Innovative methods of ideological and political education: the combination of theory and practice

Xiaojuan Han
School of Marxism, Mianyang Teachers' College, Mianyang, Sichuan, China

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Abstract: This article aims to explore the theoretical basis and practical exploration of innovative ideological and political education methods. Firstly, the current situation and existing problems of ideological and political education were analyzed. Then, the theoretical basis for innovative ideological and political education methods was explored from the perspectives of Marxist methodology on education, educational ideas in the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and the theoretical and practical achievements of ideological and political education methods at home and abroad. Subsequently, the practical exploration of innovative ideological and political education methods was carried out from the aspects of adhering to people-oriented principles, integrating diverse educational methods, innovating educational methods, and strengthening practical teaching. Finally, the challenges and development prospects faced by innovative ideological and political education methods were analyzed.

1. Introduction

With the development of the times and social progress, the status and role of ideological and political education in China are increasingly prominent. As an important way to cultivate citizens' moral qualities and disseminate socialist core values, ideological and political education faces many challenges in the new era. How to adapt to the new situation, innovate ideological and political education methods, and improve the quality and effectiveness of education has become the core issue of concern for current educators.

2. Analysis of the Current Situation and Problems of Ideological and Political Education

2.1 Definition and importance of ideological and political education

As an indispensable part of China's education system, the definition and importance of ideological and political education cannot be ignored. Ideological and political education, also known as political and ideological education, is an educational process aimed at cultivating students' moral qualities, political qualities, and social responsibility. In the context of the new era, the importance of ideological and political education is reflected in the following aspects:

Firstly, ideological and political education helps to strengthen the dissemination of socialist core values, cultivate citizens with correct worldviews, values, and outlooks on life, and make them
socialist builders and successors. Secondly, ideological and political education helps to cope with complex international and domestic situations, enhance national ideological security, and maintain political stability of the country. Once again, ideological and political education helps to promote comprehensive human development, improve the overall quality of the people, and enable everyone to make positive contributions to society. Finally, ideological and political education helps to promote educational reform, achieve an organic combination of moral education, intellectual education, physical education, and aesthetic education, and cultivate socialist builders and successors with comprehensive development of morality, intelligence, physical fitness, and aesthetics [1].

2.2 Problems in Ideological and Political Education

Ideological and political education plays an important role in China's education system, but there are still some problems in the actual education process. The educational content is too theoretical and disconnected from the actual needs of students, making it difficult for students to apply what they have learned in real life. The education method is single and lacks specificity, making it difficult to meet the personalized needs of different students. Furthermore, the effectiveness of education is not high, making it difficult to truly play the role of cultivating socialist successors. In addition, the education evaluation system is not perfect, emphasizing too much on scores and exams, while neglecting the comprehensive evaluation of students' ideological and political qualities. With the rapid development of internet technology, the diversity of social ideologies has put forward higher requirements for ideological and political education. Some erroneous ideas and concepts spread rapidly through the internet, affecting the values and outlook on life of students. In addition, the social atmosphere is impetuous, and some negative values such as utilitarianism and materialism have to some extent eroded the campus, affecting the effectiveness of ideological and political education. Insufficient teaching staff and uneven quality of the teaching staff. Some teachers lack professional competence in ideological and political education, and their teaching methods and methods are too outdated to stimulate students' interest in learning. Therefore, strengthening the construction of the teaching staff for ideological and political education, improving the professional quality and teaching ability of teachers, is an urgent problem that needs to be solved at present [2].

3. Theoretical basis for innovative ideological and political education methods

3.1 Marxist Methodology on Education

The methodology of education in Marxism is an important theoretical foundation for innovating ideological and political education methods. Marxist educational methods emphasize the people-oriented, practical, critical, and developmental nature of education, which provide theoretical guidance for innovative ideological and political education methods.

The people-oriented principle of Marxist educational methods requires ideological and political education to always stand on the position of the proletariat and the people, to do everything for the people, to rely on the people, and to wholeheartedly seek the interests of the people. This principle requires ideological and political education to be closely linked to the actual life of the people, pay attention to the needs of the people, and thus improve the quality and effectiveness of education [3].

The practical principle of Marxist educational methods emphasizes the combination of education and practice, believing that education should serve social practice. This principle requires ideological and political education to focus on cultivating students' practical abilities, so that they can continuously grow in practice.

