

# Research on the Reform of Ideological and Political Education from the Perspective of "Core Literacy" and "Key Abilities"

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**Abstract:** Cultivating "core literacy" and "key abilities" of the college students is not only the key factor to realize their own growth and socialization, but also the inevitable mission entrusted to college ideological and political workers by the development of the times and realistic circumstances. As an important carrier of Ideological and political education in colleges and universities, ideological and political course still has many difficulties in cultivating "core literacy" and "key abilities" of the college students. Based on this, we should actively reform the main channel of Ideological and political course, construct a cultivation system centered on students and guided by the value of Ideological and political course, and promote innovation-driven, coordinate the development of Ideological and political course and curriculum, break through the ideological and political course in colleges and universities, and give full play to its "core literacy" and "key abilities" in cultivating college students. It is imperative to explore the practical path of Ideological and political course reform in colleges and universities guided by the cultivation of "core literacy" and "key abilities".

**Key words:** New era and outstanding talents; Core literacy and Key abilities; Reform of Ideological and Political Course

## I. INTRODUCTION

The ideological and political education guided by Marxism is the political advantage and fine tradition of the Communist Party of China, and an important guarantee for socialist modernization and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. As an important carrier, ideological and political education is based on the basic contents of socialist material civilization, spiritual civilization, political civilization and ecological civilization, guiding students to establish correct world outlook, outlook on life and values in exploring the economy, culture, politics and ecology closely related to themselves in real life, and to master the ability to understand and transform the world, and in the process to improve the degree of socialization and gradually establish the common ideal of building socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. We cultivate students to be responsible for their own development and social progress, the most important thing is to cultivate their "core literacy" and "key abilities" [1]. The concept of "core literacy" originates from foreign countries. In

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the process of promoting quality education reform in an all-round way, China has endowed it with a brand-new meaning with Chinese characteristics and the mission of the times. The proposition of "key abilities" is the inheritance and enrichment of "core literacy". At the practical level, the cultivation of "core literacy" has been refined to improve its pertinence and practical operational. "Core literacy" and "key abilities" are interrelated but cannot be confused. They play an important role in the cultivation of college students. Therefore, the ideological and political education must innovate its content according to the requirements of the times and the realistic situation, optimize the practical environment of the course according to the characteristics of the times and groups of contemporary college students, integrate the cultivation of "core literacy" and "key abilities" into the practical teaching, give full play to its function of "high moral values establishment and people cultivation", and truly give play to the timeliness of the ideological and political course.

## II. THE VALUE OF THE TIMES IN CULTIVATING "CORE LITERACY" AND "KEY ABILITIES" OF THE COLLEGE STUDENTS IN THE NEW ERA

In response to the question of "what kind of people to cultivate and how to cultivate people", the Ministry of Education issued in 2014 "opinions on fully deepening the curriculum reform and implementing the fundamental task of moral values establishment and people cultivation", which pointed out: "According to the core quality system of students' development, we should further clarify the specific educational objectives and tasks of each section and discipline, and improve the relevant standards of curriculum teaching in higher education, primary and secondary schools" [2]. This is the first time that the ministry of education has put forward the concept of "core literacy", and take it as the focus and new navigation mark of deepening the curriculum reform. The key problem that academics, theoretical circles and front-line educators must face is to integrate the cultivation of "core literacy" into the teaching of ideological and political courses. Especially, at present, the social situation has changed profoundly, the situation at home and abroad is extremely complex, and the multiculturalism is constantly agitating, it is a very long-term practical significance to cultivate college

students with "core literacy". Since the eighteenth national congress of the party, the party and state have attached great importance to the reform and development of higher education and repeatedly emphasized "establishing virtue and fostering people" as the key core of developing socialist education with Chinese characteristics. "To develop the core quality of Chinese students' development, the basic starting point is to specify and refine the Party's educational policy, implement the fundamental task of establishing morality and cultivating people with all-round development, and enhance the core competitiveness of national talents in the 21st century" [3].

