

Study on the Cultivation of Labor Education among College Students

Li Zhang¹, Chao Li^{2,*}, Chong Zhou³

¹School of Civil Engineering, Shandong Jiaotong University, Jinan, Shandong, China

²School of Transportation Engineering, Shandong Jianzhu University, Jinan, Shandong, China

³School of Transportation Engineering, Shandong Jianzhu University, Jinan, Shandong, China

¹zlsdu@foxmail.com, ²lcseu@foxmail.com, ³zhouchong21@sdjzu.edu.cn

*Correspondence Author

Abstract: Labor is the basis of the survival and development of human society. Strengthening the labor education is of great significance in promoting the all-round development of the new generation, enhancing the core competitiveness of college students, and realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Based on the connotation of labor education, this paper puts forward the effective cultivation path of labor education from the perspectives of schools, society, family and individuals.

Keywords: College Students, Labor Education, Cultivation.

1. Introduction

In September 2018, Xi Jinping suggested fostering well-rounded builders and successors of socialism at the National Education Conference. In June 2019, it was proposed by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the State Council in the Opinions on Deepening Education Teaching Reform and Comprehensively Improving the Quality of Compulsory Education that moral grounding, intellectual and physical ability, aesthetic sensibility and work skills should achieve balanced development. In March 2020, it was stated that labor education should be incorporated into the whole process of talent cultivation from primary schools to universities and into families, schools and society in the Opinions on comprehensively Strengthening Labor Education in Universities, Primary and Secondary Schools in the New Era. Conducting the labor education is of vital importance to universities, especially to the applied universities which are committed to cultivating application-oriented, technical and compound talents with well-educated workforce. And effective cultivation paths of labor education in universities are indispensable and need to be explored in-depth in the new era.

2. The Connotation of Labor Education for College Students

In ancient Chinese, the word “labor” is a verb, which means “to operate, to work, to do something” [1]. Nowadays, it has been used as an noun. As is shown in the Modern Chinese Dictionary, “labor” is interpreted as “Human activities of creating materials or gaining spiritual wealth” [2]. Labor is the most basic, central and important part in Marxist theory. And Marx explained it as follows: “Labor, a process to adjust and regulate the material transformation between man and nature, is controlled by man's own activities. Man works as a natural force which is opposed to the natural substances. In order to take possession of natural materials which are useful for man's own life, man gets the the natural forces in his body-arms, legs, head and hands moving. As man acts on nature through these movements and constantly transforms it,

he transforms himself at the same time so that his own potential is constantly realized [3].” Engels also pointed out that “Labor is the first basic element as for the survival and development of the whole human society and it has reached such a degree that we have to admit in a sense that labor creates man himself [4].” Thus, labor is the unique and fundamental attribute of human beings which takes place between man and nature. With labor, the the process of objective materials are transformed through the production by man, which is a process with initiation and creativity.

Since the the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core, has fully inherited the Marx's Labor Theory and excellent traditional culture of the Chinese nation, and put forward the new idea of “Labor contributes to the Chinese dream”. In this context, the new mission of education in the new era also gives a new connotation to labor education for college students. And the universities should adapt to the new concepts and new orientation in the new era, in order to cultivate university students to develop correct labor cognition, positive labor dynamics, proficient labor skills and good labor habits.

3. Cultivation of Labor Education among College Students

College students are the main force of social construction, so it is of great importance to explore ways to strengthen these students' labor education. In this paper, multiple solutions and strategies are put forward from different perspectives, so as to cultivate high-quality talents with labor spirit and contribute to the rapid development of the society.

3.1 Give Full Play to the Leading Role of Schools

As for the college students, schools are the most important place for students to carry out labor education. So the schools should play a leading role in labor education and effectively assume the main responsibility for labor education. Five ways are encouraged as follows for enhancing the labor education in schools.

First, strengthen the top-level design and implement scientific policies. Take Xi Jinping's view of labor as the guidance, set scientific implementation plans for labor education, improve the curriculum system and teaching materials research, set reasonable class credits and learning contents, strengthen teachers' construction, introduce outstanding talents with labor education in enterprises to be part-time labor education teachers and establish a stable "double-qualified" professional teaching force staff. Invite prominent alumni who have been working in enterprises as class teachers to give students practical guidance, which is conducive to the construction of labor education teaching staff.

Second, enrich the form of education and improve the teaching effect. To meet the different needs of students, integrate labor education into elective courses and specialized courses. Carry out practical teaching such as on-campus internship besides the theoretical teaching in specialized courses. At the same time, other more various activities such as the "Labor Culture Festival" and "Labor Month" are held to promote labor education.

Third, broaden cultivating channels outside the schools and provide practical training for students. Encourage students to participate in production practice during holidays. The experiential teaching offers students immersive experience, which can effectively strengthen the labor education of students.

Fourth, establish a complete evaluation system and improve the assessment mechanism. In the process of evaluation and assessment, it is insisted that the quantify and qualitative valuation should be combined, theory and practice be combined, and self-valuation and other valuation be combined. In the process of valuation, the evaluation subjects should be comprehensive, including students, teachers, parents, enterprises, etc. Some universities strive to promote school-enterprise cooperation projects with different enterprises. In the school-enterprise cooperation projects, strict assessment mechanism for internship training should be carried out by both the school and enterprises, which includes academic record on campus, summative examination and internship performance to evaluate the effectiveness of labor education of students comprehensively and objectively.

