

Value Implications and Practical Path of Youth Labor Education in the New Era

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Keywords: Youth labor education; value implications; practical path; the new era

Abstract: Strengthening labor education for young people is a necessary requirement for cultivating talents with comprehensive development of morality, intelligence, physical fitness, aesthetics and labor in the new era and achieving the goal of ideological education. The organic combination of labor education and "moral, intellectual, physical and aesthetic education" can help young people in the new era consolidate their "beliefs", develop "innovative thinking", draw "practical blueprints" and enhance "beauty". The organic combination of "moral, intellectual, physical and aesthetic education" can help young people in the new era consolidate their "beliefs", develop "innovative thinking", draw a "blueprint for practice" and improve the "realm of aesthetic education". This paper explores the innovative practice path of labor education for youth in the new era from four levels: concept, system, practice, and evaluation, improve the understanding of the value of labor education, effectively establish a perfect management mechanism of labor education, fully realize the organic integration of labor education, campus culture, and social practice, and actively build a diversified evaluation system of labor education, in order to help to ensure the nurturing effect of labor education in the new era.

1. Introduction

Labor education refers to "in addition to learning systematic and necessary cultural knowledge, students should be led to participate in different labor practices, including the process of school life labor, enterprise or social production labor, and off-campus service or volunteer labor, in order to cultivate students' hands-on ability, sharpen their spiritual will, and cultivate their correct labor values and good labor qualities."^[1] Its core content is the Marxist theory of labor. The Marxist theory of labor is rich in content and far-reaching, including labor creates people, labor creates value, and adherence to the principle of combining education and productive labor, which runs through the beginning and end of human social practice activities. First of all, labor creates human beings. Marx's materialistic view of labor history believes that the reason why people transform from apes to humans is because of the existence of labor, and that people work so that there is human society.^[2] Labor both reveals the nature of man and creates the human world and history. Furthermore, labor can create wealth. In Marx's view, labor can create wealth, and the only creator of wealth is the working people and no other.^[3] In addition, the principle of combining education and productive labor is upheld. In *Capital*, Marx pointed out that the education of the future is the combination of productive labor with sports and intellectual education, which helps to improve both

the efficiency of social production and the comprehensive quality and ability of human beings.^[4] An important principle of Marxist educational doctrine is to promote the integration of education and productive labor, which is the educational philosophy and policy that has been upheld by the whole educational undertaking in China. Along with the development of the times and technological progress, the connotation of labor education is gradually enriched. The educational direction of "all-round development" and the educational pattern of "five types of education" have affirmed the value and role of labor education in a deep and comprehensive way.

The National Education Conference in September 2018 highlighted that "efforts should be made to construct an education system for the comprehensive training of moral, intellectual, physical, social and aesthetic labor, to promote the spirit of labor among students, to educate and guide students to revere and respect labor, to understand the truth that labor is the most glorious, the most noble, the greatest and the most beautiful, and to be able to work hard, honestly and creatively when they grow up."^[5] In March 2020, "the Opinions on Comprehensively Strengthening Labor Education in Schools and Universities in the New Era" were issued, which made comprehensive plans to further strengthen labor education, adhere to the establishment of moral education, and implement the "five education" together. It can be seen that the state is paying more and more attention to labor education for young people in the new era, which has been elevated from a theoretical level to a strategic level.

2. Value Implications of Labor Education for Youth in the New Era

In the "Guideline for Labor Education in Schools and Universities (for Trial Implementation)" issued by the Ministry of Education in July 2020, it is pointed out that the basic concept of labor education is to strengthen the concept of labor and promote the spirit of labor; emphasize physical and mental participation and focus on the use of hands and brains; inherit good traditions and highlight the characteristics of the times; play the role of the main body and stimulate innovation and creativity.^[6] Labor education can help young people establish correct and good labor value concepts and develop correct and continuous labor habits. The "Guideline of Labor Education in Primary and Secondary Schools (for trial implementation)" highlights "five education in parallel", which shows that labor education is permeable and can combine labor education with the four education "moral, intellectual, physical and aesthetic", so that the value of labor education can be more obvious..

