On the Integration of Ideological and Theoretical Education with Education on Hard-Working Spirit within the Context of New Liberal Arts

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Abstract: To help college graduates meet the demand of the society and industry and better promote the overall development of talent cultivation, it is necessary to actively carry out general education with Chinese characteristics, including moral, intellectual, physical, and aesthetical grounding with a hard-working spirit, etc. Ideological and political theory education is an important way to cultivate students' ideals and beliefs, patriotic spirits, social responsibility and the determination to solve problems. Cultivating compound talents under the concept of the new liberal arts will be the main trend of future development. This paper mainly explores the strategies for the integration of ideological courses with education on the hard-working spirit in the context of the new liberal arts, promote the integration of ideological and political education and professional education and optimize the teaching system. The ideological and theoretical education embedded in different disciplines and courses is also explored to realize the integration of ideological and political education and education on the hard-working spirit into the whole process of college teaching and learning. Finally, this article summarizes the significance of such integration and proposes more ways to carry out further research.

Keywords: new liberal arts; education on the hard-working spirit; ideological and theoretical education

1. Introduction

2018 National Education Conference emphasized that it was essential to promote the hard-working spirit among students, educate and guide students to respect different kinds of work, and understand the most glorious, noblest, greatest, and most beautiful principles of work, which clearly shows the essence of education on the hard-working spirit in the new era. With the rapid development of economic globalization, there is an increasing demand for a large number of compound talents who have high comprehensive quality, strong practical ability, international vision and are able to lead industrial development and social progress. To train qualified college graduates, it is necessary to actively implement the educational policy, deeply implement the concepts of ideological and political education, and promote the all-round development of morality, intelligence, physical education, and hard work [1]. The current economic and social development of our country requires compound talents with strong political quality, deep passion for work, solid professional skills, practical ability, innovative spirit and international vision.

The talent cultivation model under the concept of new liberal arts focuses on providing students with comprehensive interdisciplinary learning, aiming to cultivate compound talents with innovative spirit and practical ability. Therefore, it is necessary to actively break the barriers between disciplines and majors, promote the professional integration of different disciplines, etc., and better promote the cultivation of compound talents [2]. At present, the Ministry of Education of China encourages colleges and universities to actively carry out education on the hard-working spirit, integrate education on the hard-working spirit with curriculum ideological and political education, and cultivate talents who have all-round moral, intellectual, physical, and aesthetical grounding with a hard-working spirit [3].

2. Major Strategies to Combine Ideological Courses with Education on the Hard-working Spirit

There are various ways to combine ideological courses with education on the hard-working spirit. Firstly, it needs to improve the curriculum system, innovate educational content, and enrich educational forms. This focuses on the main methods of combining ideological and political education with education on the hard-working spirit, and promotes the integration of ideological and political education and vocational
education. Education on the hard-working spirit should not be limited to classroom teaching. Practical links can be provided to cultivate students’ ability to integrate theory with practice and solve practical problems. For example, colleges and universities that have the course of Education on the Hard-working Spirit and Practice can reduce the proportion of theoretical teaching and increase the importance of practical work. During the in-class teaching, teachers can impart the Marxist outlook on work in the new era. Through the combination of in-class teaching and online MOOC, the ideological and political materials that match professional education are explored in education on the hard-working spirit to improve the degree of relevance and comprehensibility between ideological and political education and professional education, and promote the effective cohesion between them. The education on hard-working spirit should become an integral part of college students’ well-rounded education [4]. In the curriculum system of ideological and political education, teachers will help students grasp the ideological and political elements of hard-working spirit, connect the two dimensions of knowledge education and ideological education, increase the possibility to integrate ideological and political education with professional education, and achieve better education results. Students will grasp both the theoretical knowledge and practical ability, establish the concept of life-long work, promote the hard-working spirit, and strengthen the awareness and ability of creative labor and urban trustworthy and legal work.

