An Analysis of the Cultivation Path of Core Socialist Values from the Perspective of Marxist Human Theory

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Abstract. The ideological and political education of Core Socialist Values is an essential part of the ideological and political education in colleges and universities, an important path of the realization of the Chinese dream, and it has to go through an inexorable process from individual spontaneity to social consciousness. This paper is based on the perspective of Marxist human theory, and explains the idea that Marxist human theory is the guiding thought of the ideological and political education of Core Socialist Values for university students from three aspects: human nature, human value and human development. Then, it presents its own thinking about the cultivation path of Core Socialist Values from three dimensions: value choosing, value integration and value reconstruction.

1. Introduction

Marxist human theory “studies the general laws of the existence, the nature, the activity and the development of humans, as well as the basic principles of the value, the aim, the course of life” [1]. Fundamentally, the ideological and political education is a research work about “humans”, which is regarded as the penetration and extension of Marxist human theory to life practice in society.

As an important content and direction of the ideological and political education in the university, the ideological and political education of Core Socialist Values for university students takes Marxist human theory as the guiding thought, people in reality as the objects of the study, the essential problems of humans as the inherent bases, the realization of human value as the essential requirement, and the free and all-round development of humans as the ultimate goal.

Therefore, it continues to simulate people’s subjectivity and self-consciousness, and try to realize the contemporaneous development of human and nature, the harmonious coexistence among humans, and the coordinated progress of human and society. In the end, we hope to lay a solid foundation for the ideological and political education of Core Socialist Values for university students in the new era.

2. Marxist Human Theory Is the Guiding Thought of the Ideological and Political Education of Core Socialist Values for University Students

From the perspective of Marxist human theory, “the scope of human theory is not a scope of reality, but a scope of thinking” [2]. Starting from human itself, Marxist human theory focuses on the human survival and human development, and reveals human essence and value. The subject of Core Socialist Values is human; therefore it is subject to the effect of human development.

Accordingly, the ideological and political education of Core Socialist Values is supposed to be under the guidance of Marxist human theory, and emphasizes the concern for human survival. Its assessment should not go beyond human existence, and show full respect for human creativity, hence creating a good environment for the free and all-round development of humans.
2.1 The fundamental problem of human is the core of Marxist human theory, and also the intrinsic basic of the ideological and political education of Core Socialist Values for university students

Human nature is the unity of the nature of species and the nature of society, and exists in reality, perception, and changing social relations.

In the Theses on Feuerbach, Marx concluded that “human nature is not some abstract concept which is only possessed by individuals, but as for its practical significance, it is the summation of all social relations” [3]. Social relations are concrete and historical. With the development of social relations and people's increasingly rich practice activities, human nature has changed.

People in reality are also always in a specific social relation and under a specific historical condition. So understanding the nature of people in reality is the intrinsic basis of the ideological and political education of Core Socialist Values for university students, which can directly influence our practical activities.

Accordingly, in the ideological and political education of Core Socialist Values for university students, we need to respect human nature, advocate human subjectivity, and put people in different social relationships, so as to make a concrete analysis of concrete conditions. The subjectivity, spontaneity and creativity of university students should be maximized, therefore arousing a sense of identity, self-consciousness, correction deep down in their values, so that the system of Core Socialist Values can be rooted in their internal values structure.

2.2 The problem of human value is the pillar of Marxist human theory, as well as the essential requirement for the ideological and political education of Core Socialist Values for university students

In terms of human value, Marx once put it that “no matter how an individual detaches himself from all kinds of relations, he is always a product of these relations in the sense of society” [4]. These words denote that it is the individuals that constitute society. Therefore, the value of individual is embodied only in society.

In the meantime, the value of society can never be achieved without the common realization of the values of all individuals. Because human value is always acquired through various kinds of real-life activities and in a certain type of relation of social production, just as Marx said “everything people struggle to get, is related to their own interests” [5].

The key to the problems in the ideological and political education of Core Socialist Values is how to deal with and respond to the reasonable appeals of university students in today’s universities, and to which extent should their practical needs be satisfied, guaranteed and improved, so as to realize the harmony and unity of individual value and social value.

So during the process of Core Socialist Values education, the social requirements should be passed to university students; meanwhile, the human value should also be emphasized.

We need to encourage them to realize their individual values through active participation in practical activities. This helps to utilize their self-consciousness to internalize the social value, and enhance their self-awareness, thus to a large degree, achieving the unity of right and obligation, as well as the integration of demand and contribution. In addition, the development of the university and society can also be promoted.

