

## Original Paper

# Optimizing the Path of Marxist Theory Education in Higher Education from a Youth Perspective

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### Abstract

*Marxist theory education serves as a fundamental pillar of ideological and political instruction in modern universities. This study employs a youth-oriented perspective to scrutinize the particular shortcomings in the pedagogy of Marxist theory within higher education settings. It uncovers prevalent problems such as belated acquisition of theoretical knowledge, insufficient comprehension, and inflexible teaching methodologies. The youth-oriented approach to Marxist theory education is an inevitable progression, propelled by the evolution of information technology; it embodies a fundamental requirement for the essence of Marxist theory education and aligns with the essential needs for the growth and development of the younger generation. Presently, universities confront three primary challenges: an incomplete educational framework, a dearth of educational platforms, and inadequacies within the teaching staff. In response to these challenges, this study proposes strategies aimed at reinforcing the contemporary theoretical education system, establishing modern educational platforms for theoretical instruction, enhancing teacher development in accordance with new-era requirements, and innovating pedagogical approaches for contemporary theoretical education. These proposals carry significant implications for the optimization of Marxist theory education within higher education institutions.*

### Keywords

*Marxist Theory, Youth, Path Optimizatio*

## 1. Introduction

“Marxism constitutes the foundational guiding principle of our Party and nation, and it also serves as the vibrant hue that characterizes our universities.” Upholding the education of Marxist theory is essential

for colleges and universities to cultivate new generations capable of shouldering the great rejuvenation of the nation. It is also a crucial element in creating a new situation in the development of higher education in the new era. At its core, the education of Marxist theory is centered on working with, for, and ultimately, towards the enhancement of people (Tong, 2017). From the perspective of youthification, Marxist theoretical education aims to convey Marxist theory in a language and through ideas that resonate with young people. This approach ensures that as young individuals engage with Marxist theoretical education, they can relate to its values, integrate these principles into their belief systems, and manifest them through their actions.

To achieve this, universities must innovate their teaching methods and curricula to align with the contemporary context and the cognitive patterns of the youth. This involves incorporating interactive and multimedia teaching tools, as well as encouraging critical thinking and discussion among students. By doing so, the education of Marxist theory becomes not only a subject of academic study but also a living practice that guides students in their daily lives and future careers. Moreover, it is imperative to integrate the practical application of Marxist theory into the curriculum, enabling students to witness its relevance in addressing real-world issues and contributing to social development. Through these efforts, the education of Marxist theory can effectively inspire the younger generation to actively participate in the socialist modernization drive and contribute to the realization of the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

## **2. The Inadequate Implementation of Marxist Theory Education in Institutions of Higher Learning**

### *2.1 Lagging behind in the Acquisition of Theoretical Knowledge*

The current generation of young people, born into the digital age, have experienced significant enhancements in their education and daily lives due to the ubiquitous implementation of network technology. This surge in technology has also broadened the spectrum of intellectual development among the youth. They are keen to adopt fresh ideas, but their structured interaction with Marxist theory often commences during their university years. The intricate nature of Marxist theory, encompassing deep philosophical, theoretical, and logical facets, requires a robust theoretical structure that is predicated on a solid grounding in foundational disciplines. As a result, the majority of young individuals are not equipped with the necessary expertise to undertake a comprehensive exploration and investigation into Marxism.

The emergence of online platforms and digital resources has started to close the gap. These instruments offer a plethora of information and interactive content, which can enhance our intuitive comprehension of Marxist concepts. With multimedia presentations, interactive dialogues, and online courses, the younger generation can now engage with Marxist theory in a more accessible and captivating way. This democratization of knowledge holds the promise of inspiring a new wave of thinkers who are not only at home in the digital world but also adept at applying critical Marxist analysis to current issues.

Consequently, the digital era may indeed act as the catalyst for a renaissance in Marxist thought among the youth.

