

# Technologies and Methods of Patriotic Education in Higher Education Institutions of China

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**Abstract:** Patriotism, an important component of the Chinese national spirit, has inspired generations of Chinese to strive for national prosperity. If the youth is robust, the country will be strong. Because college students are the vital force of the country and the hope of the nation, it is especially important to cultivate their patriotism. China is facing new challenges, with profound changes in domestic and foreign situations, rapid technological development and increasingly frequent Internet exchanges. The patriotic education environment has also become more complex under the impact of undesirable Western culture. With the external and internal influences, further patriotic education for college students still faces many challenges. We should face up to the problems in contemporary patriotism education in higher education institutions, explore the solutions and cultivate patriotism among college students in the new era. Therefore, the study of patriotism education in higher education institutions has important theoretical and practical significance. This paper mainly analyzes the problems and causes of patriotism education in higher education institutions with contemporary society, college and family education as well as the characteristics of college students themselves, and puts forward targeted countermeasures for solutions. In the main body, this paper is divided into four parts. First of all, there is an introduction, which mainly includes the background and significance of research, the current status of domestic and international research, research methods, innovations and deficiencies. The framework of the paper was determined to be based on relevant domestic and international studies and the theory was well prepared for the article. The second part mainly elaborates the theories and necessity of patriotism education for college students, mainly including the connotation and characteristics of patriotism education. The third part presents a comprehensive analysis of the problem of patriotism education of college students and its causes from the social environment, patriotic education in higher education institutions, family education and college students themselves. The fourth part is the core of this paper, the practical effect of patriotism education in higher education institutions is ensured, by summarizing the relevant theories and proposing effective technologies and methods against the corresponding problems.

**Keywords:** Technologies and methods; Patriotic education; Higher education institutions.

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## 1. Introduction

With the development of the times, the domestic and international environment has become complex and countries communicate frequently in order to cooperate and win-win, which means that opportunities increase among various countries. But what cannot be ignored are the challenges of different degrees, the most intense in ideology. Western countries have been penetrating in the ideology and culture, which has a negative impact on us.

Since the reform and opening up, China has significantly improved its international status, influence and comprehensive national power, ranking among the top in the world in terms of economy, science and technology as well as national defense. With the rapid development of science and technology and economic globalization, the new media with the Internet as the carrier has broken the boundaries of time and space, and it is more convenient for people to communicate around the world. On the one hand, Students' lifestyles and perceptions are changed in higher education institutions, on the other hand it is more convenient to spread hedonism, capitalism superiority for the West, which weakens our students' traditional cultural awareness, national pride and identity, bringing wrong understanding of social responsibility.

For students studying in higher education institutions is the key to the three views. In this period, they are more in touch with society and receive more mixed information, which inevitably will be influenced by bad customs, dilute the love

and recognition of our traditional culture and hinder patriotism education.

Students in higher education institutions are the hope of the country, because they have an important mission. In order to achieve the goal of "two hundred years" and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, we cannot do without young talents who have excellent skills, contemporary responsibilities and firm ideals. The Chinese dream is historical, realistic and future, and will be realized in the struggle of generations of youth. Therefore, the solution of the problem of patriotic education of students in higher education institutions and the establishment of a correct world view, outlook on life and values help to strengthen their patriotic beliefs, promote patriotic practices, and contribute to the realization of the great dream.

The higher education institutions, the incubators of high-quality talents, have been taking patriotism as an important education and research. In recent years, scholars have paid special attention to patriotism education and achieved rich results.

As the "global village" becomes more normal, the boundaries between countries are blurred in some aspects, but in patriotic education, no country can make concessions. Although each country's situation and education is different, patriotic education can be learned from each other

Patriotism develops with society, so patriotic education has unique connotations in different historical periods. The analysis and generalization of the historical development of patriotic education and the efforts to discover the meaning of

patriotic education in different historical periods from the historical inquiry, which laid a solid foundation for the thesis.

According to the current problems of patriotic education in higher education institutions, this paper explores the intrinsic reasons in depth and elaborates the importance of patriotic education in the institutions. Not only is the role of the family and the investment of social resources valued, but school efforts are even more important. Ultimately, students themselves take it as the root of their lives to make patriotic education most effective.

