

Innovation Analysis of Student Management Methods for Vocational College Counselors in the New Situation

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Abstract: *In vocational education and management, counselors play a crucial role. Besides engaging in ideological and political education for students, they are also responsible for managing students' lives and studies, ensuring their holistic development and helping them form correct values. In the new situation, vocational college counselors need to adhere to the management philosophy of cultivating students' moral character and prioritizing their needs, using various management methods to carry out student management work. This article analyzes the characteristics of students in vocational colleges under the new situation and the significance of conducting student management work. It also discusses the problems existing in vocational college management and proposes some solutions.*

Keywords: *new situation, vocational college counselors, student management*

Counselors are the backbone of ideological and political education in vocational colleges, and their management level is closely related to the school's development. The work of counselors is unique, as it requires understanding the background and family situations of each student, carefully observing their ideological status, in order to guide their thoughts and behaviors and effectively manage students. With the continuous development of society, vocational education encompasses a wide range of aspects, including not only students' lives, studies, and employment but also their household registration and marriage. Currently, the education system has been improved and innovated, and counselors' management work needs to keep up with the times, innovate methods for student management, and summarize students' ideological status to determine appropriate guidance methods.

1. Characteristics of Vocational College Students in the New Situation

1.1 Complex student sources and weak cultural foundations

Compared to regular universities, vocational colleges have more complex student sources in terms of quality. One type of student is those who participated in the "unified examination and admission" system. These students have active thinking and a theoretical foundation with certain learning methods due to the preparatory study and training they received before the college entrance examination. However, they often lack self-management skills, have a lack of persistence in studying, and lack interest in learning, resulting in a lack of competition among classmates. Another type of student comes from vocational schools and has practical skills but weaker cultural foundations. They often lack motivation in learning and have not developed good study habits. In summary, vocational college students lack motivation in learning, face difficulties in their studies, and lack curiosity.

1.2 Students' self-control abilities need improvement, and values are diverse

When facing complex social phenomena, vocational college students may have insufficient understanding of their own strengths and weaknesses, lack psychological preparation for independent living in colleges, fail to form good living habits, and have relatively poor self-care abilities^[1]. Although students follow school rules and regulations, they often lack rational logical thinking and self-control abilities, which hinders internalization of the rules. Additionally, vocational college students are inclined to pursue trends and fashion, actively engage in social trends, resulting in diverse values. When making choices, students are prone to lose direction and fail to consider pros and cons. Most students tend to be self-centered. Furthermore, some students lose themselves in the information age and become addicted to games, losing their sense of autonomy in the virtual world^[2].

1.3 Emotional polarity and a lack of discernment of right and wrong

Currently, students have access to a wide range of information channels. However, due to a lack of practical life experience and overly idealistic thinking, students may experience significant differences between their thoughts and actual life, leading to emotional fluctuations. Moreover, vocational college students' psychological resilience needs to be strengthened. Some students enter vocational colleges under pressure from their parents, with low expectations from various parties, and students themselves may have doubts and experience feelings of inferiority and loneliness, resulting in relatively weak psychological resilience. When faced with difficulties, students lack problem-solving abilities, and some even choose to give up. Additionally, vocational college students are easily influenced by social trends, leading to a disconnection between their moral cognition and actual moral behavior and a lack of discernment of right and wrong^[3].

2. Significance of Student Management Work for Vocational College Counselors

2.1 Enhancing students' self-control and conducting supervision and management

Most vocational college students have more autonomy compared to high school students. However, due to their limited social experience and relatively weak self-control abilities, they are easily influenced by external factors. The student management work of vocational college counselors includes providing assistance and care for students' academic and daily life issues, as well as conducting ideological, political, and safety education^[4]. For example, when students engage in online learning, counselors should monitor students' daily attendance to promptly identify any difficulties they may encounter and provide appropriate support. With only three years in vocational college, it is essential to explore how to cultivate qualified students. Some vocational college students have poor self-control abilities, which makes it challenging for them to persist in their studies, daily life, and academic planning, often resulting in academic warnings. Through supervision, vocational college counselors can encourage students to complete their academic plans and guide them in self-management.

2.2 Prioritizing students' mental health and cultivating correct values

Vocational college students come from different regions, and due to different customs and growth environments, they have individual differences in personality and habits. In vocational college social activities, students express their individuality, experience various positive emotions, and constantly redefine themselves, thereby developing self-awareness. In their college life, students' outlook on life and values gradually change. As the guiding figures for students, vocational college counselors should not only focus on their own guidance role but also pay attention to students' mental health. They should conduct regular ideological and political education to influence students' values and help them develop correct values^[5].

