

Study on the Path of Enhancing Students' Legal Awareness and Faith in Ideological and Political Theory Course

Yu He¹, Guangtang Pan¹

¹College of Marxism, Sichuan Agricultural University, Yaan 625014, China

Keywords: Rule of law, Legal belief, Legal consciousness, College students

Abstract. College students bears the great trust of nation and the historic mission of promoting the development of Chinese legal system and democracy, the strength of its legal awareness and concepts will directly influenced the implementation of the rule of law and the realization of national construction goals. In accordance with the problem of focusing in legal knowledge while ignoring legal awareness in current colleges and universities, especially the issue of legal beliefs, this paper analyzed the reasons of contemporary students' lacking of legal beliefs, and try to reform from the aspects of clear the position of ideological and political courses in legal education, improving teaching method, strengthening the teaching staff and providing legal practice environment for students and others to uphold the rule of law being an internal beliefs.

The purpose and significance of ideological and political theory course emphasis on legal education

First of all, ideological and political theory course emphasis on legal education is thanks to the development and improvement of governing ideas and reflected in course settings. In the early days of reform and opening up, the reconstruction of ideological and political education system is largely the work needs of "bring order out of chaos". With the further development of reform and opening up and society, the rule of law concept become the basic strategy of governance and together with building a socialist country are enshrined in the Constitution. The rule of law is an objective need to developing the socialist market economy, is an important symbol of social civilization and progress and the guarantee of state stability.

Then, it is because the reform of education system. Since the middle of 1980s, Chinese education system starts to reforming, shifting from basic education towards quality-oriented education, which emphasizing the importance of citizens' quality in economic construction and social development. Quality-oriented education focuses on the development of students, emphasizing overall and diversity development and finally enhance citizens' basic qualities, in which legal quality is an important part and occupies an important place in the reform.

Third, it is influenced by universal law plan. With the prosperity of market economic and enrich of social life, various social disputes is spring up. Traditional ethics is unable to guarantee the constraints on various social behaviors, and eager requires to establish a sound legal system. With more and more young students entering colleges, they are the important part of national constitution, and becoming the main subjects of legal education, promoting the forming and improving of universal law belief and their overall qualities.

Fourth, it is the inherent requirements to improve their overall quality and an important guarantee of their healthy growth. Only by maintaining the concept of rule of law and establishing a legal belief, can students obtain the spirit and power of law-abiding, law enforcement and worship, improving their overall quality to meet the requires of times development.

Fifth, strengthening national cohesion to cultivate students' legal belief is not only benefit to the

forming of correct values and self-discipline awareness, but also an important means to carry forward national spirit, enhance patriotism spirit and avoiding westernization and the safeguard to boycott various non-scientific beliefs. Finally, it is an inherent need to promote the healthy growth of college students.

Status and problems of students' legal education in current China

External environment problems. Legal education belongs to the category of citizens' quality-oriented education, and its purpose is to promoting their overall qualities including legal quality. The quality of college students is directly effecting the basic quality of citizens, and is an important part in legal education, greatly impacting the model of their world outlook, life outlook and value outlook and also effecting the cultivation of their quality-oriented education. Currently, although the law teaching in our colleges has made a rapid development, there are many shortcomings like low teaching quality, boring teaching content, single forms, focused on knowledge testing, ignoring the cultivation of law spirit and awareness. The author believes that there are following main reasons.

Most of the education theory and practice in our country is using generalized moral education and ideological and political concepts, which have similar basic concepts that including ideological education, political education, moral education, legal education and psychological education five aspects. But its positioning in moral and ideological and political education system is ambiguous, and lacking of scientific answer to the goal, position and function. What's more, there are biases on the status of legal education for some departments. Currently, students' legal education is mainly taught in the courses of "ideological and moral cultivation and legal basis". No matter it is analyzed from the upper level subjects or two subjects, the legal basis education and ideological and political education is belongs to different disciplines, and it's misplace of distribution is its theoretical roots to causing difficulties in practice.

Unreasonable curriculum setting

The legal education curriculum setting in our country has experienced the developing process from none to exist, from independent to merge. In current "ideological and moral cultivation and legal basis" course, the content and classes of legal education is drastically decreased, lacking of systematics, and trends of marginalize being more serious from the perspective of course. As a new exploration of curriculum reform, its effect needs to be assessed scientifically. In addition, in some colleges lacking of credit elective system, students do not have the opportunity to choose the legal lesson freely, and the course "ideological and moral cultivation and legal basis" is the only way to receive legal education in four-year college learning.

Weak legal practice teaching

The current students' legal education is heavy theories and light practice, and poor of practice teaching. Their syllabus does not specify the content and hours of practice teaching, some teachers are worrying about the potential security incident to carrying out the practice teaching and lacking of funding protection to organizing large classes teaching. Therefore, some colleges rarely carry out legal practice teaching and even never implied. Due to weak practice teaching, students lacking the experience of linking theory with practice, which affected the teaching effect.

