

Original Paper

Research on Labor Teaching Strategies Oriented towards the Cultivation of Concepts

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Abstract

The concept of labor is a reflection of people's own concepts in the field of labor, and it is a comprehensive understanding of the objective world established by people from the perspective of labor. The concept of labor is an important component of labor literacy. In the new era, attaching importance to labor education and the cultivation of the concept of labor can help correct students' cognitive biases. The content system of college students' labor concepts covers two aspects: labor cognition and labor awareness. In the process of conducting labor education and teaching, deepening teachers' understanding of the value of concept teaching; re-planning labor teaching content; and conducting diversified teaching evaluations aimed at concept cultivation are effective strategies for promoting labor teaching that focuses on concept cultivation.

Keywords

Connotation of labor concept, Construction of content system, Labor teaching strategies

1. Introduction

Labor education is a crucial link in promoting the all-round development of students in terms of morality, intelligence, physical fitness, aesthetics, and labor skills. It is of great significance for cultivating students' correct labor values, enhancing their labor and practical abilities, and promoting full employment. From a fundamental perspective, labor education refers to the education of labor values, and labor values are the core component of labor concepts. In the context of the new era, strengthening labor education and emphasizing the cultivation of labor concepts are conducive to correcting the labor cognition deviations existing among college students. This not only reflects the educational goal of cultivating well-rounded individuals but also holds significant importance for promoting the all-round healthy growth of college students.

2. The Connotation and Characteristics of Labor Concepts

Concepts are a very complex and thought-provoking category in human consciousness. Their formation process is constrained by both social cultural structures and material production methods, as well as influenced by the embodied experiences of individual life practices. The concept of labor is an important dimension of human concepts. In terms of the content and object of the concept, the concept of labor explores the concept itself, and the theme of this concept is “labor”, which is the specific content of the concept. As an important and core component of labor literacy, “the concept of labor” is widely used and disseminated, such as “Before the formation of different labor concepts, different people’s attitudes towards certain activities might have been at certain times”. “The concept of labor is the basic view of labor, laborers, labor process, and labor relations, and is the cognitive basis of labor literacy”. “The concept of labor refers to the attitudes and emotions that individuals hold towards labor, laborers, labor outcomes”, etc. The concept of labor is the systematic cognition and view of the labor world and its operating laws formed by people in labor practices. It not only includes the basic worldviews, cognitive methods, value judgments, and practical methods formed by humans in activities, but also constitutes the ideological essence and theoretical foundation of the labor field, providing a thought framework and behavioral guidelines for people to understand and transform the world. It has historicity, inheritance, practicality, and value normativity.

2.1 *The Concept of Labor Has a Historical Nature*

As a reflection of labor practice at the conscious level, the concept of labor is greatly influenced by social production relations and historical development stages, and thus has a distinct historical nature. From the ancient Chinese view of “those who engage in mental work rule others, while those who engage in physical labor are ruled by others”, to the ideological enlightenment of “laborers are sacred” during the New Culture Movement, and then to the respect for laborers and the promotion of labor creation under the socialist system, the glorification of labor has become an important value. With the advancement of society, the concept of labor has further extended to the legal level, establishing the principal position of “all power belongs to the people” for laborers and the realm of reshaping social relations: it is not only the ethical foundation for regulating the rights and obligations of laborers, but also an important benchmark for measuring social justice; it not only embodies the institutional guarantee of labor rights and interests by modern law, but also internalizes as the spiritual soil for cultivating citizens’ character.

2.2 *The Concept of Labor Possesses Inheritability*

The concept of labor is formed through long-term labor practice and has a remarkable inheritance. Even if certain theoretical forms change over time, the core concept can still have an impact across different eras. For example, the Chinese nation has accumulated cultural genes such as diligence, bravery, respect for labor, and hard work since ancient times. Simple yet profound concepts of labor are passed down from generation to generation through myths, fables, and some poems depicting labor

scenes, deeply rooted in people's hearts. The traditional concepts formed by the working people in the long course of history, such as respecting labor, loving labor, abandoning idleness, and believing in the creation of a better life through labor, provide an important spiritual source for the cultivation and development of labor concepts in the new era.

