

How to Strengthen the Patriotism Education of College Students During the New Period

WEN Nuan^{[a],*}; GUO Xin^[b]

^[a] Grade Director, Lecturer, Computer Science and Technology Institute of Changchun University of Science and Technology, Changchun, Jilin Province, China.

^[b] Lecturer, Career Center of Changchun University of Science and Technology, Changchun, Jilin Province, China.

* Corresponding author.

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Abstract

The patriotism education is an eternal topic. This article uses analysis of the meaning of patriotic education in different periods as the point of penetration. On the basis of analyzing current situation of contemporary college students' patriotism, this article put forward several new ways to innovate and expand college students' patriotism education.

Key words: Patriotism; China; College; College students

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1. THE MEANING OF PATRIOTISM

Patriotism is individual or collective's loyalty and love for his motherland. Specifically speaking, patriotism refers to the members of a country or nation, also we can say the broad masses' deep affection of their country or nation, it is a feeling of reminiscence and love. Patriotism is gradually accumulated during one's long-term study and work and it has the spontaneous nature. It is the long-term sediment of people's national consciousness and homeland consciousness.

Patriotism has the epochal character. Chairman Mao once pointed out that the specific content of patriotism is determined by historical conditions. In China, the meanings of patriotism are different in different period. In the feudal society, patriotism embodied in resisting foreign enemies' aggression, safeguarding national unity and fighting against national splitism. After the Opium War, China reduced to the semi-colonial and semi-feudal society, and it that time patriotism embodied in two aspects. For internal aspect, patriotism embodied in opposing the reactionary ruling class which colluded with big powers and betrayed the motherland interest, changing the feudal autocratic system which causes poor and weak of the country and hinders the revitalization of Chinese ethnic peoples. For external aspect, patriotism embodied in opposing the imperialist powers' aggression and defending the nation's independence and territorial integrity. During the period of new democratic revolution, patriotism embodied in overthrowing the feudalism, imperialism and bureaucrat capitalism's reactionary rule and striving for country and nation's democracy and independence.

The initial stage after the founding of new China, patriotism embodied in building and safeguarding the socialist system, promoting the reunification of the motherland, defending the national independence and territorial integrity and positive constructing the socialist cause. In contemporary China, patriotism is mainly reflected in the promotion of economic development, the establishment of a harmonious society, maintaining national stability and safeguarding the national unification.

2. THE CURRENT SITUATION OF CONTEMPORARY COLLEGE STUDENTS' PATRIOTISM

Looking from some important events occurred in recent years, the main trend of contemporary college students'

ideology is patriotic and positive. In the pattern of manifestation, they centralized expressing their pride, glory and responsibility to motherland and nation through the collective form. According to reports, during the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, the official publicly recruited 100000 volunteers and only in the captical Beijing, 220000 college students enrolled in the Beijing Olympic Games volunteer. On hearing the torch relay overseas was disturbed, 3000 Tsinghua University Students consciously participated in the signature activity in 2 hours to expose the shameful behaviour of the "Tibet independence". In the London 2012 Olympic Games, Chinese athlete Ye Shiwen was questioned by foreign media, and Chinese athletes have been unfairly treated, when seeing that, Chinese people, including young students, gave the most powerful support to their national athletes. After the Wenchuan earthquake, many college students donated blood, money and organized various volunteer activities, some of them even risk their life to the disaster area and made every effort to sent warm and caring to the people of disaster areas. The United States' International Herald Tribune also spoke highly of Chinese young students' actions in Wenchuan earthquake. The article said, although the earthquake is a tragedy, it can help to eliminate bias: Chinese young generation students are all selfish materialists.

According to the result of rolling survey on the college students' ideology and politics situation of 2011 which was organized by Chinese Ministry of Education, college students highly identity socialist core value system, their patriotism upsurged and their social responsibility was strong.

