

Status, Difficulties and Countermeasures of Ideological and Political Theory Courses in Private Colleges and Universities of Yunnan Province

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Abstract. At present, in the teaching of ideological and political courses in private higher vocational colleges, there are objectively problems such as the lack of understanding of ideological and political theory courses, the weak foundation of vocational students' professional quality, etc. The teaching of ideological and political theory courses in higher vocational colleges has many difficulties. This paper will study the status, difficulties and countermeasures of ideological and political theory courses in private higher vocational colleges in Yunnan Province from the perspective of teaching research, changing the classroom teaching mode and improving teaching methods.

Keywords: Private Colleges and Universities, ideological and Political Theory Courses, countermeasure research

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the CPC Central Committee with President Xi Jinping as the core has attached great importance to the construction of ideological and political courses and made a series of major decision-making arrangements. Various departments and schools of all levels and regions have taken effective measures to implement them conscientiously, and remarkable results have been achieved in the construction of ideological and political education courses. At the same time, in the face of the new situation, new tasks and new challenges, some places and schools have not fully understood the importance of ideological and political courses. Classroom teaching effect still needs to be improved, and there are shortcomings in the selection and training of teachers. In particular, the construction of ideological and political courses in private colleges is relatively weak, and the synergy between various courses and ideological and political courses needs to be strengthened.

1. The Orientation of Ideological and Political Theory Course in College Education

Education is the great plan of the country and the party, which undertakes the fundamental task of establishing virtue and cultivating people. Ideological and political course is the key course to carry out the basic task of moral education, which is to solve the fundamental problem of who to train, how to train and for whom, so ideological and political theory course plays an irreplaceable role. Offering the courses of ideological and political theory is one of the essential characteristics of socialist universities. Colleges and universities shoulder the responsibility to cultivating students into builders and successors of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics in an all-round way with ideals, morality, culture and discipline. That is to say, for the growth and development of college students, ideological and political theory courses and other professional courses are equally important. To improve the overall quality of college students, is a compulsory course for college students, rather than a dispensable course.

2. The Status of Ideological and Political Theory Teaching in private Higher Vocational Colleges in Yunnan Province

2. 1. The Management of Private Colleges and Universities Lacks the Attention it Deserves in the Ideological and Theoretical Courses

According to the statistics of the Private Education Association of Yunnan Province, there are 20 private colleges and universities in Yunnan Province with 202,600 students. However, there is a general problem: the management of private colleges lacks the attention they deserve in the ideological and political theory courses. The ideological and political theory course is a class that is not valued but has to be opened for the school management. The curriculum construction and educational effects are less of a concern. For example, some private colleges and universities in Yunnan Province still have some problems: the ideological and political teaching department is still not an independent department. Some are affiliated to the student department, while some are affiliated to the party masses. And it's difficult to get scientific research projects and funds for the research of Ideological and political theory courses. Some schools have even reduced the qualifications of teachers in ideological and political theory courses, and randomly arranged non-professional teachers to teach. Besides, ideological and political theory courses have been taught in a class with as many as 100-200 students. What's worse is that the logistics service is insufficient and hardware equipment is not enough, such as multimedia classrooms with inadequate equipment and disrepair. It can be seen that the management of private schools attaches far less importance to ideological and political theory courses in colleges and universities.

2. 2. The Level of Ideological and Political Theory Teachers in Private Colleges and Universities in Yunnan Province is Uneven

The teachers of ideological and political theory courses in private colleges and universities in Yunnan Province are of different levels, their academic qualifications and knowledge structure are relatively weak, and their opportunities for training and further education are few. According to the questionnaires of ideological and political theory courses in

private higher vocational colleges in Yunnan Province, the theoretical depth, teaching experience and related knowledge of ideological and political teachers are obviously insufficient. Some teachers graduated from the Ideological and Political Education, Philosophy, International Politics, Ethics, Economics and other professional. But many teachers do not have a deep theoretical foundation of Marxism–Leninism, and their professional knowledge is not solid enough. Not a few teachers do not come from the ideological and political education profession, and have never even received professional and systematic study or training in Marxist theory. In addition, the expansion of private higher vocational colleges in Yunnan Province in recent years has brought about a sharp increase in the number of teaching classes. In the absence of teachers, other professional teachers are temporarily transferred to undertake the teaching of ideological and political theory. Under the heavy teaching tasks, the teachers are basically tired of coping and became the lecture machine.

