

# Important Value and Basic Strategy of Labor Education in Higher Vocational Colleges in the Context of "Double High-level Plan"

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**Abstract:** *In the context of the "Double High-level Plan" attaching importance to labor education in higher vocational colleges, higher vocational colleges should deeply understand and grasp the important value of labor education: improving the quality of higher vocational students to realize the dream of powerful nation through vocational education; forming a high-level talent cultivation system and providing service and guarantee for implementation of the "Double High-level Plan" project; innovating the education system and embodying the distinctive characteristics of vocational education. This paper puts forward the basic strategy of labor education in higher vocational colleges from the aspects of strengthening labor cognition education under the guidance of craftsmanship spirit; cultivating positive labor emotion with social support as assurance; and strengthening labor behavior education supported by professional skills.*

**Keywords:** *Double High-level Plan, Higher Vocational Colleges, Labor Education, Labor Cognition, Labor Emotion, Labor Behavior*

Labor education is not only the realistic practice of Marxist labor view, but also an important part of the socialist education system with Chinese characteristics. It determines the labor value orientation, labor spirit and labor skill level of socialist builders and successors. On March 26, 2020, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council issued the Opinions on Comprehensively Strengthening Labor Education in Universities, Primary and Secondary Schools in the New Era (hereinafter referred to as the opinions), requiring "the whole Party and society shall attach great importance to labor education and take effective measures to practically strengthen labor education." It shows that the state attaches great importance to labor education, and it is an inevitable trend to promote the scientific, standardized and accurate construction of labor education. The goal of higher vocational education is to cultivate high-quality technical personnel and skilled talents, skilled craftsmen and great national craftsmen. Based on its college-running orientation and characteristics, labor education is integral for higher vocational colleges to correct students' labor concept, cultivate students' labor emotion, and stimulate students' innovative labor. At the same time, higher vocational colleges have an exceptional realistic foundation and broad space for the implementation of labor education. They should further sort the important value of labor education and explore the new perspectives of labor education on the basis of fine tradition.

## 1. Important value of labor education in higher vocational colleges in the context of "Double High-level Plan"

Labor is of great significance to mankind and society. The goal of higher vocational colleges in the new era is to cultivate high-quality technical personnel and skilled talents, which is employment-oriented education and emphasizes "practical skills" and "practical ability". Labor education is integral for the goal of higher vocational colleges.

### 1.1. Improve the quality of higher vocational students and realize the dream of powerful nation through vocational education

After long-term exploration and practice in China's vocational education, especially with the rapid development of China's economy in recent years, vocational education has embraced booming development and cultivated a large number of technical personnel and skilled talents, providing support of high-quality talents for China's economic and social development. However, on the whole, China's vocational education is unable to meet the needs of society for high-quality and diversified talents, and

the quality of talents needs to be further improved. In March 2019, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance issued the Opinions on the Implementation of the High-level Higher Vocational Colleges and Majors Construction Plan with Chinese Characteristics", which proposes to "strengthen labor education to cultivate morality, improve intelligence, build body and promote esthetic education through labor." "It is necessary to strive to cultivate a number of high-quality technical personnel and skilled talents urgently needed by industries." This shows that improving the quality of higher vocational students is one of the key points of the "Double High-level Plan" project. On the one hand, labor is the approach and guarantee to improve the quality of higher vocational students and the content of their all-round development. Higher vocational students' labor consciousness, labor attitude, labor emotion and labor ability can be cultivated through labor; in the process of labor, the essence of higher vocational students can be recognized, their needs can be met, and development can be realized, so as to have labor happiness and sense of gain, to promote the all-round development of "morality, intelligence, physique, aesthetics and labor" and improve comprehensive quality. On the other hand, cultivating high-quality laborers is the guarantee to realize the dream of powerful nation through vocational education. According to the Statistical Bulletin of China's National Educational Development in 2016, there were 10.8289 million full-time students in higher vocational colleges in China as of 2016, with an increase of 342,800 over the previous year, forming the world's largest secondary vocational education and full-time higher vocational education at junior college level. Higher vocational education helps China realize the transformation of demographic dividend from "quantity type" to "quality type" by improving the physical quality, technical quality, and cultural and spiritual quality of higher vocational students, and cultivating high-quality laborers, so as to secure great success for socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, and realize the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation.

