

Cultivation of Youth Patriotism in the New Era: Current Situation, Objectives and Practical Approaches

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Abstract: Youth patriotism education is an important part of maintaining national unity and promoting the growth and success of young people to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation in the new era. However, youth patriotism education in the new era presents the following status quo: firstly, the education method and content are single and boring; secondly, it is deeply impacted by the negative information on the Internet and the invasion of diversified ideologies and cultures; and thirdly, the cultural self-confidence is weakened, and the influence of traditional culture is declining. Patriotic education for young people in the new era should aim at realizing young people's emotional identity, ideological identity and behavioral identity of knowledge and action. To this end, patriotic education in the new era can be adjusted from the adjustment of the form and content of patriotic education, strengthening the governance of multiple subjects in cyberspace, as well as basing on traditional culture and firming up cultural self-confidence, with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of patriotic education for young people in the new era.

Keywords: Youth; Patriotism; Ideological and Political Education.

1. Introduction

Patriotic education for young people is an important part of promoting the growth and success of young people in the new era, advancing social construction, safeguarding national unity and realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The report of the 19th CPC National Congress clearly pointed out that it is necessary to "widely carry out education on ideals and beliefs, deepen publicity and education on socialism with Chinese characteristics and the Chinese dream, carry forward the spirit of the nation and the spirit of the times, strengthen education on patriotism, collectivism and socialism, and guide people to establish a correct outlook on history, ethnicity, nationhood, and culture." [1] General Secretary Xi Jinping General Secretary Xi Jinping also clearly pointed out at the National Commendation Conference for Progress in National Unity that "we should give more prominence to the strengthening of patriotism education for young people, and bury the seeds of love for China in the hearts and minds of each and every child." [2] As socialism with Chinese characteristics enters a new era, there is a greater demand for young people to develop an emotional, ideological, and behavioral identification with the motherland, and thus internalize patriotism in their hearts and minds. Patriotism is "internalized in the heart, externalized in action", and strive for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Therefore, patriotism education is crucial in ideological and political education.

2. Status of Patriotic Education for Youth in the New Era

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core has always attached great importance to youth education, especially the work of youth patriotism education. However, objectively speaking, the current patriotic education still faces many practical problems:

2.1. Relatively Monotonous and Boring Educational Approach and Content

At present, although political educators pay enough attention to patriotism education, but in the patriotism propaganda and education, often stick to a fixed form, patriotism education content lack of innovation, the educational effect is not obvious.

From a formal point of view, patriotism education relies too much on traditional education carriers, young people for the national development path, advanced system, scientific theory and excellent culture in a passive state of receiving and instilling, young people have the most simple patriotic feelings for the motherland, but they can't "the simple patriotic feelings with the reality of the social system and the nature of the country rely on a close combination of love for their own country" It is also difficult to produce strong emotional and ideological resonance for patriotic education. The country" [3] for patriotism education, it is difficult to produce strong emotional and ideological resonance.

From the viewpoint of content, the content of patriotic education lacks innovation, explanatory and infectious power. This is mainly reflected in the patriotic education discourse is old-fashioned, mostly in a didactic or appealing way, emphasizing the importance of patriotism. However, strong patriotic feelings often require more explanatory and contagious teaching content to clarify to young people for the motherland, why do we love, how do we love? Only by enhancing the innovative and explanatory nature of the discourse of patriotic education can young people truly accept and understand the connotation of patriotic education.

