

## On Ideological and Political Education Under the Visual Threshold of *Chinese Dream*

WANG Shaobin<sup>[a],\*</sup>

<sup>[a]</sup>Changchun University of Science and Technology, Changchun, China.  
\*Corresponding author.

Received 24 August 2014; accepted 15 October 2014  
Published online 26 November 2014

### Abstract

Ideological and political education in the university should be combined with the real closely in the new era, while the content of the education ought to be enriched and the educational level also needs to be improved. *Chinese Dream* education is currently carried out in an in-depth way. As the constructors and successors of the socialist modernization drive, college students are the major targeted group of *Chinese Dream* education. Therefore, ideological and political education in the university should add the content of *Chinese Dream* concerning curriculum setting, culture construction and teaching mechanism, and *Chinese Dream* education should be applied to lead the overall direction of ideological and political education in the university of the new era.

**Key words:** *Chinese Dream*; College students; Ideological and political education in the university

Wang, S. B. (2014). On Ideological and Political Education Under the Visual Threshold of *Chinese Dream*. *Higher Education of Social Science*, 7(3), 163-166. Available from: URL: <http://www.cscanada.net/index.php/hess/article/view/5850>  
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3968/5850>

### INTRODUCTION

As a critical part of socialist ideological and political education in our country, ideological and political education in the university shoulders the lofty mission of cultivating qualified constructors and successors of socialist modernization drive with firm political orientation. The target of contemporary ideological and

political education in the university are college students who are living in an information age. On the one hand, they have a sharp mind and a strong thirst for knowledge. Moreover, they are wide-ranging and well-equipped with knowledge since they have diverse interests and accept new things quickly. The information age provides college students with unimpeded channels for information acquisition, which not only greatly enriches their knowledge reserve but also improves their ability of independent thinking. On the other hand, the world view, outlook on life and value orientation of college students are about to be mature, while the flooded information and collided values impose an impact on their thought and judgment of value and further influence their ultimate formation and orientation of the world view, outlook on life and viewpoint of value. Therefore, ideological and political education in the university must make proper adaptation concerning the living environment and growth characteristics of contemporary college students. Not only do the teaching methods need innovation, the content of education should also advance with times and guide college students to pay close attention to the social reality and consciously carry out the lines, principles and policies of the Party and our country in order to enhance the ideological and political level. The innovation of contemporary ideological and political education lies on the execution of the great strategic concept- *Chinese Dream* -proposed by President Xi Jinping and leading the ultimate direction of ideological and political work in the university through *Chinese Dream* of education in a new era.

### 1. THE BASIC CONNOTATION OF “CHINESE DREAM”

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, led the new central collective leadership to visit the exhibition of “Road to Revive”

at National Museum of China. It was on the exhibition that President Xi first proposed the concept of *Chinese Dream*. He noted, "Realizing the great rejuvenation of Chinese nation has been the greatest dream of Chinese nation in modern times". On March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013, President Xi proposed the basic contents of *Chinese Dream* in his inaugural address at the closing ceremony of the first meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> NPC. He pointed out,

Meeting the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and a prosperous, democratic, civilized and harmonious modern socialist country, and realizing the *Chinese Dream* of the great rejuvenation of Chinese nation means that state prosperity, national rejuvenation and people's happiness are achieved. It not only embodies the thoughts of contemporary Chinese people, but also reflects the glorious tradition of our ancestors to strive for progress.

After that, President Xi also systematically elaborated the strategic conceptions of *Chinese Dream* on many occasions. As a deepened and enhanced governing idea of the CPC on the new period, *Chinese Dream* is a high-level generalization of a series of strategic targets of the CPC. Being called Chinese Dream, it should

be guided by Marxism, based on the ultimate foundation (the primary stage of socialism), shoulder the overall task (realizing socialist modernization and the great rejuvenation of Chinese nation), and promote the general layout (Five-in-One). It is a predicted and expected medium- and long-term goal and fine vision concerning the construction of economy, politics, culture, society and ecology and the overall development of individuals under socialism with Chinese characteristics. It is the great pursuit, sacred responsibility and glorious mission of achieving state prosperity, national rejuvenation and people's happiness through the united strength of all nationalities under the leadership of the CPC. (Meng & Wang, 2013)

To be specific, *Chinese Dream* should include the following contents:

First of all, *Chinese Dream* is a shared dream of Chinese nation and all Chinese people. *Chinese Dream* reflects the overall interest of Chinese nation and represents the fundamental interest of all Chinese people. On the one hand, *Chinese Dream* offers the whole Chinese nation a lofty goal and bright future. On the other hand, it focuses on realizing the fundamental interest of masses of people and makes sure that people get benefits, which reflects and elaborates the interest appeal of all Chinese people.

