Research on Ideal and Belief Education of Chinese Youth in the New Era

Chao Yu

Taishan College, Marxism College, Tai’an, Shandong, 271021, China

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Abstract: It is of great significance to carry out education on the ideals and beliefs of Chinese youth in the new era. In view of the deficiencies and problems that exist in the ideals and beliefs of China’s young people, it is necessary to highlight the importance of doing something and not doing something, to dig deep into the value of the times of the education of ideals and beliefs of China’s young people, and to guide the young people to establish the common ideals of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the far-reaching ideals of communism. They should adhere to the scientific beliefs of Marxism, cultivate and practice core socialist values, and devote themselves to the great practice of realizing the Chinese dream.

1. Introduction

The Communist Party of China has always attached great importance to the ideal belief education of our youth. Especially in the new period, some of our youth in the ideal belief in the increasing number of problems, so the Party Central Committee has repeatedly emphasized the need to strengthen the ideal belief education of our youth. As a college teacher should respond positively to the party’s call and shoulder the obligation to carry out ideal belief education for the majority of young people. In view of this, this paper will discuss the significance of ideal belief education for China’s young people in the new period, the problems that exist in some young people’s ideal beliefs, the focus and the value of the times of the education of ideal beliefs and so on.

2. The significance of strengthening the education of ideals and beliefs among Chinese youth in the new era

2.1 To provide important theoretical guidance for the training of the new generation

Our Party has always attached great importance to the education of young people’s ideals and beliefs, and successive Chinese leaders have made important discussions on young people’s ideals and beliefs. Mao Zedong compared youth to the sun at eight or nine o’clock in the morning and put his hopes on young people.[1]Deng Xiaoping said the young people should understand that whether it is the revolution in the past or the reform and opening-up now, it is for the realization of the lofty ideals of socialism and communism.[2]Jiang Zemin stressed that young people should not only have ideals and convictions, but also have a down-to-earth and indomitable spirit of struggle [3][4];
Hu Jintao has encouraged the general youth of the country to firmly strengthen their ideals and beliefs, increase their knowledge and skills, hone their moral will, strive with determination, and understand the history and course of our country’s unremitting struggle since modern times.[5]Since the 18th National Congress, China’s current leader has repeatedly sent messages to young people to establish ideals and beliefs consistent with the theme of our times, emphasizing that when young people have ideals, the country has a future and the nation has hope. Encouraging young people to have faith, dream, struggle and dedication of life, is a meaningful life; Call on the majority of young people should inspire high morale in the struggle, fly the youth dream. With the youth of me, the struggle of me, the dedication of me, to contribute youth and strength to the rejuvenation and modernization of the Chinese nation. In the process of carrying out ideal and belief education,[6] college teachers should stand on the height of history, deeply explain the ideals and beliefs of Chinese leaders in the past, and warn young people to take these important thoughts as a scientific guide for their life journey.

2.2 Inject youthful vigor into national development and national rejuvenation

Since the May Fourth Movement, generations of aspiring Chinese young people have “created a young family, a young country, a young nation, a young humanity, a young earth, and a young universe with their youth”. [7] In the historical trend of saving the country and revitalizing China, it has written a moving youth movement.

At present, we have entered a new era. On the road to socialism with Chinese characteristics, we are moving steadily towards the grand goal of realizing the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Since reform and opening-up, our Party has explored a bright road to socialism with Chinese characteristics that is prosperous, strong, democratic, civilized, harmonious and beautiful. It is also the inevitable choice to realize the Communist ideal and strengthen the belief in communism and socialism. It is the great cause we are engaged in. To make due contributions to the development of the country’s the Five-Sphere Integrated Plan. Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation is a dream of national prosperity, a dream of national rejuvenation, a dream of happiness for the people, and a dream of struggle for the young people. The young people should establish a common ideal of continuous struggle for the realization of Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation, use the common ideal to guide their personal ideals, integrate their personal ideals into the common ideal, and integrate them into the development of the country and the rejuvenation of the nation and into the great era. At present, China’s reform has entered a difficult situation and a period of overcoming difficulties. We are getting closer and closer to the goal of realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, so the responsibility of the youth to the country and the nation is getting heavier and heavier [8]. As educators, we must educate the young generation so that they can become the backbone of socialist modernization and the force to realize the Chinese dream. Make them self-reliant, struggle and fight, live up to their youth, and “create a young country and a young nation with youth.” [9]

