

# The Cultivation of Legal Awareness of College Students in Information Era

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## Abstract

The ideological and political education of college students in information era is still facing numerous challenges. The article will explore challenges from following aspects: the urgency of legal education of college students and behavioral characters of them, and make rational suggestions from aspects of optimizing teachers group, adjusting teaching contents, improving the way of implementing legal education, so as to cultivate the legal awareness of college students.

**Keywords:** Information Era, College Students, Legal Awareness

## 1. Introduction

With the rapid development of science and technology, humans have paced into information era. The network is a “double-edged-sword”, which brings convenience as well as challenges. How to take effective measures to deal with challenges on ideological and political education of students in college, how to cultivate legal awareness of college students in information era, both of which worth ideological workers thinking seriously.

According to a research themed “campus crime”, out of 51 college students who had committed crimes, 16 of them, or 31 percent, come from key universities. Among them, masters and doctoral students are common. Such kind of phenomenon rings the alarm bell for us: instead of focusing merely on students’ grades, we should take the enhancement of college students’ comprehensive quality above everything. The legal education itself and the consequence it produced will have positive influence on students’ way of thinking, values, moral qualities and mental state, which will help to advance the comprehensive development of students.

## 2. The Urgency of Implementing Legal Education in College in Information Era

**2.1.** To maintain the safe and stable campus demands for enhancing legal education of college students. Recently, university student’s crime is constantly emerging, it will not only harm students’ healthy development, but also will have negative influence on students’ adapting to

the society. As a result, in the light of students’ development, we must put much more strategic attention on such kind of phenomenon.

**2.2.** To promote and develop students’ comprehensive quality demands for enhancing legal education of college students.

The establishment of excellent moral concept and legal awareness will benefit student’s values in deep level. We should promote the actual effect of legal education from the moral angle, along with the development of morality, propel the enhancement of students’ legal awareness, build the good educational environment for the comprehensive development of students, fulfill the value and goal of the continuous and scientific development of education and society[1].

**2.3.** To build the harmonious society demands for enhancing legal education of college students.

College graduates with strong legal awareness will abide by national laws and regulations consciously, take active part in the socialist construction, make contributions to the development of country, and finally realize the value of life. While college graduates with poor legal awareness may break the law and discipline consciously or unconsciously, even embark on the path of crime in the end, and cause lifelong regret[2].

## 3. The Behavior Characteristics of Contemporary Students in Information Era

College students have reached adulthood basically in mental and physical development, they are remarkably plastic for their view of the world, life and value is being formed. The emergence of internet is sure to influence college students on such aspects as patterns of behavior, values, political attitude, psychological development and ideology directly and profoundly.

**3.1.** Strong self-conscious, and have relatively poor cognitive ability.

With the development of physiology, college students become more and more self-conscious and independent. The emergence of inflammatory and tempting internet will surely attract students’ attention. However, being lack of social life experience, and poor in cognitive ability, college students cannot consider, evaluate or discuss social issues

realistically, profoundly, correctly and comprehensively[3]. They are not able to make right decisions among numerous and unsystematic network information, it is easily for them to fall into the network trap.

### **3.2. Have active minds and strong reverse psychology**

Being intellectually active, college students tend to challenge the conventional notions and ideas. Most of them are the only children in their families, on one hand, they are used to depending on their parents, on the other hand, they long to get rid of the dependency. For them, the preaching from teachers or parents annoys them, while the colorful world of network attracts them.

### **3.3. Rich in emotion while high pressure in mental state**

The inner world of college student is rich and full of contradiction. On the one hand, they are sensitive and interested in political movement as well as the change of ideological trend in society. While on the other hand, they are emotionally unstable and easily effected by the environment. They always fell into confusion when making choices.

### **3.4. Enhanced in Social Participation while Maintaining the Low Level in Socialization**

With a relatively higher education level, college student are much more concern with the development of society. They would like to participate in social affairs and has their own point of views. They hope to apply their professional knowledge to the society to realize their own value and demand[4]. While once this “ideal” social demand can not been satisfied, it will cause the psychological imbalance. Thus they will consciously or unconsciously adopted an evasive attitude, then transfer their attention to the virtual world though the internet to find a self-realization way.