2.3 The Concept of Labor Is Practical

The concept of labor originates from labor practice and ultimately leads to the transformation of that practice. It is different from mere knowledge acquisition. The formation of the concept of labor must be gradually constructed by the subject through personal participation, experience, reflection, and understanding. Moreover, to truly understand a person's concept of labor, one cannot merely listen to their words; one must also observe their actions - all external labor behaviors are often deeply influenced and driven by internal concepts. It can be said that labor actions always occur under the influence of specific concepts of labor, which precisely reflects the strong practical nature of the concept of labor. Therefore, observing and analyzing an individual's labor behavior is an important way to grasp their concept of labor.

2.4 The Concept of Labor Possesses Value Normativity

The concept of labor inherently possesses the function of value norms. It enables individuals to make rational cognition based on objective facts such as the nature and conditions of labor in specific labor scenarios, and combine factors such as the meaning, goals, and personal interests of labor with these considerations to make value-based judgments, decisions, and choices. Unlike other cognitive categories such as physical concepts and biological concepts, the concept of labor inherently contains value judgments and ethical orientations of "good and bad" and "should and should not". It is not merely a description of the fact "what labor is", but also includes propositions with value implications such as "how labor should be" and "how people should interact with the labor world". Therefore, the concept of labor not only provides a basic cognitive framework for individuals to understand labor, but also builds an important value intermediary for them to truly integrate into labor practice and actively give meaning to labor.

3. Construction of the Content System of Labor Concepts

The close connections between labor and nature, society, production, politics, consciousness, revolution, freedom, science. Labor not only serves as a means to create material wealth, but also forms the foundation upon which human society exists and develops. Through labor, humans can achieve their comprehensive development. In the process of labor education, students should truly understand the significance and value of labor and establish a Marxist view of labor. This requires not only accurately grasping the characteristics of labor education in the new era, but also cultivating students' labor spirit and labor concepts while enhancing their labor skills. Currently, scholars mostly define labor concepts from the perspectives of philosophy, cognition, attitude, and the labor discipline.

However, there is no systematic presentation of the content system of labor concepts. From the perspective of educational practice, the cultivation of labor concepts cannot fully cover all dimensions. Therefore, it is necessary to return to labor education itself and consider what kind of labor concept is more conducive to improving students' labor literacy. How to guide schools to shift the focus of cultivating labor concepts from merely focusing on labor to achieving the goal of labor education? Based on this, systematically refining the content system of labor concepts becomes particularly crucial. In this process, the following key points should be emphasized:

Firstly, the refinement of the concept of labor should closely align with the core values and basic tasks of the labor curriculum. Through the study of the labor curriculum, students, on the one hand, should initially understand labor on a cognitive level, respect the laborers and cherish the labor achievements; on the other hand, they should continuously deepen their understanding of labor through participating in labor practice activities, thereby better grasping the essence of labor, gradually establishing a positive attitude towards labor, developing good labor habits, and cultivating a positive labor spirit. Therefore, the refinement of the concept of labor should always be centered around students' cognition and experience of labor and its practice, and effectively promote the realization of the value and fundamental tasks of the labor curriculum.

Secondly, the concept of labor is the manifestation of "concept" in the specific field of labor. It is a cognitive and value judgment of the world formed from a labor perspective. Compared with concepts, "concept" "lies at the junction of sensory cognition and rational cognition, containing both rational elements and sensory colors. In terms of the degree of abstraction or rationality, concepts can incorporate more sensory content". At the same time, concepts have relative certainty and can be transformed into objective knowledge forms that can be expressed, transmitted and understood. It is precisely because concepts integrate rational cognition, sensory experience and emotional will, etc., that the concept of labor not only can systematically reflect people's fundamental views on labor, but also can profoundly influence an individual's labor attitude and actual behavior choices, and continuously play its guiding and regulating functions in long-term labor practices. Therefore, the refinement of the concept of labor should be based on rational cognition and fully integrate multiple perspectives such as emotional will, sensory experience, etc., to form a conceptual system with internal consistency and practical guiding power.

