

# *A Probe into the Path of Ideological and Political Education and Practice of Minority College Students in the New Era*

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**Abstract**—The younger generation is the main force in Chinese state construction and development. Our country can be strong only if our youth are prosperous and powerful. College students of ethnic minorities as part of the younger generation are not only essential component of the younger generation, but also the backbone of the construction of all ethnic groups. At present, however, the lack of the administrators and inadequate educational mode exist in college students' ideological and political education. In view of the above reasons, the author of the paper puts forward two suggestions for college students' ideological and political education of the contemporary ethnic minorities. Firstly, is to increase professional administrators to understand ethnic culture of the ethnic minorities and respect their beliefs. Secondly, is to change the educational pattern including communication, various activities, and the promotion of their cultural identity and national reconciliation.

**Keywords**—New era; minority college students; ideological and political education

## I. INTRODUCTION

In the wake of socialism with Chinese characteristics entering a new era, secure a decisive victory in building a moderately prosperous society, the development and construction of ethnic minorities and ethnic regions of China are facing new opportunities and challenges. We can achieve better and faster development only when all ethnic groups have "high-quality and omnipotent" talents. At present, major colleges and universities shoulder the arduous task of cultivating minority college students with high ideological and political qualities, and also the important mission of nurturing talents. Therefore, it is very necessary to explore the path of ideological and political education practice for the students in the new era.

## II. THE BASIC DEFINITION OF IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION

Ideological and political education is the unique advantage and glorious tradition of the Communist Party of China. It is the cornerstone of the construction of socialist spiritual civilization in the new era of China. It is the lifeline for the smooth development of all work from the central to the local, from the high level to the grassroots. The elites of all nationalities in China have grown into talents in colleges and universities. Therefore, the results of ideological and political education in colleges and universities are directly related if they can "actively move closer to the party organizations", "become socialist successors", or remember "seeking happiness for the Chinese people and revival for the Chinese nation" for the great mission of rejuvenating the Chinese nation, if they can work tirelessly to realize the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation and remain true to original aspiration and keep the mission firmly in mind! Hence, it is necessary to strengthen the ideological and political education of minority students in colleges and universities.

### The Significance of College Students' Ideological and Political Education

Students will experience a variety of peoples or things in the college life of learning, which will affect the formation of their outlook on life, values, and worldview. If colleges and universities want their students to establish the correct three views, they must strengthen ideological and political education. Contemporary students must have high quality and good moral character in order to learn and implement the spirit of the 19th Party Congress, reflecting their own meaning in life, realizing their own social values, and making more contributions to society! There are several practical implications for the ideological and political education of college students:

#### A. *Conducive to the development of a sound personality*

Minority students may not be able to adapt to the multi-ethnic life of the university due to language barriers and cultural customs, therefore it found more difficult to develop a healthy personality. Although the cultivation of sound personality is not the exclusive stage of school education, but is accompanied by a person's lifelong process, colleges and universities are the main stage of cultivating the sound personality of students. From a practical point of view, we should strengthen the unity of scientific and humanistic guidance, the unity of cultivation of personal characteristic and the sense of mission, in order to nurture people with excellent physical and mental qualities as well as noble qualities. Firstly, we must improve the ideological and political qualities of ethnic students for the sound personality development. In order to achieve the balance and healthy development of students, the ideological and political qualities, and personality such as physical, psychological, moral, social should be improved. As result, they can fully display their talents and get a field that suits them thus.

#### B. *Conducive to economic construction and development*

To promote the construction and development of ethnic minority areas, training of elites for all ethnic groups must be strengthen. It is difficult for students from other ethnic groups and regions to adapt to this environment due to the large differences in customs and bad environments among ethnic minority areas. Local minority students have lived in their hometown since birth and adapted to the local living environment. In addition, they have deep feelings for their hometown. Therefore, this student group is the main leader of the new era in its own region. The students who study in the Mainland will come into contact with more people and things, they can possess broader vision. When these outstanding students return to their hometowns, they will become the main force in the economic construction of ethnic minority areas and lead the poor areas in their hometowns to achieve a well-off society.

