

# Exploration of Integrating Labor Education into the Education and Teaching System of Ideological and Political Theory Courses in Colleges and Universities in the New Era

Yingli Han\*

*School of Marxism, Zhaoqing University, Zhaoqing, China*

*hanyingli66@163.com*

*\*Corresponding author*

**Abstract:** *Labor education is an important part of the socialist education system with Chinese characteristics in the new era, and ideological and political education is the main channel to establish moral education and cultivate the new man of the times. As a course that teaches theoretical knowledge and integrates with practice, the ideological and political theory course, when integrated with labor education, can not only give full play to the natural and unique value advantages of labor education, but also enhance the practicality and relevance of ideological and political education. Grasping the essence of labor education and integrating it creatively into the education and teaching system of ideological and political theory courses is an important task to establish moral education and strengthen labor education in the new era.*

**Keywords:** *Labor Education; Integrating; Ideological and Political Theory Course; Education System*

## 1. Introduction

In 1958, the Instruction of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council on Education Work clearly defined "combining education with production and labor" as the Party's education policy. During this period, the external purpose of labor education was obvious, and labor education became a means of political indoctrination. Labor education had the role of transforming the old education of the feudal class and the bourgeoisie, and had a strong external purpose of political and ethical indoctrination, while one-sidedly ignoring the intellectual work of intellectuals. After the reform and opening up, with the shift of the state's work center to socialist economic construction, "combining education and productive labor" has been given a new connotation, and labor education should serve the economy and society by training employable workers that are urgently needed in the human capital market. The value of labor education is also worthy of reflection. At present, the status of labor education in China is still marginalized in higher education, and the "misunderstanding" of labor education still exists.

On the basis of inheriting the Marxist concept of labor and responding to the major concerns of the new era, Xi Jinping's Socialist Thought on Chinese Characteristics for the New Era has formed the concept of labor practice of "practical work", the concept of labor development of "national rejuvenation", the concept of labor values of "reverence for labor" and the concept of labor education of "love for labor". These have a rich connotation of the socialist theory of labor with Chinese characteristics in the new era. At the National Education Conference, General Secretary Xi Jinping clearly proposed "cultivating socialist builders and successors who develop morally, intellectually, physically and aesthetically", once again putting labor education side by side with the "five educations" of morality, intellect, physical fitness and aesthetics, highlighting the importance of labor education in the new era. Labor education has a unique and irreplaceable educational value. Labor education should return to its human value, return to Marx's ontological objective of "labor creates people", and let students experience the blossoming of life and liberation of spirit in the process of labor, which is the true nature of labor education. Grasping the essence of labor education and integrating it creatively into the education and teaching system of ideological and political theory courses is the fundamental task of establishing moral education and strengthening labor education in the new era.

## 2. The Possibility of Integrating Labor Education into the Education and Teaching System of Ideological and Political Theory Courses in the New Era

General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out at the National Education Conference that "to cultivate socialist builders and successors who develop morally, intellectually, physically and aesthetically" and "to promote the spirit of labor among students, educate and guide them to revere and respect labor, to know the truth that labor is the most glorious, the most noble, the greatest and the most beautiful, so that they can work hard, honestly and creatively when they grow up." This important statement has great contemporary value and distinctive realistic relevance, which puts forward new tasks and new topics for colleges and universities to strengthen labor education.

Firstly, the development of labor education in the new era is an objective requirement to adhere to and develop the Marxist materialistic view of history. Since the 18th Party Congress, Xi Jinping has profoundly elaborated in many important speeches around labor, workers, and the spirit of model labor. The report of the 19th Party Congress also makes a series of important assertions about labor and workers, which both inherit and develop the Marxist idea of labor and outline the practical path for the great cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics. It has built a theoretical system of labor ideology of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, which includes the labor practice concept of "practical work", the labor values of "reverence for labor" and the labor education concept of "love for labor", and has become an important part of Xi Jinping's socialist ideology with Chinese characteristics in the new era. Strengthening labor education in colleges and universities is a requirement of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, and is a way to clearly adhere to and develop Marxism and socialism with Chinese characteristics in the historical context of the new era. Emphasizing the value of labor and labor education is the core content and essential provision of Marxism's materialistic view of history. Engels once pointed out: "In fact, labor is the source of all wealth, together with nature, which provides the materials for labor and transforms them into wealth. But labor is much more than that. It is the first basic condition of human life as a whole, and to such an extent that it has to be said in a sense that labor creates man himself." The Marxist concept of labor repeatedly emphasizes that labor creates the world, labor creates history, and labor creates man himself. Labor is the essential characteristic of human beings and their way of existence, and it is an important way to achieve all-round development of human beings, and the combination of education and productive labor is the fundamental principle of socialist education. Marx once pointed out that "productive labor is combined with intellectual and physical education, and it is not only a way to improve social production, but it is the only way to develop a well-rounded person long ago."

