

# *The Connotation, Current Situation and Realization Path of College Students' Labor Education from the Perspective of Lifelong Learning of Moral Virtues*

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**Abstract:** Literacy is the underlying assignment of education, and labor education is an important content of comprehensive development education, studying the scientific connotation of college students' labor education under the perspective of Literacy: establishing correct labor values is the basic premise; The fundamental objective is to promote the development of the man of his time; It then considers the combination of labor and education to be crucial, and dissecting the status quo of labor education: labor education is marginalized; the labor education system is imperfect. The current situation of labor education is analyzed: labor education is marginalized; labor education system is not perfect. Finally, it puts forward three practical paths of labor education: to strengthen the importance of labor education in colleges and universities; to improve the system of labor education in colleges and universities; and its purpose is to establish a correct conception of work among college students. It is of practical importance in training socialist builders and successors and in achieving full development, and for the implementation of the fundamental task of cultivating moral integrity in colleges and universities.

## 1. Introduction

Engels pointed out that “labor creates man himself” [1]. Labor provides a constant source of a force for the Development of Chinese Society, and since the 18th Party Congress, General Secretary has repeatedly emphasized the important role of labor. In his report to the 19th Party Congress, General Secretary called for “fully implementing the Party's education policy, implementing the fundamental task of establishing moral character, developing quality education, advancing equity in education, and fostering socialist builders and successors who are all-rounded in morality, intelligence, physical fitness, and aesthetics [2]. The report of the 20th CPC National Congress points out that the Party's education policy should be comprehensively implemented, the basic task of establishing morals should be accomplished, comprehensive development of morality, intellect, physical strength, and aesthetics must be cultivated in the socialist builders and their successors, the construction of a high-quality education system should be accelerated, quality education should be developed, and educational equity should be promoted [3]. The fundamental purpose of higher education is to establish morals and educate people, and “understanding great virtue”, “abiding by

public morality”, and “strict personal morality” are engraved in the heart of every socialist builder and successor. In May 2018, in a speech at a symposium of teachers and students at Peking University, He stressed that universities are places to learn and nurture talent, where young people can acquire knowledge, develop their talents and realise their dreams. “Do to tree people as the core, to establish virtue as the fundamental” [4]. Education for work is not only an important part of education for global development, but also an indispensable condition for the implementation of the underlying assignment of establishing ethics. For one thing, labor education is conducive to students to obtain knowledge, sharpen their will, improve themselves and comprehensive development, which also puts into practice Marx's demands for comprehensive human development; for another thing, it allows college students to deepen their understanding of labor, so that they can love labor, actively participate in labor and form the concept of the most glorious labor. Undoubtedly, labor education is a requirement for cultivating new generations with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physicality, aesthetics and labor under the perspective of moral education. Therefore, grasping the fundamental implications of education in the workplace in terms of moral development and human education, analyzing the problems of labor education for college students and actively exploring the practical path will help to cultivate socialist builders and successors with all-round development, and to carry out its basic mission of cultivating morality and educating the people.

## **2. The Connotation of College Students' Labor Education in the Perspective of Establishing Virtue and Enriching People**

Labor education has rich connotations and distinctive features. Its basic premise is to establish correct labor values, its fundamental goal is to cultivate newcomers of the times with comprehensive development, and its essential requirement is to insist on the combination of labor and education.

### **2.1. Establishing Correct Labor Values Is a Basic Prerequisite**

The progress of the times has given labor more meaning and mission, and labor is the magic weapon for our party to lead the people to achieve the "two centenary" goals, and it is also the only way for people to realize their ideals. Education for work is an important part of national education, and the goal of labor education is to help students establish a correct conception of work, stimulate students' enthusiasm for labor, cultivate students' excellent labor quality, and respect the labor achievements of working people. In 2016, General Secretary emphasized that "working people are the masters of the country, and young people are the successors of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the future of the country and the hope of the nation." We must build a moderately prosperous society in an all-round way, and to build a modern, prosperous, strong, democratic, civilized, and harmonious socialist state and achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, we must rely on knowledge, labor, and the vast number of young people" [5]. Labor provides an inexhaustible driving force for the progress and development of society, and labor education for students occupies an important place in Chinese university education. In a collective dialogue with the new leadership members of the Chinese National Federation of Trade Unions, General Secretary stressed that the education of the vast number of young people should be strengthened, so that the concept of the most brilliant, high-minded, great and wonderful work of art should turn into common knowledge [6]. College students in the critical period of their lives have not yet formed complete values, and their psychology has not yet fully developed, and correct guidance is crucial at this time, and only under the correct guidance can they not deviate from the original course. As the builder and successor of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, the labor values of

the vast number of young people represent the labor values and social civilization of the future society. Therefore, labor education for college students should be such that students have respect and love for labor, cultivate students' ability to innovate and create and keep pace with the times, practice the concept of the most beautiful and glorious labor, and it also constantly encourages the moral, intellectual, physical, artistic, and work development of its students.

