

# Exploration of the Path of Patriotism Education in Digitally Empowering Colleges and Universities

Jing Wang, Zi-tai Liu\*

School of Innovation and Creation Design, Shenzhen Polytechnic University, Shenzhen 518055, Guangdong, China

\*Corresponding author: Zi-tai Liu, lzt1078224987@outlook.com

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**Abstract:** Patriotism education is an important part of ideological and political work in colleges and universities, and it is an important driving force to promote the implementation of the fundamental task of “cultivating people by virtue.” The digital transformation of education brings forward new requirements for patriotic education. Colleges and universities should effectively strengthen the effectiveness of patriotism education, and promote the high-quality development of patriotism education by creating a digital education mode that strengthens the guidance of public opinion in digital space and expanding digital practice channels.

**Keywords:** Education digitalization; Patriotism education; National identity; Practical path

**Online publication:** July 17, 2024

## 1. Introduction

Patriotism education is an important part of ideological and political education in colleges and universities. The Patriotism Education Law of the Republic of China promulgated in October 2023 (hereinafter referred to as “Patriotism Education Law”) requires that relevant departments and units be guided to innovate patriotism education methods by leveraging all kinds of patriotism educational resources and platform carriers and promote the effective implementation of patriotism education. Amidst the backdrop of digital education transformation, the new era educates patriotism education with a new connotation. The 2023 National Education Work Conference emphasized that the national education digitalization strategic action should be vigorously implemented to promote the shaping of a new track, a new kinetic energy and a new form of education development. Therefore, it is of great significance to study the education of digitally empowered patriotism. This study endeavors to delve into the value of patriotism education in colleges and universities in the digital age, and at the same time focus on the practical path of patriotism education in colleges and universities under digital empowerment to provide guidelines and ideas for the high-quality development of patriotism education in colleges and universities under digital transformation.

## **2. The value of digitally empowered patriotism education in colleges and universities**

### **2.1. Strengthen the guidance of ideological education and promote the cultivation of excellent traditional culture**

Colleges and universities provide an interactive platform for teachers and students through digital technology, reinforcing the ideological significance of patriotism education, enable students to actively embrace and internalize patriotic values during their learning journey, and at the same time, strengthen national consciousness and historical responsibility. Excellent traditional culture is the “root” and “soul” of the Chinese nation. Incorporating this cultural heritage into patriotism education serves the purpose of nurturing citizens’ patriotic sentiments and fostering a robust national spirit <sup>[1,2]</sup>. Digital technology introduces a novel mode of cultural cultivation into patriotism education cultivation. Through the digital platform, colleges and universities can display the historical culture and revolutionary tradition of the Chinese nation more vividly based on the modern interpretation of Chinese excellent traditional culture, such as using interactive learning, online collaboration and virtual reality technology to reproduce historical scenes, thereby heightening students’ sense of historical immersion. This approach can spread core patriotic values and excellent culture among students, guide students to deeply understand the development process and cultural tradition of the country, and cultivate students’ sense of identity and responsibility for the country.

### **2.2. Innovate the form of education and teaching to enhance the breadth and depth of education**

Digitally empowered patriotism education in colleges and universities can help colleges and universities innovate teaching forms and enhance the breadth and depth of education. Through digital technology that meets the needs of teachers and students for real-time and immediacy of patriotic educational resources, it effectively expands the path of inheritance and promotion of patriotic spirits. On this basis, teachers can promote the integration of the virtual education field and physical education field, by focusing on the application of digital resources, such as offering online courses, launching teaching apps, making virtual reality teaching content, etc. With these innovations done to enrich teaching methods, it will make patriotism education more attractive and interactive. Students then can learn through a variety of digital platforms, obtaining relevant knowledge anytime and anywhere. A ubiquitous learning ecology can be established and make patriotic education more real and sensible, besides improving the convenience and effect of learning. On the other hand, from the perspective of overall management, colleges and universities use big data to analyze students’ learning situations before tailoring personalized learning programs. With this, colleges and universities can address the root causes, elevate the quality and effectiveness of education, and make patriotism education deeply rooted in people’s hearts.

