

An Analysis on Party Building in College Students' Living Area under the Current Situation: A Case Study of Chongqing Normal University

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Abstract

As the college students' living areas become the main place for students to study and live, the need to actively promote Party building within the areas has become an urgent task for strengthening the ideological and political education of students and building of the Party itself. Through an analysis of issues of Party building in Chongqing Normal University, the author proposes four effective strategies, including proposing new ideas, enhancing the system, letting the student Party members play a leading role, and improving the supporting system.

Key words: College student; Living area; Party building

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With the continuous deepening of the intensive development of colleges and universities, and advancement of the socialization of college logistics and the implementation of the full credit system, the college students' living area has become the main place for students to live, study, and work. Hence, it has become common missions for colleges and universities to actively explore Party building in the living area, give full play to the exemplary role of student Party members, strengthen the education management of student Party members, and promote the ideological and political education of students in the living area. It is essential for institutions to carry out the work according to their characteristics and construct a feasible working model so that it does not become a

formality, which will result in waste of labor, resources, and energy. Based on the situation of Chongqing Normal University, the author analyzes the current situation and potential issues of the Party building in college students' living area and seeks effective ways to promote Party building in the living area.

1. THE NECESSITY OF PARTY BUILDING IN COLLEGE STUDENTS' LIVING AREA

1.1 The Need to Improve the Scientific Level of School Party Building

The idea of comprehensively improving the scientific level of Party building was proposed during the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC). It clearly stated to build an 'innovative, learning, and service-oriented' Party. This has pointed the direction for colleges and universities to strengthen the municipal Party building, improve the scientific level of municipal Party building, and give full play to role of municipal Party organizations as battle fortress and vanguard and the exemplary role of Party members. Party building in colleges and universities must focus on strengthening its governing ability, advancement, and purity, and improving its service awareness and capacity. It should aim to strengthen the education and management of Party members, set the exemplary members as role models, increase the Party members' knowledge of policy and theory, expand the area coverage of Party members' work, and enhance the service awareness of Party members. It needs implement various in-depth thematic practical activities such as 'Innovation and Excellency' and 'Serve, Unite, Harmony' that maintains the advanced nature and purity education of the Party. Under the current situation, the exploration of Party building in college students' living area in need to comprehensively improve the scientific level of school Party building.

1.2 The Need to Cut Bureaucracy in Student Affairs

After the 18th National Congress of the CPC, the whole Party started a fresh new style of being pragmatic and truthful, which demonstrated the Party's determination to keep close contact with the people, and embodied the attitude and style of 'practical action helps the nation thrive'. This marks the new requirements for college student affairs. In order to adapt to the new situation, and further strengthen and improve the ideological and political education of college students, at the beginning of 2013, Department of Student Affairs of our school proposed the idea of 'strive to improve the scientific level and promote the scientific development of student affairs. An important sign of scientific level improvement of student affairs is to cut bureaucracy, shift the focus to students, dive deep into the front line of work, perform investigation and research, and focus on the pertinence, effectiveness, and initiative of student affairs. For the student affairs in our school, this means that we need to implement the work of 'two diaries, three in-depths, and five ones'. Under the current situation, the Party building in our students' living area is bound to be an effective way for ideological and political education to become closer to the public, closer to reality, and closer to students.

1.3 The Need to Strengthen the Ideological and Political Education in Students' Living Area

With the continuous advancement of the socialization of logistics in our school, the students' living area relies on the management of logistics industry group, which inherits the nature of a corporation. Their management has a tendency to 'value objects over people', and the staff are often poorly educated with lack of abilities, efficiency, and effectiveness. Such management is not suitable for the education and management of college students' living area. Under this circumstance, student Party building should be moved to the students' living area, and should be treated as an essential part of Party building in our school with efforts to progress. Extending Party building to students' living area is an urgent need to deepen the ideological education of college students, and an inherent requirement for the comprehensive development of students and construction of a harmonious campus environment. Through this project, our school can take the political and organizational advantages of the student Party organization, and let the exemplary student Party members play a leading role in the education, management, and service within the living area, thereby further exerting the attraction, cohesion, and influence of the Party organization. In doing so, we can make up for the lack of ideological and political education in the living area effectively and create a harmonious atmosphere.