However, college students are in the period when outlook on life and personal and cultural value is forming, they are affected by external factors sometimes and their patriotism may irrational and blind obedience. In thinking about the value of life, there are also many puzzles, some students even have wrong outlook on life. For example, many college students may throw stones at the United States Embassy in the demonstration, meanwhile they rush to take the TOEFL and do a visa to the United states. When some students talking about the unfair things in their daily life, their suspicion, criticism and judgment is often pertinent, but they are easily suggestible and credulous after clustered into a group. In 2008 April, it was spreaded on the internet that Carrefour and Louis Vuitton group were in support of the Dalai and Tibetan independence, therefore, there was a boycott against Carrefour launched online and called on everyone not to go shopping in Carrefour. In that activity, many students were very excited, and at last put the boycott of Carrefour network riots finally triggered into real riots. Some irrational behaviors affected the college students' patriotic original intension, and some extreme behaviors seriously threaten the social stability and national security.

For this situation, the author summed up as: contemporary college students have participating

consciousness, but lack the political accomplishment; they have patriotism, but lack firm and correct political orientation; they have the spirit of exploration, but lack the ability to distinguish the authenticity.

These features of college students explain that college students' patriotism has to be correctly guide.

3. CONTINUOUS INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WAYS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS' PATRIOTISM EDUCATION

3.1 Combine Patriotism Education with Classroom Teaching

First of all, we should insist ideological and political theory courses' leading role. In 2005, in "the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the Ministry of education's opinion on further strengthen and improve the ideological and political theory course in Universities", it pointed out ideological and political theory course in colleges are the main channel and the main positions to make the patriotism education to college students. Here we suggest colleges draw the overall plan of patriotism education in order to strengthen its systematicness and planning. Also colleges have to clear and definite the key point of patriotism education and comprehensive permeate patriotism according to each subject's discipline characteristic and textook contents. At the same time, we should strengthen the training of teachers of The Marx theory course and the course of Ideological and Political Education, encourage students to participate in class discussions, fully express their opinions and make the students feel clearly that the social progress, the prosperity of our nation is closely to individual self realization and they can not be separated. Professional courses teachers can combine patriotism education with professional features during the courses and make full use of courses advantages to strengthen the patriotism education of College students. Professional courses teachers can combine the content and method of patriotism education which professional knowledge and make the patriotism education run throughout the professional education and give full play to professional teachers in the patriotism education.

3.2 Combine the Patriotism Education with the Constuction of Campus Environment

The campus environment is the important position of patriotism education. A good environment has the function of guiding, encouraging, educating and so on, and the environment's influence is unconsciously. Therefore, colleges should elaborately create the patriotism education environment, strengthen the construction of campus culture, make full use of broadcasting station,

publicity column and other places to advertise patriotism education. They can put up national flag, the portraits of revolutionary leader and historical outstanding people, patriotic famous saying and so on. In a word, they can give full play to the role of artistic appeal. Through the construction the newspaper column in the campus, they can establish campus news and make the news permeate in the campus. This can enable students to understand and master these information in time, guide them to pay attention to various hot public events, and help them to make scientific thinking under the guidance of Marxist political view. Some colleges exhibit some excellent Party members' deeds and they use this to motivate the students and guide students to draw close to the party. Some universities also establish history showroom to cultivate students' feelings of love of their schools.

3.3 Use the Significant Commemoration Day of Historical Events, Such as the May 4th Movement, the December 9th Movement and Party's Day to Hold Various Forms of Commemorative Activities and Conduct Patriotism Education

Any major national commemoration and celebration activity has its own symbolic meaning and represents different political requirement and cultural significance. "All statutory holidays, traditional holidays, the birthday and anniversary of the revolutionary leaders, national heroes, outstanding persons and other historical figures, the anniversary of the important historical events such as the Party's founding, the long march, the Revolution of 1911, and the national humiliation day such as 918 and Nanjing massacre, all of these days contain the valuable ideological and moral education resource".¹ Also, all of these are the important opportunity to carry out patriotism education of college students. On June 19th, 2010, in "the CPC Central Committee's opinion on strengthening and improving the Party's history work", it pointed out: carry out the memorial activities of the important events and important figure in the history of the Party is the important way to promote the study and propaganda education and carry forward the party's glorious tradition and fine style of work.

Historical events themselves have great historical significance and deep connotation of value. For example, the scientific and democratic spirit which were advocated in the May 4th Movement have been the school motto of Peking University today, which is the transmission of thought and the heritage of culture. In fact, through the anniversary activities such as the 60th anniversary of the founding of PRC, the 100th anniversary of the Revolution of 1911, the 90th anniversary of the May 4th movement, the 90th anniversary of the CPC founding, college students determination to strive for progress and revitalize the Chinese nation was highly inspired.

