

The Practical Way to Promote the High Quality Development of Youth Work in Colleges and Universities

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Keywords: College Youth, Youth Work, High Quality Development

Abstract: Young people in colleges and universities are an important part of youth groups. To promote the high-quality development of youth work in Colleges and universities, we must implement President Xi's important thoughts on youth work into the whole process of youth work, strengthen the organizational political leadership, highlight the political nature, take a clear-cut stand on politics, enhance political identity and patriotism, and combine "stressing politics" with "doing practical things" to play a political leading role. We must strengthen the people-oriented concept, focus on the systematic development of the abilities and qualities of young people in colleges and universities, and pay attention to the full play of human subjectivity. We must strengthen the concept of great practice, stimulate the practical motivation of young people from the essence of human needs, construct a practical operation mechanism from the basic elements and links of practice, and ensure that there are successors to the great cause of the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

1. Introduction

The 20th CPC National Congress clearly put forward the mission and task of the Party for a new era and a new journey, and issued a mobilization order to comprehensively build a modern socialist country and comprehensively promote the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Youth are the future of the country, the hope of the nation, and the new force for the development of the cause of the Party and the people. Since modern times, generations of young people have always been at the forefront of the times, taking the mission of the times as their own responsibility, participating in the trend of social change and social construction, contributing their youth to the great achievements of the country. Under the leadership of the Party, they have always taken the development of the times as the theme, undertaken the tasks of social development in various periods, and become the backbone to promote social progress. Based on the new historical position, it is required that "the whole Party should focus on youth work as a strategic work" and continue to cultivate good youth in the new era. The cultivation of good young people in the new era is inseparable from promoting the high-quality development of young people, which is inseparable from playing the role of the main front of youth work in Colleges and universities. They should strengthen political guidance and guide young people to unswervingly follow the Party. They should strengthen the people-oriented concept and promote the comprehensive and sustainable development of youth. They should strengthen the concept of great practice, deepen the growth and development direction of youth, and cultivate reliable successors for the cause of socialist modernization.

2. Strengthen political guidance and guide young people to unswervingly follow the Communist Party of China

To promote the high-quality development of college youth, we must fully understand the political nature of youth work. When the Communist Party of China was founded, it emphasized in the *Resolution on Youth Movement* that "youth movement is an important part of the Communist Movement". Political nature is the inherent political attribute of the Party's youth work. Attaching

importance to youth work is not only our Party's valuable experience and fine tradition, but also our Party's strategic positioning for youth work. First of all, strengthening youth political guidance is a strategic consideration for consolidating and expanding the Party's ruling youth mass base. College youth are the first learners and disseminators of Marxism in China. Under the guidance of the advanced elements represented by Li Dazhao, the group of young students in the new democratic revolution stage was exposed to Marxism and awakened ideologically, becoming the vanguard of the May 4th Movement and an indispensable mass base in the revolutionary cause led by the Communist Party of China. After the founding of new China, the Communist Party of China attached great importance to higher education and youth training in Colleges and universities, adhered to the Party's absolute leadership over youth work, and constantly consolidated and expanded the Party's ruling youth mass base. In the new era, colleges and universities have become a solid base for delivering fresh blood to the party organization, an important group for the Communist Party of China to realize the renewal of the past, and an important factor affecting the Party's development and political stability. In the long run, it determines the survival and development ability of the party organization. Secondly, strengthening political guidance is the practical requirement for cultivating new people of the times who are responsible for national rejuvenation. The progressive mission in the era of power and the complex international environment not only require cultivating the all-round development of young people's morality, intelligence, physique, art and labor, but also cultivating "new people of the times" who meet the political and practical requirements, which determines that we must strengthen the political guidance of young people in Colleges and universities at present. We should take the leadership of the Party as the fundamental principle, strengthen the political identity of college youth, strengthen the mission of college youth in the new era, internalize the Party's purpose and the highest ideal into the conscious pursuit of college youth, and make them grow into new people of the times who can be responsible for national rejuvenation. Thirdly, strengthening the political guidance of college youth is an important measure to win the ideological field. Political guidance can further consolidate the foundation of the Party's ruling legitimacy, integrate social thoughts, lay a solid ideological foundation for unity and progress, and effectively eliminate the infiltration of Western ideology. The youth group in Colleges and universities is the key group for the infiltration and differentiation of Western hostile forces, especially the update and iteration of Internet technology, which intensifies the infiltration of Western ideology and is more likely to shake the political beliefs of youth in Colleges and universities. Therefore, colleges and universities must strengthen the leadership of the Party, strengthen the political guidance of college youth, so as to strengthen the political direction and political determination. Finally, strengthening the political guidance of college youth is the inevitable choice for cultivating builders and successors of the socialist cause. *"The direction of ideological and political qualities, moral concepts, ideological and political beliefs of college students is directly related to the prosperity of the nation and the rejuvenation of the country, and has a significant impact on the construction and development of socialism."*^[1] It is clear that the fundamental task of higher education is to cultivate young college students to consciously safeguard China's socialist system and adhere to the political direction of taking the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics. It is necessary to strengthen political guidance and guide college students to firmly establish the "Four Consciousness" and "Four Confidence", and build the lifelong ambition to strive for socialism with Chinese characteristics.

