

To Promote University Students to “Understanding of China” by “Four Stages”, Comprehensively Cultivate Talents For The New Era

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Abstract: The world is in a situation of great change unprecedented in a century, and it is of great significance to cultivate new talents of the era. Colleges and universities, as an important position for cultivating talents, are particularly necessary to explore the model of cultivating new talents of the era. Based on the “Understanding of China” education plan of Yunnan University, this paper explores the mechanism of education from the four stages of “Comprehension”, “Consideration”, “Practice” and “Argumentation”. In order to establish a new model of circular education through these four stages, it will provide a reference for the development of new talent cultivation paths in the college era.

Keywords: Ideological and political thinking in colleges and universities; new talents of the times; education model; Understanding of China.

1. Introduction

Cultivating new people of the era who are responsible for the great task of national rejuvenation is related to China’s construction and development and national rejuvenation mission, which is of great theoretical and practical significance and is an urgent need of the new era. Under the background of new talent demand, colleges and universities, as an important position for the cultivation of new talents in the era, should constantly put forward new ideas and practices around the fundamental issue of education of “who to cultivate, how to cultivate people, and for whom to cultivate people”. In 2017, Yunnan University launched a series of education programs “Understanding of China”. The program constantly innovates new models of ideological and political education and talent training, and strives to cultivate new talents of the era who are responsible for the great task of national rejuvenation, which including a series of projects such as reading plans, observation plans, high-end academic forums, research services in Yunnan, red gene inheritance, and students’ overseas study tours. Up to now, the “Understanding of China” education plan has been implemented for five years, cultivating a group of new talents of the era, achieving certain practical results in educating people, and won the first prize of Yunnan Province Teaching Achievement Award in 2021. This paper intends to explore the mechanism of the education program to promote the effectiveness of education by analyzing the main sub-activity objectives of “Understanding of China” and the coupling relationship between them, so as to promote the development of education activities under the goal of new talent cultivation in the era.

2. “Comprehension”, “Consideration”, “Practice” and “Argumentation” to cultivate virtue

The deep integration of ideological and political education and professional education is the path guarantee for the results of “cultivating virtue and cultivating people”. However, “integration” is not only to carry out curriculum ideology and politics, but also to create a systematic education project that conforms to the law of education outside the first classroom. In the process of growing up with health values as the core, students need to use their personal effectiveness to carry out deep thinking and practical practice from the input of existing knowledge and perspectives to the final generation of new knowledge and perspectives. The four stages of “Comprehension”, “Consideration”, “Practice” and “Argumentation” form an improvement path, which is a cyclical process from cognitive input to ability output—each stage promotes each other and spirals up (Figure 1). “Understanding of China” program of Yunnan University builds a platform around these four stages, with teachers from the ideological and political education team as the main force to guide students’ activities, effectively realizing the goal of integrating value shaping, knowledge transfer and ability training. It can achieve the overall effect of spiraling and promoting the effect of educating people.

2.1 “Comprehension”, absorbing the strengths of all schools and broaden the vision pattern

The Ministry of Education clearly pointed out in its opinion on deepening undergraduate education teaching reform and comprehensively improving the quality of talent training that undergraduate education should implement “returning to common sense”. They should guide students to read “national conditions” books, “grassroots” books, “mass” books, and read excellent traditional cultural classics, Marxist Leninist classics, Chinese and foreign classics and professional classics. “Comprehension” is the beginning of value creation. With a long history of five thousand years, the Chinese nation have created a long-standing Chinese culture. Looking around the world, it is also rich in countless treasures of culture and wisdom. Through reading, students are encouraged to arm their minds with theoretical knowledge and guide them to feel history and understand the current situation.

