

Study on Approaches and Methods for Cultivation of Young Marxists in Colleges and Universities

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Abstract: The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China greatly pushes forward young Marxists training projects, thus study on approaches and methods for cultivation of young Marxists in colleges and universities is of great significance for establishment of socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era. However, current problems include: current young Marxists projects in colleges and universities are based on theoretical research; over-reliance on research results in the recent years, and lack of in-depth systematic research on writing thoughts of classical literature; lack of accurate assessment mechanism for practical activities; insufficient innovation of training methods; poor quality of training environment. Actively searching for relevant improvement measures based on the current problems has positive effects in promoting cultivation of young Marxists in colleges and universities.

Keywords: *Colleges and universities, Young Marxist, approach research*

Publication date: July, 2019

Publication online: 31 July, 2019

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1 Introduction

General Secretary Xi said: "Youths are the hope for the country and the future for the Chinese nation. If the youths prosper, the country will prosper. If the youths are strong, the country will be strong".^[1] Steady flow of youth power is the key to continued prosperity and strength of the Chinese nation, in the course of achieving the Chinese dream—great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Therefore, cultivation of young Marxists is not an easy project. Searching for effective

methods to train young Marxists and to develop a group of ardent young Marxists is an important and arduous task for universities and colleges of the new era.

2 Interpretation of president Xi's speech on the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China regarding approaches and methods for cultivation of young Marxists in colleges and universities

2.1 Young people must dare to take responsibility

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, president Xi has been constantly expressing of his great concern and high expectation on youths in his speeches: "Both history and reality have demonstrated to us that, if youths have ambition and keen sense of responsibility; then our country will have future, our nation will have hope, and we will have constant stream of powerful force in implementing our development goals." As the pillar of future national development, youths in the new era must have senses of mission and responsibility to "seek happiness for the Chinese people and the rejuvenation for the Chinese nation." The younger generation must have courage to overcome academic difficulties during study, and take corresponding social responsibilities in life. Country is the biggest home and home is the smallest country. In the context of the current prosperity and stability of the nation, young people should support and maintain their own families with their own capability. Only when their own families are stable, everyone then can prosper. Young people should be ambitious and have keen sense to accept lofty mission; as the builder and successor of China's future development and national rejuvenation, young Marxists must have even stronger

sense of responsibility.^[2] Young people with keen sense of responsibility are essential for development and rejuvenation of the nation.

2.2 Young people must improve in all aspects

As the backbone and driving force of society, young people should study Marxist theory on their own initiatives, so that they can have strong sense of recognition and confidence with the ideology, approach and system of the socialism with Chinese characteristics. With that, they will develop patriotism and national sentiment, be able to clarify their own life goals, uphold common belief of socialism, and truly become individuals with ambition and goal. With the advancement, scientificity and predictability of its theory and methodology, Marxism has been followed and upheld by proletariat and political parties from all over the world. It is the fundamental programmatic ideology for my Party; contemporary young people thus should arm themselves with its scientific theory, engage in in-depth social practice, and to unpromptedly take social responsibilities endowed by history, country and the people. At the same time, young people should integrate learnt theoretical knowledge into socialism practice on their own initiatives, implement of combination theory and practice encourages all-aspect development in young students.

2.3 Young people must practice core value

President Xi pointed out at the National Conference on Ideological and Political Work in China's Universities and Colleges: first of all, we must serve "nurture and practice core values of socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era" as the highest political standard for college youth education; second, nurture of new force and reserve force for socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era must serve as the fundamental task for young Marxists training project in colleges and universities. This has designed path and clarified direction for youths to grow up and develop into talent. Youth concept of president Xi puts forward higher demand for effectiveness of young Marxists training projects in colleges and universities: first, in terms of educational goal, to nurture core socialist value in youths; second, in terms of fundamental task, to remain committed to nurture builder and successor of socialism with Chinese characteristics; third, in terms of political responsibility, to "consolidate and expand youth population in the party's governance"; young people must constantly boost their self-confidence

with regard to approach, theory and system; further strengthen their solid trust in the party's leadership; and understand well about the historical responsibilities and missions endowed to them. Through nurturing core socialism value in youths, their pride and self-confidence towards path, theory, system and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics will be enhanced; their sense of recognition and support to the party's leadership will be augmented; and correct ideal and firm belief in practice of core socialism value will be rooted in their hearts; these provide good ideological foundation for future development of youths.^[3]

2.4 Young people must have identity to pursuit value

"Value orientation of youths determines value the orientation of the whole future society. Meanwhile, youths are in the phase of value identity formation and establishment, it is thus very important to grasp well this phase for nurturing value. It is like doing buttons when wearing a shirt, if the first button is wrongly done, the remaining buttons will be wrong as well. Buttons of life should be correctly done from the beginning. "A deep tens-of-thousand-fathoms water well starts from a three-inch pit."^[4] Education of value in youths plays a vital role for the entire life development of youths. Youth development needs to be guided by correct values. In addition, young people should establish right value orientation under improper social atmosphere, to take the lead in developing a harmonious society.