2.2. The Development of Internet Technology Brings Impacts and Challenges to Patriotic Education

The rapidly developing Internet technology has brought a more immediate sharing platform, richer teaching resources

and more frequent cultural exchanges for patriotic education in China. But at the same time, it also brings impact and challenges to patriotic education:

Negative and False Information on the Internet Affects Youth Judgment, The immediacy and interactivity of the Internet satisfy the needs of young people for sharing and communication. However, at the same time, the diversity and anonymity of the Internet also lead to the proliferation of negative and false information on the Internet, which affects young people's judgment of the current national situation and social development. In the virtual environment of the Internet, due to the anonymity of the Internet, netizens exaggerate or even fabricate facts in order to seek catharsis and gain attention; and due to the downward shift of the right to speak, various kinds of fragmented and pan-entertainment information are emerging. Young people, whose worldview, outlook on life and values have not yet been fully formed, are very prone to listen to rumors and spread false information in such a complicated online environment, misjudge social issues, and have a rebellious mindset towards patriotic education. Negative and false information on the Internet is gradually shaking and destroying the political self-confidence and national identity embedded in the content of patriotism education, which has brought great impact and challenge to the patriotism education for young people.

Multi-thinking and cultural shock reduces the sense of national identity, The dissemination and exchange of excellent Chinese culture cannot be separated from the rapid development of Internet technology. With the rapid innovation of communication media and network technology, the development of Chinese culture has brought new opportunities, and we have more chances to tell a good Chinese story and spread the Chinese voice. However, at the same time, multi-cultural exchanges and collisions are accompanied by the penetration and invasion of ideologies and thoughts. As the most active group in the cyber world, young people are most vulnerable to such invasion. The invasion of Western ideology and culture has led to a lower sense of identification with the mainstream culture and mainstream ideas among young people, and they are confused and skeptical about China's road and culture, which has brought about an impact on the education of patriotism among young people.

2.3. The Decline of the Influence of Traditional Culture

Chinese traditional culture, a collection of the brilliant creations, moral inheritance and cultural thoughts of the Chinese nation for more than 5,000 years, is the foundation of the Chinese nation's unceasing existence and the bond that maintains national unity. With the development of science and technology, the progress of network technology and the process of informatization, the current traditional culture education has presented a contradiction between the lagging behind of the innovativeness of education carriers, education forms and education contents, and the new development of young people's cognitive habits and learning styles. The decline in the infectious power and influence of traditional Chinese culture is also disintegrating young people's sense of national belonging and national identity.

3. Goals of Patriotic Education for the New Era

Patriotism melts the national spirit and unites the spiritual motivation of young people to strive for progress. Patriotism education in the new era should aim at cultivating young people's emotional and ideological identity with the motherland, as well as their behavioral identity, which translates emotion and motivation into action.

3.1. Perceptual Awareness: Simple Emotional Recognition of Patriotism

Patriotic education for young people in the new era should first focus on cultivating young people's simple patriotic feelings. General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized that "patriotism, the deepest and most enduring emotion in the world, is the source of one's virtue and the foundation of one's success" [4] From the perspective of the law of the development of cognition, youth patriotism education has to go through the stage of perceptual understanding to rational understanding. The primary goal of youth patriotism education is to cultivate young people's perceptual patriotic feelings, so that young people can first feel their innate deep affection for the motherland, and guide young people to develop a heartfelt love for the motherland, the nation, the people and the Party.

3.2. Rational Understanding: Authentic Patriotic Ideological Identity

According to the law of cognitive development, youth patriotism education has to go through three stages: perceptual awareness, rational awareness and patriotic practice of knowledge and action. This is a process from perceptual to rational, from cognition to practice. Among them, perceptual awareness and rational awareness are dialectically unified: perceptual awareness is at the primary stage of awareness, while rational awareness is at the advanced stage of awareness; rational awareness relies on the perceptual awareness of the previous stage, and perceptual awareness will be developed into rational awareness. The second step of patriotic education is to further develop simple patriotic feelings into rational patriotic ideological identity. Through the explanatory power of the discourse of patriotism education, we can raise the level of youth's cognitive awareness of patriotism education, so that young people will understand why we love our country and what kind of country we love. Guiding young people to learn basic political theory, understand the socialist road with Chinese characteristics, socialist theory with Chinese characteristics, socialist system with Chinese characteristics, socialist culture with Chinese characteristics, so as to strengthen the "four self-confidence", the motherland to produce a true ideological identity, that is, our country's road, system, The Party's level of governance and other aspects of ideological identity.

