

Interpreting the Chinese Path to Modernization from the perspective of the Core literacy of Middle School Geography

Xin Jin^{1,2,a}, Fei Yang^{1,b}, Zewu Yu^{1,c*}

¹Shanwei School of the affiliated high school of South China Normal University, No.288 XiangJiang, Shanwei, Guangdong, China ²University of Perpetual Help System Laguna Graduate School, Biñan, Laguna, Philippines

ajessica2989@sina.cn, byangfei82400346@163.com c*chfswxxbgs@163.com

Abstract. This paper expounds on the Chinese path to modernization and its essential influence from four core qualities: regional cognition, comprehensive thinking, human-earth coordination view, and geographic practical ability. Moreover, explain abstract concepts and economic development models unfamiliar to students in the language of geography in a simple way in geography teaching. In geography teaching, Chinese modernization provides real situations and rich materials, enabling students to understand the practical application of geographical theories and improve their core geographical literacy.

Keywords: Chinese path to modernization; core literacy; Geography teaching

1 Introduction

Xi Jinping delivered a report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and said the central task will be to advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization. Chinese modernization is the modernization of a considerable population, shared prosperity for all, material and cultural-ethical advancement, harmony between humanity and nature, and peaceful development [1]. Through in-depth analysis of the characteristics and differences of different geographical regions, we can understand and think about the Chinese path to modernization from multiple levels and make more intelligent decisions when facing complex problems. While promoting economic development, we should focus on international cooperation and friendship, achieve regional peace and stability, emphasize green development, follow the laws of nature, and achieve sustainable development. Students can apply geographical knowledge to solve practical problems, which provides strong support for promoting the Chinese path to modernization and can become honest, persistent, and intelligent people. This research introduces the latest economic development model in geography teaching. It is instructive to comprehensively and systematically explain Chinese modernization from a geo

[©] The Author(s) 2024

graphical perspective with specific cases. However, the particular teaching methods and teaching process have not been tested many times, and the aspects that students find difficult to understand in the teaching process still need to be clarified.

2 The influence and significance of the Chinese path to modernization on geography teaching

The significance of studying the Chinese path to modernization for improving students' geographical core literacy lies in that geographical core literacy is an essential goal of cultivating students' geographical thinking and geographical awareness. As a comprehensive process of social change, the Chinese path to modernization provides students with rich materials for learning and practice, which can play an essential role in geographical education [1][2].

Provide real situations. The development of the Chinese path to modernization is a realistic background for students to learn geography. By integrating it into geography teaching, students can better understand and understand the practical application of geography theory. For example, Chenzhou Village in Shanwei City, Guangdong Province, has expanded its income-generating projects based on oyster farming, such as the development of a pre-cooked vegetable processing base, specialty restaurants, and fishing village tourism, and has continued to optimize the regional industrial structure to achieve poverty alleviation and prosperity. This village is a modernization of shared prosperity for all people. By delving into the modernization process and the challenges faced in different regions of China, students can significantly enhance their geographical literacy, improve their comprehension and application of geographical knowledge, and cultivate their geographical thinking skills. This will empower them to solve practical problems with ease and optimism [2].

Cultivate the core geography competencies. Chinese path to modernization is a complex systematic project. More balanced regional development and resource allocation problems must involve interaction and comprehensive consideration of economic, social, environmental, cultural, and other fields [1]. Students can learn about the geographical differences and development gaps around China to cultivate their awareness by studying and understanding the Chinese path to modernization. At the same time, geography teaching can also guide students to think about promoting the balance and coordination of regional development through rational planning and resource allocation. Through learning the process of the Chinese path to modernization, students can cultivate interdisciplinary comprehensive thinking ability and understand the interaction and influence of various factors in geographical development. Cultivating such comprehensive literacy helps students develop a comprehensive geographical perspective and thinking [2][3].

Cultivate practical ability. Chinese path to modernization emphasizes practice and innovation, and the cultivation of geographical core literacy also needs to be realized through practical activities. Students can deeply understand and experience the actual situation of the Chinese path to modernization by participating in geographical practice, field investigation, and the application of geographic information technology

[2][3]. Through practical activities, students can gain a deeper understanding of geographical phenomena and issues, improve their data collection, analysis, and interpretation abilities, and cultivate their abilities to solve practical problems and enhance their practical abilities and innovative consciousness.