### ***1.2. Form a high-level talent cultivation system and provide service and guarantee for implementation of the "Double High-level Plan" project***

With the continuous promulgation of documents including the Implementation Plan on National Vocational Education Reform, and Vocational Education Quality Improvement Action Plan (2020-2023), the top-level design and strategic deployment of China's higher vocational education in the new stage of quality development have initially taken shape. "Double High-level Plan" is an important pillar of "integrated planning" of vocational education. It is another milestone strategic measure in the development history of higher vocational education in China, and it is of epoch-making significance to realize the modernization of vocational education. The ultimate goal of the "Double High-level Plan" is to form a high-level talent cultivation system to provide high-quality technical personnel and skilled talents for Chinese industries to move towards the mid-to-high end global industries. The formation of high-level talent cultivation system is inseparable from labor education. Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chinese President, pointed out at the National Education Conference that it is necessary to strive to build an education system for the comprehensive cultivation of morality, intelligence, physique, aesthetics and labor, and form a higher-level talent cultivation system. It is necessary for students to participate in service labor, production labor through practice and training inside and outside colleges to strengthen the practical ability and operation ability of higher vocational students, run labor education through the discipline system, teaching system, teaching material system and management system, and build an education system for the comprehensive cultivation of morality, intelligence, physique, aesthetics and labor, so as to form a high-level talent cultivation system to foster more skilled craftsmen and great national craftsmen for the new era. Therefore, labor education and the "Double High-level Plan" are both the strategic deployment contents of the Implementation Plan on National Vocational Education Reform. They have the same era background and main purpose. They are related, integrated and consistent in objectives. Labor education helps it ensure providing service and guarantee for implementation of the "Double High-level Plan" project.

### ***1.3. Innovate education system, and reflect distinctive characteristics of vocational education***

The Opinions on Comprehensively Strengthening Labor Education in Universities, Primary and Secondary Schools in the New Era explicitly points out that labor education is an important content of the socialist education system with Chinese characteristics, which directly determines the labor spirit, labor value orientation and labor skill level of socialist builders and successors. From the perspective of educational system innovation, this judgement determines the important position of labor education in the educational system and the special position of labor education in all-round development education, which is of great significance. It has been 41 years since China began to establish vocational universities

in 1980. Higher vocational education has played an important role in improving national quality, adjusting new industrial structure and promoting employment. It shoulders the important missions of the supply-side structural reform of human resources in the new era and fostering a large number of great national craftsmen and skilled craftsmen. At present, higher vocational education is experiencing unprecedented changes, gradually striding over the stage of scale expansion to enter a new stage of seeking high-quality development [1]. Higher vocational education is the type of education that is most closely related to industrial development. Its high-quality development must strengthen the labor education of higher vocational students. The "Double High-level Plan" opinions clearly point out that labor education should be strengthened, and it is necessary to cultivate morality, improve intelligence, and build body and esthetic education through labor. As a carrier and approach of talent cultivation, labor education in higher vocational colleges has distinct characteristics, and it has the same important role as moral education, intelligence education, physical education, and aesthetic education [2]. It is necessary to strengthen labor education, improve the cultivation of vocational ethics, craftsmanship spirit, and professionalism of higher vocational students, and guide higher vocational students to become contemporary professionals with the enthusiasm and dedication in work, sprits of excelsior, hard-working, solidarity and team spirit. This is the general trend, the need of the times, and the basis for development.

