reward for individuals or groups who make significant theoretical and practical achievements, and use external reward mechanism to enhance teachers' passion for scientific research. The training mechanism for teachers should be improved, and the training for full-time teachers should be increased, so as to lay the foundation for the gradual growth of full-time teachers into theoretical and practical talents of high quality. Finally, teachers in Xinjiang universities should insist on teaching and scientific research, base on the local reality in Xinjiang, and make use of external platforms such as "One Belt and Road" university alliance and "Silk Road University Alliance" to constantly broaden their research horizons and research ability. What's more, it is important to grasp the main channel of classroom teaching and carry out action research.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, as teachers in Xinjiang universities, they should base on the "Belt and Road" initiative, grasp the position of cultivating people in Xinjiang universities, actively cultivate and practice socialist core values, constantly improve our political status, and enhance the awareness of theoretical research on cultivating and practicing socialist core values, take the initiative to develop and seek localized theories. In addition, the university will take the initiative to seek a new mode of localized theoretical research and practical exploration, and make its own contribution to the realization of the "Chinese dream" and the promotion of the unity of all ethnic groups.

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