



Labor Education for University Students in the Perspective of Chinese Modernization: Ecological Constructions and Innovative Development

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Abstract. Labor education plays an important role in the moral development of university students; it is also a vital component of education aimed at cultivating socialist talent that embodies the spirit of the times. Over the past decade, modernization with Chinese characteristics has ushered in new prospects for labor education in universities. With the increasing impact of AI technologies, universities should continue to promote a culture that honors hard work, explore new methods for refining students' labor skills, and advance the reform and intelligent transformation of labor education. These are all indispensable efforts to improve the quality and effectiveness of labor education in universities. Based on an analysis of the features of labor education in universities amidst modernization with Chinese characteristics, the paper offers specific approaches to the construction of a labor education landscape that meets the demands of the new era.

Keywords: Chinese Modernization; Labor education; Ecological construction; Innovative development

1 Introduction

In recent years, the environment facing labor education in China has changed dramatically as new-age digital technologies such as the Internet, big data, artificial intelligence, blockchain and deep neural networks have swarmed into the country. Labor education plays an important role in the modernization of Chinese education, and Chinese modernization also provides a new perspective for the high-quality development of college students' labor education.^[1] The construction of a new ecology of labor education for college students in the new era is a powerful step towards practicing Chinese modernization.

2 Characteristics of labor education for university students in the context of Chinese modernization

2.1 Labor education in higher education stage

Labor education in universities highlights the cultivation of college students' ability to perform complex labor, and in this sense, more emphasis is placed on labor that requires mental effort or professional expertise. As modernization with Chinese characteristics progresses forward, new goals have been set for labor education in universities.^[2] As new business models continue to emerge, new forms of labor are constantly being created. College labor education should pay close attention to the evolution of labor forms and forms, and carry out labor education with The Times, so as to highlight the due times and innovation of labor education.

2.2 Labor education in the intelligent age

Regardless of the development of the times, labour education has always focused on cultivating people.^[3] This means that labour education, as an important means of nurturing people in the process of Chinese modernization, needs to be creatively transformed and innovatively developed in the new era. The rapid development and iterative upgrading of artificial intelligence technology has brought infinite possibilities for the new form and new advantages of labor education in colleges and universities. To keep pace with the constantly evolving technologies, industries, and business models, labor education in universities will necessarily shift towards highlighting labor that requires mental effort and creativity.

2.3 Labor education in comprehensive function

The development of education depends on the comprehensive and high-quality development of moral, intellectual, physical, social and aesthetic education. Labor education for university students should not only cultivate students' love, diligence and emotion for labor, but also be closely related to the fundamental task of establishing moral education in schools, and integrate moral education into the whole process of labor education. Meanwhile, in addition to helping bridge the gap between theory and practice in students' daily learning, labor education in universities should also serve to improve students' creativity and foster their innovation skills.

3 Constructing a new landscape for labor education in universities with Chinese modernization

3.1 Sustaining cultural traditions: the endless labor spirit

As an important moral virtue, being hard-working has its roots in traditional Chinese culture, and Chinese people's belief in the merit of hard work is evident in traditional

Chinese philosophical ideas such as "the unity of knowledge and practice" and "heaven rewards the diligent". Today, Chinese society continues to honor the cultural tradition by promoting the "craftsman spirit", the "labor model spirit", and the "spirit of hard work". In such an age of modernization, these spirits embody the wider values cherished by the Chinese people, which include patriotism, pragmatism, the pursuit of innovation, and dedication to work. Universities have a crucial responsibility to produce skilled professionals and craftsmen who can contribute to the country's future. To this end, universities need to promote a culture where diligence is rewarded, raise college students' awareness of the significance of hard work, and advance labor education reforms. Universities can leverage channels including WeChat, Weibo, short video apps, and TV programs to showcase the exemplary achievements and inspiring stories of national labor models, thereby helping students internalize the value of hard work, innovation, and contribution^[4]. Good labor education necessitates a clear goal and a strong conviction, and the emphasis of labor education should be on fostering moral virtues and building students' character. After establishing a system for labor education, universities need to continually improve it to ensure that it suits the needs of students and society and echoes the spirit of the times. Universities need to instill in students a respect for labor, and by familiarizing students with the cultural tradition related to hard work, universities will foster an unyielding spirit of diligence and perseverance in students, which helps sustain the time-honored cultural tradition.