To strengthen the political guidance of young people in Colleges and universities, we should first highlight the political nature, take a clear-cut political stand, and build a solid ideological foundation for the political guidance of young people in Colleges and universities. The Communist Party of China adheres to the guidance of Marxism, always believes that the people come first and the people's interests are above all else, and adheres to the people's position of taking the people as the center. So it can obtain endless power. It is precisely with the support of the people that the Communist Party of China has made great achievements in socialism with Chinese characteristics. We should use the Party's political beliefs, theories and propositions to attract young people, so as to achieve the value goal of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and pool all

the forces of youth that can be condensed. We should guide the value orientation of young people in Colleges and universities to serve the people, strengthen their sense of responsibility and historical responsibility, resolutely resist the trend of thought of extensive entertainment and vulgarization, and be indifferent to political performance and lack of awareness of political participation. Young people should integrate the people's position into all kinds of voluntary service activities, establish the lofty ideal of taking people's happiness as their own responsibility, cultivate the feelings of home and country, pursue a lofty realm of life, and get rid of utilitarianism in political participation. We should guide college youth to enhance their political identity with the Party and their deep feelings for the country and the people, mobilize their political emotions through specific festivals such as the May Fourth Youth Day, the National Memorial Day, the founding of the Party day, and the national day. We can organize them to study documentary films on flood fighting and emergency rescue, earthquake relief and epidemic fighting, and enhance their political attitude to stick to the people's position, so as to promote the formation of noble political and moral character of college youth. To strengthen the political guidance of college youth, we should also organically combine "stressing politics" with "doing practical things", and pay attention to and solve the practical problems of college youth. Contemporary youth live in an era without unforgettable political and historical burdens. Their struggle is often closely related to material interests. They are vulnerable to the influence of "money worship", "pragmatism", "interest first" and other ideological trends, resulting in unreasonable views on money and interests, which further dispelled their political ideals. Therefore, we should guide young people in Colleges and universities to criticize all kinds of bad thoughts, make correct value judgments and behavior choices. We should care about helping young people in Colleges and universities solve economic problems, make good use of the subsidy policy and work study opportunities, and enhance their gratitude to the Party. In the face of the severe employment situation, employment has become the most concerned issue of college youth. Therefore, we should explore and play the role of political guidance in college youth's job selection, employment and entrepreneurship, publicize the policies of the Party and the state to support and protect college youth's employment, strengthen employment guidance, employment training and career planning, and guide youth to the grass-roots employment.

3. Strengthen the people-oriented concept and promote the comprehensive and sustainable development of youth

To promote the high-quality development of youth is inseparable from exploring the issue of human development. The most authoritative guiding theory of human development is Marx's theory of "free and comprehensive development of human beings", which provides a fundamental basis for human development. "Realizing the comprehensive and free development of everyone" is the highest ideal of human development goal. Its realization is based on the general development of social production capacity and the great richness of social relations. It is a long historical process that needs continuous struggle to achieve. The Communist Party of China is a political party with the ultimate goal of realizing the Communist social system. The Party's educational policy has always been on the road of "realizing the comprehensive and free development of everyone". As for the goal of youth and children's education, it has gone through the evolution from "morality, intelligence and physical education" to "morality, intelligence, physical education and art" and then to "morality, intelligence, physical education, art and labour". From "morality, intelligence and physical education" to the clear emphasis on "morality, intelligence, physical education and art", it reflects the requirements of people's all-round development, and meets the needs of the "prosperity" stage of Chinese society. Then the requirement of "all-round development of morality, intelligence, physical education, art and labor" reflects the goal of "becoming stronger" to realize the "Chinese dream" of the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation in the new era, and reflects the continuous enrichment and expansion of the people-oriented concept in the process of national education.

