Plural Society Thought Trends’ Challenge and Responses on Ideological and Political Education in Colleges

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Abstract: The Plural Society Thought Trends produce severe challenges on the ideological and political education in colleges and universities. The key roles of responding to the challenge are those ideological and political educators in colleges. However, these ideological and political educators have problems of being short of "Calcium" in their ideals and beliefs and lack of "Iron" in their comprehensive quality. Hence, it can be solved and addressed from strengthening belief, improving quality and ensuring treatment.

Society thought trends refer to ideological trends which can reflect the social and political situation and have a greater impact in a certain period of time, a social class or stratum. They are based on a certain society existing, they regard the corresponding ideology as the theory core, and influence, restrict, permeates each other with some kind of social psychology. They are opposite to Marxism or similar to it, they are non-mainstream ideologies. Our universities are universities under the leadership of the Party, we must uphold the guiding thought of Marxism. However, universities are not isolated or vacuum exist in society, Varieties of Social ideological trends will inevitably have impacts on universities. Colleges students are the most active groups, they are the easiest groups to be inspired by social trends. In order to help foster college students’ correct life outlook, world outlook and value, we must focus on and study how to carry on ideological and political education in colleges and universities under the background of plural society thoughts.

1. Plural Society Thought Trends’ Challenge on Ideological and Political Education in Colleges and Universities.

The happening of society thought trends has its basis in reality. As a type of society thought trend, he power of its producing is social problems and conflicts. Neoliberalism tries to overcome the low efficiency and bloated, corrupt bureaucratic government; New Left means to solve the domestic extreme gap between poor and rich and polarization. Democratic Socialism is facing the problem of how to keep vitality of the Party. However, for the current existing social problems, the mainstream ideology also has corresponding opinion. Marxism and its Sinicization results regard the key to solve the problems facing China’s transitional period is the steady development and progressive reform under the leadership of the Party. Because of the propagation of the giant work from development and reform, it's difficult to share the reform results with all people in a short time, which causes people to have a misunderstanding of "Marxism is out of date" and " Capitalism is superior". Marxism is a theory aims at achieving human's comprehensive freedom development. Web difficulty―rational cage, which is caused by the development of modernity, making Marxism more valuable and advanced.

The violent conflicts between the slogan, confusion, spell resistance of the society thoughts and the long-term nature, complexity, difficulty of Marxism solving reality problems bring severe challenges to ideological and political education in colleges and universities.
1.1 Challenge on Mainstream Words.

Society thought trend is essentially a case to solve social problems. Thought they are different from each other, their similarities all question the feasibility of building socialism with Chinese characteristics. For example, for the problem of corruption, our Party’s governing strategy is that Party must manage parties and strictly administering the Party. Liberalism considers separation of the power, check and balance of western style is the best medicine. For the rule of law issue, Our Party thinks that they must organic unify with the leadership of Tarty, people being the masters and rule by law. Western political thoughts consider that justice must be independent. Mainstreaming words is our Party’s powerful weapon of interpreting theory, system and road of socialism with Chinese characteristics to varieties of social communities, and the mixing of kinds of society thought trends will inevitably mislead. So when ideological and political educators in colleges and universities are teaching, instill the theme, they must bring into play class nature, scientific, critical and militancy of Marxist theory to recognize the existing hypocrisy of society thought trend itself.

1.2 Challenge on Political Identification.

Over the past 40 years since the reform and opening-up, we have made remarkable achievements. It is the world’s largest producer, the largest trade nation, the second-largest economic country. Its per GDP is over than $8000, and so on. Which Strengthens people’s recognition of the legitimacy of current system. But achievements and problems coexist, the widening of gap between the poor and rich, the degradation of ecosystem environment the frequent happening of social violence events, the high mass petition, the rising of group events year by year. It is hard not to get people be suspicious of the current institution and system. It also provides helpful condition for spreading of kinds of thought trends. Because college students’ psychology are not mature enough and lack of social experience, they will be easy of forming extreme understanding of social problems. They will regard all kinds of social conflicts due to no democratization in China, but their awareness of democracy is a western-style democracy, and the history has proved again and again that western-style democracy is not suitable for China. China needs to construct its own characteristics democracy. The essences of the democracy is people being the masters, people decide their own affairs. But since the World War II, the conception of western democracy theory value has gradually decreased, the tool value has continually expanded-finally, it reduced to "Select", democratic politics transformed into economic politics. Therefore, the western democratic politics is not our fate. What we pursue is the true people being the masters of socialist democratic politics with Chinese characteristics.