#### C. *Conducive to national unity, social harmony and stability*

There are 56 ethnic groups in China, 55 of which are ethnic minorities. Such a large population base makes the stability and unity of all ethnic groups related to social stability and the rise and fall of the country. Every nation has its own unique history and culture. It is not easy to present a situation where "a hundred flowers bloom and a hundred schools of thought contend". Minority college students, as outstanding talents among all ethnic groups, are important successors and promoters of their culture. Therefore, nurturing students with active healthy minds and high political awareness will conducive to the national unity and social harmony!

### III. THE CURRENT PROBLEMS FACED BY MINORITY COLLEGE STUDENTS IN IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION

In recent years, our party and the state have become more and more concerned about and attached importance to the ideological and political education of the ethnic minorities. Colleges and universities have also followed the national

policy guidelines and launched a series of ideological and political education activities, but there are still some problems. details as follows.

#### A. *Lack of education management personnel*

At present, there are fewer full-time minority teachers in colleges and universities, and students' ideological and political education mainly relies on counselors. College counselors usually have more work on weekdays. A counselor may have to connect two hundred or more students. Under such heavy work tasks, they rarely have time to pay attention to minority students. At the same time, they lack understanding of a series of related knowledge about the language, customs, religious beliefs, cultural traditions of ethnic minorities. Therefore, when minority students encounter problems and need to be resolved, the counselors can only analyze the specific problems, deal with the superficial problems, never understand it in-depth, and lack of ability to solve the problem completely. If they use comfort as the main means to deal with the students every time, and do not solve the fundamental problem, then the students will have doubts about the teacher's ability, they will be disappointed with the teacher, the school, and even the society thus arise a sense of loneliness and helplessness. Eventually, the students will only hide the problem in their minds and seek solutions themselves. Once this happens, the possibility of their sudden accidents will increase greatly, and the management of ethnic minorities in colleges and universities will be more difficult to be carry out.

#### B. *Poor education management*

At present, the university mainly apply the lecture method of teaching and learning in political learning to enhance the ideological and political connotation of minority students. This kind of education is relatively monotonous, and it does not mobilize the enthusiasm of students. In addition, students are less absorbed in ideological and political theory through such learning. It is often a waste of time for teachers and students, and less substantial gains. When student being educated by adopting this blunt way of teaching in the long run, student may think that school are doing something that is meaningless instead, it will be aggravating students' rebellious psychology, rejection, and even refuse to accept the school's ideological and political education, and reluctant to obey the organizer arrangement thus.

### IV. THE PATH OF IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION REFORMATION FOR MINORITY STUDENTS IN THE NEW ERA

At present, the ideological and political education work of students are facing with difficulties. The curt handling method can only solve the superficial problem but not for its fundamentals. At the current stage, only the reformation of education work can change the status quo of national ideological and political education from the root cause. The path of ideological and political education reformation of minority students in the new era is analysed as follows:

#### A. *Increase full-time management personnel in colleges and universities.*

It is necessary to introduce talents such as ethnic full-time counselors. Their existence can reduce the conflict between ethnic students and others, so that they have normal study life in the school and enhance the sense of belonging in a foreign land at the same time. Specific advantages are:

##### 1) *Understand national culture and respect national beliefs*

Each ethnic has its own traditional culture that is not understood by ordinary counselors. For example, the Uygur's "Gulbang Festival", the Dai's "Splashing Water Festival", and the Yi's "Torch Festival" are important festivals. Minority students who come to study in the Mainland often have feelings of homesickness and a certain sense of loss because they cannot spend the holidays at home. In this important period, the minority full-time counselors can pay close attention to the students' moods, behaviors, etc., and follow with a series of activities to mend the students' hearts and closer the distance between them. By this way, it can greatly reduce the chance of the students to make extraordinary things due to emotional excitement and ensure the students have a safety and mental health of college life.

##### 2) *Communicating in national language is easier to reach consensus*

The relatively poor communication skills of some minority students, insufficient Chinese language level of some students, passive integration into collective life, and problems of employment and family economy have led to excessive psychological pressure. And getting along with classmates in daily life is likely to cause unnecessary misunderstandings due to improper wording and poor language expression. At the same time, when students communicate with counselors and teachers, for their own considerations, even if they are really dissatisfied, they will not be clearly revealed and lack of self-confidence. It is difficult for counselors to know the real thoughts in their mind, and it is more difficult for counselors to integrate with them. On the contrary, full-time minority counselors able to spend more time to communicate and integrate with the students, build closer relationship, create a sense of intimacy, and enable the students to reveal their inner side to others. In other word, they will more willing to show their thoughts and problems with counselors, and cooperate with teachers to solve practical problems, thus reducing the occurrence of accidents.