3.2 Laying the foundation: exploring the integration between theory and practice

3.2.1 Cultivating talent for the country's sake: combining labor education with ideological and political education.

To start with, universities should integrate labor education with education on China's Four Histories and Core Socialist Values to cultivate a sense of patriotism and devotion in students towards their country. This must be done with the aim of ensuring that these values are deeply internalized and reflected in their everyday lives. Additionally, universities should creatively incorporate labor education with moral, intellectual, physical and aesthetic education, while developing an education system that is tailored to the needs of the new era of Chinese socialism, promoting the holistic growth of students' moral character, intelligence, physical fitness, aesthetics, and labor skills. To further enhance the effectiveness of labor education, universities need to integrate it into students' extracurricular achievements record system. Ideological and political systems should be developed to evaluate students' labor education performance, while ensuring the inclusion of labor education activities into the daily schedule of college students. This can be achieved by encouraging students' participation in various field research and volunteer work such as community service, environmental protection, and cultural promotion. As students' participation in such activities can help them recognize the value of labor and refine their labor skills, it becomes an essential aspect of their development. Moreover, universities need to combine labor education with incentive mechanisms that factor in students' labor education performance when evaluating the performance of Party members and Youth League members. Role models who perform well in labor activities should be selected from Party and Youth League members, and their

exemplary behavior can serve as an example for others. This instructive effect of labor education can be amplified by encouraging participation in such activities, thereby providing a comprehensive education for students that prepares them for the realities of the new era of Chinese socialism.

3.2.2 Stay true to the cause: combining labor education with personnel training.

Firstly, it's crucial to prioritize the students in labor education. This can be accomplished by integrating labor education into the talent cultivation system of universities, setting clear goals for labor education, optimizing the curriculum, and developing an effective assessment mechanism to evaluate its effectiveness. Secondly, the delineation between academic training and labor education should be blurred. Leveraging opportunities for practical labor education through academic courses will enrich the content, and improve the quality of academic training. Thirdly, there should be collective efforts to enhance the quality of labor education equipment and textbooks. Customizing textbooks to showcase unique features and to meet the needs of students, establishing a comprehensive management system that incorporates school leader decisions, suggestions from subject matter experts, and involvement of students and teachers in the development and management of teaching materials is essential. Fourthly, universities should capitalize on creative approaches to deliver labor education courses. The "flipped classroom" model is one such approach that can enrich the content discussed during sessions and enhance students' overall experience. Additionally, universities should develop an online platform to monitor and manage the part-time jobs offered through the "Three Assistants and One Supporter" program. The roles assigned should align with the students' academic background, availability, financial situation, and skill set, thus enhancing their sense of accomplishment in performing these jobs.

3.2.3 Inventing innovative forms: combining labor education with Internet traffic

Innovative forms can undoubtedly pique college students' interest in labor education. Social media platforms like Bilibili and Douyin have given rise to popular online influencers, dubbed "key opinion leaders," "top content creators," and "education experts," who produce short, engaging videos. By using witty language, amusing memes, and expertly-made videos, these influencers efficiently convey labor-related theories to students in a compelling way. This revolutionary approach to labor education aligns with students' expectations for an entertaining yet informative learning experience. Universities can collaborate with TV stations to organize events such as "Face-to-Face with Model Workers" to allow students to interact with and learn from inspirational figures. Encouraging students to create plays or documentaries showcasing the role models' stories can also spread the influence of these model workers. Creating labor model IPs will enable students to gain a deeper understanding of the value of hard work, develop a passion for labor activities, and be inspired to follow in the footsteps of these role models. Such initiatives can also help build a culture of respect for laborers and create a conducive environment for labor education.

3.3 Consolidating the construction: building a long-term mechanism of three-pronged education

First of all, universities should collaborate with multiple parties to establish a comprehensive labor education system. The system should involve the Party committee, teaching staff, family members of the students, staff for ideological and political education, administrative personnel, and social enterprises. Through this multi-dimensional approach, universities can ensure their students have the right attitudes towards labor and can acquire labor skills through practical training.^[5] Additionally, to optimize the integration of academic subjects with labor education, universities can explore the concept of "Labor Plus".