2. 3. The Foundation of Students in Private Colleges and Universities is Weak

Under the pressure of the secular concept, most college entrance examination candidates and their parents will try their best to let their children choose to go to the first tier universities, second tier universities, or third tier universities. They will attend private higher vocational colleges unless there's no better choice. So the students of private colleges and universities is the "bad goods" selected by the college entrance examination seems to become a reality. As a result of the last batch of admission to higher vocational colleges, students currently have generally low entrance scores, with some examinees even having only about 100 marks. Starting from 2013, most private colleges and universities in Yunnan Province began to recruit students independently on a pilot basis. In order to "preempt" the source of students, most of the schools accept the candidates who are enrolled in the school, regardless of whether they are excellent or not. In addition to higher vocational students, secondary vocational students constitute one of the main student sources of private colleges and universities in Yunnan Province. Because of the low scores of the secondary vocational students, compared with other levels of college students, their knowledge side is narrow, single and the overall quality is uneven.

3. The Dilemma Faced by the Teaching of Ideological and Political Theory Courses in Private Higher Vocational Colleges

3. 1. There are Some Misunderstandings in Ideological and Political Theory Courses

At the national level, great importance is attached to the ideological and political theory education. However, at the level of society, parents and students, many believe that the purpose of studying in private colleges and universities is to master a skill, so skills and employment are in priority. As for the ideological and political theory courses, which plays an important role in the cultivation of students' humanistic quality and sustainable development ability, it has become synonymous with "boring" and "unrelated to oneself" in the minds of the majority of students. In order to gain the approval of the society, parents as well as students, private colleges and universities also think unconsciously that professional skills are the key and lifeline in the development of higher vocational education, which are also the advantages and characteristics of private higher vocational education, leading private colleges and universities to over-increase the curriculum of professional and practical courses in the specific teaching management. So ideological and political theory courses have become secondary and useless lessons.

3. 2. The rapid Development of Information Network Challenges the Teaching of Ideological and Political Theory

According to the latest China Internet Network Information Center Survey, 85.95% Internet users are between the ages of 18 and 35, and 84.97 % have college or higher education. This shows that higher vocational college students have become the main body of netizens. Even though the Internet has broadened the horizons of students and increased knowledge, the negative impact on the teaching of ideological and political theory courses cannot be ignored. In some respects, students even have more information than teachers, but they lack the ability to recognize right and wrong. When they receive ideological and political theory education, their minds are filled with a lot of network information and various social trends. Plus the dark side of society and corruption, students have doubts about the ideological and political theories accepted in the classroom, which makes the difficulty of teaching increase, and it becomes more difficult for teachers to control the teaching process and teaching objects.

4. Countermeasures and measures for teaching reform of ideological and political theory courses in private higher vocational colleges

4. 1. Improve the Emphasis on Ideological and Political Theory Courses, Improve the Teachers' Own Quality, and Improve the Level of Teaching Management

1. **The management of private colleges and universities should improve the level of education management and increase the attention and encouragement of teachers in ideological and political courses.** What's more, private colleges and universities should establish a mechanism for the party committee secretaries and principals to take the lead in teaching ideological and political courses. "The party secretary and principals of university should give

students at least four hours of ideological and political courses per semester, and other members of the university leadership should give students at least two hours per semester, focusing on the situation and policy.”¹ In addition, each school should set up a post subsidy for ideological and political teachers according to local conditions, incorporate it into performance payroll management, and correspondingly increase the total amount of school performance salary. Take ideological and political course teachers as an important source of school cadres. Meanwhile school party and government management cadres should have the work experience of the ideological and political teachers in principle.

