

An Exploration of the Path Leading to University Students' Aesthetic View

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Abstract—Promoting ideological and political education in higher educational institutions and persistently defending the most important position of ideology is the focal point of the work of central communist party in recent years, and young people especially university students are the leaders and successors of the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era. This year is the 40th year of reform and opening-up, and with the penetration of opening up to the outer world and economic globalization, the conflicts and integration of values of different regions faraway is the current situation of ideological field. As front-line educators of ideological courses of higher education, we should be determined to keep intact the most important position of ideology, implement all policies of central communist party aiming at higher education, and preserve the principles of educating students in all dimensions. Therefore it's high time that we facilitated the education of three views especially life value and aesthetic view based on classroom teaching.

Key words—ideological and political education, aesthetic education, life value, aesthetic view.

A lot of policies concerning strengthening ideological development have been made since President Xi took his office. In recent years, a lot of popular terms sprang up among public opinions, including “the central value of socialism”, “self-confidence in one’s culture”, “to enhance cultural soft power”, etc., and have been continuously delivered to all trades as the new principles of ideological development. The entire year 2017 is the model year of the teaching of ideology and politics conducted by the ministry of education in colleges and universities, which, together with the teaching atmosphere largely influenced by the intense study of ideology, already drag the culture of students outside the box of the education of ideology and politics in a simple and monotonous way. Influenced by social networks and opinions, the three views of college students tend increasingly multiple, and their trails of life richer and more diverse. As a university lecturer of ideology-related courses and from the experience of teaching and practising, I find it more important to promote value education under the domain of ideological and political education, and that the approaches to deliver values of positive energy to students have to be complemented every now and then. What’s more, to cultivate people with aesthetics and culture people with literacy is salutary education, which will naturally refine one’s character. So we can say aesthetic education is a relatively advantageous course via which to conduct ideological and political education, in terms of both its form and content.

During my ideological classes and communication with students after class, I realize that most students of this time used to focus only on subject courses in middle school, but lacked moral education such as thinking and characters and so on, especially aesthetic education, which includes aesthetic value and the refinery of aesthetic characters. But aesthetic education is an fundamental part to build perfect personalities for university students and guide their three views to a right direction. Like a shorter side to a barrel, the absence of aesthetic ability obviously is a detailed curb to university students’ all-round development.

Some students of the private university where I worked are limited in their capability, and it is found according to research that many students didn’t realize what is aesthetics or aesthetic value before university, even couldn’t clearly tell beauty from ugliness in a common sense. Of all students, no more than 5% can unambiguously tell the definition of beauty and ugliness, less than 3.5% are able to accurately tell what’s aesthetics, and less than 1% can precisely tell what’s aesthetic value. These problems have caused, at least to some degree, obstacles to the facilitation of ideological and political education among university students as well as great trouble to their campus life. They are not only possible causes for students’ diverse values, but more likely to misplace their focal points in life for which they may lose themselves. So giving it a try to all kinds of extended practices and activities in and after class, students of private university will get to start from their real life, enhance their perception level of aesthetic principles through practice from emotional realization to rational recognition, and totally match aesthetic education with ideological and political education. Students accept more easily what they have learned, and teachers connect theories with realities during their teaching, in which way the two dimensions of form and content in education process will be fully attained. Only through ideological course of this depth and density can students be impressed, improved and internalize the knowledge they have learned [1]. Healthy, positive aesthetic value of good energy will become a bright part of the ideology of students of private university, changing their air in a brand new way. Only when they build right three views scientifically will university students be capable enough to pass on the core values of Chinese socialism and take the responsibility for the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era.

Ideological and political education nowadays gradually returns to its main stand: to take students as its basic part, and take education as its main task instead of mediating with the teaching syllabus of every semester. At currency the reform of ideological courses has achieved great success, providing multiple practical ways and orientation for working out the difficulties in the teaching of these courses. It gradually raises the position of ideological courses, eliminates students’ misunderstanding and contradicting thoughts towards ideological and political courses, and makes them more influential and

cohesive. Students will have more fun and sense of acquisition from their learning process [2]. Meanwhile the deeper penetration into and perception of aesthetic value principles will not only improve the cultural literacy of individual teachers themselves, but will provide new paths of study for the creation of campus with rich and intense ideological studies and the moral education throughout the teaching of other courses. With the goal of improving students' sense of acquisition, regular ideological and political education from admission to graduation is to be formed [3]. Furthermore, the students are to be cultured in a comprehensive and all-round way, four ideas promoted. The concrete approaches to attain the aforementioned goals are as follows:

Firstly, refresh students with the beauty of life through real-life experience and combine their aesthetic inclination with their scientific identification through organizing various activities in and after class and case studies, which will fulfill their recognition of beauty in vivid and active practices and elevate their cognitive level towards beauty. In this way the students will be guided to pursue beauty, virtue and truth at the same time, and form right views towards world, life and value from the basic point of scientific aesthetic value, practise the core values of socialism by and of themselves, and reach the perfect unity of preach and practice during the process. To take a step further, they will feel within themselves the care for the inside beauty and essential beauty of humanity. They will start to fathom aesthetic value from a deeper sense and improve their overall quality. Through organizing activities such as speech contests, debates, artworks appreciation, and seminars on popular stars and hits like the fighting boys, Kris Wu, Lu Han, Ma Nuo, Fengjie, etc, and positive figures like Hong Zhanhui and so forth, all of whom will be taken as facial symbols, the thinking pattern of students will be led in a way to epitomize right and proper aesthetic view.