On the basis of cultivating "core literacy" of the college students, the party and state further propose to strengthen the cultivation of "key abilities". On September 25, 2017, the General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the General Office of the State Council issued the "opinions on deepening the reform of the educational system and mechanisms," which pointing out: "We should pay attention to the cultivation of key abilities to support lifelong development and meet the requirements of the times. In the process of training the basic knowledge and skills of the students, we should strengthen the cultivation of key abilities of students" [4]. Subsequently, it clearly put forward to focus on cultivating cognitive ability, cooperative ability, innovative ability and professional ability as key ability of training students. The party and state attach great importance to the cultivation of "key abilities", which once again arouses great attention from the academic circles to the cultivation of "core literacy". In the "opinions on deepening the reform of the educational system and mechanisms," it is not difficult to see that the four "key abilities" based on China's educational reality and realistic choices for adapting to the development of the new era. They not only meet the requirements of the times, but also practical and operable, easy to land in practice. It is the inheritance and practical development of the concept of "core literacy", further deepened and detailed development of "core literacy". The integration of the two will help students from the essential character and the important ability of adapting to the development of society.

Socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era. In addition to the great achievements that have attracted worldwide attention, it also brings new challenges in complex situations. Under this background, it is the key to cultivate excellent talents with global vision, innovative spirit, practical ability and social responsibility that meet the development needs of emerging industries and the needs of national strategy. Being the master of advanced scientific knowledge, inheritance and disseminator of advanced ideas, college students possess "core literacy" and "key competence", they are not only the needs of their all-round development, but also the practical needs of the great practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. It is a key factor for college students to achieve self-realization and maintain the sound development of society with the "core literacy" and "key abilities", that necessary enhanced by ideological and political course. "Key competencies" include: cognitive ability guided by Marxism, the purpose is to guide students to use dialectical materialism and historical materialism thinking and solving problems, so improving logical thinking ability and

information expression ability; the cooperative ability is to let students understand the enrichment of social communication relations and the expansion of their roles, what individuals should shoulder in the collective, how to regulate their own behavior through responsibility constraints, pay attention to rule consciousness and honesty consciousness, deal with the relationship between personal interests and social interests, and contribute their own strength to the healthy and orderly development of society; innovative ability is to guide students to form innovative thinking mode, be good at breaking thinking stereotypes, be brave in exploring practice, and stimulate students' creativity; vocational ability is to promote the process of socialization, establish the "craftsman spirit" of loving and dedicating to work and striving for excellence, practice the unity of knowledge and practice, and actively practice and solve practical problems.

As a basic course for college students to systematically study Marxist philosophy and social sciences, ideological and political course is the main channel of ideological and political education in colleges and universities [5]. Students master the "core literacy" and "key abilities" adapting personal life-long and social development, that is an important direction for the reform of ideological and political course in colleges and universities through ideological and political course. It is comprehensive embodiment of subject knowledge, methods, emotional attitudes and value experience that integrating "core literacy" and "key abilities" into teaching practice.

### III. THE REALISTIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEVELOPING "CORE LITERACY" AND "KEY ABILITIES" OF COLLEGE STUDENTS IN IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL COURSES

Higher education schools is an important platform to implement the principle of "high moral values establishment and people cultivation" and cultivate new people with core qualities and abilities who can take on the task of national rejuvenation. Ideological and political education, especially ideological and political courses, is the main channel and core curriculum to achieve this important task. The party and state have always attached great importance to the reform of ideological and political curriculum. At the national conference on ideological and political work in higher education schools, president Jinping Xi pointed out: "we must make good use of the main channel of classroom teaching. Ideological and political theory courses should be strengthened in improvement, ideological and political education should be enhanced its affinity and pertinence meeting the needs and expectations of students growth and development, and other courses should keep a good canal and cultivate a good field of responsibility so as to make all kinds of courses and ideological and political theory courses alike" [6]. In recent years, the reform of ideological and political courses higher education schools has made many attempts in strengthening and improving educational content, enriching and innovating educational methods, optimizing and creating educational environment, but there are still many problems. In cultivating students core literacy and key abilities, the ideological and political courses in higher education schools is still some problems such as the differences between textbooks and social reality, the disconnection between teaching and life