### **2.3. Expand the channels of practice and strengthen the effectiveness of moral education**

Combining teaching with practice is an important way to promote patriotism education. It is imperative to integrate patriotic elements into teaching to deepen patriotic spirits in practice and take practice as the expansion of teaching, thereby making patriotism education an inseparable part of student’s lives <sup>[3]</sup>. Patriotism education strengthens education guidance and practice cultivation by providing digital platforms and virtual laboratories for practical activities. The Law on Patriotism Education stipulates that all kinds of schools at all levels should combine classroom teaching with extracurricular practical experience, integrate patriotism education into campus cultural and various school activities, and recognize students as individuals who engage in both “online” and “offline” activities seamlessly <sup>[4]</sup>. The teaching field constructed by digital technology promotes the organic combination of ideological political classrooms and social classrooms. It imparts practical momentum into

patriotic education and deeply integrates the patriotic education practice of young people into the great cause of socialist modernization. The rapid spread of digital media creates convenience for the combination of patriotic educational resources and social practice education and transforms spontaneous patriotic feelings into rational and pragmatic patriotic actions, thus deepening the understanding and recognition of patriotic education in practice, showing patriotism in words and deeds <sup>[5]</sup>.

### **3. The practical path of digital empowerment of patriotism education in colleges and universities**

#### **3.1. Enrich patriotic educational resources and create a student-oriented education model**

First, we should give full play to the role of open educational resources by building a digital library and resource-sharing platform that integrates a diverse range of patriotic educational resources, such as documents, film and television works accessible to students anytime and anywhere. This ubiquitous resource-sharing model can help students broaden their boundaries <sup>[6]</sup>. A combination of multimedia technology and teaching depth is adopted to vividly show the spirit of patriotism and historical stories, giving attention to students' interactive experience in class and thereby fostering students' interest and enthusiasm in patriotism education.

Second, it is necessary to focus on the role of patriotism educational resources such as digital-reality fusion venues and immersive teaching scenes to promote patriotism education to become active and alive. This way can present national development, social changes and patriotic spirit inheritance vividly and concretely. Simultaneously, it transforms these abstract concepts into spiritual fortitude and faith pillars that the audience can intuitively feel, enhancing the effectiveness of patriotism education by immersing the idea into the mind. Given the prevalent digital landscape in which students reside, colleges and universities should integrate fragmented information to improve the patriotism education curriculum. Colleges and universities can build a coherent patriotic knowledge system for students, cultivate their critical thinking, and guide them to actively screen and think deeply in the fragmented information environment to empower them with the ability to make independent judgments.

The third is to create a "student-centered" digital patriotism education model. Technological innovation and formal innovation in patriotism education are important, but it is crucial to ensure that the educational content is closely linked with students' lives. Patriotism education should always adhere to the principle of "educating people", focus on students' individual needs, and ensure that the content of education is in line with their way of thinking, writing and behavior. Patriotism education in the new era should change traditional thinking and establish a modern mindset of patriotism education in the new era <sup>[7]</sup>. Colleges and universities should combine teenagers' behavioral preferences and cognitive laws to promote the transformation of patriotic education discourse from grand narrative to subtle narrative. This can be done by starting with the things around students and digging deep into young role models and patriotic deeds close to students' lives. Colleges and universities can use digital media tools such as social media and short video platforms, together with the use of big data and artificial intelligence technologies to analyze students' preferences and personalize patriotic education content. This method can make education closer to students' lives and with access to students' spending habits, colleges and universities can ensure the idea delivered have both historical and ideological meaning while improving the quality of life to let students understand the long history of national spirit and cultural tradition <sup>[8]</sup>. This will make students realize the internal relationship between modern achievements and experiences from history, and gain the same frequency resonance with national development and social changes.

### **3.2. Strengthen the guidance of public opinion in digital space and build a strong patriotic education position**

As an important position of patriotism education in the new era, teachers must firmly grasp the idea right and guide the correct orientation of online public opinion to build the main position of patriotism education <sup>[9]</sup>. First, teachers should establish and improve the supervision mechanism of digital campus, clarify the norms of network behavior, and strengthen the management of students' network behavior. Besides, teachers should always pay attention to students' dreams and trends while correcting and criticizing wrong views in time and at the same time, strengthen guidance to help them establish a correct concept of patriotism. With this, students can understand the complexity and multifaceted feelings of patriotism, and how to express their views rationally in the network environment <sup>[10]</sup>.

