

Deepening the Reform of the Youth Marxist Training Project in Higher Education Institutions under the Logic of General Ideological and Political Concept

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Abstract: It's been 10 years since the implementation of Youth Marxist Training Project. In response to the current general ideological and political concept and in order to meet the development requirements of the new era, it is a must to deepen Youth Marxist Training Project reform, achieve the project core objectives, cultivate real Marxists, correct those wrong and superficial training procedures, find the correct training path, build a selection system featuring different levels and stages, and combine fundamentality and comprehensiveness, so as to realize the core goal of youth Marxists cultivation.

1. Introduction

The recently issued and implemented documents show that people once again start to reflect on the main functions and responsibilities of Youth Marxist Training Project. Ten years later since the implementation of Youth Marxist Training Project, we have to recognize the important role it has played in youth Marxists cultivation in higher education institutions. This project has helped cultivate a large number of reserve talents with high quality and firm faith in the party and the Country. To avoid prioritizing training content that is not related to Youth Marxist Training Project, generalization of training and putting the incidental before the fundamental, it is necessary to highlight the core problems in youth Marxists cultivation, so as to allow Youth Marxist Training Project to play a better role and cultivate more outstanding youth Marxists. In my opinion, ideological guidance and faith education should be taken as the core content and main function of the Project training class to cultivate youth Marxists.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the leaders of the Party Central Committee has attached great importance to the work related to youth and the Communist Youth League, and has given instructions to Youth Marxist Training Project for multiple times. It is necessary to have a better understanding of students characteristics and carry out work on the basis of it, make clear the core task of ideological and political guidance, insist on moral development and talent cultivation, be committed to serving students' growth, be more political, advanced and mass-oriented. As required by the Party and the country, the objective of youth cultivation is to help them grow into qualified and reliable national successors and constructors. It is pointed out in the report of the 19th National Congress of CPC that the prosperity of the nation and the country lies in the youth. And care and guidance of the party and the country are exactly the foundation for youth growth and success, as well as one of the most important conditions for leading outstanding youth to become youth Marxists. Under the background of strengthening the ideological and political work in higher education institutions, deepening the reform of the Communist Youth League and adhering to the strict management of the League and the Party, it is necessary to explore the ways to give full play to the Youth Marxist Training Project training class in the core task of young Marxists cultivation.

2. Present Development and Practice of Youth Marxist Training Project in Higher Education Institutions

Youth Marxist Training Project (hereinafter referred to as the Project), launched by the Communist Youth League in May 2007, is aimed to apply Marxism with Chinese characteristics to

youth Marxists and cultivate reliable successors and qualified constructors of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Thanks to decade of practice and development of the Project, a large number of patriotic youth Marxists with firm faith in the Party have been cultivated in various places. And thanks to the implementation of the Project, the Party and the country own a group of strong supporters and have a better development prospect. However, with the deepening of the practice of the Project, there are some problems showing up. The implementation and development of the Project are quite uneven in different higher education institutions.

By reviewing related literature and documents, questionnaire survey and face-to-face interview in recent years, we can have a general understanding about the current situation of the Project and find many problems.

On one hand, based on real situation, higher education institutions make use of local Party-related resources and excellent traditional culture to explore new cultivation mode, develop and make use of learning-oriented Red Groups (the group guided by Marxism and loyal to the Party) to expand development and education platform for the Project. Some beneficial exploration in multiple aspects has been made.

On the other hand, there are still numerous problems existing in the Project in higher education institutions. Firstly, due to the large population of students, there are great difficulty and arbitrariness in selection. Recommendation selection system is used in most schools. But there's lack of specific regulations and corresponding policies for such kind of selection system. No complete feasible evaluation plan has been made until now. Secondly, there are problems of over simple education and teaching mode and lack of substance in teaching content. Students acceptance degree is often neglected. It is hard for educators to get accurate feedback and it is difficult for the Party and Youth League to evaluate the effectiveness of work carried out in schools. While practice is the emphasis of training in higher education institutions, there is a lack of theoretical guidance which is even neglected in some schools. So it is hard to lead and deepen political theory with faith as its core. What's more, there is another problem of the similarity between the Project related political faith content and normal ideological and political course content. Thirdly, there is difficulty in making balance between theory and practice training. In present training, educators usually focus on theory input while neglecting students receiving degree. Further reform has to be carried out in higher education institutions to solve such problems. However in some basic level institutes, there is a serious problem of prioritizing practice and neglecting theory education. For example, for some Project training class in some schools, following the country's call on public entrepreneurship and innovation, the training content is focused on scientific and technological innovation instead of ideological and faith education. This results in the problem that ideological and faith education stay superficial and there's no real achievement made for the Project. Fourthly, in most higher education institutions, the training time is short without long term effective system, which makes it impossible to supervise students' growth change and to achieve the anticipated results. The end of the training class usually indicates the end of the Project, making it hard to know youth cultivation and growth status.

