

“Three-Wide Education” Reform, Innovation, and Practice in Guangdong University of Petrochemical Technology

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Abstract: The comprehensive reform of “three-wide education” is important to achieve inheritance and innovation in ideological education in colleges and universities. The Guangdong University of Petrochemical Technology aims to address the practical problems of a weak ideological education team, incomplete system and mechanism, and insufficient resource mobilization in “three-wide education.” It actively explores the “three-wide education” based on the university’s existing foundation and advantages. Comprehensive, innovative ideas for reform, practice, and promotion of unique practices and paths are necessary, to continuously deepen education reforms and strive to build a new “three-wide education” work pattern to help the country’s modern talent cultivation work.

Keywords: Three-wide education; System and mechanism reform; Innovative practice

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1. Introduction

China puts a high emphasis on college students’ ideological and political education. In 2017, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council issued the “Opinions on Strengthening and Improving Ideological and Political Work in Colleges and Universities under the New Situation,” which proposed the educational concept of “all students, all journey, and all aspects,” and the “three-wide education” is the core requirement for colleges and universities to cultivate students with both ability and political integrity^[1]. To better answer the “Three Questions of Education” in the new era emphasized many times by General Secretary Xi Jinping, the Guangdong University of Petrochemical Technology (hereinafter referred to as “Guangyou”) strengthens the leadership of party building. It implements the fundamental task of cultivating people with moral integrity. The reform of “three-wide education” comprehensively carries out the quality improvement project of ideological and political work, comprehensively coordinates all areas of university management, all education and teaching links, and all educational resources and strengths, and integrates and improves curriculum, scientific research, practice, culture, and network. The ten education systems including psychology, management, service, funding,

and organization ensure that the comprehensive reform of “three-wide education” is fully carried out and achieves substantial results.

2. Demonstration of the value of Guangyou’s implementation of “three-wide education”

2.1. “Three-wide education” is a powerful guarantee for strengthening and improving ideological and political work

Implementing “three-wide education” can effectively integrate ideological and political education into each discipline, link, and educational process, forming a synergy of education to improve the effect and quality of ideological and political work ^[2]. In the process of constructing the work pattern of “three-wide education” at Guangyou, the university strengthens the core leadership role of the Party Committee in promoting the work of “three-wide education,” adheres to the guiding position of Marxism, and promotes “ideological and political courses” and “curriculum ideology and politics,” which resonates with the same frequency and closely grasps the education of socialist core values. At the same time, the university has clarified the responsibilities of each functional department and grassroots party organization and formed a work pattern in which party committee leaders provide comprehensive guidance. The party and government cooperate in the management, ensuring that each task is planned, responsible, and executed by dedicated personnel to ensure the party’s overall leadership. Integrating various “three-wide education” tasks can form an all-around education structure for all employees and an integrated education system and mechanism.

2.2. “Three-wide education” is an effective way to realize the fundamental task of cultivating people with moral integrity

Building moral character and cultivating people is regarded as the fundamental criterion for testing all work in colleges and universities and carries a major mission in ideological and political education in the new era ^[3]. At the 2018 National Conference on Ideological and Political Work in Colleges and Universities, General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that it is necessary to focus on cultivating moral character and integrate ideological and political work throughout the entire education and teaching process to achieve all-round education for all staff and to provide better education for China’s higher education institutions. The development of education has opened a new chapter, which shows that cultivating moral character and educating people with integrity are closely linked and indispensable. The implementation of educating people on three aspects of morality is of extremely important value in realizing the fundamental task of cultivating people with morality ^[4]. Guangyou takes the growth and development of students as its starting point and its fundamental mission of cultivating people with moral integrity. It integrates ideological and political education resources into the entire process of education and teaching. It simultaneously imparts correct values and ethics in the education and teaching process to achieve a more profound education and train students more comprehensively and systematically to truly realize the fundamental task of cultivating moral character and cultivating people.