The critical principle of Marxist educational methods requires education to have a critical spirit,
dare to reveal social problems, and guide students to establish correct worldviews, values, and outlook on life. This principle requires ideological and political education to guide students to think deeply about practical problems and improve their critical thinking abilities.

The developmental principle of Marxist educational methods emphasizes that education should adapt to the requirements of the times and constantly update educational concepts, methods, and means. This principle requires continuous reform and innovation in ideological and political education to adapt to the development requirements of the new era.

3.2 Educational Thought in the Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

The educational ideology in the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics is another important theoretical foundation for innovating ideological and political education methods. This theoretical system emphasizes the political, people-oriented, comprehensive, and innovative nature of education, providing guidance for innovative methods of ideological and political education.

The theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics emphasizes the political nature of education, requires education to closely revolve around the central work of the Party, and cultivate citizens with socialist core values. This principle requires ideological and political education to integrate the Party's line, principles, and policies into the education and teaching process, so that students can firmly believe in communism and enhance their "four confidences" in the process of learning ideological and political courses.[4]

The theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics emphasizes the people-oriented nature of education, requires education to serve the people, achieve educational equity, and narrow regional, urban-rural, and inter school disparities. This principle requires ideological and political education to pay attention to the needs of the people, make education more closely related to people's livelihoods, and improve the quality and effectiveness of education.

The theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics emphasizes the comprehensiveness of education, requires the comprehensive development of morality, intelligence, physical fitness, and aesthetics in education, and cultivates talents with both moral integrity and talent. This principle requires the integration of ideological and political education with other disciplines, forming an educational system that promotes moral education, intellectual education, physical education, and aesthetic education, and improving the comprehensive quality of students.

The theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics emphasizes the innovation of education, requires education to keep up with the times, innovate educational concepts, methods, and means. This principle requires ideological and political education to have the courage to innovate in order to adapt to the development requirements of the new era[5].

3.3 Theoretical and practical achievements of ideological and political education methods at home and abroad

The theoretical and practical achievements of ideological and political education methods at home and abroad provide rich theoretical basis and practical experience for innovating ideological and political education methods. The theoretical research on ideological and political education methods abroad has provided useful reference for China. For example, Sukhomlinsky's comprehensive education theory and Dewey's pragmatic educational philosophy emphasize that education should pay attention to individual differences among students, and focus on cultivating their practical abilities and innovative spirit.

The practical achievements of domestic ideological and political education methods provide valuable experience for innovation. The integration of ideological and political work education
model, the integration of socialist core values into the entire process of education and teaching, and other practical explorations have to some extent improved the quality and effectiveness of ideological and political education[6].

4. Practice Exploration of 4 Innovative Methods of Ideological and Political Education

4.1 Adhere to people-oriented principles and pay attention to individual differences among students

Innovative methods of ideological and political education must first adhere to people-oriented principles and pay attention to individual differences among students. This means that educators should respect the subject status of students, pay attention to the characteristics and needs of each student, and fully mobilize their enthusiasm and initiative.

In practice, educators can start from the following aspects: first, teaching according to individual needs and characteristics of students, developing personalized education plans to make education more closely related to their actual life and psychological characteristics; Secondly, emphasis should be placed on the subject status of students, guiding them to participate in the educational process, and leveraging their role as the main body in education; The third is to pay attention to the psychological health of students, focus on cultivating their psychological qualities, and enable them to form a healthy personality during their growth process[7].

4.2 Integrating diverse educational methods to enhance educational effectiveness

Innovative methods of ideological and political education require the integration of diverse educational methods to enhance educational effectiveness. This means that educators need to break traditional educational models and use various educational methods and means to make ideological and political education more vivid, vivid, and interesting, thereby improving students' interest and effectiveness in learning.

In practice, educators should fully utilize modern technological means such as the internet and multimedia to enrich educational forms and improve educational quality; Integrating ideological and political education with other disciplines to achieve interdisciplinary teaching and broaden students' knowledge horizons; Carry out practical activities to enable students to learn and experience ideological and political knowledge in practice, and improve their practical abilities; Carry out personalized education, develop personalized education plans based on the characteristics and needs of different students, and improve educational effectiveness. At the same time, integrating diverse educational methods also requires educators to continuously improve their educational and teaching abilities, master various educational methods and means, and better serve educational and teaching work.

4.3 Innovative educational methods to stimulate students' interest in learning

Innovative educational methods and stimulating students' interest in learning are key practical explorations of innovative ideological and political education methods. Educators should pay attention to the learning interests of students, take them as the center, adopt diverse educational methods and means, and enable students to learn ideological and political knowledge in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere, thereby improving learning effectiveness.

