**An Analysis of Deng Xiaoping’s Ideology of Legal Education for Teenagers**

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**Abstract:** Legal education should focus on teenagers and the formation of juvenile’s legal literacy is directly related to the healthy growth of the young. Deng Xiaoping attaches great importance to the development of the concept of legal education for teenagers. The legal education ideas, “legal education should start from the doll”, put forward by Deng, incorporate juvenile legal education into the national education system. To deepen the development of Deng's concept of juvenile legal education is to focus on popularizing law in the youth, sum up and use the practical experience of young people's study and usage of law and formulate the legal education outline for the youth in line with the characteristics of youth education. It uses the classroom as the main channel and takes the new carrier of law education by We-Media to ensure that the young can receive basic legal education. It takes social practice as the second classroom and comprehensively utilizes family, school, society, the “Trinity” legal education pattern to promote the deepening of the rule of law education of youth.

“Legal education should start from the doll” is the rule of legal education in China for many years and a well-known legal education concept. Comrade Deng Xiaoping stressed in his “Speech on Strengthening Legal Education”: “To strengthen the legal system is to carry out education and the fundamental problem is to educate people. The law education should start from the doll, the elementary school, the middle school must carry on this education and society also must do this.” [1]Comrade Deng has made important speeches on the issue of legal education for the young and has some specific instructions on the legal education for adolescents, which has pointed out the direction for the development of the legal ideology of the young. Today, it is still the basic practice of our youth legal education. In March 2016, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council forwarded the “The seventh five-year plan (2016-2020) on the citizens to carry out legal publicity and education by Central Propaganda Department, the Ministry of Justice”, made arrangements for carrying out the work of “the law popularization during the seventh five-year plan” and put forward the specific ideas of taking leading cadres and teenager as key object.

The current law popularization is facing a profound transition period, from the shop booth to the targeted education, from the common sense to the education of legal professional knowledge, from universal education to classified education, which is the inevitable result of the promotion of legal education pattern. It is bound to require that the legal education of the young must be specialized, targeted and classified. In this regard, Deng's thoughts in legal education for teenagers provide us with a good guide.

**Attaching Importance to Deng Xiaoping’s Thought on Strengthening the Status and Function of Legal Education for teenagers**

For a long time after the founding of China, social construction, political construction and economic construction is the focus of our construction and economy, society develop rapidly. At the same time there have been “economic crime”, “significant increase of criminal cases and vicious cases”
[2], which require to strengthen the transformation of social governance model and gradually realize the legalization of governance. Deng stressed the importance of the rule of law at many meetings, especially after The Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee and the necessity and urgency of the legal system construction were strengthened. On the basis of summarizing the experience of governance for a period of time, Deng proposed that the legal system should be regarded as the focus of the work of the party and the state in the new period. Deng especially reviewed the mistakes of the past, “Stalin seriously undermined the legal system of socialist, Comrade Mao Zedong said, such an event would not happen in Britain, France, the United States and other western countries.” [3] These lessons are extremely profound, therefore we must strengthen the construction of socialist democracy and rule of law and ensure that the construction of socialist is under the system protection.

Deng Xiaoping’s legal education for teenagers was proposed against the background of Deng’s legal education. Deng pointed out in the “Speech on Strengthening Legal Education”: “The legal education should start from the doll, the elementary school, the middle school must carry on this education and society also must do this. The problems that belong to the scope of law and society of the unhealthy tendency should be corrected by strengthening the legal system and social education.” [4] This is an important content of Deng’s theory of legal education for teenagers.

After the Second World War, western countries rebuilt the rule of law, restored democracy, modified the past mistakes in the restoration of the legal system and injected new contents, which made many western democratic countries develop rapidly and society gradually stabilized. But at the beginning of reform and opening up, “opening and invigorating will inevitably bring about some bad things and if do not deal with it, we will go astray.” [5] In the early days of reform, the winds of the unhealthy tendencies were very violent, which caused the attention of Deng and he took a long view. Deng considered that we should not only promote the development, but also improve the legal system. The international situation made Deng Xiaoping realize that the legal system is the mainstream of the world. On the one hand, the development of legal system can help China to connect with the world; on the other hand, it is helpful to our country’s democratization and legalization.