2.3. “Three-wide education” is an important starting point to promote the high-quality development of education

Promoting the ideological and political construction of courses under “three-wide education” is an effective measure for colleges and universities to implement national education policies. It can effectively improve the quality of higher education and demonstrate the effectiveness of educating people ^[5]. China is undergoing a critical upgrading and transformation of the social economy. Facing the high-quality development tasks

during the “14th Five-Year Plan” period, higher education, as a core component of talent training, should undertake more important tasks and contribute to the country’s and society’s development. Industrial upgrading and economic development provide more high-level, high-quality, and comprehensively capable technical and skilled talents. In the process of in-depth construction of the “three-wide education” work system, Guangyou advocates and encourages multiple parties to participate in the education work, prompting each education subject to actively participate in the university’s education activities within their respective scope of responsibilities and give full play to their respective education activities. We will jointly build an educational atmosphere where “everyone is an educator,” realize value co-creation and capability improvement through collaboration and communication among various parties, and promote high-quality education development in our university.

3. Practical issues in Guangyou’s implementation of “three-wide education” in the new era

3.1. Weak construction of ideological and political work teams

The ideological and political work team is a key force in cultivating talents in higher education and plays an important role. It is also the main force in promoting the “three-wide education” work. The current focus of the university’s work is on the construction of a team of professional teachers. The importance of the ideological and political work team in educating people has not been emphasized. There are still many deficiencies in constructing the ideological and political work team, such as the lack of the “people” concept, the weak ability to organize and coordinate practical teaching, and the insufficient level of practical education and teaching. In addition, administrative management and logistics service personnel have weak educational awareness, which leads to the inability to effectively carry out management work and harms the students to a large extent.

3.2. Unestablished system and mechanism of “three-wide education”

Establishing a sound institutional system is the basic guarantee for colleges and universities to carry out the work of “three-wide education.” The university’s “three-wide education” work lacks comprehensive planning and coordinated execution, which results in an insufficiently smooth education mechanism. On the one hand, the overall plan for educating people is not comprehensive enough, the top-level design and evaluation system are not yet complete, the understanding of the importance of “three-wide education” is not deep enough, and it fails to provide sufficient and diverse practical activities for students with different characteristics. Therefore, the effect of educating people in social practice is poor. On the other hand, the cooperation between universities, social organizations, and institutions is still insufficient for educating people. “Three-wide education” requires the participation of enterprises, governments, universities, families, and other parties to jointly provide the institutional guarantee, financial support, and platform facilities required for students to participate in social practice to form a multi-party cooperation education system.

3.3. Insufficient resource mobilization

The core goal of “three-wide education” is to establish a comprehensive education model and a well-developed education system with comprehensive coverage, multi-party interaction, and deep integration to achieve optimal education results. The university still has some problems in management and education, as well as service and education, such as failing to track students’ academic performance and development well and providing various resources that students need. At the same time, the university’s funding system needs to be further improved. It needs to evaluate the effectiveness of funding projects and better manage funds to maximize their help to

students. In addition, there is still room for improvement in the intensity, breadth, and depth of the university's ideological and political education courses. It is necessary to pay more attention to exploring and integrating ideological and political education resources and fully integrating ideological and political education elements into various courses to form a synergistic effect and promote ideological and political education, systematize the work of political education, and build a comprehensive ideological and political education system.

4. The practical path of the comprehensive reform of Guangzhou Petroleum Corporation's "three-wide education"

4.1. Strengthening the construction of ideological and political work teams and gathering the joint efforts of all employees in educating people

Strengthening the construction of ideological and political work teams is the key for colleges and universities to carry out the "three-wide education" work. The ideological and political work team is the primary force in the education work of colleges and universities. Building an ideological and political work team with excellent quality and superb professional capabilities is crucial to promoting the education work of colleges and universities. Firstly, it is necessary to strengthen the awareness of the concept of education, form an ideological consensus of "three-wide education," improve the guidance mechanism of teacher education, cultivate and forge a team of teachers with "four unifications," and improve the organizational guarantee of practical education. Secondly, we need to create a high-quality teaching staff, which should impart professional knowledge and accurately understand the social value contained in the courses, integrate ideological and political elements with the courses, and achieve an organic educational effect. Thirdly, we should build a professional ideological and political team, constantly improve their academic attainment, political awareness, theoretical level, and professional skills with the educational concept of "three-wide education," implement the fundamental task of cultivating people with moral character, and guide students to firmly fasten the "first button" of life. Lastly, it is essential to build an efficient management team, establish a "student-centered" work concept, establish a unified leadership system with the school party committee as the core, gather the joint efforts of all employees to educate people and achieve the goal of the party and government working together and each department performing its duties and collaboration.

