# The Value, Dilemma and Practical Channel of Labor Education in Colleges and Universities in the New Era

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#### **Abstract**

Labor education is an important part of the socialist education system with Chinese characteristics in the new era, and an important part of the all-round development of the education system. Labor can improve morality, increase intelligence, strengthen body and enhance the appreciation of beauty, and has comprehensive educational value. In the New Era, there are practical difficulties in labor education in Colleges and universities, such as one-sided and marginalized understanding, single educational form, lack of innovation and modernity, and lack of scientific evaluation system. In the new era, the development of labor education in Colleges and universities needs to innovate the concept and strengthen the understanding, expand the platform and enrich the forms of labor education, actively carry out labor activities and create a good labor cultural atmosphere, establish the management mechanism and improve the management process of labor education in Colleges and universities.

### **Keywords**

Labor Education; New Era; Educational Value; Dilemma; Practical Channel.

#### 1. Introduction

Labor is an activity for human beings to create material and spiritual wealth, and is an important means to maintain self-existence and self-development. Labor education is a Marxist product of the combination of education and labor production, and is an educational activity for students to love labor and the working people. Hard work has always been the labor spirit of the Chinese people. Loving labor is the traditional virtue of the Chinese nation and the labor attitude that our country's education has always adhered to [1]. Labor education is the new requirement of the party for education in the new era. It is an important content of the socialist education system with Chinese characteristics and an important part of the all-round development of the education system [2].

Socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, General Secretary Xi Jinping published a series of important expositions on labor and labor education. At the 2018 National Education Conference, General Secretary Xi Jinping requested that labor education be included in the general requirements for training socialist builders and successors, it is clearly proposed to build an education system that comprehensively cultivates morality, intelligence, physique, beauty and labor. Strengthening labor education is an important way to thoroughly implement Xi Jinping's important exposition on education, fully implement the fundamental task of building morality and cultivate people, and cultivate qualified builders of the socialist cause. "Era is the mother of ideas, and practice is the source of theory"[3].

Entering the new era and looking forward to the realization of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, it is inseparable from the efforts of millions of workers. As an important position for training of high-quality workers, colleges and universities should actively carry out labor education to cultivate socialist builders and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, beauty and labor.

# 2. Carrying out Labor Education in Colleges and Universities in the New Era has Profound Value Implications

Labor can improve morality, increase intelligence, strengthen body and enhance the appreciation of beauty, and has comprehensive educational value.

(1) Labor can cultivate morality, and labor education can guide college students to deeply understand the value of labor. Education should not only spread knowledge and truth, but also improve students' moral cultivation and value pursuit. Labor education is an important part of the socialist education system with Chinese characteristics, which directly determines the labor spirit, labor value orientation and labor skill level of socialist builders and successors [4].

In recent years, with the gradual improvement of living standards, many college students do not want to work, do not know how to work, and do not cherish the results of labor. College students are unwilling to work after graduation. The unique educational value of labor has been neglected partly, and labor education is being weakened. As an educational activity, labor education enables students to understand labor in the process of labor practice, and then respect labor, the working people and the results of labor [5]. General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out: "We must promote the spirit of labor among students, educate and guide students to advocate labor, respect labor. Making students understand that labor is most glorious, most noble, most great, and most beautiful, then be able to work hard, honest and creative when they grow up.

Labor education in the new era emphasizes strengthening morality, which shows the firm position of cultivating socialist qualified talents, and the firm Marxist position in educating people. If labor education in the new era wants to truly become the educational cause of strengthening morality, it must change the limitations of skill education, clarify the focus orientation of comprehensive education, stimulate and expand the social development value of labor education. Truly turn the process of labor knowledge and skill education into the process of education, and implement labor education to all staff, the whole process, and all aspects [6]. In the process of integrating morality, intelligence, physique, beauty and labor, we should guide young people to establish a correct view of labor, promote the spirit of labor, struggle, and entrepreneurship, and form good labor habits. We will truly promote the all-round development of youth through high-quality labor education, and cultivate a large number of outstanding talents with both ability and political integrity who can stand the test of wind and waves [7].