2.3 Promoting effective implementation of school management work

Education itself is complex, and the process of students' education involves the participation of schools, society, and families. Planned teaching in schools requires the support of every teacher. In the new situation, vocational college counselors have both teaching and management responsibilities. Having counselors responsible for student management tasks can facilitate effective communication between schools and students and promote educational management reforms. Through communication with students, counselors can understand their personalities and experiences, thereby providing personalized education and management to improve the quality of education in schools.

3. Problems in the Management of Vocational College in China

3.1 Insufficient teaching experience of counselors

Currently, there is no specialized training for vocational college counselors in China, resulting in a lack of teaching experience among many counselors upon their entry into the profession. Moreover, vocational college counselors are usually recent graduates without strong management and communication skills. Due to the large population in China and the increasing number of vocational college students, counselors often face dozens or even hundreds of students on average. Coupled with

the heavy workload of daily teaching tasks, counselors experience significant pressure. Consequently, counselors have limited time for professional training, and there is a lack of communication among counselors regarding teaching experiences and management methods. As a result, counselors may face challenges in improving student performance and finding effective problem-solving approaches, which can hinder their work efficiency^[6].

3.2 Inappropriate teaching management methods

Under the expansion of vocational colleges, an increasing number of people have access to vocational education, making it a necessary path for students' development. However, with the diversification of student groups, the management of vocational college students is facing new challenges. Specifically, on one hand, the arrangement of work hours for vocational college counselors is not reasonable, leaving limited time and energy for student management and communication. On the other hand, some vocational colleges lack a sufficient teaching faculty, and the comprehensive qualities of some counselors need improvement. They have limited experience in student management and have not fully mastered effective management methods, which significantly affects the outcomes of management efforts. Currently, the management methods employed by vocational college counselors often involve the establishment of external norms and regulations, which may influence students' moral and intellectual development.

3.3 Lack of enthusiasm among some counselors

Many vocational college counselors face high work pressure and need to handle various tasks. In such circumstances, counselors may struggle to maintain enthusiasm for student management work. Some counselors even have a vague understanding of their own future prospects and struggle to find their own positioning, resulting in insufficient emphasis on student management work. Under these influences, vocational college counselors lack enthusiasm and fail to prioritize student management work during implementation^[7].

3.4 Insufficient communication between counselors and students

Currently, vocational college counselors often rely on online communication platforms to release documents and conduct student management activities. Except for activities related to leaves, group building, and party affairs, counselors have limited direct contact with students, resulting in fewer opportunities for communication. Some students may question the effectiveness of counselor's management work due to the influence of online information, making it difficult for them to adopt a proper attitude. In response to such situations, some counselors may choose to handle things superficially or even directly discourage students from asking questions to avoid trouble. However, students are sensitive individuals, and the lack of attention and care over an extended period can negatively affect their physical and mental development as well as the implementation of student management work. While implementing management work based on document requirements can improve efficiency, vocational college students often have strong individual personalities, and they may resist overly strict management methods, which can hinder counselors' efforts in student management work^[8].

4. Strategies for Innovative Student Management Methods for Vocational College Counselors in the New Situation

4.1 Change outdated ideologies and management approaches

Firstly, it is necessary to change outdated teaching management concepts and shift the focus from only emphasizing excellent students to considering students with slightly lower or average academic performance. Since the number of such students is relatively high, if counselors do not develop corresponding management plans, these students may become lax due to lack of supervision, resulting in a gradual decline in their academic performance and negatively impacting the overall class performance^[9]. Secondly, it is important to provide timely encouragement and supervision to students while changing from overly strict teaching ideologies. In contemporary times, many students are not the only child in their families, and with social development, their self-esteem has become stronger. Therefore, overly strict teaching methods may not be effective in dealing with present-day students. Instead, counselors should adopt a scientific management model to help students develop their

personalities and foster a sense of competition. By teaching students self-management skills in an independent learning environment, counselors can move away from the traditional "rote learning" approach. Additionally, counselors should trust students and avoid excessive care and assistance, allowing them to develop self-learning and self-management skills. Parents should also be encouraged not to impose excessive pressure or excessive care on their children, enabling them to grow freely and healthily. Furthermore, counselors should adhere to the principle of starting from facts. They should enhance their personal cultivation and teaching management skills, approach their work with a positive mindset, patiently guide students, understand the pressure students face in their growth and learning, and listen to their perspectives and suggestions. Lastly, counselors should provide psychological counseling to students, treating each student equally and becoming their mentors and friends. Based on students' development, counselors can teach them correct values and life skills, establishing a solid foundation for their future entry into society.