4.2. Improving the system and mechanism of "three-wide education" and strengthening the effective connection of education in the whole process

Establishing a sound system and mechanism of "three-wide education" guarantees that colleges and universities will carry out the work of "three-wide education." Guangyou comprehensively coordinates educational resources in various fields and education links, improves the organizational structure, enhances the evaluation and assessment system, clarifies the division of responsibilities, optimizes work processes, strengthens coordination, and builds a systematic "three-wide education" with Guangyou characteristics. Long-term working system and mechanism realize the organic integration of ability training, knowledge transfer, and value guidance. We need to work hard on the "institutional system," formulate and introduce a series of rules and regulations, improve the standardized system for evaluation and assessment of the "three-wide education" work, improve the comprehensive quality evaluation mechanism for students, and enhance the overall effectiveness of practical education work. We should also work hard on the "working mechanism," explore and build a long-term mechanism for the three-level linkage of universities, functional departments, and colleges to promote "three-wide education," and explore the formation of a comprehensive coordination mechanism of "1+N" and "three-round education" with one department taking the lead and multiple departments participating

to promote the deepening and development of practical education work. Additionally, we need to work hard on “comprehensive integration” and integrate the requirements of the comprehensive reform of “three-wide education” into all aspects of the university system, talent training, and daily management work, as well as into all aspects of disciplines, teaching, and teaching materials, and strive to promote the coordination and linkage within and outside the classroom, online and offline, and inside and outside the university, strive to promote the organic collaboration of teams, resources, etc., and strengthen the effective connection of the entire process of educating people.

4.3. Optimizing educational resources and creating an all-round education pattern

Optimizing educational resources is the core of colleges and universities’ work of “three-wide education.” Guangyou adheres to the student-centered principle and realizes the integration of psychological counseling and material assistance, thoughtful service and efficient management, and ideological and political courses with first-class undergraduate courses to build a comprehensive and powerful education structure.

The first method is integrating psychological counseling and material assistance to ensure students’ comprehensive and healthy growth. Guangyou insists on combining mental health and moral education, carefully cultivates a team of psychological education teachers, builds a mental health education system, and focuses on ensuring students’ physical and mental health. The university improves the funding mechanism, strengthens the construction of funding platforms, and strengthens inspirational, honest, and grateful education for students from families with financial difficulties to help these students.

The second approach is integrating considerate service and efficient management to comprehensively improve the overall level of education. Guangyou implements the “Great Love for Oil Treasures, Integration of Management and Services” education plan and optimizes education based on management and service. The university is student-oriented and has established a zero-distance interactive and comprehensive service platform that combines online and offline services to create a warm service and educational atmosphere, and promotes the convenience and efficiency of public services. It is committed to improving the comfort and happiness of campus life by building a high-quality, convenient, and warm management service system.

The third strategy is integrating ideological and political courses with first-class undergraduate courses to create a first-class ideological and political course system in Guangyou. Guangyou insists on leading the construction of ideological and political courses with first-class undergraduate courses, constantly reforming teaching methods, innovating teaching art, and actively promoting “walking classrooms,” “recorded classrooms,” “creative classrooms,” “classic classrooms,” “service classrooms,” etc. A practical teaching brand makes “seeking first-class curriculum construction” a strong awareness and deep concept of ideological and political course teachers, leading the teaching reform and further deepening and optimizing the education model. At the same time, Guangyou focuses on implementing the fundamental task of cultivating people with moral integrity, closely adheres to the “Top Ten Talent Education” system, and strives to build a recognized and popular first-class brand of ideological and political courses. In addition, Guangyou actively explores the construction of a three-in-one online ideological and political course platform of “Ideological and Political Network, New Media, and E-Class” and gradually promotes the construction of a large ideological and political and party-building pattern of “one game of chess,” “one network,” and “one voice.”

5. Conclusion

To achieve positive outcomes in the pilot work of the comprehensive reform of “three-wide education,” colleges and universities must not only consolidate their existing advantages and expand their influence but also actively

break through difficulties and be courageous in innovation and practice. Guangyou seizes the opportunities for the development of higher education in the new era, comprehensively promotes the comprehensive reform of “three-wide education,” establishes and improves the ideological and political work of the unified leadership of the party committee, including the joint management of the party, government, industry, and the league, and the combination of full-time and part-time teams. The pattern has created a new situation in ideological and political education in colleges and universities, continuously cultivated new people of the era who shoulder the important task of national rejuvenation, and promoted the development of higher education and social progress.

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