## **2. Basic strategy of labor education in higher vocational colleges in the context of "Double High-level Plan"**

"Double High-level Plan" is a major decision of national education, which is related to building the higher vocational education type with characteristics, the discourse system and standard system of higher vocational education, and the development path of vocational education with Chinese characteristics. Therefore, it is necessary to correctly understand and grasp the overall goal of the "Double High-level Plan", fully understand the important guarantee role of strengthening labor education in promoting the implementation of the "Double High-level Plan", implement targeted labor education, and spare no effort to cultivate socialist builders and successors in the new era, which are the only way. Focusing on the training objectives of higher vocational labor education, it shall mobilize higher vocational students' resources of families and society from three aspects of cognition, emotion and behavior to participate in an all-round way to improve the labor quality of higher vocational students.

### ***2.1. Guided by craftsman spirit, strengthen labor cognition education***

Cognition refers to people's views of something or a certain object. The motivation behind a person's behavior is restricted by cognition. At present, higher vocational students generally have weak labor awareness and incorrect labor cognition under the influence of incorrect labor cognition from families and society [3]. Spiritual guidance is required to establish a correct labor concept. The craftsman spirit is an excellent spirit based on a certain professional ethics and ability, which conforms to the mainstream social values and meets people's expectations of spiritual strength. At the same time, higher vocational colleges undertake the role and mission of cultivating craftsman skills and craftsman spirit, and should re-enact the leading role of craftsman spirit and strengthen the labor cognition education of higher vocational students.

#### ***2.1.1. Create an environmental education atmosphere***

The manifestation of the craftsman spirit needs the material environment and role models as carriers. On the one hand, in terms of the physical environment, it is necessary to create a strong craftsman spirit education environment in the campus environment where vocational students have the most activities. In practical training rooms, teaching buildings and other venues, bulletin boards and LED screens are used to vigorously create an atmosphere of learning from skilled craftsmen in the form of cultural symbols. On the other hand, in terms of role models, it is necessary to fully excavate role models of skilled craftsmen from teachers, students, and college-enterprise cooperation partners, invite them to share and exchange. Meanwhile, it is necessary to use college's official website, official account and other network media to show their typical deeds of craftsmanship spirit, so that students can learn from the deeds of craftsmen around them [4].

#### ***2.1.2. Establish a base for famous teachers and craftsmen***

The establishment of a famous teacher and craftsman base is conducive to better expanding the labor education platform of higher vocational colleges, allowing students to receive labor education in the process of learning from famous teachers and craftsmen, and correcting labor concepts, improving labor

cognition and the effectiveness of labor education. First, colleges could set up a master studio. Higher vocational colleges could recruit talented craftsmen who have influence in the industry and enterprises to join teacher group, so that they can teach and apprentice students in colleges, and give full play to the role of "instructing, helping and leading". This could make students better understand the connotation of craftsman spirit while they imparting skills to students, so that students can inherit and carry forward the craftsman spirit. Second, colleges could set up a model worker studio. Based on the needs of jointly cultivating talents by vocational colleges and enterprises, they could set up a joint labor model studio and invite industry professionals and outstanding college fellows to participate in together. This model realizes student-oriented and action-oriented study, and allows students to strengthen the implantation of craftsmanship spirit and labor consciousness in the process of learning, thereby cultivating labor awareness.

### ***2.2. Take social support as a guarantee to cultivate positive labor emotion***

Emotion is people's attitude and experience of whether objective things meet their own needs. The purpose of labor education in the new era is to guide higher vocational students to love labor, enhance their sense of satisfaction, happiness, and gain in labor, and be able to work hard, honestly and creatively after getting jobs. Labor education has the characteristics of openness, and requires the cooperation inside and outside the college, and family and society jointly play their roles in it. In this way, labor education can get twice the result with half the effort [5]. The "Opinions" clearly points out that society needs to support labor education. This puts forward requirements for families and society in the implementation and promotion of labor education.

