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Research and Reflection on Ideological and Political Course Teaching in Private Undergraduate Universities

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Abstract: Private undergraduate universities, as important components of higher education alongside public universities, enroll a considerable share of college students in China. They play an irreplaceable role in China's higher education system and deserve focused attention for the sustainable and sound development of China's socialist education cause. As a core curriculum guiding students' professional ideology, fostering their sound mental development, and establishing their value beliefs, ideological and political education is crucial to fulfilling the fundamental task of fostering virtue through education, promoting students' all-round development, advancing the healthy development of universities, and cultivating high-quality talents for socialist construction. Private undergraduate universities, as an integral part of higher education, must attach sufficient importance to ideological and political courses, advance teaching reform timely, elevate teaching quality, and improve the comprehensive competence of graduates. Against this background, this paper conducts an in-depth study on promoting the construction of high-level ideological and political courses in private undergraduate universities, analyzes realistic dilemmas and deep-seated causes, and puts forward targeted strategies to enhance teaching effectiveness, so as to provide a useful reference for the high-quality development of ideological and political education in private undergraduate colleges and universities.

Keywords: Private Undergraduate Universities; Ideological and Political Courses; Teaching Research; Teaching Reform; Reflection.

1. Introduction

With the popularization of higher education in China, private undergraduate universities have developed rapidly and become an indispensable part of the national higher education system. They shoulder the important responsibility of cultivating large numbers of applied, innovative, and high-quality talents for social and economic construction. Ideological and political courses are the key channel to implement the fundamental task of fostering virtue through education, which directly affects the direction of talent training, the value orientation of young students, and the long-term stability of education. In 2020, the Ministry of Education issued the Guidelines for Curriculum Ideological and Political Construction in Colleges and Universities, which clarified the overall goals, key tasks, and implementation paths of ideological and political education in colleges and universities, and provided important guidance for the reform and innovation of ideological and political courses.

However, due to factors such as school-running system, capital investment, teacher team structure, and management concepts, ideological and political course teaching in many private undergraduate universities is still facing prominent problems such as insufficient attention, outdated concepts, single teaching methods, and weak faculty. These problems restrict the improvement of teaching quality and reduce the actual effect of ideological and political education (Que & Sun, 2020). Therefore, it is of great theoretical value and practical significance to systematically analyze the current situation, problems, and causes of ideological and political course teaching in private undergraduate universities, and explore scientific and effective improvement paths. This paper focuses on the realistic needs of ideological and political education reform, combines the characteristics of private undergraduate universities, and puts forward feasible suggestions to promote the high-quality construction of ideological and political courses.

2. Current Status of Ideological and Political Course Teaching in Private Undergraduate Universities

In recent years, under the guidance of national policies, ideological and political course construction in private undergraduate universities has achieved positive progress. More and more school managers have begun to realize the fundamental role of ideological and political education in talent training, and gradually incorporate ideological and political work into the overall development planning of the university. Some private undergraduate universities have carried out active exploration in teaching reform, trying to apply case teaching, group discussion, interactive teaching, and scenario simulation into classroom teaching, so as to break the traditional indoctrination mode and improve students' participation and interest in learning (Zheng, 2025).

At the same time, many private undergraduate universities have begun to attach importance to practical teaching. They organize students to participate in social practice, voluntary services, visits to red education bases, community services and other activities, so that students can perceive the development of the times, understand social reality, and enhance their sense of social responsibility in practice. With the rapid development of information technology, some universities have also begun to use online platforms, mini-programs, open courses and other digital resources to assist ideological and political teaching, expanding teaching space and enriching teaching forms (Deng, 2024).

Nevertheless, compared with public universities, private undergraduate universities still have obvious weaknesses in ideological and political course construction. First, the attention from management and teachers is generally insufficient, and many schools still have a tendency to value

professional education over ideological education. Second, educational concepts are relatively backward, and teachers often focus on knowledge instillation rather than value guidance. Third, teaching methods are relatively single, and teacher-student interaction is insufficient. Fourth, the faculty is weak, lacking high-quality professional teachers, and the teaching guarantee mechanism is not perfect (Ma & Liu, 2022). These problems have become important factors restricting the improvement of ideological and political teaching quality.

3. Problems and Causes in Ideological and Political Course Teaching

3.1. Insufficient Attention from Administrators and Teachers

One of the most prominent problems in private undergraduate universities is the lack of sufficient attention to ideological and political courses. Affected by the school-running orientation and employment-oriented evaluation system, many managers believe that professional courses and employment rates are the core competitiveness of schools, while ideological and political courses are regarded as "optional" public courses. Therefore, the allocation of teachers, funding, classrooms and other resources is relatively insufficient, and the implementation of teaching is perfunctory (Que & Sun, 2020).

In addition, many professional teachers hold the wrong view that ideological and political work is only the responsibility of ideological and political teachers, and they are not willing to integrate ideological and political elements into professional teaching. As a result, it is difficult to form a collaborative education mechanism, making ideological and political education isolated and difficult to achieve the ideal effect. Teachers and students also lack a full understanding of curriculum ideology and politics, leading to weak initiative and low participation in teaching activities (Ma & Liu, 2022).