2. Strengthen the training and improve the comprehensive quality of teaching. For the teachers of ideological and political theory courses themselves, they have been shouldering heavy teaching tasks for a long time, making them spend very limited time and energy in teaching research, further education and improvement. In particular, some teachers are unfamiliar with teaching methods and are not suitable for the development of modern information technology. Therefore, the teachers of theoretical courses should strengthen the training of technical education and teaching methods to improve their technical skills and classroom language ability. "The colleges and universities shall draw special funds according to the standard of no less than 30 yuan per student per year, while undergraduate colleges and universities accord to the standard of no less than 40 yuan per student per year for academic exchanges and practice of ideological and political teachers. And all of them shall gradually increase the support"² Private colleges and universities should gradually improve the mechanism for guaranteeing the funds for ideological and political training according to this requirement.

3. Strengthening the teaching research.

The ideological and political course teachers in private universities have a large workload, and the teaching tasks are heavy. Therefore, depending on the individual effect is not good. We should give full play to the advantages of collective lesson preparation and divide the teaching content into several teaching plans. Each teacher who teaches the same course prepares a part of the class, takes out teaching plans, teaching cases, teaching courseware and lectures, and uses teaching and research time to communicate, so that each lesson plan is a masterpiece. Moreover, strengthening the ideological and political teaching and research work, implementing the collective preparation system generally, and improving the level of teaching and research in an all-round way are of great importance. Leading cadres of the school should actively support and participate in the selection of academic leaders who take the lead in class preparation for each class. Furthermore, the "hand in hand" preparation mechanism for teachers in the ideological and political courses in Yunnan Province should be established, and let the high-level experts together with the schools where the ideological and political courses are well-established play a significant role. Apart from those, we're supposed to strengthen the study of the "Collective Course Preparation Platform for Teachers of Ideological and Political Theory Courses in Colleges and Universities".

4. 2. Raise Students' Interest and Arouse Their Enthusiasm in Learning Theoretical Courses

1. Change the classroom teaching model

Abolish the traditional teaching model of "full-class", and replace it with the forms of classroom lecture, classroom self-study, video broadcast, classroom discussion and debate, so as to truly respect students' subjective status. Let students participate in the learning process independently and become the master of learning. Especially in the age of information network, the impact and influence of all kinds of information and ideas on students need to be guided by the open teaching of ideological and political theory courses. Teachers can present questions, ideas or cases for discussion throughout the class based on their students' learning needs. During the discussion, under the guidance and inspiration of the teachers, various ideas are exchanged, and different viewpoints collided with each other. In the mutual comparison, the students' thoughts and opinions are enriched, the inquiry consciousness is strengthened, the thinking ability is improved, and the participation is enhanced. Then the teaching objectives have naturally been achieved smoothly.

2. Improve the teaching method

Change from the traditional mode to the modern multimedia teaching mode. With the development of modern science and technology, human society has entered the network age. Under such circumstances, If in the ideological and political theory teaching still adhere to the "one mouth one chalk one blackboard" traditional teaching method, it is neither possible to attract students' thoughts with theories, nor to mobilize students' eyeballs with information. The result, of course, is that the teachers are bored to teach and the students are bored to learn. Therefore, the teaching mode of ideological and political theory courses must keep pace with the times, change the traditional book teaching material into the dynamic teaching material composed of sound, image, text, and stimulate students' brains with vivid, visual and intuitive multimedia information to enhance the effectiveness of teaching. At the same time, the multi-

¹ The General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China issued the "Opinions on Deepening the Reform and Innovation of the Ideological and Political Theory Courses in the New Era School"

² The General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China issued the "Opinions on Deepening the Reform and Innovation of the Ideological and Political Theory Courses in the New Era School"

media teaching method is also closer to the thinking characteristics of higher vocational students at this stage, which is characterized by great leaps in thinking and perceptual thinking. Therefore, while improving the "head-up rate", it really makes the teaching content reach the effect of "into the ear, into the brain, into the heart" and finally "into the action".

To sum up, the teaching of ideological and political theory courses in private colleges and universities is a complicated and arduous task. Only by closely connecting with current students' reality and constantly strengthening teaching research, only by actively exploring and improving the ways and methods of teaching, can we ensure that the ideological and political theory course teaching in private colleges and universities will be put into practice and get effective results.

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