1.4 The Need to Innovating New Ideas for School Party Building

Our school is gradually shifting from the traditional school year system to the full credit system, which will cause profound changes in many aspects, such as the weakening of the traditional functions and roles of the class and strengthening of the functions and roles of student dormitory, and result in severe challenges for student Party building. This requires that our school's Party building must be guided by the concept of scientific development; it must keep pace with times, keep innovating, and actively explore new forms, new medium, and new ideas. With its unique advantages, college students' dormitories have become the basic organizational form for student Party building. Such form has provided preconditions for the development of Party building within students' living area, and an effective way and a new perspective for Party building in colleges and universities.

1.5 The Need to Strengthen Education and Management of Student Party Members

Our primary-level Party organizations have had many issues with the education and management of student Party members for a long time, such as Party members' improper motives for joining the Party, their lack of knowledge and understanding of theory and ideology, their lack of participations. In addition, our Party organizations need better coordination between the early-stage and late-stage management, need more contents and forms of activities, and lack innovation and cohesion. Therefore, extending the student Party building into students' living area will put student Party members under the supervision of the public, forming a long-term mechanisms for mass supervision, which is conducive to the education and management of student Party members, and helps strengthen their Party spirits, improve their morality, exert their role model influences and motivates other students.

2. CHALLENGES OF PARTY BUILDING IN STUDENTS' LIVING AREAS

In order to obtain a better understanding of the development of Party building in students' living area, extensive surveys and interviews with undergraduates of our school were conducted. Five hundred copies of questionnaires were distributed, and 487 copies were collected. Among them, 461 copies were valid questionnaires, which results in 92% return efficiency of the questionnaire. The questionnaire is distributed among six student living areas of our school, with 75 copies in each area; five types of people are asked in this questionnaire, including 2 student affairs secretaries, 38 counselors, 10 dormitory administrators, 150 student Party members (30%), and 300 ordinary students (60%).

The questionnaire mainly focuses on three aspects. One is the understanding of the student Party building within the living area, the second is the influence of student Party members in Party building, and the last is advice and suggestions for student Party building in the living area. In addition, one student affairs secretary, five counselors, and six students were interviewed. The results are believed to be representative given its relatively broad scope and reasonable selection of sample populations. As a result, the following questions exist in the progress of Party building in the students' living area of our school:

2.1 Poor Understanding of Party Building in the Living Area

The *Opinions of the Central Committee of the CPC and the State Council on Further Strengthening and Improving the Ideological and Political Education of College Student* clearly stated that 'we must pay attention to the ideological and political education of college students in communities and their living area'. However, many colleges and universities have not yet fully understood the importance of Party building in students' living area. No consensus has formed among them on strengthening the ideological and political education of students in the living area, strengthening education and management of Party members in the area, and letting Party members play a pioneering and exemplary role. 78.2% of surveyees believe that the current Party building in student's living area in our school is relatively slow in theoretical research, and we lack of a complete set of theoretical systems and programmatic documents that integrate theory into practice and are both in-depth and easy to implement. This undoubtedly increase the difficulty of exploration of Party building in the students' living area. In addition, 84% of surveyees believe that the current model for Party building in the living area is simply a copycat of the Party building one in the departments, which lacks pertinence and timeliness. It fails to get close to students, life, or reality. On the contrary, it increases the workload of student Party members, who become less attracted to Party building and begin to slack in their work. 60.8% of surveyees think that they have a negative attitude towards work, and most colleges are still waiting before they will make a move. Although a few colleges have tried to extend the student Party building in the students' living area, the result is not satisfactory. 56.1 % of surveyees think that the planned office locations of student affairs related departments are not reasonable. Most of the related departments of student affairs and the Department of Student affairs of second-level colleges are far away from the students' living area, which spatially restricts Party building and hinders its progress in the students' living area. They also suggest that the front-line team of student affairs to be extended to the student dormitory. 81.3% of surveyees believe that there is a lack of funds and space in Party building. The maintenance of Party building in the living area mainly

relies on the dedication of Party members. Sometimes, Party members are required to make copies of learning materials at their own expense. Additionally, there is no fixed place for activities, studies, and exchanges for Party members. All of these have restricted Party building in the students' living area to a considerable extent.

