

# Research on the Integration and Practice of Labor Education in the Ideological and Political Education of College Students in the New Era

Cao Yuan<sup>1</sup>, Zhou Han<sup>2</sup>, Han Xiao<sup>2</sup>, Zhao Weijia<sup>2</sup>, Jia Zhichao<sup>2</sup>, Lu Chengying<sup>2</sup>, Zhang Tao<sup>2</sup>, Liu Kun<sup>2</sup>, Huang Yuqing<sup>2</sup>, Li Xiang<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Assessment's Office, Yancheng Teachers University, Yancheng, 224051, China

<sup>2</sup>School of Physics and Electronic Engineering, Yancheng Teachers University, Yancheng, 224007, China

\*Corresponding author

**Abstract:** In the context of the new era, the ideological and political education of college students is faced with new challenges and opportunities. The integration of labor education is of great significance and plays a positive role in promoting the all-round development of college students and the cultivation of social talents. The integration of labor education and the ideological and political education of college students is an important topic for implementing the fundamental task of fostering virtue through education in college in the new era. Currently, in college, labor education has shown phenomena such as being weakened and marginalized in ideological and political education, and the paths for its integration into ideological and political education are not yet perfect. Only by deeply analyzing the value implication of integrating labor education into the ideological and political education of college students in the new era and exploring practical paths for the integration of the two, including constructing a scientific labor education curriculum system, enriching the practical carriers of labor education, and creating a favorable campus labor culture atmosphere, etc., and putting them into practice in college education, can we promote the all-round development of college students in terms of morality, intelligence, physique, aesthetics, and labor, and enhance the effectiveness of ideological and political education in college.

**Keywords:** Labor Education, New Era, College Students, Ideological and Political Education

## 1. Introduction

Labor education is an education that enables students to establish correct views and attitudes towards labor, love labor and working people, and develop good labor habits. It is one of the main components of the all-round development of people in terms of morality, intelligence, physique, aesthetics, and labor. Incorporating labor education into the overall requirements for cultivating socialist builders and successors and constructing an education system that comprehensively cultivates students in all aspects including morality, intelligence, physique, aesthetics, and labor is the main goal that the Chinese education community is striving for in labor education at present.

With the advent of the intelligent and digital era, although it has brought opportunities such as more precise educational content, richer educational forms, a more equal teacher-student relationship, and unlimited expansion of time and space for ideological and political education, traditional educational content and methods, the dominant position of educators, and the thinking patterns of college students will also face impacts to varying degrees. Although college life has less restraint compared to high school life and the overall learning and living atmosphere is relatively relaxed, many students cannot adapt well to college life after entering college. They lack good self-care abilities in life, rely too much on their parents, and have a weak awareness of economic concepts<sup>[1]</sup>.

As an important part of the "Five Educations" advancing simultaneously, labor education has a close internal connection with the ideological and political education of college students. In light of the current national conditions in China, we all understand that "labor creates value and hard work creates great achievements." The key to realizing Chinese-style modernization and high-quality development is to build a high-quality workforce. Especially for the new quality productivity characterized by informatization, networking, digitization, intelligence, and high efficiency, new requirements have been

objectively put forward for aspects such as the level of the labor force, labor content, labor methods, and labor relations<sup>[2]</sup>.

## **2. The value implication of integrating labor education into the ideological and political education of college students in the new era.**

Labor education is an education that enables students to establish correct views and attitudes towards labor, love labor and working people, and develop good labor habits. It is one of the main components of the all-round development of people in terms of morality, intelligence, physique, aesthetics, and labor. In the current era of booming technological development, adhering to the principle of advancing with the times, modern labor education for college students must leverage the power of technology and achieve an era shift towards a new form of labor relying on knowledge, information, and technology.

