



Research on the Integration Path of New Era Labor Education and Professional Education in Traditional Chinese Medicine

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Abstract: This study explores the necessity, current status, and pathways of integrating labor education with traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) professional education. The labor education curriculum system occupies a central position in curriculum reform and plays an indispensable role in stabilizing and enhancing the quality of education. Nevertheless, the organic integration of labor education with TCM professional education still faces numerous challenges at this stage. In higher education institutions of TCM, there are misunderstandings about labor education, with some institutions emphasizing productive labor while ignoring the importance of life service labor. With the help of skill impartation and practical exercises, it stimulates significant improvement in students' awareness of labor autonomy. Driven by both theory and practice, integrating labor education into the teaching system of TCM can effectively shape elites in the pharmaceutical field who possess both professional skills and a labor sentiment.

Keywords: labor education, education in TCM, integration path

1. Introduction

In March 2020, the State Council issued the "Opinions on Comprehensively Strengthening Labor Education in Primary, Secondary, and Higher Education Institutions in the New Era" (hereinafter referred to as the "Opinions"). It outlined a high-level plan for effectively promoting labor education in the new era, emphasized the necessity of reinforcing the core position of labor education in curriculum construction, stressed the need to accelerate the exploration of establishing specialized labor education courses, and identified the optimization of the labor education curriculum and textbook system as an important component of the comprehensive development of talent cultivation and education system. In the process of rapidly achieving this goal, creating a curriculum framework that seamlessly integrates the essence of labor education in colleges and universities in the new era with the core of professional education will undoubtedly become a crucial strategic fulcrum^[1].

Numerous viewpoints have highlighted the profound significance of labor education and professional education in TCM. Relying on the unique educational style of colleges and universities of TCM, this article is dedicated to constructing a theoretical framework for the integration of labor education and professional education in TCM, and deeply exploring the core elements of labor education for students in colleges and universities of TCM.

2. Literature Review

In the field of labor education, foreign scholars have conducted relatively few systematic studies. Instead, most of their insights into labor education are elaborated in literary works, with labor education concepts implicitly embedded within. Robert Owen from the United Kingdom advocated for the integration of education and productive labor^[2]. He argued that this integration could promote the all-round development of individuals' moral, intellectual, and physical capabilities, address the issue of "separation and opposition between mental and manual labor," and thus realize an "ideal world." François Rabelais from France firmly believed that students could acquire necessary knowledge from daily life.

In terms of research on labor education for college students, some domestic scholars have put forward their views on labor education courses. Wang Zhijuan and Wang Rong^[3] (2021) addressed problems in labor education at higher vocational colleges, such as overly simplistic course content and incomplete management mechanisms. They suggested that higher vocational colleges should integrate labor education courses with patriotism education, professional education, and excellent traditional Chinese culture, while gradually establishing an internal labor management mechanism within the institution. Liao Hui^[4] (2021) believed that colleges and universities could leverage modern information technology to advance the informatization of labor education content, practice, and evaluation, thereby meeting the diverse labor-related needs of students.

To sum up, labor education has become a highly prominent topic in the field of higher education, with its research dimensions, connotations, and achievements continuously expanding. The programs and strategies advocated by some scholars are too general to adapt to the teaching needs of students in different majors. By organically integrating labor education with the professional education of Chinese materia medica, this paper expands the educational approaches of professional courses and explores an innovative model for their combination, aiming to lay a solid foundation for the cultivation of Chinese materia medica talents in the new era.

3. Significance of Integrating Labor Education with Professional Education in Chinese Materia Medica

3.1 Exploring Innovative Strategies for the In-depth Integration of Labor Education and Professional Education in Chinese Materia Medica

Integrating labor education into professional education in Chinese materia medica marks an innovation in educational concepts and opens up diverse pathways for their mutual reinforcement^[5]. The original intention of designing this pathway is to deepen the integration of theory and practice, helping students understand and master the essence of Chinese materia medica through practical operations, and realizing the organic infiltration and integration of professional teaching in Chinese materia medica and the concept of labor education.