Secondly, integrating labor education into the education and teaching system of ideological and political theory in the new era is an inevitable requirement for building an education system of comprehensive cultivation of morality, intellect, physique, beauty and labor and forming a high-level talent cultivation system. Labor education is an indispensable part of building a comprehensive education system, and labor can cultivate morality, increase intelligence, strengthen physical fitness and cultivate beauty. The cultivation of labor spirit is an important content of moral education in colleges and universities, the education of labor science and labor skills is an important content of intellectual education in colleges and universities, the exercise of labor ability is an important content of sports in colleges and universities, and the pursuit of beauty by workers is an important content of aesthetic education in colleges and universities. The juxtaposition of the five education is not only an effective strengthening of labor education itself, but also a powerful support for moral, intellectual, physical and aesthetic education, which is a distinctive feature of higher education with Chinese characteristics and an essential requirement for running a university rooted in Chinese land.

Thirdly, integrating labor education into the education and teaching system of ideological and political theory in the new era is the proper meaning of ideological and political education for college students in the new era. Labor education is the proper meaning of ideological and political education, which is conducive to strengthening the practicality of ideological and political education, enhancing the relevance of ideological and political education, widening the path of ideological and political education, and enhancing the attractiveness of ideological and political education. Ideological and political theory courses are the main channel of ideological and political education for college students, and the organic combination of the two can double strengthen the role of ideological and political education in labor education, as well as the kinetic energy of labor education in ideological and political education, and interpenetrate each other.

### **3. Labor Education in the New Era is an Important Link in the Establishment of Moral Education and the Cultivation of the New Man of the Age**

The accomplishment of the fundamental educational task of establishing moral education needs to be based on a full understanding of the nature and social nature of human class. Labor education can enhance students' labor knowledge and skill level, cultivate correct labor dynamics, morality, habits and values, and is an important part of fulfilling the mission of establishing moral education. On the one hand, labor is the essence of human beings, and labor education can restore the essence of human beings and achieve their all-round development; on the other hand, labor is the medium for establishing all social relations. Labor education can develop the ability to solve the problems of social relations and make people become "social beings" who meet the needs of society.

Cultivating a fully developed person should first clarify the specific connotation of comprehensive human development. Labor is the class essence of human beings, and the degree of development of human labor ability directly affects the development of their comprehensive quality. Cultivating positive labor spirit, establishing correct labor dynamics, labor morality and labor values, and enhancing comprehensive labor ability through labor education is the proper meaning of realizing comprehensive human development. In his *Philosophical Manuscripts on Economics of 1844*, Marx states the following about the class nature of man: "Man is a class being, not only because man treats classes, his own class as well as the class of other things, as his own objects, both practically and theoretically; but because, and this is just another way of saying the same thing, man treats himself as an existing, animate class, and because man treats himself as a universal and therefore free being." Labor as the most basic practical activity of man is also an object activity of man.

The training of the new generation should reflect the needs of the times and society, and should focus on the link of cultivating their sociality in the social field. The cultivation of students' sociality through labor education is mainly carried out in two dimensions: spiritual and practical. In the spiritual dimension, we should focus on cultivating students' labor concept, labor dynamics, labor ethics and labor values, so that students can establish the labor concept that "labor is the most glorious" and "hard work makes you rich", as well as the positive labor dynamics of obeying arrangements and completing labor tasks on time. Guide students with core socialist values, establish the value of labor for the motherland and serve the people, promote the spirit of model workers and craftsmen to help students develop high social and professional ethics. In the practical dimension, the focus should be on cultivating students' labor skills and labor habits, and through designing systematic labor education sessions to enhance students' labor skills in a comprehensive manner. The task of labor education for cultivating students' good labor habits requires the full cooperation of school, family and society to accomplish. In labor education, students' people consciousness and service consciousness will be cultivated, and their labor literacy will be enhanced, laying the foundation for enhancing their future happiness and sense of attainment as workers in society.

### **4. The Path of Integrating Labor Education into the Education and Teaching System of Ideological and Political Theory Courses in the New Era**

In order to implement the goal of educating people through labor in the new era, it is necessary to adhere to the leadership of the Party, focus on the historical task of cultivating new people of the era to take up the responsibility of national rejuvenation, make efforts to educate and guide students to form and establish a new era of Marxist view of labor, as well as to promote the overall development of students' moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetic and social development, vigorously cultivate students' emotional perceptions of revering and respecting labor, and let them clarify the simple truth that labor creates greatness and serve the people, serve the country and contribute to society in labor practice.