Colleges also can use the time of the new arrivals and graduation to organize activities such as honors day, entrance education, graduation ceremony and so on to create a thick atmosphere of patriotism and love of the school, cultivate students' feeling of love the school and enhance their responsibility of social and the sense of mission for the country.

3.4 Occupy and Make Full Use of Network Resource to Serve Patriotism Education

The rapid development and wide application of network is gradually changing people's way of life, learning methods, mode of thinking and working mode, even affect people's values and outlook on life. For patriotism education, the network has two sides: on one hand, it offers a convenient way, on the other hand, the spread of pornographies and reactionary words provides convenience to hostiles to make ideological infiltration and value change. Therefore, colleges and universities must use patriotism to occupy the Internet field. Comrade Jiang Zemin once said: the development of information technology especially the development of information network technology provides us with modern means to carry out the ideological and political work and expand space and channel of ideological and political education. We should pay attention to and make full use of information network technology to improve the effectiveness of the ideological and political work, expand its coverage and strengthen its influence. Colleges and universities can build teachers' blogs through the campus network and carry out rich, colorful and lively education, communication, discussion and other activities online. In this way, teachers can discuss the issues with students and strengthen the guidance of public opinion on the internet in order to let students accept patriotism education in the vivid and lively atmosphere.

3.5 Colleges Should Break the Traditional Education Form and Continuously Explore New Ways of Political and Theoretical Study

For example, computer science and technology institute of Changchun University of Science and Technology founded the "red forum" for Party members of college students, and each Party member will stand on the platform and tell a lesson. In this way, they changed the way "teaching by one person" into "teaching by everyone" and changed the Party member's education form from passive education into active learning, from one-way inculcation into multi-directional communication. The new form Party class in colleges should let people like to sit down and listen to, it should please both the teachers and the listeners instead of the old ones which the teachers are tired and the listeners feel boring.

¹ Selected Works of the Important Documents Since 16th Party Congress (Upper Part) (2005, pp. 798-799). Beijing: The Central Literature Publishing House.

3.6 Carry out a Variety of Patriotism Education Activities, Create the Atmosphere Actively to Make the Students Are Unconsciously Influenced by Patriotism Education

For example, some colleges hold flag-raising ceremony every Monday and use the speech under the national flag to make patriotism education. Some colleges will put patriotism education into some activities such as competition on history knowledge of the Party, the seminar and report with the patriotism education as the theme, the patriotism education films and so on. These activities not only review the history of Party to let the students know more about the struggling course of the Chinese Communist, but also deepen the students' understanding of patriotism. In addition, during the military training, the colleges would imitate the military's barracks life to train in order to enable students to experience camp life, exercise the will as well as make them realize that they have the sacred duty to build and defend of motherland. At ordinary times, colleges should organize social activities and volunteer activities, creating opportunities for every student to participate in social services and through the participation make them clearly understand their responsibility and obligation is to pay attention not only to themselves, but also to the nation and society and put the patriotism into action.

3.7 Combine Patriotism Education with Thematic Class Meetings

Using thematic class meetings to analyze the current events and hot pot problems and guide college students to establish the correct outlook on life and value. For example, computer science and technology institute of Changchun University of Science and Technology held a series of good thematic class meetings such as further study the scientific concept of development, the

motherland's 60 years in my eye, we are together to pay attention to NPC and CPPCC. Also, they held some forum such as rational patriotism and learning the spirit of Lei Feng and obtained good effect.

3.8 Combine Patriotism Education with the Construction of Teachers' Ethics

Teachers are the conductors and guides in the students' growth. Teachers, especially famous teachers' learning and teaching style, thinking and understanding of life and the value, individual ideological level and other aspects all have influence on students' growth and development and this influence is huge and profound. The teachers' speaking, manners, personality and morality also have influence on students in varying degrees, this is the so-called teaching by personal example as well as verbal instruction. At present, some colleges have established some mechanism in strengthening teachers' ethics such as training mechanism, incentive mechanism, supervision mechanism, evaluation mechanism and so on. In fact, the most important thing to do is that colleges have to bring the construction of teachers' ethics into school's daily management.

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