Analysis on the Ideal and Belief Education of College Students in the New Period

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Abstract. The ideal and belief education is a political view education, which has basic and guiding value for the harmonious development of college students’ spiritual life. The contemporary college students grow up in the environment with the rapid development of the socialist market economy and the rapid spread of the network media, faced with such value transformation and spiritual digestion caused by the social shift and the modern development, so their ideals and beliefs are showing a new feature. This paper proposed an improved strategy of the ideal and belief education combining with the main characteristics and problems of the ideal and belief of college students in the new period, which will be conducive to the development of college students’ ideal and belief education.

Introduction

Ideal and belief, as a spiritual phenomenon, is closely related to the nature, existence and development of human beings, and it is the concentrated expression of people’s world outlook, life outlook and values outlook. It restricts people’s value orientation and behavior choice, and it has an important role of direction and motivation supporting for the personal moral cultivation and the national prosperity. Under the background of globalization, diversification and informatization, the growth environment of college students is special and complex, and the establishment of the scientific ideal and belief is facing challenges. Such background also puts forward new demands to the ideal and belief education.

Historical Background of Ideal and Belief Education of College Students in the New Period

Marx and Engels pointed out that “people’s ideas, views and concepts, that is, people’s consciousness, changed with the transformation of people’s living conditions, social relations and social existence” [1]. Ideal and belief are the categories of spiritual life, but the analysis of them cannot be confined to the spiritual realm, and it needs to find reasons from the historical background.

The new requirements of students’ information choice ability put forward by the multi-culture

College students live in the era of economic globalization, and economic globalization has been expanded from economic exchanges to cultural exchanges, which become the cultural globalization. The important feature of cultural globalization is the exchange of various ideas, which makes the college students’ ideology and values diversified. The once popular thoughts such as democratic socialism ideological trend, the historical nihilism trend, and the value of individualism and liberalism all have a certain negative impact on college students’ value concept formation. In the era of value pluralism, the ideal and belief of college students may become more and more relative and
nihility if they lack the guidance of ultimate value in the confliction and confrontation of multi-culture.

The challenges on college students’ ability to identify information put forward by network environment

According to the statistical report on the development of China Internet Network (July 2015) released by China Internet network information center, the amount of Chinese Internet users is up to 668 million of June 2015, the percentage of students is 24.6% and the college students is 21.6%[2]. Internet is a new medium of information dissemination and it is the inevitable choice of college students. The network has the characteristics of openness, anonymity, interactivity and convenience, etc., but at the same time it is also a double-edged sword. It brings huge information identification pressure for college students in such with so much internet information around them, and it’s easy to cause the decline of their analysis and discrimination ability.

The new requirements of college students’ coping capacity put forward by the popularization of higher education

The popularization of higher education not only brings more opportunities for more and more people to access to higher education, but also cuts the elite consciousness of college students. Elite consciousness has a relationship with social ideals and beliefs; it shows a sense of social responsibility, so the reduction of the elite consciousness is not conducive to the ideal and belief education for college students. In addition, the severe employment situation caused by higher education will also affect the formation and establishment of ideal and belief. On one hand, the employment pressure increases the survival pressure, which is easy to dispel the students’ confidence of the current system. On the other hand, this social reality makes the students more and more utilitarian to their study and their own development.

The negative effect of market economy has an influence on the value of college students.

Marxism considers that the social existence decides the social consciousness. The market economy can stimulate social vitality, enhance the competitive power and increase people’s independence and creativity ability, but its inherent profit-orientation, money worship, individualism and hedonism have a great causticity to some college students, which forms a kind of values which just pursuits of material wealth and weakens the college students’ pursuits of common ideal and long-term ideal.

The Main Characteristics and Problems of College Students’ Ideal and Belief in the New Period

All the college students are communities with active thinking, strong creativity and high intelligence in any kinds of society, and they affect the development potential and direction of the future social. Contemporary college students enjoy the good social environment and material conditions provided by the reform and opening up and market economy, but the negative effect of the reform and opening up and the market economy makes the college students’ ideal and belief present new features and problems.

The macro aspects of college students’ ideal and belief

The mainstream of current university students’ ideals and beliefs are positive, healthy and upward. First of all, college students are concerned about the future and destiny of the country and the nation, their observation of the current situation is objective, they pay more attention to the domestic and international political issues, and their social responsibility sense is significantly enhanced. Secondly, college students’ patriotic enthusiasm continues to climb; they support the leadership of the Communist Party of China and recognize the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics. They have a full confidence on the China’s political stability and economic
development. Thirdly, college students all have a spirit of forge ahead, confident and independent; they have an individual long-term goal and eager to display their talent for the state and society.

