

Labor education in Vocational Colleges in the New Era from the Perspective of “Three-Wide Education”

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Abstract: Labor education is an important way to realize the historical mission of cultivating socialist builders and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, and beauty, and it is also an important carrier of ideological and political education in colleges and universities. Labor education is an important part of vocational college education. Therefore, implementing the concept of “three-wide education” is more conducive to achieving the goal of labor education and teaching, thus forming an integrated labor education and teaching system. This paper focuses on the significance of labor education in vocational colleges from the perspective of “three-wide education” and puts forward three practical paths of labor education, namely, building a system of full-time labor education, perfecting the process labor education, and creating an all-round labor education atmosphere.

Key words: Three-wide education; Vocational colleges and universities; Labor education

Online publication: August 24, 2023

1. Introduction

The curriculum of labor education is an important part of college education and teaching, and at the same time, it is also the key to improving the quality of college education reform. From the perspective of Marx’s materialism theory, labor is the basic condition of all historical creation. Therefore, labor ability, as an important factor in cultivating comprehensive qualities, which includes morality, intelligence, physique, and beauty. It can be said that everything in the world is created by the basic skill of “labor”^[1]. Labor not only creates people’s material and cultural life, but also their spiritual world. Besides, it is also one of the signs that people gain external recognition through their own abilities. Labor plays an important role in scientifically constructing an education system of all-round cultivation and comprehensive development of morality, intelligence, physique, and beauty, and strengthening the development of comprehensive qualities. College students can only become real builders and successors of the new era if they have these comprehensive qualities. Labor education in colleges and universities is an important link in higher education, and it also deeply embodies the current higher education policy in China. In the new era, continuously enhancing the integrated development of “three-wide education” and “five-round education,” which includes aspects like morality, intelligence, beauty, and physique is a heightened and modern

requirement for comprehensive development among the people in China ^[2]. Therefore, the principle of “three-wide education” is incorporated into schools, families, society, and other aspects, even in talent training. This further promotes the improvement of the quality of labor education for colleges and lays a solid foundation for the all-round development of quality education, thus comprehensively improving the effectiveness and pertinence of labor education in colleges and universities.

2. Definition of related concepts

2.1. The concept of “three-wide education”

“Three-wide education” emphasizes educating individuals comprehensively, inclusively, and in all directions. In the present stage, Chinese colleges and universities have established clear educational objectives rooted in ethical cultivation. This is achieved through the integration of ideological and political education across various disciplines and majors. The curriculum across majors is designed to incorporate ideological and moral education, cultural enrichment, and practical social engagement. This approach aims to establish a systematic and scientifically informed framework for curriculum-based ideological and political education. College educators play a crucial role in this effort by integrating theoretical knowledge with practical application, thereby effectively advancing the comprehensive “three-wide education” reform, enhancing the relevance, scientific nature, and effectiveness of higher education ^[3].

2.2. The concept of “three-wide education” in labor education in colleges and universities

“Labor” has driven historical progress, shaping all of society’s accomplishments through human effort. It stands as the origin and motivation for achieving social value. In the context of “three-wide education,” labor education in universities means that students should use their skills to contribute to society and improve their lives. This involves a comprehensive approach to labor education that covers all individuals, processes, and aspects. By integrating theoretical knowledge and practical skills, universities aim to enhance students’ participation in labor, practical activities, and community service. There are three aspects to the concept of “three-wide education”: full-time labor education, whole-process labor education, and all-round labor education.

2.2.1. Full-time labor education

Full-time labor education in colleges and universities means to divide the responsibilities of labor education among all faculty members, so that labor education can be an education in which everyone can participate. Therefore, the concept of full-time labor education is not to distinguish between levels, groups, and identities, and everybody plays a role in labor education. From this point of view, it is clear that labor education in colleges and universities does not depend on teachers alone, but also all faculty members. In addition, labor education should be reflected in all aspects of college education, not just in classrooms. That is to say, in addition to classroom teaching, other professional teachers, counselors, administrative personnel and logistics support personnel in colleges and universities are also responsible for strengthening the awareness towards labor education and comprehensively enhancing the subjectivity, consciousness, and autonomy of labor education ^[4]. The value and significance of labor should be taught to college students by setting good examples, creating a good atmosphere of labor education within universities driven by the dedication and noble professional ethics displayed in various roles. This, in turn, contributes to the establishment of a comprehensive labor education system where labor education instructors serve as the cornerstone, supported by teachers, counselors, administrative personnel, and logistics staff.

2.2.2. The whole-process of labor education

The whole-process of labor education in colleges and universities mainly means to embody labor education in all stages of college education, including internships. The essence of labor education in colleges and universities is the practicality of labor posts. Therefore, college students will receive labor education in the process of college study and practice through classroom education, social practices, cultural and sports activities, college student volunteer activities, and other activities, so that students can develop good labor habits and ideas. In addition, family and society also play an important role in college education. Therefore, social practices and family background, and life experiences are also an important part of the labor education in colleges and universities, which is crucial to realizing the objectives to labor education ^[5].

2.2.3. All-round labor education

All-round labor education means to incorporate labor education in all places, fields, and majors of higher education. Colleges and universities should make full use of their classrooms, laboratories, libraries, gymnasiums, and other facilities. Labor education activities can be organized in different ways, and a higher education labor teaching system integrating in-class and out-of-class lessons can be constructed. In addition, in view of the development of new media, colleges and universities should make good use of online and offline education and carry out labor education in the most suitable way.

