

Research on the problems and countermeasures of law education for college students in the new era

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Abstract: The rule of law education for college students is not only a strategic need to implement comprehensive rule of law in the new era, but also an important part of implementing the fundamental task of cultivating morality and cultivating people in colleges and universities. In the past two decades, although China's college students' rule of law education has made certain achievements, with the rapid development of the Internet and society, the existing rule of law education system can no longer meet the needs of shaping the "rule of law people" for the new era of society. Optimizing the legal education system, enriching the content of existing teaching materials, increasing the professional level of the rule of law education team, strengthening the teaching of rule of law informatization, and attaching importance to the construction of a legal education network platform are the solutions to change the current dilemma of rule of law education.

1. Introduction

"A country prospers when the rule of law is strong, and a country is strong when the rule of law is strong." Since the reform and opening up, China has made remarkable achievements on the road of rule of law construction. In November 2020, the first Central Work Conference on comprehensively governing the country according to Law in the history of the Party was successfully held, which clearly pointed out the important guiding significance of the strategy of governing the country according to law, thus elevating the construction of the country under the rule of law to an unprecedented strategic height. In the system of comprehensively governing the country according to law, the cultivation of legal talents is the key. At present, as an important way and way to improve the legal literacy of the whole nation, the rule of law education should reflect the requirements and characteristics of the new era and keep pace with The Times. In recent years, despite the obvious progress of legal education in the field of prevention of juvenile delinquency, the overall crime rate of adolescents in our country is also declining year by year, but the illegal crime phenomenon of college students still exists objectively and attracts attention. This shows that there are still some problems that need to be solved in the current legal education for college students.

2. The Significance of Strengthening Legal Education for College Students in the New Era

The report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2022 pointed out that a society ruled by law is the foundation for building a country ruled by law. Country should carry

forward the spirit of socialist rule of law, inherit China's excellent traditional legal culture, and guide all people to be faithful advocates, conscientious observants and staunch defenders of socialist rule of law. Improving citizens' concept of the rule of law and strengthening education on the rule of law for citizens is an important task in the process of rule of law in China. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, juvenile education on the rule of law has received increasing attention. The Decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Several Major Issues Concerning Comprehensively Promoting the Rule of Law adopted by the Fourth Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee proposed that it is necessary to enhance the enthusiasm and initiative of the whole society in enforcing the rule of law, promote the establishment of the awareness of the rule of law in the whole society, and incorporate rule of law education into the national education system. ^[1] In November 2021, the Ministry of Education issued the Eighth Five-Year Plan for Publicity and Education on the Rule of Law in the National Education System (2021-2025), which requires schools at all levels to strengthen the standardization of juvenile rule of law education, and juvenile rule of law education is elevated to the strategic height of comprehensively promoting the rule of law. ^[2] College students are the future of the country, the hope of the nation, and the living force for the construction of China under the rule of law, and their legal quality not only affects whether they can develop comprehensively in the future, but also has a great deal to do with the construction of the motherland and the fate and future of the party and the country. Under the current new situation, building a socialist country under the rule of law objectively requires colleges and universities to further strengthen rule of law education, optimize the content of rule of law education, innovate the form of rule of law education, improve the quality and effect of rule of law education, and cultivate college students' legal thinking and belief in the rule of law.

3. Problems in College Students' Education on the Rule of Law in the New Era

In the past two decades, although China's college students' rule of law education has made obvious progress, it should be noted that since entering the accelerated period of social transformation, with the development of the market economy, the objective existence of diversified values. Especially the advent of the media era for the purpose of pursuing the "traffic economy", the information dissemination methods of "fragmentation", "grassroots" and "eyeballs" have all the time affected the ideological values and behavioral characteristics of current college students, which undoubtedly puts forward higher requirements for the current college rule of law education.

At present, the problems existing in China's colleges and universities in conducting legal education for college students are concentrated in the following points.