The micro aspects of college students’ ideal and belief

Firstly, the ambiguity and contradiction of ideal and belief is very striking. In an increasingly open and diversified social system, college students’ idea has been impacted with the flow of various social thoughts and culture. Although there is a concentrated direction of the ideal and belief of college students in general, but it is not mature. Secondly, personalized and pragmatic tendency is obvious. The contemporary college students grow up in the environment of the reform and opening up and the market economy, and their individual consciousness and subject consciousness is more and more strong. Compared with the former students, they are more pragmatic and rational. And some of the practical action of college students with little social responsibility and they are concerned about personal interests. Thirdly, noble moral ideals, but the disunity of knowing and doing is also very common. Contemporary college students have independent moral evaluation system, they can use quasi adult standard to measure the good and evil, beauty and ugliness of the society, the overall moral standards is very high. Due to the limited knowledge and lack of experience, some students are still affected by the historical nihilism and democratic socialism ideological trend. As a result, the disunity of knowing and doing is still a common phenomenon, and they therefore lack of the practice of good moral ideals and beliefs. Fourthly, positive and confident life ideal and low self-control are very common. College students’ vision is more limited to learning, life, employment and marriage and other aspects of reality due to their physical and mental development characteristics and social role. Their attitude to life is more and more confident; they also pay more attention to the satisfaction of material and spirit. However, they lack of self-control in finding the ideal life.

The Countermeasures for Improving the Ideal and Belief Education of College Students

Faced with the complex international and domestic environment, the characteristics and the life environment of the contemporary college students should be taken into consideration in the ideal and belief education. And it is necessary to guide students to make a tight connection between their individual future and the country’s future destiny.

Close to the reality of life to meet the needs of students

The current ideal and belief education is a systematic and technical education form of rational education. In order to return to the real world of life, the ideal and belief education must break the shackles. People’s dependence on such education is higher if the ideal and belief can satisfy people’s needs, then the meaning of ideal and faith is much greater.

"To enhance the effectiveness of the ideal education, education needs to combine the theory and practice to elaborate and the relationship between personal ideal and belief and the common ideal and belief, and sometimes education also needs to start from the personal ideal and belief education" [3].To achieve the goal of higher value of the individual life, the ideal and belief education must be back to the students’ specific life stage and the real life situation. Contemporary college students witnessed the rapid development of the economy and the rapid transformation of society, they formed the features of open mind, opposition of superstitious, relatively pragmatic and diverse and innovative. However, due to lack of life practice, they have self-center and utilitarian awareness. Ideal and belief education must take into account the above factors, timely convert the corresponding education content, and actively respond to the hot issues which the college students care about and answer questions related to their growth and success.

Construct the social practice environment of experiential type

Engels has proposed three basic ways of establishing faith: participation of production and life, participation of political activities and struggle, and participation of various theoretical activities including philosophy studies. Although these three ways have different emphasizes, but they can be
attributed to social practice activities. Social practice activities have important effect on the establishment and deepening of the ideal and belief.

The ideal and belief education not only cultivate a kind of good external behavior, but also the will to support the practice in the students’ mind. The current social practice activities tend to focus on the form, while ignoring the learning experience. It does not make it as a method to training students’ subjective wisdom. The ideal and belief education should construct the social practice environment of experiential type for students to create an environment of self-experience, self-feedback and self-education, so that they can understand themselves and change themselves. Building experiential social practice environment can strengthen the convincing of ideal and belief education, guide students to consciously put their own development and progress and the country’s fate together and stimulate their enthusiasm for the pursuit of the ideal and faith

Develop students’ capacity of network subject

As a tool, the network itself will not create value or disaster and the real role is the human power. Contemporary college students can be more skilled to the use of emerging media such as the Internet than the past few generations. The positive role of the network depends on the cultivation of students’ ability of the network subject.

Firstly, develop students’ information exploration, identification, selection and use ability. Education can start from carrying out network cultural activities, for example carrying out Internet voting activities and the theme essay contest activities according to the social issues to mobilize the students’ activity and develop students’ subjectivity in a variety of training activities. Secondly, it is necessary to guide students to achieve network self-teaching and self-discipline during solving the ideological problems and practical problems. Focused on the reality of the students through the network psychological counseling and ideological research platform. Cultivate their awareness and abilities for solving problems based on the students’ real confusion and development needs. In addition, education should realize the students’ subjectivity in the practical activities. For example, the large-scale public fitness activities “Voyager” held by Zhejiang University’s students, which takes the network as the mediation, gives full play to the students’ main functions of self-service, self-education, and self-management and then expands the new connotation of campus network culture.

Summary

The complex international and domestic environment brings new condition and new problems to the modern college students which also have deeply influence. At present, ideal and belief education for the college students should be closely related to the reality of their life and thoughts. We should promote the effect of the education and integrate theory with practice.

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