

Research on the Legal Education Content of College Students in the New Era

Hongjuan Zuo

School of Marxism, Southwest Jiaotong University, Chengdu 610000, China.

Abstract: Strengthening the legal education for college students in the new era is the requirement of The Times and the realistic demand. The content of legal education for college students is not stagnant and invariable. With the development and change of society, it should also keep pace with The Times and constantly update. The key is to clarify the content of legal education for college students, so as to carry out the work in a more targeted and effective way.

Keywords: The New Era; College Students; Legal Education

Introduction

Under the background of the modernization of national governance, strengthening the legal education of college students is conducive to firming their belief in the rule of law in the new era, is conducive to promoting college students to become the backbone of promoting the comprehensive rule of law in the new era. The establishment of educational content is the foundation and the key to strengthen the legal education of college students in the new era. The rule of law is a social and historical category, determining that the content of law education for college students in the new era should adhere to the unity of history and reality, theory and practice, and instrumentality and value. The three aspects of Marxist thought on law, constitution education and basic legal knowledge education constitute the main contents of law education for college students in the new era.

1. Current situation of legal education for college students

With the rapid advance of the comprehensive rule of law and the call of the era of the construction of the rule of law in China, the education of the rule of law for college students has also been pushed to the forefront of The Times. On the whole, the content arrangement of law education for college students is reasonable and comprehensive, but there are still many common problems. There are three main problems in the legal education for college students: First of all, lack of Marxist ideological system education on law. The thought of law scattered in Marxist philosophy, political economy and scientific socialism needs to be systematized and integrated, otherwise we can't really grasp the Marxist thought of law. Secondly, insufficient attention is paid to constitutional education. Some effective understanding of the status of the constitution is an important reason for the lack of attention to constitutional education. The important position of constitution, the implementation and supervision of constitution, the foundation of constitution and the significant advantages of constitution are the important contents of constitution theory, which should be mastered and understood by college students in the new era. Finally, legal basic knowledge education is not comprehensive enough to advance with The Times. Some colleges only set up a few elective courses for the rule of law because of the problem of faculty strength and faculty structure, which reduces the choice space of students and is not conducive to the comprehensive grasp of basic legal knowledge. In addition, the society is developing and the reality is updating, so is the law-based legislation. If the newly promulgated laws and regulations, especially those concerning the vital interests of college students, have been in effect for many years before they are set up as elective courses, it will be impossible to realize the advance of law education for college students.

2. Legal education for college students in the new era

2.1 System education of Marxist thought on law

Marxist thought on law is rich in content, containing the contents of the rule of law ontology, theory of value and methodology. First of all, law does not always exist, but is the product of social development to a certain historical stage. "At a very early stage of social development there arose the need to bind the daily repetition of production, distribution and exchange to a common rule, in order to subject individuals to the common conditions of production and exchange. The rule first manifested itself as habit and soon became law."^[i] This argument not only points out the origin of law, but also points out that law has not always existed. Law is not accompanied by human society, but just like the country, is the outcome of human society to a certain historical stage of development. Secondly, the economic inevitability of law. Marx pointed out in the Preface to *The Critique of Political Economy*: "The relations of law, like the forms of the state, are understood neither in themselves, nor in the general development of the so-called human spirit, but, on the contrary, are rooted in the relations of material life."^[ii] The logical relationship between the superstructure of law and the foundation of social economy is the fundamental to distinguish the materialist and idealist thoughts of rule of law. The restriction and decisive function of social economic foundation to legal superstructure. The social economic foundation is the first, the legal superstructure is the second, is subordinate. Finally, the nature of law. Marx and Engels' classic observation in the *Communist Manifesto* of 1848: "Your ideas are themselves the product of bourgeois relations of production and ownership, just as your law is but the will of your class, enshrined as law, and the content of this will is determined by the material conditions of your class."^[iii] This judgment makes clear the essence of law and establishes the class attribute of law. However, in the current socialist rule of law construction, we should treat the class attribute of law in a developing and changing way.

Marxist ideological education about law is the theoretical foundation of the legal education content of college students. Through carrying out Marxist law ideological education to college students, it is beneficial to fully understand what "law" is, to understand the history of law development, to understand the essence of law. The ideological education of Marxist law is mainly carried out through curriculum education. Efficient course of Marxism at present basically has *An Introduction to the Basic Principles of Marxism*, *An Introduction to MAO Zedong Thought and the Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics*, *Situation and Policy and Contemporary World Economy and Politics*, *Outline of Modern and Contemporary Chinese History*, etc. Refine the content of the thought about law in Marxist courses, and gradually master the essence of The thought about law by systemizing the scattered knowledge.