practice, the imperfect way of subject evaluation, and the single structure of teaching methods. It is necessary for all aspects of education subject, object, intermediary and ring to fit in with each other and work together to form a cultivation system so that "core literacy" and "key abilities" are fully embodied in the process of ideological and political teaching in higher education schools. At the same time, it is necessary to integrate teaching content with social life so as to make students realize that the promotion of their "core literacy" and "key abilities" is related to their future development, exhibition and life planning. If lack of "core literacy" and "key abilities" or inadequate capacity will greatly affect their own competitiveness and foothold in the future society, and also make the construction of a socialist modernization country with Chinese characteristics of the grand cause of insufficient follow-up force. Therefore, the reform of ideological and political education should have a good effect and satisfy the needs of various aspects of human development. The necessary and sufficient conditions are to adapt to and follow the trend of human historical development, to constantly create conditions for the development of human's independence and free personality, and to meet the necessary and sufficient conditions for the realization of human society and social and economic development, to continuously promote the "core literacy" and "key abilities" of college students. The development of "core literacy" and "key abilities" should make full use of the main channel of Ideological and political course.

#### IV. PRACTICAL PATH OF REFORMING IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL COURSES IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES GUIDED BY CULTIVATING "CORE LITERACY" AND "KEY ABILITIES"

##### A. *Return to Education and Guide the Value of Ideological and Political Courses*

A strong education makes a strong country. Education is the work of educating people. The focus is on people, the origin is people, the focus is on education, the goal is to bring up people, and the ultimate goal is to cultivate people by virtue. As an important way of high values establishment and people cultivation, ideological and political work in higher education schools "concerns the fundamental issue of what kind of people to cultivate, how to cultivate people and who to cultivate people for" [7]. The ideological and political course is an important means of ideological and political work in higher education schools, and the main channel to implement the principle of "building people by virtue". Modern and contemporary college students are different from those in any period of Chinese history. They live in a stable social background and democratic political environment. They live in a new era of science and technology that profoundly changes the way of thinking, production, life and learning of human beings. The core qualities and abilities of college students become the key to adapt to international competition realize self-development and serve social and economic development. So, the reform of ideological and political course should always combine with the times, adhere to study, comprehend and apply Marxist and Sinicized Marxist theory in depth, closely around the center of "cultivating people by

virtue", and cultivate the "core literacy" and "key abilities" of college students.

##### B. *Focusing on Students and Defining the Main Line and Goal of Cultivation*

We must take the students as the starting point and the foothold, grasp the core of students well, and follow the main line of national conditions, and integrate the cultivation of "core literacy" and "key abilities" into the ideological and political courses of higher education schools. Such achieve the goal of cultivating "core literacy" and "key abilities" of college students.

The traditional subject system is mainly "teacher-centered", teachers preach and teach to solve puzzles. Students are not competent enough in active thinking, learning and practice, and their potential cannot be stimulated. Since 2009, Dayuan Jiang's thought of work process-oriented management has been introduced into the ideological and political course of a university to conduct project-based teaching assessment [8-11]. Its focus is on students(Student-centered), emphasizing mental training and brain development, exploring and giving full play to the strong motivation and expressive desire of young students, actively mobilizing their initiative and creativity, cultivating abilities of students to discover, analyze and solve problems [12], developing students' language and speculative, methodological, integrating resources, social and professional ability, cultivating team, innovative spirit and sense of social identity and responsibility. Active learning is a new assessment model that boost confidence and learning while reducing text anxiety [13], should be strengthen the practical characteristics of applied education in ideological and political courses.

Taking "introduction to the thought of Zedong Mao and the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics 2018 edition" as an example, it is very important about project teaching design that related to how to enable college students living in the new era to accept the edification of theory in pleasure, transform into the core qualities and abilities of reality, and internalize into practical actions. According to the theoretical logic and historical logic of the book "stand up, get rich and strong", three major projects are designed: approaching Zedong Mao, celebrating the 40th anniversary of reform and opening up, and Jinping Xi's Seminar on important ideas in the new era. The practical effect is very obvious. For example, "micro video competition celebrating the 40th anniversary of reform and opening-up". Be based on the purpose of deeply understanding the basic theory and improving core literacy and ability in practice, the formal competition template is adopted to mobilize all students to participate in the simulation. We set up the organizing committee, the jury and the participating group. The organizing committee is responsible for planning, outreach, publicity and service; the jury is responsible for the formulation and completion of the competition rules. According to the scope of the theme, the team will experience the changes of 40 years of reform and opening up with their own heart, eyes and personal experience, meanwhile, the team will fully learn to shoot, produce and submit the entries within the prescribed time according to the prescribed technical

means. This student-centered work-process-oriented project-based teaching mode has overturned the previous teacher-centered teaching mode. This mode encourages the students to take the initiative to ask for and explore, and has yielded a lot of fruits. It not only improves students' core literacy and key abilities, but also greatly enhances the practicality and effectiveness of ideological and political teaching. It effectively guides students to practice "listening, asking, preaching and enlightening" so that they really become all-round development person with core literacy and key competence. Such an active classroom students has exercised practical ability and integrated into it. The dull ideological and political lessons becoming so interesting. In such a classroom is not only a kind of enjoyment but also an experience, which benefits a lot.