### *2.2 Lack of Theoretical Knowledge*

Marxist theory constitutes an open and scientific theoretical framework, which is perpetually enriched and evolved via practical application. In the realm of talent cultivation, the development of ideological and political acumen, particularly the theoretical dimension of this quality, holds significant importance (Yang, 2007). It finds its roots in the foundational tenets of Marxism, as articulated by pioneers such as Marx and Engels, and has been further elaborated by Lenin. This ongoing evolution underscores Marxism's adaptability to shifting historical contexts and its capacity to tackle the unique challenges faced by diverse societies. It is not a fixed collection of ideas but a dynamic structure that fosters critical thinking and the examination of emerging phenomena within the broader context of class struggle, economic progress, and societal transformation. Nevertheless, it has been noted that contemporary youth exhibit a relatively feeble understanding of the core principles of Marxist theory, having engaged with fewer of the seminal texts. Their academic pursuits are often superficial, discussions are scarce, research is inadequate, and practical application is almost negligible. Consequently, they have yet to systematically cultivate the dialectical thinking competencies inherent to Marxist theory.

### *2.3 Curing the Teaching of Theoretical Knowledge*

The delivery of college and university courses stands as the primary channel for the propagation of Marxist theory and plays a vital role in the education of Marxism within higher education institutions. It is a fundamental means of shaping the worldview, philosophy of life, and values of the younger generation. However, the current state of theoretical instruction in universities and colleges is marked by a lack of relevance, insufficient preparedness among instructors, and a low evaluation of educational outcomes. Moreover, the infrastructure supporting this teaching is inadequately developed. The prevailing issue is that the majority of educational content is produced in a standardized manner, leading to a "factory-style" approach to teaching. In this context, instructors often serve merely as transmitters of textbook knowledge, without effective strategies to address the diverse needs of their students.

## **3. The Significance of Youth-Oriented Marxist Theory Education in Higher Education Institutions**

### *3.1 Youthification Represents the Inevitable Trend in the Evolution of Information Technology*

The swift progression of information technology has cultivated an intricate web of information ecosystems. Platforms like email, microblogging, and live streaming, coupled with the rapid expansion of mobile social media, have seen rapid development, with webcasting becoming a prevalent video medium. The immediate availability and vast diversity of new media have accelerated the exchange of a broad spectrum of ideas. The high-speed network has evolved into a sophisticated information dissemination ecological chain. As terminal users, young people now have access to information through a multitude of channels, increasingly resembling "new netizens." Characterized by their engagement, some have even transitioned from mere participants to active creators. Marxist theory in high schools

must adapt to the youth of the information age, particularly in terms of their discourse, lifestyle, and learning preferences. Similarly, the approach to Marxist theory in universities should align with the communication styles, lifestyles, and learning habits of the digital generation. The effectiveness of relying on traditional, singular communication methods is undoubtedly waning.

### *3.2 Youthification Is a Fundamental Requirement of Marxist Theoretical Education*

Marxist theory originated during an era in which young people were the steadfast practitioners and innovators of its tenets (She & Zhang, 2021). From the May Fourth Movement through the establishment of the Communist Party to the founding of New China, a generation of patriotic youth passionately applied Marxist theory to the Chinese context. After the founding of New China, the incorporation of political theory into higher education became a priority. The fundamental objective of political theory courses in universities has been to arm the youth with Marxist theories and ideologies. To ensure that Marxist theoretical education resonates with young people, it is crucial to employ accessible and engaging methods, while maintaining the integrity of the theoretical knowledge. The way knowledge is presented and disseminated should be both captivating and segmented, tailored to match the characteristics of youth. Consequently, Marxist theory courses must be enriched and developed in line with the evolution of the times and in concert with the real-world issues of Chinese society (Guan, 2003).

### *3.3 Youthification Is a Fundamental Necessity for the Growth and Development of Young Individuals*

Marxist theory education plays a central role in the development and education of today's youth. To nurture young people as architects and heirs of socialism, it is essential that they cultivate a correct worldview, outlook on life, and set of values. The integration of Marxist theory education into higher education institutions is a vital element in promoting the maturation of the younger generation. To achieve excellence in this educational pursuit, we must focus on elucidating the historical inevitability of Marxism's significance, clarifying the scientific validity of its principles, and enhancing the effectiveness of Marxist education. Additionally, it is crucial to reinforce the theoretical and practical implications of China's social practices. By employing Marxist stances, perspectives, and methodologies, we equip young individuals with a framework to interpret the world around them.