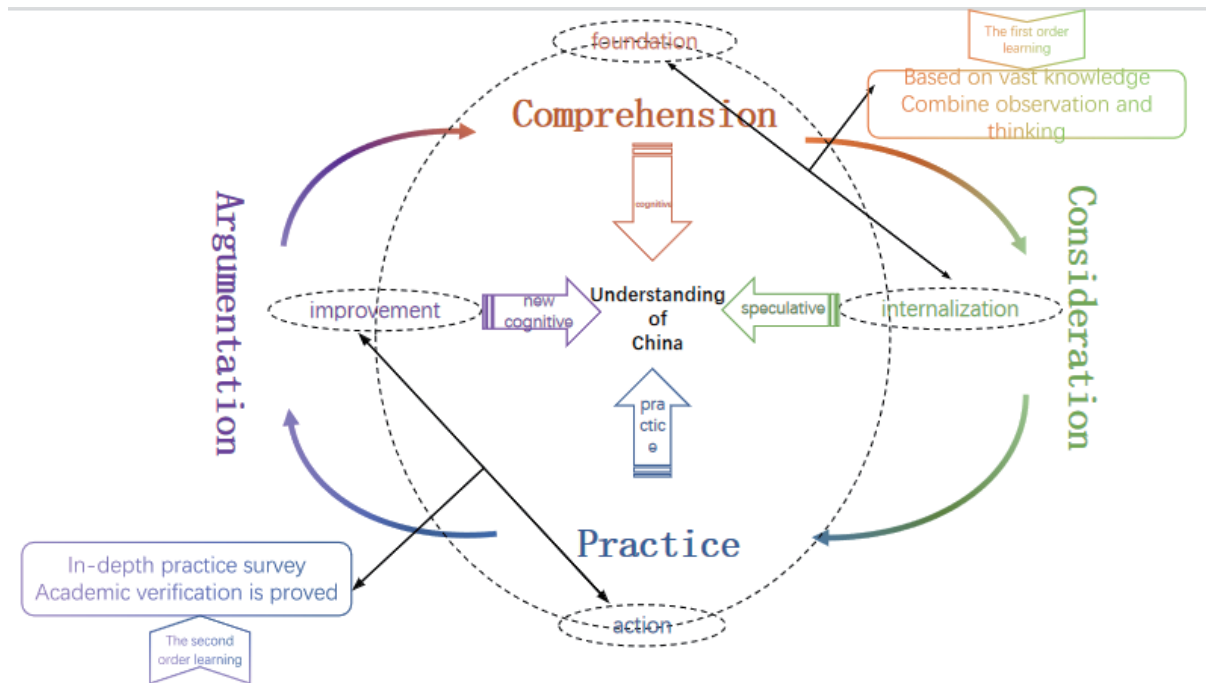


Figure 1 “Comprehension”, “Consideration”, “Practice” and “Argumentation” to cultivate virtue Education Framework

The sub activity “Reading Plan” of the “Understanding of China” series plan of Yunnan University is designed with the concept of “Getting to know China”, which is the most basic part of cultivating contemporary talents. Students spontaneously form a team, organize reading clubs and activities that conforms to the theme of the activity. By reading classics and dialogues between ancient and modern times, young students can distinguish between true and false, and understand China profoundly and comprehensively. A series of activities, such as reading bibliography recommendation, reward plan, collection and publication of reading notes, online column of “I am reading China at Yunnan University” and gift of good books, stimulate students’ interest in reading. As a form of concentrated learning and face-to-face discussion, the Reading Club encourages students of different majors and grades to join the group. During the activity, students are able to read classics, share books, share reading feelings together, as well as promote and improve each other, so that each member can perceive China from different perspectives. The reading activities are more diversified and open, broadening the reading material, taking students into museums and red resource learning bases, increasing students’ contact with non book cultural knowledge, and giving them a multi-dimensional and stereo experience of China in combination with reading comprehension of historical deeds. Finally, through the collection and publication of reading notes, students’ participation, breadth and depth are promoted.

2.2 “Consideration”, reflecting on the state of the nation and integrating personal values into the nation

The knowledge from books will stimulate students’ desire to explore, and purposeful observation can promote thinking. During this critical period of cultivating thinking ability, we should closely combine learning, observation and practice with thinking, keep a keen awareness of new things, learn to analyze problems with the correct positions and perspectives, to be good at grasping the direction of development of history and the times, grasping the mainstream and tributaries, phenomena and essence of social life, and develop the habit of historical thinking, dialectical thinking, systematic thinking, and innovative thinking. Through observation, we should “think” about the current situation of the country, establish correct values, and revise our ideal trajectory. Each generation has its own mission and responsibility. The new generation should think about the historical process of rejuvenating China on the basis of cognition. Only by integrating the ideal of life into the cause of the country and the nation can we finally achieve something. Understand the correct direction of contemporary Chinese youth and the mission of the times that they must shoulder.