3.1 There are Few Legal Education Curricula for College Students, and the Content of the Courses Urgently Needs to be Improved

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, China's legal system has become increasingly complete. Especially in recent years, the promulgation and implementation of the Civil Code is of epoch-making significance. However, correspondingly, there are few courses related to rule of law education for college students in China's higher education stage, and the course "Ideology and Morality and the Rule of Law" (hereinafter referred to as "Moral Education and Law Course") in the ideological and political theory course system of colleges and universities is actually the only law-related course that non-law college students can accept and learn in four years of college. As an important part of national education, the content of rule of law education should effectively run through the entire process of talent training and be included in the overall curriculum construction of schools. In fact, the rule of law education in colleges and universities is basically only carried out in one semester of the first year of university, and does not run through the entire university education

process, and this embarrassing reality is very unfavorable to the cultivation of college students' rule of law thinking. As we all know, the cultivation of legal common sense, rule of law thinking and legal belief requires a person's long-term systematic education and study to cultivate. From the perspective of the content of the course textbook, the latest edition of "Ideology, Morality and the Rule of Law" (Higher Education Press 2023 edition) has too much weight in the course textbook involving morality, while the content of the legal part is very small, and rule of law education is only set as a chapter of the course content (Chapter 6 Learning the Idea of the Rule of Law and Improving the Literacy of the Rule of Law). In terms of teaching content, it mainly involves the study of the Constitution, while the lack of necessary introduction to civil law, criminal law and related procedural laws makes students lack a basic understanding of China's contemporary legal system. The existing textbook has only one chapter in the legal part, which makes the legal knowledge that teachers can explain to students in the classroom is very limited, and the class time of less than one month seriously affects the teaching quality of the legal part.

3.2 There is a Certain Gap between the Actual Teaching Staff and Professional Level of Rule of Law Education and the Overall Needs of College Students for Rule of Law Education in the New Era

On the one hand, the number of teachers engaged in rule of law education still does not meet the needs of the curriculum. By the end of 2021, the staffing of ideological and political courses in China's colleges and universities has basically achieved the requirement of a teacher-student ratio of 1:350, but under the situation that the scale of college enrollment is still increasing, the number of teachers of "Moral Education and Law Course" is still difficult to meet the actual needs of rule of law education. On the other hand, the lack of legal specialization of teachers in the "Moral Education and Law Course" affects the effectiveness of the teaching of the law part. Historically, the teachers of the "Moral Education and Law Course" have a variety of professional backgrounds, and there are few teachers with pure legal professional backgrounds. In the past ten years, as the number of college students has increased year by year, more teachers with non-legal background have begun to join the teaching team of this course, which makes the legal specialization of the teaching team seriously insufficient. Reflected in teaching, there will be some strange phenomena in which teachers do not understand the law but have to talk about it. Some teachers, due to their lack of strong legal knowledge, often arbitrarily delete the teaching content, and talk more about the moral part they are good at, while the "rule of law" part is less or even nothing. This bias obviously deviates from the purpose of the curriculum, and also seriously affects the learning effect of students, making the already few legal educations in universities even more "leaky overnight".

3.3 The Teaching Methods of Rule of Law Education Need to be Improved

With the rapid development of network and self-media technology, rule of law education in the new era puts forward higher requirements for teachers' own professional skills, legal literacy and ability to connect with reality in the classroom. On the other hand, teachers are also required to have certain information teaching capabilities. For a long time, the traditional teaching method of "German and French class" has been based on the form of "PPT + teacher explanation", because it is a large class teaching mode, there is a certain difficulty in organizing classroom activities, teachers and students often have less interaction, and teaching is basically a "one-man show" for teachers in the classroom. With the advent of the era of information teaching, some problems in traditional teaching have become more obvious: some teachers themselves are not from law majors, have a weak legal foundation, and are not good at information teaching. Some teachers use old teaching cases in class, not related to the current hot events in society, do not understand and are not sensitive to some new

