

A Study on the Sense of Identity of Undergraduates on Marxist Education

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Abstract

With the continuous progress of economic globalization and the deepening of the reform and opening-up policy of China, new changes have taken place in the social life level and lifestyle of people. The continuous deepening of cultural communication between the East and West promotes the values toward diversification, which makes the mainstream ideology of Marxism faced with several challenges. Some students had doubts about Marxist education, and even resentment. The cause of these problems lies in: the teaching methods of professional teaching staffs need to be improved; contemporary college students have their own unique thinkings; the environment which contemporary college students in determines the different degrees of acceptance. Therefore, to improve the sense of identity of Marxist education, we should combine theory and practice and carry out targeted education.

Key words: Marxist education; Present situation; Sense of identity; University students

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INTRODUCTION

Colleges and universities, as the forefront of ideological research, undertake the major task of being the eligible constructor and reliable successor of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The construction of ideology

is the key guarantee of talent development. With the deepening development of China's reform and opening-up, ideological diversity tends to be more obvious, which imposes a severe challenge to traditional Marxism Education. Therefore, it is of importance to improve ideas, expand thoughts and enhance the colleges and universities' Marxism theoretical education.

1. CURRENT SITUATION OF THE SENSE OF IDENTITY OF MARXISM EDUCATION IN UNIVERSITIES

The university is the concentration of the intellectuals, a place where young people grow up and an important place for all kinds of cultures to spread and crash. All along, the Communist Party of China has not ignored the main position of the dissemination of this idea. At the same time, it is also attached importance to the intellectuals in the absorption and the important role of the main body of the new culture. Therefore, strengthening the study and research of Lenin Marx's theory in the university, ensuring that education can serve the socialist construction, cultivating the intellectuals with the lofty ideal of communism, and making universities play an important role in propaganda of Marxism-Leninism, is the guiding principle of the university teaching.

1.1 The Main Method and Approach of Marxism Education in Universities

1.1.1 Clear Curriculum, Guarantee Credit Hours

Since the Fourth Plenary Session of the Seventeenth CPC Central Committee proposed the strategic task 'to promote, to update and to popularize Marxism in China', to facilitate the spread of Marx's education in colleges and universities and improve the understanding and acceptance of the contemporary college students on Marx, each university in accordance with the provisions of the

Ministry of education, are gradually set up the relevant courses such as *Introduction to the basic principles of Marx*,¹ *An introduction to the theoretical system of socialism ideology and characteristics of Chinese Mao Zedong*², etc.. And establish the corresponding hours and credits on this initiative to ensure the smooth communication of Marx's theory education.

1.1.2 The introduction of Relevant Policies to Regulate the Education of Marx

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China which was held in 2004 issued "the central propaganda and Ideological Work Leading Group on the implementation of Marx's theory research and construction projects". In October 2007, the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League formally issued the implementation outline of the "youth Marx's training project". The two documents are the foundation of the followings to consolidate the guiding position of Marxism in the ideological field, at the same time, it also announced the official launch of the two projects. The Ministry of education and the various provinces and cities held various training courses, teachers write a variety of supplementary materials and other actions have been taken. These activities actively promote the spread of Marx doctrine in colleges and universities.

1.1.3 Build Online and Offline Platform, Strengthen the Education of Marxism

In addition to the classroom, universities should take advantages of a variety of other modern resources such as newspapers, broadcasting, blackboard newspaper, network, student organizations, student apartments and many other methods. Concerted efforts from all aspects, so that Marxism education may be close to reality.

1.2 The Recognition Effect of Marxism Education

Generally speaking, university education of Marxism Marxist has to help to resist the influence of bad thoughts, cultivate socialist construction of qualified talent and nurture the core values of contemporary college students and so on.³ In particular, Marx's theory of the university takes on the special responsibility of the scientific theory, the scientific outlook on the world and life, and the Party's routes, principles and policies, and has achieved good results. Although according to the Ministry of Education, all colleges and universities have set up the relevant courses of Marxism, and identified the hours and credits. But in the actual teaching process, there are still a variety of problems. For example, part of the teacher just read it, only to finish the teaching task, classroom knowledge is difficult to be learned by the students; the exam key

division makes students stay up to recite, out of touch with the usual accumulation of the final grade, students do not pay enough attention to it.

