

Investigation and analysis of ideological and political and moral status of university students in Xinjiang

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Abstract. Grasp and understanding of university students' ideological and moral status and taking practical measures are of very significant importance for improving students' ideological and moral qualities and training qualified talents for socialist modernization construction. This study investigates the ideological, political and moral status of a total of 1,679 students from five universities in Xinjiang, and results show that the mainstream ideological and moral qualities of university students in Xinjiang are healthy and upward, but still have some problems that cannot be ignored.

Introduction

Ideological, political and moral education for university students has been key content of university education. Accurate and timely grasp and understanding of university students' ideological and moral status and taking targeted and practical measures are of very significant importance for improving students' ideological and moral qualities and training qualified talents for socialist modernization construction. This study aims at providing necessary basis of decision making for ideological and moral education of Xinjiang universities, by investigating the ideological, political and moral status of nearly 1,679 students from five universities in Xinjiang such as Xinjiang University and Shihezi University etc, and thus constantly enhance moral education for university students to be more scientific, targeted and effective in the new area.

Respondents

This study firstly uses typical sampling to select five universities (namely Xinjiang University, Shihezi University, Xinjiang Normal University, Yi Li Normal University and Hetian Normal Specialized Postsecondary College) in Xinjiang, and select different number of students randomly from each university. Questionnaire distribution and recovery are completed by head teachers, counselors and related personnel of each university. The sample size is 1,700, 1,679 questionnaires are recovered (recovery rate 98.7%), and samples are general undergraduates and junior college students. Basic composition of samples is shown in table 1:

Table 1. Basic Composition of Samples

	Xinjiang University	Shihezi University	Xinjiang Normal University	Yi Li Normal University	Hetian Normal Specialized Postsecondary College
Freshmen	70	70	70	70	70
Sophomore	80	80	80	80	80
Junior	80	80	80	80	80
Senior	70	70	70	70	70
Total	300	300	300	300	300

Results analysis and conclusions

Ideological and political cognition of university students in Xinjiang

In table 2, when asking about "How do you think about the Scientific Outlook on Development is sustainable", 92.5% of students agree, while 7.1% of students have little or no understanding. Data

shows that university students support and understand national policies, and have significant ideological progress, and turn to concern about long-term social development, which is very good.

Table 2. How do you think about the Scientific Outlook on Development is sustainable

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely agree	1173	69.9	70.2	70.2
	Agree	379	22.6	22.7	92.8
	Understand little	91	5.4	5.4	98.3
	Not understand	29	1.7	1.7	100.0
	Total	1672	99.6	100.0	
Missing	System	7	4		
Total		1679	100.0		

In table 3, for the understanding of current ethnic relations of university students from different ethnic groups, 31.21% of students select harmonious, 39.07% of students select basically normal, 14.65% of students select constant ethnic conflicts and emergencies may occur at any time, and only 0.95% of students select very prominent ethnic conflicts. This indicates that most students are increasingly rational and comprehensive in view of social problems such as ethnic relations etc, and could observe mainstream things, which is a very good thing.

Table 3. The understanding of current ethnic relations of university students from different ethnic groups

		Harmo nious	basically normal	general	constant ethnic conflicts	promine nt ethnic conflicts	emergen cies may occur at any time	Total
Nationalit y	Han	139	345	80	101	7	23	695
	Uighur	341	237	85	73	9	18	763
	Kazak	24	45	12	14		3	98
	Hui	5	16	4	8		1	34
	Others	15	13	3	4		1	36
Total		524	656	184	200	16	46	1626

In table 4, when asking about “The most influencing social factor of university students’ ideological fluctuations”, about 42.6% of students select employment situation, followed by social thought, which is selected by 25.7% of students. Natural disasters, traditional cultures, emergencies and economic situation have little influence. Thus, universities and the society shall attach great importance to employment factor and social thought, and create actively good employment environment and promote positive social thought.

Table 4. What do you think is the most influencing social factor of university students’ ideological fluctuations

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Social thought	431	25.7	26.3	26.3
	natural disasters			4.3	
	employment	71	4.2	43.7	30.6
	situation	15	42.6	11.6	74.3
	political events	190	11.3	4.5	85.9
	Traditional cultures	73	4.3	3.5	90.4
	Emergencies	62	3.7	5.9	94.1
	economic situation	96	5.7	100.0	100.0
	Total	1638	97.5		
Missing	System	41	2.4		
Total		1679	100.0		

Moral cognition of university students in Xinjiang

In table 5, in terms of “Honesty” , when asking about the necessity of being honest, 64.7% of students select completely necessary, and 29% of students select sometimes necessary, which means that sometimes unnecessary, making it depends. This means that they would be honest when there is supervision or stake, otherwise, they would not be honest, which is risky and opportunistic.

Table 5. Being honest

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely necessary	1076	64.1	64.7	64.7
	Sometimes necessary	483	28.8	29.0	93.7
	Unnecessary	67	4.0	4.0	97.8
	Doesn't matter	37	2.2	2.2	100.0
	Total	1663	99.0	100.0	
Missing	System	16	1.0		
Total		1679	100.0		

In table 6, when asking about “Would you help your classmates who are in trouble” , 89.8% of students are very willing to, indicating that contemporary university students are willing to try their best to help others and be high-quality social people while improving their skills.

