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The Value and Practice of Labor Education in Local Engineering Colleges in the New Era

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Abstract: *As establishing moral education is the fundamental task of higher education, the positioning of talent cultivation in local engineering colleges is high-caliber technical talents. Entering the new era, local engineering colleges combine labor education with ideological and political education, professional education, innovation and start-up education as well as social practice. This approach will enhance the practicality of professional education. On top of that, it will improve the value of education on the hard-working spirit, encourage students to establish sound working values, develop good working habits and morals, and master modern working technology skills, thus facilitating local engineering colleges to achieve the fundamental task of talent training.*

Keywords: *New era; Local engineering colleges; Labor education; Practice path*

Introduction

Marxism regards labor as the essence of human beings and believes that human beings are those who are in real productive labor. Strengthening labor education in local engineering colleges can upgrade students' knowledge and skills as well as cultivate their sound attitude, abilities, habits and values of hard-working spirit education. More importantly, it is an important initiative to achieve the goal of moral education.

Research Focus

The Value Orientation of Labor Education in Local Engineering Colleges in the New Era

The Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council unveiled a guideline on strengthening education on the hard-working spirit among students in universities, secondary and primary schools in the new era, setting out the general aims of labor education. To be more specific, the guideline said, “Through education on the hard-working spirit, students will manage to understand and form a Marxist view of labor, firmly establish the concept that labor is the most glorious, the most noble, the greatest and the most beautiful thing; students will appreciate that labor creates a good life, recognize that there is no distinction in labor; students should love labor, respect ordinary workers and cultivate their hard-working spirit of diligence, thrift, innovation and dedication; students should acquire basic working capability for livelihood and individual development, and form good working habits through such education.” The above-mentioned gives us a direction to understand the value and practical path of hard-working spirit education in

local engineering colleges in the new era.

As an important source of scientific and technological innovation for local industries, local engineering colleges are not only important bases for the training of practical, application-oriented and inter-disciplinary talents, but also critical supports for the development of local regional economies. The objectives of hard-working spirit education complement that of the talent training in local engineering colleges. Entering the new era, local engineering colleges combine labor education with ideological and political education, professional education, innovation and start-up education as well as social practice. This will enhance the interesting part of professional education as well as the practicality of labor education. In other words, in promoting the hard-working spirit, strengthening labor education and reaffirming the value of labor, we will shape the sound personality of university students, sharpen their will, refine their moral characters and enhance their professional knowledge and skills.

Discussion

The Connotation of Labor Education in Local Engineering Colleges in the New Era

1. Education on the Value of Labor

Labor created man and created human society. Labor was the primary and essential condition for human life. It was labor that facilitated the division between hands and feet of the apes, allowing them to walk upright. It was labor that promoted the intellectual development of the ape brain and the production of verbal communication, which eventually evolved ape into man. Labor is the fundamental way for university students of the new era to know themselves and develop themselves. Engels argued that labor played a crucial role in the evolution from ancient apes to man. Human society was formed in the course of human labor. In addition, human beings made use of their physical and mental strength to transform nature and create material wealth through labor. In this process, mankind learned from experience and gradually improved its capabilities, thus expanding the subjects and fields of labor, further promoting the emergence of a new social division of labor, the transformation of production methods and the development of society.

Labor creates wealth, which is the father of fortune and of happiness. Gorky said: "The most beautiful things in the world are created by the clever hands of those who love labor." Historical materialism believes that labor not only facilitates the emergence of man and human society, but also creates the conditions for its development. All the difficulties in development can only be solved through honest work; all the glories in life can only be forged through honest work. Social material and spiritual wealth is created through working people. The living practices of ordinary people are the source of the formation and development of all spiritual wealth and spiritual products. Only when university students of the new era realize that labor is the source of wealth and happiness will they respect and love labor and workers from their hearts and adhere to the right principles and directions when faced with the choice of labor behavior.

