

On “Curriculum Ideology and Politics” in Contemporary Chinese Higher Education

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Keywords: chinese higher education, curriculum ideological and political, great teaching theory

Abstract: Through the analysis on the college curriculum ideological and political teaching in the past five years, it is found that the curriculum construction has basically been comprehensively ideological and political, just as the quality education reform in primary education has gradually covered all levels of teaching practice, the curriculum ideological and political teaching is also becoming a torrent and gradually covering all levels of education and teaching practice nationwide. This new method or educational evaluation standard is a new round of educational reform movement to build a socialist model of higher education in China. The purpose is to cultivate senior professionals with family and country feelings, global vision, and professional skills, and make greater contributions to promoting China's better access to the world and the world's better understanding of China. The research holds that "thinking politics in curriculum" is a major national education project launched at the national level in the new era; The basic theory research, scientific connotation, main characteristics, practical path, problems and challenges has been extensive and in-depth; The political identity and Chinese characteristics are extremely distinctive; The future construction and development should prevent excessive political tendency. Therefore, efforts should be made on the principle of "big teaching theory" and deep processing research should be done closely in combination with the traditional education culture of the Han nationality.

1. Introduction

In 2016, Shanghai universities first implemented the Curriculum Ideology and Politics, which they believe is a new teaching concept worth promoting. The main idea is an all-round and multi-dimensional teaching concept centered on socialist core values and based on communist political identity, Chinese national rejuvenation awareness, and Chinese traditional cultural self-confidence. Later, the People's Daily reported the speech spirit of Chinese President, which emphasized that ideological and political work should run through the whole process of education. With this as a sign, the call for "curriculum ideological and political" was issued. Nationwide,

college teaching practice should integrate ideological and political elements into professional courses.

College Curriculum Ideology and Politics has become a research hotspot, and a series of research achievements have been made. On the one hand, the current international environment has become complex and contradictions have intensified, which plays an increasingly important role in regional and international development, and inadvertently touches the interests of developing countries, international friction, and tarnishes China; On the other hand, under the trend of globalization, how to maintain the original cultural characteristics of China has become more important. It is necessary to coordinate the "two overall situations" - "one is the strategy, the other is the unprecedented change, which is the basic starting point of our planning work". The unique space-time coordinates formed by the intersection of the "two overall situations", It is the basic starting point for the school to promote the curriculum and cooperation education around the goal. [1]

2. Publication of Relevant Literature

The "curriculum ideological and political teaching " concept born from this meansIn the teaching process of professional courses, ideological and political education should be completed at the same time to achieve the goal of "combining knowledge education with value education". [2]

In the past five years, relevant academic research has also been increasingly rich and rapidly emerging, and the number of research results in various professional directions and courses has been surging. According to the most authoritative literature publication database in China, CNKI shows that the number of articles published in these years has increased by 100, 1000 and 10000 respectively. Compared with the research results of other education hotspots in the same period, the literature related to the concept of curriculum politics has the highest growth rate. The following is a line chart of relevant papers of CNKI in recent seven years, as shown in Figure 1, based on the retrieval results of CNKI in 2022.

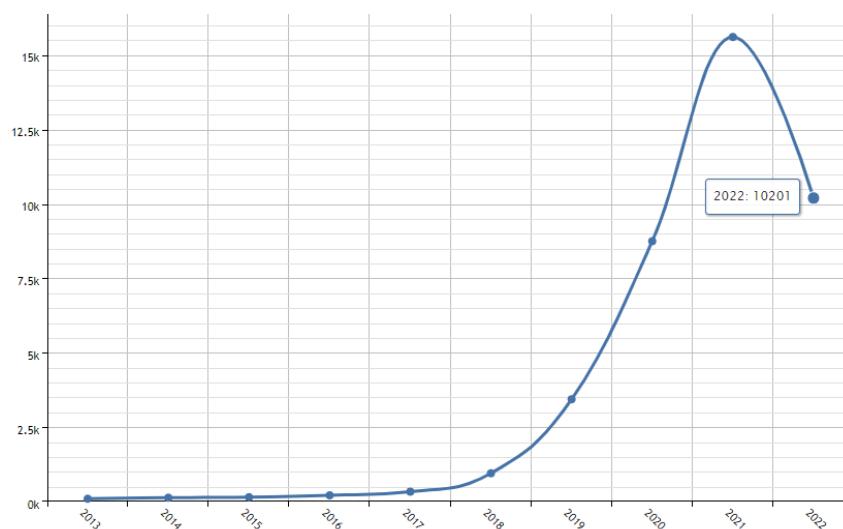


Figure 1: CNKI line chart of articles published on Curriculum Ideology and Politics