4.2 Develop reasonable management strategies to promote students' self-management

Having rules and regulations is crucial, as they provide guidelines and prevent people from acting recklessly. To enhance the level of student management, vocational college counselors need to establish scientific management systems to guide students' self-management and drive reforms in student management. Under the guidance of reasonable management strategies, various tasks can be implemented gradually. With the support of effective regulations, counselors can enhance their professional competence and develop more management experience. The adoption of appropriate management strategies enables counselors to effectively address various student issues. For example, when dealing with student fights, counselors should prioritize students' physical health and safety. They should analyze the causes and process of the fight fairly, clarify responsibilities, and provide timely psychological counseling. When students face academic challenges, counselors should help them accept their own shortcomings, enabling students to understand their learning levels and the possible consequences. This will prompt self-reflection and, based on individual personalities and learning conditions, counselors can identify specific issues and guide students to improve their study habits and learning attitudes to ensure the achievement of academic goals. In the new situation, under the guidance of appropriate management strategies, vocational college counselors can foster student autonomy by providing a simplified management model, which promotes students' self-management, self-control, work skills, and practical abilities, nurturing a large number of skilled talents for the country.

4.3 Collaboration between counselors and subject teachers to establish a community for management and education

Firstly, counselors and subject teachers should complement each other professionally. Currently, counselors prioritize the cultivation of students' core values, collectivism, patriotic thoughts, and the dissemination of traditional Chinese culture in their student management work. However, some counselors may face challenges due to their limited experience. In such cases, counselors should complement their efforts with subject teachers. Subject teachers possess strong professional qualities and can serve as role models. During the teaching of specialized courses, teachers should integrate practical applications, enhance students' cultural confidence, stimulate their enthusiasm for learning, and strengthen their sense of mission and responsibility. Students can receive both management and education from teachers in this way. Secondly, it is important to create a cooperative platform for counselors and subject teachers. Since students primarily focus on their specialized courses, while counselors mainly manage students' extracurricular time, counselors and subject teachers often work independently. Therefore, a platform should be created to coordinate students' time both inside and outside the classroom, integrating teaching from subject teachers with management from counselors. Counselors should not only have reasonable plans for managing students outside of class but also develop programs that align with subject teachers' teaching requirements. Both parties should work together to ensure the successful implementation of student management work.

4.4 Strengthen communication with students to instill correct values and life perspectives

Effective communication is crucial in vocational college management. Only through effective communication can counselors avoid mistakes, fully understand students' thoughts and perspectives, help relieve students' pressure, and create a relaxed environment for their lives and studies. Furthermore, counselors need to understand the psychological challenges that students face during adolescence. When students exhibit rebellious or self-doubting behavior, counselors should actively guide them, encouraging them to express their true thoughts. Communication and interaction with students should be conducted in a friendly manner, allowing students to approach counselors without

fear and actively engage in dialogue. Furthermore, a good teacher-student relationship can promote teaching management and improve student performance. Communication can also be used as an opportunity to educate students and cultivate their comprehensive qualities. For student education, it is important to instill in students a sense of personal cultivation and moral values, guiding them toward a correct life path and enhancing their qualities and personal development. By maintaining a positive mindset from their own student days and cherishing fond memories, counselors can actively engage in teaching and life. They should also encourage students to enhance their learning abilities and develop self-learning and self-regulation skills. Only when students fully grasp how to engage in self-learning and self-regulation can they use these skills to solve problems and face future difficulties with a positive mindset. Additionally, counselors should encourage students to participate in academic activities they enjoy. By broadening their horizons and enhancing their creative abilities, students can achieve comprehensive development.

4.5 Respect students' individual needs and enrich their extracurricular lives

Vocational college counselors should fully understand the importance of innovative student management and not only make adjustments in terms of management forms and systems but also emphasize the influence of the humanistic environment on students' thoughts and beliefs. Therefore, counselors should pay attention to the organization of class and school activities, continually incorporating elements of moral and ideological education into the school's cultural development, and enriching students' extracurricular lives. Through practical activities, counselors can organize speech contests and artistic performances, enriching students' extracurricular lives, stimulating their participation, and fostering an optimistic and positive personality and character. This lays the foundation for students' physical and mental well-being. Additionally, vocational college counselors can collaborate with other schools to hold class meetings and special discussion sessions. This allows for equal communication with students, gaining a comprehensive understanding of their individual interests and personalities. Based on this understanding, counselors can establish student clubs that cater to their needs and development goals, enriching the school's cultural activities and providing opportunities for students to fully demonstrate their talents and personal value.

5. Conclusion

In the new situation, student management work faces new opportunities, providing vocational college counselors with new methods and tools, as well as creating new platforms for communication between teachers and students. However, it also presents new challenges, as the proliferation of internet information has made student management more difficult to some extent. In this context, vocational college counselors should proactively research new work methods, taking into account students' tendency to conform, their individual thinking patterns, and polarized emotions. Counselors should create platforms for communication between teachers and students, enrich students' extracurricular cultural lives, integrate management into daily work, and effectively guide students' thinking.

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