

# Ideological and Political Education in Chinese Medicine Schools in Special Periods

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## ABSTRACT

During the period of the coronavirus epidemic, major colleges and universities in my country implemented the policy of "suspending classes without leaving school, leaving school without leaving teaching", and successively launched online education platforms. As a treasure of Traditional Chinese culture, Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) culture has been effective in fighting COVID-19. As the envoys of TCM culture inheritance and dissemination, ideological and political education in TCM colleges and universities is particularly important. During the outbreak of the epidemic, it is a practical need to use online platforms to conduct ideological and political education for students in Chinese medicine colleges. There are advantages and disadvantages for TCM colleges and universities to use the network platform to carry out ideological and political education for students. This article elaborates their ideological and political education work in combination with the characteristics of TCM colleges and universities.

**Keywords:** *traditional Chinese medicine colleges and universities, ideological and political education, network platform*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

With the outbreak of the COVID-19, people's lives have been affected. In order to prevent the spread of the epidemic, the outbreak areas have taken measures of containment, isolation and even city lockdown. Students come from all over the country. In areas severely affected by the epidemic, colleges and universities have been delay the new school term, and students from medium-high risk areas have also been delay to return to school. However, education cannot be stopped. Therefore, the national universities and colleges actively respond to the national call, with the help of the network platform, to carry out online education.

Education is the foundation of a country.[1] TCM is a science that originated and developed in China. It takes holism as a guiding principle. In addition, TCM studies the laws of occurrence development prevention and treatment of diseases. TCM is also committed to the study of health improvement and lifespan expansion through life nurturing and rehabilitation. In short, TCM is the ultimate symbiosis of theory and practice and it is a unique life science with Chinese features.[2] In TCM colleges and universities, according to their own

characteristics and development laws, the ideological and political education in TCM colleges also has particularity.

## 2. THE NECESSITY OF IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION IN TCM COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN SPECIAL PERIODS

### 2.1. The Practical Needs of the Cultural Inheritance and Development of TCM

The culture of TCM is extensive and profound, and has a long history. It carries the humanistic values, ideas and moral standards of traditional Chinese culture that have lasted for thousands of years.[3] The development and inheritance of TCM culture determines the quality of medical development in China to a certain extent. The lack of high-level talents, the lack of talents at the grassroots level and the unbalanced distribution of the structure are still the key link restricting the development of TCM. The 14th Five-Year Plan period is a strategic opportunity for the revitalization and development of TCM, and a large number of high-quality TCM talents and reserve forces are urgently needed.[4] Students of

TCM colleges and universities are the messengers of TCM culture inheritance and development. Integrating TCM culture into the ideological and political education of TCM colleges and universities can enhance students' sense of mission and identity to a certain extent. Through TCM culture education, students can correctly understand the scientific nature of TCM, strengthen the confidence of TCM, and promote the spread of TCM culture.

## ***2.2. Strengthen the Need to Develop the Path of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics***

In the early days of the fight against COVID-19, people have insufficient understanding of the pathogenesis, transmission routes and prevention and control measures of COVID-19, and online rumors are everywhere. Due to the smaller grades of college students, the ability to judge right and wrong is insufficient. Therefore, under the influence of some untrue remarks, they lack confidence in China's epidemic prevention and control, and even have doubts about the socialist system with special characteristics.[5] Under such circumstances, colleges and universities should undertake the mission of education. They should not only teach the professional knowledge of TCM, but also strengthen the political and ideological education of students and cultivate their self-confidence. Marxism is the fundamental guiding ideology for building our Party and country. Under the guidance of The CPC's Marxist ideology, China's COVID-19 prevention and control work has achieved good results. In the ideological and political education of college students, colleges and universities should strengthen the explanation of Marx's theory to firm the ideals and beliefs of students.