Table 6. Would you help your classmates who are in trouble

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very willing	1491	88.8	89.8	89.8
	Unwilling	84	5.0	5.1	94.8
	Doesn't matter	86	5.1	5.2	100.0
	Total	1661	98.9	100.0	
Missing	System	18	1.1		
Total		1679	100.0		

Moral behaviors of university students in Xinjiang

In table7, in the survey of “Donation” among university students, regardless of gender and grade, university students generally participate in social donation actively, which reflects that university students have loving hearts and a strong sense of social responsibilities to a certain degree. We shall advocate these behaviors vigorously, to achieve the sayings “every man alive has a duty to his country” and “in success, one tries to let others be benefited” .\

Table 7. Grade* donation behaviors*gender

Grade			Donation behaviors						
			Donate money	Donate goods	Donate blood	Public activities	Two of all those	All of those	Total
Male	Grade	Freshmen	91	30	43	57	46	21	288
		Graduates	27	7	13	5	14	5	71
		In between	129	26	31	28	60	30	304
	Total		247	63	87	90	120	56	663
Female	Grade	Freshmen	145	32	32	69	88	21	387
		Graduates	22	5	7	5	8	1	48
		In between	255	23	42	44	138	31	533
	Total		422	60	81	118	234	53	968

In table 8, when asking about “In what way do you usually help others” , the top three answers include economy, learning and life which account for 33.4%, 32.5% and 16.6% respectively. 1.9% of students never help others or ask for help. This indicates that contemporary university students have loving hearts, and wish to get help from whom they help, as we are one member of the unity of various social relations.

Table 8. In what way do you usually help others

Name	Count	Responses	Cases
Economy	555	33.4	33.6
Learning	540	32.5	32.7
Life	276	16.6	16.7
Psychology	260	15.6	15.7
Never help	18	1.1	1.1
Never ask for help	13	0.8	0.8

In table 9, in terms of politeness, 69.9% of university students often use daily civilized language and a small number of students never or feel difficult to say. As cutting-edge talents, university students shall have high-quality speech and behaviors. We shall develop good daily habits, be polite and civilized, and form a habit of being polite.

Table 9. How often do you say “hi”, “thanks”, “excuse me” and “sorry” to others

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Often	1134	67.5	68.9	68.9
	Sometimes	303	18.0	18.4	87.3
	Occasionally	131	7.8	8.0	95.3
	Difficult to say	58	3.5	3.5	98.8
	Never want to say	20	1.2	1.2	100.0
	Total	1646	98.0	100.0	
Missing	System	33	2.0		
Total		1679	100.0		

Basic evaluation of ideological, political and moral status of university students in Xinjiang

1). According to results of above data analysis, most students in Xinjiang universities have clear political views and strong political awareness, love the party and motherland and socialism, support consciously the party’s leadership, routes, guidelines and policies, view dialectically Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought etc, and have a positive and confident attitude towards China’s development situation, building a moderately prosperous society and a harmonious society; however, they have not enough knowledge and understanding of some aspects, especially in multi-ethnic areas, it is very necessary to know about relevant ethnic policies and regulations, and these aspects shall be further strengthened in university ideological and political education. According to analysis of moral cognition and behaviors of university students in Xinjiang, the mainstream morality of current university students is healthy and upward, and most students regard “love the motherland”, “honest and trustworthiness”, “self-esteem, self-respect and self-love”, “a sense of responsibility” and “helpful” as excellent qualities of a person and shall put into practice; however, some students do not have a correct understanding of moral values, and declare to be individual-centered and personal interests come first. Thus, universities shall pay attention to this issue during moral education, so that students could have a correct ideological understanding and would put into practice.

2). From a macroscopic perspective, the evolution path of university students’ ideology is mainly from traditional “single and stable” and “conscious and faithful” to “multiple and utilitarian”. From a microscopic perspective, university students’ ideological changes are more complex. Because of diversified ethnic cultures and customs and imbalanced regional economic development of Xinjiang, besides general characteristics of ideological status like mainland university students, ideology of university students in Xinjiang has distinctive features.

3). In Xinjiang universities, minority students account for a large proportion, which is the particularity of objects of ideological and political work of Xinjiang universities. Therefore, to have targeted discussion on the influence of domestic and foreign political environment on ideological and political education of university students in Xinjiang, the ideological status of minority students shall

be studied seriously and in detail. The ideological status of minority university students in the new era shall be analyzed from the following two aspects:

Positive aspects

1). Exchanges of minority students with Han students are further deepened. Minority and Han students strengthen communication about languages, customs and cultures in common life and learning environment, enhance their understanding and communication, and eliminate psychological barriers among different ethnic groups. Although their communication is affected by language barriers to a certain extent, minority students still show positive enthusiasm for exchanging with Han students, and hope to contact with and learn from Han students in order to improve their qualities and Mandarin proficiency.

2). Minority university students have an increasingly profound understanding that the stability and economic prosperity of Xinjiang cannot be separated from harmony among ethnic groups during Western Development, and shall understand each other, and learn from others' strengths to offset their weaknesses. They know deeply that the development course of Xinjiang is a history of mutual integration and common progress of all ethnic groups. Facing current historical opportunity of Western Development, national unity is even more important.

Negative aspects

1). Restricted by environmental conditions, some minority students have a narrow ethnic consciousness. For example, some minority students are unwilling to communicate with Han students in terms of thoughts and knowledge etc. Driven by closed ethnic self-consciousness and narrow ethnic sentiment, they seek to maximize ethnic interests unilaterally and exclude interests of other ethnic groups. Such thoughts seriously hinder normal exchanges and communication between minority and Han students, and are not only incompatible with new socialist ethnic relations that we advocate, but also seriously undermine the stability and unity of Xinjiang and hinder Xinjiang economic development.

2). The influence of overseas "Three Evils" on some university students. In recent years, ethnic separatists carry out reactionary publicity aiming at splitting the motherland, and undermine ethnic unity and social stability of Xinjiang. They take minority university students as main objectives. Under the influence of these "Three Evils", some minority university students change their position, and even embark on the road of subverting the country and affecting the stability of Xinjiang.

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