Due to my academic limitations, there are certain boundedness in patriotism and its educational connotations, and there is room for expansion in various parts of the article, and I will definitely try to improve and make up for the shortcomings in my future research.

## **2. General Characteristics of the Research**

### **2.1. Background and significance of the research**

#### **2.1.1. Background of the research**

Our country has always attached great importance to patriotic education. Patriotic education is an eternal theme, which should be carried out throughout mass education and integrated into the construction of spiritual civilization. This assertion clarifies the status of patriotic education in the new era, and answers in detail the major questions of how patriotic education cultivates people and what kind of people it cultivates. To rally the spirit of patriotism, the State Council issued the "Outline for the Implementation of Patriotic Education in the New Era" in October 2019, emphasizing that the top priority of patriotic education lies with youth and that school education should always implement the spirit of patriotism." This provides theoretical guidance and practical guidelines for patriotic education in the new era. Patriotism, as a powerful spiritual force and emotional resonance of the Chinese nation, has been the spiritual support for Chinese children to resist various risks and foreign aggression and remain vibrant during the long history of thousands of years. Patriotism is the core of the national spirit and the spiritual force that guides people to unite and struggle, work hard and strive for self-improvement; Youth is the most active and promising force in social construction, the hope of the country and the future of the nation. In the new era, to fully stimulate the patriotic enthusiasm of youth and vigorously carry forward the fine tradition of patriotism, it is necessary to integrate patriotism in history and culture with the spirit of the times, combine it with reform and opening up and the practice of the current stage, fit the current affairs, and vigorously carry out patriotism education for college students.

#### **2.1.2. Research significance**

As the hope of building a better future for the country, patriotic education in higher education institutions has been highly valued by the State, and is inseparable from social development. Therefore, it is of great theoretical and practical significance to strengthen the patriotic education of college students, to inspire them to take up the responsibility, to firmly think patriotically, to rationally express their patriotic feelings and to actively participate in patriotic practice.

##### **(1) Theoretical significance**

On the one hand, it promotes the theory of patriotic education. Patriotism during the revolutionary war years

focused on fighting for national independence and people's liberation; during the construction periods revolved around defending and building the motherland; and in the new era, the focus is on the prosperity and strength of the motherland. Therefore, by analyzing the development of patriotism theory and its specific performance in different periods with the characteristics of the times, it is conducive to enriching patriotism education.

On the other hand, to promote the improvement of the theoretical system of ideological and political education. The education with Chinese characteristics aims to promote the dissemination of universal values with Chinese characteristics in the new era through the ideological and political science courses, so as to guide students to enhance the four self-confidences, deepen the spirit of patriotism, and then consciously integrate patriotic feelings, strong national aspirations, and the act of serving the country. The students are guided to enhance their four self-confidences, deepen their patriotism, and "integrate their patriotism, national aspiration and service into their struggle to adhere to and develop the correct road with Chinese characteristics, build a modern power, and achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Patriotism education has always been important for ideological and political education, which analyzes the patriotism education of contemporary college students from multiple perspectives of ideology, politics and moral cultivation, summarizes the problems and shortcomings of it, and thus puts forward targeted solutions, enriches and develops the theories and methods of ideological and political education, and improves the theoretical system of ideological and political education in a certain sense.

##### **(2) Practical significance**

First, to enhance the effectiveness of patriotism education for college students. This paper analyzes problems of contemporary college students' patriotic education from two aspects: internal factors and external factors, with reference to the studies of many scholars. The external factors include social environment, college education and family education, while the internal factors specifically refer to the personal quality of college students, so as to propose corresponding countermeasures and thus improve the quality of patriotic education.

Secondly, it promotes the all-round development of college students themselves. Patriotic education in line with the development law of the times can better enhance the theoretical level of patriotism of college students, realize the perfect combination of theory and practice, stimulate the patriotic feelings in their hearts, set up the will to serve the country, practice the act of serving the country, and become a pillar of talent. To guide college students to be consciously patriotic, strengthen their ideological and moral cultivation, consciously link theory with practice, be rationally patriotic in social practice, and unify knowledge and action, so that they can truly be patriotic and serve the country.