Enhance geographical awareness and patriotism. The development of the Chinese path to modernization involves economic and technological changes, social justice, resource utilization, environmental protection, and other vital issues [2]. By studying the impact of the Chinese path to modernization on different regions and social groups, students can develop geographical awareness and pay attention to geographical differences, geographical equity, and sustainable development. Promoting geographical awareness will help students better understand and respond to the Chinese path to modernization challenges and shoulder the sense of responsibility and mission of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

3 Geographical core literacy

The core literacy of geography includes the concept of human-environmental harmony, comprehensive thinking, regional cognition, and geographical practice, which are interconnected and form an organic whole [2].

3.1 Regional cognition and Chinese path to modernization

The Chinese path to modernization is a new development model based on China's national conditions, which is based on a vast population base of 1.4 billion people [1]. The economic development model of Western countries has reference significance for China, but it cannot be copied. China's geographical environment, resource endowment, climate characteristics, industrial structure, cultural traditions, and population size make it difficult to find a similar second country to learn. Therefore, based on a clear understanding of its regional characteristics, the modernization promotion and development methods must also have their characteristics. Regional cognition refers to people's way of thinking and ability to understand the geographical environment from a spatial regional perspective, possessing the awareness and habit of understanding geographical phenomena from a regional perspective and correctly explaining and evaluating the gains and losses of regional development and utilization decisions [4][5]. From the perspective of regional cognition, the Chinese path to modernization can be understood as a modernization process under the background of specific geographical regions in China. In this process, the differences and characteristics of different geographical regions will significantly impact the advancement of modernization.

Regional coordination and balanced development. Chinese path to modernization requires the realization of regional coordinated and balanced development nationwide, not only focusing on the development of a single geographical region. Regional cognition helps us to view China's modernization process from a holistic perspective, clarify the positioning and role of each geographical region in the entire modernization

process, promote the optimal allocation of resources, promote economic coordination and social equity between regions, and achieve balanced development nationwide.

Regional planning and decision-making. Regional cognition's perspective enables us to understand better and evaluate the gains and losses of regional development and utilization decisions. In the Chinese path to modernization, effective regional planning and decision-making are needed to ensure the rational use of resources and sustainable economic development. Regional cognition enables us to consider the characteristics and potential of geographical regions, integrate various factors into decision-making, and predict and evaluate the possible impacts of decisions [5]. Chinese path to modernization requires cooperation and coordinated development among various geographical regions. Regional cognition enables us to understand geographical regions' interdependence and cooperation potential, promote economic cooperation, personnel mobility, and technology transfer, and promote mutual support and coordinated development between geographical regions to achieve overall national development.

Regional differences and characteristics. China has a vast territory and diverse natural environment, and significant differences exist in economic foundation, resource endowment, and development level among various geographical regions. Regional cognition enables us to understand these differences better and recognize that the level of modernization development and challenges faced in different regions are different [3], such as the advantages of manufacturing and foreign trade in the eastern coastal areas and the potential for resource development in the central and western regions. Chinese path to modernization needs to consider the characteristics of different geographical regions and formulate development strategies tailored to local conditions. China has a considerable population resource, but the distribution of this population resource is uneven in various geographical regions. Regional cognition enables us to gain insight into the geographical distribution of population resources, understand the impact of population conditions in different regions on the modernization process, and plan and utilize population resources rationally.

Cultural inheritance and innovation. The Chinese path to modernization is about economic and technological progress, cultural inheritance, and innovation. Regional cognition helps us recognize the cultural diversity and the importance of traditional culture in various regions of China [1]. It encourages regions to focus on protecting and developing culture in modernization.

In general, regional cognition enables us to view the Chinese path to modernization as a diversified and complex process in geographical regions, emphasizing the impact of geographical differences and characteristics on the modernization process. By profoundly understanding and analyzing the characteristics and differences of different geographical regions, coordination and cooperation between regions can be improved.

3.2 Comprehensive thinking and the Chinese path to modernization

Integrated thinking refers to the way of thinking and the ability of people to use an integrated perspective to understand the geographical environment, which is the ability to integrate multiple different elements, factors, or perspectives to think and analyze [2]. In middle school geography education, cultivating students' comprehensive

thinking ability is one of the critical goals. From the perspective of comprehensive thinking, this article elaborates on China's modernization path from the following aspects:

Utilization of resources and development. China has abundant natural and human resources, and comprehensive thinking requires considering resource development, utilization, and protection. In the Chinese path to modernization, comprehensive thinking can help us optimize the allocation of resources, promote the sustainable use of resources, and avoid excessive development and environmental damage [1]. In China, urban-rural integration, coordinated regional development, and green and low-carbon development have become the comprehensive development model to promote the Chinese path to modernization. To ensure the comprehensive and sustainable development of the entire society, comprehensive thinking is needed to balance all factors. For example, in the urbanization process, integrative thinking can help us consider multiple factors, such as urban planning, infrastructure construction, and social equity, and promote the sustainable development of cities.