2. Nurturing the Hard-working Spirit

The hard-working spirit reflects one's emotional attitudes and values towards labor, and values are the core

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of hard-working spirit education. The kind of labor values that workers have will influence their behavioral choices accordingly. Labor education for university students in the new era should focus on the values of hard-working spirit. Specifically, we must respect labor in our mindset and take an active part in working. It is important to realize that labor is the most glorious, the most noble, the greatest and the most beautiful thing so that we are willing to work actively. It is critical to respect labor. There is a distinction between physical and mental work, plus workers who perform different tasks differ in their physical and mental effort, but every worker deserves to be respected. In other words, all kinds of work, whether physical or mental, deserve respect and encouragement; all creativity, whether individual or collective, deserves respect and encouragement as well. Students in the new era should respect not only labor and workers, but also the fruits of their hard-working. It is through the hard work of millions of workers that the great achievements of the new era have been created. Only by cultivating the concept of honest labor, establishing an innovative hard-working spirit and shaping the spirit of model worker in the new era can university students of the new era become the inheritors and promoters of the spirit of the model worker and craftsman.

3. Education of Labor Quality

The labor quality includes work ability and the development of labor quality. As long as workers are engaged in working, they must have work ability, including the training of work techniques and skills. With the development of the times, society has placed higher demands on work ability. To be honest, the improvement of work ability is closely bound up with the scientific and cultural caliber of the workers. Moreover, university students in the new era should not only strive to improve their scientific and cultural quality, but also to make honest and creative work. Honest labor means working with one's feet on the ground and seeking truth from facts without falsifying them. Creative labor is about developing a sense of innovation and using creative thinking in one’s work.

Hard-working spirit education is not just limited to the cultivation of work skills and approaches, but also includes character building in terms of labor values and hard-working spirit. The construction of the implementation system of labor education in local engineering colleges must follow the principles of education orientation, follow the laws of education, reflect the characteristics of the times, strengthen comprehensive implementation and adhere to local conditions. Then, by exploring the practical path of industry-education integration, school-enterprise cooperation and work-study combination, the implementation of labor education at different levels and in different links is promoted in a concerted manner, so as to promote the labor quality of university students in the new era.

Conclusion

The Practical Path of Labor Education in Local Engineering Colleges in the New Era

1. Integration of Labor Education with Ideological and Political Education

The objectives and contents of labor education as well as ideological and political education are related, therefore, they can learn from each other in the ways and methods of implementation path. To promote the

integration of hard-working spirit education with ideological and political education, first, it is necessary to strengthen ideological leadership and establish a Marxist view of labor. Second, the subjectivity of students should be brought into play and the content and form of labor education should be broadened. Next, it is necessary to strengthen the construction of ideological and political theory courses in local engineering colleges and to integrate hard-working spirit education into them. Finally, it is essential to give full play to the carrier function of daily ideological and political education in local engineering colleges and build a new platform for labor education.

Through the integration of hard-working spirit education with ideological and political education, local engineering colleges can cultivate sound labor values, attitude, morality, habits, knowledge and skills among university students, and strengthen the moral leadership and spiritual shaping of labor education objectives. As far as ideological and political education is concerned, labor education is conducive to strengthening its practicality, enhancing its relevance, widening its path and increasing its appeal. Grand ambition makes grand contribution. High diligence gains high achievements. Labor does not distinguish between high and low, rich and poor. The efforts of countless ordinary people have merged into the splendor of the new era. The entire common and glorious endeavor is marked with the undertones of the builders' hard-working.