Secondly, establish stable platform for the communication and interaction between students and teachers and create for each other an opportunity to rediscover and rebuild oneself, which will bridge their gaps, facilitate their trust in each other, solve their confusions, make them good instructors and friends, form more harmonious new types of teacher-student and student-student relationships, and let them learn from each other when they taste the beauties of life and explores the values of life together[4-5]. Create new paths for ideological and political education in university, further enrich the content of classroom teaching, thoroughly change the inferior situation of simply preaching and lack of substance and energy of ideological courses, and achieve the goal of building characters, developing students and culturing applied-technological graduates with high standards for an new era. Through various extracurricular practices, like online teaching app "make learning through", some hotly debated value-concerned topics at recent times will be sporadically recommended to students to help them distinguish between beauty and non-beauty, such as weibo trending topics like Li Dan, Internet celebrity and so on. The school administration can also organize students to conduct questionnaires on the aesthetic views of university students, participate in programs like "searching for the most beautiful campus people", interview randomly about the social aesthetics, and investigate on the current situation of virtues in public places, in order for them to realize the mainstream aesthetic awareness and major aesthetic tendency in society, in terms of which they will reflect on their own aesthetic tendency, gradually adapt into the society, connect themselves with mainstream aesthetic views in society, and finally become a member of mainstream society of themselves.

Third, make school authority Conduct College mentoring system to give teachers more opportunities to go deep into student community; conduct practical activities such as lectures on human culture, subject speeches, and debates and so on[6]. Let them discuss and comment on ancient Chinese philosophers and schools they represent, historical figures, classical works, etc., to experience the beauty of thinking of Chinese traditional culture. This kind of activities is good for teachers to strengthen their relationship with students, shorten their distance with students, and carry out ideological and political education to students in a brand new way, while functioning as a new kind of role model to them. This will not only largely improve educational effects, but punctually provide feedback about all kinds of information about students and in the meanwhile promote the self-growth of teachers.

Fourth, in order to respond to the national call on facilitating cultural confidence and revitalizing traditional culture, school authority can also organize activities like "arts knowledge competition" among students with reference to programs held by CCTV like the 2nd poetry conference, "brightest brain" and so on, during spring festival. For instance, "traditional musical instruments guess and answer": guess what type of instrument it is upon listening a piece of music; titles conjecture of revolutionary songs upon listening; "melting-pot of knowledge about traditional culture guess and answer". Through these entertaining activities the students' interests and passions towards traditional culture will be provoked, and they will heartily feel the beauty of traditional culture and arts. The gems of Chinese traditional culture left behind by most people in their minds will also be refreshed, which will promote the heritage of traditional culture.

Fifth, organize students to conduct reading meeting where they read aloud poems, prose, self-composed articles and poems, and stuff. The agreeable form of reading will enhance their sense of belonging to Socialistic culture with Chinese characteristics, promote their cultural self-consciousness and self-confidence, generate new understanding of "Chinese dream and my dream", and bring about new recognition the beauty of feelings of ultra-care between family members and relatives, lovers and spouses, friends and companions, and so forth.

Last, organize students to conduct collective show of ideological class at the end of the semester, dividing what they have learned into several themes according to which they can display by plots chosen by themselves. Multifarious forms such as variety shows, comic dialogues, situation dramas, singing and reading can all be presented. Through these forms of beauty, the connection between aesthetic education and ideological & political classes will be truly tightened. Taking the advantage of

spacious venues like school stadiums and inviting school leaders and other students to be audiences, the influence of ideological courses in private higher educational institutions will be increased and promoted in an impressive and heartfelt way.

Teachers should adopt multiple forms and sufficient content in their teaching to increase students' interests, take pleasure in teaching, improve the practicality and effectiveness of ideological courses, demonstrate the students' application of knowledge via module teaching, etiquette and courtesy lectures, and the collective shows at the end of each semester mentioned as the last approach. Increasingly merging themselves into the circumstance, students are bound to feel more intense caring for themselves. Deliver to students boring theories in a lively style through living practices and they will personally experience the charisma of ideological courses. Some students couldn't help bursting into tears when performing some plots of Anti-Japanese War, and such sense of acquisition can't be given by any amount of preaching. Many students suggest that they find that quite a lot can be learned from ideological courses during their participation, which will give them inspirations in treating other people, and new point of view of kinship, romance and friendship. I tend to consider this the result of the influence and charm of knowledge, and are reasonable to believe that students accept the delivery of mainstream value and take it as norms, and that it will exert substantial effects on their future path lying ahead of them in the long run.

Through practices and research mentioned above, students will be specific about what they should go after as the new generation of youngsters, in what ways, and what standards and qualifications university students should have in a new era. From the ostensible phenomenon's we can see the diversity of social values and overflow of inferior cultures nowadays, and that some university students are crazy about non-mainstream cultures like "freshmen", all types of web celebrities wearing "transformed faces", live-streaming internet celebrities and so on, and even simulate them in every detail is a striking epitome of their distorted life values caused by their twisted aesthetic views. Therefore, the goal of this project is to sum up and find out part of the non-mainstream aesthetic views popular among current students in private higher educational institutions through research and analysis, pass on to students the core values of socialism, especially the mainstream aesthetic views stemmed from mainstream values, instill the mainstream aesthetic views into the students' ideology, and make the substance of ideological courses deeply impressed and internalized in their minds and hearts. All sorts of practical sessions completed by instructors and students together will truly get across to students what true beauty of life is and grant them with the ability to judge beauty. From the starting point of cultivating aesthetic views and aesthetic standards, the core values of socialism should be passed on to students through multiple forms of hospitality to reach the final goal of building characters, developing students, and cultivating applied-technological graduates with high criteria for the construction of socialism. Only through such process of continuously identifying and updating can we effectively forge the theories and practices of ideological classes into an inseparable whole, better promote the elevation of students' level of thinking and morality in all aspects, and at the same time speed up the formation of beneficial study atmosphere both on campus and within the subordinate schools of private higher educational institutions.

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