As shown in Figure 1, by September 2022, the number of documents retrieved with the keyword "curriculum ideology and politics" has reached 40100 in five years. At the same time, the number of quality education research has reduced sharply to 2000. It can be seen that ideology and politics has almost replaced all other education concepts in the new era, which shows that, this educational concept of "great thinking, socialist core values" is having a comprehensive impact on higher education in China and even on school teaching at other levels of the whole society. It can be said

that this teaching concept has become the mainstream of contemporary Chinese school education reform movement. The elements of "ideological and political teaching" can be seen in the field of curriculum research of almost all universities majors, which can be seen from Figure 2. In addition, the focus of literature research is generally divided into two major aspects, one is "ideological and political education curriculum", and the other is "implementation path". As shown in Figure 2:

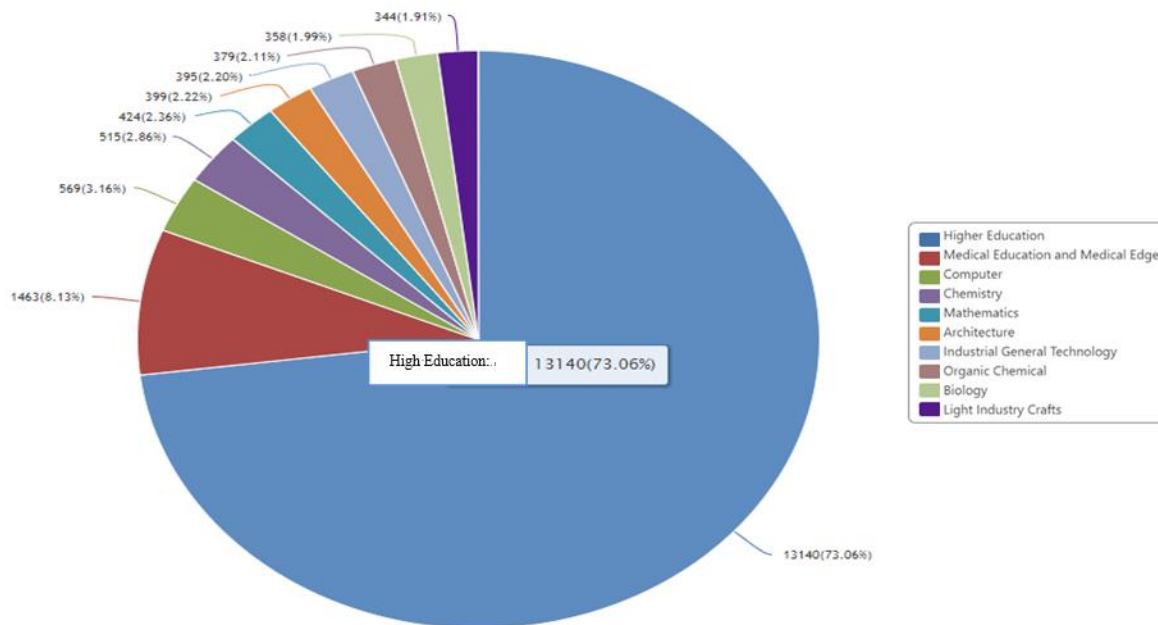


Figure 2: CNKI literature ratio of different disciplines on higher education curriculum ideological and political

Based on the analysis of the specific content of all relevant literature, the main issues involved in the study are as follows.

2.1. Strengthen Ideological Leadership and Strive to Curriculum Education

From the perspective of the research on the realization path of "curriculum education" in the new era, the basic characteristics, values, requirements and principles of the combination of college students' ideological construction should be clarified. The colleges ought to make use of the explicit and implicit ideological and political elements, and use the appropriate realization path to carry out the innovation of "curriculum education" construction. The ideological and political curriculum is an important fundamental task to implement morality and cultivate people. Higher education must strive to combine the world outlook, values shaping, knowledge teaching and ability training, comprehensively promote the ideological and political construction of curriculum, adopt effective teaching methods to integrate socialist values into professional knowledge teaching and discipline ability training, help students form a correct world outlook, outlook on life and values, and incorporate curriculum ideology into talent training programs, Make ideological and political education an indispensable part of curriculum construction and teaching process. Introduce elements of traditional Chinese culture into the curriculum, combine with the guidance of socialist cultural construction with Chinese characteristics, and cultivate students' ideological values of socialist building with Chinese characteristics in the new era. [3]