3.3. Practice: Patriotic Practice of Knowing and Doing

Youth patriotism education should not only create a patriotic atmosphere, cultivate patriotism, but also guide young people to "internalize the feelings of the country in the heart, externalized in action", and transform the deep feelings for the motherland into the spiritual impetus for the country and the people to fight tirelessly. General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that we should "carry out in-depth, lasting, vivid

patriotism propaganda and education in the majority of young people, so that the spirit of patriotism in the hearts of the majority of young people firmly rooted in the majority of young people to cultivate patriotic feelings, sharpening the will of the country, the practice of the country's line, so that the spirit of patriotism from generation to generation, carry forward." [5] Therefore, patriotic education should adhere to the emotional education, and the spirit of patriotism is not only the spirit of patriotism. Patriotism education should adhere to the unity of emotional education, ideological education and practical education, and educate young people to practice the sentiment of serving the country, so that they can resolutely safeguard the unity of the motherland and the unity of the nation, firmly uphold the "four self-confidence", pass on the excellent culture of the Chinese nation, be diligent and hard-working, and be brave and kind. Courage to bear the great responsibility of national rejuvenation, and strive to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation in the vivid practice of the Chinese dream of youthful dreams.

4. The Way Forward for the Practice of Patriotic Education for Young People in the New Era

Patriotic education for young people in the new era should not only inherit the tradition, but also promote innovation, and conform to the changes of the times in the educational environment and educational targets, and must promote changes in the form and content of patriotic education, strengthen cyberspace governance, and also be based on the traditional culture, and firm cultural self-confidence.

4.1. Enriching the Form and Content of Patriotic Education

Enriching the forms of patriotic education is mainly considered in terms of innovative educational carriers and the utilization of mainstream media.

Innovative educational carriers should not only make full use of traditional educational carriers, but also give full play to the patriotic propaganda and education functions of patriotic practice bases. General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized that "we should make full use of the great achievements of China's reform and development, commemorative activities of major historical events, patriotic education bases, traditional festivals of the Chinese nation, and national public ceremonies to enhance the people's patriotism and consciousness." [5] Using education bases such as revolutionary memorials, history museums, and the former residences of celebrities, young people are allowed to feel more intuitively and vividly the hard-won prosperity of the motherland and the cultural splendor of the motherland, thus awakening their patriotic fervor more directly. "We should use art forms and new media to convince people with reason, educate people with culture, and emotionally touch people." [5] Patriotic education for young people should also vigorously develop educational carriers such as sketches, stage plays, and movies, which are more in line with young people's characteristics and needs. The Internet has brought richer teaching resources and more convenient dissemination platforms for patriotic education. Relying on the Internet, we have established a network education platform with various forms of patriotism themes, including pictures, texts, movies, and question-and-answer contests, so that young people can take more initiative to actively accept patriotic education.

The purpose of utilizing the mainstream media is to address the declining influence of the mainstream media on young people, promote the integration of the mainstream media with patriotic education, and enhance the influence of mainstream values. The development of Internet information technology has broadened the living space of modern society and reconstructed the media communication ecology, so it is necessary to make the content propaganda of mainstream media alive according to the values and cognitive acceptance of young people, "embedding patriotism education into the daily life of young people's materials, and converting the "grand narrative" with strong rationality into "small narrative" with vividness and vividness". "Embed patriotic education in the daily life materials of young people, and convert the more scientific and rational "grand narratives" into vivid and vivid "small narratives" for dissemination." [6] Obviously, only by optimizing the way of discourse dissemination, respecting the reasonable value demands of young people, and practically solving the real problems they are concerned about, can we maximize the cohesion of the consensus.

