

The Value Implications of the Curriculum Ideology and Politics in the New Era

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Abstract: The Curriculum Ideology and Politics is rooted in the new era. It is a fundamental task and guide for universities to implement the moral education with Xi Jinping's thought of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. The key to enhancing the effectiveness of ideological and political education in universities lies in grasping the value connotation of the new era of curriculum ideology, constructing a curriculum system that unifies the shaping of values, the imparting of knowledge and the cultivation of abilities, and promoting the unity of direction of the curriculum ideology and the ideology courses and synergistic cultivation of the students.

Keywords: curriculum ideology and politics, promoting morality, ideological and political education

Introduction

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, the CPC Central Committee, led by Xi Jinping, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), has put forward a series of new ideas on the development of education and made a series of major decisions and instructions for higher education. At the 2016 National Conference on Ideological and Political Work of Universities, Xi Jinping made the important statement that “the ideological and political theory course should be strengthened through improvement, and all other courses should guard a section of the ditch and plant a good field of responsibility, so that all kinds of courses and the ideological and political theory course go in the same direction and form a synergistic effect”^[1], which provides the theoretical support for the development of the Curriculum Ideology and Politics.

1. Curriculum ideology and politics is an inevitable requirement for the implementation of Xi Jinping's important proposition on cultivating moral integrity

“What kind of people to cultivate, how to cultivate people and for whom to cultivate people” is the fundamental question of education. Xi Jinping clearly pointed out that “cultivating talents must be a process of unifying human cultivation and talent cultivation, and human cultivation is the foundation. No one can stand without virtue, and the root of educating people is to establish virtue. This is the dialectical law of talent cultivation. To run a university is to respect this rule, otherwise it will not be able to run a university.”^[2] thus creating a new situation for the development of education in China.

At the 2016 National Conference on Ideological and Political Work in Colleges and Universities, Xi Jinping made it clear that “all classrooms are the main channels for educating people, and we should guard a good section of the channel, plant a good field of responsibility, and walk in the same direction to form a

synergistic effect”. The universities have begun to explore the systematic mechanism of ideological and political work with the central aspect of building moral education.

In May 2018, at a symposium of teachers and students at Peking University, Xi Jinping He has remobilized, refined and redeployed the fundamental task of cultivating people of moral integrity, which provides an important guideline for the construction of the Curriculum Ideology and Politics that is explored in practice. Xi Jinping’s speech at the 2018 Education Conference provides a solid theoretical basis for universities to understand the Curriculum Ideology and Politics at the level of macro-design of higher education.

On 18 March 2019, Xi Jinping hosted a forum for teachers of ideological and political theory courses in universities and delivered an important speech on “Socialist thought with Chinese characteristics in the new era forges the soul and educates the people, implements the Party’s education policy, and carries out the fundamental task of establishing morality and educating the people”. He reiterated that “we should strive to cultivate new people of the times who will take on the great responsibility of national rejuvenation, cultivate socialist builders and successors who are all-rounded in morality, intelligence, physical fitness and aesthetics, and tap the resources of ideological and political education embedded in other curricula and teaching methods, so as to realize the full range of all-round education for the whole person”^[3].

In 2020, the Ministry of Education issued the “Guideline for the Construction of Ideological and Political Education in Higher Education Courses”^[4], which clearly states that “in order to carry out the fundamental task of establishing morality and educating people, it is necessary to integrate value formation, knowledge teaching and ability cultivation, and to comprehensively promote the construction of ideological and political education in courses, which means that we should put value guidance in knowledge teaching and ability cultivation”. The comprehensive promotion of the construction of the Curriculum Ideology and Politics is to put value guidance in knowledge teaching and ability cultivation. Therefore, the direction of implementing the fundamental task of training people with moral integrity is clear and the goal is firm. The Curriculum Ideology and Politics is a concrete means of implementation, the essence of which is to carry the ideological and political work system through the whole process of talent cultivation in higher educational institutions, to achieve the unity of human and talent cultivation, to build a high-level talent cultivation system, and to cultivate socialist builders and successors.