2.2. Focus on Curriculum Development, and Strive to Tap the Elements

Universities should focus on improving the ability of professional course teachers to develop courses, strengthen teachers' awareness of ideological and political education from the perspective of talent training programs, design teaching links to carry out ideological and political education based on socialist core values, and implement diversified and embedded curriculum ideological and political education. Explicit and implicit orientation, docking with professional standards and posts to "tap the junction"; At the same time, combined with the actual ideological situation of students, we found that the ideological and political elements were integrated into the professional teaching, and the concept of discipline and rule awareness were given vivid and specific guidance through specific cases, which was appropriate and natural. Specifically, we should do a good job in the top-level design of ideological and political implementation before class. In the course teaching, we should guide students to stand on the times, enhance cultural self-confidence, cultivate patriotism, accumulate ideological and political materials, and find the combination point of specialty and patriotism education; The connotation of patriotism includes a government that loves to govern China and lead the whole people. In the class, the content of "patriotism" is fully infiltrated into the professional classroom. The so-called journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step. For individuals, patriotism need to start from every bit, from small things, and from details, to guide students to turn patriotism into practical action; extend the knowledge after class, tell the story of "patriotism and love the government", and strive to achieve the coordinated development of curriculum education. [4] To sum up, it means "refined" design before class, "refined" case selection during class, and "refined" color sharing after class.

2.3. Improve the Awareness and Focus on Strengthening Teacher Training

In order to complete the "curriculum ideological and political education" with high quality, the first prerequisite for professional teachers is to have high political literacy: namely, political position, political identity, political feelings and political beliefs, among which, political position marks the "height" of "curriculum ideological and political education" for professional teachers; Political identity marks the "depth" of "curriculum politics" of professional teachers; Political feelings mark the "temperature" of professional teachers' "curriculum ideological and political"; Political belief marks the "dimension" of "curriculum ideological and political" of professional teachers, and these four constitute the comprehensive political quality of "curriculum ideological and political" of professional teachers in colleges and universities. [5]

2.4. Improve Teachers' Teaching Ability and Enrich and Deepen Classroom Teaching Content

In the process of teaching goal formulation and classroom teaching design, teachers look for the "contact point" between the professional subject knowledge system and ideological and political education, take the curriculum standard as the starting point, implement the goal of the curriculum, and implement the OBE teaching concept in reverse.

The students' needs that are analyzed with ideological and political elements focus on those problems that are particularly important and the original methods are not effective. Focusing on the hot issues of current affairs in contemporary China's theory and practice, we will lead students to pay attention to the current hot issues of current affairs in China from the political, economic, cultural, social, ecological, diplomatic and other aspects, and build a beautiful China. The teaching methods of interaction, narration and lecturing are used to mobilize students' enthusiasm for learning and activate the atmosphere. The method of story telling is used to arouse students' interest.

The method of lecturing is used to teach the correlation between the contrast of Chinese and American epidemic resistance and the contrast of color deconstruction, summarize experience and draw inspiration. Comprehensively, multi-dimensionally, and in many ways, integrate into ideological and political teaching. Serve the curriculum in different forms to form a teaching form with "new" content and "living" teaching methods. [6]