Insufficient of teaching staff

Since the implementation of the "05 Plan", the content of "ideological and moral cultivation and legal basis" is enriched, involving three important categories of thought, morality and law, which objectively requires the instructors have a higher and more composite professional qualities. In the colleges of our country, the task of legal education is mostly carried out by ideological and political

theory teachers who are non-legal major. Some of them are still at the level of teaching the basic knowledge of law, ignoring the cultivation of the faith, concept and value of law. In general, the legal quality of teacher staff is relatively low and lacking of legal practice, even some legal education classroom is a mere formality. It is common that some students do not pay attention to legal education courses and even tired of it.

The teaching method of students' legal quality education is imperfect

There is a wide gap between current students' legal quality education and the carry out of the comprehensive and full dynamic assessment, and can't accurately considering the condition of students' legal quality. The purpose of legal education is to improve students' awareness of the law, enhance their ability to use legal knowledge to solve practical problems. Except the teaching of basic legal knowledge, teachers should training students' practice ability to deepen their recognition, realizing truly learned, understanding and usage. Therefore, in terms of legal education, it is necessary to set curriculum scientifically according to the actual situation, enriching teaching content, meanwhile, improve teaching methods based on students' characteristics, increasing educational effectiveness.

Problems of college students

First, college students' interest on legal is generally not high, lacking trust on law. Since the primary school, college students are passively learning in a long-term, teachers almost won everything. Due to impact by lecturing, teaching conditions, school tradition and social environment, students are lacking of opportunities to practice. Therefore, students' learning and understanding on law is insufficient, it is difficult to establish faith on law. Thus, students' awareness of right is weak, and chose to tolerant and connivance when their own interests are infringed, while others exaggerate their rights, increase others obligations.

Second, college students' law quality is relatively low.

First of all, most student' lacking of basic legal knowledge is widespread, for limited paths of learning, adding with the professional and boring of legal, resulting a great difficulties in self-learning. Then, the feature of focus on examination-oriented education of our country, its core of education is still in academic education, even though the reform of quality education is carrying out.

Third, students are lack of the contract spirit and legal protection awareness, which is highlighted in the process of part-job and searching jobs. On the one hand, the events of students can't protect their own rights and interests when their rights have been infringed in part-time job are often found in newspapers. On the other hand, in the process of job search, they are not contracted explicitly on the matters of work and benefits when signing employment agreement or labor contracts, lacking the awareness of legal text, causing damages.

Fourth, they lack the faith and a sense of fear on law.

Since the founding of New China, the construction of legal system has made great achievements. Public's democratic awareness, sense of fairness, right awareness, the study of law and abiding awareness has been greatly improved. But the concept of human feelings and privileges formed under thousands of years of feudalism are still eroding their ideological. They are lacking the basic legal sense of fear and the rule consciousness, and unable to guiding practice by legal rules.

Fifth, they are lacking necessary legal concepts, unfamiliar and misunderstanding with some basic legal concepts, more agreeable to some legal functions it ought to be and lack confidence in some legal functions as it is, strict on others while more tolerant with self. Even lots of college students have some legal concepts, they are only in terms of some external knowledge and ideas but do not

internalized, thus, they couldn't truly realizing obey the law and defense for law.

Analysis on the paths to improving college students' legal faith and awareness

First, vigorously promote the reconstruction of the quality education curriculum system, adhere to the purpose of capacity and quality, especially the cultivation of legal thought and practice ability rather than the indoctrination of legal knowledge. The curriculum system reconstruction of college students' law quality education embodied its spirit and purpose. Students should have correct concepts of freedom, equality, justice and the rights and obligations, to developing a way of thinking talking about law, evidence, process and jurisprudence, and actively establish and maintain the authority of socialist legal, meanwhile, respecting the reasonable difference between subjects. Modern legal education should not only focus on the basic theories and development trends in the field of law, but also on the linking theory with practice, to meet the diverse needs of the educated. Specific to the practice, first of all, we should scientifically adjusting the horizontal structure of college students' legal quality education courses, treating the required courses as the main and electives, second law degree and law minor course as the wings. Then, it is necessary to reasonably setting the longitudinal structure of education courses, which means the distribution of specific courses provided in different grades in accordance with students' academic burden, learning ability and practical requires. Finally, the curriculum setting of students' legal quality education in featured colleges and specialized majors, it is better to provision those legal courses associated with major and employment based on the actual situation.

Second, educational administrative departments and colleges should pay more attention to students' legal education. Educational administrative departments must mentioned the legal and moral education in the same height, strengthen the attention and investment on legal education, improving the set of relevant educational programs, establish and improve related legal system, to strengthen supervision and promote the legal education embark on a legal track. Based on the existing legal education courses, colleges and universities can adding public courses related with legal education, forming a scientific and complete legal education system. Legal education is an important part of the national education system, it is the basis for the implementation of the rule of law and creates the best benefits to support China's modernization. Educational administrative departments and colleges should mentioned the legal education as an important part of students' quality education, formulate policies and measures to establish a long-term mechanism to strengthen students' legal education.