2. IDENTITY CRISIS OF COLLEGE MARXIST EDUCATIONAL CAUSES

2.1 The Teaching Methods of Teaching Staff Need to Be Improved

Without taking the different colleges, different disciplines, different professional backgrounds of students that Marxist education faces into account, the Marxist teaching in colleges and universities focus on the theory. The structure of knowledge, understanding ability and the acceptance level of the students is uneven. So, the teacher needs to teach students in accordance with their aptitude. Meanwhile, many teachers pay too much attention to the details of knowledge in the teaching process, and their teaching modes are boring, so that they are often mired in tedious and boring concept principle elaborate explanation difficult to extricate themselves. These eliminate the integrity of the Marx doctrine, failed to highlight the theoretical strength of the Marx doctrine. As a result, the students lost their interests in learning gradually.

2.2 The Thinking of the Contemporary College Students Is Becoming More and More Diversified

The contemporary college students are active in thinking, and have a strong criticism. They emphasize the personality, advocating freedom, and gain a critical point of view. The spirit of this criticism is particularly prominent when they think that it is backward, unscientific and controversial. But they also lack of social experience, so that it is very difficult for them to agree with a point of view sincerely, and when they are evaluating a social phenomenon, or accepting a point they often feel confused.

2.3 The Environment Which the Contemporary College Students Are in Determines the Strength of Their Acceptance

The contemporary college students are in a rapidly developing and complex environment. The environment of spiritual life and the new things constantly stimulates the outside world. Accompanied with a large number of western TV programmes, books, magazines, films, etc flowing into China, penetration in the western society or health or negative values, way of life, the ideal faith, and so on are the strong impact on our country's dominant ideology, weaken the contemporary college students' sense of identity and belonging to our national culture, and even to produce a batch of the cult of the western way of life of college students. In addition, they are mostly 1980s and 1990s, grew up in an era of peace, has not experienced the baptism of the war, national crisis or social crisis. They simply cannot be empathy to understand the significance of Marxism to the salvation

¹ Introduction to the basic principles of Marxism, 2013

² An introduction to the theoretical system of socialism ideology and characteristics of Chinese. Mao Zedong, 2010.

³ Opinions on strengthening and improving the education of Marx's theory of higher education in the State Education Commission, 1991.

of China. Therefore, if only give a boring, unity and blind indoctrination, it is impossible to get them from the real heart to agree to accept the Marxist education. These two pieces are about an aspect.

3. SOME THOUGHTS ON THE SENSE OF IDENTITY ON MARXISM EDUCATION IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The core of Marxist education in colleges and universities is to bring the Marxism into the campus, into the classroom, into the life, into the ear, into the brain, and into the heart. The teaching link in college is undoubtedly the main channel and the main position of the Marx doctrine, and it is the necessary requirement of the socialist universities in our country, and the important guarantee to realize the popularization of the Marx doctrine.

3.1 To Improve the Recognition of Marx's Theory of Education Need to Combine the Theory With Practice

College students themselves should take learning as the whole, but cannot only be satisfied with the theory learning, the teacher cannot expect to have a rigid unilateral instillation of Marx doctrine. Contemporary college students are active in thinking, master a lot of information, but also pursuit truth. Although their diligent in thinking and pragmatism, but often due to the lack of social experience, their understanding, accepting and digesting of Marxism are affected. Therefore, in addition to classroom teaching in colleges and universities, the teachers need to support the appropriate practical teaching. To make the students accept Marxism theory, to a large extent depends on whether the body of the need, whether can with practice, and can solve all kinds of problems encountered in the study life. The Marx doctrine has never been, nor put it away unheeded rigid restrictions and fetters, but practical. Marxist education is not only an armchair strategist, it also should let the students feel the guiding role of Marxist scientific theory of life and practice in real life. Draw nutrition from the real life, expand the theoretical knowledge, and enrich the breadth and depth of theoretical knowledge. But at present, there are some problems that have not been solved in the two teaching steps, which make the recognition of the Marx education in colleges and universities, are greatly restricted. Therefore, to improve the college students' recognition of Marx's education, we need to combine the theory with practice, with the theoretical knowledge to solve the practical problems encountered in the learning of students.

