

Unity of Knowledge and Action: an Exploration into the Teaching Method of Socialist Core Values

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Abstract: “unity of knowledge and practice” is cultivating and practicing the basic requirement of the socialist core values, so the realization of the “unity” during the teaching practice is imperative to promote the reform and innovation of socialist core values teaching. A social practice program under which thousands of college volunteer students go to the countryside to spread scientific, literacy and health knowledge to farmers during the summer vacation every year is a significant approach and platform for the realization of “unity of knowledge and practice” of socialist core values.

1. Introduction

Socialist core values is the important content of college ideological and political course. It is the basic principle to foster a new era of socialist builders and always appear throughout the ideological and political theory class. So the exploration of socialist core values in the reform of teaching methods, paying attention to the combination of theory and practice, guiding the student to do “unity”, are necessary to promote the teaching reform and innovation of socialist core values.

2. “Unity of Knowledge and Practice” is the Basic Requirement for Cultivating and Practicing Socialist Core Values

“Unity of knowledge and practice” refers to the unity of internal cognition and external action. The so-called “knowledge” is the learning and comprehensive cognition of the nature of objective things; The so-called “practice” is to put the theory into practice after a complete and accurate grasping of the “knowledge”, test and sublimate the “knowledge” during the practice as well. Therefore, “unity of knowledge and practice” requires “internalization in the mind” and “externalization in the practice”, which is consistent with the requirement of cultivating and practicing the socialist core values.

Socialist core values make a claim on the goals and requirements of China's socialist modernization, a good life and basic civic ethics from the country, society and individual citizens. It not only embodies the value guidance of the thought of socialism with Chinese characteristics, but also includes the creative transformation and innovative development of traditional Chinese virtues. It also puts forward specific practical requirements for Chinese citizens in the new era. During the research in Jiangsu on December 2014, General Secretary Xi has pointed out: “All the work must be done through the support of strong value driving force, cultural cohesion and spirit impetus. It is imperative to have to a backbone to strengthen the construction of culture and the socialist core values should be carried out extensive publicity and education, extensive exploration practice, to make it a powerful spiritual motivation that guides people forward.” That requires us closely combined theoretical requirements with the practice during the cultivation and practice of socialist core values and make it become the inner spiritual pursuit and the conscious action of people outside, thus to realize the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and create a favorable and harmonious social environment.

In the college ideological and political courses, there are separate chapters on the socialist core values in the two modules “ideological and moral cultivation and basic law education” and “An

introduction to MAO zedong thought and the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics”. Besides, the core values are also imperceptibly taught in other ideological and political classes. Theoretically speaking, the core socialist values have been deeply rooted in the hearts of the people. In real life, slogans and videos about socialist core values can be seen everywhere. For young students, they already have a basic understanding of the content of socialist core values which means they have achieved “knowledge”, but that’s not enough, the implementation of “theory “ in practical level is far more important. In the ideological and political theory teaching positions, “the youth should consciously practice the socialist core values.” in response to the call from General secretary Xi.[1] “Book of rites. Golden Mean” says: “to be learned, to judge, to think carefully, to distinguish clearly, and to act earnestly.” [2]That is to say, in the process from theoretical learning to practical practice, a solid and extensive knowledge base, thought-provoking questions, profound thinking and insightful analysis are required, so as to apply the theory into practice and achieve sublimation. This is also the requirements for the young generation to cultivate and practice the socialist core values in the new era.

However, some myths exist in the cultivation and practicing of socialist core values today. Firstly, some students are too lazy in their pursuit of knowledge. According to IMedia Research's annual report, “the market size of China's mobile game market reached 166.03 billion yuan in 2019, and it is estimated that the number will exceed 180 billion yuan in 2020. In terms of age distribution, the majority of the game users were born after the 1990s and 1950s, and gamers under the age of 30 account for about 50%.”[3] Indulge in the network game can make the students learning performance decline. The youth only want to seek solace in the game and palsy themselves and then cause learning weariness. However, “knowledge is an important basis for building core values “. The knowledge of the fine traditional Chinese culture provides a deep cultural source for it the knowledge of the revolutionary culture provides a rich and effective carrier for it, and the advanced socialist culture provides a strong cultural confidence for it. Secondly, when some young students encounter setbacks or doubts, their critical thinking ability needs to be improved. Internet speed up the dissemination the ideas, even though the youth are concerned about the country, society and people, sometimes they are patriotic and confused, sometimes they are hesitated, disappointed and easily be incited to behave against the socialist core values. Critical thinking means one can make the right choice which namely “set up the correct world outlook, the outlook on life and values. This is a master key to understand different social phenomenon and life journey which can make everything true or false, good and evil, beauty and ugliness crystal clear. “[4]Critical thinking ability is an important ability to establish and practice socialist core values.

3. The Necessity of Realizing “the Unity of Knowledge and Practice” in the Practice Teaching of Socialist Core Values.

First of all, the “unity of knowledge and practice” is the requirement of cultivating and practicing the socialist core values and goals which corresponds to one of the eight unities that was put forward by General Secretary Xi. “Knowledge” is to concentrate on theoretical learning which requires teachers “to analysis theoretically with Marxist theory, to persuade students with thorough ideological theory, and to guide students with the powerful force of truth.”[5] “Practice” is the process of paying attention to test theory in practice and then understanding it deeply. Students can only “internalize in the heart” after in-depth understanding and achieving true knowledge, and then imperceptibly transfer into action, so as to achieve the effect of “externalization and action”. This “cognition - practice - recognition - practice” infinite spiral virtuous circle is the only way to promote the cultivation and practice of socialist core values.