The fourth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of CPC pointed out that China's state system and state governance system have many obvious advantages, one of which is motivating all sectors, pooling all resources, and coordinating all our efforts to complete key national undertakings;[6] January 24: Dispatch of national medical teams to Hubei and Wuhan began. In the ensuing period, a total of 346 medical teams composed of 42,600 medical workers and 965 public health workers from across the country and the armed forces were dispatched.[7] In times of crisis, the institutional advantages of concentrating on big things have once again been clearly demonstrated to the world. The fact proves that pooling resources to accomplish major tasks is a prominent feature of the strength of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics and a magic weapon for overcoming major risks and challenges. The path of socialism with Chinese characteristics has always adhered to the people-centered approach, putting people's lives, health and safety first. In terms of medical assistance, the state provides free medical assistance to all COVID-19 patients. According to statistics, the

average treatment cost for mild COVID-19 patients is more than 17,000 yuan per person, while the average treatment cost of severe COVID-19 patients is over 150,000 yuan, and the average treatment cost of more severe COVID-19 patients is up to one million yuan. All these expenses are beyond the reach of ordinary people. In order to ensure the safety of people's lives and relieve patients of their worries, our state immediately launched the policy of free treatment for COVID-19 and so on.[8] All these highlight the institutional advantages of the social path with Chinese characteristics. Thus, when conducting ideological and political education in Chinese medicine schools, adding the outstanding efficacy of TCM in the fight against the COVID-19 is conducive to students' confidence in the path of socialist development with Chinese characteristics.

## ***2.3. Self-development Needs of Students in TCM Colleges and Universities***

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, China's medical education has flourished and has sent a large number of high-quality medical talents to the cause of health. Medical workers trained in China's medical education have played an important role in COVID-19 prevention and control. But at the same time, in the face of the new challenges posed by the epidemic situation, the new task of carrying out the "Healthy China initiative" and the new requirements of medical development in the world, there are still some problems in China's medical education, such as the need to optimize the structure of talent training, improve the quality of training and improve the ability of medical innovation, etc.[9] In daily teaching, it is necessary to combine traditional Chinese medicine culture with ideological and political education, and educate students to form a correct worldviews and values. The object that medical students face in their future jobs is patient. Therefore, it requires that TCM colleges should also focus on cultivating students' scientific literacy, rigorous scientific attitude and rich humanistic literacy and humanistic spirit. The improvement of their ideological, moral and legal consciousness and the recognition of TCM culture cannot be ignored. Students should absorb its virtues and to resist its dark side. Nowadays, with the rapid development of medical technology, the cultivation of medical ethics is particularly important. Medical students should achieve the echo of external medical technology and internal self-restraint.

### **3. CHALLENGES FACED BY TCM COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN CONDUCTING IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION DURING THE EPIDEMIC PERIOD**

#### ***3.1. Disadvantages of Online Education Platforms***

Under the impact of COVID-19, online education platforms have become the main platforms for teaching in colleges and universities. How to use online education platform to carry out effective ideological and political education for students is currently a major challenge faced by colleges and universities. In the process of online classes or watching recorded classes, students have poor self-discipline and lack of concentration, and the efficiency of knowledge absorption in ideological and political education courses is reduced. There is less interaction between teachers and students and students' sense of participation in the classroom is reduced, so that their learning enthusiasm is greatly reduced. The integration of the traditional offline education model and the online education model is not enough, resulting in the weakening of the expected effect of online classroom teaching.

#### ***3.2. The Study of Medical Theory is Divorced from Clinical Practice***

Medical education has its particularity, and TCM education is no exception. The study of TCM not only requires the learning of basic theoretical knowledge but also the application of clinical practice to consolidate the content learned. Network platform education will separate students from clinical practice, so that the study of theoretical knowledge and clinical practice are separated. Therefore, in the process of learning, students' sense of identification with professional knowledge declines, their mastery of practical skills is not solid enough, they do not believe in TCM. So their awareness of medical ethics is weak, and their humanistic spirit is lacking. Often, students are still unclear about their career positioning when they graduate, which seriously affects the attitude and enthusiasm of students to learn, and it is difficult for schools to cultivate to meet the needs of hospitals and society for TCM talents.