2.3 It points out the way forward for young people to grow into talents

The growth and success of young people cannot be separated from the support and guidance of scientific ideals and beliefs, which include the establishment of the far Dali of communism. Adherence to the Marxist faith, confidence in China’s reform, opening-up and socialist modernization, trust in the Communist Party of China (CPC), and unswerving adherence to the Party’s path are the spiritual strength of young people's growth and success. [10] The effect of scientific ideals and beliefs on the growth of young people is mainly manifested in the following two aspects: First, it provides ideological guidance for young people. China has fully built a
moderately prosperous society, and young people are in their growth period. The effect of scientific ideals and beliefs on the growth of young people is mainly manifested in the following two aspects: First, it provides ideological guidance for young people. China has fully built a moderately prosperous society, and young people are in their growth period. Many of these young people will be in their thirties by the time modernization is basically achieved in 2035, and many of them will be in their forties by the time a modern socialist power is basically built by the mid-century. The vast number of young people will become the participants and main force in realizing the “Two Century” goals.[11] We should educate and guide the Chinese youth to actively participate in the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, make unremitting efforts, dare to take responsibility, forge ahead, make achievements and due contributions to the development of China’s undertaking.

3. Problems existing in the ideals and beliefs of Chinese youth in the new era

3.1 The ideals and beliefs of some young people are wavering and slipping

Young people are in a transitional stage in which their world view, outlook on life and values are gradually formed but not really formed, and they are gradually becoming psychologically mature but not really mature. Moreover, since the reform and opening-up, the world, including China, has been in a period of great economic, political, cultural and social development, change and adjustment. As a result, some young people do not have lofty ambitions, and always set their ideals around personal study, employment, marriage and family. In the author's interviews with college students, they generally said that they should study hard, get a job after graduation, marry or marry a desirable partner, etc., and the general sense of social responsibility is not strong, which shows a more utilitarian reality. In terms of beliefs, the vast majority of young people have a firm belief in listening to and following the Party; however, a small number of young people lack confidence in communism, the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the leadership of the CPC.

3.2 The mainstream ideology of some youth has weakened

At present, in the ideological field, some young people have downplayed the guiding position of Marxism in the ideological field, and there have been instances of simply denying Marxism and smearing it[12]. They usually do not read the original principles of enlightenment, do not grasp the position, views and methods of Marxism, and find various excuses to deny the scientific truth of Marxism, question the revolutionary practicality of Marxism, and often hear Marxism’s “outdated theory” and “useless theory”. In the group of college students, there are individual college students in Marxist theory classes in a daze, wandering, sleeping, playing mobile phones, “Communist Manifesto” questions and do not know. Very few young people, under the pretext of freedom of religious belief, spread religion on campus through various channels, and some young people encounter major difficulties and troubles and go everywhere to worship God, burn incense and bow down. All these are abnormal manifestations of weakening the guiding position of Marxism.

3.3 Some young people pursue their ideals with low level and utilitarianism

Gorky once said: “The higher the goal a person pursues, the faster his talent will develop, the stronger the power of life, the more beneficial to society, I am sure this is also a truth.”[13] However, the People’s Daily has published an article angrily accusing some sleeping college students of playing mobile phones, eating snacks and staring into a daze in class; Play games after class, do not go to the library to learn to enrich themselves, do not go to the playground, do not go to participate in public welfare activities, lazy all day long; Many college students often talk about ideals and
beliefs, and when making ideal and belief choices, they mostly choose low-level ideal goals related to personal material interests, often ignoring higher levels such as morality, belief and value pursuit.

