Research on the Informatization of Labor Education in Colleges and Universities in the New Era

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Nowadays, the society has entered the era of informatization. Artificial intelligence (AI), virtual reality (VR), big data, cloud computing, and other new technologies emerged one-by-one. The Party Central Committee attaches high attention to the Chinese education development in the new era and proposed the education policy of simultaneous focusing on five educations. Among them, labor education is very important. This paper gives some opinions on how to combine labor education and informatization in colleges and universities in China in the new era.

Keywords: labor education, informatization, colleges and universities

Introduction

And the basis of the experiment of Robert Owen combining production labor and education, in Capital: Critique of Political Economy, Marx proposed the thinking of overall development combining education and production labor. After the founding of the new China, due to the idea of running school focusing on scores and examinations, labor education is ignored. The rapid development of society and technology has also changed the traditional environment of labor education. It is weakened and ignored by schools, the society, and families.

In 2018, on the National Education Conference, general secretary Xi Jinping proposed the working requirement of “constructing the education system of all-around development of moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetics and labor education” and stressed on the importance of labor education. He stressed that we should carry out the labor spirit among students and guide students to advocate and respect labor by education. They should not know that labor is the most honorable, lofty, and beautiful. After they grow up, they can work hard, honestly, and innovatively (People’s Daily, September 11, 2018). In March 2020, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council issued Opinions on Comprehensively Strengthening the Labor Education in Universities, Middle Schools, and Primary Schools in the New Era (hereafter referred to as The Opinions). The Opinions pointed out that labor education should be incorporated into the national course plan of middle schools and primary schools and the talent cultivation plan of vocational colleges and general institutes of higher education and a perfect set of labor education system should be established in universities, middle schools, and primary schools. Ordinary higher educational institutions should define that labor education should mainly rely on courses and combine characteristics of discipline and specialty into the content of labor education. In July 2020, the Ministry of Education issued the Guidance Outline of Labor Education of Universities, Middle Schools, and Primary Schools (Trial) (hereafter referred to as The Outline). The Outline
defines the labor education concept in the new era and objectives and content of labor education of universities, middle schools, and primary schools. It emphasizes that “the ordinary institutes of higher education should strengthen the labor concept education of Marxism, pay attention to production labor and service labor around innovation and entrepreneurship combined with discipline and specialty, accumulate the career experience, and develop the creative labor ability and the legal labor awareness of honesty and trustworthiness” (People’s Daily, September 11, 2018).

**Characteristics of Labor Education of Colleges and Universities in the New Era**

In the current society, the informatization develops fast and the digital industry constantly expands. It is an era of Internet of everything, artificial intelligence, and science and technology production. The form of labor has great changes. The most prominent manifestation is that the informatization production has become the leading form of social labor (Ban, 2019). The new normal form of the Chinese society has changed into the information society, and the form of labor education has become the production and utilization of knowledge, especially the comprehensive application of high technology. Under the background of the informatization era, how labor education should combine characteristics of the era and how we should pay more attention to modernization, informatization, and knowledge labor education is one of the focuses that we should consider and study.

According to *The Opinions*, labor education should “show characteristics of the era.” Information technology, Internet of things, artificial intelligence, 5G, big data, and others are constantly upgraded. Students in colleges and universities have high learning ability and ability to accept new things. Colleges and universities should not only rely on physical labor for labor education of the college students, but also should pay more attention to the combination of informatization and labor education and show characteristics of the era of informatization in the process of labor education.

**Problems of Labor Education of College Students in the Era of Informatization**

Through the combination of quantitative research and qualitative analysis, Chen Weixia summarized the current situation of labor education of college students with “awareness,” “feelings,” “idea,” and “action” in terms of concept and value, feelings and attitude, habits and will, and skills and innovation of labor. The specific manifestations are as follows:

**Awareness**

Lack of awareness of labor. It is mainly shown by awareness of the labor concept system. Seen from the investigation results, many college students fail to sufficiently and systematically grasp the labor system.

**Feelings**

They do not participate in labor actively. According to the investigation, only 14.73% of college students love to participate in labor and have the high skills of labor. And in the process of labor, some of them are not serious. It indicates that college students do not participate in labor actively.