3 Problems of young Marxists training in colleges and universities

My Party always attaches great importance to nurture of younger generation, especially since the 18th National Congress—General Secretary president Xi has been constantly expressing of his concern and expectation on young people at important occasions. In addition, he presented many important speeches related to youth. This provides a more solid theoretical foundation for further improvement and expansion of sinicization of Marxism, and further support young Marxists training. However, colleges and universities have several problems in young Marxists training process.

3.1 Theoretical researches over-rely on the existing research result in recent years, and there is lack of in-depth systematic research on writing thoughts of classic literature

In recent years, under the guidance of General

Secretary president Xi, ideological and political work of China's colleges and universities have been gaining well development. Theoretical researches have been obtaining great results, many related journal papers have been published one after another, and research methodology has become more diversified. Although the number of published papers is increasing, there are not many high-quality papers. Many research results over-rely on existed research results and there is lack of in-depth research on writing thoughts of classic literature. Theoretical research is the foundation; however, current college teachers understate theoretical research. Without solid theory as the foundation, researches will be lacked of depth. It will then be difficult for researchers to leap out of the existed research results and search for new research direction. In addition, some college teachers never learn theoretical basis before. As the result, current college students have insufficient in-depth study of relevant theories when they learn Marxist-related knowledge; this poses a huge obstacle for Marxists training in colleges and universities. Sinicization of Marxist ideology and long-term development of ideological and political education in colleges and universities require educators and students to research and study together. This will give rise to in-depth understanding of the essence of the era of classic literature, so as to lay a solid theoretical foundation for nurture of young Marxists.^[5]

3.2 Emphasizing theoretical teaching, understating practical training

The objective of young Marxists training in colleges and universities is not merely to impart theoretical knowledge. Instead, it aims to allow contemporary university and college students to truly understand Marxism and the reasons why they should learn Marxism, to treat Marxism with scientific attitude, to grasp the essence of Marxist theory, be able to apply stand, viewpoint and method of Marxism in solving real-life problems encountered during study, work and life in the future; thereby to be able to distinguish between right and wrong, and have good sense of direction in life development. Dialectics of Marxism points out that: "Practice is the basis of understanding, and understanding has guidance role for practice." Ideological and political theory courses are compulsory subjects for every college student. They are helpful for young college students to arm themselves with scientific theory, to enrich their own mind, and to develop their own spirit. However, incompatibility between theory and practice is currently a common phenomenon; most still use test score

as the assessment standard. This makes most students study theoretical knowledge through memorization, thus examination-oriented education is prominent. Colleges and universities should emphasize on theoretical assessment and at the same time strengthen social practice throughout the training process of young Marxist.

3.3 Insufficient innovation of teaching method

Teaching emphasizes on lecturing of book theories, and there is inadequate teaching of actual methodology combining country, era, society and college students. Currently, ideological and political work in colleges and universities are improving in an orderly manner, and have gained rapid development compared with previous education and teaching work. Nevertheless, rationally thinking, problem of insufficient innovation of teaching method still exists in China's ideological and political work. At present, dogmatism in ideological and political theory course in colleges and universities is prone to serious. Dogmatism is embodied in the current ideological and political work which has relatively serious bad practice of "class-only" and "book-only". Teaching emphasizes theoretical knowledge on book, this is insufficient for ideological and political workers to investigate the real situation of contemporary college students. They are not determining plan, content, and method of ideological and political work based on the actual situation; instead, merely revolving around and simply obeying to instruction and attitude from the higher hierarchy. As the result, this causes ideological and political work to be hectic without order, tiring to cope, and lack of planning and objective.

3.4 Problems with regard to education environment

At present, young Marxists training in colleges and universities is mainly based on systematical training through ideological and political theory courses. However, many ideological and political theory courses in colleges and universities are often conducted in large classes, which makes it impossible for teachers to educate students in a targeted manner. In addition, colleges and universities are currently emphasizing thesis and subject research but understating classroom-teaching research. Many subject teachers have misinterpretation of the nature of ideological and political education work, and they deem it is good enough to complete teaching of the classroom tasks assigned by school. As the result, they tend to neglect the education and teaching problems such as incomprehensive and untimely content absorption

by students. Currently, many college and university teachers have not really achieved the working mechanism of "full member participation, full member education and full process education". Thus, training environment of college and university still requires further improvement.^[6]

4 Optimization of approaches for young Marxists training in colleges and universities

Through analysis of the limitations of conventional ideological and political teaching method in colleges and universities, I believe that, under the trend of the new era, effective young Marxists training approach should accurately grasp the characteristics of new era and explore for approach with new era characteristic based on summarization of history and real-life practice experience in the context of the new era. At the same time, it is also necessary to explore for young Marxists training methods which fulfill the law of characteristic.