To promote the high-quality development of college youth, we should firmly establish the people-oriented concept, pay attention to the systematic development of college youth's ability and quality, and pay attention to the full play of people's subjective ability. Youth development is "the

comprehensive expansion of youth's subjective characteristics such as autonomy, initiative and creativity”^[2]. “In order to shape people who can adapt to the comprehensive development in the future, people's quality is required to be more creative, more mature, more adaptive and more personalized”^[2]. In the sense of quality and ability, it is necessary to continuously improve the learning ability, practical ability and innovation ability of young students, so that they can transform knowledge resources into knowledge capital, and to transform knowledge into high value. They can correctly and scientifically apply the knowledge learned to real life and guide specific production activities. And they can continuously provide new ideas, theories, methods and inventions with economic, social and ecological values in various fields of practical activities. We should comprehensively plan the educational resources and joint efforts in all fields of running schools, all links of education and teaching, and all aspects of talent training, and strive to build a “three complete education” pattern, and establish and improve the long-term mechanism of education. We should further optimize the education ecology and further improve the management system and scientific evaluation system. We should further improve the system of simultaneous development of five-education programs. We should implement the red-gene-inheritance project, improve the methods of moral education, continue to promote special actions in students' mental health and build a strong school moral education team. We should vigorously develop wisdom education, accelerate the full coverage of smart school construction, gradually improve the teaching mode of “health knowledge + basic sports skills + special sports skills”, and promote the teaching reform of public physical education in colleges and universities. We should deepen the reform of aesthetic education teaching, enrich artistic practice activities, and improve the guarantee level of aesthetic education in schools. We should build a labor education system, open a good labor education curriculum, organically integrate the content of labor education into the curriculum of other disciplines, and form a labor education curriculum system connecting primary and secondary schools.

4. Strengthen the concept of great practice and deepen the path of youth growth and development

The viewpoint of practice is the primary and fundamental viewpoint of the epistemology of Marxist philosophy. Marxism holds that practice has created all the conditions for human beings themselves and their survival and development. Practice is the distinctive essential activity and mode of existence of human beings, and is the fundamental way to achieve the free and all-round development of human beings. Marxism believes that practice is the source of knowledge, the driving force for the development of knowledge, and the only criterion for testing the correctness of knowledge. The view of practice and epistemology of Marxism profoundly reveal the significance of educating people through practice and have become the theoretical basis and fundamental compliance for the education of people through practice in colleges and universities. Young people should be educated to “*cherish dreams while being down-to-earth, dare to think and act while being good at doing and achieving, aspire to be good young people of the new era with ideals, a sense of responsibility, the ability to endure hardships, and the willingness to strive, and be allowed to blossom splendidly in the fiery practice of fully building a modern socialist country*”. The growth path of young college students is relatively single, mostly entering from one ivory tower to another. They are lack of experience in the melting pot of society. It is inevitable that there are problems such as high aspirations, high vision, low skills, and restless mentality. Universities should strengthen the exploration of extracurricular practice education models, focus on building an education system that integrates in class education and extracurricular practice, and fully leverage social practice to temper people's character and abilities. They should continuously enhance the ability of young college students to adapt to society, cultivate their senses of social responsibility and a spirit of responsibility. Since the establishment of the People's Republic of China, the concept of practice in universities has evolved a lot, from an initial emphasis on combining with physical labor to the later combining with social practice. A holistic, standardized, and scientific form and carrier of university practice has been gradually formed. It has been elevated to the concept

of great practice that integrate with human development and the cultivation of new talents in the era. Therefore, continuing to strengthen practice will be an inevitable way to deepen the high-quality development of young people in universities