## **2.2. Fostering Comprehensive Development of the New Man of the Age as a Fundamental Goal**

When the youth are strong, the country is strong. The development of the country needs young people, the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics needs to train generations of builders and successors, Work education directly determines the spirit of work, the orientation to the value of work, and the socialist constructors and successors of work skills [7]. Cultivating a new generation of people with all-round development in morality, intelligence, physicality, aesthetics and labor is the fundamental goal of college students' labor education, as well as the underlying assignment of implementing the concept of “defending people's morality and education”. College students' labor education lays the foundation for the cultivation of socialist builders and successors, thus rightly recognizing the importance of workplace education in a holistic system of educational knowledge about morality, intelligence, physical fitness, aesthetics and labor, and emphasizing the status of labor in the comprehensive development of education. Labor education in colleges and universities is an indispensable education for college students in the new era. In order to promote the development of socialist modernization and cultivate more high-level and high-quality talents, labor education must be incorporated into the talent training system. First of all, college students receive labor education, which is conducive to the combination of labor education with moral education, intellectual education, physical education and aesthetic education, so as to play a better value of human education. Secondly, through labor education for college students, colleges and universities are conducive to cultivating college students' good character of diligence, thrift, hard work, innovation and creativity, inheriting and carrying forward the superior conventional labor content of the Chinese nation, better practicing the socialist core values, and contribute to the modernization of Chinese education, thus adding bricks and mortar to the comprehensive construction of a modernized socialist country. Finally, through the systematic labor education for college students, colleges and universities can help students form a correct view of labor, so that students can truly love labor and respect the fruits of the labor of working people from the inside. Colleges and universities should also carry out labor education reform, to provide students with more practical opportunities, so that college students labor education to take root [8].

## **2.3. Adherence to the Combination of Labor and Education as an Essential Requirement**

Marx believed that “the accumulation of productive labor with education is one of the powerful means of transforming modern society” [9]. Adherence to the accumulation of education and productive labor is an important element of China's education policy. In “On the Correct Handling of Internal Contradictions among the People,” “Our education policy must encourage educated people to develop in various feature, including moral education, intellectual and physical education, and turn into educated and socially conscious workers. The combination of labor and education during this period promoted the advancement of husbandry and industry in China at that time. These have greatly enriched the denotation of combining education and productive labor. Labor education for Higher Education Students in the New Era focuses on the integration of education and work, allowing students to carry out labor practice in their daily lives, and helping students to master the necessary labor skills and knowledge in their lives. At the same time, it should

emphasize the concept of education at work in a new era, reflect the direction of socialist school running and the modernization of Chinese-style education, provide students with as many practical opportunities as possible, and let students use their scientific and cultural knowledge to serve the society and reinforce their emotion of social accountability in labor, so that they can experience the process of creating both material and spiritual wealth, so that college students can improve their labor ability and realize the true meaning of combining production labor with education and labor education. The accumulation of production labor and education and the unification of teaching, learning, and practice in labor education form a solid foundation for the development of socialist builders and successors with full moral, intellectual, physique, aesthetic, and labor development.

### **3. The Current Situation of College Students' Labor Education in the Perspective of Lifelong Learning of Moral Virtues**

Labor education is an important part of China's socialist education system, and it is also an education policy traditionally adhered to by the Communist Party of China (CPC), and the position of labor education in the education system is crucial. China's colleges and universities have gradually increased the importance of labor education, and labor education has made some achievements, and the students' hands-on ability has been improved to some extent, but students' vocational training is also flawed in many respects, and a few college students do not have sufficient knowledge of the contents and characteristics of labor education, which leads to the implementation of labor education is not smooth enough and is full of all kinds of problems, and workplace education is marginalized, and the workplace education system is not pristine, thus making the effect of labor education not obvious.