(2) Labor can increase intelligence. Colleges and universities should organize students to carry out scientific labor innovatively. As Comrade Xi Jinping pointed out in his speech at the celebration of the 40th anniversary of reform and opening up, "All the achievements of our country has achieved at present are neither from the sky nor gifts from others, but it was done by the whole party and the people through hard-working, intelligence and courage."

Entering the new era, talents have become the first driving force for development. Labor education is a dynamic and interactive form of education. In the process of implementing labor education, college students are constantly in contact with nature, constantly recognizing and transforming nature, and their comprehensive abilities can be improved. Firstly, college students need to think in the process of labor, and exercise their thinking ability and practical ability. Through the continuous role and combination of thinking and practice, they can improve their labor skills. Secondly, the practice of labor education carried out by schools is often team labor. During the team labor process, college students help and cooperate with each other to improve their communication skills, teamwork skills and social adaptability. Thirdly, in the process of labor practice, there will be various problems that need to be explored and solved, which can cultivate students' innovative thinking and innovative awareness. This

process can continuously explore theoretical innovation and practical innovation, and improve the innovation level of college students.

(3) Labor can strengthen the body, and labor education promotes college students to develop good habits of labor. To realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, generations of young college students need to personally invest in the construction of socialism in the new era, which is necessary for young college students to have a healthy and strong body as a solid guarantee. A global survey conducted by WHO shows that only 5% of people are healthy, 20% are suffering from diseases, and 75% are in sub-health [8]. Due to the rapid development of technology and internet, many college students are unwilling to work, resulting in the widespread sub-health of college students. Physical fitness through labor is the most basic value of labor [9]. Through appropriate physical labor, college students can get physical exercise, and promote the metabolism of the body, and keep their bodies and minds in a comfortable and healthy state, so that they can devote themselves to the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

(4)Labor can cultivate beauty, and labor education improve college students' appreciation of beauty. Beauty exists not only in nature and art, but also in people's creative work. Labor creates beauty. In the process of creative labor, on the one hand, workers are constantly improving products or services to improve the public's aesthetic level of products and services; On the other hand, constantly improve the desire of workers to explore scientific knowledge, improve their production skills, face and solve difficulties with tenacious will and the spirit of unity and mutual assistance.

With the development of social material civilization and spiritual civilization, labor will no longer be a necessary way to make a living, but become a factor of people's life. The aesthetic function and aesthetic value of the process of labor have a new height. The aesthetic education of productive labor among college students is a necessary way to cultivate all-round talents with ideals, morals and culture. Taking labor education as an aesthetic process, educate college students to actively create beauty, so that they can gain the experience of beauty. Only through productive labor can college students truly understand beauty and become college students in the new era of all-round development.

### 3. The Practical Dilemma of Developing Labor Education in Colleges and Universities in the New Era

(1) One-sided and marginalized understanding of labor education in colleges and universities General Secretary Xi Jinping proposed at the National Education Conference that "it is necessary to cultivate socialist builders and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, beauty and labor". Since the implementation of the "Outline", colleges and universities have actively researched and carried out labor education. However, due to the Chinese agricultural cultural ideology and the deep-rooted background of examinationoriented education, the evaluation indicators of excellent college students are mainly academic achievement and scientific research level. Colleges and universities generally believe that college students should focus on studying advanced scientific and cultural knowledge, in the concept of cultivating college students still pay more attention to cultural knowledge education and ignore labor education. In addition, for a long time, participating in material production labor is the basic part of labor education, so that people often simply understand labor education as closed and single productive physical labor, and the content of labor education is also limited to this field. When the division of mental and physical labor still exists, and the prejudice against physical labor has not been eliminated, which affects the identity and participation of colleges and universities in labor education. Therefore, the teaching resources invested in labor education in Colleges and universities are extremely limited, some schools

have set up credits, and some schools do not even set up credits. It is very easy to simplify labor education, practice activities of labor education can be less, and can be exempted.