## **4. Facing the Great Challenge of Ideological and Political Education in Information Era**

### **4.1. Alienation behavior of college student caused by information era**

Firstly, students ideology liberalization. Network attracted the student “do whatever they want” with the virtual masks, while the ideological consciousness of college student who are in the formation of their “outlook of the world, life and value”, have inevitably adapted to the trend of liberalization.

Secondly, the outlook of values on college students tend to materialistic utilitarianism.

Under the effect of market-oriented economic system of internet culture and thoughts, more an more college students focused on their personal fulfillment and marked the most self-interest thing as the most valuable thing, with a strong utilitarian.

Thirdly, vulgarization of moral behavior. In virtual space, students are completely controlled by themselves

other than moral discipline. There's no awareness, supervision or restrictions of being comply with moral discipline. Therefore, it is a risk of being adapt to relax with the moral constraints and vulgarization for those unsophisticated college students.

Finally, the digitization in interpersonal communication of college student. With the popularity of the network, the connection between students have also tend to digitization. Almost all the physical matters in real world can accomplish by virtual network, such as online dating, chat, shopping, communication, entertainment and so on. Interpersonal communication has been turned into a series of digital symbols.

### **4.2. The ideological and political education in university is difficult to adapt to the requirements of internet era.**

The lack of necessary knowledge and effective means on ideological and political education have caused the conservative education of it and in missing of network information processing capability[5]. Many students no longer easily access the educated indoctrination, but requires equal dialogue, which also formed the challenge to teachers themselves. It requires teachers with excellent political qualities, noble moral characters, wide horizons of knowledge and good information literacy as well as to master basic network technology, innovative teaching methods and educational content. Facing with challenges of ideological and political education in information era, teachers should actively explore new teaching methods and ideas.

## **5. Cultivating Students' Legal Awareness Measures**

### **5.1. Enhance in Practical Teaching**

Focus on the teaching contents and hours, with flexible teaching method to improve the teaching effect of the basic law. Since the basic law is a practical-oriented course, to strengthen the practical teaching is much more important during the teaching process. When it refers to choose the specific case for teaching, teachers should select the cases which not only benefit student in their acquiring of knowledge, but also with ideological educational significance.

### **5.2. Combine the knowledge with practice**

Bring multimedia tools into teaching with flexible legal education activities. Such as watching and listening legal topics on TV, organizing legal knowledge contest, debating competition, “Moot Court”, legal publicity, legal knowledge consultancy activities. In addition, students can find the opportunities to attend the formal trial, which will increase their understanding in law. Meanwhile, inviting the experts, judges, prosecutors and lawyers to campus to hold the legal seminars, which will also help to cultivate student's legal awareness.

### 5.3. Strengthen the teacher's teaching skills

Teachers are the key to improve the legal education in universities. Universities law teachers should not only well versed in the rules of school education and the growth of young students, but also possessed with a considerable systematic legal knowledge and a higher legal accomplishment[6]. Different universities should established a professional team by employ the kinds of professionals in law, according to their own conditions.

### 5.4. Improving the psychological quality of the students themselves

Opening the compulsory or elective courses of mental health education ,which will give students the chance to master the basic ways and methods of psychological adjustment, improving their psychological qualities through the basics of learning psychology. Establishing the psychological counseling office for consulting services.

### 5.5. Psychological counseling and guidance will consolidate the rules of law education

After entering in college, the learning environment, learning method, interpersonal relationships, self-evaluation and other aspects have undergone great changes. Thus, universities should have their own Psychological Counseling and Guidance for students. It aims at to help students forming a healthy mentality, resisting unhealthy practices of erosion, improving their legal quality, consolidating the effectiveness of legal education .

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

The development of college students is the future of family and society. As College students' ability has great influence on the development of national and social development, their overall quality based on moral education should be comprehensively enhanced in the information age. The powerful force of moral education truly lays a solid

foundation for college students' future and social development. While a new way for cultivating legal sense and legal consciousness of students is sought, practice work is also to be strengthened for integrating legal knowledge they have acquired and social practice and finally translating them into their own legal strength.

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