Secondly, the overall task of *Chinese Dream* is to realize the great rejuvenation of Chinese nation and promote the construction of economy, politics, culture, society and ecology and the overall development of individuals under socialism with Chinese characteristics. A great many people with lofty ideals have been striving for the great rejuvenation of Chinese nation since the First Opium War in 1840. To serve the people and realize the lofty mission of state prosperity, the CPC goes with the tide of historical development and put forward the specific task of realizing the great rejuvenation of Chinese nation, that is,

to take economic construction as the central task, to adhere to the Four Cardinal Principles and reform and opening-up policy, to liberate and develop productivity, and to build socialist market economy, democratic politics, advanced culture, harmonious society and ecological civilization in order to promote the overall development of individuals, gradually achieve common prosperity of all Chinese people and build a prosperous, democratic, civilized and harmonious socialist modern country based on the fundamental realities of China and the leadership of the CPC. (Meng & Wang, 2013)

This is the actual requirement of *Chinese Dream*.

Thirdly, the aim of *Chinese Dream* is to realize state prosperity, national rejuvenation and people's happiness. Basically, the ultimate goal of *Chinese Dream* is to realize the great rejuvenation of Chinese nation. However, what is the great rejuvenation of Chinese nation in particular? *Chinese Dream* offers an answer. The great rejuvenation of Chinese nation means to state prosperity, national rejuvenation and people's happiness, which make it clear that *Chinese Dream* is the dream of country and nation, and also the dream of every Chinese people. *Chinese Dream* is ultimately the dream of people. *Chinese Dream* and China's Path lie on the well-off livelihood of people in the end.

---

## 2. THE SIGNIFICANCE CHINESE DREAM BRINGS TO CONTEMPORARY IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION IN THE UNIVERSITY

---

The Ministry of Education issued *The Notice of Conducting In-depth Education Activities with the Theme of "My Chinese Dream" in All Levels and All Kinds of Schools throughout China by the Leading Party Group of the Ministry of Education*. *The Notice* requires that all levels and all kinds of schools should uphold the great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics, adopt Deng Xiaoping Theory, the important thoughts of Three Represents and Scientific Outlook on Development as guidance, let students receive the education of patriotism, collectivism and socialism, and enhance the self-confidence of the conduction of the approach, theory and mechanism of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Through diverse and lively ways, education leads the students to deeply understand that realizing the great rejuvenation of Chinese nation is the greatest dream of Chinese nation in modern times; that each individual's future and fate is closely related to that of the country and the nation; that empty talks jeopardize national interests while hard work rejuvenates the nation and the realization of *Chinese Dream* needs the students to keep their faith firm, work hard and devote themselves into practice in order to make our country well constructed. Thus, the main task of ideological and political education in the university is adopting *Chinese Dream* as the theme for a

period from now on. The significance of putting *Chinese Dream* into ideological and political education in the university lies as follows:

First of all, it is helpful to open a new situation for putting ideological and political education in the university with Chinese Dream integrated into it. The arrival of information age makes the thought of contemporary college students more open, more selective, more independent, more diverse and more versatile compared with that of the college students of the past. However, ideological and political education in the university in China tends to adopt the traditional way of theoretical knowledge education. Though it is the inevitable approach of enhancing the political consciousness of college students, it is not the only option. Theoretical knowledge education tends to adopt spoon-feeding" method, which

involves more preaching rather than reasoning and mostly offers students knowledge points or conclusions rather than encourage them to think. Though students are tired of getting conclusions, they have to follow teachers' order to learn the theories since they do not know how to analyze problems, let alone, solve problems. Under the traditional education mechanism, their students are required in accordance with the professional standard (textbooks and outlines). Students recite the materials intensively before the exam and quickly forget them when the exam is done. Thus, the students and the teachers complain against each other and both feel bitter. Theoretical knowledge education becomes a passive "spoon-feeding" approach, which causes the lack of initiative from both the teachers and the students. (Zhan, 2006)

Therefore, ideological and political education in the university is in desperate need of the innovation of teaching contents to closely combine the theory with practice. Also, the essential requirement of realization of *Chinese Dream* is coherent with the contents of ideological and political education for college students. To integrate *Chinese Dream* into ideological and political education in the university not only is the inheritance and development of the contents of it, but also can make it more vivid.

Secondly, it also helps to strengthen the sense of mission and responsibility in college students' mind. President Xi Jinping pointed out, "it is the theme of the times of youth movement in China to strive for the *Chinese Dream* of realizing the great rejuvenation of Chinese nation." The realization of *Chinese Dream* does not rely on the effort of particular individuals but of people of all nationalities. However, it ultimately relies on the succession and inheritance of young generation.