The implementation of empirical research allows teachers to conduct a detailed analysis of the actual effects of the educational pathway, laying a solid scientific foundation for subsequent optimization work, and ultimately constructing a set of efficient and feasible teaching models. Further exploring the feedback on the educational effects of their integration and the optimization strategies of the pathway, and conducting empirical analysis from the dual perspectives of theoretical and practical courses, highlights the edifying and nurturing functions of the traditional culture of Chinese medicine.

3.2 Deepening College Students' Emotional Resonance and Value Identification with Excellent TCM Culture

The in-depth exploration of innovative pathways for integrating TCM culture into labor education aims to highlight the value guidance of productive labor and its effectiveness in educational dissemination, thereby guiding students to establish professional ethics in TCM and enhance their sense of identification with the profession.

For instance, when guiding students to participate in a series of practical activities such as the harvesting, planting,

and processing of Chinese medicinal materials, they gain an understanding of the profound cultural heritage and long historical context embodied in these materials, deeply perceive the unique charm of TCM, and imperceptibly develop a sense of respect and reverence for the TCM industry. TCM not only embodies the essence of science but also carries the profound heritage of history and culture. By integrating labor education with TCM education, students gain a comprehensive understanding of the duties and missions of TCM professionals, which in turn enhances their sense of professional belonging and social responsibility.

3.3 Unleashing College Students' Subjective Initiative in Practicing Voluntarily

The establishment of service-oriented labor practice platforms effectively promotes the in-depth integration of "voluntary service and labor education," fostering students' awareness of collaboration and spirit of selfless dedication, while inheriting the professional ethics of medical pioneers—characterized by profound virtue and exquisite skills.

Integrating labor education into the professional teaching system of TCM not only significantly enhances college students' awareness of independent participation in practice but also fully ignites their internal enthusiasm and creativity. Labor education essentially focuses on hands-on operations and the improvement of practical skills; this educational model encourages students to demonstrate greater initiative and participation in practical operations. Particularly when integrated with professional education, students are able to fully showcase their strengths in a broader range of practical fields.

College students who participate in activities such as voluntary services and social practices can not only apply their TCM knowledge in practice but also refine their team spirit and sense of dedication through hands-on operations. The in-depth integration of labor education and TCM education not only enables students to achieve significant progress in the field of professional knowledge but also fosters their all-round development in multiple dimensions, including practical operations, social responsibility, and teamwork. Undoubtedly, this lays a solid foundation for their future career development.

4. Paths for Integrating Labor Education with Professional Education in Chinese Materia Medica

4.1 Theoretical Level: Ideological Guidance and Innovating the Form of the Classroom as the Main Front

At the level of "imparting values and principles", efforts should be made to deepen the organic integration of labor education and professional education in Chinese materia medica, and strengthen the in-depth integration of curriculum content.

The labor philosophy of traditional Chinese culture, the labor spirit embodied in the development of the Chinese materia medica industry, and models of outstanding workers should be integrated into the labor education curriculum system. In addition, a dedicated module on labor laws and regulations related to employment in the Chinese materia medica major should be added. Relying on off-campus practical bases with distinctive Chinese materia medica cultural features, the guidance of values, worldviews, and methodologies should be organically combined. By leveraging the profound heritage of Chinese materia medica culture, students' professional literacy and labor concepts can be comprehensively enhanced.

The construction of the curriculum system aims to fundamentally enhance the labor literacy of college students and ensure that the tasks and goals of labor education are fully integrated into all aspects of professional education.

4.2 Practical level: Skill output, enhancing the awareness of production and service-oriented labor

In terms of productive labor, the "Pharmaceutical Botany" course is extended to create an experiential labor education course. The "Pharmaceutical Botany" course consists of theoretical lessons, laboratory sessions, and field trips.