To strengthen the concept of great practice, we should explore the essence of human needs and the driving force of practice, construct a practical operation mechanism based on the basic elements and links of practice, and continuously deepen the path of high-quality development for young people in universities. First, we should focus on exploring the driving force of youth practice in universities. The sociality of human beings determines that their development requires perceiving and recognizing individual deficiencies and social cognition in practice. In the United Nations Educational and Scientific's report "*Learning to Survive*" in 1972, "a person will never become an adult, and its survival is an endless process of improvement and learning. The main difference between humans and other living beings is their incompleteness." The understanding of "human incompleteness" generates an endogenous motivation to participate in practice, while the external objective environment and development requirements ask people to adapt to society, which generates an exogenous motivation for people to participate in practice. The dialectical relationship between the two motivations is mutual influence, mutual constraint, and mutual development. The exogenous motivation needs to be accepted and recognized by the practical subject, and it needs to be exerted through the endogenous motivation. However, endogenous motivation requires the stimulation of exogenous motivation to form a positive interaction, which can effectively promote the development of individuals from the actual self to the ideal self, making it possible to cultivate new generations who are capable of shouldering the great responsibility of national rejuvenation. Human needs are the driving force of practice. The behavior of practice is driven by demand and revolves around needs, that is, "without need, there is no production." The stronger a person's needs and expectations, the more their potential can be stimulated. Therefore, education guides young people in universities to combine their own needs with social needs, establish lofty life ideals, actively engage in practice, improve themselves, develop themselves in practice, and continuously meet the internal needs of individual development. The second is to focus on building a practical education mechanism. *"Educating people through practice is a systematic project that requires vigorous support from all regions and departments and active efforts from all colleges and universities. The education department should increase its guidance and support for the work of educating people through practice in colleges and universities, further play a good role in communication and liaison, and actively promote the formation of a cooperation mechanism for educating people through practice."*^[3] We need to grasp the operational mechanism of practical education from the perspective of elements firstly. Practical education mainly includes four elements: practical subject, practical object, practical environment, and practical content. As the main body of practice, it is essential for young people in universities to possess necessary theoretical knowledge. Through practical experience, they can enhance their understanding of the world, national conditions, and social conditions in order to transform theoretical knowledge into abilities. The practical object is often the real environment or educational resources purified through selection. It is important to pay attention to the realistic variability of the practical object, innovate practical methods and content with a problem oriented and demand oriented approach, and enable college students to comprehensively improve their comprehensive quality through personal experience. The practical environment includes hard environments such as practical platforms, venues, or bases provided by universities, as well as soft environments such as macro policies, educational environments, and cultural atmospheres. To meet the current demand for talents in society, universities should strengthen the construction of soft and hard environments, and form a new model of practical education suitable for talent cultivation. Practical content refers to specific forms of practical activities. Common practical contents in universities include teaching practice, social practice, volunteer service, military training, innovation and entrepreneurship, etc. Different practical contents have different experiences in exercising and growing young people in universities. Therefore, it is necessary to cover everyone, connect the entire process, and make full efforts to build a three-dimensional, comprehensive, and all-around content system. Besides, we also need to

grasp the operational mechanism of practical education in every stage. Practical education consists of three basic stages: top-level design, organizational implementation, and evaluation feedback, forming a closed-loop and spiral operating system. When strengthening top-level design, we should only focus on the fundamental issue of “what kind of people to cultivate, how to cultivate them and for whom to cultivate them”. Based on the essence, laws, and development trends of education, we should establish a people-oriented education philosophy that respects individual development needs. We should take into account both on campus and off campus, in class and extracurricular, explicit and implicit educational resources, and form a work pattern of resource sharing and win-win cooperation among multiple parties. The main channel, main battlefield, main focus, and main direction for educating people can be formed, so that practical education can develop in a deeper direction. We can establish a sound organizational mechanism and form a single-center, multi-level, and widely covered organizational structure. A practical education layout based on hierarchical design, project-based promotion, and institutionalized support can be collaboratively promoted. Building a scientific evaluation mechanism is an important guarantee for ensuring practical education, and it is also an important link in the operation mechanism of practice. We should establish an evaluation mechanism from five aspects: process evaluation, content evaluation, methods evaluation, indicator system evaluation, and results evaluation. We should follow the purposefulness and regularity of process evaluation, the universality and specificity of content evaluation, the comprehensiveness and scientificity of methods evaluation, the systematicity and development of indicators evaluation, and the timeliness and accuracy of results evaluation .

5. Conclusion

Youth is the future of our country and the hope of our nation. The strategic positioning of the Party towards youth work reflects the Party's care and concern for youth, and points out the correct direction for promoting the high-quality development of youth work. On the road to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, we must remain clear and resolute. We should lead the youth, unite the youth and serve the youth, promote the work of youth in universities to uphold integrity and innovation, promote the vigorous development of youth undertakings, and encourage the younger generation to grow and become talented. We must inspire the youth to live up to their youthful years and the trust of the times, and strive to become the new generation worthy of the great responsibility of national rejuvenation.

Acknowledgements

This paper is the (NC22B016) research results of Nanchong social science research project of “The 14th five year” plan in 2022, about college youth work path optimization from the perspective of high-quality development.

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