Research on Core Values Education Paradigm of Universities in Singapore

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Abstract. The sole of the nation is core value, to which any society attaches great importance and has formed the core values that adapt to its development. The core values education of universities in Singapore has reached remarkable achievements, and its educational paradigm is in sharp features: value orientation in unity of diversity and diversity of unity; the target of compatibility of Eastern and Western culture, paying equal attention to social value and individual value; using various cooperation and full penetration as the educational channel. Nowadays, the socialist core values education in universities of China faces many difficulties, but it can learn from Singapore’s successful experience, try to achieve the combination of the core value and pursuit of various values, amalgamation of emotion recognition and value isomorphism, unity of main channel infusion and all-round penetration.

Introduction

For college students, cultivation of core values mainly undertakes the task of personality building, value orientation and moral pursuit, and its ultimate goal points to the students’ free and comprehensive development. Nowadays, the socialist core values education in universities of China faces many difficulties. The shortcoming leads to the deviation of realistic and ideal state of the moral education effect, which isn’t conducive to college students’ moral cultivation and value pursuit. As one of the “Four Asian Tigers”, Singapore has achieved remarkable achievements in core values education. Thus it’s important for China to explore the successful experience of the core values education cultivation and practice of universities in Singapore, which may help to find reference and enlightenment and promote the socialist core values education in Chinese universities.

The Characteristics of Core Values Education Paradigm in Universities of Singapore

In 1991, Singapore’s parliament published White Paper on Common Values, and proposed five common values: The state is the highest, the society is the first; Family is the root, the society is basis; Care and support, respect individuals; Seek common ground while reserving differences, negotiated consensus; racial harmony and religious tolerance. From the promulgation date of Common Values, the whole country has formed a top-down educational activity from authority to folk, led by the government, and achieved remarkable results. Specifically, the core values education in Singapore presents the features as follow:

Value orientation: unity of diversity and diversity of unity

Singapore is a multi-race society, whose Chinese population accounted for about 70%, followed by Malays and Indians. As a multi-race and multi-cultural new immigrant country, how to reflect cultural differences, integrate the mainstream ideas, values and ideas of the minority nationalities has become practical problems faced by Singapore in core values education of university. Therefore, since the founding of Singapore, its goal of core values education in universities has been set according to the
national condition of diversification, and showed the characteristic of dominant in variety and variety under dominant.

Training objective: compatibility of Eastern and Western culture, paying equal attention to social value and individual value

To cultivate students’ national identity and belonging consciousness, value education of Singapore reserves respect and compatibility of different cultures, different national traditions and religions. Firstly, Confucian culture and Western culture are fully inclusive and equitable. In Singapore, the traditional oriental values are constantly explained, at the same time, it keeps compatibility with western advanced culture, and is made corresponding adjustments accordingly to different times. Secondly, it pays equal attention to social value and individual value. In the core values education of Singapore, when it comes to problem involving the whole and personal relationship, though “Individuals should obey the interests of the state and society unconditionally”,[1] it also considers the realization of individual value. “Support, and pull together in times of trouble” in five values reflects this characteristics.

The educational channel: various cooperation and all-round penetration

In order to ensure that the core values education is put into practice, cultivate students’ state consciousness “I am a Singaporean”, and promote the co-existence and common prosperity of multi-culture and multi-race, Universities in Singapore has took multiple measures to complete with each other, and carried out educational exploration of multiple channels. In the aspect of education channels, it pays attention to the cooperation of government guidance, school teaching, and family permeation. Firstly, Singapore government has set up a special “committee of national consciousness”, and carries out a “National Awareness Week” every year to instill the national consciousness “I am a Singaporean” into their countrymen. [2] Secondly, Singapore universities imply core values in specialized, core and other moral education courses by setting different moral education curriculum. Finally, Singapore government also sets up family education committee, one of whose contents is to instill positive family values and core values to young people. In addition, for educational methods, Singapore universities attach great importance to the combination of course teaching and campus activities, social movement and moral practice, public opinion and legal education to achieve an all-round core values education for students.

Difficult Position of Socialist Core Values Education in Chinese Universities

As the core and pillar of the spiritual home for the people of a country, the core values undoubtedly play an important role. Since the report of 18th National People’s Congress put forward core socialist values based on socialist core value system, up to now, though Chinese universities has achieved remarkable achievements in the aspect of core values education, overall, there are still many difficulties.