Secondly, universities need to value and practice labor education throughout the entire process from student admission to post-graduation employment. Establishing a management system that can effectively supervise the entire process of labor education is crucial. To plan effective training, universities should have a clear understanding of what motivates students to participate in labor education and what they expect from it. They should tailor their training sessions accordingly and enhance oversight of every process. Universities should factor in the unique characteristics of each stage of university education and the diverse needs of students to develop a comprehensive labor education system.

Lastly, universities should tap into all available resources, both within and outside of the school, to enhance labor education. Establishing a multi-dimensional labor education system that includes internship programs, volunteer service programs, innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives, and academic research training programs can be very effective. Through innovation and entrepreneurship, universities can fully utilize the "University Innovation and Entrepreneurship Initiative" and support endeavors such as innovation projects, tech competitions, and student startup incubations. Enhancing employment and career planning guidance, refining innovation and entrepreneurship education systems, establishing practical platforms, and promoting the integration of industry, education, and research can further enhance labor education.

3.4 Empowering innovation: forging new modes in the age of AI integration of labor education

3.4.1 Skills upgrades in labor education.

The rapid development of artificial intelligence has necessitated a change in the focus of labor skills training for college students. The traditional emphasis on manual labor skills has shifted towards training smart labor skills, using AI technologies to enhance the learning and skill development of college students. Through labor education, AI's impact on human society has been amplified, as smart technologies gain wider adoption and reshape the boundaries between production and R&D labor, as well as manual and mental labor. As a result, labor education is now placing greater emphasis on developing students' soft skills, such as self-directed learning, innovation, critical thinking, teamwork, and communication, in order to meet the evolving demands of the modern workplace.

3.4.2 Content changes in labor education

The widespread adoption of AI technologies has sparked a transformation in labor education, shifting from a focus on labor tools to incorporating new knowledge, technology, and techniques. AI has brought a wealth of highly sophisticated technologies and products to the forefront of labor education, revolutionizing learning scenarios with visual content and interactive experiences. In the age of AI, fostering creativity and encouraging creative thinking skills is critical for labor education. Universities can utilize intelligent technologies like virtual reality and holographic interaction to create smart classrooms that enable multimodal virtual reality interactions. Interactive teaching scenarios powered by AI offer students immersive learning experiences and emotional connections to the material.^[6] Moreover, labor education in the era of AI should inspire exploration of the new relationship between smart labor tools and labor objects. It should also empower students to leverage technology for personal advancement and to become multifaceted professionals who master intelligent technologies, possess interactive thinking skills, and demonstrate a high level of comprehensive ability.

3.4.3 Integration of disciplines in labor education.

In the age of AI, the integration of labor education and academic subjects has become more than just splicing and has evolved into a deeper fusion. This shift is due to the cross-disciplinary integration and collaboration fostered by AI, which is fundamentally reshaping the future of education. To keep up with the interdisciplinary nature of labor education in the AI era, universities must integrate labor-related elements into multiple disciplines' curricula. This approach better equips students to synthesize knowledge from different fields and dismantle the silos created by disciplinary barriers to construct a 3D knowledge structure. In labor education, project-based teaching is crucial because it taps into real-world experiences and encourages students' self-directed exploration, enhancing their creative thinking and problem-solving skills. Integrating intelligent technology tools to design teaching content based on real-world problems allows labor education to be further integrated with professional education. Finally, creating intelligent learning environments facilitates the integration of labor education and general education, enabling students to engage in self-directed exploration and innovative, collaboration-based learning.

4 Conclusion

In the new era, labor education has been entrusted with a replacement mission, dogging in innovation and development whereas inheritable the tradition, promoting the trendy transformation of labor thoughts within the fine culture of the Chinese nation, group action labor education into all aspects and also the whole method of personnel coaching, creating bigger contributions to the Chinese modernization, and promoting the implementation of the basic task of strengthening ethical education in schools and universities.

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