2.3 The development of human is the keystone of Marxist human theory, as well as the ultimate goal of the ideological and political education of Core Socialist Values for university students

The free and all-round development is the ultimate appeal of Marxist human theory, and also the essential requirement for the socialism. Marx pointed out that “the free development of every individual is the condition of the free development of all human beings” [6]. This is an absolute proposition of collectivism, which properly solves many contradictions concerning the long-existing relations between “individual and all human beings” in human society and other issues related to this.

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The process of the free and all-round development of humans is, in essence, the elevation of human subjectivity, the improvement of working capacity, the enrichment of social relationships and the perfection of comprehensive quality.

The ideological and political education of Core Socialist Values is of great importance throughout this process. Therefore, the ideological and political education of Core Socialist Values for university students needs to take the free and all-round development of humans as the ultimate goal.

On the one hand, it should focus on the sociality of a person, cultivating people with sound political personality and making them adapting to the requirements of the times and social development.

On the other hand, it should create various kinds of carriers and forms conducive to human freedom, individuality, generation and development, equipping people in practice with personal value to realize their own survival and the development of their internal needs.

Besides, we also need to stimulate people’s initiative, enthusiasm and creativity, and strengthening the pertinence and effectiveness of the ideological and political education of Core Socialist Values for university students.

3. The Education Route of Core Socialist Values for University Students Based on Marxist Human Theory

3.1 Value choosing: taking the development of human subjectivity as the breakthrough point

The value choosing is about the value orientation of human existence, practical activity or mode of practice, which consists in human values including the choices of value standard and value object [7]. Marxist human theory emphasizes that the human nature is realistic and concrete. Therefore, it is necessary to understand the ideological and political education of Core Socialist Values based on the reality of human nature.

The development of human subjectivity is the premise and foundation of the ideological and political education of Core Socialist Values, and also the breakthrough point of the formation of Core Socialist Values for university students.

The ideological and political education of Core Socialist Values is a process in which the external objective requirements are transformed into internal subjective requirements, internalizing the external social norms and objective requirements into individual qualities. In other words, the subjective identification of value consciously and dynamically in practice is inseparable from the independent participation of the main practice.

Because the Core Socialist Values norm is the premise and foundation which make sure that the value choosing is not blind, when teaching students some basic and essential Core Socialist Values and providing them with some scientific guidance on value choosing, we should adhere to the people-oriented concept, fully arouse their own sense of subject, and improve their participation in the process of education.

Besides, on the basis of value judgment, we need to teach university students to form a reasonable system of value evaluation and uphold the value goal and value standard, therefore consciously shaping Core Socialist Values into something that meets the modern requirements for social talents among other diversified values.

3.2 Value integration: taking the realization of human value as the growth point

The value integration means that the subject of values integrates the diversified and divided values, and eventually forms a set of unique values which will benefit the realization of both individual value and social value. On the value conflicts caused by the diversification and division of values, the value integration after the phase of value division is to be advocated.

The pursuit of common core socialist values is in fact a manifestation of values and cultural awareness. According to Marx’s theory of humanism, human value includes social value and personal value, and these two values form two aspects of human value organically and uniformly. Not a single one of these two can be dispensed with.
Individuals can earn the social recognition of the individual value when devoting themselves to social practice. The ultimate purpose of people’s social value is the realization of individual value, but the value of one’s life exists in the individual contribution and responsibility to society.

Therefore, we must take the fulfillment of humans’ reasonable needs as the premise of the value integration and attach importance to the needs of university students’ internal value development, elevating the degree of integration between individual values of university students and social-led values.

Through all sorts of forms, the “absorptivity” [8] of society-led values towards the individual values of university students needs to be improved, hence furthering the integration and unification of these two values, which realizes the ideological and political education of Core Socialist Values for university students.

3.3 Value reconstruction: take the promotion of human development as the foothold

The traditional values have been shattered into pieces because of the wave of market-directed economy. However, new and systematic values have not been set up at the root. The values of university students nowadays are currently at lost; this is the premise and background before the implementation of value reconstruction.

Value reconstruction is a value appeal to reconstruct, outside the existing value system, a set of values which corresponds to the practical and developmental requirements of people in modern times. It is different from the value choosing and the value integration of diversified values in existence.

The cultural transition is a necessary process of social transition, whose essence is the modernization of culture. And it is, fundamentally speaking, the modernization of humans. In other words, the modernization of humans is the modernization of values.

Therefore, the value reconstruction is, by its very nature, an attempt to construct values in accordance with the modern individuals.

For us, we should to learn to distinguish, choose and integrate values in the context of the diversified and divided values. On the basis of the modern values which carry forward the fine traditional values, the value reconstruction is executed, striking a balance between main bodies with diversified values and multidimensional values, hence realizing the free and all-round development of humans.

References