

Research on the Integration of Excellent Traditional Chinese Ethical and Cultural Values into Ideological and Political Theory Courses in Universities

Shuo Wang

Tibet University, Tibet Lhasa 850000

Abstract: Ideological and political education is an important part of "quality education" in universities, aimed at cultivating a new generation of people who can bear the responsibility of national rejuvenation. Chinese excellent traditional ethics and culture are our nation's valuable spiritual wealth, which plays a positive role in improving personal morality, maintaining social harmony and stability, and promoting national prosperity and development. Based on this, this article studies the integration of Chinese excellent traditional ethics and culture into university ideological and political education from the perspectives of feasibility, necessity, and operability.

Keywords: Ideological and political education; Traditional Chinese ethical education; Education

1. Introduction

As an important part of Chinese excellent traditional culture, Chinese excellent traditional ethics and culture have formed a systematic and complete discourse on social morality, professional ethics, family virtues, and personal qualities^[2]. It is our precious spiritual wealth. In the current context of fully promoting quality education, it not only requires students to possess certain disciplinary knowledge and skills but also pays more attention to the cultivation of students' talents and qualities. Therefore, integrating Chinese excellent traditional culture into university ideological and political education is of great significance for effectively improving and strengthening the current state of ideological and moral education, promoting Chinese excellent traditional culture, enhancing cultural confidence, and cultivating new generation with "four qualification".

2. Feasibility of Integrating Excellent Traditional Chinese Ethical Culture into Ideological and Political Courses in Universities

Excellent traditional Chinese ethical culture encompasses rich traditional thoughts and wisdom on morality, life, society, and more. Ideological and political courses in universities are compulsory courses designed to help college students improve their ideological and moral cultivation and promote all-around development. They also serve as important platforms for popularizing and promoting knowledge related to national basic laws and regulations, social ethics and morals, citizenship awareness, and more. Therefore, excellent traditional Chinese ethical culture and ideological and political courses in universities share the same mission of nurturing talents and building up moral character^[3]. Therefore, integrating excellent traditional Chinese ethical culture into ideological and political courses in universities is feasible. Traditional ethical culture provides abundant historical resources for today's ideological and political education. Taking Confucianism as an example, "cultivate oneself, regulate the family, govern the country, and balance the world" is the lifelong pursuit of every Confucian student. The corresponding teachings of each stage provide rich historical materials for cultivating social morality, professional ethics, family virtues, and personal character in current ideological and political courses. For instance, during the phase of cultivating oneself, Dong Zhongshu put forward the Five Constant Virtues of benevolence, righteousness, propriety, wisdom, and faithfulness, which are significant references for personal character cultivation in contemporary times.

3. The Necessity of Integrating Excellent Traditional Chinese Ethical Culture into Ideological and Political Theory Course

Chinese excellent traditional ethical culture has always been regarded as the core values and behavior guidelines of the Chinese people, with rich ideological connotations and values. Nowadays, due to rapid modernization development and conflicting values, we can see negative phenomena such as moral indifference and social trust crisis. Therefore, it is necessary to integrate excellent traditional

Chinese ethical culture into ideological and political theory courses in universities to improve students' moral qualities, humanistic literacy, and to cultivate good social behavior habits^[4].

3.1 Value Guidance

Excellent traditional Chinese ethical culture can provide students with correct value guidance, enabling them to understand their bottom line and beliefs. Traditional ethical thoughts emphasize patriotism and love for the people, which refers to a person's love and loyalty to the motherland and its citizens. Gu Yanwu's "The rise and fall of the world is everyone's responsibility" emphasizes that individuals should be responsible for the rise and fall of the country, actively participate in national affairs, and contribute their own strength to the country. Lin Zexu's "If it is for the good of the country, one will not avoid danger or difficulty!" expresses that for the righteousness of the country, personal life and death or fortune and misfortune should be put aside. In addition, there are many celebrities in history, such as Yue Fei and Wen Tianxiang, who inspire future generations with their spirit and actions. By integrating these thoughts into university ideological and political courses, young students can be guided to enhance their sense of responsibility and honor towards the country and society, and cultivate their patriotic feelings.

