



Exploration and Analysis of Digitization of Ideological and Political Education in Colleges and Universities

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Abstract. In recent years, the strategic action of education digitization has achieved remarkable results. Under the continuous promotion and implementation of the strategic action of education digitization, the Ideological and Political Education in colleges and universities is also facing opportunities and challenges. Using data analysis and examples, this paper analyzes the significance and need of digitization of Ideological and Political Education. By strengthening the digital empowerment and utilizing digital technology, it aims at improving teachers' digital thinking skills and education skills, reforming the carriers and methods of Ideological and Political Education, integrating data resources and improving the interactivity of classroom teaching, in order to innovate the form of Ideological and Political Education and enhance its effectiveness in colleges and universities.

Keywords: digitization; Ideological and Political Education; Higher Education Management

1 Introduction

“Ideological and Political Work is the Party's fine tradition, distinctive features and outstanding political advantages, and is the lifeline of all work.”^[1] Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping at its core has attached great importance to Ideological and Political Work and Education. In colleges and universities, Ideological and Political Work is related to the fundamental question of what kind of people colleges and universities cultivate, how to cultivate people and for whom to cultivate people. It is the lifeline of various tasks in colleges and universities. In 2020, the Ministry of Education (MOE) and eight other departments issued the Opinions on Accelerating the Construction of the Ideological and Political Work System in Colleges and Universities, defined seven reform directions for theoretical armament, subject teaching, daily education, etc.^[2]

In the digital age, the digitization of Ideological and Political Education is now a topic of widespread concern. The key points of the work of the Department of Moral Education of MOE in 2023 clearly put forward to further strengthen the digital empowerment. At the 2024 National Education Work Conference, it was proposed that continuously opening up a new track of education digitization is one of the key tasks of the Ministry of Education's education work throughout this year. The report to the 20th

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CPC National Congress included “digitization of education” in it for the first time, stressed that the digitization of education should be strongly promoted.^[3]

In order to further implement the spirit of General Secretary Xi Jinping's speeches in National Conference on Ideological and Political Work of Colleges and Universities, at the forum for teachers of Ideological and Political theory courses in schools, and accelerate the modernization process of education, Ideological and Political Education in colleges and universities must keep abreast of the times, advance according to the times, and innovate according to the situation. By utilizing digital technology, reforming and innovating the carriers and methods of Ideological and Political courses, the effectiveness of Ideological and Political Education would be better improved. The prospects of accelerating the digital transformation of Ideological and Political Education and creating a new form of teaching and learning would be better realized.

2 The Current Situation of the Development of Digital Ideological and Political Education in Domestic Universities

In recent years, government, colleges and universities have realized the importance of digitization of Ideological and Political Education in the new era, and have taken a variety of measures to integrate digital resources and build integrated education platforms. Since the launch and implementation of the strategic action on education digitization, China has built the world's first large educational teaching resource base.^[4] The construction of digital Ideological and Political Education is mainly carried out in terms of the integration of teaching resources, the innovation of teaching methods, and the construction of teaching faculties.

2.1 The Integration of Teaching Resources

In recent years, local colleges and universities have highly utilized the advantages of resource integration to create a platform for the co-construction and sharing of Ideological and Political Education. Taking Anhui Province as an example. In 2021, The Anhui Provincial Department of Education has taken the lead in setting up the Anhui Provincial Ideological and Political Work Center for Colleges and Universities, and has established two levels of applications platform applications for intelligent ideological work at the provincial level and school level. It has built a “5+N” Intelligent Application Center, which contains one core module called “Curriculum Ideology and Politics” (as shown in Fig.1).

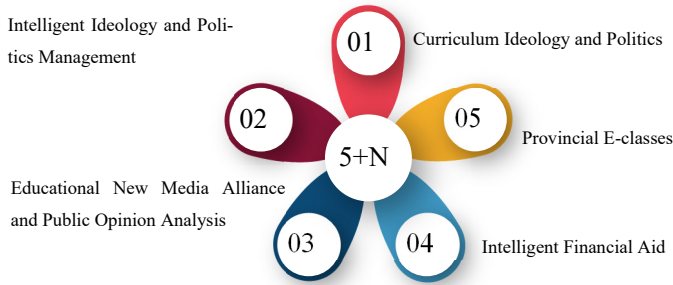


Fig. 1. 5+N Intelligent Application Center of Anhui Province Network of Ideological and Political Work

This Curriculum Ideology and Politics Application Center integrates the province's high-quality Ideology and Politics course resources and promotes excellent teaching cases. For teachers, they can learn advanced teaching methods and better improve their teaching skills. They can create courses online, set up course display templates, and exchange course preparations, so as to promote the interactive sharing and cross-fertilization of teachers' preparation resources and teaching experience. In this module, there is also a training platform, which provides online training for student tutors and teachers in universities and colleges. For students, they can get access to a wealth of “Golden Course” and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), and improve their self-learning ability.

