

## Investigation of public integrity education of contemporary college students - Case study of some colleges in Jinan

Aizhen Lv<sup>1</sup>, Jingbin Wang<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Law School, Shandong University of Political and Law, Ji'nan, 250014, China

<sup>2</sup>Law Department, East China Normal University, Shanghai, 200062, China

**Keywords:** anti-corruption; public integrity education; effect; investigation

**Abstract.** among numerous anti-corruption means, prevention is the most economical and practical one. To do prevention well and form anti-corruption and corruption-hate faith is the key. Contemporary college students are backbones in future society. Their integrity awareness to some extent decides the success and failure of future anti-corruption struggle. So, it is crucial to study public integrity education of contemporary college students and master their public integrity awareness.

### Introduction

Anti-corruption is a strategy of running a state that Chinese government and the party stick to. There are numerous anti-corruption means. Currently, China has established a basic system for punishment and corruption prevention. Relative to post-punishment, prior prevention is very rational. So, it is especially significant and urgent to form anti-corruption and corruption-hate faith through education. Luckily, the party and the government have realized the importance of anti-corruption through education and started to put into practice. In January 2005, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China pointed out in Establishment and perfection of corruption punishment and prevention system implementation outline laying equal stress on education, system and supervision that, “administrative department for education, schools and the organization of the communist youth league should regard public integrity education as a significant content of adolescent moral education to cultivate correct values and lofty moral sentiments”. [1] On March 27, 2007, the Ministry of Education issued Opinions on comprehensively implementing public integrity education in primary schools, middle schools and colleges and provided primary schools, middle schools and colleges should carry out public integrity education. [2] In September 2008, Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Supervision jointly issued Opinions on enhancing anti-corruption and integrity construction in colleges and required colleges to further enhance anti-corruption and integrity construction. [3] Establishment and perfection of punishment and corruption prevention system 2013-2017 working plan points out, “it is required to fuse integrity value idea in national education, spiritual civilization construction and legal education”. [4] According to provisions of relevant documents, public integrity education has been implemented for 6 years. Students at all levels including college students have received different degrees of education. Integrity awareness of college students as elites in future society decides the success and failure of anti-corruption struggle to some degree. So, investigation and study of their integrity awareness can not just test effects of public integrity education, but also discover problems, provide suggestions and point out the direction for further effectively carrying out public integrity education.

### Research methods and samples

To clearly know public integrity awareness of contemporary college students, the research group contacted counselors in some colleges in Jinan. With the approval of the counselors, standardized questionnaire interview was carried out for students. The colleges surveyed set the courses about public integrity education. Due to the course setting term, some students answering the questionnaire did not receive anti-corruption and public integrity education. So, we can make

detailed comparison of the students receiving anti-corruption and public integrity education and the students who did not receive anti-corruption and public integrity education.

A total of 1000 questionnaires were distributed. 897 effective questionnaires were collected, with the recovery rate of 87.9%. Main conditions of the respondents are as follows: 1. among 470 girls, 255 received anti-corruption and public integrity education and 215 did not receive anti-corruption and public integrity education; 291 girls were undergraduate students and 179 girls were junior college students; 287 girls majored in law, and 183 girls did not major in law; 2. among 409 boys, 231 received anti-corruption and public integrity education and 178 did not receive anti-corruption and public integrity education; 211 boys were undergraduate students and 198 boys were junior college students; 203 boys majored in law, and 206 boys did not major in law.

## **Data statistics and problem analysis**

### **(I) Basic information about contemporary college students receiving anti-corruption and public integrity education**

To know basic information about contemporary college students receiving anti-corruption and public integrity education, the first question is the way for students to receive anti-corruption and public integrity education. We know through investigation that students mainly receive anti-corruption and public integrity education in the form of classroom learning, such as ideological and political class and situation policy. The opportunities for visit and field education are few. Besides, the class hours for anti-corruption and public integrity education are generally 18. Few students can receive anti-corruption and public integrity education for 36 class hours. Through the investigation, we know that students receiving anti-corruption and public integrity education clearly know the purpose of anti-corruption and public integrity education, i.e. to improve the ability to refuse corruption through learning anti-corruption and public integrity knowledge. But some students aim to gain credits and show negative attitude. In addition, we find through comparison that the students majoring in law and the students who do not major in law have no significant difference in terms of learning goal. Meanwhile undergraduate students do not show advantage, relative to junior college students.

