

# On Strengthening Youth Labor Education in the New Era

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**Abstract:** Labor is a unique activity of human beings, which is the basis for the survival and development of human society. As an important part of education in our country, labor education is directly related to the youth's labor spirit, labor value orientation and labor skill level. Strengthening the youth labor education in the new era is an inevitable choice to meet the needs of high-quality talents for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, an internal requirement to re-examine the absence of labor education in China, and a powerful measure to make up the shortcomings of labor education in China's "five education" education. By correctly understanding the connotation of labor education in the new era, realizing the organic integration of labor education with moral, intellectual, physical, and aesthetic education, and strengthening family education to help labor education are favorable measures to strengthen labor education for young people in the new era.

**Keywords:** New Era; Teenager; Labour Education

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## Introduction

Labor education is an important part of the socialist education system with Chinese characteristics, which directly determines the labor spirit, labor value orientation and labor skill level of socialist builders and successors.<sup>[1]</sup> Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the state has always attached importance to labor education and insisted on combining education with productive labor, so as to cultivate young people to master basic labor skills and establish a correct labor concept.

### 1. The meaning of labor and labor education

In the article "The Role of Labor in the Transformation from Ape to Human", Engels discussed in detail the important and specific role that labor played in the process of human transformation and evolution. It is because of labor that the forelimbs of the ape become the hands of man, the brain of the ape becomes the brain of man, and the senses of the ape become the senses of man... Finally, the ape's body becomes a human body, and the ape becomes a human, with its own independent consciousness, and becomes the "spirit of all things". In the development and progress of society, it is through labor that people create material wealth, improve the level of production, and promote social development, and thus have the development of culture and the progress of social civilization. At the same time, Engels pointed out that: "Productive labour affords every individual the opportunity to develop and express all his full faculties, physical and mental. In this way, productive labor is no longer a means of enslaving people, but a means of liberating people. Thus, productive labour is transformed from a burden to a pleasure."<sup>[2]</sup> Therefore, labor is an essential feature of human beings, a voluntary practice of human beings, and the source of creating social material wealth and cultural wealth.

Labor education, according to its basic content, can be divided into production and technical labor, social welfare labor, and life service labor. According to its basic literacy, it can be divided into labor viewpoints, labor attitudes, and labor habits.<sup>[3]</sup> From the perspective of its basic tasks, labor education mainly includes: the improvement of labor spirit, the establishment of labor value and the cultivation of good labor skills. In school education, labor education is closely related to

other education, such as labor technology education and intellectual education, labor ideological education and moral education, labor health education and physical education, labor creation education and aesthetic education.

## **2. The significance of strengthening youth labor education in the new era**

The new era is facing new challenges and opportunities, and teenagers, as future successors of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, put forward higher requirements for their training. This requires us to think deeply about the contemporary value of youth labor education, deeply understand the significance of youth labor education, comprehensively deepen the reform of youth labor education, and train qualified builders and reliable successors of socialism with Chinese characteristics who are morally, intellectually, physically, aesthetically and labor fully developed.

### **2.1 It is the internal requirement of re-examining the absence of labor education in Our country**

The right and wrong of labor concept and the level of labor skills, whether to the impact of youth or the country and the nation are far-reaching, we must re-examine and pay more attention to the absence of labor education in our country. First of all, as new media such as the Internet and digital TV have brought about multicultural shock, the lack of love for labor is poisoning young students. At the same time, due to the low income of manual laborers in the social division of labor, it is easy for people to narrowly understand labor as "pure manual labor", and produce the wrong idea that "laborers are worthless". Secondly, although the state has repeatedly advocated quality education, it is difficult to guarantee the class hours of labor education in schools, the sites and resources of labor education in schools are occupied, and the teachers in charge of labor education in schools can not get due attention. Teachers of specialized courses neglect to train students' labor consciousness and labor ability in teaching, making labor education one of the important contents of quality education has not received due attention. Finally, with the improvement of material living conditions, the vast majority of children grow up in comfortable surroundings without lack of food and clothing. So that part of the children develop the bad habit of food and clothing, leading to students in the ideological contempt of labor, in practice to escape labor. To solve these problems, it is urgent to strengthen the labor education of teenagers and guide them to cultivate their basic labor skills and set up correct labor value orientation so as to improve their labor spirit.