2. Combination between Labor Education with Professional Education

As we all known, labor education is highly relevant to professional education, with consistency in training objectives, commonalities in approaches and methods, and a high degree of similarity in the structure of the faculty. The study of professional courses is a kind of mental work; and the learning process of learning is essentially a kind of labor education. The ultimate goal of professional learning is to meet the fundamental needs of work. As hard-working spirit education plays an important role in the mental development, personality formation and development and overall quality improvement of university students, it is an important link for local engineering colleges to cultivate senior talents to serve local economic growth. To promote the deep integration of hard-working spirit education and professional education, it is essential to scale up the training of practical skills according to the needs of industry as well as to build an education system geared towards serving local economic and social development. To strengthen school-enterprise cooperation, it is necessary to build a collaborative training platform for both labor and professional education. To combine professional education and labor education, it is critical to build a practice-oriented faculty and explore special resources such as craftsmen and model workers of the nation. In addition, it is necessary to carry out specialized courses in labor education and build an evaluation system covering the setting of working hours, the formation of work attitude, the level of working skills, the testing of work results, the evaluation of work abilities and creative abilities. By doing so, students who are labor-loving, hard-working and good at working and those who have achievements in labor can be awarded the corresponding honors, thus enhancing their sense of achievement in professional learning and their sense of pride and gain in work.

3. Bridging Labor Education with Innovation and Start-up Education

Local engineering colleges have the objectivity to integrate labor education with innovation and start-up education. The two are interlinked in terms of educational objectives, as both of them share a common

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support carrier and a common subject of implementation. The deep integration of labor education and innovation and start-up education is conducive to the realization of the goal of cultivating innovative and practice-oriented talents; more importantly, it is conducive to serving local economic development. By promoting the hard-working spirit and stimulating the spirit of innovation, we will create a new model of education, namely, "the integration of labor and innovation". At the moment, in the process of promoting labor education, local engineering colleges are facing problems of lack of attractiveness and innovation. To this end, the guideline on strengthening education on the hard-working spirit among students in universities, secondary and primary schools in the new era emphasized that "Higher education institutions should focus on innovation and entrepreneurship, combine disciplines and majors so as to carry out internship training, professional services, social practice, and work-study programs. Only by doing so will students be able to enhance their sense of honest labor, accumulate professional experience, and improve their employment and entrepreneurship capabilities", which points out the way forward for the connection between labor education and innovation and start-up education in local engineering colleges in the new era.

4. Coordination of Labor Education with Social Practice

Society is school, life is education. The construction of the implementation system of labor education in local engineering colleges must follow the principles of education orientation, follow the laws of education, reflect the characteristics of the times, strengthen comprehensive implementation and adhere to local conditions. Besides, we must follow the requirements of industry-education integration, school-enterprise cooperation, work-study combination and practice-knowledge unity. On the one hand, universities students are guided to learn professional knowledge, improve overall quality and develop excellent skills on campus; on the other hand, in labor practice, they are encouraged to learn about China, observe the public feelings, grasp professional knowledge and cultivate labor sentiments in solving practical problems with their own hands. As a result, we should actively build a platform for social practice, volunteer service and other public work practices, so that students can observe public feelings and serve the community in their work, and enhance their sense of dedication and social responsibility. At the same time, we should build school-enterprise cooperation bases and industry-university-research incubation bases to provide students with a good platform for labor practice, then, students will have the opportunity to participate in some productive and service work within their power, so that they can experience the meaning of labor. Through the cooperation of labor education and social practice, university students are guided to analyze and solve problems creatively in specific situations so as to improve their labor quality in social practice and to form the values that labor is the most glorious, the most noble, the greatest and the most beautiful thing.

Labor is the essence of human being, and hard-working spirit education can restore the essence of human being and achieve the all-round development of humanity. Labor education in local engineering colleges in the new era should be not only integrated with ideological and political education, but also coordinated with professional education, innovation and start-up education as well as social practice. The academic, practical, interesting and permeable characteristics should be reflected in innovative teaching methods and teaching processes; while in teaching methods, paths suitable for the characteristics of students in local engineering colleges should be explored to improve the effectiveness of labor education. And in the evaluation system, it should cover the setting of working hours, the formation of work attitude, the level of working skills, the testing of work results, the evaluation of work abilities and creative abilities. In this way, those who are labor-

loving, hard-working and good at working will become the new style in local engineering colleges in the new era.

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