## **4. The Challenges in Teaching Marxist Theory in Higher Education Institutions**

### *4.1 The Presence of Educational Contradictions*

Regarding management contradictions, a phenomenon in higher education management is characterized by the phrase "ardent at the apex, tepid in the midsection, and frigid at the base." The top-tier Marxist theoretical education framework is held in high esteem, and the courses themselves are well-received. Nonetheless, while aiming for lofty objectives, the specific execution is frequently overlooked. There is an overemphasis on theoretical aspects, while the practicality of education is often neglected. Throughout the educational process, although teachers exhibit commendable enthusiasm and a favorable classroom atmosphere, their initiative in teaching is not robust. Teaching methodologies are monotonous, classroom engagement is feeble, and a dearth of teaching innovation leads to mediocre classroom instruction.

Students maintain a lukewarm stance within the educational milieu, displaying minimal interest in political theory courses, a poor receptiveness to knowledge, and diminished educational outcomes. The contradictions in content are mainly reflected in the conflict between students' needs and the supply of education. Civic and political education has been fully implemented in high school curricula, yet the product carriers of Marxist theory for adolescents are still incomplete. Civic and political education in university courses has also been fully implemented, but there is still a lack of sufficient product carriers for Marxist theory for young people, and the supply remains insufficient. University teachers are motivated to innovate educational content, but their effectiveness in innovating educational content is not significant, and the participation of administrative teachers in projects is also insufficient. The insufficient participation of administrative teachers leads to the continued existence of "homogenized" teaching phenomena among students with different professional backgrounds. There is still a "homogenized" teaching phenomenon for students with different professional backgrounds. Teachers conduct theoretical education through thematic teaching, but they overlook the integrity of the curriculum knowledge system. Teachers provide theoretical education through thematic teaching, but they ignore the integrity of the curriculum knowledge system, and the expected teaching goals have not been achieved.

#### *4.2 Insufficient Educational Opportunities*

Participation in physical cultural activities is generally low, with few opportunities for engagement. The creation of these activities largely depends on the strategic location of venues and the fostering of cultural environments, which are often monotonous and lack dynamism. Consequently, young people's engagement and enthusiasm remain subdued. Furthermore, there is a significant gap between online platforms and the teaching of Marxist theory in universities. Online platforms disseminate content through text and video using information technology, leveraging online applications. In contrast, university educators primarily impart content through classroom instruction, which can be insular and not closely aligned with professional learning or everyday life. Physical cultural centers are constrained by limited space, funding, and various other factors, which also act as barriers to their integration with theoretical education. Despite the potential benefits that theoretical education could gain from the practical application of cultural activities, these barriers persist.

To bridge these gaps, it is imperative to innovate and diversify the ways in which physical cultural activities are delivered and experienced. This could involve the use of digital platforms to create interactive and engaging content that resonates with the interests of the youth. By integrating technology, such as augmented reality or gamification, into physical cultural activities, we can create immersive experiences that are both educational and entertaining. Additionally, universities could foster partnerships with online platforms to create a more cohesive educational experience that combines theoretical knowledge with practical application. This would not only enhance the learning process but also encourage active participation among students. Moreover, by investing in the expansion and modernization of physical cultural centers, we can provide more opportunities for engagement and create

environments that are conducive to learning and growth. These steps could help to cultivate a more vibrant and dynamic cultural atmosphere that resonates with the needs and aspirations of the younger generation.

#### *4.3 Insufficient Teaching Personnel*

The pursuit of moral growth and the cultivation of individuals frequently falls into the shadows cast by the inclination of higher education institutions to undervalue the importance of administrative educators. Despite advancements, the notion that administrative educators are inconsequential continues to linger. Additionally, the digital proficiency of educators demands a thorough upgrade. In this new era, college instructors must possess exceptional innovation skills and digital acumen, empowering them to ingeniously harness cutting-edge technologies, methodologies, media, and platforms to enhance their pedagogy. They should be skilled in utilizing these tools to impart Marxist theoretical knowledge in a way that resonates with younger students, transforming textbook concepts into lively, engaging Marxist insights.