Comrade Deng Xiaoping especially stressed the importance and necessity of strengthening the socialist legal education for the young. Deng said: “we must strengthen the discipline education and legal education in the party and government agency, military, business, schools and all the people. Students in primary and secondary schools, from the beginning of the school, must learn and obey the discipline they have to abide by. All no discipline, no government and violations of the legal system must be resolutely opposed and corrected.” [6] Deng Xiaoping believed that if the legal education is to be carried out well and smoothly, it is necessary to do a good job in the work of youth and strengthen their legal awareness and the cultivation of democratic legal concept. Only when we strive for the active support of the young and win their trust, can we do a good job of socialist legal education, can our legal system achieve more and better achievements and can we fundamentally improve the legal quality of the whole nation. [7]

The Realistic Basis and the National Conditions of Legal Education from Doll

In Chinese history, the legalists advocated “managing people” through severe punishments and harsh laws, the combination of rule of law and rule of virtue. The role of the rule of law emphasizes on the warning, restraint, disciplinary role of the law and the realization of social education mainly relies on moral education. At the same time the Confucian tradition also emphasizes on moral education and Xunzi declares “not law but authority manipulating the nation”. Only the sage reigns, can rule the country without law. So the traditional family education, school education and even social education for the young are focused on moral education. This tradition determines that our young people lack the necessary sense of the rules and the sense of complying with the social norms, and cannot safeguard their rights in accordance with the law. Deng Xiaoping said, we should make
the rule of law be really understood by everyone so that more and more people not only do not violate the law, but also can actively safeguard the law. [8]

Firstly, adolescents account for a large part of our population and play a vital role in the construction of China's socialist modernization and the rule of law. Part of the adult and part of the minors are collectively called adolescents that is a group with a large age span and a large number. [9]According to the sixth census (2010 census), the total population in China is 1332 million [10] and the amount at the age between 4 and 28 years old is 469 million, accounting for 35.2% of the total population and more than one third.

Secondly, at present, the juvenile delinquency occurs frequently and by the analysis of 100 cases of campus violence, the Supreme People's Court finds that intentional injury (57%), crimes against property (12%), violent crime, temporary impulsive crime are relatively concentrated. After wounding by weapon and resulting in personal injury, most of them has confessed and reached agreements of understanding. [11] The problem reflected is more prominent. The first aspect highlights the deviation of the concept of juvenile rule of law, lack of understanding of legal responsibility. Most people are more tolerant of juvenile delinquency and we can clearly see from the results of the investigation that 54% cases can reach agreements of understanding for the consequences caused by impulsive behaviors of youth. Through these phenomena, violent children and children suffered bullying and hurt should be given enough attention and vigilance. On the one hand it is the lack of legal education; on the other hand it is also the lack of the consciousness of rights safeguarding by law and protection by using law.

Thirdly, the right to education of adolescents includes the content of the legal education, which is one of the basic rights of citizens recognized and guaranteed by the constitution. [12] Since the beginning of 1990, the State Council has approved the establishment work committee of China's concern for the next generation, taking comprehensive improvement of the ideological and moral quality, scientific and cultural quality and health quality of youth as the basic goal to strengthen the ideological and moral construction of minors.

The Core Connotation of Deng Xiaoping 's Theory of Legal Education for Teenagers

Firstly, adolescents learn legal knowledge, understand laws and regulations, behavior patterns and illegal results to achieve the deterrent effect so that their behaviors can be foreseen and thus play a regulatory effect and consciousness. In fact, the strong binding force to the crime is the necessity of the penalty, that is to say, the content of penalty and the standard of sentencing, rather than the severity of penalty. This view originated from the founder of the criminal classical school --- Beccaria. [13]

Secondly, adhere to the principle of legal education in a variety of forms. Networks, advertising video, textbooks and cartoons are all forms that can be taken. For adolescents, boring spoon-feeding education cannot make a deep understanding of the behavioral norms and values behind the legal norms. Therefore, the rich and interesting form of education is of great significance for youth's legal education. The negative and illegal case is also a good way of education. Comrade Deng Xiaoping once said, “Find a variety of ways, do more conversion work, turn the bad into the good, or better”. [14] Educate youth in the consequences of violating law through the wrong, illegal cases and make them aware of the authority of the law.

Thirdly, adhere to the education principle of combining theory with practice. For young people, teachers should combine the preparation of legal theory courses with theory and practice and form a syllabus. They can combine the legal common sense with life and train the young's legal awareness. For the content of the theory with practice, we should do the following three points, that is, authenticity, relevance and diversity. Authenticity refers to the content of theory and practice must be objective. Teachers must be practical and realistic and teach students legal knowledge objectively.

