

On the Cooperative Education Mechanism of Ideological and Political Education in Colleges and Universities from the Perspective of Synergy

Zihai Pan*

College of Marxism, Fujian Normal University, Fuzhou 350117, Fujian Province, China

*Corresponding author: Zihai Pan, 1606520376@qq.com

Abstract: Ideological and political education in colleges and universities is a complex system, which needs to strengthen mutual cooperation among subsystems with the help of synergetic theory to make the internal state of system from disorder to order, from independence to relevance, so as to achieve the effect of cooperative education. In order to promote the in-depth combination of synergetic theory with ideological and political education in colleges and universities and to enhance synergy level, it is necessary to strengthen and improve the construction of synergetic education mechanism, and empower the construction of political and ideological synergetic education with a sound synergetic mechanism.

Keywords: Synergetic; Cooperative education; Ideological and political education in colleges and universities

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1. Introduction

Synergetic, one of the “New Three Methodologies” of cross-disciplinary science, is also called “concordia” or “Synergertios.” “Synergertios” comes from Greek, meaning “the science of coordination and cooperation,” was founded by Hermann Haken, a German professor of theoretical physics. The core idea of synergetics is “synergy leads to order.” The organic combination of synergetic and ideological and political education in colleges and universities can produce a strong synergic educating effect. The introduction of the synergetic into the ideological and political education not only helps to clarify the internal relation among subsystems of the ideological and political education system, but also promotes the transformation of each and every subsystem from chaotic to stable and reaches “one plus one is greater than two” result.

2. The feasibility of introducing synergetic into ideological and political education in colleges and universities

Synergetic is a new subject that gradually formed and developed on the basis of comprehensive multi-disciplinary research. As a wide-applied subject, it is feasible and operable to introduce synergetic into ideological and political education in colleges and universities.

2.1. Synergetic is universally applicable

Known as the study of natural and social sciences Darwinism, synergetic is endeavored with universal applicability. “The purpose of synergetic is not only to discover universal laws of inanimate nature, but also

to build a bridge between inanimate and animate nature ^[1].” In the process of unifying inanimate and animate worlds, synergetic abstracts their common universal laws and establishes a method to deal with complex systems from a unified view, this is the reason why it has general applicability. In addition, synergetic has been widely used in various disciplines since its establishment in the 1970s. Synergetic deeply studies different disciplines and summarizes their common attributes and basic principles. By abstracting the essence from complexity, synergetic owns universal applicability to various disciplines.

2.2. Ideological and political education is openness

Synergetic is one of the branch theories of systematology. From the viewpoint of systematology, ideological and political education is openness. Not only is the education environment open, but also the content and process of education open. In an open environment, each subsystem of ideological and political education system can exchange material, energy and information with outside world, and can evolve the overall system through internal competition and cooperation. According to the core idea of “coordination leads to order,” colleges and universities can control subsystems by changing parameters in carrying out ideological and political education, so that the whole system can change from chaotic and disorder state to active and order state, so as to produce synergy effect.

2.3. Ideological and political education is practical

Ideological and political education is an organized, purposed and planned educating practice. Education is a practice with obvious orientation, recipients of education also have active selectivity. In the process of education, synergetic can analyze the random independent motion of elements within the system, discover non-linear relationships between them and give engine to interrelated movement to gradually replace random independent motion. Thus, the interrelated movement can become the dominant force in the evolution of system and promote the formation of self-organizing movement within the system, so as to achieve the goal of cooperative education. Therefore, there is a natural correspondence between synergetic and ideological and political education.

3. The principle for constructing cooperative education mechanism of ideological and political education in colleges and universities

It is a complex and systematic work to construct the cooperative education mechanism of ideological and political education in colleges and universities, for a sound cooperative education mechanism should have “synthetic counterparts, coordinated development, and collaborative interaction.” The division and cooperation of all elements should be strengthened to lead subsystems of ideological and political education system from independence to relevance, from dispersion to unity, from confusion to coordination, thus synergy effect can be produced. Therefore, the following basic principles must be adhered to in the construction of cooperative education mechanism.

3.1. Principle of direction

In constructing cooperative education mechanism of ideological and political education, colleges and universities must adhere to the principle of direction, that is, the fundamental problem of “who to train, how to train and for whom to train.” For school running, colleges and universities must adhere to the socialist orientation and uphold the guiding position of Marxism. The direct purpose of introducing synergetic into ideological and political education in colleges and universities is to enhance its effectiveness and scientific, while the ultimate goal is to cultivating socialist builders and successors with all-round development in morality, intelligence, physique, art and labor. Direction determines path and path determines destiny. Direction is a matter of overall, long-term and fundamental importance. It is necessary

to adhere to a correct direction to construct cooperative education mechanism of ideological and political education in colleges and universities. If direction goes wrong, the whole cooperative education mechanism will lose its significance and value.

