Innovative Research on Ideological and Political Education Implementation System for Part-Time Graduate Students—Based on the Perspective of Inducement Analysis of Universities’ Network Public Opinion

Xin-qiao XIAO
China Institute of Industrial Relations, Beijing, China

**Keywords:** Higher education, Ideological and political education, Part-time graduate students.

**Abstract.** The significance and urgency of the ideological and political education for part-time graduate students is standing out with the expansion of recruitment of this particular group of students. This article directs at the peculiar properties of part-time graduate students, discusses the implementation system that perfects and optimizes the ideological and political education for part-time graduate students, proposes a new perspective of viewing the ideological and political education for part-time graduate students as an organized system that applies an integrated governance structure, and penetrates the ideological and political education throughout the education and management process, therefore achieving the goal of elevating the level of ideological and political education for part-time graduate students.

**Introduction**

With the rapid growth of Chinese socialist marketing economy, the society is imminently in need for talent, especially high-level professionals. Consequently, an increasing number of working professionals wish to enhance their professional skills and knowledge while remaining productive at work. The proportion as well as the absolute number of admitted part-time students have risen national-wise throughout the years. Recruiting and educating experienced outstanding working staff has become an emphasized key point of the current postgraduate recruiting and educational reforms. The progress of the ideological and political education for graduate students is directly related to whether students possess sufficient political and professional qualifications after education. Thus, the enhancement of the ideological and political education for part-time graduate students has become an important content of the management of postgraduate education.

**Status Quo and Problems**

Part-time graduate students compose a relatively independent group in the society of higher education structure. Their level of ideological and political education is distinct from either that of undergraduate students, or that of full-time graduate students. First, the age formation of part-time graduate students tends to skew to the higher end, and this age group normally has a better understanding of the society. Secondly, part-time graduate students come from a diverse background and have their own occupations; some could even play a critical role in their profession. Third, it is common for these students to be absent, late or leave early at school. These peculiar properties determine the complicity and diversity of the ideological characteristics of this particular group. Even though policies and systems for part-time graduate students are currently in the process of development and improvement, the current status quo of weak ideological and political education remains fundamentally unchanged. A well-developed and mature group like that of full-time graduate students remains to be built among our educational institutions, and we also lack an innovative system that supports the ideological and political education for part-time graduate students under a socialist marketing economic atmosphere.
Systems and Strategies

For us socialist ideological and political education workers, it is essential in a practical sense to keep track of the dynamics of part-time graduate students’ ideology under the current atmosphere.

The Implementation System in Management Processes

The scope of management work of part-time students is wide ranged by nature, and ideological problems are easily reflected during education and administration. Thus, integration of specific tools of administrative management into education is an important method to reinforce the ideological and political education for part-time graduate students. It is practically true that the ideological and political education and administrative management are tight-knotted and supplement each other. The dialectical relationship between education and management requires us to dynamically integrate the two, so that education shall promote management, and management guarantees educational qualities. We could integrate education into management through actions in the following four aspects.

Strictly Implement Admissions Censorship. It is a commonly held belief that part-time graduate students are mentally more mature and possess higher ideological qualities. They come from higher socio-economic levels and some are managers or cadre leaders. Thus, censorships are simplified. Consequently, standard test scores are the key criteria in admission and the ideological and political qualities assessments are represented only inform and have become less and less critical throughout the years. Due to the loose censorship, some students could even violate the law and disciplines while enrolled. Therefore, strict implementation of admissions censorship is a first step of the implementation of ideological and political education. A good start is half the battle.

Foster the Depth of Ideological and Political Education. Based on the principle of centralized management and clear-cur division of labor, leaders, organizations, and faculty members of each department will have explicit responsibilities for establishing an ideological and political education system that is well-jointed from superior to subordinate, from vertical to horizontal perspective sand integrated for both professionals and amateurs. Ideologically and politically well-educated professionals, who also received high levels of education and possess high senses of responsibility towards work, should take full responsibility of the ideological and political education for part-time graduate students. The ideological and political education for part-time graduate students starts upon the date of enrollment. This is because, first of all, we would want to encourage students to cherish their chance to learn and to graduate with excellency. We are also requiring students to cultivate a sense of dedication towards their occupations and to develop a down-to-earth attitude towards learning. Additionally, we are hoping to perfect and optimize their characters so as to elevate their standards of morality. Second, we are also warning these students to abide by the school’s principles and policies, eliminating bad practices, and helping them to establish right world outlooks and outlooks on life. Third, we need to investigate on the ideological dynamics of students, listen to their comments and suggestions for the school’s administrative management, and assist them with practical problems. Fourthly, we shall bear no tolerance for students with poor ideological and political qualities, and those who break the school’s rules and policies.