### **2.1. Cultivate college students' correct worldviews, outlooks on life and values.**

Labor is the foundation for the survival and development of human society. Through labor education, college students can deeply understand the essence that labor creates value and recognize the important role of labor in social progress and national development, and subtly cultivate their innovative spirit and practical abilities. Ideological and political education, on the other hand, can guide college students to establish correct worldviews, outlooks on life and values, and enhance their sense of social responsibility and mission. When the two are integrated, they can exert an edifying influence in both theoretical and practical aspects, helping college students better adapt to the needs of the development of the times. Marx's thought that "education must be combined with productive labor" is the theoretical basis of labor education. However, the real aim of labor education is to achieve the free and all-round development of individuals and needs to be continuously adjusted and updated in line with practice and the characteristics of the times. Labor education helps college students understand the laws of the development of nature and human society. Through personal experiences of the material transformation in nature and production activities in human society, they can deepen their understanding of nature and human society and establish a correct worldview. Meanwhile, ideological and political education can guide college students to establish a Marxist worldview, that is, the worldview of dialectical materialism and historical materialism. Combining labor education with ideological and political education, during the process of participating in labor practice, college students can personally experience the hardships of labor and the joy of harvest, thus establishing correct views on labor, respecting the fruits of labor and advocating the spirit of labor. Through approaches such as the integration of curriculum teaching, the integration of practical activities and the integration of campus culture, the organic combination of labor education and ideological and political education can be achieved, improving the comprehensive qualities of college students and laying a solid foundation for their growth and success. This helps them abandon wrong ideas such as reaping without sowing and loving ease and hating work, and gradually form correct worldviews, outlooks on life and values. For example, when college students participate in volunteer service activities and offer help to community residents, while devoting their labor, they can experience the joy of dedication, enhance their sense of social responsibility, take serving the people as the purpose of life, regard making contributions to society as the value orientation of life, and further clarify that their life value lies in creating value for society<sup>[3]</sup>.

### **2.2. Improve college students' comprehensive qualities and social adaptability.**

In today's era where technological progress is changing with each passing day, social competition is particularly fierce. Only those equipped with an innovative spirit, a spirit of teamwork and practical abilities can adapt to the needs of social development. Labor education can not only promote students' joint growth in multiple dimensions such as knowledge, skills, emotions and values, but also lay a solid foundation for students' lifelong learning<sup>[4]</sup>. It encompasses the cultivation of both physical labor and mental labor and can comprehensively train college students' cognitive abilities, practical abilities and innovative abilities. Meanwhile, ideological and political education provides college students with correct value orientation, guides them to establish the core socialist values, cultivates their patriotic feelings, sense of social responsibility and dedication spirit, enabling them to have firm beliefs and make correct judgments when facing a complex social environment. During labor practice, college students need to apply the knowledge they have learned to solve practical problems. This not only deepens their understanding and mastery of professional knowledge but also cultivates their hands-on operation abilities and independent thinking abilities. At the same time, labor education is usually carried out in the

form of teamwork. College students learn to communicate, cooperate and divide labor within the team, thus improving their teamwork abilities and interpersonal communication abilities.

In addition, labor education enables college students to get in touch with society, understand society, adapt to the social environment in advance and enhance their social adaptability, laying a solid foundation for their smooth entry into society in the future. For example, college students participate in enterprise internship labor, exercise their professional skills at actual work positions, learn workplace rules and establish good cooperative relationships with colleagues, thus achieving a comprehensive improvement in their comprehensive qualities. Combining labor education and ideological and political education can prompt college students to possess good moral qualities, solid professional skills and a positive attitude towards labor, better adapt to the needs of social development and enhance their comprehensive qualities and social adaptability.

