

Original Paper

Research on the Construction of "Curriculum Ideological and Political Education" in Universities in the New Era

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Abstract

In today's era, it's imperative for universities to not only impart professional knowledge and skills to students but also to guide them in forming correct ideological and moral values, thereby fulfilling the essential objective of "educating in virtue and talent". This makes the implementation of "curriculum ideological and political education" increasingly crucial. Nonetheless, various challenges exist in the execution of this educational approach within universities. This article aims to explore the deep meaning, current issues, and potential solutions associated with "curriculum ideological and political education".

Keywords

New era universities, Curriculum ideological and political education, Education

1. Introduction

In today's rapidly advancing era, China is witnessing substantial economic growth, technological advancements, and an overall enhancement of its national strength. This progress heralds a new phase in the journey towards the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, a goal now more attainable than ever before. In this context, the role of young students is pivotal. They are tasked with the monumental responsibility of being the architects and inheritors of socialism. To effectively rise to this challenge, it is essential for these students to not only excel in their academic pursuits but also to develop a robust set of life, value, and moral principles. It is imperative that universities extend beyond the realm of imparting specialized knowledge and skills. They must also focus on nurturing correct life perspectives and ethical values. This involves a strategic integration of professional education with ideological and political education. The objective is to ensure that students are exposed to and imbibe the principles of ideological and political education, not just in dedicated courses but across their professional studies.

This approach aims at embedding the essence of ideological and political education deeply in the students, enabling them to reflect it in their thoughts and actions. However, the challenge for contemporary universities lies in effectively blending ideological and political education within professional courses. Finding innovative ways to embed political themes within professional curricula and excel in the construction of 'curriculum ideology and politics' remains a complex task. This underscores that the journey towards a thorough and holistic implementation of 'curriculum ideology and politics' is an ongoing and challenging one.

2. The Profound Connotation of "Ideological and Political Education in Curriculum"

In the current digital age, the advent of internet technology has revolutionized the way students access information. While this brings a plethora of information sources, it also raises concerns about the quality and reliability of the content they are exposed to. The internet is awash with a myriad of information and opinions, creating a complex environment for educational institutions. This scenario necessitates a more robust approach to ideological and political education in universities. It's increasingly critical for students to form accurate and healthy perspectives in three key areas. The integration of 'curriculum ideology and politics' within university education is becoming more and more essential.

Understanding the essence of 'curriculum ideology and politics' is vital for its effective implementation in the educational landscape of today. This concept involves more than just academic instruction; it encompasses the nurturing of virtues and critical thinking. Ancient wisdom suggests that teachers play a multifaceted role, not only in transferring knowledge but also in guiding students through life's moral and ethical dimensions. They should enlighten students not merely about facts but also about the underlying virtues and principles. In this light, educators are not just conveyors of information but also mentors who illuminate the path for students' intellectual and moral growth. Recognizing the multifaceted role of teachers is key to enhancing the impact of 'curriculum ideology and politics' in modern educational settings.

To enhance the effectiveness of ideological and political theory instruction in universities and to seamlessly integrate it with professional courses, a deep comprehension of the nuances of 'curriculum ideological and political education' is essential. This form of education can be categorized into two scopes. In its broader sense, 'curriculum ideological and political education' encompasses a 'comprehensive classroom' approach. This method skillfully weaves teachings of Marxism-Leninism and theories of socialism with Chinese characteristics into various professional courses. Essentially, it leverages professional courses as a foundation to embed ideological and political theory education within the professional course system, aiming to fulfill the ultimate educational objectives. 'Curriculum Ideological and Political Education' plays a pivotal role in helping students develop a grounded Marxist perspective, maintain the foundational Marxist stance, and adeptly apply Marxist principles to understand and evolve with the world. It also aids in fostering a solid understanding of socialism with

Chinese characteristics and inculcating correct socialist core values.

"Xi emphasized in the National Conference on Ideological and Political Work in Universities that effective ideological and political education in universities should utilize classroom teaching as its primary method. He highlighted the importance of integrating ideological and political elements into both specialized and general courses. This approach aims not only to impart professional knowledge and skills but also to achieve a holistic educational objective. The synergy between ideological, political theory, and professional courses is crucial for comprehensive education, ensuring that the direction and objectives of all courses are aligned to educate comprehensively."

To effectively understand the interplay between "curriculum ideological and political education" and "ideological and political courses," it's essential to adopt a comprehensive and multifaceted approach. This includes embracing macro-level conceptualization, holistic, dialectical, and historical perspectives. By viewing these elements through the lens of dialectical and historical materialism, we can appreciate their interdependence and unity. Both "curriculum ideological and political education" and "ideological and political courses" serve as fundamental components for each other, forming a cohesive and integrated entity. This synergy is evident as "curriculum ideological and political education" is expressed within and through "ideological and political courses." Conversely, "ideological and political courses" are reflected in and through "curriculum ideological and political education." Their mutual existence is the cornerstone for their functionality. Achieving the educational objectives in universities hinges on this harmonious and unified development of these components.