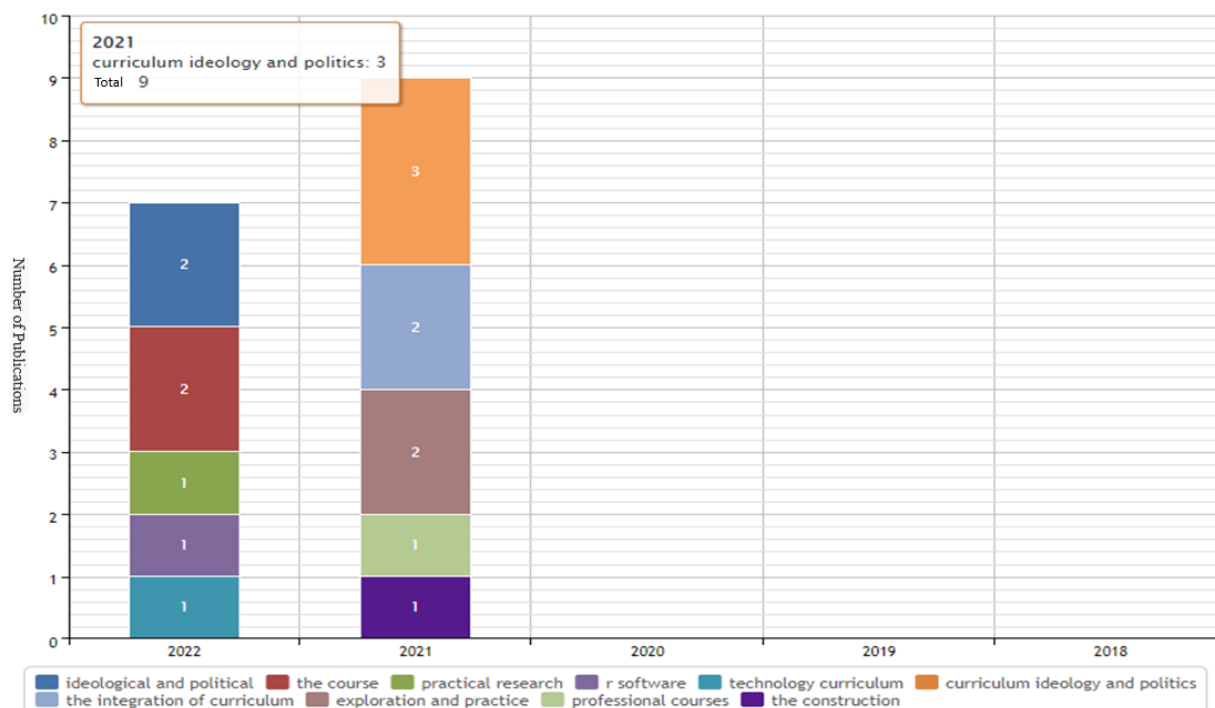


Figure 3: CNKI visual bar chart of Curriculum Ideology and Politics from annual cross-tabulation analysis of foreign literature

According to Figure 3, the foreign literature on Curriculum Ideology and Politics showed that college English can be said to be a course far away from "ideology and politics". However, since the calling for and demanding the implementation of ideology and politics have been lasting for years, college English has become increasingly "political thinking". The whole teaching process of college English courses in colleges and universities across the country is generally permeated with the content of "political thinking". The teaching practice for more than five years has also promoted teachers to constantly reflect on new ideas, constantly triggered teachers' new thinking on English teaching practice and innovation in teaching methods, and also constantly deepened teachers' understanding of the new curriculum requirements, as well as people's understanding of the political significance of contemporary Chinese education. Educators are increasingly aware that, All courses must specify the goal of cultivating loyalty to serve socialist construction, and cultivate a new generation of college students who have communist ideals and are eager to realize the Chinese Dream. Therefore, the goal of ideological and political education must be set according to the evaluation standards of ideological and political education, and the elements of "curriculum ideological and political" should be naturally incorporated into the teaching process of contemporary disciplines. In addition, it is necessary to unremittingly explore the practical elements that conform to the socialist core values in practice, implement the education of the Chinese Dream, and actively teach the Chinese excellent traditional culture and moral education elements, so as to reflect the distinctive socialist national strategy Chinese characteristics, Chinese nationality and so on.

2.5. The Historical Position and Value of "Curriculum Ideology and Politics"

At present, in addition to studying the subject teaching of ideological and political education in the curriculum, there are also some documents discussing the differences between it and other teaching concepts. For example, quality education and ideological and political education in the curriculum both emphasize political theory education, and both require teaching practice to realize the cultivation of political talents under the guidance of moral values.

First, since the primary problem of curriculum construction is to solve the problem of talent training, curriculum construction should be carried out in collaboration with the ideological and political courses in colleges and universities to create a large education system of "curriculum ideological and political". Through the three-level cooperation model of "discipline + specialty + curriculum", the education effect of "1+1+1>3" can be fully realized.

Second, the concept of "Ideological and Political Course" has become the criterion for the construction of the whole curriculum system of higher education, the criterion for educators' work practice, and the criterion for stimulating young students' enthusiasm for learning.