2.1 Strengthening the "Foundation of faith" for Youth in the New Era by Cultivating Morality through Labor

The significance of labor is attached great importance, stating in 2016, "Human beings are created by labor, and society is created by labor. There is no difference between high and low labor, and any occupation is honorable."^[7] Discourse on various aspects of the importance of labor, establishing the concept of labor, labor for development, the concept of labor struggle and happiness, and educating the youth is an important rationale for labor education work, and is a necessary basis for the development of promoting the spirit of labor in the whole society. The spirit of labor can be understood as the labor dynamics, the concept of labor, and the spirituality of workers in specific labor practices, whose goal is to create and obtain a good life. In order to cultivate young people into "well-rounded people", the first and foremost thing is to lead them to remember our new mission, establish new ideas, and guide them to learn deeply why Marxism is "feasible", and why Chinese characteristics are "good". The first and foremost thing is to lead them to always remember our new mission and establish new ideas, and to guide them to deeply learn why Marxism is "feasible", and why socialism with Chinese characteristics is "good".^[8] The

spirituality of each person is like a building that instantly collapses without a spiritual pillar. A person's ideals and beliefs are the spiritual pillars of the person, and in the whole society, the cultural value system of the whole society is built around this spiritual pillar.^[9] Leading young people in the new era to cultivate morality through labor will help them strengthen their belief in labor, correct their shortcomings step by step, overcome their inertia, challenge themselves and surpass themselves all the time, and truly reap a sense of achievement and happiness in the process of labor.

2.2 Developing "Innovative thinking" for Youth in the New Era by Enhancing Intelligence through Labor

Since ancient times, human beings have relied on labor to survive in the world and to advance the development and progress of human society. The Chinese people have always admired labor, and have maintained a style of hard work from ancient times to the present, relying on their hard work and brave wisdom to outline and create the brilliant civilization of the Chinese nation for 5,000 years. The continuous innovation of science and technology has brought about a new era of artificial intelligence and big data, in which machines have gradually replaced traditional human labor to a large extent, and at the same time brought about some problems. Therefore, it is necessary to use labor practice to guide young people in the new era to deal with the world and solve practical problems. The transformation of theoretical knowledge, the experience of rich emotions and the enlightenment of wisdom need to be provided by labor practice. Labor education can guide young people to closely integrate their future destiny with the whole country and nation, and actively participate in the great practice of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics. In China, there are many examples of "increasing wisdom through labor". Li Shizhen, a medical scientist of the Ming Dynasty, traveled over thousands of mountains and spent nearly 30 years to compile the world-renowned Chinese medical text "Materia Medica". Tu Youyou, a Nobel laureate, kept trying, repeatedly tested, and even tried the medicine with her own body, finally discovering the new anti-malaria drug artemisinin, which saved countless lives. Yuan Longping, the father of hybrid rice, finally obtained the increased yield of hybrid rice after more than ten years of research experiments, and then researched transgenic rice for more than ten years, which solved the problem of feeding countless people at home and abroad and made an important contribution to world food security. Zhong Nanshan, a famous respiratory pathologist in China, made an important contribution to world food security in 2019. After the outbreak of the new pneumonia epidemic in 2019, he went against the clock and rushed to Wuhan overnight to fight the virus to the death, using knowledge, wisdom and his fearless spirit to fully demonstrate the heroic spirit of "healer's kindness", life first, all the people together, and rising to the challenge. All these heroes of the times have given full play to the spirit of hard work and dedication in their own positions, and they have worked silently in the front line of work practice, and their concept of selfless dedication to the country and the people is deeply consistent with the concept of labor education, which has fully pointed out the direction, clarified the goal and added color to the work of labor education for the youth of the new era. Inspiring the "innovative thinking" of the youth of the new era in labor education will help them build up a strong psychological quality of self-confidence, stimulate a positive and effective resistance to setbacks, cultivate a spirit of struggle in spite of difficulties, and stimulate a positive and powerful growth motivation.

2.3 Describing "Blueprint of practice" for Youth in the New Era by Strengthening the Body through Labor

Young people in the new era should balance the time between intellectual and physical education, and ensure that sufficient physical work can promote intellectual development more effectively. Labor education helps adolescents strengthen their physical strength, regulate their qi and blood, get rid of anxiety, and grow their essence. Schools regularly carry out labor skill improvement activities or youth volunteer services to actively guide young people to develop good labor habits and certain labor skills, so that they can deeply understand that "a happy life is created by hard work" and "a happy life also depends on their own efforts. A happy life can only be achieved through the process of labor with one's own hands". The essence of "strengthening the body with labor" is not only that labor helps to strengthen the body, but also that it hones the body, mind and will of the youth. Cultivating healthy body, courage to face difficulties, confidence to challenge oneself and courage to rise to difficulties is the core content of "strengthening body with labor". In the future, when young students enter the society, they will be able to join the social work practice directly with a high attitude, and with their existing experience, they will be able to seamlessly integrate with the work reality, further improve themselves, develop their skills and successfully realize the "practice blueprint".