2.2 Constitution education

The Constitution is the fundamental law of the state, the overall basis for the people's rights and obligations. It has the highest legal status, legal authority and legal effect. The Constitution of the People's Republic of China, promulgated in 1954, is China's first real constitution, which fundamentally confirms the state system and polity of the country, the leading position of the Party and the dominant position of the people. There were more ups and downs before the current constitution was finally established in 1982. On March 11, 2018, the third plenary session of the first Session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) adopted amendments to the Constitution. This is the fifth amendment to the Constitution since it came into force in 1982. The previous amendments were made in 1988, 1993, 1999 and 2007.

Constitution education is the primary and important content of law education for college students. Through constitutional education, college students can understand the state system and polity of the country, understand the rights and obligations given to them by the constitution. The constitution education of college students can be carried out not only through curriculum education in the first field, but also through legal education activities in the second field. The curriculum education of the first position includes compulsory courses and elective courses, and Marxist theory courses and special constitutional education courses. At present, the compulsory courses of colleges and universities are generally ideological and moral cultivation and *Legal Basis*, *An Introduction to MAO Zedong Thought and the Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics*, and an *Outline of China's Modern and Contemporary History*. For special constitutional education courses, it is not unified. Colleges and universities generally set up corresponding elective courses for students to choose according to the specific situation. The legal education activities in the second front are relatively extensive and easily accepted by students. In general, there are various forms such as the pledge to join the Party, the Constitution Day activities, and the visit to the National Constitution Publicity and education Center. The combination of theoretical education and practical activities

can make college students deeply feel the sanctity of the Constitution, fully understand the spirit, principles and significance of the Constitution, and fully grasp the major system and major issues stipulated by the Constitution. As the key object of constitutional education, whether college students do well or not directly affects the level of constitutional education in the whole society. Therefore, we should attach great importance to the implementation and improvement of special constitutional education courses, and gradually integrate constitutional education and constitutional spirit into the daily study and life of college students.

2.3 Basic legal knowledge education.

For students majoring in illegal science, they do not need to master all legal knowledge, but only basic legal knowledge and basic knowledge. Basic legal knowledge involves a wide range of complex content. College students focus on learning and mastering laws and regulations closely related to their own study, life and work, so as to gradually cultivate their own concept and spirit of the rule of law. Through carrying out basic legal knowledge education to college students, is beneficial to strengthen college students' concept of rule of law, is beneficial to cultivate college students' consciousness of rule of law, is beneficial to exercise college students' legal thinking and legal ability.

There are three ways to strengthen the basic legal knowledge education of college students. Firstly, The efficient set of compulsory course "Ideological and moral cultivation and legal Basis", on the constitution and the basic content of the department of law are introduced, you can learn the basic knowledge of the law from the whole; Secondly, basic law courses are offered through electives. For example, the study of Civil Code is the most important and urgent task. The Civil Code of the People's Republic of China, adopted at the third Session of the 13th National People's Congress on May 28, 2020, is known as the "encyclopedia of social life". It is the first law named after the Code in New China and plays a fundamental role in the legal system as well as the basic law of the market economy. Also study the laws and regulations of national security, criminal law, road traffic, commercial economic law and other laws and regulations. In addition, the newly promulgated or revised laws and regulations closely related to college students should become elective courses as soon as possible, so that students can master familiar with them as soon as possible.

Thirdly, strengthen the construction of extra-curricular legal practice activities. We can visit the public security organs, attend the court audit, attend the school's legal lectures, attend the school's mock court activities, attend the school's legal publicity and so on. By participating in these extracurricular legal practice activities, we can not only learn basic legal knowledge, but also better realize the combination of legal knowledge and reality.

In practice, college students are the reserve army and talent guarantee for the construction of the rule of law in the future; at the ideological level, college students are the forerunners of the formation of the concept and spirit of the rule of law. Strengthening the education of the rule of law for college students is an inevitable requirement of China's rule of law construction and an important link in building China's rule of law. Clarifying the educational content is one aspect of promoting and improving the legal education of college students. At the same time, we should constantly change the concept of legal education, constantly strengthen the construction of legal education team, constantly innovate the carrier of legal education, and constantly optimize the legal education environment. Strengthening the legal education for college students in the new era is the requirement of The Times and the realistic demand. With clear education content as the starting point, as the focus, gradually promote the overall improvement of the education of the rule of law.

References

- [1] Selected Works of Marx and Engels (Vol.3) [M]. Beijing: People's Publishing House, 2012:211.
- [2] Selected Works of Marx and Engels (Vol.2) [M]. Beijing: People's Publishing House, 2012:1.
- [3] Selected Works of Marx and Engels (Vol.1) [M]. Beijing: People's Publishing House, 2012:89.

About the author: Hongjuan Zuo (1982-), female, Dengzhou city, Henan Province, lecturer, doctor candidate of School of Marxism, Southwest Jiaotong University. research direction: Marxism in China.