**Will**

They are not willing to participate in labor. In the labor education that requires hands and brain, college students should have the spirit of being persistent and working hard. Many students say that they have never participated in social practice, part-time work, and other activities. For the plan of their career, they are not
willing to serve to the basic level when they choose their job. It can be seen that this result must be related to less or no labor education in the school.

Action

They lack creation in labor. Because many teachers do not pay attention to the introduction of labor education and guidance of labor values in teaching, they lack the guidance of labor education in the actual teaching process. It can be seen that the existing labor education system is not perfect. The judgment and basis of some practice courses are too limited and free. Students cannot really practice themselves and improve their creation ability.

Informatization of Labor Education in Colleges and Universities

Online and Offline Combination of Labor Education in Colleges and Universities

According to The Outline, in the process of labor education, colleges and universities should pay attention to the application of new knowledge, new technology, new process, and new method, so that students can improve their ability of employment and entrepreneurship. The traditional labor education focuses more on practice, working, physical exercise, and tempering in the actual life. However, for reasons, such as site and resources, at present, in college and students, offline practice activities of labor education are not ideal. In the process of labor education, most resources come from the actual life. Teachers in colleges and universities can deeply explore materials on Internet, carefully integrate offline resources, upload stories and life cases they select on Internet, and consider the Internet as one of the platforms on which students accept the labor idea education and cultivate labor sentiment and correct labor values. They should continuously improve teaching models, innovate the education forms, and use AI, VR and other technologies to guide students to work creatively and intelligently and in service combined with the characteristics of their discipline and major. Through the combination of online and offline activities and the integration of information technology, labor education can be carried out more efficiently by breaking through the limitations of time and space.

Labor Education in Colleges and Universities by Internet

The information era cannot go without the development of the network. People’s daily life cannot go without the computer network, the education form of “Internet +” continuously develop and innovate. Colleges and universities should use characteristics of computer network, network of labor education; realize the reasonable sharing and distribution of labor education resources and work hard to improve the efficiency. The service labor can rely on computer network. Colleges and universities can guide students to focus on public welfare activities of various official media, and popularize network volunteer activities. They should not only conform to the characteristics of students in the new era, but also meet different interests and needs. For example, they can organize students to participate in online public welfare labor with various forms and themes, such as skill teaching, environmental protection action, and comfort.

Development and Use of the Labor Education Informatization Management Platform

Labor education informatization in colleges and universities should not only focus on the implementation, but also focus on the management of labor education courses. Colleges and universities can develop the corresponding information management platform, make the teaching management of labor courses, realize the informatization of labor education course management of college students, rely on the platform for the whole-process information management of sign-in, performance assessment, and labor evaluation of students;
and build the student labor database, store labor participation and other relevant data of students at all grades, establish the student labor education files, incorporate evaluation related to labor education into students’ comprehensive quality evaluation, and make students pay more attention to labor education. At the same time, with information technologies, such as big data, they can improve the existing labor education evaluation mechanism and system, solve the problem of evaluation difficulties of labor education process, and improve the evaluation system structure by building better evaluation indexes and an intelligent evaluation platform, so that the student labor education evaluation has more objective and real data feedback from being admitted by school to the end of their school life and the labor education is constantly optimized.

Strengthen the Understanding of Informationized Labor Education of Students

Labor automation is one of the features of the information era, and the access threshold of labor is also higher and higher. Workers without corresponding knowledge and technologies may be eliminated first, which means that in the information era workers should have sufficient information knowledge and methods. How to allow students to understand the trend may be one of the challenges of labor education informatization currently. The fundamental way to solve this problem is the popularization of information technology, improvement of informatization level and information quality of students, and fully grasping of the basic ability of information-based labor production. The labor education in school must be combined with knowledge and education of other subjects. Students should receive the labor education in the information era in terms of life planning, time management, money management, and other aspects.

Conclusion

In the new era, college students have higher requirements and standards. Universities should actively meet the relevant requirements of The Outline and The Opinions, combine with the current situation of implementation of labor education and characteristics of the era, firmly grasp the concept of student labor education, effectively carry out the labor education in colleges and universities, and implement all-round development of college students in the new era.

References

At the National Education Conference Xi Jinping stresses that we should adhere to the path of socialist education development and cultivate builders and successors with all-around development of moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetics and labor education. People’s Daily, September 11, 2018.