Third, the basic characteristics of Chinese traditional culture and ideological and political teaching are similar. In the world, people have also become more and more aware of the importance of traditional culture education to improve teaching level.

Fourth, "culture teaching + curriculum ideology and politics + teaching quality" is a trinity in-depth teaching mode. The effectiveness of the construction and development of ideological and political courses is the key evaluation factor to measure the teaching quality.

3. Comment on Typical Viewpoints

Based on the above analysis and discussion of CNKI's search results, it can be seen that at present, universities in all provinces, cities, autonomous regions and municipalities in China are implementing the teaching practice of curriculum thinking and management and the corresponding curriculum reform. The existing relevant academic achievements show that the concept of curriculum thinking has become a new concept covering the entire teaching reform in China. Give some specific examples to illustrate:

First of all, the first scholars in China to explore curriculum ideology and politics are a group of Shanghai university scholars represented by Cao Wenzhe. They believe that Chinese universities should expand the radiation scope of curriculum ideology and politics and adhere to the new concept of "comprehensive, three-dimensional and innovative ideological and political teaching.

Secondly, China's higher education and other guided education and teaching should actively change the teaching thinking mode, start a new round of curriculum ideological and political education reform, and explore experience in classroom teaching practice, and further strengthen the implementation, make full use of the classroom as the main teaching channel, and continue to integrate curriculum ideological and political education.

Thirdly, Zhang Hongcheng, the leader of a famous university in Shanghai, believes that the theoretical source of the concept of "curriculum ideology and politics" is actually the Marxist principle, and the ideas of previous leaders of the contemporary Communist Party of China are also its important theoretical source, which together provide a practical guidance basis for improving the political quality and moral standards of young students. It can be said that the teaching of contemporary Chinese universities has undergone new changes in an unprecedented new era, This curriculum concept is conducive to improving the political level of young college students. Therefore, under the complex international situation, it has great theoretical and practical value for China's future social construction and development.

Finally, Sun Xiangjun, a famous scholar in the domestic teaching circle, believes that the

Ideological and Political Course should organically combine all courses in colleges and universities with ideological and political education. [7] All course construction in higher education should comprehensively explore ideological and political elements, and teaching should constantly enrich the corresponding materials.

In the past two years, in addition to a large number of papers on ideological and political studies of courses published in domestic journals, some famous foreign journals have also noticed this hot topic. The phenomenon and problems related to ideological and political studies of Chinese higher education courses have also attracted the attention of foreign journals which published some relevant academic papers. Such as civic participation and civic consciousness of college students in China; How to assess the ideological and political integration in teaching evaluation, and how to teach traditional culture efficiently; How to carry out ideological and political education for public basic courses with a wide audience, and how to carry out hierarchical teaching evaluation at the same time; Combining political indoctrination with college students' innovation and entrepreneurship education, this paper discusses the problem of curriculum construction system and how entrepreneurship education forms a joint force with professional curriculum system; In the Internet era, artificial intelligence technology is increasingly developed. Under this background, how can China's information technology better serve general education; Young students should have a clear understanding of lifelong learning, know how to use big data to strengthen their own learning, and teachers should also use high-tech means to enhance the teaching effect and improve the effectiveness of ideological and political teaching. In addition, based on computer, neural network and other technologies, curriculum thinking research has gone deep into the degree of collaborative development, this shows that contemporary China is actively establishing a long-term mechanism and innovation system of curriculum ideology and politics.

4. Discussion

The ideological and political curriculum is not simply a reversal of the two words "curriculum" and "ideological and political", which is not a matter of word order reversal, but a new concept; Ideological and political curriculum is not simply a repetition of ideology or politics courses or moral education, but a comprehensive politicization or political infiltration of all kinds of major-courses. This is a new movement to reform the curriculum concept at the level of China's higher education, and it is also a teaching reform initiated by the top level of the government. This movement was initially initiated by Shanghai universities, and then gradually extended to other neighboring provinces. Then the government issued a call, and finally the competent education department issued a standard implementation, which led to the nationwide education reform movement and its academic research.