2.4 Raising the "Realm of Beauty Education" for Youth in the New Era by Educating Beauty through Labor

The point of labor education for young people in the new era is to enhance their aesthetic personality, to help them affirm their self-worth, improve their interpersonal relationships, enhance their self-aesthetics, and improve their aesthetic realm. In his early work "The Philosophical Manuscripts on Economics 1844", Marx put forward the proposition that "beauty is the objectification of the essential power of man", which refers to the ideal nature of human subjectivity and is a kind of free and conscious activity. The so-called objectification contains three levels: practical objectification, spiritual objectification and symbolic objectification.^[10] The practical objectification in the above expression means that people accomplish the transformation of a specific objective object in the process of practice through certain tools and related technologies so that it can meet the needs of people in material production activities, and the prerequisite for the transformation of a specific objective object is to master its objective laws and essential structure. The prerequisite for the transformation of a specific objective object is the mastery of its objective laws and essential structure, so that it can meet the needs of people in material production activities. In the concrete labor practice of material production, people can deeply understand the unique nature of human beings and strive to be a person who develops freely and comprehensively; they can seriously experience the precious civilization of human beings and seek to be a person who protects civilization and inherits culture; they can feel the insignificance of human beings in front of nature and the many great achievements of the past and present, and strive to be a person who contributes to the country and society. Therefore, cultivating beauty through labor is conducive to further enhancing the personal vision, expanding aesthetic vision, improving aesthetic personality, and enriching aesthetic connotation of young people in the new era on the basis of labor education, improving their ability to discover, appreciate, and create beauty, and singing the "strong voice of aesthetic education".

3. Practical Path of Labor Education for Youth in the New Era

3.1 The Conceptual Level: to Raise the Overall Awareness of the Value of Labor Education

"Labor can effectively measure the comprehensive quality of an individual, and the comprehensive and integrated development of an individual includes not only his or her personality characteristics and professional abilities, but also the labor concept he or she upholds, the labor consciousness he or she stimulates, and the labor practices he or she participates in.^[11] "Whether labor education can achieve practical results depends directly on the new-age youth as the main subject of education, and whether it can fully mobilize the interest in labor of the education subject and bring into play his or her subjective initiative is the key. It is necessary for labor educators in schools to update their concepts in real time, to help students to raise their awareness, to further clarify and affirm the value of labor education in the new era, to further clarify and determine the importance of labor education in combining theory and practice, and to further clarify and explain the deeper significance of labor education in the process of youth's growth and comprehensive development. In the new era, the spiritual essence of labor education is to train young people to establish the correct value concept, to gradually realize the advantages and value of labor in labor practice, to appreciate the spirit of generations of model workers, to deeply appreciate why labor is the greatest, why labor is the most glorious, and why labor is indeed the most beautiful, and to cultivate a positive and motivated spirit to successfully enter society. In addition, schools can invite experts and scholars in labor education, outstanding graduates, and representatives of model workers to hold thematic forums or regular lectures, so that students can empathize with these real people and events and learn the power of advancement. This will help to bring into play the positive role of labor education in the growth and development of young people in the new era.

3.2 The Institutional Level: to Establish the Effective Management Mechanism for Labor Education

Systematically create a new era labor curriculum education system. One of them is to select or write professional supporting teaching materials to meet the reasonable needs of labor education. Schools should offer a separate compulsory public course oriented to labor education, formulate appropriate teaching plans and teaching objectives by combining the school's own strengths and characteristics, students' cognitive rules and growth characteristics, and the personnel training objectives of each major, arrange labor theory and practice classes reasonably, and select or write appropriate labor education teaching materials. Secondly, to dig deep into the appropriate labor education resources is essential. Schools should explore a wide range of teaching resources suitable for students according to their needs, so that the results of labor education can be fed into the needs of students' professional courses and fit the training of professional skills; on the other hand, the spirit of labor education can sharpen students' will to persevere, study, dare to challenge and never give up.

Develop specific contents of labor education in the new era in a hierarchical way. Labor education is rich in content and can meet the needs of workers of different age levels. For young people in the new era, it is more beneficial for them to mobilize their enthusiasm to participate in it by formulating labor education contents that meet their physical and mental development characteristics and cognitive growth rules in a hierarchical manner. For example, the content of labor education for freshmen should focus on cultivating good labor habits and encouraging freshmen to participate in campus club services, campus volunteer work and campus public welfare activities, so that freshmen can adapt to campus life as soon as possible, get rid of anxiety of leaving home and cultivate independent ability. The content of labor education for second-year students

should focus on cultivating professional skills and participating in social practice, promoting the collision and combination of professional theory and labor practice, so that these students can grasp the laws of professional development, clarify the logic and rational understanding, understand the theoretical significance of labor education, affirm the practical value of labor education, and ignite the love for working people and the spirit of labor. The content of labor education for third-year students should focus on enhancing innovation consciousness and promoting students' employment, improving students' professional ability and innovation consciousness according to the practice of this profession, strengthening students' employment preparation and adaptability, and cultivating their ideal belief of serving the motherland, scientific spirit of seeking truth from facts, enterprising consciousness of pioneering and innovation, rigorous and realistic employment attitude and great ambition of building a career.