3.2 Moral Education

The excellent traditional Chinese ethical and cultural values manifest in the moral education of students mainly involve four aspects: shaping values, guiding behaviors, developing character, and life planning. The traditional ethics culture emphasizes "people oriented", focuses on "benevolence" and "propriety", by integrating these concepts into ideological and political science classrooms, it can help students establish sound personalities, hone their moral sentiments. Moreover, the debates on "righteousness" and "benefit" in the development history of Chinese ethical thoughts, as well as the ideas and arguments that have arisen from them, are of significant importance to cultivate correct values among students and guide them in making right choices and actions when confronting complex real situations.

3.3 Cultural Education

The excellent traditional ethical culture of the Chinese nation is a precious treasure formed over thousands of years, with profound cultural heritage and moral wisdom. Incorporating it into the ideological and political courses of universities has a positive impact on improving students' cultural literacy and helps to cultivate innovative talents with moral integrity and cultural background for the new era. Learning and discussing traditional ethical culture in ideological and political courses can cultivate students' aesthetic awareness and cultural cognitive abilities, such as the Confucianism advocating "moral cultivation," advocating "benevolence, righteousness, propriety, wisdom, and faithfulness," guiding students to have correct values, thinking patterns, and behavioral standards, and improving their cultural and humanities qualities. On the other hand, the integration of excellent traditional ethical culture into the ideological and political curriculum of universities is conducive to fully tapping and promoting its spiritual value, better inheriting and developing excellent traditional Chinese culture, awakening college students' sense of identification and pride in excellent traditional Chinese culture.

3.4 Reference for Life

Excellent traditional ethical culture of the Chinese nation not only emphasizes the pursuit of moral integrity but also attaches great importance to exploring the meaning of life and actively pursuing human perfection and excellence. Incorporating these values into the ideological and political courses of universities can guide students to introspect, reflect, explore the meaning, value, and direction of life. For example, dialectically, looking at Zhuangzi's "A wise person has no fixed mind; a divine person has no self-interest; a saint has no name," combined with "In the highest level, morality is established; in the middle level, achievements are made; in the lowest level, words are put forth. Although time passes, they will not be forgotten." from *Zuo Zhuan*, students can seek balance between inner and outer worlds, pursue their own physical and mental fulfillment while not forgetting their contributions to others and society.

4. The Operationalization of Integrating Chinese Excellent Traditional Ethical Culture into Ideological and Political Courses

4.1 Clarifying Students' Subject Status

Traditional Chinese ethical culture emphasizes the relationship between individuals and society, and attaches more importance to the inner cultivation and spiritual purification of human beings. Modern ideological and political courses advocate the "dual-subject" education concept of "student-centered, teacher-led". Combining excellent traditional ethical ideas of China with contemporary college ideological and political curriculum can guide students to realize that they are in a complex social environment and guide them in shaping

good behavioral habits and moral character through exploration of personality cultivation, emotional and ethical development.

4.2 Textbook Design

For undergraduate students, incorporating the Chinese excellent traditional ethical culture content into related textbooks (such as *History of Chinese Philosophy, Ethics, Aesthetics Principles, Ideological and Moral Cultivation and Legal Foundation*, etc.), setting clear teaching objectives, enabling students to understand the basic connotation and value of Chinese excellent traditional ethical culture through textbooks in a systematic and complete way. At the same time, selecting relevant materials is also a critical part. Selecting representative, era-adaptive Chinese traditional ethical culture classics, for example, instead of using traditional *Twenty-Four Filial Exemplars* stories to explain "Filial piety," we can use "Chen Qingbiao" or "New Twenty-Four Filial Exemplars" as examples, which helps attract students' attention, inspire multi-dimensional thinking from multiple perspectives and thus improve teaching effectiveness.

4.3 Establishing an Appropriate Teaching Model

Chinese excellent traditional ethical culture must have a suitable teaching model to be transformed into educational resources. For instance, adopting a "lecture-discussion, guided study" approach, teachers can ensure their explanation and updating information on content, give students water and fertilizer for self-study. Alternatively, more interactive and engaging methods such as setting open-ended questions, hosting debate competitions, creating real-life scenarios, etc. can be implemented during delivery to encourage students' involvement and enhance teaching effectiveness.

5. Conclusion

In summary, this paper analyzes and studies the feasibility and necessity of incorporating excellent traditional Chinese ethical and cultural values into political theory courses in universities, and further proposes actionable suggestions. Universities should further explore the valuable resources of China's excellent traditional ethical and cultural values, so that students can achieve the goals of ideological and political education through immersion and cultivation.

References

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