Enriching the content of patriotism education means enhancing the innovativeness, explanatory power and infectious power of the discourse of patriotism education. It is necessary to improve the discourse system of patriotism education and enhance its explanatory power, infectious power and cohesive power. The formation and improvement of this discourse system should be based on China's actuality, not forgetting the original, firming the discourse confidence, and focusing on the other hand, we should fully recognize the cognitive characteristics of the youth, and enhance the attractiveness of the discourse of patriotism education with more persuasive discourse connotations and more interesting discourse expressions. Contemporary young people have a strong sense of subjectivity, and are often excluded from unilateral sermons. It is necessary to change the traditional way of expression of patriotism education discourse, and transmit the patriotism education discourse to the youth in an interesting and life-oriented way, so as to maximize its vitality.

4.2. Strengthening the Governance of Multiple Subjects in Cyberspace

The Internet is a double-edged sword for carrying out patriotic education, and to make full use of the Internet, it is necessary to strengthen the synergistic governance of multiple subjects in cyberspace. First of all, it is necessary to strengthen the construction of cyberspace content. For the network vulgarization, populism, smear history, "pseudo-science", "pseudo-patriotic" and other content, we must be bold to show the sword, firm and effective combat in accordance with the law, to strengthen the cyberspace content control force, improve the threshold of access; to give full play to the role of the network of propaganda and education, to encourage the promotion of the main theme and positive energy network works. To give full play to the role of network propaganda and education, to promote the main theme and positive energy network works to be encouraged, the opening of patriotism education columns, to promote patriotism and in line with the core socialist values of the content. Secondly, it is necessary to strengthen the institutional construction of cyberspace. The management must increase its supervision of Internet enterprises, online social networking platforms, various entertainment APPs and other communication media. At the institutional level, they should formulate rules for network management, clarify the norms of network behavior,

and formulate punitive measures to severely punish all contents and behaviors that are not conducive to the benign development of cyberspace, so as to open up a channel for the smooth development of cyber-patriotism education.

4.3. Based on Traditional Culture, Firm Cultural Confidence

"The Chinese nation has a profound cultural tradition and has formed a distinctive system of thought that embodies the intellectual wisdom and rational thinking accumulated by the Chinese people over thousands of years. Chinese civilization continues the spiritual bloodline of our country and nation, which needs to be passed on from generation to generation and guarded, as well as advancing with the times and introducing new ideas" [7] General Secretary Xi Jinping, at a symposium on philosophical and social sciences, asked that social sciences work should attach great importance to and develop China's outstanding traditional culture. To carry out the work of youth patriotism education, it is equally important to build on the ideological roots of China's excellent traditional culture. The essence of traditional Chinese culture is the great national spirit centered on patriotism, diligence and courage, self-reliance, solidarity and unity, and love of peace, which has been the spiritual driving force behind the unceasing survival of the Chinese nation for thousands of years. To carry out youth patriotism education, we should make full use of China's excellent traditional cultural resources, and guide young people to understand China's beautiful language and writing, long national history, rich local customs and poetry, costumes, carvings and other splendid culture. This will enable young people to feel the charm of traditional culture more intuitively and enhance their cultural identity and cultural confidence.

At the same time, young people, as the force of the times, should not only be the inheritors and practitioners of Chinese culture, but also the innovators and disseminators of Chinese culture. We should guide young people to "promote the creative transformation and innovative development of

Chinese civilization, and activate its vitality" [7] so as to make cultural self-confidence more endogenous and enduring.

Since its inception, Marxism has regarded youth as an important force for social development. With strong vitality and vigor, young people are the commandos and forces of social construction and reform. It is of great significance to examine the practical problems facing youth patriotic education in the new era, determine the goals of youth patriotic education in the new era, and explore the practical way forward for youth patriotic education in the light of the requirements and expectations of socialism with Chinese characteristics for youth education in the new era, so as to cultivate young people of the times who will take on the great responsibility of national rejuvenation.

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