3. Obstacles in Youth Marxist Training Project

The above mentioned problems are not the core problems of the Project. Most people understand the core task of the Project in a general way and put too much responsibility and duty on the Project, which often makes the Project objectives and recognition degree neglected in the implementation.

As clearly pointed out in Central Documents of the Communist Youth League, the implementation of the Project should be carried out with the objective to cultivate a large number of Marxists by using the fruit of localization of Marxism in China. Looking back on the past ten years implementation of the Project, we should not only celebrate the achievements made in the cultivation of youth needed by the country, but also have to face the question that what kind of youth are the qualified youth Marxists required by the Outline. The present and future guidance ideology in higher education institutions should be in accordance with those highlighted in the report of the 19th National Congress of CPC with commitment to cultivating dedicated and patriot youth Marxists.

Youth Marxists should possess the following qualities: mastering Marxism theory, having firm faith in Marxism, being able to apply what is learned into real life and propagate Marxism actively to make more excellent students in higher education institutions, leaders in Communist Youth League and youth closely follow the Party on the path of Socialism with Chinese characteristics. Therefore, this Project should be the one which can cultivate firm and high quality faith in excellent youth. So not all training for good qualities and skills can be included in the Project. General Secretary Xi Jinping proposed five expectations on youth in many discussions with excellent youth in different fields. They are firm faith, excellent ability, courage for innovation and creation, perseverance for hard working and noble character. Those discussions and expectations demonstrate the requirements and expectations on youth by the country. Firm faith is the core for youth growth and success. As an important place for the implementation of the Project, higher education institutions should make efforts to achieve basic goals and carry out youth faith education to cultivate youth Marxists with firm faith.

4. Improve Ideological Guidance System with Cooperative Training mode Featuring Different Levels and Stages

As pointed out in Plan of College Communist Youth League Reform Implementation, the ideological and political education in higher education institutions should be based on objective rules, which means it is necessary to have real understanding of students growth, guide and educate their ideology and make innovation and reform develop in an all-round way. For different spiritual needs of students from different schools and grades, corresponding different training content and methods should be applied. It is our work to build a training system featuring different levels and classification. The Project training classes in higher education institutions are the frontline platform for youth Marxist cultivation. Educators should make more efforts in organization structure and course design to present a comprehensive talent cultivation project featuring different levels and stages to the Party and the League. The training should be understood in both broad and narrow sense, have wide access, profound foundation, special features and accurate pertinence, and combine normal education mode with elite cultivation mode, so as to play a vital role in the Project implementation in higher education institutions.

(1) It is necessary to understand the difference between the Project and the compulsory ideological and political courses and to strengthen general political quality. General education is aimed to combine and enhance the comprehensive and fundamental political quality. Starting from the strengthening of basic group construction, pay attention to effectively and carefully carrying out small works. Learners are usually selected through self-recommendation and group recommendation. Strengthen faith education, allowing students to develop confidence in theory and then develop this confidence into firm faith. Besides, it is a must to build a professional teachers team, as only those with high political quality, strong ability and firm faith in Marxism will be able to stimulate students' subjective initiative to effectively realize youth Marxist faith education.

(2) The selection of Project students should feature different levels and stages. After picking out excellent youth from Communist Youth League members, corresponding cultivation should be carried out, which means for different students, different content and measures should be used. Elite training class should put priority on faith and political education. Develop a reasonable and improved system for the selection of elite students, including the measures for evaluation, cultivation and elimination, etc. With such kind of selection system, transform the generalized cultivation mode into elite cultivation mode.

(3) It is essential to establish cooperative cultivation system, which will not only help promote the interaction between different departments in higher education institutions but also strengthen the function of ideological guidance of the ideological and political course, effectively reducing the difficulty in understanding complicated content and avoiding imparting empty theory. This will contribute to achieve standard unification, cultivate youth Marxists' vision of overall situation, and develop a healthy relations between ideological and political course and course ideology.

5. Conclusion

To achieve the core goal of Youth Marxist Training Project, it is necessary to be prepared for long-term work. The Project will have corresponding adjustments based on social changes, so a training project suitable for long-term development should be established for cultivating more outstanding youth Marxists for the Party and the country.

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