### **(II) Cognition of contemporary college students on contemporary college students**

The feeling of contemporary college students for social corruption, hate degree for corruption of different groups, cognition of corruption causes and recognition degree of charms and consequence of corruption reflect the difficulty, difficulty, key point and social support of anti-corruption work. So, it has positive significance for knowing students' cognition for corruption problem and carrying out anti-corruption work.

#### **1. Perception of contemporary college students for corruption degree**

To know student's feeling for social corruption degree, the research group listed four corruption levels. The students selecting "corruption phenomena are general" and "corruption phenomena are very general and have been socialized" account for 88.23%. This not just shows students widely believe corruption phenomena are serious in China, but also reflects arduousness and chronicity of anti-corruption task.

#### **2. Tolerance of contemporary college students for corruption of different groups**

It is known from the survey that college students have least tolerance for the corruption of officials and educators. Relative to officials, students hate the corruption of educators. The students receiving anti-corruption and public integrity education show more obvious than those who do not receive anti-corruption and public integrity education. This is mainly because the corruption of educators will directly influence students' vital interests. Just as the saying goes, the living environment will influence one's growth. Thus, those teaching public integrity must be uncorrupted, or else public integrity education is just a form and cannot play the due effect.

#### **3. Cognition of contemporary college students for corruption causes**

In terms of the corruption causes, contemporary college students approve two factors: "anti-corruption law is not well implemented"; "anti-corruption system has defects". They have great objection on "Chinese society attaches importance to human feelings, so corruption is

inevitable”. In addition, the students receiving anti-corruption and public integrity education show higher recognition of this problem, regardless of the gender. This shows the positive function of anti-corruption and public integrity education. It is necessary to note that, in the option “Chinese society attaches importance to human feelings, so corruption is inevitable”, most students basically approve it. This not just reflects gravity of anti-corruption struggling, but also points out the direction for anti-corruption and public integrity education.

#### 4. Cognition of contemporary college students for harms caused by corruption

We know from the survey that students know clearly the harms caused by corruption. Most students consider corruption will damage social fairness, directly or indirectly damage our interest, stimulate people’s dissatisfaction, damage public trust and prestige of the government, hinder economic development and weaken the ruling foundation of the ruling party. It can be said that students’ approval is important foundation of anti-corruption and public integrity. Moreover, based on the number of students selecting “quite agree”, compared with the students who do not receive anti-corruption and public integrity education, the students receiving anti-corruption and public integrity education show more profound recognition degree. This also demonstrates anti-corruption and public integrity education is an important move with forward-looking strategic significance.

### (III) Anti-corruption awareness of contemporary college students

#### 1. Anti-corruption attitude of contemporary college students

Through the survey, we know that students extremely hate corruption. Most students cannot tolerate any form of corruption. This shows anti-corruption and integrity upholding work own propound mass base. In terms of anti-corruption attitude, students show high enthusiasm. For example, 84.71% students oppose about the idea that “anti-corruption is a matter of the country and relevant organizations and is unrelated to me”. But, some students hold negative attitude. For example, 38.53% students basically approve that “anti-corruption will influence economic development, so they do not advice large-scale anti-corruption action”; 37.66% students basically agree that “it does not matter, as long as corruption will not damage their interest”. 36.28% students basically agree that “corruption has been socialized, and anti-corruption cannot work”. In general, with regard to anti-corruption attitude, compared with the students who do not receive anti-corruption and public integrity education, the students receiving anti-corruption and public integrity education do not show obvious enthusiasm. This not just indicates shortcomings of anti-corruption and public integrity education, but also points out the direction for future anti-corruption and public integrity education.