1.3 Challenges on Cultural Beliefs.

Excellent traditional Chinese cultural emphasizes the "Benevolence" and "Self-control", but western thought trends promote hedonism, individualism and extreme liberalism through the Internet and other channels. These what we said "advanced" conceptions have violent impact to our inherent cultural beliefs With a banner of learning from west, hedonism, utilitarianism and extreme individualism can be overt, they are even proud of it. They whitewash hedonism as "Act in accordance with the laws of the market"; speak utilitarianism as "Development is inescapable truth"; and pack extreme individualism into" To let part of people get rich first". Recent years, news of college students involved in the dark side of the society is common, seeking arrangement, bare loans, escort, wealth flaunt emerge in an endless stream. As future builders and successors of our country and nation, college students lose the traditional "Sense of shame" culture and conception of right or wrong. And this is the bottom line of ideological and political education. So, we have to clean up the harm tradition of capitalist values and revive the glory of Chinese nation excellent morality.
2. The Key Roles of Responding to Plural Society Thought Trends Are Ideological and Political Educators.

The most effected groups by society—the first one should be students in colleges and universities. College students’ minds are not mature enough, they lack of social experience, they don’t have discernment ability of theory of right and wrong, not to say sharp political antennae and political discernment. So many college students become fans of society thoughts. In the 80 ages of last century, there was a hot of western culture in colleges and universities, such as Sartre hot, Nietzsche hot, Freud hot and so on. Due to the lack of control, it finally caused to eight or nine storm. Therefore, avoiding invasion of all kinds of thought trends, paying close attention to college students’ ideological situation, doing their ideological and political education are necessary measures to maintain the safety of ideology and political stability. But paying too much attention to students themselves is not enough or even unscientific.

Society thought trends influenced college students because they are restricted by their own physiology, psychology, age, contact and other nature conditions, that is to say, It is inevitable for college students to be influenced by thoughts trends, which means that what we can do is not how to eliminate negative impact, but how to reduce and hedge it. Who can undertake assume this important role must be ideological and political educators in colleges and universities.

Ideological and political educators in colleges and universities are main teachers from department of political and department of philosophy and social sciences. Deng Xiaoping once pointed out that "Whether a school can cultivate qualified talents for social construction and workers who are intellectual with both socialism consciousness and culture or not lies in teachers."[1]. These ideological and political teachers who assume the maintenance of ideology and dissemination are the most important. They are in front of the ideological and political education, facing directly to students’ all kinds of problems of ideological understanding, so they are comparatively superior of owing information and practical experience. On the one hand, using good superiority to kill all kinds of mixing, wrong understandings in cradle, ideological and political education will play an effect of twice the result with half the effort. On the other hand, self-giving up or failing to hold superiority, ideological and political education can arouse the educated’ boredom. So studying and analyzing why ideological and political educators are difficult to grasp and elaborate their own strengths becomes the idea of the theme.

2.1 Ideals and Beliefs Are not Determined, Spirit Beliefs Are Short of "Calcium".

It can be said that most of the ideological and political educators’ idea beliefs are determined and they are unswerving in communism. But there are a lot of numbers are changers, speculators or even lurkers.

With the process of reform and opening-up, consumer society rises rapidly, utilitarianism becomes the value standards which is recognized by majority of society members. Before the reform, ideological and political educators enjoyed high social status in a society which emphasized on collectivism and altruism. But after the reform, they are no longer as they have been in a society which highlights individualism and utilitarianism. Relevant material survey shows, on question of "If you can tell others that you are a teacher of ideology and politics", 11.2 percent answered no, 26.4 percent answered according to the situation. Sociological symbolic interaction theory thinks that individuals know about themselves by other people’s reflection on them and assessment, it is to say, the reflection of individual value needs recognition of society. Maslow’s need hierarchy theory also thinks of individuals have needs of respect their roles, and self-actualization, so once others are not sure of their roles, individuals will have sense of failure. The ideological and political educators’ great disparity front and back society status created their frustration, and produced value confusion. Ideological and political educators who shake or give up Marxism value pursuit are extreme possibly to be captured by the western thought trends and religions. The consequence of ideological and political class in college will be unbearable which is directed by Ideological and political educators who believe in western capitalism values.
2.2 Social Science Quality Is not Excellent, Comprehensive Ability Is Short of "Iron".

Facing challenges of all kinds of society thought trends, ideological and political educators should be actively fight them, which is not only responsibility but also obligation. Ideological and political educators assume the glorious mission of setting up morality and cultivating people which is given by Party and governments. When reality threatens to reach the goal, they should sword actively than let them be free. However, in reality, a lot of ideological and political educators’ have indifferent sense of responsibility and guard, which intensively shows inaction, disorder and daring not to act. Without responsibility, they don’t act; they want to act, but because of the lack of capacity and they act disorderly; they can act but fish for fame and dare not to act. No matter in which situation, after all is the lack of academic self-confidence, and the comprehensive quality of social science is not hard enough! National Academy of Education Administration study shows, 27 percent ideological and political educators think that the most essential factor which restricts the effect of ideological and political course is "Some teachers’ theoretical basis and scientific quality is not enough".[3]Because their own quality is not hard enough, they are sure to act nothing; because their quality doesn’t pass but they want to behave as if they have courage to assume, which will be self-defeating instead and act disorderly; with capability but they’re not profound enough knowledge, they fear to expose themselves to ridicule, so they dare not to act.