3.2. Outdated Educational Concepts

Outdated educational concepts are deep-seated causes that restrict the effectiveness of ideological and political teaching. Many teachers still take knowledge impartation as the core goal, ignoring the cultivation of students' morality, psychology, innovation ability and social responsibility. They fail to base on students' real ideological characteristics and growth needs, resulting in teaching content divorced from reality and students unable to produce ideological resonance (Xu, 2022).

At the same time, some teachers lack the awareness of reform and innovation. They are used to fixed teaching plans and old course content, and rarely combine current affairs, policies and typical cases into teaching. Such a teaching mode cannot keep up with the development of the times, making the classroom lack attraction and appeal, and it is difficult to really move and influence students.

3.3. Monotonous Teaching Methods

In terms of specific teaching implementation, many ideological and political courses still adopt the traditional teacher-centered lecture method. Students are in a passive listening state, with less interaction, less discussion and less thinking. Such a single teaching method reduces students' learning initiative and makes it difficult to stimulate their critical thinking and innovative consciousness (Zheng, 2025).

In addition, the integration of practical teaching is insufficient. Many private undergraduate universities lack stable practical teaching bases, and practical activities are mostly symbolic and formalized. The separation of theory and practice makes it difficult for students to transform what they have learned into faith and action, which greatly weakens the effectiveness of ideological and political education (Deng, 2024).

3.4. Insufficient Faculty Strength

The faculty is the core support of ideological and political teaching, but it is also a short slab for private undergraduate universities. Due to relatively limited treatment and development space, private universities face difficulties in introducing high-level teachers with senior professional titles and rich experience. Most of the existing teachers are young and middle-aged teachers, whose professional ability, theoretical accomplishment and scientific research level need to be improved (Li, 2025).

In addition, the structure of the teaching team is unreasonable, the training mechanism is not perfect, and the assessment and incentive system is not scientific enough. Teachers lack sufficient opportunities for further study and training, which affects their long-term development and teaching confidence. The instability of the teaching team also brings adverse effects on the continuity and standardization of ideological and political teaching (Xu, 2022).

4. Suggestions for Improving Ideological and Political Teaching

4.1. Build a High-Quality Faculty Team

Teachers are the main force of curriculum ideology and politics. Private undergraduate universities should increase investment in teacher construction, improve the treatment and development space of ideological and political teachers, and attract outstanding talents to join. At the same time, perfect the training system, carry out regular teaching research, observation and exchange activities, and help teachers improve their political accomplishment, professional level and educational ability (Li, 2025).

It is also necessary to strengthen the cooperation and communication between ideological and political teachers and professional teachers, promote the integration of ideological and political education into various courses, and form a joint education force. Through systematic training and mechanism guidance, teachers can be guided to establish correct educational values and truly undertake the mission of fostering virtue through education (Ma & Liu, 2022).

4.2. Renew Educational Concepts and Diversify Teaching Methods

Schools and teachers must establish a student-centered educational concept, adhere to the unity of knowledge teaching, ability training and value guidance. Teachers should abandon the backward concept of emphasizing knowledge over morality, and truly integrate ideological guidance and value leading into every class (Xu, 2022).

In teaching, we should actively promote diversified methods such as case teaching, situational teaching, interactive discussion and practical experience. We should make full use of modern information technology to carry out online and offline mixed teaching, enrich teaching resources and enhance classroom attractiveness. Only in this way can

ideological and political classes be lively and effective (Zheng, 2025).

4.3. Innovate Practical Teaching Modes

Practical teaching is an important way to enhance the effectiveness of ideological and political education. Private undergraduate universities should establish stable practical teaching bases, carry out social investigations, voluntary services, themed practical activities and so on, so that students can understand society, increase their abilities and improve their consciousness in practice (Deng, 2024).

At the same time, strengthen school-enterprise cooperation and school-local cooperation, integrate professional practice with ideological and political education, and enhance the sense of reality and pertinence of education. Improve the practical teaching evaluation system, pay attention to process evaluation and behavioral performance, and promote students to realize the unity of knowledge and action.

4.4. Improve the System and Mechanism to Strengthen Teaching Security

Private undergraduate universities should improve the leadership mechanism and management system of ideological and political education, incorporate the construction of ideological and political courses into the core assessment indicators, and form a working pattern of joint management. Improve the teaching security mechanism in terms of funding, equipment, venues and so on, and create good conditions for the smooth development of teaching (Que & Sun, 2020).

At the same time, improve the teaching supervision and quality monitoring system, timely discover and solve problems in teaching, and promote the continuous improvement of ideological and political teaching quality through standardized management and scientific evaluation.

5. Conclusion

General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized that fostering virtue through education is the foundation of colleges and universities. Ideological and political courses are the key to realizing the task of fostering virtue through education, which is related to the future and destiny of the country and the nation. As an important part of higher education, private undergraduate universities must shoulder their due responsibilities, attach great importance to ideological and political course construction, face up to existing problems, and promote teaching reform with strong determination and effective measures.

By strengthening the construction of teachers, renewing educational concepts, innovating teaching methods, perfecting practical teaching and consolidating system guarantee, private undergraduate universities can continuously improve the quality and effectiveness of ideological and political courses, give full play to the role of classroom as the main channel, and truly integrate value guidance throughout the whole process of education and teaching. In the new era, ideological and political education in private undergraduate universities will surely move towards a higher level of development, and make important contributions to cultivating qualified builders and reliable successors of socialism.

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