Cultural self-confidence, openness, and inclusiveness. Chinese-style modernization is not only about economic industrialization, political democratization and legalization, ideological rationalization, and technological progress. We must not only focus on developing a single field but also consider different fields and various factors comprehensively, seeking balance and coordination in multiple aspects. Modernization does not equal Westernization. In the past 100 years, Western countries completed the accumulation of primitive capital through colonial plunder, while China has achieved modernization through peaceful development, redefined modernization, and expanded the meaning of modernization [1]. Chinese path to modernization should not only maintain cultural self-confidence, inherit and promote excellent traditional culture, but also be open and inclusive, absorbing and learning from the experience of other countries. Integrated thinking can help us correctly view the relationship between cultural self-confidence, openness, and inclusiveness, ensuring that China can adhere to its characteristics and engage in exchanges and cooperation with the world in modernization.

Ecological environment protection and sustainable development. Comprehensive thinking requires us to comprehensively consider the sustainability of the Chinese path to modernization from environmental, economic, and social aspects. China is also facing many environmental and social problems in modernization. Integrated thinking can help us find a path to sustainable development and avoid excessive consumption of resources and environmental damage [5]. Human development should be comprehensively measured in the natural geographical environment. While pursuing economic development, we should pay attention to the sustainability of the ecological environment and promote green development and ecological civilization construction, and this means seeking sustainable development solutions in industrial upgrading, energy utilization, resource management, and other areas to achieve a virtuous cycle of economic development and ecological environment protection.

Comprehensive thinking can help us understand and think about the Chinese path to modernization from multiple perspectives and levels, focusing on economic development and considering social, cultural, environmental, and other factors. It will give us a more comprehensive and in-depth understanding of its characteristics, challenges, and development direction, better promote the Chinese path to modernization process, and make more intelligent decisions when facing complex problems. In analyzing the development mode of the Chinese path to modernization, improve students' comprehensive thinking ability and use the analytical thinking of factor and space-time synthesis to carry out systematic and regional interpretation.

3.3 The human-earth coordination view and the Chinese Path to Modernization

Chinese path to modernization is a kind of modernization in which people and nature coexist in harmony, green development, and peaceful development [1].

Green development is one of the core concepts of the Chinese path to modernization, emphasizing environmental protection and sustainable use in economic development. The concept of the human-earth coordination view requires a dialectical view of the impact of the natural environment on human activities and an awareness of the importance of the ecological environment for human development. In the Chinese path to modernization, the coordinated development of economic growth and environmental protection is achieved by promoting the development of green technology and green industry and implementing the construction of ecological civilization. Today, China is embracing a green economy much faster than developed countries. In August 2022, the one-million-ton carbon dioxide capture, utilization, and storage project of China Petrochemical Corporation was completed and put into operation. The carbon dioxide emitted during production was captured, purified, and stored in Shengli Oilfield, supporting national energy security and opening up broader prospects for China to achieve the "dual carbon" goal [6]. China has accounted for nearly 30% of the global manufacturing growth value, and these industrial products are produced by China but used in other countries [7]. This is equivalent to China taking on the carbon emissions that would otherwise occur in other countries and also means that China's green transformation is supported by higher speed and tremendous pressure.

Peaceful development is one of the crucial goals of the Chinese path to modernization. It emphasizes peaceful development and actively participates in global cooperation and exchanges. China is a big country with a complex geopolitical environment [1]. Security challenges and economic competition in its surrounding areas substantially impact the path choice and development strategy of the Chinese path to modernization. In modernization, China has adopted a series of foreign policies and regional cooperation initiatives to promote economic development and enhance its international status, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Belt and Road Initiative. By actively participating in international cooperation, we will promote geopolitical harmony and stability and create favorable conditions for the Chinese path to modernization.

3.4 Geographic practice ability and Chinese path to modernization

In the future, China will build itself into a strong country in education, science and technology, talent, culture, sports, and health, and its national cultural soft power will be significantly enhanced. We should achieve the Chinese path to modernization through science and education. Regarding geography teaching in middle schools, we should focus on cultivating students' ability to solve practical problems. This ability applies to solving problems in test papers and the context set in books [2][8]. Instead, we should take the initiative to learn from experience and reflection, seek truth from facts, and have the courage and methods to overcome difficulties in all aspects of life and all disciplines. Chinese path to modernization emphasizes the country's rejuvenation through science and education [1]. It requires the cultivation of student's ability to solve practical problems, which is precisely reflected by geographical practice and can positively contribute to the realization of the Chinese path to modernization.