Referring to the concept of "Great Teaching Theory", it was first proposed by Jan Amos Comenius, a famous Czech educator. "The whole art of giving everything to everyone" is about the all-round development of "people", not the religious dedication of God, which emphasizes "all people", not "a few people selected by God". If we want to cultivate a person, we should shape it through education. People engaged in education should be able to recognize the glory of their work and their own uniqueness, so as to do their best to perfectly realize their sacred mission. To make the curriculum ideological and political education obtain teachers' inner respect, so that students' hearts can be attached to and belong to this lofty idea, and the seeds of knowledge, virtue and piety are naturally sown in students' hearts. If the lamp of the human heart has not been lit yet, but there are some strange torches outside, the end is like that the firelight will shine on the people in the dark dungeon. The firelight will indeed pass through the gap, but the light cannot go in completely. [8] In the process of formation, anything is easy to bend and shape when it is tender. It is not easy to

change when it grows hard. In the same way, a person is most likely to be shaped in early adolescence, and cannot be properly shaped after this stage. Therefore, young people must receive common education as soon as possible. Teenagers are easy to be led and controlled by models rather than dogmas. If it is infused with dogma, it will only leave a little impression. If you point out how others do it, they will automatically follow suit.

There is also a point of view in the existing literature that Chinese academia has a common belief, that is, political identity. Colleges and universities generally feel that it is necessary to train qualified successors for the contemporary construction and development of socialism in China. Therefore, we should constantly integrate the excellent elements of Chinese traditional culture, maximize the use of culture as a weapon, and guide and encourage the practice and development of ideological and political teaching reform of the curriculum, Constantly strengthen the understanding of the socialist core values of both teachers and students, so as to realize the teaching ideal of curriculum ideological and political throughout the whole process of education.

According to the knowledge organization method of the Great Teaching Theory, [9]the ideological and political education of the curriculum should also be based on "the way of nature", take "the formation of people" as the purpose, and take "correct teaching" as the center. The new round of curriculum reform in contemporary China has been deeply marked with the brand of "curriculum ideology and politics". [10] At the same time, the pace of globalization is accelerating, [11] So the ideological and political education of the curriculum should be universal, and the methods of moral education and indoctrination of piety should also be universal. The scope and depth of the research will be further expanded. [12] At the same time, the opinions and experiences should be organized into teaching and educating people to form educational rules, and the scattered cognition should be organized into the ideological system to form educational theories. Make the curriculum ideological and political education present the "reason" above the teaching method and the "Tao" above the "reason", and find the "technique" of rationalization of teaching methods, that is, the educational rules and knowledge organization methods under the provisions of educational principles. It includes the formulation of curriculum, the determination of the basic organizational form of teaching work, the formulation of the principles and requirements for the compilation of textbooks, the adoption of the principle of gradual and systematic teaching in accordance with students' aptitude, and the specific practice of curriculum ideology with the basic ideas of curriculum theory, teaching process theory and teaching organizational form theory.

5. Conclusions

In the process of carrying out ideological and political reform of curriculum, people should realize that ideological and political and traditional Chinese educational concepts are synonymous. Therefore, it can be predicted that China's higher education teaching reform will follow this path in the future. However, in the long run, where should the reform of ideological and political education of curriculum go? This does not seem certain enough. The reason is that, first of all, the severe and changeable international situation, and the world is changing with each passing day, so it is difficult to say whether a teaching concept can go on for a long time. But only from the effect of the current period, the necessity and benefits of the ideological and political teaching reform of the curriculum are still very obvious. At the same time, some scholars are worried about its disadvantages, that is, its political nature is too obvious. Due to the strong politicization of the whole educational process, education may go to an extreme, which is not conducive to natural and humanistic education, which is the essential attribute of education. Therefore, if the curriculum is too ideological and political, it may change the nature of education, make education change its flavor and lead to extreme political education, which will be the tragedy of education.

It can be said that in the future, the academic community will continue to discuss the ideological and political issues of the curriculum. There are signs that the future research will be more combined with Chinese characteristics and traditional Chinese pedagogy, combined with Chinese history and classical teaching models to explore, and hopefully achieve more convincing results.

Acknowledgement

Anhui Quality Engineering Course Ideological and Political Construction Demonstration Center Project (2020szzx25), Anhui "Double Base" Demonstration Course Project (1658), Quality Engineering Teaching and Research Project (2020JYXM1139/2020SZZX25/2021MOOC1), Philosophy and Social Science Planning Project (AHSKQ2018D60), Zhejiang Philosophy and Social Science Project (2022GJZXSKZC9) and Higher Vocational Party Building Project (2021B18), Bengbu University general education and curriculum ideological and political demonstration course (2022TSJC1/2022TSJC2/2021SZSFKC1).

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