3.4 Some young people dream more than they do

Because the young people of today are enjoying the spring reform and opening-up, they have lived in a relatively favorable environment of family and society since childhood, and have not experienced war, hunger and poverty. Moreover, they are not deeply involved in the world, lack of practical experience, and lack of hard work and hard work spirit. Some young people are impetuous and feel good about themselves, thinking that they are the favored children of heaven, young heroes. Small things do not want to do, big things cannot do, would rather sweep the world, not to sweep a house; There are also some young people who are good at fantasy, fantasy, hope that the pie will fall from the sky, once they encounter difficulties or disappointments in work, life, and study, they will complain, be cynical, look at the mountain is not a mountain, and even break the pot. There are also some young people who want more money and less work close to home, high power and light responsibility, the work is high-handed, picky, changeable, hard work and hard work do not want to do, low wages do not want to do, do a line to abandon a line and so on. These problems deserve our high attention and practical solutions.

4. The emphasis of strengthening the education of Chinese youth’s ideals and beliefs in the new era

4.1 Marxist scientific belief education

Since its founding, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has held high the great banner of Marxism and constantly innovated in theory. It has also adhered to and developed Marxism in practice, forming Marxism with Chinese characteristics to guide China’s revolution, construction and reform. It overcame the ups and downs along the way, accomplished the New Democratic Revolution and established New China. It carried out socialist transformation and established the basic socialist system; and it was due to the strength of its Marxist convictions that China explored the road of socialist construction, carried out reform and opening-up, and realized the historic leap of standing up, getting rich and getting strong.[14]The most valuable spiritual wealth that Marx left us is the broad, profound and invincible Marxism. This theory has illuminated our road ahead and has always been the guiding ideology of our people of all ethnic groups and a powerful ideological weapon for our revolution, construction and reform.[15]Young people, as the support and fresh force for the future of the China and the hope of the Chinese nation, are the hope of the country and the nation. In the future, if the country wants to develop, the nation wants to revitalize, and the people want to be happy, we need a large number of aspiring young people who understand and believe in Marxism to serve the motherland, society, and the people. Today, Marxism is still the scientific belief and spiritual calcium of young people, and we should educate young people that they should take the belief in Marxism as the “master switch” of thought and action, have no doubts about Marxism, firmly believe in it, and be solid as a rock. We must equip our minds with Marxist positions, viewpoints and methods, explore the truth, transform the world and solve problems, so that the majority of young people will become people who truly believe in Marxism.

4.2 Education on ideals and beliefs of socialism with Chinese characteristics

Socialism with Chinese characteristics includes the road to socialism with Chinese characteristics, the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the system of socialism with
Chinese characteristics and the culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Among them, the road is the way of realization, the theory is the guide to operation, the system is the important safeguard, and the culture is the endogenous driving force. They are united in the great practice of China’s socialist modernization and together forge the spiritual force for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.[16] Therefore, we got to educate young people take the initiative to participate in the great practice of building socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era of China, and take the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics down to earth. This is the way for young people to grow and become successful. Educating young people to hold high the great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics while promoting and innovating the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the correct theory for realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation; educating young people to give full play to the advantages of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics and to consolidate and improve the socialist system with Chinese characteristics is the fundamental institutional safeguard for the development and progress of young people; and educating young people to grasp the way forward for the advanced culture of socialism, and to carry forward and pass on the culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the great spiritual strength for young people to move forward smoothly.

4.3 Education of core socialist values

The Party’s 18th National Congress summarized the basic connotation of the core socialist values in 24 words. The national level is prosperity, democracy, civilization, and harmony. The social dimension is freedom, equality, justice and rule of law. At the individual level, citizens are patriotic, dedicated, honest and friendly[17]Youth, plasticity is generally relatively large, values have not been fully formed and established, value orientation "hesitation" is inevitable, this period must cultivate the value of young people, which is related to whether the life of the “first button” tie. Our Party has put forward the core socialist values at the right time, which is like a navigation light in the sea, guiding the "lost" youth to correct the course, becoming their basic follow, regulate and guide their thoughts and behaviors, so that they can sail in the right direction.[18]It is necessary for the majority of educators to educate young people to study hard, cultivate sentiment, distinguish right from wrong, be honest and trustworthy; Strengthen moral cultivation, pay attention to moral practice, and be determined to serve the motherland and the people; Be good at distinguishing right from wrong and making decisions; Learn to think, analyze, and make the right choices; Work steadfastly, live steadfastly, and play to your strengths in the real world, from knowledge to action[19]