It is evident that this course is not only rich in theoretical knowledge but also highly practical. The resources of the campus medicinal plant garden are fully utilized. Under the guidance of teachers, students can use their eyes, hands, noses, and mouths to observe and identify the external morphology of medicinal plants through seeing, touching, smelling, and tasting. The field trip for the "Pharmaceutical Botany" course in our school lasts for nine days.

In terms of service-oriented labor, the complex content of the "Clinical Pharmacology of TCM" course is extended and combined with the second classroom activities. On the one hand, this can enhance students' practical skills. On the other hand, during the activities, students can consolidate their theoretical knowledge. Through hands-on practice, students' understanding of the source, collection, properties, processing, efficacy, clinical application, and usage precautions of TCM is enhanced. Furthermore, through community volunteer services, students apply the TCM knowledge and labor skills they have learned to community services, providing free medical consultations, auricular acupressure, and TCM health science lectures for community residents. This transforms theoretical, emotional, and value recognition into a conscious practice of labor.

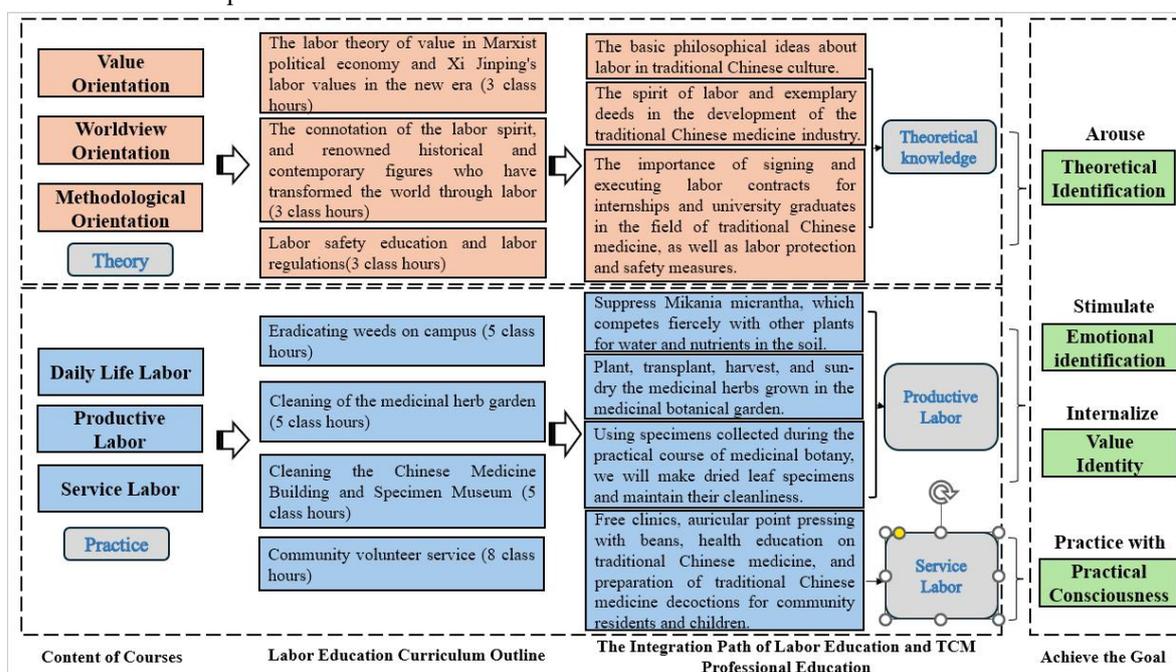


Figure 1 Schematic Diagram of Innovative Labor Education Curriculum System

5. Conclusion

In summary, the organic integration of labor education and TCM professional education not only broadens students' practical fields but also deepens their understanding and respect for TCM culture, while honing their professional ethics and social responsibility. The introduction of labor education has had a profound impact on shaping students' professional ethics and social responsibility. The future prosperity of the TCM field cannot be separated from outstanding talents with excellent comprehensive qualities and rich practical experience. Only such talents can lead the TCM industry to continue to move forward and inject stronger impetus into public health. Assist the vigorous development of the TCM field and deliver excellent talent resources.

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