Affected by the ideas that the one who studies to become a scholar stays on the highest rung of the social ladder and the society puts more emphasis on mental labor rather than manual labor, many parents have incorrect labor concepts, and even some parents oppose their children to go to vocational colleges. Parents are the first teachers in the growth process of their children. To this end, it is absolutely imperative to help parents establish a correct concept of labor, give play to the basic role of the family in labor education, and cultivate the habit of labor consciousness and initiative.

Thoughts such as "once for all" and "reap without sowing" can be found everywhere in today's society. It is necessary to make the society support labor education, promote the spirit of labor through TV, the Internet, etc., encourage and commend advanced labor workers, advocate that there is neither lowliness nor nobleness in labor and career, and create a new fashion which leads the whole society love labor.

### ***2.3. Support by professional skills and strengthen labor behavior education***

Behavior refers to the outward activities that are dominated by thoughts. Higher vocational education is a professional education that is directly oriented to the career and directly connects to the job position. The professional skills of higher vocational students are the foundation of their career, and the ultimate goal of professional learning is also to meet the essential needs of labor production. For this reason, higher vocational labor behavior education and professional education are consistent and coupled. The only way is to have the majors as the base, improve skills, strengthen labor behavior education, and reflect the characteristics of labor education in vocational colleges.

#### ***2.3.1. Define the goal of talent training***

The goal of talent training in higher vocational colleges is to cultivate high-quality technical personnel and skilled talents, skilled craftsmen and great national craftsmen, aiming at the frontiers of economic and social development for "advanced, sophisticated, and cutting-edge" talents and reflecting labor education in the talent training in higher vocational colleges. Therefore, it is necessary to scientifically and rationally increase the elements of labor education in the education and teaching management process, and in the training and education processes of pre-employment and post-employment, so as to make students adapt to the new requirements of the new era for technical talents.

#### ***2.3.2. Improve the teaching management system***

The integration of labor education into the teaching management system is an inevitable requirement for improving the professional skills of higher vocational students<sup>[6]</sup>. First, it is necessary to penetrate elements of labor education in the curriculum. All higher vocational colleges need to set up labor education courses. At the same time, the professional courses are guided by the goal of talent training, the courses should be closely linked to the actual production and life, and they should demonstrate the characteristics of professional skills. Internships should focus on cultivation of students' professional

identity, professional quality and professional ability, that is to cultivate new-era workers with higher vocational characteristics through labor education courses, professional courses, internships, cooperative effort which have particular emphasis.

### ***2.3.3. Strengthen joint construction and education by colleges and enterprises***

College-enterprise cooperation is an important work point for labor education in higher vocational colleges. In the in-depth cooperation, they need to make higher vocational students realize the correct labor attitude and labor behavior under the new business forms, and put professional factors into the labor, to ultimately help them improve professional ability, achieve high-quality employment, and become the backbone of industries and enterprises. First, college-enterprise internship cooperation could be adopted. During the process of course study, colleges make students visit and participate in labor in enterprises, so that students can improve their labor skills and experience corporate culture in a dual workplace for practice. Second, colleges and enterprises could jointly develop courses. Colleges invite enterprise personnel to participate in the revision of the talent training plan and the development of the curriculum. At the same time, the spirit and the production practice process of enterprise can be incorporated into college-based textbooks. Third, an off-campus labor practice base could be established. According to the characteristics of major, an off-campus labor education base could be established to allow students to go out of the classroom, enter the enterprise, and experience the importance of craftsmanship spirit and the greatness of labor in real labor production.

### **3. Conclusion**

Labor education plays an important role in the process of cultivating high-quality technical and skilled talents. In the context of the "Double High-level Plan", the integration of labor education throughout the entire training process of vocational students is an important aspect of talent training and promoting the all-round development of vocational students. It is necessary to strengthen the labor education of higher vocational students, so as to enhance the recognition of higher vocational students on labor and workers, love labor, and then work actively, thus contributing to the new journey of socialist modernization in an all-round way.

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