### **4. WAYS TO CARRY OUT IDEOLOGICAL EDUCATION TO STUDENTS OF TCM COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES DURING EPIDEMIC PERIOD**

#### ***4.1. Build An Online Education Platform***

With the development of the economy and science and technology of the times, information network technology has also developed rapidly, and people's lifestyles have also been subtly affected. College students are quick to accept new things. For them, network culture is more attractive, and network platforms are popular among them. Thus, for colleges and universities, using digital network platforms to educate students ideologically and politically is a very good choice. Which is also in line with the ideological call for suspension of school. According to their own situation, TCM colleges and universities use online platforms to carry out ideological and political education with the characteristics of TCM culture. Teachers correctly guide students to establish correct values, rationally view the complicated news of public opinion during the epidemic period, and do not believe or spread rumors. At the same time, TCM colleges and universities use online platforms to carry out ideological and political education, which can enable students to enhance their sense of national identity and enhance their patriotic feelings. In addition, teachers can also guide students to use their professional advantages to contribute to the fight against the epidemic and tell the story of the fight against the epidemic.

#### ***4.2. Formulate Ideological and Political Education Courses with The Characteristics of TCM***

Chinese medicine culture is the key to opening the treasure house of Chinese traditional culture. The law of combining TCM culture with ideological and political education requires that TCM colleges and universities should consider their own particularity in training students, and highlight the importance of combining TCM culture education with ideological and political education from the perspective of the occupation characteristics of future students. [10]TCM schools can create "double integration" classrooms and play the role of the main channel of classroom teaching. It also can integrate TCM culture into the teaching of ideological and political courses, and create ideological and political courses with characteristics of TCM colleges and universities. The School of Marxism can cooperate with the Museum of Medical History to jointly create an online education platform that integrates ideological and political teaching elements with the cultural elements of museum exhibits, and then spreads through Wechat, Weibo, Bilibili and other network platforms. This can not

only promote the dissemination of TCM culture, but also increase the educational content of interest, which is also in line with the interests of today's college students.

#### ***4.3. Convince Students with the Outstanding Achievements of TCM in the Fight Against COVID-19***

The COVID-19 pandemic is urgent and has strong transmission, which is a major public health emergency. Due to students lack of social experience, and they are very prone to over-reactive psychological and behavioral reactions. Prolonged stay-at-home quarantine or school closure policies have caused some students to feel anxious and even depressed. During the prevention and control of COVID-19, schools should use the online education platform to conduct ideological and political education for students, so that students believe in the party and the government, and enhance students' self-confidence in epidemic prevention.[5]The thorough intervention of TCM plays an important role in the prevention and treatment of COVID-19, which can effectively reduce the incidence of COVID-19 to serious rate, the mortality rate, promote the nucleic acid to negative, improve the cure rate, speed up recovery and relieve complications. Chinese medicine schools should organize corresponding theme activities, so that students can timely and effectively understand the prominent role of TCM in the treatment of COVID-19. That not only can increase students' self-confidence in fighting the epidemic, but also enhance students' professional identity. In addition, Chinese medicine gymnastics can effectively alleviate anxiety, so Chinese medicine schools should give full play to their own advantages, carry out online TCM gymnastics teaching activities, which both through exercise to enhance everyone's physical fitness and alleviate negative emotions.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

The outbreak of COVID-19 has had a huge impact on the teaching work of colleges and universities across the country. It is challenging for contemporary college students to convert traditional offline teaching to online teaching. The ideological and political education of students in TCM colleges and universities has its particularity, and its teaching quality largely affects the inheritance of traditional Chinese culture and medical ethics. To transform ideological and political education from the traditional offline model to the online model, teachers and students need a transitional stage, which needs to be explored together, to maximize the advantages of online ideological and political education, and to ensure the steady improvement of online teaching quality.

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