2.2 The Innovation of Teaching Methods

Digitization of Ideological and Political Education has enriched the teaching methods of Ideological and Political courses, expanded the way of students' Ideological and Political learning. In terms of teaching methods, the innovative reorganization function of digital technology helps the construction of ideological and political education mode and promotes the extension of the teaching space from reality to the virtual.^[5] In 2021, Beijing Institute of Technology built the first “virtual simulation experience teaching center for Ideological and Political Course” in China. Teachers use the latest immersive virtual simulation technology, through the form of VR lectures, have changing the traditional way of teaching Ideological and Political course, and making Ideological and Political learning “alive” from the content to the form. In terms of student learning, the use of digital technology and resources effectively integrated into classroom teaching, through digital amplification, multiplication and superposition effect, from the depth, breadth and width to enhance the effectiveness and relevance of Ideological and Political courses.^[6] With the help of digital technology, “cloud classroom” has become a form of teaching Ideological and Political courses. From 2020-2022, MOE and the Central Office of Internet Information Technology had jointly created the “Great Ideological and Political Lessons on the Cloud” thematic publicity campaign, and had carried out a number of “Great Ideological and Political Lessons on the Cloud” activities for

university students nationwide, which have been viewed more than 150 million times. [7] It is concluded that online teaching based on digital technology makes content more relatable, lectures more interactive and enable more flexible learning for students. [8]

2.3 The Construction of Teaching Faculties

Teachers in colleges and universities are the direct performers and participants of Ideological and Political Education. General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized that “Ideological and Political Course is a key course for implementing the fundamental task of establishing moral education, and the key to running a good Ideological and Political theory course lies in the teachers.” The number of teachers of Ideological and Political Course is highly increased in recent years.

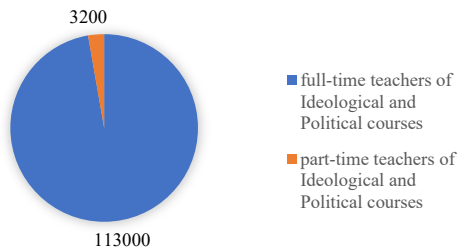


Fig. 2. Number of teachers of Ideological and Political courses in colleges and universities

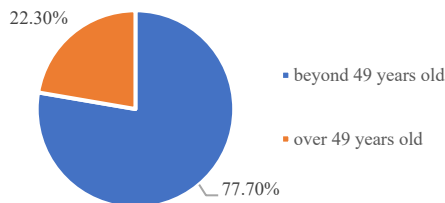


Fig. 3. Age of teachers of Ideological and Political courses in colleges and universities

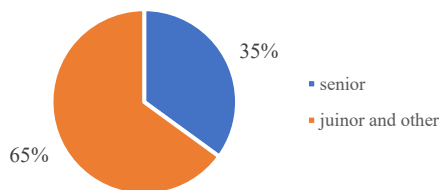


Fig. 4. Title of teachers of Ideological and Political courses in colleges and universities

According to MOE, by the end of 2023, there were more than 145,000 full-time and part-time teachers of Ideological and Political courses in colleges and universities nationwide, including more than 113,000 full-time teachers (as shown in Fig.2), and the level of specialization and professionalization of the teaching staff had been significantly raised.^[9] By the end of 2021, there were 77.7% of teachers are under 49 years old (as shown in Fig.3), and 35% have senior titles, among the total number of 127,000 (as shown in Fig.4).^[10] Using digital platforms such as Network Support System of “National Network Collective Lesson Preparation Platform for Teachers of Ideological and Political Courses in Colleges and Universities”, Seminar and Training System for Teachers of Ideological and Political Courses in Higher Education, and other online platforms, teachers of Ideological and Political courses are able to acquire richer teaching resources and receive more comprehensive training.

3 The Dilemma of Digitization of Civic and Political Education

Some teachers lack a proper understanding of the construction of Digitization of Ideological and Political Education, and merely understand digitization as moving from offline teaching to online teaching.^[11] Under such the cognition, teachers' own digital thinking skills and teaching methods cannot be enhanced and improved in time.