#### **3.1. Marginalization of Labor Education**

Labor education in Chinese university education still has relatively weak links, and labor education is gradually being marginalized because many universities do not implement Party policies and guidelines, and teachers do not fully understand the importance of labor education. With the constant development of society, the phenomenon of emphasizing mental labor over physical labor and professional education over labor education has emerged, affecting college students' knowledge of labor education. First, many teachers do not recognize that education for work is an important significant in the development process of their pupils. Teachers and students do not pay enough attention to labor education, and the way labor education is implemented is relatively single. The way labor education activities are conducted is not innovative and does not stimulate students' interest in labor, and some students treat labor education classes as recreational subjects. Second, labor education for college students is mixed with other moral education and creative and entrepreneurial education, there is no syllabus and teaching plan for labor education subjects, there are no special institutions and personnel to study the theory and practice of labor education, and there is no material and institutional guarantee in the process of labor education, making it difficult to ensure the professionalism and effectiveness of labor education difficult, limiting the implementation and development of labor education in universities. Finally, Universities do not make the link between work and education very well and do not play a role in education for work, so help for university students to improve the quality of their labor is very limited. Because of the influence of wrong social atmosphere, most college students do not have a positive sense of labor, do not like labor, and do not want to engage in physical labor. College students regard labor education as an activity, focusing only on the results and rewards of labor. It neglects the essential value of humanistic education in labor education, which affects the formation of college students' labor values.

### 3.2. Inadequate Labor Education System

The question of “what kind of human resources to train, how to train them, and for whom?” is a fundamental issue in education, and is also an important issue in professional education at college, but at present the labor education system for college students in China is still in the process of continuous improvement and still has many problems. First, the labor education curriculum system and education plan are not perfect, and the labor training activities inside and outside school are too formal, such as campus cleaning, campus greening, social practice for college students, and book arrangement, etc., and the impact of labor education is not obvious. The teaching materials of labor education for college students lack modernity, ideology, and practicality, the means of labor education are fixed and unchanging, the teaching methods are relatively single, students are not highly motivated to learn, and the lack of construction of academic disciplines related to labor education limits the advancement of labor education. Second, labor education lacks a systematic management mechanism. Labor education is a practical activity that requires human, material, and financial resources, involves mutual cooperation, and involves many sectors. Due to the lack of a systematic management mechanism, the responsibilities of each department are unclear, and some teachers are not highly motivated to implement labor education. In addition, labor education is not systematized, there is no corresponding financial guarantee for labor education, and the venues and facilities required for labor education courses are not complete, which affects the development of labor education. The facilities are also not complete, affecting the advancement of labor education. Third, the evaluation and assessment mechanism of labor education is not sound, the subject of evaluation is relatively single, mainly the higher departments and teachers evaluate students unilaterally, and the evaluation results are one-sided. Universities have not formed evaluation standards and evaluation methods for college students' labor education, and the assessment results of labor education are often announced in unified examinations, which cannot reflect the actual teaching results of teachers, nor can they see the changes that labor education has brought to students. At the same time, there is short of evaluation guidelines correlative to teachers' teaching.

### 3.3. Ineffectiveness of Labor Education

In recent years, China emphasizes work-oriented education and the holistic development of students, including morality, intelligence, physique, aesthetics, and good looks. Although labor education has achieved some success, it has not achieved the expected results. College students in the new era have a different view of labor, and the influence of false values such as gold worship, hedonism, and individualism in the traditional concept of labor education, as well as ideas that devalue labor, have created various wrong tendencies in many college students. First, in a modern and innovative society, where advancements are plentiful and communication is instantaneous, science and technology are a part of everyday life. Labor values have become more selfish, and some college students have been increasingly influenced by various inappropriate statements and false reports, spreading the current ideas such as “all things are inferior, only books are expensive,” etc. Under the influence of these ideas, some students have come to believe that only academic background is necessary and education is not necessary. Under the influence of these ideas, some college students have become greedy for pleasure, thinking that only education is necessary and not labor or exercise, losing enthusiasm for labor, pursuing material pleasures too much, not thinking about making progress, focusing only on their own interests, and becoming sophisticated egoists. Second is the phenomenon of conflict between labor practice and study. Many parents consider labor education unimportant and do not allow their children to do anything other than study, thus keeping their children away from labor practice for a long time. After their children enter college, some college students have a weak work ethic, poor self-discipline, and lack a sense of

responsibility for their labor, which later leads them to become high-strung and averse to labor when choosing a job. Third, there is a divergence in perceptions of labor. Some college students do not have a positive work ethic and correct attitude toward labor, treat labor with a passive and lax attitude, lack proper labor training, think labor only makes them suffer, look down on grassroots workers, belittle the fruits of labor, and fail to recognize the glory and greatness of labor.