Finally, the refinement of the concept of labor should also be based on the perspective of labor philosophy. Labor philosophy is a philosophical discipline that deals with theories, thoughts, and methods related to labor, laborers, labor activities, and labor relations regarding labor. The views and discussions of thinkers on labor in history provide us with references for understanding the essence, value, and scientific methods of labor. The Marxist concept of labor holds an important position in the Marxist theoretical system. It not only provides us with a profound analytical perspective for understanding the development of human society and the course of world history, but also profoundly

clarifies that labor is the fundamental support for human society and the overall historical process. It is of great significance for us to scientifically grasp the dominant position of human beings in labor, cultivate correct concepts of labor and spiritual qualities.

Based on the existing research results and by integrating the key points of the curriculum standards and concepts extraction, we have refined the dimensions of the labor concepts that college students need to cultivate. We believe that labor concepts can be classified into labor cognition and labor consciousness from the perspective of content structure. Labor cognition refers to an individual's views and understanding of labor, laborers, and labor outcomes, including labor perception and Labor theory. Labor perception leans towards the direct sensory understanding of labor phenomena, such as specific experiences obtained through senses, like the labor scenes, processes, and outcomes, from which understanding about the essence of labor, labor value, etc. can be derived; Labor theory refers to the systematically and theoretically constructed concepts about the essence and value of labor, which is a systematic theory or theoretical system regarding labor, referring to rational understanding and systematic concepts of labor. Labor theory can "promote the formation of students' thoughts such as the glory of labor and the greatness of labor". The content of labor cognition encompasses systematic understandings of labor essence, labor value, labor development, labor creation, scientific labor, the subjectivity of laborers, the creativity of laborers, cherishing labor, respecting laborers, etc. Labor consciousness is the subjective psychological tendency of laborers, including labor attitude, labor emotion, and labor will. Labor attitude emphasizes the psychological tendency and behavioral preparation state towards the content of labor activities; labor emotion points to the positive or negative psychological response to labor; labor will focuses on determining labor goals and overall regulation in the psychological process. Specifically, as shown in Table 1:

Table 1. Labor Concept Content System

Labor Concept Dimension	Sub-dimension	Typical Expressions / Descriptions
Labor Cognition	Labor Perception	The direct sensory understanding of labor phenomena The essence of labor, The value of labor,
	Labor Theory	The development of labor, The creation of labor, Scientific labor, The subjectivity of laborers, The creativity of laborers, Appreciate labor and respect laborers
	Labor Attitude	The psychological inclination towards the content of labor activities, the behavioral preparation state
Labor Consciousness	Labor Emotion	The positive or negative psychological attitude towards labor
	Labor Will	Determining the labor goals and conducting overall regulation in the psychological process

4. Teaching Method for Cultivating Labor Concepts

4.1 Deepen Teachers' Understanding of the Value of Concept-Based Teaching

During the growth of college students, schools are the key environment that helps them correctly understand labor and carry out labor practices. The effectiveness of school labor education is closely related to the level of labor teachers' implementation of labor education courses. Deepening labor teachers' understanding of the value of concept-based teaching is extremely important for the effective implementation of labor education. However, at present, labor education teachers have insufficient understanding of the shaping of labor concepts, and most teachers focus on the learning of labor skills, the imparting of labor knowledge, and the implementation of labor education through lecturing, labor practice, or scenario creation. They pay attention to content and form but neglect the cultivation of labor thinking and labor concepts. Some teachers are good at knowledge-injection teaching and lack effective teaching strategies that combine practical operation and value concept guidance. They have little knowledge of relevant concepts of concept-based education teaching and are unable to implement it in specific teaching. To address these issues, schools need to promote the concept of labor education, interpret the cultivation of core labor competencies, strengthen the training and guidance of labor education teachers, enhance the teachers' understanding of the value and significance of labor concepts, help teachers clarify the scope of labor concepts so as to better implement concept-based labor teaching.