4.4 Education on the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation

We often teach young people to set up ambitious ideals, so what kind of ambitious ideals should young people set up? At present, we can summarize the youth’s lofty ideals as the realization of the Chinese dream of the great renaissance of the Chinese nation. In the new era, the national dream of China is “the common ideal of the people of all ethnic groups in the country, and it is also the lofty ideal of the youth in the new era. The “Two Centenary” goals is the core objective of the Chinese Dream. By the middle of this century, we will build our country into a prosperous, strong, democratic, civilized, harmonious and beautiful modern socialist power, and make unremitting efforts to realize the Chinese dream. [20] [21] The realization of the Chinese dream depends on and can be realized by young people.[22]The young generation is full of vitality and creativity. They are the pillars of the country and the hope of the nation. We need to teach generations of aspiring young people in China to aim high, work hard and be down-to-earth in realizing the great task of national rejuvenation, and turn their beautiful ideals into reality. Meanwhile, the Chinese dream is also a
youth dream, providing a broad stage for the majority of youth to realize their personal goals, pointing out the way forward for the majority of youth to grow up and become successful, and gathering strong spiritual power for the majority of youth to explore and realize their youthful dreams in the new era.

5. Strengthening the value of Chinese youth's ideal and belief education in the new era

In the new era, we will strengthen the education of ideals and beliefs, and guide the young people of China to have lofty ideals, firm convictions, and solid beliefs. The value of this era lies in the fact that Marxism will continue to show strong vitality, the undertaking of socialism with Chinese characteristics will become more prosperous, and core socialist values will become the mainstream values of every Chinese. The Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation will be achieved at an early date.

5.1 It can guide youth to build up confidence and faith in striving for the joint ideal of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the lofty ideals of communism

We should guide students to correctly understand and recognize the historical inevitability of the development of the world and China from the historical process of more than 500 years of socialism, from the historical process of socialism in China for nearly 70 years, and from the grand practice of reform and opening-up for more than 40 years, and be convinced that capitalism will inevitably be replaced by socialism and that communism will surely be realized. Mankind will eventually achieve full and free development.[23] This trend will never be reversed by a temporary slump in the communist movement and a temporary apparent boom in capitalism.[24] Because communism is an important conclusion drawn by Marx and Engels on the foundation of criticizing and inheriting the fruits of utopia socialism, earnestly summarizing the practical experience of the international workers' movement, and analyzing the development course of human society with the worldview and methodology of dialectical materialism and historical materialism. Young people should respect and grasp the laws of historical development, and in joining the socialist modernization drive, aim high and look far, integrate their personal ideals into the great ideals of Communism, overcome the “left” childhood disease in the Communist movement, overcome all kinds of difficulties and obstacles on the road to communism, and through the hard work of generations of young people. The communist ideal must eventually become reality; Socialism with Chinese characteristics is a correct path suited to China’s national conditions that our Party has led the people to find after more than 40 years of reform and opening-up. We must educate and guide young people to follow the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and take it as a conviction that young people should firmly establish in their lives [25]