Third, scientific positioning of colleges' legal education, clarify the relationship between moral education and legal education. Accurately define the concept and use of moral education and ideological and political education, returning to their original concept. On this basis, we can realizing legal education independent from moral education and ideological and political education, which benefits to distinguish between different types of education, to master their own characteristics and laws to enhance the relevance and effectiveness of education. Scientifically positioning colleges' legal education, it requires to correctly handling the relationship of legal education with ideological education, political education and moral education, preventing overemphasized one and ignoring of another, can't make one kind of education subordinate to another, let alone an education replaced by another. In the new historical stage, the legal education in our country should be positioned as quality education with the training goal of cultivating students' awareness of law, legal thinking, the rule of law and the ability to practice according to law, comprehensively improving their legal quality, cultivating high-quality citizens who is law-knowing, law-abiding, law-usage and law-defense.

Fourth, colleges and universities should further promoting the governance school by law, creating a good legal environment, providing a solid guarantee for the training of the rule of law spirit. Colleges should give full play of the role of laws and regulations and internal normative documents in the school management, creating a good atmosphere for students to developing a legal way of thinking. Administrators and educators must have a profound understanding of the “governance school by law” and pay great attention to ideological, practically putting the national laws and regulations and normative documents of the school as the sole basis for the management of school. In daily management and teaching works, carrying out “there are laws and regulations to go by”, strict the atmosphere of test and learning, make a serious deal on this students who is violating school disciplines periodically, by which others could feel the good atmosphere of rule of law, gradually developing the habit of observing, thinking and handling the legitimacy of social phenomenon.

Fifth, optimize the teaching staff of college students’ legal quality education, providing high-quality legal education resources for students. First, colleges and universities should actively establish a legal professional teachers, who have a better basic knowledge of law, a good legal consciousness and rich teaching techniques. Second, pay attention to the coordinated development of campus teaching and external judicial practices, actively introduce judges, prosecutors, lawyers and other judicial practitioners to give lectures in the form of lectures and salons to improve students’ interest in learning. Then, improve the teaching method. Due to the nature of legal knowledge, legal quality education should using the teaching method of two-way interactive, heuristic teaching and debate teaching, improving students’ legal analysis ability and legal applicable capacity. Fourth, further improve the assessment system of students’ legal quality education. On the assessment methods, we should adhere to a comprehensive and dynamic assessment, it means the combination of usual examination, practical ability assessment and papers examination, breaking the single mode of the final exam. In the scores setting, it should base on the differences in function and purpose, reasonably to determine the weights of usual examination, practical ability assessment and papers examination. Finally, improve the teaching structure, highlight the teaching position of the socialist concept of rule of law.

Sixth, vigorously carry out the teaching activities of college students’ legal quality education, innovating the teaching forms and methods of college legal course.By conducting various forms of teaching practices, it can strengthen students’ intuitive understanding and experience of related legal knowledge and concepts. Legal education has a strong practicality, to cultivate students spirit of rule of law, it requires to adhere to the combination of theory and practice teaching—both through theoretical classroom teaching, training students rational cognitive and lofty pursue of legal values, and through vivid and visual teaching practices to cultivate legal emotions, exercise their legal awareness and strengthen their faith of legal ideals. Exploring a variety methods of teaching, the development of network provides modern means for the teaching activities, expand its space and channels, fully using its vivid features to made the legal education embodies novelty, intuitive, participatory and systematic. In addition, innovation the traditional teaching model, such as increase class discussions, case teaching and others, improving students’ learning motivation, enhance the teaching effect, so that students can understanding and accept legal concepts, recognition its spirit and forming legal awareness and establishing legal beliefs.

Acknowledgement

Project: this paper is the research results of Sichuan colleges and universities ideological and political education research topics (Ideological and Political Theory Yong Teachers Projects) and

“research the path of ideological and political theory course to improving student’s legal belief and legal consciousness” (No.SZQ2014067), meanwhile is subsidized by the plan “Study on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics Cultural” supported by Sichuan Agricultural University Association of Social Sciences Project and College of Marxism.

References

- [1] H.J. Berman. Interaction of Law and Religion, SDX Joint Publishing Company, Shanghai, 1991. (In Chinese)
- [2] Nie X. Legal faith is the core of college students’ legal education. Journal of Chuzhou University, 2005, 7(3): 100-101. (In Chinese)
- [3] Li S. Cultural considerations on the deficiency of legal faith. Yunnan Finance and Economics University Journal of Economics and Management, 2010, 25(1): 127-128. (In Chinese)
- [4] Sun X. Brief discussion on college students’ requirements of legal faith. Academic Exchanges, 2012 (7). (In Chinese)