Construct the management mechanism of labor education in the new era in an all-round way. The school should establish a labor education management mechanism under the unified leadership, with the full cooperation of all departments and a clear division of labor and a standardized system. First, a special leadership group should be set up to plan and coordinate the work of labor education for young people, so as to ensure the smooth and stable operation of all aspects of labor education. Secondly, to build a "trinity" mechanism of labor education, promote the organic integration of family, school and society in labor education, widely accumulate the strength of all parties, fully exploit educational resources, and effectively play the function of cooperative education among family, school and society, so as to create a positive atmosphere for labor education and more effectively cultivate the labor habits of the new era. In order to create a positive atmosphere for labor education and more effectively cultivate the labor habits of young people in the new era.

3.3 The Practical Level: to Realize the Organic Integration of Labor Education, Campus Culture and Social Practice

First, integrate labor education with campus culture. Schools should actively carry out campus cultural activities with labor as the direction and education as the goal, and enrich campus culture in the form of academic salons, labor competitions, campus debates or drama clubs. Especially during the period of epidemic prevention and control, more colorful activities should be held on campus to promote "labor is the most glorious, labor is the greatest, and labor is the most beautiful". Take the upcoming May Day as an opportunity to hold a special event on "Tribute to Model Workers" to inspire students and teachers to learn from labor heroes, promote the spirit of labor, and strive to be models of labor, so as to guide young people in the new era to establish the correct values of labor.

In addition, labor education is organically integrated with social practice. Only when labor education truly penetrates into the social practice of young people, meets the professional practical needs of young people, innovates its educational ways and enriches its educational methods, can it give fullest play to its effectiveness and charm. At present, many vocational colleges and universities have set up practical education bases together with relevant organizations outside school, so that students can participate in professional practice during their study, go out of school and take up positions, fully combine theory and practice, and understand the real situation of the industry, improve professional skills and raise labor awareness in labor practice. These practical activities can fully guide the young people of the new era to not forget the original intention and remember the mission, fully study and practice a lot before graduation, and successfully enter the workplace after graduation to write their own chapter of life. Schools and off-campus training bases should also enrich and innovate the ways and methods of labor practice by combining students' professional specialties as well as their actual needs, so as to increase students' interest in labor education and enhance the actual effect of students in labor education.

3.4 The Evaluation Level: Constructing the Diversified Evaluation System of Labor Education

First, sound student-centered labor education evaluation orientation. A sound and reasonable labor education evaluation system can effectively promote the actual effect of labor education for young people in the new era. As young people in the new era are the main subjects of labor education, the student-centered labor education evaluation orientation should be scientific, reasonable, hierarchical and operable, and take the main subjects of labor education as the base point to evaluate young people in multiple dimensions including labor concepts, labor dynamics, labor processes and labor effects, so as to truly obtain the actual results and gains of students in different evaluation indexes.

In addition, a diversified labor education assessment and evaluation system is established.^[12] Diversified assessment and evaluation of labor education can regulate the whole process of labor education and effectively promote the subjects of labor education, i.e. young students, to be more active and positive in labor education. The assessment and evaluation of labor education can be a part of students' comprehensive evaluation, or even set up special scholarships for labor education, so as to encourage students to actively participate in labor practice and promote the spirit of labor. The assessment and evaluation system of labor education should be based on the combination of theory and practice. On the one hand, students' theoretical skills of labor courses should be assessed in the form of written papers or online answers, and on the other hand, students' practical achievements of labor courses should be assessed by combining their gains in different indicators of labor practice. As for the evaluation method, it should be based on a combination of teacher evaluation, student evaluation and self-evaluation, where teachers are responsible for evaluating students' performance, attitude and effectiveness in the process of labor education practice, and students are responsible for evaluating their own and others' labor education practice contents and insights.

4. Conclusion

In order to implement the cultivation of new-age adolescents who have both patriotic sentiment and professional knowledge and are good at using professional skills to develop comprehensively, fully understand and absorb the contemporary value connotation of labor education, and effectively lead new-age adolescents to cultivate and practice socialist labor values, this paper mainly explores the value and practical path of labor education based on the perspective of cultivating new-age adolescents. It is necessary and meaningful to provide labor education for the new-age youth, but it is not easy to do so overnight. It is necessary to make it more practical and new at the levels of concept, system, practice and evaluation step by step, so as to meet the requirements of the quality of talent cultivation in the new age and better promote the all-round development of the new-age youth in five aspects: moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetic and labor.

Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the Henan Provincial Higher Vocational School Young Backbone Teacher Training Program (Construction of "College English" Excellent Course in Higher Vocational Education in the Context of Curriculum Ideology and Politics) under Grant (number 2020GZGG088).

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