### ***2.3. Promote the improvement of the effectiveness of ideological and political education in college.***

China's socialist construction has entered a new period, and the strategic positions of education, science and technology, and talents have become increasingly prominent. To develop Chinese-style modernization objectively requires that the modern education system be people-centered and continuously enhance its ability to serve economic and social development. Through labor education, it is necessary to cultivate high-quality workers with excellent labor qualities and habits such as diligence, frugality, struggle, innovation, and dedication. This is not only an inevitable requirement for further promoting the high-quality development of education but also an important engine for realizing Chinese-style modernization<sup>[5]</sup>. Traditional ideological and political education for college students mainly focuses on theoretical teaching, while practical teaching is relatively weak, resulting in less than satisfactory educational effects. "The construction of the labor education system in the new era aims at fostering virtue through education." <sup>[6]</sup> Marx's view on labor shaping people not only means that labor determines the evolution of human's natural attributes but also refers to people obtaining social attributes in the process of labor. Marx's view on labor shaping people enlightens us that an important part of "fostering virtue through education" in college in the new era is to cultivate the virtue of "loving labor" and foster people who are "capable of laboring". Employment and labor skills education conform to the economic value theory. Labor education that implements Marx's view on labor shaping people focuses on guiding college students to love labor and actively participate in honest and creative labor that is beneficial to society<sup>[7]</sup>. Labor education has strong practicality and experientiality. Integrating it into the ideological and political education of college students can enrich the teaching forms and contents of ideological and political education, making ideological and political education more vivid and closer to students' actual lives. The direct experiences and emotional experiences obtained by college students in labor practice can verify and promote each other with the theoretical knowledge of ideological and political education, deepen their understanding and recognition of the contents of ideological and political education, and thus improve the effectiveness of ideological and political education. For example, organizing college students to visit exhibitions on the deeds of model workers and then carrying out labor practice activities enables college students to experience the connotations of the spirit of model workers in practice, transform abstract moral concepts into specific conscious actions, and effectively enhance the effects of ideological and political education.

### ***2.4. Promote the cultivation of talents for socialist modernization construction.***

The socialist modernization drive in the new era requires a large number of high-quality talents with all-round development in morality, intelligence, physique, aesthetics, and labor. They should not only possess solid professional knowledge and skills but also have noble ideological and moral qualities and good labor qualities. Integrating labor education into the ideological and political education of college students can cultivate their labor skills, innovative spirit and the quality of working hard, enabling them to possess comprehensive qualities that meet the needs of future social development. Labor education helps students understand the value and significance of labor, cultivates their views on labor and labor habits, and enhances their sense of social responsibility and mission. Ideological and political education helps students understand the national development strategies and policies, cultivates their patriotic spirit and national pride, and enhances their sense of social responsibility and mission. The combination of the two can make students more deeply aware of their own responsibilities and missions and contribute their own strength to the socialist modernization drive. In college, the comprehensive qualities of students can be cultivated by combining the implementation of labor practice courses and ideological and political theory courses. During labor practice, students can exercise their practical abilities and problem-solving

abilities. Meanwhile, in ideological and political theory courses, they can learn the core socialist values and the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, improving their political awareness and moral qualities. These college students who have received dual cultivation from labor education and ideological and political education will devote themselves to various fields of socialist modernization after graduation, become the backbone forces for promoting scientific and technological innovation, economic development and social progress, and contribute their wisdom and strength to realizing the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

### **3. Problems Existing in Labor Education in the Ideological and Political Education of College Students in the New Era.**

In the ideological and political education of college students in the new era, there are some problems in labor education. Some scholars have pointed out that labor characterized by digitalization in the new era has an impact on traditional labor education, such as the lack of social recognition, outdated content, and limitations in educational methods<sup>[5]</sup>. College students have insufficient understanding of the value of labor. Coupled with many problems like the imperfect curriculum setting of labor education and the inconsistent emphasis on labor education among families, schools and society, it is difficult to effectively motivate college students to actively participate in labor, which affects the role of labor education in ideological and political education.

#### ***3.1. Insufficient attention is paid to labor education.***

In the process of talent cultivation in some college, too much emphasis is placed on imparting professional knowledge and skills, while the important position of labor education in the entire education system and in students' all-round development is neglected. It is not put on an equally important position as ideological and political education, resulting in relatively weak aspects such as funding input for labor education, the allocation of teaching staff, and the construction of venue facilities. Labor can create the future, and labor is the first necessity of human beings<sup>[8]</sup>. However, the position of labor education in the higher education system is not prominent enough. In the curriculum systems of many colleges, professional courses dominate, while labor education courses are often regarded as dispensable appendages. Labor education courses usually appear in the form of elective courses, with few class hours and low credits, making it difficult to attract sufficient attention from students. Some college leaders and teachers believe that labor education is only the responsibility of the student affairs department or the logistics department, lacking the awareness of full participation. As a result, labor education lacks systematicness and coherence in the implementation process. Moreover, some course contents may simply introduce some labor skills or the deeds of model workers without deeply exploring the connotations and values of labor education. Furthermore, the teaching staff in some colleges is not well-equipped. Some teachers focus on explaining theoretical knowledge and neglect the strengthening effect of the labor practice session on the effect of ideological and political education. During the teaching process, there is a lack of enthusiasm for actively exploring the integration paths and methods of the two, so that labor education in ideological and political classrooms often just scratches the surface and fails to play its due educational value.