3.2. Principle of synergy

In constructing cooperative education mechanism of ideological and political education, colleges and universities must adhere to the principle of synergy, which is the inherent requirement of introducing synergetic into ideological and politics education. From the perspective of synergetic, to realize all-round ideological and political education and form a multi-linkage cooperative education mechanism, it is far from enough to only understand the composition structure of system, “Even if we find out how the structure is composed, we still need to understand how components cooperate ^[2].” Therefore, the construction of the cooperative education mechanism of ideological and political education in colleges and universities should strengthen its own vertical as well as horizontal layout, so that not only subsystems can operate autonomously, but also the internal, inter-school and off-campus systems can be cooperated with to form a benign interaction mechanism.

3.3. Principle of dynamic

In constructing cooperative education mechanism of ideological and political education, colleges and universities must adhere to the principle of dynamic, which reflects the flexible application of Marxist methodology. The content, method and form of ideological and political education are not unchangeable, but are constantly adjusted and upgraded with the development of times and the need of society. Therefore, the construction of the cooperative education mechanism of ideological and political education in colleges and universities must consider current problems from a dynamic perspective and deal with new changes with a dynamic principle. New problems and conflicts should not be viewed from an isolated and static perspective, but from a relational and active one. The dynamic principle should be applied throughout the whole process of establishing cooperative education mechanism.

4. The path of constructing of cooperative education mechanism of ideological and political education in colleges and universities

Ideological and political education in colleges and universities is a complex and open system composed of multiple elements. To achieve communication, cooperation and mutual assistance among subsystems, and realize whole-process, whole-staff and all-round education pattern, we must build a multi-linkage mechanism for cooperative education and enhance synergistic development among elements to form a comprehensive system of cooperative education. In order to solve the deficiency of overall planning and joint force and promote continuous innovation, it's important to explore a path of constructing cooperative education mechanism of ideological and political education in colleges and universities

4.1. Strengthen and improve the management mechanism of cooperative education

Ideological and political education is a systematic education project. We should innovate the overall management mechanism and integrate the idea of cooperative education into the whole process of management. Hence a scientific and reasonable cooperative education management mechanism can be constructed.

Improve the top-level system design and build a “grand and great ideological and political pattern.” Ideological and political education in colleges and universities is an organic system composed of educational subject, object, medium, and environment. In order to improve the top-level system design and build a “grand and great ideological and political pattern,” colleges and universities should carry out the

main responsibility, strengthen overall planning from a macro level, allocate education resource scientifically, coordinate the relationship between various departments, and carry out the concept of cooperative education throughout the whole process of management.

On one hand, colleges and universities should plan the vertical layout of a long-term ideological and political education management mechanism with synergistic dynamics, strengthen the synergistic interaction among all levels of the system and form a coordinated education management mechanism with cooperative sub-hierarchies. On the other hand, systems should be cooperated at the horizontal level. The communication between teaching, management and service departments should be strengthened, the ideological and political education factors contained in the management and service departments should be explored to realize the organic combination of teaching education, management education and service education.

Clear supervisory responsibilities, institute a leadership management system with a clear division of power and responsibility. Colleges and universities carry out the headmaster-in-charge system under the leadership of the Communist Party committee. We must adhere to this fundamental system and further strengthen the mutual support and organic coordination between Party and Principal. Firstly, the Party committee should take charge of the overall situation and focus on the future, grasp the overall direction of ideological and political education, formulate a scientific and rational cooperative education management mechanism, clarify the relationship between each level, and strengthen connection and cooperation with other departments. Secondly, the principal should execute the Communist Party's decision earnestly, strengthen the contact, communication and coordination with Party committee to ensure the implementation of ideological and political education. Thirdly, leaders of all departments at all levels should follow the unified plan to accurately convey the task of ideological and political education. On the premise of adhering to the general direction, the ideological and political education program should be adjusted according to specific conditions and characteristics of each and every department, so as to improve the effectiveness and scientific of ideological and political education.

4.2. Strengthen and improve the working mechanism for cooperative education

In order to accomplish the primary mission of “cultivating talents through virtue,” it is essential to establish a diversified and interconnected working mechanism and promote mutual cooperation and communication among departments to work under the same direction, so that they can gather into a powerful force to achieve cooperative education effect.

Teaching synergy. Teachers of specialized course, teachers of ideological and political theory course and school counselors are important parts of ideological and political education, they all undertake the fundamental task of moral cultivation. However, there are obvious “barriers” between the three in practical teaching, which makes it difficult to form a pattern of mutual complementary and cooperative education. Firstly, teachers of specialized course should form the consciousness of cooperative education, try to dig ideological and political education notion in their own professional scope and integrate it into their practical teaching. Secondly, college counselors should take the initiative to strengthen communication with teachers of specialized course and teachers of ideological and political theory course, keep abreast of students' ideological and political status, and deal with those who have potential ideological problems and cognitive biases in a timely manner. Thirdly, teachers of ideological and political theory course are the main force of ideological and political education in colleges and universities, so school should give them more support and encourage them to explore new teaching methods and education models.