### *C. Innovation-Driven and Coordinated Development of Ideological and Political Courses*

Both humanistic and engineering educations follow the goal of education that is to cultivate all-round development of people with core qualities and abilities. In recent years, a number of "China Series" courses, such as the research and publication of Chinese students' core literacy, the proposal of new subjects and the exploration of engineering education reform, the exploration of "curriculum ideological and political" in Shanghai, and the pilot "Great Power Strategy" in some universities, have highlighted the interactive integration characteristics of humanities and engineering education. "Ideological and political course" is no longer just "ideological and political course". There the concept of new subjects has been injected in teaching practice. Engineering-oriented project teaching makes the ideological and political course more full and active. Through the research, participation, discussion and production supported by 3D network technology, VR and CR, artificial intelligence and other information technologies, students' vision has been broadened, their enthusiasm for research and innovation is becoming actively. For effectively matched with the time [14], student should possess the ability of reflectively, logically and strictly, integrity, integration, innovation, pluralism, international vision, practical, lifelong learning, leadership, social responsibility and other comprehensive qualities. Engineering education is not only instrumental rationality, but also injects humanistic spirit and social concern into teaching practice, highlights the promotion of value rationality, and makes responsibility as a necessity for students.

The "ideological and political theories teaching in all course" promoted by Shanghai, starting from the essential requirement of "educating people" in higher education and from the strategic height of national ideology, further explore the ideological and political theory education resources of various courses, pay attention to the aggregation of knowledge in the dissemination of value while in the dissemination of knowledge to emphasize the value of leadership, and giving full play to the function of educating people in all courses. It is good at grasping the core of curriculum reform. It fulfills all teacher education responsibilities. It explores classroom teaching, social practice, and the use of three-dimensional

network curriculum organization. It gives full play to the role of classroom teaching as the main channel of education. Ideological and political education runs through the whole process of school education and teaching. Teaching and educating people are realized in the main channel of classroom teaching. These promote the development of the integration of humanistic education and engineering education and provide a set of valuable and popularizing "Shanghai experience" for shaping innovative talents with a global vision and international competitiveness.

Institutions of higher learning have their own characteristics while learning from experience should also be tailored to local conditions. To promote the reform of "curriculum ideological and political education", we must base on the basic position of curriculum as the development of discipline and specialty, take care of the value of curriculum from the dimension of educating people, give full play to the ideological and political education resources of various courses, integrate ideological and political education into all aspects of curriculum teaching, so as to jointly construct a whole-course education personality bureau with ideological and political courses, and work together to improve students' ideological level, political consciousness, moral character and cultural accomplishment, make students become well-rounded people in accord with the times and the standard of excellent talents.

## V. CONCLUSION

The current social situation and the reality of the great practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era urgently require college students with "core literacy" and "key abilities". Therefore, cultivating college students' core literacy and key abilities has become the inevitable mission of Ideological and political workers in Colleges and universities.

- Socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era. In addition to the great achievements that have attracted worldwide attention, it also brings new challenges in complex situations. Under this background, the key to satisfy the development needs of emerging industries and national strategic needs is to cultivate excellent talents with global vision, innovative spirit, practical ability and social responsibility.
- College students are the masters of advanced scientific knowledge, the inheritors and disseminators of advanced ideas, with "core literacy" and "key competence", which is not only the need for the overall development of themselves, but also the practical need for the great practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era.
- As an important carrier of ideological and political education in colleges and universities, the reform of ideological and political theory course should lead by value, take students as the core, at the same time adjust measures to local conditions, innovate and drive, do a good job of the ideological and political course, ideological and political course of interaction and

coordinated development, and jointly build a whole course of personality education bureau.

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