4.1 In-depth implementation of socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era by president Xi and new requirement on young Marxists of the new era

In the report of the 19th National Congress, the first special session clarifies the roles of youth. "Chinese dream is historical, realistic, and also futuristic; it belongs to our generation, and to the younger generation. The Chinese dream of national rejuvenation will eventually become reality under striving of young generations." The report clearly indicates that the Party Central Committee with Comrade president Xi as the core puts ardent hope on younger generation. It also highlights the continued concern, caring and love for youths from our party, which always regards youth as the new force in driving social change. At present, colleges and universities should put president Xi's hope on young people into practice, and remain committed to nurture young Marxists, to make contribution to implementation of "Chinese dream" socialism.^[7]

4.2 Active establishment of accurate assessment mechanism for practical activity

Learning of theory is for guidance for practice. At present, college students face many problems with regard to social practice. During training process of young Marxists, assessment of social practice activity only focuses on number of activity and neglects quality of activity—standard of assessment for practical activity is mainly on working capability

rather than spirit feature. Due to this imperfection of assessment mechanism, current college students are less enthusiastic to participate in social practice. Therefore, establishment of scientific, effective and feasible assessment measure will directly affect the effectiveness of practical activity. In particular, it will affect the nurture of Marxist belief, viewpoint and standpoint in college students, thereby affecting young Marxist training work. It is necessary to encourage students to carry out in-depth practice, so that practical education is consistent with national education goal, and the roles of practical activity in nurturing and improving the ideology and moral quality of college students can be fully exerted. In the process of reforming and refining assessment mechanism for practical activity of training project, it is necessary to manage the work strictly, in exerting the roles of practical education.

4.3 Innovative entry points for searching, cultivation and establishment of comprehensive model; and strengthening the effect of role model

Power of model is infinite, good quality of role model is the subject that contemporary young people should learn. Contemporary young students have strong cultural knowledge, but they are lack of corresponding value judgment and moral education. As the result, young people often get confused and feel lost when facing life choice and decision. As the main base for young Marxists training, colleges and universities should put emphasis on in-depth learning of Marxist-related theory, strengthen social practice, innovate new era effect of role model, and influence more youth populations using power of model, so that more of them can develop into outstanding young Marxists. Colleges and universities can allow majority of the young populations to further understand and learn from role models by organizing talks given by outstanding pacesetters. In addition, colleges and universities can also invite outstanding party members to share their understanding and experience of studying Marxism in classes of ideological and political theory course in college and university. This will allow students to recognize their own weaknesses more closely and to actively learn from the models nearby them.

4.4 Method optimization: combination of imparting education and self-education

At the time being, teaching methods of ideological and political education still base on teacher-centered

model, in which teachers impart principles of thought to students through classes. However, it is far from enough to merely rely on lecturing by teachers; colleges and universities must also fully recognize the important roles of self-education activity in nurture of ideological and moral quality of students. It is necessary for colleges to reinforce self-education work of young students, and to continuously improve level of self-education, to serve for development of ideological and moral quality of college students.

4.5 Training mode: Internet+mode of training, establishment of online–offline interaction mechanism

Network serves as a new data platform in which education can be carried out through multimedia via sound, text and vibrant graphic artwork; it can be an effective tool for ideological and political education of college students. Colleges and universities should innovate mode of education; they should employ network platform to educate contemporary college students on Marxist ideology, and use the latest achievement of Marxism with Chinese characteristic to lead network development trend. At the same time, they should create a series of red website, cultural education website, and legal and regulatory education website, and to push contents relevant to young Marxist on Weibo or WeChat platforms, to allow more young students to understand Marxism through online channels. In addition, students can study through online learning, and to ask teachers for answer in real classroom; such effective online–offline interaction mechanism is helpful for young Marxists to learn more relevant knowledge. In short, colleges and universities should adopt effective way and varied teaching method in the process of young Marxists training; to continuously reinforce their understandings in Marxism; and consolidate young students' firm belief in Marxism, solid trust in my Party, and strong confidence with modernization of socialism with Chinese characteristics

in the new era. Thereby, more outstanding college students can be trained to develop into young Marxists, and the status of Marxism in guiding the ideology of China can be consolidated and upheld.

5 Conclusion

In president Xi's opinion, youth is the hope of the country and the future of the nation. "I sincerely hope that every youth can be builder and successor of socialism, does not disgrace the era mission and lives up to expectation from the people." Nurture of young Marxists in colleges and universities is a complicated and arduous system project that requires joint effort from all social members. Innovate training methods, in-depth study of theory, and improvement of social practice are all effective methods. As the main base for young Marxists training, colleges and universities should attach great importance to nurture of young Marxists, and actively summarize training experience, to produce more high-level talents for building of socialism in the context of new era.

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