5.2 It can guide young people to adhere to the guiding position of Marxism

We must unswervingly adhere to Marxism and cannot waver on this fundamental issue at any time, place and under any circumstances. The practice of the founding of Marxism over 170 years has proved that it is a guide to action for people to create a better life, and also a guide to the development of contemporary China. Since the introduction of Marxism to China in the early 20th century, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has taken Marxism as the guiding ideology for the founding of the Party and the governance of the country, and has made unremitting efforts to achieve one great victory after another in the Chinese revolution, construction and reform. In the new era, it is necessary to educate young people to hold high the great banner of Marxism, endeavor to cultivate a large number of young Marxists, and run Marxist theory research societies such as the
Society for the Study of Capitalism and the Lecture Troupe for the “Thought of China and Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era.” It has read the Communist Manifesto intensively, watched the videos of “Immortal Marx”, “Marx is Right” and the important speeches of the conference commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Marx in the new era, organized social practice activities for university students, and led young university students to visit Marx’s hometown of Trier. Visit the British Museum in London to see for yourself the legendary “footprints” left by Marx when he read and wrote Capital, or visit Marx’s grave in London’s High-gate Cemetery if you can. At the same time, we should take a rational view of Marxism, correct all kinds of wrong understanding of Marxism, distinguish between true and false Marxism, and resolutely fight against all kinds of words and deeds that distort, attack and slander Marxism. All colleges and universities ought to strengthen ideological and political theory education, take Marxist theory as a compulsory course for moral education, and guide youth to draw a clear line between science and religion, materialism and idealism, political right and wrong and academic freedom, which is related to the further strengthening of our mainstream ideology.

5.3 It can guide young people to establish and practice core socialist values

The buttons of life should be buttoned up from the beginning, once the first button is wrong, the rest will be all wrong. The same is true of the values of youth. Youth is the period when values are formed and established, and the formation of values during this period is so important that it determines the future values of society as a whole. So, what kind of values should youth establish? At the 18th National Congress of the CPC, our Party comprehensively and profoundly explained the basic connotation of the core values of socialism from the three levels of the state, society and individuals, and it pointed out the direction for some young people whose ideals and beliefs are vague, materialized or utilitarian, so that they can fasten the "first button" of their ideals and beliefs on the road of life. Take the profound connotation and basic demands of socialist core values as the basic observance of young people. As the key position for fostering youth values, colleges and universities should integrate the nurturing of socialist core values into the whole process of ideological and political education for university students, and guide university students to profoundly study and comprehend and accurately grasp their scientific connotations, so that they can internalize their values and demands and externalize them into their conscious actions. Teachers should take the lead in carrying forward and practicing socialist core values, educate and train students with knowledge, wisdom and love, equip college students with socialist core values, and enhance students' ability in value judgment, value selection and value shaping. Finally, we must mobilize the whole society to care for young people, love young people, educate young people, and guide young people to tie every button of life with the good social atmosphere of adhering to the core values of socialism.

5.4 Guide young people to devote themselves to the great practice of realizing the Chinese Dream

First of all, provide a platform for young people to realize their ideals and beliefs. The Party and the state should care for and protect young people, build a broad stage for young officers to start their own businesses, create a good development environment, and provide employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. Youth League committees at all levels should actively guide young people to hold various educational activities with the theme of “Chinese Dream”, such as holding “My Youth My Dream” speech contest or poetry recitation contest, “Chinese Dream” lecture series, “Chinese Dream essay contest”. Second, to educate young people to do things in a down-to-earth manner. The Chinese dream cannot be realized easily. Instead, it requires generation after
generation of young people to unite knowledge and action, stay on the ground, and work hard with perseverance. We ought to educate and guide youth to strengthen their sense of responsibility and mission in striving for the Chinese Dream, consciously integrate their personal dreams into the Chinese dream, carry forward the spirit of hard work and hard work, use their own practical actions to gather more positive youthful energy for the Chinese Dream, and translate the great ideal of the Chinese Dream into conscious actions. In the realization of the “Two Centenary” goals and the journey to build a great modern socialist country, we will bear hardships, brave the waves, and be fearless of difficulties, so that the Chinese dream of national prosperity, national rejuvenation, and people's happiness will become a real reality.

6. Conclusion

In short, the ideal and belief education of Chinese youth in the new era is rich in connotation, far-reaching in significance and clear in direction, and plays a significant value leading role in the development of the country, the revitalization of the nation and the growth and development of young people.

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