Second, teachers should strengthen theoretical research and publicity on education. This can be done by carrying out in-depth publicity and education on mainstream values such as patriotism, collectivism and socialism to improve students' understanding and moral quality, political literacy and critical thinking ability <sup>[11]</sup>.

Third, teachers should also strengthen the screening of network information and the monitoring of network public opinion. To maintain the stability and security of the campus, teachers should clean up and shield bad information in time and deal with network public opinion problems in time. Authoritative information is published through university websites, social media and other platforms to remind college students to be alert to the infiltration of wrong social thoughts, guide young college students to firmly and correctly pursue political orientation and value orientation in the digital space, and finally enhance national security awareness.

### **3.3. Open up the educational field inside and outside the school and broaden the channels of patriotism practice**

The effective construction of patriotic cultural atmosphere in colleges and universities should no longer be limited to campus learning, that is, traditional classroom teaching and textbook reading. Instead, it should run through the whole aspect and phase of students' growth and success. It should not only be based on the deep excavation and rational development of campus cultural resources of colleges and universities to maximize its effectiveness, but also rely on the grand narrative of the country and the nation <sup>[12]</sup>, which is to break the barrier of patriotism education inside and outside the school, achieving the all-round expansion of patriotism education field, and provide channels for students to practice patriotism.

First, colleges and universities can make full use of the advantages of digital media by playing the role of multi-subject and multi-education, for example, telling patriotic stories vividly. When colleges and universities use digital media to carry out patriotic education, they need to pay attention to the depth, quality and consistency of the content to foster strengths and avoid weaknesses. Given the disadvantages of fragmentation of digital information dissemination, colleges and universities can combine teachers and big data technology to create serialized content, integrate fragmented information into a knowledge system, and enhance students' overall cognition. In addition, colleges and universities can also strengthen cross-media content linkage by making rational use of the advantages of information fragmentation. With its advantage in flexibility and interactivity as a media, colleges and universities can give full play to the communication functions of Bilibili, TikTok, RED, Weibo, and other online platforms, such as promoting patriotic spirits, patriotic song competitions, sitcoms, etc. Colleges and universities can rely on the advantages of digital technology to explore the patriotic educational resources in society, such as collaborating with local museums, anti-Japanese war memorials, revolutionary museums, cultural memorials, etc. to share digital resources and expand the educational field in time and space dimensions, so that students can intuitively review history and experience the timeless patriotism contained therein.

The second is to comprehensively expand the ways of patriotism practice, and foster an environment where college students' patriotic sentiments can be integrated into society and cultivated through real-world experiences. Colleges and universities should expand the channels for practicing the concept of patriotic education and releasing patriotic feelings, encouraging young college students to integrate their personal growth with trajectory of national development, closely combine patriotic education with the practice of "Socialism with Chinese characteristics", make students realize that personal development is closely linked with the destiny of the country. In this way, patriotic enthusiasm transforms into a potent impetus for national progress while nurturing patriotic sentiments through social practice forming a virtuous cycle of patriotic education.

## 4. Conclusion

Youths are the key groups in patriotism education, and schools occupy a crucial position in reinforcing it <sup>[13]</sup>. In the digital era, patriotism education in colleges and universities is facing unprecedented opportunities and challenges <sup>[14]</sup>. The digital transformation of education is not only the application and control of technology but also the reshaping of the educational ecosystem <sup>[15]</sup>. From managing digital space to integrating internal and external fields, its essence lies in strategically harnessing digital technology and innovating traditional patriotic education formats. Its foundation rests on nurturing patriotic sentiments among youths and promoting the high-quality development of patriotic education in the new era. Confronted with a complex and ever-evolving digital environment, colleges and universities should undertake the mission entrusted. Colleges and universities should actively adapt to the digital environment, explore more diversified and more efficient educational models to optimize the development ecology of patriotic education in colleges and universities. At the same time, they should empower patriotic education with digitalization, fostering a new generation of youth imbued with patriotic sentiments and take on the great responsibility of national rejuvenation for the country.

## Funding

The Ministry of Education Humanities and Social Science Research Special Task Project for 2023 (Project No.: 23JDSZ3123); Shenzhen Polytechnic University School-level Social Science Youth Innovation Project "Research on the Development and Promotion of National Identity of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Youth from the Perspective of Social Psychological Service System Construction" (Project No.: 6023310018S)

## Disclosure statement

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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