Secondly, it needs to establish the evaluation model of research-based education on the hard-working spirit courses, and optimize the curriculum ideological and political teaching system. The inclusion of education on the hard-working spirit in the curriculum construction of ideological and political education can optimize the curriculum ideological and political teaching system. For a long time, colleges and universities have insufficient understanding of the value of education on the hard-working spirit, which has caused the absence of education on the hard-working spirit in the overall curriculum ideological and political education. The implementation of education on the hard-working spirit curriculum can enrich ideological and political teaching elements, make ideological and political teaching more productive, and promote the multi-faceted integration of ideological and political education. By broadening the comprehensive evaluation form of the curriculum, teacher can adopt multi-mode evaluation, including teachers’ evaluation, students’ self-evaluation and peer review. The information management system of Education on the Hard-working Spirit and Practice is organized to record the content, duration and results of students’ participation in labor practice. For example, through participating in intangible cultural heritage handicraft skills training, tree planting campaigns, woodworking practices and other activities, students can improve their hands-on ability, establish correct work concepts, cultivate a positive spirit of work, and develop good work habits and quality. Figure 1 shows the procedure to explore the ideological and political elements in the course of Education on the Hard-Working Spirit and evaluate the students’ performance through multi-level assessment modes.

In addition, it also needs to adjust the allocation of resources, use innovative modern education technology, and realize the deep integration of information technology and education on the hard-working spirit. The development of higher education now depends to a large extent on the development of science and technology. Now the traditional teaching model is facing huge challenges. Taking students as the center, changing the teaching mode, stimulating students’ enthusiasm for learning, and enhancing students’ independent learning ability and innovation ability have become the central tasks of carrying out teaching reform. It is of great help to integrate traditional classroom teaching with modern online teaching methods, develop the courses related to the Education on the Hard-Working Spirit, improve the quality and utilization of online courses, and integrate ideological and political elements into all aspects of online teaching of Education on the Hard-working Spirit courses.


Education on the hard-working spirit should not be limited to classroom teaching, and improve the curriculum teaching system by broadening the forms of education on the hard-working spirit; creating an online teaching platform to enrich online teaching resources; integrating schools and enterprises to enrich the forms of education on the hard-working spirit; establishing the mixed assessment method combining teacher’s evaluation and student’s self-evaluation and peer review; carrying out teaching reflections; discovering and correcting problems; and creating an all-round education pattern. Colleges and universities should raise awareness, improve management mechanisms, promote integration, optimize systems, and make due contributions to cultivating more high-quality college graduates for the
cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era [5]. To integrate the content of education on the hard-working spirit into the teaching system of ideological and political courses in colleges and universities, it is necessary to optimize the content of education on the hard-working spirit involved in the ideological and political courses. To explore the potential value of hard-working spirit in ideological and political courses in colleges and universities, it is necessary to reconstruct the content of education on the hard-working spirit in the textbooks, and to build a teaching guidance program for education on the hard-working spirit in ideological and political courses to form a “Ideological and Political Education + Education on the Hard-working Spirit” collaborative education effect. The main problem lies in the need to mobilize many factors to comprehensively promote the integration of education on the hard-working spirit and curriculum ideology from policy formulation, training program adjustment, teaching practice, and assessment and evaluation. This requires macro-control and detailed supervision of the subject. On the basis of following the laws of education, it needs to strengthen the top-level design and the characteristic advantages, and create a curriculum teaching system suitable for each school and specialty.

It is proposed to rely on work practice, enhance the value of education as the main purpose, dig out the ideological and political elements in Education on the Hard-working Spirit, follow the curriculum system construction of Education on the Hard-working Spirit, innovative educational content, and the main path of enriching educational forms, create a characteristic online teaching platform and evaluation mechanism, promote the curriculum ideological and political construction, and deepen ideological and political practice. Colleges and universities need to stick to the undergraduate application-oriented talent training plan, compile practical teaching guidance books, standardize the assessment methods of practical teaching, and formulate rules and regulations for practical teaching.

4. Conclusion

Overall, according to the Notice of the Department of Education of Liaoning Province on Starting the Connotation Development of Higher Education in 2016-Transformation and Innovation and Entrepreneurship Education Project Construction issued by the Department of Education of Liaoning Province, within the context of the new liberal arts, colleges and universities are actively exploring the methods to integrate Ideological and Political Education with Education on the Hard-working Spirit, explore the ideological and political elements in Education on the Hard-working Spirit, conduct the teaching reform of ideological and political courses, and improve the actual effect of ideological and political courses. This article also summarizes the main strategies of combining Education on the Hard-working Spirit and curriculum ideology and politics, and the significance of combining the two through combining online and offline teaching, adopting multi-level evaluation methods, clarifying the foothold of education on the hard-working spirit integrated into ideological and political courses.

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