2.3. The significance of labor education in vocational colleges from the perspective of “three-wide education”

Labor education is one of the crucial elements in China’s higher education system, and it is also an important way for contemporary college students to grow, progress and develop in an all-round way. “Three-wide education” is also an indispensable part of cultivating practical talents for college students in the new era ^[6]. At the same time, it is also an important way for college students to improve their labor skills and literacy in order to be successful. Therefore, in the perspective of “three-wide education,” the significance of labor education in terms of all-round development should be highlighted in vocational colleges, and the connotation and value implication of labor education for college students in the new era should be deepened continuously.

2.4. for the new era of college students to establish a correct labor values

Throughout the history of modernization in China, the Marxist concept of labor has been the basis for theoretical innovation and practical application in building a socialist society with Chinese characteristics. Therefore, students in private colleges and universities appreciate labor as the basis of the great development. In addition, the understanding of the value embodiment of labor in the new era should also be carefully understood from the complexity and diversity of the concept of modern labor. There are millions of kinds of labor in society. In colleges and universities, the labor that college students are exposed to is only a small fraction. Therefore, college students should actively think, be brave in participating and be willing to contribute in the limited labor in colleges and universities, so as to fully realize that labor is the fundamental driving force for social development. Only through these actions can we foster mutual assistance and trust within genuine labor-driven social practice, genuinely find joy in labor, and celebrate its beauty. This path leads to the realization of self-worth.

2.5. Actively cultivating positive labor consciousness of college students

From the perspective of “three-wide education,” labor education in vocational colleges should focus on the cultivation of workers’ subjective consciousness of college students ^[7]. Every field of modern China is

developing rapidly, especially the field of science and technology, making science and technology the new form of labor. In the new era, vocational college students should not only master traditional labor skills, but also pay attention to the development of science and technology. In this way, their ability and quality of labor innovation will be enhanced.

2.6. Developing and improving the labor skills of college students

From the perspective of “three-wide education,” labor education in vocational colleges will accelerate the improvement of the labor skills of college students in the new era. Today’s students, armed with contemporary knowledge, need to prioritize improving their practical abilities and mastering skills applicable to the working world. This is crucial for them to excel in their jobs. Additionally, real-world practice remains the ultimate yardstick for assessing one’s abilities. Adopting the “three-wide education” approach, labor education in vocational colleges becomes necessary for students to enhance their practical skills. Labor education not only help build e a strong work ethic but also deepens their understanding of skill development, making them more proactive in improving their practical abilities ^[8].

3. The path of developing labor education in vocational colleges from the perspective of “three-wide education”

3.1. Building a system of full-time labor education to stimulate the consciousness and initiative of full-time participation

From the perspective of “three-wide education,” vocational colleges should ensure full participation in labor education, maximize the role of each professional teaching post, and scientifically build a collaborative educational system, so that every member of vocational colleges can play a role in labor education. Vocational colleges should also study and analyze the forms of labor education on campus regularly, formulate scientific labor education teaching plans reasonably, and do a good job in the top-level design of labor education. The organization, management, and evaluation of labor education should be carried out systematically ^[9]. In addition, vocational colleges should also actively study and analyze the responsibilities and authorities of teaching subjects in organizing education, so as to achieve rules-based and law-based teaching behavior with the concept of institutionalization and rule of law, thus stimulating the consciousness and initiative of collective participation of labor education teaching staff in colleges and universities, and achieving the effect and purpose of teaching all labor education staff.

3.2. Gradually improving the whole process of labor education, including its overall planning and design

When organizing labor education, vocational colleges should pay attention to the overall design of labor education, ensure the continuity and long-term nature of the education, and think about problems in the whole process of labor education practice to prevent the discontinuous development of the labor education process. In addition, vocational colleges should also focus on the first classroom, the second classroom and the social practice of graduation, ensure a seamless link of the whole process of education. By diligently implementing an education approach that merges in-school and off-campus labor practice, prioritizing work-study and volunteer initiatives, vocational colleges can strengthen students’ entrepreneurial mindset and self-improvement attitude. This approach aligns with the comprehensive blend of curriculum-based education, experiential learning, and practical education within vocational colleges.

3.3. Efforts to create an all-round labor education atmosphere, highlighting the innovative value of labor education

Vocational colleges should further enrich the forms of labor education, increase the content of labor education, and expand the field and scope of labor education, so as to realize the all-round and all-field development of labor education in colleges and universities. Colleges and universities are the main places for college students to learn cultural theoretical knowledge^[10]. Therefore, colleges and universities should strive to create an all-round labor and cultural environment, and vigorously publicize and promote the quality of “hard-working.” Colleges and universities should also regularly carry out educational activities such as labor competitions, thematic education, and skill competitions, so as to cultivate labor value consciousness and stimulate the enthusiasm of students. This approach is crucial for cultivating a labor-oriented culture and atmosphere, encouraging students to consistently enhance their knowledge and practical skills through labor practice. It also stimulates their innovation and work ethic, leading to the improvement of their character and labor skills.

4. Conclusion

Labor education in vocational colleges should be guided by the concept of “three-wide education.” This involves consolidating labor education’s influence and building consensus among staff, exploring abundant labor education resources, and consistently expanding both online and offline teaching platforms for practical labor education. This approach aims to establish a comprehensive labor education system that achieves full-time, whole-process, and all-round labor education. In the context of “three-wide education,” proactive research and innovative strategies in vocational colleges’ labor education, along with reinforcing students’ experiential value, contribute to nurturing well-rounded socialist builders and successors among college students.

Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflicts of interest.

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