Firstly, to provide teaching on the topic of Marxist labor theory and cultivate students to form a correct Marxist view of labor. Additional teaching on the topic of labor theory returns to the classical interpretation of Marxist labor theory and corrects the origin. On the basis of inheriting Hegel's concept of labor, Marx proposed that labor is the most basic and universal expression of human practical activities, and the basis and guarantee of human existence and development. Marx also discovered "alienation" and "surplus value" from the perspective of political economy. Marx's theory of labor is the foundation of Marxist philosophy. It is necessary to add the topic of "classical interpretation of Marx's philosophy of labor" in the course of "Introduction to Basic Principles of Marxism" and "Xi Jinping's Important Discourse on Labor" in the course of "Introduction to Mao Zedong Thought and the Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics". Marxism believes that labor creates

man himself and is an important means of promoting his all-round development and free emancipation. Labor creates value, and education must be integrated with productive labor, which is the only way to realize the ideal of a future communist society, to create a fully developed human being, and to make the leap from the kingdom of necessity to the kingdom of freedom. General Secretary Xi Jinping stressed at the National Education Conference that students should be educated and guided to understand the truth that labor is the most glorious, the most noble, the greatest, and the most beautiful. This is a very important guiding significance for cultivating students to form correct labor values, a new development of the Marxist concept of labor, and opens up a new realm of Marxist labor education thought.

Secondly, to build the implementation system of "1+3" integration of labor education and practical teaching of ideological and political theory courses. "1" refers to the opening of an elective course of ideological and political education for college students related to labor theory, such as "Introduction to Labor Science" and "Marx's Philosophy of Labor". "3" refers to three effective paths of integrating labor education into the practical teaching system of ideological and political theory courses, including: combining labor education with career education and employment guidance education; combining labor education with campus culture construction; and combining labor education with social practice and voluntary service.

Thirdly, to carry out ideological and political education teaching reform, and to run labor education through the whole process and field of ideological and political education. Ideological and political education work is an important part of the nurturing work in colleges and universities, and it is necessary to carry out diversified reforms of ideological and political education teaching methods under the background of creating important labor education for nurturing people. Firstly, in the classroom of ideological and political theory course, which is the main position of ideological and political education, Marxist concept of labor should be infiltrated for theoretical interpretation and case teaching. Secondly, we make full use of various practical teaching resources and give full play to the synergy between labor education and ideological and political education on the basis of the "1+3" model. Third, use new media technology with educational platform to occupy the main position of micro space. Explore the whole-process, whole-field education mechanism that combines the first classroom with the second classroom (on-campus activities), the third classroom (off-campus practice) and the fourth classroom (online platform). Open a public account of WeChat to recommend to students good books, articles and related video reports that promote the spirit of labor and craftsmanship, etc.

## 5. Conclusions

In conclusion, labor education, as an important element of the socialist education system with Chinese characteristics, can promote students' improvement in the spirit of labor, labor value orientation and labor skill level. Labor education should not be diluted, weakened or softened, because it is a major issue of training qualified successors for the socialist cause. Therefore, we should vigorously promote the integration of labor education and ideological and political education, actively explore the path of labor education, implement the fundamental task of "establishing moral education", buckle the first "button" for students' lives, and make the ideological and political course into a discipline teaching and practice course with real height, temperament, temperature and toughness.

## Acknowledgements

This work is supported by 2020 annual higher education teaching research and reform project in Guangdong province (Guangdong higher education correspondence: 2020-20): Exploration of integrating labor education into ideological and political theory education system in colleges and universities in the new era; Higher education teaching reform project of Zhaoqing University: Exploration of integrating labor education into the education and teaching system of ideological and political theory courses in colleges and universities in the new era

## References

- [1] *Selected works of Marx and Engels[M]. Volume 1, Beijing: People's Publishing House, 2012.*
- [2] *Selected works of Marx and Engels[M]. Volume 4, Beijing: People's Publishing House, 2012.*
- [3] *Mao Zedong on Education [M]. Beijing: People's Education Press, 2008.*

- [4] D. C. He. *Important Educational Documents of the People's Republic of China (1949-1975)* [M]. Haikou: Hainan Publishing House, 1998.
- [5] Suhomlinski, Xiao Yong, translated by et al. *On labor education* [M]. Changsha: Hunan Education Press, 1987.
- [6] Y. X. Cheng. *On the essence of the combination of education and productive labor* [J]. *Social Sciences in China*, 1982(01): 163-176.
- [7] J. J. Hu, C. B. Tan. *Marxist Labor Values and Labor Education: An Analysis of classical literature*[J]. *Educational Research*, 2018, 39(05): 9-15+26.
- [8] K. Li, X. Qu. *The historical evolution and reflection of labor education in the Party's educational policy since 1949* [J]. *Journal of Educational Studies*, 2018, 14(05): 63-72.
- [9] Print journalist. *Some opinions on deepening the reform and innovation of school ideological and political theory courses in the new era* [J]. *Shanxi Education*, 2019(09): 5-9.
- [10] J. Tan. *Study on labor education in social practice of Ideological and political discipline* [J]. *Education Approach*, 2019(04): 62-66+71.