Management synergy. The administrative department also undertakes the task of carrying out ideological and political education. However, the reality is that the administrative department pay insufficient attention to ideological and political education, its education function has been weakened. In

addition to carrying out routine management work, administrative departments at all levels must carry out ideological and political education with their own characteristics in light of their advantages and conditions. Administrative department should provide corresponding platforms and conditions for service department and teaching department, formulate standardized and reasonable rules and regulations, and improve the quality of ideological and political education through strict, quantitative and scientific management.

Service synergy. Although the main work of service department is to provide relevant services for smooth operation of colleges and universities, it still undertakes the task of moral education. To a certain extent, the education work of the service department is more hidden, and students are more likely to accept ideological and political education in their daily life, so the ideological and political education of service department can be carried out in a “subtle and silent” way. Therefore, the staff of service department should merge ideological and political education into the whole process of service work, create a proper living and learning environment for students, infect them with enthusiastic service and set an example of passion and dedication, guide students to set up good life values imperceptibly.

4.3. Strengthen and improve the logistical support mechanism for cooperative education

A sound logistical support mechanism for cooperation education is a key foundation for promoting the effective, sustainable and healthy development of ideological and political education. A defective logistical support mechanism cannot meet the requirement of ideological and political education, so that the education subject can't teach with one mind and has to worry behind. This will lead to effectiveness of ideological and political education or lack of development momentum. Therefore, we must strengthen and improve the logistical support mechanism for cooperative education.

Firstly, strengthen the teaching staff. Select teachers with excellent quality, good style, dedication and caring spirit into teaching team. We should train teachers under the systematic and professional guidance, enhance their ideas, improve their abilities and let them master the cooperative education method. Secondly, perfect the bylaw. The institutionalization construction can clarify the responsibility range of education subjects, promote the effective operation of the entire education system, enhance effectiveness and scientific of ideological and political education, which is beneficial to standardize ideological and political education. Thirdly, improve the office equipment. Many colleges and universities only have antiquated office facilities, which can't keep up with education requirements of new era. It leads to a serious dilution of the effect of ideological and political education.

4.4. Strengthen and improve the carrier mechanism for cooperative education

Strengthening the carrier of ideological and political education is a significant part of the construction of collaborative education mechanism. Cooperative innovation between carriers is an important way to improve effectiveness of ideological and political education in colleges and universities, which is conducive to diversified forms of education activities and create a good cooperative education environment

Firstly, strengthen the carrier of class, enhance the leading role of ideological and political education courses. Classroom should be the main battlefield to improve the quality of ideological and political courses. Secondly, strengthen the construction of E-education platform, master the discourse power of network ideological and political education. Colleges and universities should speed up the pace, take a firm stand on the main position, and constantly consolidate the dominant power of public opinion of network ideological and political education. Thirdly, strengthen the construction of campus culture, construct the cooperative education mechanism of “educating and inculcating people with culture.” Colleges and universities should put a high value to the educational function of campus culture, vigorously promote the construction of “cultural ideology and politics,” and strive to form a dense atmosphere of moral education. Form an organic fusion of traditional culture and modern culture and let students accept a silent

transforming influence of culture, ideology and politics, so as to achieve “internalized in the heart, external in the form” effect.

5. Conclusion

The world today is fraught with uncertainties and undergoing profound changes unseen in a century. Once again, human society stands at a historical juncture and faces the question of which course to follow. In a new era, the ideological and political education in colleges and universities should be motivated to adapt to new tasks, new requirements and new problems. In face of a complex education environment, it is necessary to change according to matter, progress according to time, and innovate according to situation. Colleges and universities should constantly strengthen the construction of ideological and political cooperative education mechanism, and improve the effectiveness of ideological and political education.

Synergetic has universal applicability, which provides a brand-new research perspective for us to study ideological and political work in colleges and universities. It is one of ways to improve the effectiveness of ideological and political work in colleges and universities to study the cooperative education mechanism from the perspective of synergetic. At present, the cooperative education mechanism of ideological and political work in colleges and universities still faces the reality of imperfect construction and deficient effect. Combining synergetic with ideological and political work in colleges and universities, we can break the current teaching bottleneck with systematic and dynamic approaches and provide a scientific theoretical guidance for ideological and political work in colleges and universities, so as to improve the rationality of cooperative education mechanism and promote the effective implementation of ideological and political education.

Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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