The “Observing and Understanding of China” which is a part of “Understanding of China” education plan of Yunnan University, emphasizes the combination of observation and thinking. Students are encouraged to go deep into all levels of Chinese society to observe, understand and identify China through investigation and research. The main contents include: “I look at China at Yunnan University” online column and research services, overseas research and study, red gene inheritance and other parts of the whole social observation. The activity encourages students to walk into the society for observation, to think and analyze the knowledge gained from reading books, to consolidate what they have learned, and to cultivate divergent, diversified and scientific thinking mode. Red gene is the value spirit condensed from the long-term revolution, construction and reform process led by the Communist Party of China, and is an

indispensable part of cultivating contemporary talents.

2.3 “Practice”, walk on the motherland and contact the people of the motherland

It's so urgent that we need higher education, scientific knowledge and excellent talents for the development of the Party and the country. In order to truly serve the people and society, practice education should be taken seriously to help students to conduct the in-depth practical research, and explore solutions. Through walking on the motherland, contacting the actual situation in the survey location, getting along with the people in the place where the practice is carried out to understand the actual situation, supplementing our own original conclusions of thinking observation, enhancing our understanding, enriching our understanding, “Practice” can make students' cognition of things more comprehensive and profound.

“Research Service Plan” is included in “Understanding of China” education plan of Yunnan University. It aims to guide and support students to deepen social practice, serve the society with their knowledge, and devote themselves into the construction of a great China by supporting them to carry out extensive social surveys and research. The main contents include: special plan of research service in Yunnan, service group of research service in Yunnan, temporary job training and research practice for postgraduates, research service symposium, holiday reward plan, research practice project, collection and publication of social observation notes, online column of “I see China at Yunnan University”, and so on. The implementation of this plan provides a wonderful opportunity for students to conduct research, and supports the cross integration of different majors to form teams, which further enriches the process and the significance of practice. The school provides resources support in all aspects, so that students can fully feel the charm of social practice.

One of the purposes of social research is to cultivate students thinking about problems with the actual situation, rather than just imagining. We will encourage students to integrate knowledge with practice, promote action through knowledge, and gain knowledge through action. The gains can be implemented in action, not just in books and conscious level. Only practice can transform what we know and learn into objective material productivity, similarly, if the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and the personal ideals of the vast majority of the youth can be realized, we must also rely on practice. Therefore, “Practice” as a practical action to enhance the effectiveness of education is a very important stage.

2.4 “Argumentation”, theory serves practice, science guides development

In the opinion of the Ministry of Education on deepening the reform of undergraduate's education, teaching and comprehensively improving the quality of talents, it is pointed out that “scientific research feeds back teaching”. The science education should be strengthened in colleges and universities. The construction of scientific research practice platform has improved the innovation and practical ability of students with high-level scientific research. Academic research is closely related to practice. On the basis of the three stages of “Comprehension”, “Consideration” and “Practice”, “Argumentation” is a stage that integrates theory with practice and guides practice. It is also an important stage in the ability improvement mentioned in the guidance of ideological and political construction of college courses. This stage helps students shape a correct outlook on the world, life and values. It can promote the “output” of the new generation's wisdom and ability on the basis of input, and generate new “comprehension”.

The sub-activity of “Understanding of China” education plan is “Academic Forum”. Through the authoritative scholars who are deeply involved in Chinese actual situation will be invited to lead the youth to think and understand China from a higher level standpoint, to analyze China issues in communication and research, to develop the academic spirit with Chinese subjectivity as the core value, and to establish the ideal of academic service to the country. Inviting academic scholars to lead the youth to comprehensively and profoundly understand China from urban to rural areas, history to the future, and other dimensions around Chinese economy, society, politics, culture, ecology and other themes. The form of “forum + master” is a collision between students' personal understanding and the results of discussion of China issues, and the thought of authoritative scholars, which is an important way to improve personal ability. Firstly, the discussions focus on “Understanding of China” and analyze the actual situation of China. Secondly, the discussions are carried out by scholars, with a view to a higher standpoint. Thirdly, the discussions are based on “guiding practice”, integrating theory with scientific practice.

3. Conclusion

The cultivation of new talents of the era must not stay at the cognitive level of knowledge learning, nor can it be limited to inefficient or even ineffective practices that lack goals. Colleges and universities should form a closed loop of speculation on the basis of cognition, verification and consolidation through social practice, and realization of theory guiding practice with academic argument to generate new cognition. Through this four stages, the improvement is carried out repeatedly. Through all-round, multi-level and multi-dimensional understanding of China, cultivating three-dimensional newcomers of the era is the significance of Yunnan University's “Understanding of China” education plans.

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