#### ***3.2. The integration mechanism of labor education and ideological and political education is imperfect.***

In accordance with the requirements of the integration of industry and education in the new era, traditional teaching methods should be transformed, and modern digital technologies should be embedded in teaching to educate and guide students to deeply understand the connotations of labor education and experience the value of labor in practice<sup>[9]</sup>. Currently, the integration of labor education and ideological and political education in college is still in the exploratory stage, and there is a lack of effective coordination mechanisms between them. In terms of teaching content, labor education and ideological and political education have not achieved an organic combination and there is a phenomenon of being disjointed from each other. For example, labor education courses focus on the training of labor skills, while ideological and political education courses do not dig deep enough into the labor spirit and labor values, failing to give full play to the role of mutual promotion between the two. In terms of the construction of the teaching staff, there is a lack of compound teachers who understand both labor education and ideological and political education. Teachers find it difficult to integrate labor education and ideological and political education in the teaching process, which affects the effect of integrated

education. In addition, the evaluation mechanism for the integration of labor education and ideological and political education in college is also not sound enough, making it difficult to conduct scientific and comprehensive evaluations of the integration effect.

### ***3.3. The practical carriers of labor education are single.***

The practical optimization of labor education requires continuously enriching the curriculum carriers, innovating the education and teaching methods of traditional labor education courses, making good use of online course resources, creating substantial offline classrooms, integrating online classrooms, and expanding the walking classrooms of social practice. An all-round effort should be made to build a labor education network practice platform with more abundant functions and construct a trinity labor education model of "school - enterprise - society" <sup>[10]</sup>. The practical carriers of labor education in college mainly focus on limited forms such as campus environmental sanitation cleaning and volunteer service activities, lacking diversity and innovation. Although these traditional practical carriers can cultivate college students' labor awareness and labor habits to a certain extent, they can hardly meet the needs and interests of college students in the new era. Meanwhile, due to the limitations of the practical carriers, college students do not have enough depth and breadth in participating in labor practice. They often just participate at a superficial level and cannot truly achieve the purpose of labor education, that is, to comprehensively improve college students' comprehensive qualities and labor qualities. For example, some volunteer service activities are seriously formalized. College students only participate to complete tasks and fail to deeply understand the labor value and social significance behind volunteer services.

### ***3.4. The campus labor cultural atmosphere is not strong.***

Campus labor culture is an important soft environment for integrating labor education into the ideological and political education of college students. However, at present, the campus labor cultural atmosphere in some college is not thick enough, lacking the publicity and promotion of labor culture. Many college students have a wrong understanding of labor. They think that labor is just physical activity and has little to do with their professional studies and future development. In contrast, they pay more attention to the learning of theoretical knowledge and social activities while neglecting the value and significance of labor. When schools publicize labor education, they often just stay at the level of slogans and catchphrases, lacking specific actions and measures. The forms of labor practice activities organized by schools are single, lacking innovation and attractiveness. Most of the activities are just simple physical labor, such as cleaning the campus and afforestation, without fully considering students' interests and needs. There are also few cultural activities with the theme of labor held on campus, such as labor culture festivals and reports on the deeds of model workers, which cannot arouse college students' interest and enthusiasm for labor. Meanwhile, in the construction of the campus environment, college have failed to fully reflect the elements of labor culture. The campus cultural landscapes, publicity slogans and so on have a low degree of relevance to labor education, making it difficult to subtly influence college students' views on labor and behavioral habits.

## **4. The practical paths for integrating labor education into the ideological and political education of college students in the new era.**

There are significant differences in the practical forms of labor among students of different disciplines. In the process of promoting labor education, it is necessary to combine the general and the specific, that is, to have unified arrangements while also reflecting the labor practice forms based on different majors. The leading role of labor education should be appropriately integrated into the whole period and the entire process of ideological and political education. Through planned and valuable labor education content, it should be actively integrated into the education and management of college students, so as to build a practical education mechanism for ideological and political education in college<sup>[11]</sup>. Enrich labor education courses, carry out diverse practices, create a labor culture atmosphere, and integrate family, school and social resources to jointly promote the all-round development of college students.