(2) The form of labor education in colleges and universities is single, lacking innovation and the modernity

In 2020, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council jointly issued the "Opinions on Comprehensively Strengthening Labor Education in Universities, Middle Schools and Primary Schools in the New Era", which pointed out that students of different school stages and types should strengthen personal hygiene, housework, community service, production labor, occupational skills, innovation and entrepreneurship. Which means that the content of labor education needs to move from single manual labor to comprehensive practice. However, at present, many colleges and universities mainly allow students to participate in single physical labor such as campus cleaning and plant planting. Physical labor can make workers get some exercise. Physical labor can give laborers a certain degree of exercise, but it does not focus on innovation and entrepreneurship, combined with disciplines to carry out production labor and service labor, and cannot help college students accumulate professional experience, cultivate creative labor ability and labor awareness, which is far from the goal of higher education in the new era to cultivate builders and successors of the socialist cause with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, beauty and labor.

(3)The lack of scientific evaluation system for labor education in colleges and universities Teaching evaluation is an activity to judge the value of teaching process and results according to teaching objectives and serve teaching decision-making. Teaching evaluation has the functions of diagnosis, regulation and so on. Scientific and reasonable teaching evaluation plays a positive role in teaching and can promote the development of teaching in a more beneficial direction. On the contrary, it will attack the enthusiasm of teachers and students and affect the teaching effect. However, the current evaluation mechanism of labor education in colleges and universities is not reasonable, and some even have no evaluation. According to the research [1], some colleges and universities only assess the working hours, and they are qualified as long as the working hours meet the standards. They do not comprehensively evaluate the labor concept, labor skills, labor spirit and labor habits shown in the labor process.

## 4. Practical Channel of Developing Labor Education in Colleges and Universities in the New Era

(1) Innovate the concept of labor education and strengthen the understanding of labor education

At the 2018 National Education Conference, General Secretary Xi Jinping proposed to cultivate socialist builders and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, beauty and labor. Follow the law of education, insist on reform and innovation, carry forward the spirit of labor among students, educate and guide students to advocate and respect labor, understand the truth that labor is the most glorious, the most noble, the greatest and the most beautiful, and be able to work hard, honestly and creative when they grow up [10].

The construction of the new era puts forward higher requirements for higher education. As the main transportation place of talents, colleges and universities shoulder the fundamental task of strengthening morality and the important task of cultivating high-quality workers. Colleges and universities should innovate concepts, improve their ideological understanding of labor education, and clarify the scientific connotation of labor education in the new era. Education should serve socialist modernization. From the perspective of social needs, the ultimate goal of all-round development is to train students to become qualified workers who meet the needs of social development. Colleges and universities should guide students to understand the meaning

of labor, appreciate the beauty of labor, and establish the concept of advocating labor through various educational channels in the school, so that students can deeply understand that labor is the fundamental force for human development and social progress, and recognize that labor creates people, creates value, creates wealth and creates a better life, and understand the significance of "labor supports the Chinese dream" and the important value of labor in the new era to the development of individuals, society and the country.

(2) Expanding the labor education platform in colleges and universities and enriching the forms of labor education