### **2.2 It is a powerful measure to make up the shortcomings of labor education in China's "five education"**

From the point of difference, labor education pays attention to the combination of theory and practice, because "labor itself is to 'seek truth' from 'facts' to 'real knowledge and practice'".<sup>[4]</sup> From the perspective of connection, labor can cultivate morality, increase wisdom, strengthen health and cultivate beauty. If we can summarize it in five sentences, that is, "To cultivate morality with labor, to increase wisdom with labor, to strengthen body with labor, to cultivate beauty and to innovate with labor".<sup>[5]</sup> At present, labor education is the weak point in the comprehensive promotion of all-round education. Only by making up the weak points as soon as possible can labor education be promoted simultaneously with moral, intellectual, physical and aesthetic education and cultivate qualified builders and reliable successors of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

### **3. Suggestions on further strengthening youth labor education in the new era**

It is necessary to correctly understand the connotation of labor education in the new era, to realize the organic integration of labor education with moral education, intellectual education, physical education and aesthetic education, and to strengthen family education to help labor education, so as to further strengthen juvenile labor education, to accomplish the fundamental task of "establishing morality and cultivating people" in education, and to train new people in the era.

#### **3.1 Correctly understand the connotation of labor education in the new era**

To grasp the connotation of labor education in the new era requires us to deeply understand the meaning of The Times of the important discourse on labor. Further clarify the purpose of labor education in the new era, that is, to guide students to establish correct labor values, establish a positive attitude toward labor, develop excellent labor morality, and combine with the needs of the development strategy of building an innovative country in the new era to train high-quality workers. In addition, we should further realize that the return of labor education, advocating the comprehensive cultivation of morality, intelligence, body, beauty and labor, is the return of the basic Marxist view of "the all-round development of human beings". It is the continuous development of the basic principle of adhering to the combination of "education and productive labor", and also the primary way for the school to train builders and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, beauty and labor.

#### **3.2 Realize the organic integration of labor education with moral education, intellectual education, physical education and aesthetic education**

Moral education, intellectual education, physical education, aesthetic education and labor education are all important links in socialist education. The relationship between them is not separated from each other, but integrated. First of all, to attach equal importance to labor education and the other four education is not to "isolate" labor education, but to set up a special curriculum for labor education symbolically. That is to say, labor education is not to have a unified model, not deliberately, compulsory concept and behavior, but depends on conscious consciousness, conscious pursuit and conscious behavior process.<sup>[6]</sup> All kinds of schools should strengthen innovation, carry out implicit education to students, and permeate labor spirit and labor value into all courses. In addition, schools should try their best to provide students with practical opportunities they are interested in, such as large-scale public welfare activities and volunteer services, instead of limiting labor education to the simple form of "cleaning".

#### **3.3 Strengthen family education to assist labor education**

"Life is education". Family is not only the physical home of children's lives, but also their spiritual home, it is the first place for children to learn. Therefore, we should strengthen labor education in the family, guide teenagers to develop basic labor skills and establish correct labor values with the help of parents. First of all, parents should realize that they play an important role in youth labor education, and regard the function of family education as a responsibility of the family to their children, rather than relegating children's education to the school. Secondly, parents should set an example in life and guide children to correctly understand the connotation and value of labor. "Parents are the first teachers of their children". Children from infant to adults in this period, especially for children, every word and deed of parents are very important. This is the key period of the formation of children's values and world outlook, parents' words and deeds can not be underestimated. Finally, parents should involve their children in actual work. Nowadays, many families spoil their children, or blindly worry about

their children's overall development of this role, so parents should create more opportunities for their children to work, improve their interest and understanding of labor.

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