Strict Application of the Mid-Term Screening System. The mid-term examination system is a method of screening. One and a half years after entrance right after they have finished their coursework and decided their thesis topics, the part-time graduate students will be thoroughly tested from every aspect before they start their final thesis. The examination will be a combination of oral test, written test, and open-topic report. Content-wise, the examination will not only cover the essential fundamental theories, knowledge and research skills to qualify for a postgraduate degree, but also examine whether these students have good ideological and political qualities, and it pays special attention to moral education level. Students who lag behind academically after entrance, lack basic morality, or severely offend the principles and rules will be weeded out by means of mid-term evaluation.

Take Strict Control over Degree Awarding. Degree awarding is the last checkpoint during
education. The ideological and political education for part-time graduate students cannot be deregulated at this stage. Qualifying students are evaluated based on their practical behaviors in addition to academic qualifications. Even if when a student qualifies on the academic level, the school can seize their degree or delay the degree awarding should the student misbehaves in other ways. Students shall be disciplined behaviorally to certain extent in this way.

**Implementation System throughout Academic Teaching**

By the multi-faceted educational principle, we must employ the forces of mentors and course lecturers in order to exert a subtle influence on the ideological and political education for part-time graduate students integrated into daily course and research studies. The Chinese postgraduate education is implemented by integrating collective cultivation and individual mentorship. The levels of academic achievement, research abilities and moral standards of the mentors and lecturers could directly have an impact on their students. Thus, it is critical to enhance related team building between mentors and lecturers in order to incorporate ideological and political education into academic education. Therefore, with the premise that we acknowledge and pay attention to the role mentors and lecturers play in postgraduate education, we need to take a further step and enhance team building between mentors and lecturers and elevate their levels in professional skills and morality, so that they could literally become good teachers and helpful friends throughout the students’ growth and development.

**Perfect and Optimize the Faculty Work Evaluation System.** Colleges and universities should foster their management in teaching and education processes. Firstly, mentors and instructors should have deeper understandings of the socialist core values, steadfast their beliefs in socialism, foster their consciousness to keep up with the Party’s basic line, establish a world outlook and outlook in life to serve the people, and enhance their sense of mission to teach and education others, thereby accomplishing the ideological and political education for part-time graduate students to the point with great effectiveness. Secondly, we need to establish and improve the system of routine evaluation and the system of rewards and penalties in mentor and lecturer selection and work evaluation. The teaching and educational work of the mentors and lecturers should become important references for the evaluations of instructor qualifications, advanced studies abroad opportunities, and promotions. Thirdly, mentors and lecturers should be required to put as much emphasis on students’ ideological and political education development as their academic learning. Staff members who have outstanding performance in ideological and political education should be rewarded in the same way as having an important professional breakthrough.

**Penetration Mechanism in Perfect Education.** Mentors and lecturers should foster the penetration and tighten the relationship between academic teaching and ideological and political education. In order to truly take the responsibility of implementing education through academic teaching, faculty members should be well aware of the ideological and political implications in academic knowledge. Firstly, faculty members are free to choose topics with significant practical implications. While integrating the realities of lives of the part-time graduate students, faculty members should use theories of the socialism with Chinese characteristics to clarify confusions, strengthen beliefs, and solve deep-seated problems. Topics could be, for example, closely related to the practices based on our domestic reforms, research and discussion on the status quo of socialism construction, and the latest problems and new experiences gained. Students can benefit from a good political path, lifetime goal, values, and morality. Thus, students can have a better knowledge of themselves, other people and the society under the current competitive and challenging social atmosphere where old and new values don’t always agree. They will be able to self-correct and present the spirit of utter devotion to the society. Secondly, in subjects like natural science and engineering, students should also be directed to use Marxism methodology and epistemology and apply them in the analysis and processes of scientific research and learning. Thirdly, colleges and universities should make full attempt to involve part-time students in routine academic activities, encourage staff members to involve part-time students in scientific research, and assist them in determining thesis topics and report-writing, thereby exerting a subtle influence on the ideological
and political education for part-time graduate students through deeper and wider academic discussions.

**Conclusion**

To summarize, the ideological and political education for part-time graduate students is a significant component of the colleges and universities postgraduate education management. The quality of the ideological and political education of a part-time graduate student is directly related to the student’s professional qualities and political consciousness. Part-time graduate students form a special group in the higher education system that possesses a peculiar property of uniqueness. Their ideological and political education is arduous but shapeable. Consequently, we educators ought to perceive the ideological and political education for part-time graduate students as a systematic program. We need to integrate multiple forms and methods, conduct comprehensive control, and penetrate the ideological and political education in administrative management and academics and research, thereby upgrading the ideological and political education for part-time graduate students.

**Acknowledgements**

This work was supported by a grant from the 2013 scientific research project of China Institute of Industrial Relations (NO.13YY031).

This work was supported by a grant from the 2016 postgraduate education teaching reform project of China Institute of Industrial Relations (YJG1606).

**Reference**