## **4. The Realization Path of College Students' Labor Education in the Perspective of Establishing Morality and Educating People**

### **4.1. Strengthening the Importance of Labor Education in Higher Education Institutions**

In the new period, colleges and universities shoulder the important mission of establishing moral education, and college education is the most crucial part of college students' labor education. School leaders should strengthen the importance of college students' labor education, include labor education in the focus of college education, and integrate labor education into college students' daily life, learning and practice from all aspects and links. First of all, teachers should innovate the way of labor education, adhere to the combination of online network resources and offline systematic resources, carry out online and offline mixed teaching, not only to strengthen the inculcation of students' knowledge of labor, but also to strengthen the guidance of students' labor skills, so that the way of labor education is gradually diversified, so as to help students to make a comprehensive body of knowledge about their work and increase students motivation. Secondly, it is essential to reinforce the structure of labor education disciplines, create a high-quality, high-level labor education faculty, help students establish the values of glorious labor and great labor, and enhance students' sense of responsibility for labor. In addition, focusing on the creation of a labor culture atmosphere on campus, inviting labor models into the campus, into the classroom, so that everyone can feel the importance of labor, according as strengthen the infectious force of labor education. Finally, labor education is integrated into the various majors of colleges and universities to advance the innovative advancement of the labor education system for college students, and teachers can also intentionally approach labor education when teaching professional knowledge. Give full play to the role of labor education and professional education to promote each other, so that students do both hands, both hands must be hard, one hand to grasp the professional knowledge, one hand to grasp the train of labor, so that students in the mastery of professional knowledge and skills simultaneously, but also stimulate the enthusiasm of the students' labor and creativity.

### **4.2. Improvement of the Labor Education System in Colleges and Universities**

At present, in order to ensure that the labor education of college students in the field of college students' moral education to play its efficacy of educating people, The university's workplace education system needs to be improved, which can be in terms of the three reasons: firstly, the construction of a set of perfect labor education system, the use of diversified teaching methods, scientific design of the labor education curriculum. The main way to carry out labor education in colleges and universities is in the classroom, and the ideological and political classes are a vital part of ideological and political education at universities, which can combine labor education and ideological and political education, give full play to the nurturing function of both, so that students can realize the importance of labor education and set up a correct Marxist view of labor, and promote the smooth implementation of labor education. Secondly, improve the labor education guarantee mechanism, in order to improve the effect of labor education, colleges and universities must establish a systematic management mechanism, coordinate the various departments, clarify the work responsibilities of each department, each in its own way, and incorporate labor education into

the daily work, so as to make labor education a reality. In addition, it is essential to elevate the investment in labor education funds, do a good job in the construction of labor education related supporting facilities, set up special scholarships for labor education, and inspire students to improve their labor literacy. Thirdly, valuation mechanisms for vocational training at universities should be improved, formulate unified evaluation standards for labor education, organically combine students' self-assessment, mutual assessment of classmates and teacher's evaluation, and realize an all-round and multi-level examination of college students' labor literacy through a variety of labor practice results and various competitions, etc., and improve the evaluation system of labor education, which has a very important role to play in improving the overall effect of college students' labor education. This is essential to amend the overall effectiveness of professional training for university students.

### **4.3. College Students Should Establish the Correct Concept of Labor**

Marx pointed out that “Any nation that quit to labor, needless to say for a year, or even for a few weeks, will fall away, and this is known to every little child. Labor is necessary for human survival and development, and labor is also necessary for the self-development and subjective advancement of college students. In order to confirm a correct notion of labor and make a good environmental atmosphere for labor education, the following are necessary. First of all, universities should respect the laws of labor education, inculcate good work habits in students, and cultivate a labor spirit of diligence, thrift, frugality, hard work, and selfless dedication. In addition, college students should pay more attention to positive news on the Internet, learn to consciously resist the spread of negative ideas, use correct labor concepts to guide their practice, stay in the field, and feel the positive emotional value of labor. Second, the family must play a basic role in labor education; parents are the first teachers of their children. Parents' attention to the nurturing function of labor education, establishing the concept of equality in labor, correctly perceiving the relationship between learning and labor, encouraging their children to do simple chores and reinforcing the practice of labor in learning, will help their children's overall development and healthy growth. Finally, in order to establish the correct concept of labor choice, that there is no superiority in labor and that all labor is equal, college students in the new era should eliminate discrimination against physical labor and affirm the contributions of workers from all walks of life to the construction and development of the nation. Furthermore, college students should strengthen their self-education on labor, correct their attitude toward labor, actively learn the excellent qualities of exemplary workers and the spirit of diligence and dedication, make reasonable career plans, strengthen labor exercises, acquire good work habits through labor practice, and integrate their personal struggle into the wave of the times.

## **5. Summary**

Labor education is a practical necessity for implementing the basic mission of establishing moral education and realizing the overall development of college students. Universities should strengthen labor education, cultivate correct labor values in students, and make them apprehend the significance and status of work in working-class education. Emphasizing labor education for college students and cultivating young college students of high ability, quality, and level is an objective requirement for realizing China's dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Under the unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee, the labor education of college students must be implemented in an orderly manner, emphasizing the core of college, sounding out the labor education system for college students, and cooperating with schools and society to truly achieve the goal of educating the people through labor.

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