Fifth, appraise and elect typical model workers for students to learn from. Carry out activities such as the selection of labor activists, the establishment of a lecture group to publicize the stories of advanced model workers among the students. In the meanwhile, invite model workers in enterprises such as outstanding alumni who have made great contribution to the society to give students special lectures on labor education. Through various activities, the spirit of model workers is widely carried forward.

3.2 Deepen the Nurturing Role of the Society

Marx proposed: "Man creates the environment, and the environment creates man likewise [3]." Man is the product of the society and likely to change as social circumstances change. In this case, the labor-loving social culture is of great significance to the development of college students.

First, with the deepening of reform and opening up, attitudes toward labor have been alienated to some degree. So it is important to activate the media's leading influence on the mainstream values in the society. Discover and excavate the advanced models who have made outstanding contributions in labor education through media to create a good educational atmosphere. In the meanwhile, introduce documentaries such as "Great Craftsman" and "Super Project" launched by the medias into courses, which plays a significant role in enhancing the labor education of college students.

Second, create a social environment that respects labor with "mass entrepreneurship and innovation". College students are the driving force of implementing the innovation-driven development strategy and promoting mass entrepreneurship and innovation. From this, positive social atmosphere helps students engage in innovation and entrepreneurship and improve their labor abilities as a consequence.

Third, strengthen the support of social organizations and institutions for labor education. Different practice platforms for labor education are actively encouraged to be built for universities by social organizations. Through the volunteer services, summer practice research and other practice, students are immersed by labor education, which are helpful for developing their labor awareness and cultivating a sense of social responsibility.

3.3 Enhance the Fundamental Role of the Family

The educator Антон Семёнович Макаренко put forward: "In children education, the cultivation of children's labor consciousness is an important part that should never be neglected by parents [5]."

First, thought is the precursor of action, so parents in the new era should take a proper attitude towards labor. They should have a profound understanding that labor is an indispensable factor for students' all-round development, and correct some traditional one-sided ideas of labor hierarchy in their minds such as "he who excels in study can follow an official career." Actually, there are differences in the division of labor, but every worker deserves respect. No one should not be looked down upon.

Second, actions speak louder than words, so parents in the new era should give children enough encouragement to engage in practice and other working behaviors. When children stay at home, parents should lead children to help them with the housework. When children carry out on-the-spot practice to learn the knowledge that cannot be obtained in the books, parents should take positive attitudes and give students support and encouragement. When children are faced with job hunting when graduation, parents should encourage children to reach deeper to the grassroots instead of insisting on working in big cities to seek fortune.

3.4 Strengthen the Subjective Role of the Students

According to materialistic dialectics, internal factors are the basis for the development and changes of things while external factors offer prerequisites which can only work through internal ones [3]. The self-education of college

students is the highest state of education. So it is of great importance to strengthen the power of endogenous growth of students themselves and promote them to gain sustainable development.

First, college students themselves should seriously have in-depth theoretical study on Marxist view of labor especially Xi Jinping's concept of labor in the new era, through which students can gain a deep understanding of the essence, connotation and meaning of labor.

Second, college students should make use of summer and winter vacations to participate in various kinds of activities of social practice. Students in junior grade are encouraged to take part in social investigation while those in higher grades are encouraged to take part in production practice closely related to the knowledge relying on professional teachers' projects. The different kinds of labor can promote the combination of theory and practice and realize the improvement of students' professional skills.

Third, students should develop a sense of labor and dedication in job hunting. In the letter to the graduates of China University of Petroleum-Beijing at Karamay, Xi Jinping wrote that university graduates were expected to set high aims, keep feet firmly on the ground, go through difficulties and obstacles on the road of advance to take on the responsibilities of the era and make contributions to the CPC, the motherland and the people. College students in universities are encouraged to follow the advices and go to the grassroots where they can gain constant training via in front-line work and devote themselves to the development of the whole country.

4. Conclusion

Labor education is an important part of system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and is of great strategic significance to the cultivation of socialist builders and successors. In the new era where the the Party and the country attach great importance to labor education, universities should give full play to the nurturing function of labor education, break through the bottlenecks in the cultivation process, build a perfect labor education cultivation system through the school, society, family and individuals, so as to promote college students in the new era to form labor habits, master labor skills and develop labor-loving qualities, truly realizing the rational return of labor education.

Acknowledgement

This paper is supported by the Research Project on Undergraduate Teaching Reform of Shandong Jiaotong University "Research and practice of the construction of labor education support system in universities of technology in the new era" (No.2021XJYB51). The author thanks the valuable comments from the reviewers.

References

- [1] Zhuang Zi. Zhuang Zi [M]. Translated by Liyan Wang. Beijing: China Federation of Literary and Art Publishing House, 2016.
- [2] Shuxiang Lv, Yishenshu Ding et al. Modern Chinese Dictionary [M]. Beijing: The Commercial Press, 2004.
- [3] Marx, Engels. Selected Works of Marx and Engels (Volume 1) [M]. Beijing: People's Publishing House, 2012.
- [4] Marx, Engels. Selected Works of Marx and Engels (Volume 3) [M]. Beijing: People's Publishing House, 2012.
- [5] Makarenko. The Complete Works of Makarenko (Volume 4) [M]. Beijing: People's Education Press, 1957.