### ***4.1. Construct a scientific labor education curriculum system.***

College should incorporate labor education into the talent cultivation programs and integrate it into the overall planning of ideological and political education, and build a systematic and scientific labor

education curriculum system. The labor education curriculum should include labor theory courses and labor practice courses. The labor theory courses mainly impart knowledge in aspects such as the Marxist view of labor, labor laws and regulations, and labor safety and hygiene, enabling college students to deeply understand the connotations, values and significance of labor from a theoretical level. The labor practice courses, based on the characteristics and needs of students of different majors and different grades, should design diversified labor practice projects, such as professional internships, productive labor, social practices, and scientific and technological innovation activities, allowing college students to exercise their labor skills and cultivate the labor spirit in practice. For example, for students majoring in engineering, production internships and engineering practice activities related to their majors can be arranged; for students majoring in liberal arts, labor practice projects such as social investigations and cultural creativity can be organized. While comprehensively covering key areas such as the shaping of labor concepts, the cultivation of labor skills and the formation of labor habits, a scientific curriculum standard framework should be formulated to clearly stipulate the content and requirements of labor education in different educational stages, so as to ensure the systematicness and coherence of labor courses<sup>[12]</sup>.

#### ***4.2. Enrich the practical carriers of labor education.***

College should innovate the practical carriers of labor education and broaden the channels and ways for college students to participate in labor practice. Besides the traditional campus environmental sanitation cleaning and volunteer service activities, they can also carry out a variety of colorful labor practice activities in combination with school characteristics, major features and social needs. For example, cooperating with enterprises to establish internship and training bases allows college students to conduct internship labor in the real production environment of enterprises, understand the development trends of the industry and improve their professional qualities. Carrying out labor competition activities, such as discipline competitions, innovation and entrepreneurship competitions, and skill contests, etc. These measures help to provide support for enhancing the effectiveness and long-term effect of labor concept education<sup>[13]</sup>, while stimulating college students' innovative spirit and competitive awareness, and cultivating their teamwork ability and ability to solve practical problems. Organizing college students to participate in social practice activities such as community services, public welfare labor, and poverty alleviation and assistance can enhance their sense of social responsibility and dedication spirit. In addition, modern information technology means can also be utilized to carry out labor education practice activities that combine online and offline methods, such as online labor knowledge competitions and virtual labor experiences, so as to improve the attractiveness and effectiveness of labor education.

#### ***4.3. Strengthen the construction of the teaching staff for labor education.***

Building a high-quality teaching staff for labor education is the key to achieving the effective integration of labor education and the ideological and political education of college students. Adhering to integrating the value advantage of labor education into ideological and political education, college should enhance its attractiveness with the aim of stimulating students' subjective initiative, establish an effective guarantee mechanism and form an education model of sustainable development<sup>[11]</sup>. The top priority task is to strengthen the cultivation and introduction of the teaching staff for labor education and build a compound teaching team that understands both labor education and ideological and political education. On the one hand, conduct labor education training for existing teachers to improve their awareness of labor education and teaching abilities. By organizing teachers to participate in special training on labor education, seminars, academic exchange activities and other means, teachers can have a deep understanding of the connotations, goals, contents and methods of labor education and master the teaching skills of integrating labor education into ideological and political education. Teachers are encouraged to carry out teaching research on labor education, explore and innovate teaching models and methods of labor education, and improve the teaching quality of labor education. On the other hand, colleges can recruit teachers with a professional background in labor education or rich labor practice experience to strengthen the teaching staff for labor education. Meanwhile, model workers, master craftsmen, enterprise technicians and others can also be invited to enter the campus and serve as part-time teachers to impart labor skills and the labor spirit to college students and enrich the composition of the teaching staff for labor education.