The inefficient use of various teaching resource platforms on and off campus is also a problem. In the process of building the resource platform, on the one hand, the number and types of data resources integrated are large, and sometimes the resources are simply listed and piled up without in-depth analysis of the correlation among them, which lacks wholeness and system. On the other hand, the relevance and pertinence of those data resources to the education of Ideological and Political Education in colleges and universities have yet to be strengthened.

4 Prospect: Ways to Enhance the Effectiveness of Ideological and Political Education by Strengthening the Digital Empowerment

4.1 Improving Teachers' Education Skills and Digital Thinking Skills

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as its core has insisted on the construction of the teaching force as the basic work, and has attached great importance to the construction of teachers' ideological and political, as well as teacher ethics. Teachers of Ideological and Political Education are the key to running a good Ideological and Political Theory course as they are responsible for spreading the latest advanced theoretical knowledge of the Party and shouldering the important responsibility of establishing morality and educating people. In the age of big data, teachers need to improve their digital skills and develop digital thinking. Teachers should continuously improve the cognition of Digitization, firmly establish

digital thinking, and learn to use diverse digital platforms to discover problems, analyze problems and solve problems. Meanwhile, teachers should update their teaching concepts and learn to use digital thinking to create a new teaching mode for the Ideological and Political courses. In addition, universities and colleges could bring in comprehensive talents with digital technology as Ideological and Political Teachers, so that to improve the level of digital working skills.

4.2 Further Integrating Data Resources and Giving Full Play to the Digital Platforms

Ideological and Political Education online platforms need to further improve the system through technological innovation, promote data sharing among universities in the province and universities outside the province, and better realize the interconnection of information. Insisting on building and improving at the same time, the quality of the construction, operation and services of the relevant digital platforms should be improved. Further promoting the integration of the management services of Ideological and Political Education in colleges and universities, creates an educational governance system and a parenting system in the Internet era. Colleges and universities can collect and integrates their management systems and hardware equipment, build a unified distributed big data management platform, provide unified and standardized interface development applications, and provide big data analysis services for students, teachers, and faculty leaders. Through data analysis of classroom teaching, curriculum, post-class assignments, test results, and teaching evaluation, colleges and universities could build various modules and systems that serve students' learning, teachers' teaching, and college management. Relying on integrating those intelligent systems and network platform such as the Academic Affairs Office, Student Portal, OA System, Campus Card, etc., colleges and universities are able to collect and record students' data in an all-round way, and give timely feedback to students, and continue to develop in different areas of Ideological and Political Education, such as ideological leadership, intelligent teaching, individualized management, psychological counselling, career guidance, and public opinion thousand previews.

4.3 Reforming the Carriers and Methods of Ideological and Political Education

Curriculum teaching, as the first module of the postgraduate training system, is the golden period for students to change from receptive learning to research-oriented and independent learning, and plays an indispensable role in forming students' research ability and thinking ability.^[12] By studying and giving full play to the advantages of Internet technology, teachers should make good use of the rich resources of off-campus Ideological and Political courses, dig deeper into the contents of Ideological and Political teaching materials, strengthen the interaction of classroom teaching, and provide reference for the reform of the teaching system. Furthermore, teachers can innovate media, scenario and visualization of Ideological and Political courses, and explore a

new education mode, so as to increase the attractiveness and infectious force of teaching. Teachers could take digitalization as the “main direction of attack”, develop and build VR teaching resources, develop and produce VR digital teaching models of course-related topics. Through multimedia presentations, online discussions and interactive learning platforms, students' participation and interest in learning can be enhanced. Teachers should fully utilize their subjective initiative, enthusiasm and creativity to connect classroom teaching with social realities, make full use of the rich resources of the Ideological and Political Education, and expand the ways and means of applying the resources.

5 Conclusion

To sum up, digitalization of education is an important battle to drive the modernization of education and to achieve high quality development of education. For Ideological and Political Education in colleges and universities, giving full play to the advantages of digital technology, can help integrate various kinds of teaching resources, innovate teaching methods, and better train teaching faculties. Facing the constantly digitalization of education, the concept of education and teaching should be constantly updated and the equipment should be upgraded and renewed in the term of the better integration of teaching resources, the construction of teachers and teachers, and the innovation of teaching methods in universities and colleges.

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