things and new terms, the classroom content is boring and boring, and students listen drowsy below. For a long time, the "head up rate" in the classroom has been low, and the phenomenon of sleeping in class and playing with mobile phones is very common in the ideological and political classes of colleges and universities. "Post-00s" college students who grew up in the context of the rapid development of the Internet like to use smart phones to learn and express their views on things; They want to participate in the teaching process and are willing to try new teaching methods and methods; They want to have a voice in the classroom, and teachers can interact and communicate effectively with them both in and out of class. They want to be the master of the class, not just an audience. Therefore, it is not surprising that they are resistant to traditional teaching methods. Although in recent years, some teachers of "German-French" courses have begun to try to use new teaching models such as MOOCs and flipped classrooms in the classroom for teaching exploration, and the teaching effect has been good. However, ideological and political teachers who adopt the "PPT + one-word class" model for teaching in the classroom still account for the vast majority. At the same time, due to the lack of attention paid by many colleges and universities to students' legal education, the lack of legal practice teaching bases and other objective phenomena, the rule of law education in many schools is a mere formality.

4. Measures to Strengthen the Effectiveness of China's College Students' Education on the Rule of Law

In order to improve the effectiveness and pertinence of the current legal education for college students, we must do the following in the future.

4.1 Optimize the Legal Education System for College Students, Considering "Morality" and "Law", and Enrich the Content of Teaching Materials

Cultivating active rule-of-law citizens that match the requirements of national construction is an important mission for college students to educate on the rule of law in the new era. At this stage, the course "Ideology, Morality and the Rule of Law" is the main educational position for college students to receive the idea of rule of law. In the current syllabus of the course, the rule of law content has few class hours and a low proportion of teaching content. At the same time, this course is the only rule of law course for college students on campus, with a single curriculum, and the construction of the rule of law education curriculum system obviously lags behind the needs of the times. Therefore, schools should fully recognize the importance of rule of law education and increase the number of hours of rule of law education; Compilers of "German-French course" textbooks should consider "German" and "French" when compiling the content of textbooks, and enrich the legal part of existing textbooks. In terms of class time, we can try to change the original teaching time of only one semester to two semesters, so as to make the teaching time of the law part more abundant. In terms of teaching materials, enrich the legal part of the current "German-French course" textbook. In line with the purpose of creating a new type of "citizen under the rule of law" in legal education, it is recommended that the relevant contents of civil law, criminal law and procedural law be added to the "German-French course" textbook in the future. In terms of civil law, basic knowledge such as "civil subject", "civil rights capacity" and "civil tort" are the contents that students must understand. In criminal law, "the concept of crime", "the composition of crime", "age of criminal responsibility", "substantive justice" and "procedural justice" are also essential for teaching. The study of civil law can cultivate the legal thinking of rights and obligations and the habit of learning to solve problems by legal means in case of problems. The study of "crime" and "punishment" in criminal law will make them feel the majesty and authority of the law, and thus develop a sense of awe for the law. At the same time, the content of the teaching materials should add more real-life cases to help students understand. Through

a certain period of systematic study, students can establish faith in the law, cultivate the thinking of the rule of law, feel the authority of the law, and know the limits of being a person and doing things.

4.2 Improve the Quality of the Legal Education Contingent, Allowing those who Truly Understand the Law to Speak About it

The key to improving the quality of legal education lies in teachers, and professional things must be done by professional people. The instructor of the "Moral Education and Law Course" must have a professional background in law, that is, let people who really understand the law talk about law. When introducing new teachers of "Moral Education and Law Course" in the Marxist colleges of various universities, priority is given to teachers with a professional background in law. For the existing teaching team, colleges and universities can also follow the model of primary and secondary school teacher training, led by the Ministry of Education, regularly train teachers in legal theoretical knowledge, rule of law awareness and practical skills of rule of law laws and regulations, and include the completion of learning tasks in the content of teachers' annual assessments. For example, the Ministry of Education, together with China University of Political Science and Law, East China Normal University, East China University of Political Science and Law and other universities, has held the "Cultivation Project for Famous Teachers of Rule of Law Education in Primary and Secondary Schools".^[3] At the same time, teachers with legal backgrounds are encouraged to offer elective courses and general courses related to rule of law education, so as to broaden the channels and ways for students to learn legal knowledge. At the same time, schools may invite lawyers from professional law firms or professional judicial public officials to teach part-time in the form of off-campus appointments, enriching the team of teachers in rule of law education at multiple levels, and maximizing the professional level of rule of law teaching in the school. By integrating legal practitioners with rich practical experience hired outside the school and the team of teachers of rule of law education in the school, the concept of rule of law and legal knowledge in practice can be brought to the "Moral Education and Law Course" teachers in the school through exchanges and seminars. Only in this way can the "Moral Education and Law Course" maximize the role of the curriculum in cultivating morality and cultivating people and education on the rule of law.

