Several Considerations about Strengthening College Students’ Political Belief Education

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Abstract. College students are chief cornerstones in the future national construction. To guide students to establish correct political belief not only concerns students’ personal career and life planning, but also concerns social stability and harmony in a certain level, this paper briefly analyzes how to strengthen college students’ political belief education combining with the actual situation.

Basic Principles of College Students’ Political Belief Education

General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out: ‘the belief in Marxism and faith to socialism and communism are the political soul of Communists and spiritual pillars for Communists to withstand any trials.’ University campus has cultivated numerous pillars for the future construction of our country, and it is also an important part of ideological propaganda position. To strengthen college students’ political belief education can not only purify campus environment to make some bad thoughts have no existing space, and can also enhance students’ individual cultivation in order to provide an effective guarantee for college students’ career and life planning.

The basic principles of college students’ belief education should exist in the form of adhering to ‘being guided by Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought, taking the practice of socialist core values as fundamental embodiment’. Objectively speaking, some trends of bad thoughts do exist in the current college students, to search to the bottom, they are directly related to unreasonable allocation of social resources, prevailed thought of ‘taking money as standard’ and excessive spreading thought of ‘hedonism’. These are inconsistent with many ideologies of socialist core values, as workers who have engaged in college students’ ideological and political education for long term, they should grasp trends in this aspect in a timely manner, at the same time, they should strengthen the communication with students in ideological and moral level, adhere to the basic principles of belief education for college students and struggle with many unhealthy and uncivilized behavior, furthermore, they should take some targeted and specific measures to guide college students to establish correct life view and values, while making world view clear, students’ political belief tendency is relatively clear.

Specific Content of College Students’ Political Belief Education

Considering that contemporary college students are basically post-90s who grow up in one child families, their way of life and state of mind obviously differ from their parents, therefore, taking single form of preaching can not only be likely to fail to achieve expected effect, but will let students be easily to produce resentment and even reverse psychology. Therefore, it is necessary to seize up the situation and transform working methods, thus enhancing the actual effect of political belief education for college students. To sum up, it can be divided into four aspects:

First, take Marxism as the guiding ideology and strengthen theoretical thought communication of college students’ political belief education. Marxism is the important theoretical foundation of political and ideological education, compared with learning Marxism in abstract ideology in high school stage, college students have comprehensively contacted and understood Marxism from the perspective of philosophy and social development, and have a clear understanding of the
connotation and essence of Marxism. Based on this, guiding students to sublimate from perceptual understanding of Marxism to rational analysis can find many entry points from real life so as to interpret Marxism in detail, on the other hand, it can make students produce visual and comprehensive cognition on the essence of Marxism from the perspective of expanding college students’ thought consciousness space.

Second, take socialist ideal with Chinese characteristics as the goal and specify the development direction of college students’ political belief. The theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the result of sinicization of Marxism-Leninism derived based on adhering to and developing Marxism-Leninism guiding ideology as well as taking Mao Zedong thought as the program of action. In addition to highly theoretical value, it also has distinctive practical features, national characteristics and characteristics of era development. It is totally different from the democracy society that western capitalist countries exaggerate and advocate. To make students compare these distorted heretical ideas with socialist ideal with Chinese characteristics through actual comparison, on one hand, can exercise students to establish correct value system, on the other hand, can improve the ideological and political awareness of students to a certain extent, and allow students to take a positive attitude in making development direction of political belief clear. After improving students’ subjective initiative, students’ directivity and emphasis of taking initiative in contacting with political belief are self-evident.

Third, take socialism concept of honor and disgrace as the standard, and specify the existence value of college students’ political belief. ‘Eight honors and eight disgraces’ interprets strongly the value orientation and standard of behavior of socialism concept of honor and disgrace, which is of much persuasive and realistic significance in the political belief education for college students. Some of established traditional thoughts are integrated and contents with extremely era characteristics are also covered, and the most important is that most contents of which can be completely integrated together with college students’ daily life and morality construction in political ideology, which provides a scaling scope of constraint for the existence value of college students’ political belief and makes students clearly recognize the relationship between right and wrong as well as cause and effect in political belief education.