Secondly, in the teaching process of cultivating and practicing socialist core values, “the unity of knowledge and practice” should be taken as the basic practice, which is in line with the learning rules of college students. Socialist core values are the category of value orientation which refine the general situation of the value orientation of leading the socialist society with Chinese characteristics. However, in the college classes, teachers mainly teach the basic meaning and content of the socialist core values, the relationship with the socialist core value system and the importance and approach

of cultivating and practicing the socialist core values. A relatively single way of imparting knowledge cannot meet the requirements of cultivating socialist core values in the whole society, for which general secretary xi requires that “values should be guided in knowledge imparting”. This requires teachers to pay attention to the complementary and integration of value guidance and knowledge transmission in the process of teaching and cannot ignore the key role of practical teaching in value guidance. Because “value guidance is aimed at the cultivation of human nature, the shaping of personality and the development of human value.” On the basis of the completion of the basic knowledge, teachers teach by words and deeds, once students have “empathy, resonance”, the teachers then seize the key moment and points, timely guidance, students will naturally reach a “consensus” which will unconsciously put the theory into action. The cognition of socialist core values has been tested repeatedly in the practice process and constantly be improved.

Thirdly, the “unity of knowledge and practice” can solve the current dilemma that the cultivation method is too simple and the content is lack of time-effectiveness in teaching socialist core values process. The Internet information age is an era of information explosion. With the development of Internet technology and the popularity of smart phones, people can get massive information anytime and anywhere. At the same time, “micro information”, represented by WeChat and Weibo, was born. The so-called “micro information” is that they have won wide attention from the public with their short but eye-catching words, and the transmission speed is amazing. But these information is difficult to distinguish, some opinion leaders even mislead the audience through exaggerating information or interpreting out of context with unknown purpose. College students are full of energy, enthusiasm and hatred of evil, but they are also impulsive and sensitive, easy to be deceived and used. In the journey of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, although great achievements have been made, there are still some unsatisfactory, inadequate, unbalanced places which cannot be ignored. Students may be confused about some hot issues that cannot be solved temporarily. Cultivating and practicing socialist core values can help students solve the problems they are most concerned and confused about. But the socialist core values remain the main teaching activities in class, although the vast majority of teachers achieve general secretary Xi’s requirements “spoon-feeding and inspiring should be unified”, but this is only “knowing”, from “knowing” to “doing” is what cannot be taught in class. The practice teaching with the goal of “unity of knowledge and action” can make up for this deficiency.

4. Realize the “Unity of Knowledge and Practice” of Socialist Core Values in the Activities of “Scientific, Literacy and Health Knowledge to the Countryside”

To cultivate and practice socialist core values, we must work attentively to achieve the unity of knowledge and action. General Secretary Xi said, “We should cultivate people with scientific theories and combine small ideological and political classes with large social classes to educate and guide students to make great achievements and become strivers.” Classroom teaching is mainly focus on theory, in order to achieve the unification, teachers must be step out of the classroom and into the big society. And for students, the social practice activities of scientific, literacy and health knowledge to the countryside (hereinafter referred to as “three knowledge to the countryside”) is an important form of “the unification of theory and practice”. By organizing students to participate in the activities, it is conducive to cultivate students' patriotic feelings, being brave enough to undertake the great mission of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and enhancing their sense of social responsibility; It is conducive to temper the will, cultivate the spirit of bearing hardships and enhance the sense of teamwork; It is also conducive to the revitalization of rural areas and help poor rural areas to change their thinking ways and stimulate rural vitality. In a word, it is an platform of practical education for educating ideological and political theory.

Fuzhou University of International Studies and Trade strives to promote the participation of ideological and political theory teachers in guiding students to join the summer volunteer activities. Firstly, support and encourage the full-time teachers of Marxist college to be the guidance teachers of the students' team which considered the subject of the activity are more closely relate to their major, so the university allocate enough workload and funds for the guide team which greatly

inspired the teachers of Marxism. Secondly, give full play to the professional expertise of the teachers of the school of Marxism. All the teachers are Party members of the Communist Party of China, who have firm Marxist beliefs and rich teaching and scientific research experience. They have high theoretical literacy which can guarantee the correct political direction and theoretical depth of the practice activities. They can systematically put the theory of Marxist and make the students test the “knowledge” through practice to experience new achievements in the new era, to solve issues and increase knowledge in the vivid practice, and to make contributions for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. This is the most vivid and profound expression of “unity of knowledge and action”. Thirdly, the theme of summer activity is different every year. Special activities are carried out to solve the hot spots that students are most concerned about. Therefore, under the principle of unity, diversity should be encouraged according to the time, place and people. In terms of content, for example, Fujian is one of the provinces with the best ecological environment, but there are still many ecological problems remained, such as water resources, garbage disposal and mineral resources which needs to guide the students to investigate; Red revolutionary cultural resources is extremely rich in Fujian province, the old revolutionary base areas are often located in remote areas and local economic development is restricted. Encouraging students to go there, on the one hand, could sublimate students’ cognition to the revolutionary years and strengthen the sheer struggle of patriotism, on the other hand, bring scientific culture for poor old revolutionary base areas; Fujian province also has very rich historical and cultural resources, such as Mazu culture belief which has millions of followers all over the world. Teachers inspire students to think about how Mazu culture promote the interconnectivity of different ethnic groups in the world. Moreover, the Mazu culture has a profound influence in Taiwan. Students can think how to enhance mutual trust between the two sides under the common belief and custom and make contributions to the great national reunification. In terms of form, teachers play the leading role and students should be inspired to complete the volunteer activities in forms of investigation and research, visiting and publicity, and shooting videos in combination with their own majors. In terms of results, encourage them to pay attention to the effectiveness of practical activities, the result of research could be short videos, micro films and other popular forms instead of reports or written papers.

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