4.3 Optimize the Teaching Model for the Rule of Law, Integrating Rule of Law Education into the Construction of Campus Culture

The advent of the self-media era of "everyone is the media" has gradually weakened the dominance and authority of ideological and political teachers in the classroom, and the teaching of ideological and political education and rule of law has also ushered in new challenges. In this case, on the one hand, teachers must establish new teaching concepts, broaden teaching thinking, and constantly polish their classroom teaching ability. Schools should actively understand the psychological and behavioral characteristics and daily network concerns of the current "post-00s" college students, strengthen the combination of classroom theoretical knowledge and real hot case issues, and strive to capture students' hearts through wonderful classes. On the other hand, rule of law education in the new era requires teachers to realize the importance of information-based teaching, and must continuously improve their information-based teaching capabilities, get out of the "comfort zone" instilled by pure theory in the past large classroom, and establish a new teaching concept of "Internet + education". Teachers should be proficient in the use of various teaching software and online related teaching platforms in teaching, and be able to actively communicate with students through apps such as "Super Star Learning Pass" and WeChat groups after class, and have the ability to skillfully record, edit and produce teaching videos, so as to maximize the attractiveness of the course.

In terms of schools, they should attach importance to the construction of rule of law network

platforms at ordinary times, and attract college students to actively participate in rule of law education. At present, Weibo, WeChat, Douyin and Kuaishou have become important mobile apps for college students to communicate daily and obtain information. Taking this as an opportunity, schools can set up their own WeChat or Weibo public accounts for rule of law education, and regularly push real hot cases and legal knowledge to students; You can also try to open a Douyin or Kuaishou account, and the teachers with a legal background in the school are responsible for daily operations and responsibilities. Teachers regularly organize students to shoot short dramas with the content of popularizing legal knowledge every semester, and then push them to students in the form of short videos to watch and learn, believing that this learning method is bound to achieve good results with half the effort. Lu You's "Winter Night Reading Shi Zi Yu" has a saying: "On paper, you will finally feel shallow, and you will never know that this matter must be done." "Law is a social science with strong application, and it is inseparable from legal practice to cultivate new types of rule of law talents. Usually, in school, the school Youth League Committee or relevant clubs can actively organize students to carry out activities such as legal knowledge competitions, moot courts, and rule of law activity weeks; Outside the school, schools can try to carry out joint construction activities with public security and judicial organs, build a legal education base for the school, and regularly organize students to visit prisons or detention centers, so that "negative teaching materials" can "show up and say" and enhance students' awareness of punishment; Students can also be organized to attend court hearings at local grassroots courts, so that students can have "close contact" with judicial activities and gain legal edification in an immersive way.

5. Conclusion

At present, the Party Central Committee is comprehensively promoting the rule of law strategy, and effectively improving the rule of law literacy of citizens is the requirement of The Times to comprehensively promote the rule of law. College students are the future builders and successors of socialism with Chinese characteristics. To educate them on the rule of law and cultivate their legal belief is to cultivate high-quality citizens who meet the requirements of the rule of law construction in the new era. Under the new situation, the legal education of college students faces many opportunities and challenges. To explore the solution of these problems is particularly important for promoting the legal education of college students. In the process of education, we should give full play to the role of universities as the main front, optimize the legal education system of college students, and improve the quality of legal education team. Optimize the teaching mode of the rule of law, and integrate the rule of law education into the daily campus culture construction.

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