Conflicts between unified requirement of universities and various choices of students

China is currently at the abyssal region of the reform and development, but also in the throes of value choice. The influx of Western ideas and the rapid changes of social values all have a profound impact on college students. The characteristics of the value choice and thinking modes of contemporary college students are multi line and multi direction, at the same time, all kinds of ideological consciousness and value ideas intertwined, exchanged and stroked each other, their value concepts appear a variety of trends from the content to the form. However, in the ideological and political education in universities, universities tend to carry out the socialist core values education for college students, and ignore the diversity of individual value choice of college students. Faced with current situation, diversification of the college students’ value choice, the unified value requirements cannot
meet the demands of the reality and it will cause contradiction and conflict to their diversification requirements.

The imbalance between the overall value and the individual value

The function of any core value education can be divided into social value and individual value. Social value is “an overall value of education leading by a nation in order to integrate social needs; its goal is to give reasonable argument and explanation for the right judgments and value orientation for the society and at the same time turn such reasonable explanation into a social cohesion”. [3] Socialist core values reflect the unity of the whole value and individual value and the unity of social development and individual development. However, in the long-term practice of education, because of the influence of the cognitive limitations and the traditional education idea, the core values education of Chinese universities only emphasize the overall value orientation and ignore individual value.

The contradiction between the single mode of education and students’ diverse needs

Nowadays, the core values education in Chinese universities includes the explicit and implicit education, but the implicit education has, so far, achieved little, and it is mainly dominated by inculcated explicit education. This dominant education mode takes the classroom education as the main position, regards the ideological and political theory course as its main content. Such kind of education is only confined to the school, and it’s mainly concerned about the political principle and lack of the contacts with the real life. For a long time, China attaches great importance to the core values education in universities and equips with many teachers to carry out this education with a large number of hours. But in today’s multicultural society, college students’ value concept is shocked by a variety of social ideas, resulting in a variety of needs, therefore leading some contradiction with the school’s single mode of education.

The Enlightenment of Core Values Education Paradigm of Universities in Singapore on Boosting the Core Values Education in Chinese Universities

“Stone of other mountain can be used to make a jade”. The practice of core values education in Singapore has a great enlightenment to China’s socialist core values education.

The combination of core value guidance and diverse value pursuit

The report of the 18th National People’s Congress uses “three advocacies” to discuss the socialist core values from three aspects of state, society and individual, and points out that we should actively cultivate the socialist core values. Therefore, the core values education in Chinese universities must adhere to the socialist core values and transmit the mission to college students that they should become the builders and successors of socialist cause. But at the same time, there is no denying that there are different levels and different values of the college students. The core values education in Chinese universities should take students as the dominant factor, respect the student’s personality dignity, advocate humanistic care to the students, pay attention to the students’ survival and development, and oppose the education modes of restraining students’ diverse development and the utilizable education methods.

The integration of emotion recognition and value isomorphism

Universities must pay attention to the continuity among the students’ rational cognition, emotion recognition and the unity of knowledge and practice, and realize the integration of emotion recognition and value isomorphism to achieve the modernization concept of core values education. The first is to make positioning of the social value and individual value through social practice. During the value guidance to the college students, universities must take the socialist core values as the leading and regard the national identity as the core objective to achieve the emotional identity, so that students can locate the social value and individual value correctly. Secondly, the harmonious
unification of social value and individual value should be realized through the cultural leading. Meanwhile, universities should fully excavate Chinese nation’s traditional culture, combine it with modern western advanced culture, discard the dross and select the essence to make students have a clear understanding of the core values; vigorously create and cultivate new culture and give full play to the leading role of the culture to achieve the harmony and unity of the personal value and social value and value isomorphism.

The unity of main channel indoctrination and all-round penetration

To enhance the effectiveness of the socialist core values education, China must actively construct the integrated moral education mode of “government, society, university and family” and promote the legality, popular, professional and adaptation of the core values education in Colleges and universities. The first is to play the leading role of the government; build a long-term mechanism of the core values from the central government to the local governments at all levels; realize the systematization and legalization of core values education and make it as the behavior that each individual should comply with. The second is to play the function of social influence; make full use of cultural relics and places of historical significance to advertise and the core values, for example building a museum and monument; embed the core values ideas into traditional media and modern media to achieve the results of “moisten things silently”. The third is to strengthen the University’s "three" functions; play the internalization function of the first class, the externalization function of the second class and the solidification function of the campus culture; what’s more, play the family’s penetration function. Parents should set an example in their daily life and have a good sense of the contents of the core values in the specific affairs, and guide their children to establish a correct world outlook, life outlook and values outlook to make complement and consolidate for the school education.

Summary

As can be seen from the above discussion, we know that it’s important for China to explore the successful experience of the core values education cultivation and practice of universities in Singapore, which may help to find reference and enlightenment and promote the socialist core values education in Chinese universities. It is important to note that, when we draw lessons from the Singapore’s successful model, we should consider the specific national conditions of China. Only in this way, we can establish a suitable education paradigm for China.

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References