3.2 To Improve the Recognition of Marx's Theory of Education and to Carry Out Targeted Education

Young students are in the formative stages of life, world outlook and values, the great rejuvenation of the Chinese

nation's hopes are in them, the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics popularity is in them. Help them to apply the theoretical thinking in solving practical problems with analytical thinking. However, taking the different colleges, different disciplines, different professional backgrounds of students and the variation in levels of their knowledge structure, understanding and acceptance into account, therefore, need to be treated differently, rather than teach students in accordance with their aptitude, make no exception, echo what the books say. Try to make theoretical knowledge be scientific, interesting, effective and public, and transform the Marx doctrine theory from political language to daily life, through the transformation of language guide, so as to enhance the attractiveness persuasiveness, charisma, penetration and cohesion of this discipline. Effectively improve the current teaching situation that the general interest of the teaching of the Marx is not attractive, interesting is not strong, the degree of recognition is not high at many colleges and universities.

3.3 Keep Pace With Time in Order to Improve Sense of Identification About Marxist Theory Education

Marxist theory has never been abstract logical deduction. However, Marxist theory has been established in realistic life and it started from real life to consider systematically about how to change the basic fact like existing problems in realistic life. The reason for the emergence of Marxist theory is that Marx and Engels applied their historical materialism to discuss in earnest attitude about how to respond to existing problems which are confronted under current background, thus revealing objective rules of social development. However, the current era is constantly developing and changing, the reason for Marxism to possess such strong power and continuity and to carry on from generations to generations lies in its epochal character, which refers to keep pace with time. Marxism is characterized as epochal, open and practical. Epochal feature decides that not only Marx and Engels, the initiators, but also their successors enrich and develop rich scientific system; practical feature decides that Marxism is able to apply its scientific theory combined with different time, place and situation to give out correct and scientific explanation, which can guide practice scientifically.

It is just like what has been clearly referred to by initiator of Marxism that the real contents of all epoch-making systems are formed based on demands in the era where these systems generate.⁴All epoch-making theories from proposal of Marxism theory to success of the October Revolution then to Mao Zedong Theory, Deng Xiaoping Theory, important ideas of three representatives as well as formation

⁴ Complete Works of Marx and Engels, 1960.

of socialist theory with Chinese characteristics are all realized in constant developmental changes of the current era. Numerous revolution and practice prove that the feature to keep pace with time for Marxism is manifested through epochal features of different stages.

As a result, in order to promote sense of identity about Marxist theory education of contemporary university students, close relation to contemporary environment is indispensable without separation from bright era characteristics manifested. At the meantime, activate time spirit and innovative consciousness of contemporary university students. Contemporary university students are active and vigorous in thinking mode with strong and great thirst for knowledge. Especially in the current era with high-speed development of information, they are provided with unprecedented advantageous conditions to understand the whole world. In the past, colleges and universities tended to infuse knowledge when making Marxist theory education with application of cramming method of teaching where teachers repeat what the book says and students recites and memorizes mechanically. Such educational method has certain problems existing. As a result, when colleges and universities are making ideological and political education work, they should first abandon their stereotyped ideas not conforming to some characteristics of times by themselves.

Since when China has joined in WTO, the speed of reform and opening to the outside world for China has greatly speeded up. Convenience which was brought about by globalization in aspects of economy, politics, and culture and so on, make innovative education method, and walk out of traditional ideological pattern; enrich and develop constantly new contents and ideas of Marxism theory education according to increasingly complicated social environment, and solve new problems and situations confronted by contemporary university students in growing process with new ideas and new judgment conforming to characteristics of time. In addition, ideological and political education in colleges and universities should place innovative and aggressive consciousness throughout Marxism theory education process and take the process from establishment of innovative consciousness to cultivation of innovative ability as a systematic and comprehensive process to emphasize. Marxist theory education should help university students to understand and master the latest achievements, and further promote their sense of identification about their Marxist theory education, thus

promoting students' improvement over their professional skills.

CONCLUSION

Undergraduates are very valuable human resources, they are the future of the nation. As the builders and successors of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, they undertake the historic mission of building a well-off society in an all-round way, realizing the socialist modernization and promoting the Chinese nation. To establish and adhere to the scientific Marx theory education, improve undergraduates' recognition of Marx's theory of education, for the comprehensive construction of a well-off society, realize the socialist modernization and the great cause of the revitalization of China and its important guiding significance.

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