#### 2. Recognition degree of contemporary college students for anti-corruption means

According to the survey, in the aspect of corruption governance, students show great approval for the following: fully give people the right of supervision, perfect anti-corruption system, enhance beforehand prevention, carry out ideological education, enhance executive force and severely strike corruption. More commendably, all students regardless of receiving anti-corruption and public integrity education agree that enhancing beforehand prevention and ideological education contributes to anti-corruption. This provides great support for anti-corruption and public integrity education.

#### 3. Support degree of contemporary college students for contemporary college students

##### (1) Attitude of contemporary college students to carrying out anti-corruption and public integrity education

According to the survey, the students receiving anti-corruption and public integrity education can better approve the significance and effect of anti-corruption and public integrity education than those who do not receive anti-corruption and public integrity education. This indicates anti-corruption and public integrity education has achieved effects to some extent. But, still 20.35%-31.46% students have objection to anti-corruption and public integrity education. Thus, how to make students approve anti-corruption and public integrity education and make anti-corruption and public integrity education go deep into the heart of students is a difficulty and key point of future anti-corruption and public integrity education.

##### (2) Basic knowledge of contemporary college students about anti-corruption and public integrity

According to the survey, we know that college students fail to comprehensively and deeply know the knowledge of anti-corruption and public integrity. This shows current anti-corruption and public integrity education needs to improve.

### (3) Reporting willingness of anti-corruption and public integrity for corrupt behaviors

The initiative of college students reporting corrupt behaviors reflects their anti-corruption willingness. Based on our survey, students have least tolerance for the corruption of officials and educators. So, the research group designed common corrupt behaviors of officials and educators to test students' reporting willingness. The students with reporting willingness account for 42.13%-72.72%. This clearly indicates that few students have no reporting willingness. Others take a wait-and-see attitude. Besides, the students receiving anti-corruption and public integrity education have higher reporting enthusiasm. This displays the effects of anti-corruption and public integrity education again. Through analyzing the reporting data, we can find that college students hold higher reporting willingness for the corruption of educators. This also complies with the mentality that people care more about their vital interests. In the survey, two major factors influence students' reporting willingness: "the fear of attack and retaliation" and "worry about the reporting effects". In terms of reporting way, more than 98.70% students tend to select reporting with anonymity.

## Conclusions

Through this survey, we preliminarily summarize anti-corruption and public integrity education work and preliminarily know integrity awareness of contemporary college students. Generally speaking, anti-corruption and public integrity education contributes to improving students' ability to refuse corruption. Through public integrity education, college students clearly know the causes and consequences of corruption. Besides, students own high anti-corruption willingness. But, anti-corruption and public integrity education also has shortcomings. For instance, some students consider anti-corruption and public integrity education carried out for students puts the cart before the horse. Some students show indifferent attitude to corruption and even lose confidence in anti-corruption. They consider corruption has been socialized and anti-corruption cannot work. With regard to mastery of the basic knowledge of anti-corruption and public integrity, students know shallow knowledge. In terms of the purpose of learning the knowledge of anti-corruption and public integrity, some students show utilitarian learning attitude. All these need improvement in future anti-corruption and public integrity education.

## Acknowledgments

This paper is a part of the significant project of philosophy and social science of the Ministry of Education – Study on improving effectiveness and effectiveness of incorrupt government culture construction in education system (project No.: 12JZD047).

## References

- [1] Luo Renquan, Theory and practice research of incorrupt government culture in colleges [M]. Guangzhou: Ji'nan University Press, 2011:1
- [2]<http://baike.baidu.com/view/2962569.htm>.
- [3] <http://wenku.baidu.com/view/043de94d2e3f5727a5e96208.html>.
- [4] <http://politics.people.com.cn/n/2013/1226/c1001-23947118.html>.