2.2 The System and Mechanism of Party Building in the Living Area Need to Be Improved

Many of the school departments have different degrees of connection with the management of the students' living area. Because of the different affiliation of each department, the communication between the relevant departments is often delayed when there is a problem, resulting in misunderstanding and disagreement, and it is impossible to come to an agreement quickly. For example, 71.2% of the surveyees think that it is unreasonable for the logistics management group of our school to arrange students' room solely based on vacancy. This leads to a mix of students' level, major, and grades in the living area. The difficulty of student affairs has been artificially increased because of that, resulting in the loss of the preconditions for Party building in the living area. Furthermore, 48.5% of the surveyees believe that special staff is needed for Party building in the area, but we only department counselors who can only work part-time on this talk. Since the main field of student affairs is based on grade and class, Party building is still carried out mainly by the department Party branch. With an increasing of students' ideological problems, safety concerns, and psychological issues, the workload of department Party branch has increased drastically. The department counselors tend to focus more on class work and work from department Party branch, resulting in less time, insufficient energy and investment, and weak sense of responsibility for Party building in the students' living area. Their failures to cooperate with dormitory management group has affected the effectiveness of Party building in the living area. Therefore, in order to progress Party building in the students' living area, we must first form agreements and understanding and have unified operation mechanism and system.

2.3 The Role of Primary-Level Party Organizations and Student Party Members in the Living Area Is Weak

As the living area has become the main place for students to study and live, it is necessary to increase the influence of primary-level Party organizations and student Party members in the living area to reflect the advanced nature of the Party organization. However, based on the actual situation of our school, 77% of surveyees think that the pioneering role of college Party organization in the student dormitory has not been fully utilized. The college only conducts regular inspections of the student dormitories and deal with emergencies in accordance to

requirements of school. It rarely takes the initiative to learn the real concerns of students. More than 80% of student Party members can play a positive and leading role in the area. They do well in helping classmates, maintaining a harmonious environment, keeping contact with counselors, and their professional learning; however, there is still a big gap compared with the requirements for giving full play of the advanced nature of Party members under the new situation. 76.8% of the surveyees think that the student Party members' motives to join the Party is not pure, and it is for them to get a good job in the future. 26.4% of the surveyees believe that the student Party members do not fully understanding the theory and ideology of the Party, their Party spirit are weak, and their sense of being Party members is weak. 40.6% of the surveyees think that the sense of utilitarianism is heavy among student Party members, and they only volunteer to help in order to meet the requirements and inspections of the Party organization, rather than willingly helping the community and other students. 8% of the surveyees think that student Party members do not play a positive role in the students' living area, and some Party members even violate the regulations, which seriously damages the image of Party members among the students.

3. EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR CONSTRUCTING PARTY BUILDING IN COLLEGE STUDENTS' LIVING AREA

3.1 Innovating New Ideas of Party Building in Students' Living Area

3.1.1 With a Goal of Talent Training

The purpose of Party building for college students is to ensure the realization of talent training. However, Party building in colleges and universities often breaks away from the goal in practice. The school often does Party building solely for the sake of doing it and ignores its importance in ideological and political education for students. Thus, Party building in students' living area must have a clear and well-made plan and focus on achieving the goal of talent training.

3.1.2 With the Characteristics Of Colleges and Universities

With the continuous deepening of the teaching management reform in colleges and universities, the reform of credit system has been promoted to take various forms. Some schools follow the traditional school year system, some schools implement the full credit system, and some schools are hybrid. Such differences lead to different characteristics of student dormitory management, which requires Party building in the students' living area to accommodate for the system differences.

3.1.3 With the Student Party Members

Student Party members in colleges and universities are the main body and target of student Party building. Schools must respects the rights and wishes of student Party members in carrying out student Party building in the students' living area, and listen to the voices and opinions of student Party members. Only in this way can we fully mobilize the enthusiasm and initiative of student Party members and better serve the students in the living area.