The contemporary college students are in their prime time to realize *Chinese Dream*, and they are the driving force and fresh troops of practicing *Chinese Dream*. It is the certain requirement of realizing *Chinese Dream* to strengthen and improve ideological and political education in the university and guide college students to build lofty ideals and devote themselves in the practice of *Chinese Dream*. (Qin, 2013)

Therefore, integrating *Chinese Dream* into ideological and political education in the university can make students

establish the right attitude towards the history and reality of our country in order to pay attention to the change and development of the society, analyze questions rationally, work hard and contribute to the great rejuvenation of Chinese nation with their exert. (Mo, 2014)

### 3. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CHINESE DREAM IN IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION IN THE UNIVERSITY

To integrate *Chinese Dream* into ideological and political education in the university, the key point lies in how *Chinese Dream* is reflected and implemented. Thus, the author suggests the work can be started as follows:

Firstly, *Chinese Dream* should be added to the curriculum of ideological and political education in the university. There are four compulsory courses currently, namely, *The Basic Principles of Marxism*, *Mao Zedong Thoughts and an Introduction to the Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics*, *The Outline of Chinese Modern History*, and *The Ideological and Moral Cultivation and the Fundamentals of Law*. Education on *Chinese Dream* should be consciously infused in the teaching of the four courses, and the interpretation of the historical background, theoretical foundation, realistic basis and law support of *Chinese Dream* combined with the unique features of each course. To be specific, in the teaching of *The Basic Principles of Marxism*, seeking scientific theoretical and philosophical foundation should be the core issue; in the teaching of *Mao Zedong Thoughts and an Introduction to the Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics*, the idea that *Chinese Dream* is inherited and developed from Mao Zedong Thoughts and an Introduction to the Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and the latest theoretical achievement in adapting Marxism in China should be emphasized; in the teaching of *The Outline of Chinese Modern History*, the historical background and contemporary circumstance of Chinese Dream should be explained; in the teaching of *The Ideological and Moral Cultivation and the Fundamentals of Law*, the system support of *Chinese Dream* should be elaborated to the students.

Secondly, *Chinese Dream* education should be infused into the construction of campus culture of universities, which is a key environmental factor of ideological and political education for college students. Good campus culture has great influence on promoting college students' view of life, value orientation and comprehensive quality. Infusing the elements of *Chinese Dream* into the construction of culture can deepen their perceptual knowledge and rational thinking. Therefore, proper contents of *Chinese Dream* should be added during the

construction of both hardware and software environment. For example, universities can

set up websites featuring *Chinese Dream* in accordance with the characteristics and hobbies of college students, and strengthen the publicity of the deeds of the successful and the patriotic. Meanwhile, universities can call for discussions on the connotation and value of *Chinese Dream* and how to realize one's dream in actual life, which not only enhances the publicity of *Chinese Dream*, but also can know well of the actual situation of college students' understanding of *Chinese Dream*. (Zhang & Wang, 2013)

Thirdly, the mechanism and approaches of ideological and political education in the university should be innovated and the education of *Chinese Dream* be deepened. The single "spoon-feeding" teaching method must be changed in the ideological and political education in the university. A variety of media forms should be employed to make *Chinese Dream* education more vivid. For example,

during the teaching process, the teacher can show the achievement of modernization in China through pictures and videos to make the students clear that right theoretical guidance and powerful ideological drive are a must for any nation that wishes to keep a foothold in the world. (Zhang, 2013)

All kinds of media within the university can be fully used to redesign the targeted information concerning *Chinese Dream*, changing the boring into the vivid, and overt education into recessive education, which immerses the students into a positive public opinion and automatically accept the information about *Chinese Dream*. Thus, the students will be edified and influenced. Also, a better effect of publicity and education can be achieved. (Qin, 2013)

---

## CONCLUSION

Comrade Mao Zedong made a famous speech in Moscow when he met with the Chinese students who studied in Russia in 1957,

the world is yours as well as ours, but it is yours ultimately. The young people like you are in your prime time, and you are very vigorous, like the sun at eight o'clock in the morning. Hope has been laid on you.

The profound philosophical thoughts and earnest expectations on the young generation embodied in the speech remain as valuable memories and driving force for many people. Indeed, youth, represented by college students, is the fresh troops of realizing the great rejuvenation of Chinese nation. The ideology and morality of college students have great significance concerning the continuance of socialist modernization drive. Thus, the importance of ideological and political education in the university is doubtless. By introducing *Chinese Dream* into ideological and political education in the university is doubtless, the sense of mission and responsibility like "studying for a prosperous and rising China" can be better stimulated. College students can also be guided to pay more attention to the livelihood of people, the society and the future of China.

---

## REFERENCES

- Meng, D. F., & Wang, Z. B. (2013). The connotation, structure and route optimization of Chinese dream. *Chongqing Social Sciences*, (5), 13.
- Mo, Y. Y. (2014). To discuss the significance of integrating "Chinese dream" into ideological and political education in the university. *Journal of Chifeng University (Philosophy and Social Science Chinese Edition)*, (5), 237.
- Qin, J. H. (2013). To discuss on "Chinese dream" and ideological and political education for college students. *Guangxi Social Sciences*, (6), 183.
- Zhan, M. Y. (2006). First discussion about the structure of ideological and political education in the university. *Journal of Fujian Commercial College*, (4), 88.
- Zhang, P., & Wang, Z. Q. (2013). An interpretation of "Chinese dream" in ideological and political education in the university. *Ideological and Political Education Research*, (5), 16.
- Zhang, Y. Q. (2013). An exploration of ideological and political education in the university guided by "Chinese dream". *Education Exploration*, (10), 105.