4.2 Re-planning the Content of Labor Education

Labor education can help students build a comprehensive and profound understanding of the world, enabling them to understand the surrounding environment from the perspective of labor and form a holistic cognitive framework. This prepares them for their future lives and achieves the goal of comprehensive education. Therefore, labor education teachers should clarify the content system of labor concepts and construct a labor teaching model based on these concepts. When designing the curriculum, they should focus on cultivating concepts such as the essence of labor, the development of labor, the value of labor, and scientific labor, so that the teaching content of each class converges towards the establishment of new labor education concepts in the new era. The teaching of labor concepts should follow the learning logic of starting from small to large, from shallow to deep, and from specific to abstract. During labor practice teaching, teachers should, within a clear framework of concept content, direct the teaching towards the construction of cognitive-level concepts, and guide students to establish the concept of scientific labor, understand the attitude of cherishing labor, respecting labor, respecting laborers and labor achievements in life. In teaching, teachers should pay attention to the overall design of teaching goals and content, guide students to recognize the connections between labor facts in the activity process, understand the connotations of related secondary concepts, and gradually establish correct labor concepts. While planning formal courses, attention should also be paid to the design of informal courses, so that labor teaching is not limited to

knowledge transmission, but emphasizes promoting the development of students' cognitive, emotional and attitude levels through practice and experience.

4.3 Implementing Diversified Teaching Evaluations Focused On the Cultivation of Concepts

Labor teaching evaluation is an important part of labor education. However, teaching evaluations for the cultivation of labor concepts should not be limited to the examination of isolated teaching objectives. Instead, they should be based on a more macroscopic perspective and focus on assessing students' understanding and transfer ability of labor concepts. The core of this evaluation approach lies in moving beyond the simple accumulation of trivial factual knowledge and turning to focus on those core concepts that can encompass specific knowledge and have universal explanatory power. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to construct an evaluation system based on the content framework of labor concepts using a "big context" as the foundation. The design of the context and tasks should closely revolve around a certain labor concept, ensuring diversity in form while maintaining a unified theme, so as to comprehensively and multi-dimensionally examine the depth and breadth of students' understanding of this concept. During the evaluation process, a combination of process-based and end-of-term evaluations should be adopted, with a focus on recording students' performance and progress in concept learning, so as to provide a basis for subsequent teaching adjustments. At the same time, the evaluation subjects should become more diversified, encouraging the participation of teachers, peers, and students themselves, making the evaluation results more objective and comprehensive. Moreover, the evaluation should be closely integrated with reflection. Guide students to return to the concept itself after learning, promoting their overall improvement in cognition, emotion, and attitude, thereby deepening labor cognition, cultivating labor awareness, and truly achieving the goal of labor education based on concepts.

5. Result

Labor is not only a way to create material wealth, but also the fundamental means for people to realize their inherent power and achieve comprehensive freedom and development. For students, cultivating a correct concept of labor can help guide them to gradually correct the possible value deviations in their labor cognition and overcome the anomalous tendencies in their labor behavior. This study attempts to construct a content system of college students' labor concepts, arguing that labor concepts should include two dimensions: labor cognition and labor consciousness. Among them, labor cognition covers labor perception and Labor theory; labor consciousness includes labor attitude, labor emotion and labor will. At the teaching implementation level, in order to effectively implement labor education oriented towards concept cultivation, the labor teaching strategies aimed at labor concept cultivation are as follows: first, deepen teachers' understanding of the value of concept teaching; second, re-plan the teaching content of labor; third, carry out diversified teaching evaluations aimed at concept cultivation. Through systematic guidance of labor concepts, students can continuously discover, shape and realize

themselves in the labor process, and ultimately grow into new era individuals with a sense of responsibility, innovative spirit and dedication, and truly shoulder the historical mission of national rejuvenation.

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