#### 4.4. Improve the evaluation mechanism of labor education.

College should establish and improve the evaluation mechanism of labor education to conduct scientific and comprehensive evaluations on college students' labor qualities and the effects of labor education. The evaluation of labor education should adhere to the principles of combining process evaluation with outcome evaluation and combining qualitative evaluation with quantitative evaluation. Process evaluation mainly focuses on aspects such as college students' participation, performance, attitude and teamwork ability in the process of labor education, and is carried out through means like classroom performance, practice reports and group evaluations. Outcome evaluation mainly examines the improvement of college students' labor knowledge, labor skills and labor values obtained through labor education, and is conducted through methods such as examinations, work exhibitions and evaluations of practical achievements. Meanwhile, the results of labor education evaluation should be incorporated into the comprehensive quality evaluation system of students and serve as one of the important bases for students' selection for honors, recommendation for further studies and graduation examinations. Thus, the incentive and guiding roles of the evaluation mechanism can be fully played to promote college students to actively participate in labor education and improve their own labor qualities.

#### 5. Conclusion

Integrating labor education into the ideological and political education of college students in the new era is a long-term and arduous task, which has important strategic significance and practical value. College should fully recognize the important role of labor education in the ideological and political education of college students, face up to the existing problems, and actively explore effective practical paths. Through measures such as constructing a scientific labor education curriculum system, enriching the practical carriers of labor education, creating a favorable campus labor cultural atmosphere, strengthening the construction of the teaching staff for labor education and improving the evaluation mechanism of labor education, they can promote the in-depth integration of labor education and the ideological and political education of college students, cultivate socialist builders and successors with all-round development in morality, intelligence, physique, aesthetics and labor, and contribute to realizing the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

#### References

- [1] Yang Xinyu. *Research on the Integration of Labor Education into the Ideological and Political Education of College Students in the New Era* [M]. Anhui: Anhui University, 2024.
- [2] Jian Xinhua. *New-quality Productive Forces Are an Important Foundation for Realizing Chinese-style Modernization and High-quality Development* [N]. *Guangming Daily*, October 17, 2023.
- [3] Tan Chuanbao. *Understanding the Concept of Labor Education — How to Recognize the Basic Connotations and Basic Characteristics of the Concept of Labor Education* [J]. *Journal of the Chinese Society of Education*, 2019(2): 82-84.
- [4] Li Hengjia. *The Value Implication and Practical Path of Strengthening Labor Education in Vocational Colleges in the New Era* [J]. *Journal of Heilongjiang Institute of Teacher Development*, 2024, 43(12): 89.
- [5] Zhang Jin. *Analysis of the Cognitive Dimension and Cultivation Path of Labor Education for College Students in the New Era* [J]. *Educational Observation*, 2024(52): 21-25.
- [6] He Yunfeng. *Five Major Tasks in the Construction of the Labor Education System in the New Era with the Goal of Fostering Virtue through Education* [J]. *Journal of Hunan First Normal University*, 2022(8): 38.
- [7] He Hanhun, Lai Mingzhu. *Marx's View of Labor Justice and Its Realistic Portrayal of Labor Happiness—Also on the Basic Contents of Labor View Education in Colleges in the New Era* [J]. *Qilu Journal*, 2025(1): 8.
- [8] Zou Guangwen, Wang Xuan. *The Original Context of the Relationship between Marx's Labor and Life* [J]. *Theoretical Investigation*, 2023(01): 117-125.
- [9] Yang Mingyue, Xiao Yu. *The Impact of Digital Transformation on the Total Factor Productivity of China's Education Service Industry* [J]. *Tsinghua Journal of Education*, 2023(01): 76-89.
- [10] Li Hongxiu, Liu Mengzhen. *The Value Implication and Practical Transcendence of the Labor Education Space in the Era of Artificial Intelligence* [J]. *Theory and Practice of Education*, 2023, 43(25): 3-8.
- [11] Yang Yang. *The Internal Logic, Realistic Dilemmas and Practical Directions of the Integration of*

*Labor Education into the Ideological and Political Education of College [J]. Theoretical Research on Ideological and Political Education, 2024, 27(4): 45.*

[12] Cao Hong, Liu Jie. *The Value and Realization of Labor Education in the Talent Cultivation of Higher Vocational Colleges under the Background of "Three-wide Education" [J]. Journal of Heilongjiang Institute of Teacher Development, 2022, 41(6): 51-53.*

[13] Zhou Heting. *The Changes in the Forms of Labor in the Digital and Intelligent Era and the Remodeling of the Labor Education Model in Vocational Colleges [J]. Chinese Vocational and Technical Education, 2023(30): 43-51.*