2. The curriculum ideology and politics is a strategic move to consolidate the socialist system with Chinese characteristics

The construction of the Curriculum Ideology and Politics is an important part of the ideological and political work of universities, which takes “what kind of people to cultivate” as the primary issue of education as the basic guide, fully explores the elements of ideological and political education in all kinds of courses, and gives full play to the nurturing function of all courses. It enables students to identify ideologically, theoretically and emotionally with the socialist system with Chinese characteristics under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), so that they have higher inner needs and attitudes in terms of ideals and beliefs, behavioral norms and moral qualities, and become useful talents who support the leadership of the CPC and China’s socialist system, and strive to build socialism with Chinese characteristics throughout their lives.

3. The curriculum ideology and politics is a new perspective for interpreting the Marxist idea of “comprehensive human development”

What is full human development? According to Marxism, full human development is “man’s

acquisition of his full nature in a comprehensive way, that is, as a complete human being”. This comprehensive development is not aimed at one person in the abstract, but at the concrete, living “every human being”^[5] who exists in social reality, and it requires the maximum development of human personality, creativity and independence. It involves the comprehensive development of human activities, needs and abilities, the comprehensive development of human social relations, social interaction and the ability of human beings to control social relations, and the comprehensive development of human qualities and personality.

The purpose of the Curriculum Ideology and Politics is to guide students to reflect and explore the highest value of human beings in the whole process of talent cultivation, and to know that the ultimate value of knowledge points to a moral path leading to truth and goodness, so as to promote their all-round development. The Curriculum Ideology and Politics is to build a platform for ideological and political education in all disciplines, to combine the education of ideals and beliefs with the cultivation of the scientific spirit, to help students understand the relationship between science and humanities, to see the humanistic value of disciplines beyond the instrumental rationality of disciplines, and to gain insight into the ethical limits of knowledge, so that behind the scientific question of “how to use knowledge” there is a deeper ethical question. Behind the scientific question of “how to use knowledge”, there is a deeper moral and ethical question of “for whom to use knowledge”. It requires guiding students to control the technicality of knowledge with correct value orientation, to use knowledge and skills correctly, and to realize their all-round development in the process of contributing to the country and serving society.

4. The curriculum ideology and politics is a realistic path to return to the educational concept of “educating people first”

The curriculum is the core element of human resources training. Although it is facing the microscopic problems of education, it is solving the most fundamental problems of education, that is, for whom to cultivate people, what people to cultivate and how to cultivate people. Although each professional course directly presents knowledge and concepts, what it supports is the way of thinking and values. The proposal of course ideology is based on the needs of the education target, i.e. the spiritual needs of people in the real society, and seeks for the meaning of “cultivating people” in the courses. In the talent training program of professional courses, whether it is to transfer knowledge, skills or rationality, we should not ignore the “nurturing” attribute of the course itself, and should retain the deep cultural value and spiritual significance that the course is supposed to cover, and any academic research is bound to imply value stance, ethical concern and political aspirations. The Curriculum Ideology and Politics is an educational concept combining knowledge and moral education, a realistic response to the value orientation of the socialist university from the perspective of the curriculum, and a philosophical expression of the educational concepts that should be adhered to in higher education. From a philosophical point of view, the problem of education is nothing but the process of knowing the world and transforming the world. Knowing the world belongs to the category of knowledge transfer, while transforming the world concerns how society should develop and the ultimate development goal of human society, and belongs to the category of moral education. The mission of every university curriculum is, first and foremost, to meet the needs of students’ spiritual growth rather than focusing solely on the acquisition of knowledge and skills. Teaching and learning activities around the curriculum should enable students to have a deep knowledge of their own cultural genes, face up to all the risks and challenges facing society today, and shape a firm character and correct values so as to become a new man of the age capable of taking on the important task of national rejuvenation, which is the realistic demand of the concept of higher education and the core meaning of the

5. Conclusion

China has entered a new stage of development and stands at a new historical starting point. The universities should consciously take up the historical mission of educating people for the Party and educating talents for the country, firmly grasp the fundamental task of educating people for virtue and building a high-quality education system. In the new era, the universities should further recognize the importance and urgency of the construction of the Curriculum Ideology and Politics from the comprehensive implementation of the Party's education policy and the construction of a high-quality education development system, continuously deepen the reform and innovation of the construction of the Curriculum Ideology and Politics, and build a new pattern of all-embracing, all-encompassing, all-encompassing ideology and politics of education and training of human beings.

Conflicts of interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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