Labor education is an education that focuses on the combination of theory and practice, witch requires both the teaching of theoretical knowledge and participation in practical activities. Labor education advocates "learning by doing" and uses both hands and brains. First of all, should improve the curriculum of labor education in Colleges and universities and give full play to the Main Channels of course. Clarify the curriculum objective of labor education. The objective of labor education in colleges and universities is to establish a correct concept of labor values, and make college students realize the important role of labor in human progress and social development, then internalize it in the code of conduct and develop good labor habits and attitudes. Secondly, make full use of innovation and entrepreneurship education to carry out labor education collaboratively. Colleges and universities should add labor educationrelated content such as career cognition, career characteristics, employment concept, and entrepreneurship concept in innovation and entrepreneurship courses. In combination with labor practice education, innovation and entrepreneurship competitions and various technical exchange competitions are held to conduct skills and scientific research, so as to improve the technical level and enhance the professional honor of labor. Colleges and universities help college students establish labor values, and shape the concept of innovation and entrepreneurship education that integrates innovative thinking, entrepreneurship, and creativity. Hold innovation and entrepreneurship competitions and various technical exchange competitions to discuss skills and scientific research, so as to improve the technical level and enhance the professional honor of labor. Thirdly, actively combine with social practice to build an open labor education practice system [11]. Social practice is the largest labor stage. Combined with the characteristics of disciplines and majors, we should explore the labor education elements contained in professional courses, orderly promote "labor + professional production practice and training", and organize students to go to the industry university research cooperation base for post practice. Take the social practice of "Going to the Countryside Engaged in Three Kinds of Service" as an opportunity to turn the wisdom of college students into a force to help revitalize the countryside [12].

(3) Actively carry out labor activities and create a good labor cultural atmosphere

Marx emphasized that "man creates the environment, and the environment also creates man" [13]. As a cultural influence, the campus labor culture atmosphere has a subtle influence on the way of thinking of college students and the value concept of labor, and plays an important role in the labor education of college students [14]. Colleges and universities actively explore to create a labor atmosphere in the construction of campus environment creation, model guidance, activity development, cultural publicity, etc., infiltrating students' thoughts, and forming a cultural atmosphere in which everyone loves labor.

In the construction of the campus environment, we can focus on creating a human landscape that contains the spirit of labor, especially the labor culture of landmark buildings of great significance to the school; in teaching buildings, corridors, squares, canteens and other places where students frequently appear, post the deeds of craftsmen and model workers and play their videos on the big screen of the school, so that the excellent labor spirit can refresh the hearts of every college student. Regularly publish labor knowledge, labor model deeds, school

labor cultural activities, etc. on the school's official Weibo, WeChat public account and other platforms to enhance students' attention to labor education;

In May every year, carry out special month activities of labor education, such as labor model publicity activities, knowledge competitions, labor themed cultural exhibitions, community activities and other colorful labor themed education activities in line with the characteristics of college students. Encourage students to actively participate, make students understand the origin and meaning of Labor Day, and make students love and respect labor more.

(4)Establish the management mechanism of labor education and improve the management process of labor education in Colleges and universities

The management mechanism plays a vital role in the smooth development of any work, and a scientific management mechanism can provide institutional guarantee for the smooth development of labor education in colleges and universities.

Colleges and universities should set up special organizations for labor education to ensure the orderly implementation of labor education. For example, establish a leading group for labor education and set up an office to be attached to the student work department responsible for students' Ideological and political education. According to the requirements of higher-level labor education, the working group comprehensively plans and pushes out the labor education of the school. Be responsible for the top-level design of labor education, grasp the basic connotation of labor education, clarify the overall goal of labor education, and set up labor education courses. Determine the content requirements of labor education and improve the quality evaluation system of labor education. Provide support and guarantee for labor education, provide complete practice places, improve the construction of teachers, ensure fund investment and strengthen safety guarantee. The office is responsible for the specific implementation of labor education.

Improve the assessment mechanism of labor education and improve the effectiveness of labor education. Any education work is inseparable from assessment. A sound assessment mechanism of labor education is conducive to the smooth development of labor education. The scientific labor education assessment mechanism can not only effectively enhance the enthusiasm of students to participate, but also help teachers to understand and grasp the labor situation of students, so as to adjust the education method in time and improve the effectiveness of labor education. Labor education assessment should adopt the mode of combining process assessment and theoretical course assessment. For each evaluation, specific and detailed assessment rules should be formulated. During the process evaluation, attention should be paid to the assessment of labor attitude, labor quality, labor efficiency, labor time, and labor discipline. Theoretical assessment can focus on the assessment of labor theory knowledge by means of in-class testing, course paper writing, etc. The results of the assessment are applied to the overall quality evaluation of students, and are included in the scope of students' evaluation.

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