3.2 Enhance the Mechanism of Party Building in the Students' Living Area

According to the situation of our school, first, we need to change the organizational structure of 'school Party Committee, college Party Committee branch (Party general branch), and student Party branch' to 'school Party Committee, college Party Committee branch (Party general branch), and living area Party branch'. We need to abolish the college student Party branch system and establish the Party branch in the living area. By doing so, the student Party building can be moved into the living area without changing the affiliation of student Party members, which will inevitably strengthen the role of student Party members play in Party building and the education and management of student Party members.

Secondly, we need to set up Party organization in the students' living area scientifically. We should establish a form of student accommodation with 'college-counselor' as the unit, arrange the students of the same college to stay in the same building, and have students that share the same counselor to live in the same floor. The college needs to set up the living area Party branch in the building with counselors as the unit, the branch secretary is the counselor of the student Party members, and the counselor can set up the student Party group based on the floors.

Lastly, we must clarify the functions of each position and strengthen student Party building. The establishment of the Party organization in the students' living area not only serves as a mean for Party member development, but also focuses on the daily education and management of student Party members, organizes ideology studies, performs education of the current situation, and guides Party members to perform their duties. This will give full play to the role of Party members, help carry out organizational activities effectively, and guide Party activists to participate in 'self-management, self-service, and self-education'.

3.3 Assign Area to Party Members to Give Full Play to the Vanguard and Exemplary Role of Student Party Members

Assigning area to Party members allows the student Party members to play their vanguard and exemplary role in dormitory education, management, and service. The living area Party branch can divide the living area based

on the ratio between the student Party members and the number of dormitories, which effectively integrates Party building into the process of ideological and political education and implements it in all aspects of student life, study, management, and service. This strengthens the cohesiveness of the Party organization and expands the coverage of the Party organization. In order to carry out the assignment of area, we need to establish the corresponding system to ensure that the pioneering role of the student Party members is brought into play. All Party members need to be registered and listed on duty (open to the public), and accept the supervision of classmates. A weekly log needs to be filled by each Party member. In addition, we need some management and ways to evaluate the assigned area. The living area Party branch needs to be in constant contact with various departments, holding regular meetings and symposiums with them so we can understand and solve students' ideological problems and practical difficulties in a timely manner, and report, supervise, and coordinate relevant departments to solve the problems in a timely manner. The assigned area also needs to be registered and listed (open to the public). The detailed information of the Party member in charge should be posted at the door of each student dormitory so that 'where there is a dormitory, there will always be Party members; and where there are Party members, there must be a Party's voice', which will form a consensus of 'finding Party members when in difficulties'. Assigning area to student Party members will allow the student Party members to exert their role as vanguard and exemplary and achieve the 'five ones' of 'setting a good example, singing a good sound, doing a good thing, giving a piece of love, and educating a group of students well'.

3.4 Improve the Supporting System for Party Building in the Students' Living Area

3.4.1 Establish the Status of Party Building in the Living Area

The school Party Committee should officially clarify the status of Party building in the students' living area in the form of official documents or systems, and ensure that there are rules and regulations for Party organization activities, and students' self-management, self-service, and self-education activities to follow.

3.4.2 Allocate Work Places for Party Building in the Living Area

To help with Party building in the living area, the Department of Logistics Management department should allocate activity rooms according to the number of students and Party organizations in the area and provide long-term workplaces for the student Party members.

3.4.3 Funding for Party Building in the Living Area

The school should allocate necessary funds for Party building in the students' living area to ensure the normal operation of Party branch and its activities.

CONCLUSION

The Party building in the college students' living area is a process of exploration and improvement. There is little experience that we can learn from and no pre-existing model we can implement. It requires staff in colleges and universities to dive deep into the front line, investigate and study, and continuously innovate new ideas during daily education and management. We need to continuously explore effective strategies for Party building in colleges and universities under the current situation, and truly give play to the education function of student Party building to promote the overall development of college students.

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