In practice, educators can start from the following aspects: firstly, introducing vivid, vivid, and interesting educational cases to make abstract ideological and political knowledge more concrete and intuitive, and to enhance students' interest in learning; Secondly, organize group discussions,
debate competitions, and other forms to encourage students to learn through interaction and stimulate their interest and enthusiasm in learning; The third is to adopt a combination of online and offline education methods, fully utilize online resources, provide students with rich learning materials, and broaden their knowledge horizons; The fourth is to focus on cultivating students’ practical abilities, organizing them to participate in social practice activities, allowing them to experience ideological and political knowledge in practice, and improving their practical abilities.[8]

4.4 Strengthen practical teaching and improve students’ practical abilities

Practical teaching is an important component of ideological and political education, which can enable students to experience ideological and political knowledge in practical operations, and cultivate their practical and innovative abilities. Education workers should strengthen the organization and guidance of practical teaching, develop reasonable practical teaching plans, and ensure the quality and effectiveness of practical teaching; Make full use of social resources, carry out social practice activities, let students feel the socialist core values in practice, and improve their sense of social responsibility; Emphasis should be placed on cultivating students' innovative and practical abilities, guiding them to participate in scientific research projects, innovative practices, and other activities, and stimulating their innovative awareness and practical interest; Establish a practical teaching base to provide students with practical venues and resources, and improve their practical and innovative abilities. Educators should continuously improve their practical teaching abilities, master the methods and skills of practical teaching, in order to better serve practical teaching.

5. The Challenges and Development of 5 Innovative Methods of Ideological and Political Education

5.1 Difficulties in integrating technology and educational models

In the context of the new era, innovative methods of ideological and political education are of great significance, but they face the challenge of integrating technology and educational models. Technological development, such as the internet and big data, provides new means and approaches for ideological and political education. However, how to achieve deep integration of technology and educational models, innovate educational methods and means, is an urgent problem that needs to be solved.[9]

In practical operation, educators need to master new technologies such as the internet and multimedia, enrich educational forms, and improve the quality of education. At the same time, attention should be paid to updating educational content to adapt to the development of the times and improve the effectiveness of education. In addition, attention should be paid to the needs and psychological characteristics of students, with a student-centered approach and diverse educational methods and means adopted to stimulate their interest in learning.

5.2 Teacher Training and Teacher Role Transformation

Teacher training and the transformation of teacher roles are challenges facing education in the new era. The role of teachers has shifted from being knowledge transmitters to being educational designers, organizers, and guides, requiring higher educational and teaching abilities and comprehensive qualities. The education department and schools need to strengthen the training and cultivation of teachers to improve their professional quality.

In practical operation, teachers need to constantly master new educational concepts and teaching
methods to improve the quality of education and teaching. Strengthen teacher training, education departments and schools should develop effective training plans, provide abundant resources, and pay attention to the psychological health and emotional care of teachers. Teachers should adapt to the new role positioning, pay attention to student needs, and actively participate in educational and teaching reforms.

Improve teacher evaluation and incentive mechanisms, establish a scientific and reasonable evaluation system, and focus on teacher professional development and educational and teaching outcomes. At the same time, establish and improve teacher incentive mechanisms, stimulate work enthusiasm, promote teacher professional development, and improve teaching quality.[10]

5.3 Reform of educational environment and system

The reform of the educational environment and system is an important issue. The reform of educational environment and system is of great significance for the implementation of innovative ideological and political education methods. Only by establishing a good educational environment and system can we provide strong guarantees for the implementation of innovative ideological and political education methods.

The reform of the educational environment is a prerequisite for innovating ideological and political education methods. A good educational environment can provide good conditions for students to learn and enable them to better learn ideological and political knowledge. The reform of the educational environment includes improving the hardware facilities of schools and enhancing the software level of schools.

The reform of the education system is a guarantee for innovative methods of ideological and political education. The reform of the education system includes improving the management system of schools, reforming the teaching system of schools, and so on. Through the reform of the education system, a good teaching management environment and institutional guarantee can be provided for ideological and political education.

6. Conclusion

With the continuous development of technology and the deepening of educational reform, innovative methods of ideological and political education will have more breakthroughs and innovations. Education workers should keep up with the development of the times, actively respond to challenges, continuously improve their professional qualities and educational and teaching abilities, and make greater contributions to cultivating citizens with socialist core values and realizing the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

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