To address these challenges, it is imperative that higher education institutions reevaluate the role of administrative educators and provide them with the necessary resources and training to bridge the gap between traditional teaching methods and modern educational technologies. This includes offering professional development opportunities that focus on digital literacy, instructional design, and innovative pedagogical strategies. By doing so, administrative educators can become catalysts for change, driving the integration of technology into the curriculum and fostering an environment where students are not only consumers of information but active participants in their own learning process. This transformation is essential for preparing students to navigate a world that is increasingly digital and interconnected, ensuring that they are equipped with the skills and knowledge to contribute meaningfully to society.

Additionally, the effective use of information technology can surmount temporal and spatial barriers, thereby stimulating young people's eagerness to engage in and pursue independent learning. Interactive information dissemination can also break down these barriers, heightening students' enthusiasm for active participation and self-directed study. Moreover, the ability to navigate through information overload and the deluge of data is crucial for addressing the disorientation of values among youth and for guiding them towards positive growth and development.

### **5. Optimization of the path of youth-oriented Marxist theory education in colleges and universities**

#### *5.1 Enhance the Theoretical Education Framework in the Contemporary Era*

The establishment of long-term, medium-term, and short-term goals is essential. By aligning these objectives with the current state of affairs, we aim to ignite the intrinsic motivation within school education. This process entails monitoring progress, conducting phased analysis and evaluation, and enhancing the efficacy of educational initiatives. The ultimate goal of ideological and political education in higher education institutions is to cultivate moral character and educate individuals for the Party. The process begins with the ideological and political education of individual students. Universities should

regularly conduct work reviews and diagnostic assessments. To this end, they can invite renowned experts, scholars, or third-party organizations to perform educational evaluations and diagnostics, offering suggestions and recommendations to further promote educational excellence within the university system.

In addition to the improvement mechanism, it is crucial to integrate innovative teaching methods that resonate with the digital age. Utilizing interactive online platforms and multimedia resources can enhance the learning experience, making it more engaging and accessible. Moreover, the curriculum should be regularly updated to reflect the latest advancements in technology and societal changes, ensuring that students are equipped with relevant knowledge and skills for the future job market. Collaborations with industry leaders can provide students with real-world insights and opportunities for internships or projects, bridging the gap between academia and the professional world. Lastly, fostering a culture of continuous learning and adaptability will empower students to become lifelong learners, capable of navigating the complexities of an ever-evolving global landscape.

To achieve these educational goals, it is imperative to establish a robust feedback system. This system should encourage open communication between educators and students, allowing for the exchange of constructive criticism and praise. By doing so, educators can tailor their teaching methods to better meet the needs of their students, while students can become more proactive in their learning process. Furthermore, the feedback mechanism should not only be confined to the classroom but also extend to the broader university community, including alumni and industry partners, to ensure that the educational outcomes are aligned with the expectations of the wider society.

In conclusion, the integration of these strategies—monitoring progress, conducting evaluations, updating curricula, and fostering a culture of continuous learning—will create a dynamic and responsive educational environment. This environment will not only prepare students for the challenges of the future but also instill in them the values and competencies required to contribute positively to society. As we continue to refine and implement these strategies, we move closer to realizing the full potential of ideological and political education in higher education institutions.

### *5.2 Formulating Theoretical Foundations for Education in the New Era*

The comprehensive provision of Marxist theory education enriches the learning and living environment for young people, effectively engaging and guiding them. Through a systematic approach to Marxist theory education, we fill the intellectual and daily spaces of the youth, providing comprehensive coverage and guidance. We are committed to integrating professional development, daily management, and recreational activities within universities. We will continue to integrate these aspects and implement education in practice, aligning it with China's economic and social development. This will allow young people to broadly experience the impact of Marxist theory. In light of China's economic and social progress, we aim to demonstrate the superiority of Marxist theory to the younger generation. Cultural entities and regional co-construction. We will fully leverage the red resources available on campus, in collaboration with the Marxist Institute, the school history museum, and other cultural entities. The goal

is to enhance the construction of campus cultural entities. We will fully utilize the role of cultural entities within universities to strengthen regional co-construction, making the most of local martyrs' cemeteries, memorial halls, and other cultural facilities. By fully utilizing red educational resources such as local martyrs' cemeteries, memorial halls, and museums, we aim to bring Marxist theories to life in China. This practical application of Marxist theory will be made visible and tangible to young people.