3. The Problems in Carrying out "Curriculum Ideological and Political Education" in Universities

Initially, the fundamental essence and primary objective of "curriculum ideological and political education" are not distinctly articulated. This concept's central idea lies in seamlessly blending professional and ideological-political courses. The aim is to guide students uniformly and concurrently through these courses, enhancing the educational impact of professional subjects. However, this results in an ambiguous portrayal of the core nature and definitive aim of "curriculum ideological and political education," suggesting that the objectives are not sufficiently emphasized or focused.

There are several notable challenges in effectively bridging "curriculum ideological and political education" with professional courses. Historically, universities have prioritized professional talent development, heavily investing in specialized courses and often emphasizing technical knowledge over ideological and political education. This has led to a disconnect, resulting in students possessing strong theoretical and professional skills but lacking in moral and comprehensive qualities. Moreover, the role of teachers in this dynamic is pivotal yet often underplayed. While their primary duty involves knowledge transfer and instruction, the responsibility to foster students' overall moral and ethical development is sometimes undervalued. Teachers are instrumental in nurturing students' potential and shaping their character, making their role vital in the educational process.

Additionally, the approach to teaching "curriculum ideology and politics" lacks interactive and cooperative methods between teachers and students. Traditionally, classrooms have been teacher-centric, with a focus on lecture-style teaching. This format persists in "curriculum ideology and politics" classes, hindering the potential for a more engaging, dual-subjective educational experience. This not only limits the effectiveness of "curriculum ideological and political education" but also fails to fully realize its potential in shaping students' character and worldview.

4. Strategic Thinking on Carrying out "Curriculum Ideological and Political Education" in Universities

One approach is to enhance the emphasis on value guidance and thematic expression in "curriculum ideological and political education". Universities are encouraged to regularly hold theoretical and thematic lectures on this topic, aiming to sharpen the focus of educational themes and further the ideological and political values within the curriculum. It's imperative for teachers to develop a proper ideological mindset, integrating the values and themes of ideological and political education in their teachings, thereby serving as exemplary figures for students. Students, on their part, should cultivate political awareness and the "Four Confidences", actively engaging in the broader "classroom" of curriculum-based ideological and political education. They should diligently study Marxism-Leninism and the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics, fostering a national spirit anchored in patriotism. Xi has highlighted that for instructors of professional courses, it is crucial to adopt an educational philosophy that gives equal weight to imparting professional knowledge and value guidance. They should redefine and establish new thinking and action models, transcending the role of merely disseminating textbook knowledge to become mentors shaping students' character, behavior, and tastes.

The second strategy involves managing the interplay and transition between "curriculum ideological and political education" and professional subjects effectively. The fundamental role of universities is in ethical development and talent cultivation, with the primary objective set by state being the nurturing of socialist builders and successors. This underscores the importance of advancing the integration of "curriculum ideology and politics" within educational institutions. To enhance the exploration of inherent moral education principles in professional courses, it's essential to establish a strong foundation in "curriculum ideological and political education." This involves integrating its educational philosophy thoroughly into professional disciplines, ensuring it is substantive and not merely superficial. The goal is to deeply embed these values in students, fostering an unwavering commitment to country's unified leadership. Teachers, while focusing on professional subjects, should not overlook their central importance. They are also tasked with dissecting and conveying the socialist core values and theoretical knowledge inherent in their course content. This approach enables students to instinctively comprehend and embrace the moral teachings emphasized in ideological and political education.

To foster a more dynamic and reciprocal educational environment, it's vital to cultivate a classroom setting that emphasizes two-way interaction between teachers and students, embodying a "dual subject" approach. Ideological and political courses play a significant role in shaping students' intellectual and moral development. Teachers are expected to provide thorough explanations and guidance on key ideological and theoretical concepts, making it clear to students the distinct benefits of engaging in these courses and their related activities. Students should be encouraged to be more involved in the classroom, recognizing their role as active participants and 'junior teachers.' By taking a central role in class discussions and activities, they contribute to the advancement of "curriculum ideology and politics". It's crucial to dispel any notions that these classes are irrelevant to their majors or personal learning. The concept of a "dual subject" classroom is to nurture students' political awareness, encourage their engagement with national policies and guidelines, and foster a strong sense of patriotism. This approach aims to create a more engaging and inclusive learning atmosphere, where students are not mere passive recipients but active contributors to their educational journey.

In 2016, during the National Conference on Ideological and Political Work in Higher Education Institutions, Xi emphasized the importance of integrating moral education and talent cultivation as the core element of higher education. He advocated for embedding ideological and political work in the entire educational process to facilitate comprehensive and well-rounded education, thereby advancing the progress of higher education in China. He stressed that all subject courses should align with ideological and political theory courses to create a harmonious and effective synergy. This has led to the trend of incorporating "ideological and political education" into professional courses, giving rise to "curriculum ideological and political" education. It is vital to understand the intricate relationship between "ideological and political courses" and "curriculum ideological and political" education. This involves delving into the political ideology, moral values, theoretical understanding, and overall literacy embedded in professional courses. The new era tasks universities with the responsibility of educating and nurturing well-rounded individuals, advancing the mission of creating exemplary builders and successors of socialism. Embracing "curriculum ideological and political" education actively in universities aims to develop students' ideological and moral values, ensuring a holistic educational approach. Achieving coherence between professional and ideological and political courses is a collective responsibility, requiring concerted efforts from everyone involved.

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