Fourthly, adhere to the education style of the combination of school, family and society. Deng pointed out in the “Speech on Strengthening Legal Education”: “The legal education should start
from the doll, the elementary school, the middle school must carry on this education and society also must do this." [15] The stage of juvenile acceptance of legal education is often the stage of accepting compulsory education or secondary school and higher education, therefore at this stage, the young stay in school and in the family for most of time. Parents are the first teachers of the children and the impact of family atmosphere on the child is subtle.

In school education, cultural education and legal education can promote each other. Deng Xiaoping believe that: “The concept of law are related with people's cultural quality. Now so many young people committing crimes, defying every law and regulation and no scruples, one reason is that cultural quality is too low.” [16] According to the statistics of 2010 “national sampling survey of juvenile delinquency” presided by China Youth Prevention Association, we can find that for the cultural level of minor criminals who do not go to school, “illiterate” and “without graduating from primary school” accounts for 18.6%, “graduating from primary school” accounts for 9.4%, “without graduating from junior high school” accounts for 53%, “graduating from junior high school” accounts for 13.7%, “without graduating from high school or secondary school” and “graduating from high school or secondary school” account for 5.2%, which do not complete nine-year compulsory education up to 81%. [17]This statistic verifies this claim.

The Enlightenment of Deng Xiaoping’s Theory of Legal Education for Teenagers

With the improvement of socialist legal system in our country, the cultivation of teenagers’ legal consciousness has been paid more attention. So far, there are many official documents on legal education for teenagers, such as “Several Opinions on Further Strengthening Legal Education for Adolescents”, “Outline of National Medium- and Long-term Educational Reform and Development Plan (2010-2020)” and so on. In the end of the sixth five-year plan, more than 30,000 youth legal education bases have been established and 96.5% of primary and secondary schools have equipped with the legal counselors. Ministry of Justice and Central Committee of the Communist Young League hold online legal knowledge contest annually and has attracted a total of about 1000000 young people in this 5 years to participate in. [18] Early legal education for teenagers is fruitful and gives us a lot of experience and inspiration both from the form and the content.

Firstly, mobilize a wide range of social forces to carry out legal education for young people. The construction of legal system is a systematic project and legal education is the foundation of the system engineering. People from all walks of life, including education, judiciary, grassroots autonomous organizations, in accordance with the “who is in charge who is responsible” principle to promote the connection between each industry, unit and the characteristics of the industry, legal needs of specific groups, carry out legal publicity and education and vigorously promote the popularization of legal education.

Secondly, put the construction of the new media publicity platform in a more prominent position. In the era of We-media, that “everyone has a microphone” gives the young unlimited broad platform to expand the channels of access to legal information for themselves. The current youth have been unable to leave the mobile network, micro-blog, WeChat and other personal social platform and sharing collaboration platform, etc. The storm of We-media has affected all aspects of social life. Adolescents can easily access legal knowledge and legal solutions through a shared platform and a collaborative platform. Meanwhile, the We-media platform will also bring youth’s alienation and dislocation to legal value and function and form the misleading of legal consciousness to youth. In this We-media environment, we should accelerate the promotion of legal publicity and education, scientific and technological progress and information construction, give full play to the leading role of Chinese Law Publicity the Chinese network and the English network, the official We Chat, micro-blog, client of China Law Publicity (“two net two micro and one end”) in popularizing law of new media, carry out the release of comprehensive communication index of We Chat official accounts of national popularizing law and mobilize all over the country,
departments and the community to promote the use of new media to carry out legal publicity and education and to play a cluster effect. [19]

Thirdly, innovate the form of legal education for teenagers, such as “the national legal publicity and education products database”, going online in May 9, 2016. This database embodies the diversity, abundance and comprehensiveness of legal education. From the category, it is divided into public service advertising, micro-film, micro-video, image labeling, animation, video lectures, audio-visual materials, aphorisms; from the type, it is divided into audio, video, pictures, animation, text, courseware, having everything that one expects to find; from the object, it not only includes the leading cadres, the young, farmers, the elderly and other key objects, but also includes the disabled, military and other special objects; from the industry, it is divided into education, banking, radio and television, public security and other industries; from the department of law, it contains civil law, criminal law, administrative law and other substantive law, three procedural law and other procedural law; it also contains the constitution, economic law and other categories. Today, with the rapid development of sharing economy of the “Internet +”, the network can become the main battlefield of education of popularizing education. And the innovation of law forms has attract more young people to participate in the practice of learning law, abiding by the law and protecting their rights by law.

References