**Improvement Ways of College Students’ Political Belief Education**

It must be stressed that education in the level of these ideologies is very challenging for contemporary college students, some traditional models and methods have obviously outdated under the background of era development. Therefore, some approaches for improving college students’ political belief education must be adopted to make college students accept political belief in proactive perspective in subjective consciousness. The following measures are usually taken:

First, dilute the model of classroom teaching, and guide students to combine theory with practice so as to verify the content of ideological and political education. Ideological and political education curriculum in undergraduate phase is an important form of political belief education for college students. However, with respect to some students with weaker understanding ability, the preaching of content risen to theoretical level in the mode of classroom teaching can only make students understand from the level of passive acceptance, it can’t inspire students’ ability of actively thinking at all. If trying to dilute the mode of classroom teaching, and encouraging students to combine theory with practice and sum up the essence of political belief from practice, then students’ relevant understanding will naturally deepen.

Second, dilute abstract learning and encourage students to participate extensively in social practice. Although university life and learning environment are much richer than that in high school stage, they still have a big gap compared with the complicated and changeable social environment. For some students with more active mode of thinking, they tend to think that ‘the wolf is coming’, they can encourage students to participate extensively in social practice and sum up some experience and even lessons from it by themselves, which have positive effect on the growth of students. Because college students in this age are more familiar with the
self-centered lifestyle, they haven’t suffered too many frustrations, and the education of causing 
some moderately man-made frustrations is entirely feasible for enhancing students’ ideological 
level.

Third, enrich the content of campus culture and comprehensively make the content of political 
belief education for college students clear. The construction of campus culture not only takes 
ideological and political teachers as the main body, and college students’ enthusiasm to participate 
in is more often higher. The content of campus culture contains ideological and political 
information, which is especially important for college students’ political belief education. 
Especially in the modern Internet plus age, massive information can be spread through Weibo, 
WeChat and other online and offline interchange activities, these contents will have intuitive touch 
for the thought of college students. On one hand, teachers who are responsible for ideological and 
political education should build online communication platform like this, they should make use of 
Internet environment to understand and grasp ideological trend of students in a timely manner, 
especially make appropriate guidance for individual students’ fluctuations of mind, on the other 
hand, they should actively participate in these online and offline theme activities, if objective 
conditions permit, teachers can also make use of some specific debates, keynote speeches, special 
reports and other forms to warn people by taking themselves as an example on related content of 
political belief. One is to make the content of campus culture more colorful, and the second is to 
make the connotation and content of campus culture more have tendency, and the most important is 
to make campus culture become the ‘second classroom’ of college students’ ideological and 
political education, especially for political belief education.

It should be stressed that in the process of online communication, students may come into contact 
with some bad information, some teachers deny by taking the form of ‘one size fits all’, and some 
teachers take an attitude of ‘turning a blind eye’. In the author’s opinions, these two modes are 
relatively radical, if there is no sufficient argument and evidence, it is not only difficult for students 
to accept teachers’ opinions, students’ tendency to dabble in these bad information will even be 
likely to be boosted due to teachers’ attitude of disregard. Based on this, on one hand, teachers must 
take tolerant attitude to allow the existence of these problems so as to face students’ questioning by 
adopting a positive attitude. However, if we can use the above mentioned methods to guide students 
to find out answers in practice by themselves, the effect may be more obvious.

Conclusion
Xun Zi said: ‘Gentlemen study, hear in the ears, remember in the heart, devote all the efforts, and 
have good manners in every word and action.’ Only earnestly strengthening students’ ideological and political 
education in university stage, especially conducting targeted political belief education for college 
students, can colleges cultivate more, better and qualified talents for the future construction of our 
country. It is especially important to make students clearly understand that life is the gradually 
formed and established process of belief, belief education is based on life and higher than life, only 
routed in the life world of the unity of ‘what it is’ and ‘ought to be’, can college students’ political 
belief education blossom and have full vitality in the real world.

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