The theory view is not widen enough, the view of history is not long enough. Ideological and political educators are the first promoters of our Party’s theories, principles and policies, and their facing subjects are college students with more active thoughts, so it doesn’t work to script. Then it would be necessary for ideological and political educators to process a second time with Party’s publicity and proposition based on profound theory basis and rich knowledge of history to produce knowledge products students love. Such as, teach to students the assertion of "A great magic weapon for success of China’s revolution, construction and reform if the Party’s leadership". It is far from enough for only knowing the history of modern and Party, but you also need to know political science, sociology, relevant theories of management and the history of the world communist movement. Depth of theory and historical depth feeling are two great factors of teaching ideological and political course well. However, due to the ideological and political educators’ knowledge structure aging, narrow knowledge, and insensitive knowledge updating, it is difficult to explain real problems thoroughly by combining theories and history and give people the truth.

3. College’s Options on Society Thoughts Trend.

3.1 Strengthen Belief.

Undetermined ideals and beliefs are root of all problems; firm ideals and beliefs are important guarantee for success of our enterprises. Strengthening ideological and political educators’ ideals and beliefs in colleges and universities is the most important of ideology safety work in colleges and universities. As college students’ leaders of building up communist ideal and belief, ideological and political teachers in colleges and universities must be pretty loyal to and faith for Party’s ideals and beliefs. At first, universities and leading cadres of all classes should pay attention to it. Leading cadres in charge of the ideological and political work in colleges and universities should talk frequently with ideological and political teachers who are in the first line to answer their psychological puzzles in time and encourage them. Local leading cadres should often walk into colleges and universities, explain economic, political and social realities for ideological and political educators in forms of lectures, seminars and conferences to determine their confidence of Chinese experience, Chinese pattern and Chinese road. Secondly, strengthen the learning of socialism theory with Chinese characteristics. Know the origin and development of Party’s new ideal, conception and strategy for governing country and administration to make them personally feel that the communist Party of China’ governing position, the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics’ guiding position is a choice of history and people, and it has reality and inevitability. At last, focus on political behavior. All in all, strengthen ideals and beliefs, make ideological and
political educators "truly learn, truly believe, truly teach, truly use" of Marxism, and to enhance Marxism’ power of influence convincing through their own sincere beliefs.

3.2 Improve Quality.

Ideological and political educators are in the first line of guaranteeing the safety of ideology work in colleges and universities, their ability quality is related to the success or failure of their work. Social science and academic conservation is the basic skills of them if they are short, it is firstly difficult to grasp the ideology of the whole society situation, and then it is difficult to respond to challenges and even provocation of other academic genres. Enhancing comprehensive qualities can start with the following three points. The first one is to increase the training of social sciences academic ability, widen theory view, expand history view and master advanced research methods. The second one is to strengthen ideological and political educators’ specialization construction, cut part-time and non-specialized teachers down. Ideological and political education is a highly specialized practical activity, recruiting teachers should take priority for related professional applicants to reduce the number of people who are not professional. The third one is to strengthen the interaction intensity among ideological and political educators peers.

3.3 Ensure Treatment.

Material incentive is the premise of ideological and political educators to do work well. Marx and Engels had already pointed out that "All people struggle for is related to their profit." [4]. But at present, the entire teachers’ income distribution in colleges and universities is not optimistic. First is the asymmetry of paying and income, that is strong sense of injustice. A survey of teachers in colleges and universities in Beijing shows, 28.9 percent of people think that Paying matches with reward.24.3 percent of people regard it general, 46.7 percent of people regard they don’t match with each other, that is to say, the income distribution is unfair. [5]secondly, it is that the treatment of young teachers is generally low. There is a research showing, 81.9 percent of young teachers’ income is under 100,000, 34.6 percent of them is even under 600,000[6] The situation of ideological and political educators is even worse. Ensuring ideological and political educators’ treatment can start from two aspects, on the one hand, improve the teachers’ basic wage, explicit its stability and supportability functions, because ideological and political educators can’t assume some social or enterprises’ lateral projects like other subject teachers to promote their own economic situation, they can only rely on their basic wage to ensure their rightful social position, once even this goal is difficult to achieve, then it cannot say for sure that they don’t lose their confidence of nation, ethics and society, thus impeding the teaching and practice of ideological and political education. On the other hands, improve the treatment level of young ideological and political teachers, provide necessary care in housing, welfare, children of nursery school, research funding and other aspects to solve their worries. Young ideological and political teachers are polymers of intellectuals, outstanding persons of Marxism and young groups, their ideals are advanced, thinking is sharp, and sensitive with kinds of society thought trends. They have strong leading and demonstrating function on the value of college students. So only we ensure their basic treatment and maintain their dignity of being a college ideological and political educators, can we make them be settle for teaching, willing to scientific researches and settle for building up students!

References:


