

Education Policy, Law, Intelligent Empowerment: The Significance of the Integration of Rule of Virtue and Rule of Law in Higher Education

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Abstract: Against the backdrop of the national strategy for educational digitalization and the in-depth advancement of AI-enabled ideological and political education reform, the profound integration of moral education and rule-of-law education in universities effectively addresses prominent problems of artificial intelligence application in ideological and political courses, namely idle technological operation, value deficiency and ambiguous educational targets. From the perspectives of jurisprudence and educational policies, talent cultivation integrating morality and the rule of law serves as a core initiative to implement Xi Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law and fulfill the fundamental task of fostering virtue through education. It complies with national educational and legal policies including the *Guidelines for Promoting Curriculum-Based Ideological and Political Education in Institutions of Higher Education* and the *Opinions on Implementing the Excellence Program 2.0 for Legal Talent Training by Adhering to the Integrated Cultivation of Morality and the Rule of Law*.

Keywords: Rule-of-virtue and rule-of-law integrated education; Education Policy and Law; Economic value; Cultural value; Higher education; Artificial intelligence education

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1. Problem statement: Based on educational policy implementation, youth rule of law literacy cultivation, and intelligent ideological and political education development

Driven by rapid market economic development and the infiltration of Western ideological trends, contemporary college students exhibit diversified, contradictory, and unstable value orientations in interpersonal communication, with prominent tendencies of pragmatism, individualism, money worship,

and hedonism^[1]. However, their value discrimination and self-control abilities remain immature, placing them in a critical developmental stage^[2]. While full of expectations for the future and equipped with personal ideals, college students are prone to impulsive and thoughtless behaviors. In the digital era, widespread online material temptations and negative ideological infiltration, combined with insufficient self-discrimination and self-regulation abilities, easily lead to college students' moral anomie and rule-of-law disorder. The disjointed implementation of moral and legal education in universities directly leads to insufficient normative restraint and value guidance for college students' daily behaviors. Artificial intelligence-enabled university education is plagued by algorithmic value neutrality and educational bias, and lacks an effective value correction mechanism. The in-depth integration of moral and rule-of-law education provides a systematic value scale, a complete content system, and standardized evaluation criteria for intelligent ideological and political education. It standardizes the analytical dimensions and educational orientation of intelligent technologies, making up for the inherent defects of technology-oriented intelligent ideological and political education that lacks core values and standardized norms. Digital education transformation must be guided by systematic educational values rather than purely technical logic.

From a jurisprudential perspective, such inappropriate student behaviors essentially reflect the dual absence of internal moral self-discipline and weak rule-of-law belief, violating the mandatory constraints of legal norms and universal social morality, and highlighting the imbalance of rights and obligations among young students. Individual behavioral standardization relies on the dual coordination of internal moral self-discipline and external legal norms. From a policy perspective, the national higher education policy has clearly positioned the integration and development of moral and rule of law education as a key education reform task. Policy empowerment constructs a standardized evaluation index for the integration of moral and rule of law education and guarantees the unified implementation in the context of digital education. From the perspective of pedagogy, the long-term separation of moral and rule of law education is the root cause of the lack of moral and rule of law literacy of college students. Accordingly, empowering innovative, intelligent, ideological, and political education through moral and rule-of-law integration is an inevitable choice for new-era talent cultivation, which helps foster well-rounded young talents with high ideological, political, moral, legal, and digital literacy.

2. The core connotation of moral and rule of law education in colleges and universities: Based on policy norms, legal definition, and intelligence educational expansion

As a fundamental implementation of the mission project of moral education in higher education, university moral education conforms to the core requirements of moral education first and cultural moral education. A sound policy and institutional framework are crucial to the goal of moral education and the standard of legal education in the context of unified digital teaching. It is worth noting that rule of law education is

different from traditional legal education: legal education focuses on the static national legal system and the popularization of basic legal knowledge, emphasizing the mandatory and authoritative nature of the law; rule of law education is a dynamic educational practice, focusing on cultivating students' awareness of procedural justice, rights and obligations, and law-abiding beliefs. Based on the digital rule of law norms, students' online behavior, campus discipline violations, and compliance risks are intelligently judged, which provides an authoritative legal basis for intelligent law popularization, risk early warning, and behavior correction^[3]. The rule of law education covers the content of traditional legal education, including the popularization of the basic political and legal system of the country, and further explains the complementary advantages and practical value of the integration of rule of virtue and rule of law in national governance. To make college students understand the importance of safeguarding the authority of the Constitution and abiding by the laws of the country, to distinguish between the rule of man, the rule of virtue, and the rule of law, and to establish a consciousness of equality and opposition to privilege before the law. Intelligent digital assessment tools can achieve systematic evaluation of students' comprehensive legal awareness and moral reasoning ability. This educational transformation conforms to the talent cultivation goals of the Excellent Legal Talent Training Plan 2.0, which emphasizes moral-legal integration and unity of knowledge and practice. It highlights the high-level educational value of integrated moral and rule-of-law education in Chinese universities and provides solid policy, theoretical, and normative support for the high-quality development of AI-enabled ideological and political education.

3. Integration value of university moral and rule-of-law education: Three dimensions of jurisprudential logic, policy value, and intelligent empowerment

3.1. Jurisprudential perspective: differential logic and complementary mechanism of moral and rule-of-law education

Moral education emphasizes humanity and ideality, adopts persuasive reasoning, emotional cultivation, and model demonstration, and achieves educational effects through guiding students' positive emotional experience and internal moral cognition. It focuses on guiding students to pursue goodness and relies on internal conscience and public opinion to form self-discipline constraints on individual behaviors. The integration of morality and law in university education is a micro-practical practice of the national governance modernization strategy. Standardized legal and moral normative frameworks are essential to constrain the ethical operation of educational artificial intelligence. Moral value standards provide ideological judgment dimensions for intelligent ideological and political education, while rule-of-law bottom lines provide behavioral judgment scales. The integration of the two transforms simple technical data analysis into valuable, humane, and legally based educational judgment, upgrading intelligent ideological and political education from mechanical data superposition to value-oriented legal and moral education and fundamentally making up for the defects of technology-oriented intelligent education that ignores value guidance and jurisprudential norms. The law can only restrain external behaviors, but cannot regulate internal ideological cognition, while moral education can make up for this deficiency through ideological guidance and spiritual edification. In dealing with interpersonal conflicts, rule of

law education cultivates students' awareness of rights protection and rule of law thinking, while moral education guides students to resolve conflicts and promote interpersonal harmony through tolerance and empathy. In turn, pure moral self-discipline cannot resist the complex social temptation, and the rigid constraints of law effectively make up for the failure of moral regulation. Legal reasoning without moral empathy is rigid, while moral judgment without legal basis lacks normative persuasion.

3.2. The triple empowerment of policy, jurisprudence, and intelligence: The comprehensive moral values and values of the unity of political, economic, and cultural values, rule of law education

3.2.1. The unity of political value: In line with national governance strategy and intelligence education orientation

The integrated education of morality and rule of law has fundamental unity in political value, which is the key path to implement the national strategy of combining rule of morality and rule of law, and to promote the modernization of the national governance system and governance capacity^[4]. Among them, at the Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee, the Communist Party of China clearly defined the unity of rule of virtue and rule of law as the basic principle of national governance, and delineated the fundamental political direction and ideological bottom line for empowering ideological and political education. College graduates are the reserve force for national construction and social development. Only by cultivating their firm moral cognition and legal beliefs can we avoid the risk of talented individuals deviating from national development missions after employment. Therefore, university-integrated moral and rule-of-law education strengthens college students' ideal and belief education and law-abiding awareness, guides students to uphold correct political values, and improves their political judgment and moral discrimination. The fundamental goal of moral and legal integrated education is to cultivate high-quality talents with both moral literacy and legal beliefs for social development. Thus, empowering intelligent ideological and political construction through moral and rule-of-law integration is closely related to student growth, national talent reserve, and the realization of national rejuvenation.

3.2.2. Economic value unity: Adapting to rule-of-law economic norms and digital economy talent demands

From the perspective of economic law, the socialist market economy is essentially a rule-of-law economy and an integrity-based economy. Law realizes external heteronomy constraints on market behaviors to maintain fair competition, while morality realizes internal self-discipline to sustain honest business operations. The integration of moral and rule of law education is helpful for Colleges and Universities to cultivate global compound talents with social responsibility and market compliance consciousness. We should cultivate students' economic consciousness of free competition, equivalent compensation, honesty and trustworthiness, and guide students to pursue legitimate interests through honest labor, legal operation, and technological innovation, so as to build a positive market competition atmosphere.

3.2.3. The unity of cultural value: Inheriting traditional etiquette, culture empowers intelligent

cultural communication

Bad foreign culture infiltration can easily lead to college students' inappropriate cultural cognition and wrong value choices. The Chinese governance concept of combining morality with punishment and combining etiquette and law constitutes the core cultural foundation for the integration of domestic rule of virtue and rule of law. The coordinated operation of moral norms and legal rules has built a positive and honest cultural atmosphere in the university community^[5]. At the same time, the cultural value system of morality and rule of law enables the intelligent platform to accurately identify the negative culture of the network, build the defense line of youth cultural cognition, and implement the cultural education and value guidance requirements of the national higher education curriculum policy.

4. Conclusion

The single intelligent teaching tool is prone to the phenomenon of homogenization and alienation of education, which can be effectively optimized through the systematic cultivation of moral and legal literacy. This integration effectively avoids the value deviation and ethical anomie brought by the neutrality of artificial intelligence technology and endows digital ideological and political education with solid legal rationality and normative norms. Its unified political, economic, and cultural values break down the barrier between the national top-level education policy and the grassroots education practice in colleges and universities, transform the fragmented ideological and political teaching into systematic and standardized education, and improve the effectiveness of policy implementation.

Standardized moral and legal integrated education is the fundamental institutional guarantee to resolve ethical dilemmas and behavioral defects in AI-enabled university education. In future educational practice, universities should further deepen the integrated application of moral and rule-of-law education, take law as the foundation, policy as the guidance, and intelligent technology as the carrier, improve the quality and efficiency of ideological and political education through three-dimensional collaborative empowerment, and continuously cultivate new-era young talents with both moral and legal literacy who adapt to digital development.

Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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