Practice the application of geographical knowledge. The ability of geographical practice requires students to apply geographical knowledge to solve practical problems. In the Chinese path to modernization, geographical knowledge is significant for rational planning, resource utilization, environmental protection, etc. Through geographical practice, students can combine theoretical knowledge with practical situations to better participate in the future construction and development of the country and community.

Solving real-life problems. The ability of geographical practice requires students to actively solve practical problems in all aspects of life and all disciplines [2][8]. Promoting the Chinese path to modernization faces many geographical problems, such as land use, environmental pollution, and resource shortage in urbanization. By cultivating geographical practice ability, students can understand and solve these problems through practice and provide feasible solutions.

Be practical and realistic and be brave in overcoming difficulties. The ability of geographical practice requires students to be practical and realistic in the practical process, objectively understand geographical phenomena and problems, and cultivate students' courage and methods to overcome difficulties [3][9]. The Chinese path to modernization is a massive systematic project facing various difficulties and challenges. Through the cultivation of geographical practice, students can develop innovative Thinking and problem-solving abilities in the face of difficulties, which will help promote the Chinese path to the modernization process.

As the core quality of geography, geographical practice is closely related to the Chinese path to modernization. Through geographical practice, students can apply geographical knowledge to solve practical problems and provide strong support for promoting the Chinese path to modernization. At the same time, geographical practice ability can cultivate students' practical, realistic, and brave qualities in overcoming difficulties and contribute more valuable talents to the country's development.

4 Conclusions

Chinese path to modernization needs regional coordination and balanced development. The cultivation of geographical core literacy also needs to understand and evaluate the gains and losses of regional development and utilization decisions through regional cognition, guide students to think about how to promote the balance and coordination of regional development through reasonable planning and resource allocation and cultivate comprehensive thinking ability [2][3]. Cultivating geographical practice is the standard Chinese path to modernization and geographical core literacy requirement. Students can deeply understand and experience the actual situation of the Chinese path to modernization by participating in geographical practice. China has continuously promoted the process of modernization through green development, achieving harmonious coexistence between man and nature, which is the embodiment of the concept of the human-earth coordination view.

Chinese modernization has given essential opportunities and challenges to geography education. Integrating the Chinese path to modernization into geography teaching can cultivate students' geographical core literacy, give them a comprehensive geographical perspective and the ability to solve practical problems, and contribute to the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Acknowledgment

This study was funded by the Project of Guangdong Province 2023 Primary and Secondary School Teacher Education and Research Ability Improvement Plan "Development and Practice of Shanwei Research Travel Course Based on Geographical Core Literacy "(Grant No.2023YQJK385).

References

- The Xinhua News Agency. (2022) Interpretation of the Report of the 20th CPC National Congress. https://www.gov.cn/zhuanti/zggcddescqgdbdh/bgjd.htm
- Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China. (2020) General High School Geography Curriculum Standards (2017 Edition, 2020 Revision). People's Education Press, Beijing.
- Meadows, M. (2020). Geography Education for Sustainable Development. J. Sustainability.,1 (2020) 88–92.
- 4. Virranmäki, E., Valta-Hulkkonen, K., Pellikka, A. (2021) Geography Curricula Objectives and Students' Performance: Enhancing the Student's Higher-Order Thinking Skills? J. Journal of Geography, 120:3, 97-107.
- Ho, C. M. L., & Nadarajah, V. R. (2016) Supporting teachers in Geography literacy: New paradigm in teacher identity. In: International Geographical Union and Commission on Geographical Education (IGU-CGE) International Conference 2016: Geography that matters-empowering learners for a diverse world. Shanghai. 14-16.
- 6. Dai Xiaohe. (2022) China's first million-ton carbon capture, utilization, and storage project is completed and operated. http://www.news.cn/fortune/2022-08/29/c 1128957547.htm.

- 7. Xinhua News Agency. (2022) The scale and strength of the industry will be further expanded! The added value of China's manufacturing industry accounted for nearly 30% of the global proportion. https://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2022-07/26/content 5702895.htm.
- 8. Stern, M.J., Powell, R.B. Field trips and the experiential learning cycle. J. Interpret. Res. 2020, 25, 46–50.
- 9. García de la Vega, A. (2022) A Proposal for Geography Competence Assessment in Geography Field-trips for Sustainable Education. J. Sustainability. 2022, 14, 1429.

Open Access This chapter is licensed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/), which permits any noncommercial use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license and indicate if changes were made.

The images or other third party material in this chapter are included in the chapter's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the chapter's Creative Commons license and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder.