##### 3) *Understanding religious beliefs and forbid its related activities in a timely manner*

Colleges and universities are the places where scientific and cultural knowledge is spread, patriotic education and socialist education be carried out. Students cannot perform any religious activities in school that are incompatible with their student status. However, some minority students will celebrate their religious holidays in the school, such as: Eid al-Fitr, which Muslim men and women who believe in Allah, must fulfill the obligation of fasting in Ramadan (September in Islamic calendar). They do not drink or eat during the dawn to sunset, which is called "fasting"; until the sun sets, that they allow to eat and drink is named "breaking fast." A normal person that

fast during the day is unable to carry out daily study and life normally. If they are fasted because of religious beliefs, they will not be able to concentrate on their learning and studies as a student. The ethnic minority full-time counselors understand the religious beliefs, can forbid similar behaviors in time, help students establish correct beliefs, and ensure the normal life of the students.

#### B. *Improving the educational methods and enhancing the sense of identity and responsibility of minority students*

A suitable educational method can better guide contemporary students to take the right path to form a correct moral value, a life outlook and can guide the vast majority of young people consciously with the youthful and passionate to implement the "Chinese dream."

##### 1) *Communicate and improvement of understanding*

Face-to-face communication is the best way to understand one another. After full-time minority counselors patiently and meticulously one-to-one communicate with the minority students, gradually gaining their trust, they can gain a deeper understanding of the student's life, including family and school condition whether they have any special circumstances such as financial difficulties, family misfortune, etc. After understanding these conditions, counselors can apply for registration of needy student with work-study posts and so on through various channels to alleviate the financial burden of students. At the same time, counselors can have many heart-to-heart conversations with such students with care, tolerance, understanding and enlighten them slowly, implant the positive thinking on them although the life is somewhat unsatisfactory. The students can persist with care and help of teachers and classmates, thus the trust of teachers and students and the affirmation of schools and society is ultimately obtained<sup>[6]</sup>.

##### 2) *Various forms and outstanding results*

Lectures is a dull teaching mode in which teachers unilaterally grant knowledge and opinions. Learning ideological and political theory can be adopted by interactive and interesting teaching forms such as talks, exchange seminars, and presentations. Teachers can often find some social focus issues, topics of interest, movies and so on during the class discussion. Students can voice out their mind, ask questions, express their views, while teachers can use this to tap the positive energy, thus the ideological and political education for students can be carried out vividly to achieve the harmonization of "unification of three views " and "five recognitions."

##### 3) *Rich in activities and profound significance*

Practice is the sole criterion for testing truth. Student can only truly understand the ideological and political connotations after own experience and apperception. Therefore, teachers and ethnic students can organize campus cultural activities with diverse ethnic characteristics, and pay a visit to patriotic education bases, historical and cultural museums and places which is rich in spiritual culture, by this students can feel the heroic feelings, appreciate the historical charm and inherit the red culture ideology. In various activities, communicative competence among the ethnics is extended to achieve cultural integration and spiritual exchanges. It can recall the initial

dream, remain true to original aspiration and keep the mission firmly in mind. It also can effectively enhance the interaction and communication skills while cultivating the sentiment of minority students.

## V. CONCLUSION

Strengthening the practice of ideological and political education for young generation of ethnic minority student in the new era can enable the younger generation to follow the party's pace at all times, study and implement the spirit of the 19th National Congress in-depth, find out the responsibility and historical missions of the times correctly, understand the high aspiration and down-to-earth, enhance the four awareness, unflinching four self-confidences, allow the party's leadership program become guidelines for self-action, accepting and supporting the party from the heart. As an important part of the younger generation, minority students if only with high ideological and political qualities, can better understand and grasp the development trend of the country and the nation, finding the right path for their own growth and development, hence grow together with the motherland and people.

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