

Research on the effective application of "theoretical education method" in ideological and political education

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Abstract: "Theoretical educational method" is an essential approach in ideological and political education. In the context of the new era, this paper focuses on delving into the scientific connotations of theoretical educational method, exploring issues in its application during the practice of ideological and political education. It proposes feasible strategies from aspects such as optimizing teaching methods for theoretical educational approaches, enhancing the professional competence and capabilities of teachers, and establishing and improving evaluation mechanisms, to promote more effective implementation of ideological and political education.

Key words: theoretical education method; ideological and political education; effective use

1 Introduction

Theoretical education method is a teaching approach gradually formed by the Communist Party of China through long-term exploration in ideological and political education practices. It is an essential teaching method that ensures the smooth implementation and expected outcomes of ideological and political education. This teaching method is a crucial approach for conducting ideological and political education among college students. A deep and scientific interpretation of the rich connotations of the theoretical education method, along with exploring and researching specific application paths in the practice of ideological and political education, holds extremely significant importance for enhancing the effectiveness of such education.

2 The connotation of "theoretical education method"

The concept of theoretical educational methods is typically defined from three aspects: educational objectives, composition, and target audience. Zhang Yaocan and Chen Wanbo argue that "theoretical educational method refers to the purposeful and planned transmission of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, and Deng Xiaoping Theory to learners, helping them gradually establish a scientific worldview, outlook on life, and values, thereby enhancing their ideological awareness and political qualities"[1]. Luo Hongtie and Dong Ya believe that "theoretical education method is a method for educational subjects to systematically impart the theoretical knowledge of China's socialist dominant ideology to specific objects in an organized and planned way, so as to promote their positive internalization" [2]. Zheng Yongting believes that "theoretical education method is also called theoretical indoctrination method or theoretical learning method, which is an educational method for educators and the educated to carry out the study, training and education of Marxist theories with

purpose and plan, and establish a correct world outlook, outlook on life and values" [3]. Zujiahe believes that "theoretical education is a method for the subject of ideological and political education to systematically disseminate advanced ideas to the object of ideological and political education with purpose and plan" [4]. The above definition of the concept enables us to initially understand what theoretical education method is, but to accurately grasp the connotation of theoretical education method, we must get out of the following pitfalls.

2.1 Theoretical education method is not a one-way "cramming" teaching method

Theoretical education was initially referred to as "indoctrination education". Although later research has led to the more common use of terms like "reasoning education" or "theoretical learning", a comprehensive and accurate understanding of the essence of "indoctrination" remains crucial for correctly recognizing this method. Lenin provided a series of discussions on the meaning of "indoctrination", stating that "we should actively educate the working class politically and develop their political consciousness"; "workers themselves could not have a social democratic consciousness. This consciousness could only be instilled from outside"; "without revolutionary theory, there will be no revolutionary movement"; "struggle in the economy is the most commonly used means to attract people to participate in active political struggle". These discussions also embody the methodology of theoretical education, which involves not only upholding the unity of theoretical indoctrination and practical training but also emphasizing the two-way interaction between the instigator and the recipient. Additionally, it stresses the effective integration of content and form in the process of indoctrination.

2.2 Theoretical education method is an open and developing education method

To deeply understand the essence of theoretical educational method, we must break free from conventional thinking patterns. Theoretical educational method is open and evolving, with its structure continuously improving as the system progresses and develops. The method not only encompasses theoretical lectures in the classroom but also includes various approaches such as theoretical learning, theoretical promotion, theoretical training, and theoretical discussion, collectively forming a diversified system of theoretical educational method.

3 Problems in the application of "theoretical education method" in ideological and political education process

3.1 Constraints of traditional theoretical education based on indoctrination

Traditional rote theoretical education often overlooks students' subjectivity, depriving them of opportunities for active exploration and critical thinking during the learning process. Moreover, under this traditional approach, the form of theoretical education is monotonous and outdated, lacking innovation and diversity. This makes it difficult for students to maintain high interest and enthusiasm throughout their studies. In the classroom, teachers frequently rely on traditional lecture methods centered around textbooks and use cramming techniques that make the learning experience dull and uninteresting for students.

3.2 Some educators need to improve their theoretical level

Educators themselves must first receive education, which is an objective rule that must be followed in conducting educational activities. As teachers of ideological and political theory courses, they are the planners, organizers, and implementers of theoretical educational activities. In daily classroom teaching, we often find that due to some educators' lack of in-depth and thorough research and understanding of scientific theories, they encounter difficulties and problems when applying theoretical educational method to advance classroom instruction.

3.3 Lack of evaluation system for theoretical education method

The existing evaluation system often focuses too much on outcomes while neglecting the importance of the process.

Ideological and political education is not just about imparting knowledge; it is a complex process that includes students' understanding, absorption, and application. However, the current evaluation system tends to focus solely on students' final grades, overlooking their performance and progress during the learning process. Furthermore, the evaluation criteria are overly simplistic and lack diversity. Traditional evaluation systems mainly rely on exams and tests, which often fail to fully reflect students' true abilities.

4 Application path of "theoretical education method" in ideological and political education

4.1 Actively explore the effective use of theoretical education method

Theoretical education is one of the primary methods in ideological and political education. However, relying solely on traditional rote teaching can no longer meet the demands of modern education. We need to innovate and improve existing educational methods to make them more engaging, interesting, and effective. First, optimize teaching methods. Educators can use case analysis, combining current social hotspots and challenges, to help students deeply understand theories of ideological and political education through analysis and discussion. Multimedia teaching tools can also be used to enhance students' interest and participation by utilizing rich resources such as videos and audios. Second, respect the differences among students. Teaching methods should not remain static; different groups of students have distinct characteristics and needs. Educators must carefully study their audience, and adjust teaching methods and arrangements based on actual conditions to gain a deep understanding of students' knowledge needs, and conduct targeted theoretical education.

4.2 Improve the quality and ability of educators to use theoretical education method

Teachers play a vital role in the educational process. Educators must be educated first. They should not only learn professional knowledge, scientific and cultural knowledge, but also learn political knowledge and practical knowledge, so as to constantly enrich and improve the level of teaching and educating. Their qualities and abilities will directly determine the quality and effectiveness of ideological and political education. First, emphasis should be placed on teacher training. Through systematic training and learning, their professional competence and teaching skills can be continuously improved. Teachers need to deeply understand that education is not just about imparting knowledge but also about passing on values and life perspectives. Second, establish a platform for cooperation and communication among teachers to promote the sharing of experiences and teaching resources. On such a platform, teachers can observe each other's classrooms, provide feedback on classroom practices, and engage in discussions, thereby learning from one another and progressing together.

4.3 Establish a sound and scientific evaluation mechanism

In the traditional education evaluation system, emphasis is usually placed on students' mastery of knowledge points in various subjects, often overlooking comprehensive evaluations of their inner values and moral concepts. To comprehensively assess students, we need to build an evaluation system that covers multiple levels, including self-evaluation, peer evaluation, teacher evaluation, and social practice evaluation. By establishing a diversified evaluation system, we can not only gain a more comprehensive understanding of students' learning situations and growth trajectories but also stimulate their intrinsic motivation and promote their all-round development, so that they can achieve balanced improvements in knowledge, abilities, and emotional attitudes.

5 Conclusion

To sum up, on the basis of explaining the connotation of theoretical education method, this paper analyzes the challenges faced in the practice of ideological and political education detailly. In view of these challenges, this paper puts forward some improvement measures, which play an important role in improving the validity of theoretical education method in ideological and political education.

Conflicts of interest

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

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