Through these efforts, we strive to create a vibrant campus atmosphere that resonates with the core values of Marxism. By engaging students in interactive and reflective activities, we foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of Marxist principles. The integration of Marxist theory into the fabric of campus life not only enriches the intellectual pursuits of students but also cultivates a sense of social responsibility and civic engagement. As we continue to evolve our educational strategies, we remain dedicated to the principle that the practical application of Marxist theory is essential for nurturing the next generation of leaders who will contribute to the socialist modernization of our country.

### *5.3 Enhancing the Teaching Faculty in the New Era*

To meet the evolving needs and expectations of our students, we will make informed adjustments to our curriculum and teaching methodologies, ensuring that our political science and civics education remains relevant and impactful amidst the ever-changing social landscape. To further elevate the quality of education, we plan to cultivate partnerships with other educational institutions and field experts. These collaborations will offer our educators chances to engage in research projects, attend workshops, and exchange ideas with professionals from various backgrounds. This will not only expand their knowledge but also introduce new perspectives into the classroom.

Furthermore, we will invest in the professional growth of our educators by providing scholarships and incentives for pursuing advanced degrees or certifications in political science and related disciplines. This will ensure that our faculty stays at the cutting edge of academic discourse and is prepared to address contemporary issues from a Marxist viewpoint. Additionally, we will harness technology to foster a more inclusive and accessible learning environment. By incorporating digital tools and platforms, we can offer students flexible learning options, such as online courses and virtual classrooms, which can cater to diverse learning preferences and schedules. Finally, we will emphasize the importance of critical thinking and analytical skills in our curriculum. By encouraging students to question, analyze, and synthesize information, we aim to produce graduates who are not only well-versed in Marxist theory but also adept at applying it to real-world scenarios. This will prepare them to become active contributors to society, working towards the development of a more just and equitable world.

In order to track the effectiveness of these enhancements, we will implement a comprehensive assessment framework. This framework will include regular feedback from students, peer reviews, and self-evaluation by the faculty. It will also incorporate metrics to measure the application of Marxist theory in practical situations, ensuring that our graduates are not only theoretically sound but also practically competent. Moreover, we will establish an alumni network to maintain a connection with our graduates and to understand the long-term impact of our educational approach. This network will also serve as a



resource for current students, providing them with insights into various career paths and opportunities. By continuously refining our curriculum and teaching methods, we are committed to nurturing politically conscious and analytically skilled individuals who will contribute to the advancement of society.

## 6. Conclusion

To genuinely engage and captivate the younger generation, it is crucial that we read and understand their viewpoints. The integration of Marxist theory education into colleges and universities should be approached from the perspective of the youth, considering how to strategize, innovate, and evolve. This educational methodology should be rooted in the practicalities of school education, with a sharp focus on the core questions of who we are educating, how we are educating them, and the objectives of their education. The essence of the matter hinges on addressing these three fundamental questions: who, how, and to what end we are educating individuals. It is essential to align with the technological advancements of the modern era, utilizing new technologies and platforms to enhance theoretical education. We must adhere to the principles of accuracy and innovation. Only through this integration with the technological advancements of the new era, leveraging cutting-edge technologies and platforms, can the Marxist theoretical education in colleges and universities be continuously refined and elevated over time. Only by doing so can it persistently progress and improve throughout the long course of history.

To achieve this, we must first understand the digital habits and preferences of the younger generation, who are native to the digital age. This means incorporating multimedia resources, interactive learning tools, and online platforms into the curriculum. By doing so, we can create a more engaging and interactive learning environment that resonates with the students' lifestyles and learning styles. Moreover, it is important to foster critical thinking and encourage students to apply Marxist theories to contemporary issues, thereby making the learning process more relevant and impactful. The ultimate goal is to cultivate a new generation of individuals who not only understand the theoretical underpinnings of Marxism but can also apply these principles to contribute to the development of society in a meaningful way.

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