## **2.2. Current status of domestic and international research**

### **2.2.1. Current status of domestic research**

The meaning of patriotism has been discussed by many domestic scholars. Patriotism, as defined in "The Foundations of Thought, Morality and Law", is the manifestation of people's deep love for the homeland where they were born and raised, expressed in a strong sense of belonging to their own nation, identification with the national culture, upholding

the honor of the motherland and advancing with it. It is a guide to the correct understanding of the relationship between the individual and the nation, a unity of ideological, moral and political identity, and a spiritual force that inspires the Chinese children to move forward. This is an exposition of what patriotism is and its role from an emotional point of view, emphasizing that people's deep feelings for the motherland are unstoppable even in time and space.

At present, the research on patriotic education of college students mainly revolves around the two main subjects of school and students, and the main view is that the content of school education is relatively superficial, formal and not closely connected with practical life; students are more passive in the process of patriotic theory and have limited achievements. The current research on patriotic education theory is rather one-sided, lacking in macroscopicity and not strong in practice, and emphasizes that the effectiveness of patriotic education should be improved by integrating the strength of all parties and optimizing the patriotic education environment.

Economic globalization has advanced the intermingling and collision of Chinese and foreign cultures, and many western values have poured into the country, among which there are many unhealthy values such as liberal hedonism, which affect college students' confidence and identification with Chinese culture and impact patriotic beliefs to a certain extent.

Economic globalization and the rapid development of science and technology have made it more convenient for various countries to communicate more closely. The Internet can communicate without barriers across spatial distances and can publish all kinds of speech anonymously, which provides the main carrier for the West to carry out cultural infiltration. Some college students are influenced by the bad culture, and put more emphasis on personal interests and dilute patriotic feelings. The development of social media has made it more difficult for students to discern true information and scientific ideas. Although new media provide new educational channels, there is still a lot of work to be done on how to properly use media to deepen patriotic feelings.

#### **2.2.2. Status of foreign research**

Patriotic education in the United States is to promote the American spirit and to educate citizens. It is a political education to preserve the capitalist system and maintain the stability of the political economy. American patriotism consists of four main modules: history, national conditions, religion, and rule of law. The United States attaches particular importance to the heritage of national traditions, emphasizing that there is no way to awaken patriotic fervor without history. The American spirit pursues material wealth and calls on the people to pay attention to history and enhance their pride in their own culture as a way to strengthen their love for their country.

France attaches importance to the moral education of patriotic citizens. At the elementary school, moral education classes focusing on interpersonal relationships are offered, and at the junior high school, new courses exploring core values, the global economic and political situation are added in order to enhance the sense of national identity; at the university, education is conducted around political concepts. Patriotism education is usually carried out by national spirit and heroes, and historical events are used as a channel to explain patriotism. For example, the spirit of Joan of Arc and Charles de Gaulle, in addition to a series of moral education

content such as morality, social ethics and environmental protection.

### **2.3. Research Methodology**

#### **2.3.1. literature research method**

We have checked, organized and studied domestic and foreign works, journals, papers, relevant speeches and news materials about patriotic education in higher education institutions, collected, analyzed and summarized relevant materials that are conducive to the writing of this paper, got an overall grasp of this topic, fully drew on the research results of previous people, got inspiration from them for further analysis, and laid the basic basis for the writing of this paper.

#### **2.3.2. Historical research method**

#### **2.3.3. Theoretical and practical approach**

By reviewing the existing research results of scholars and combining them with real life, we analyze and summarize the problems of patriotism education in higher education institutions, take ideological and political pedagogy as the basic theory, combine the current patriotism education of college students in China with the actual situation, comprehensively and systematically expound the influencing factors of patriotism education in higher education institutions, and propose relevant countermeasures.

### **2.4. Innovations in Research**

Throughout the current academic research on patriotism education in higher education institutions, most of them focus on the perspective of families and students themselves., and relatively little exploration is done from the perspective of higher education institutions.

## **3. The connotation, characteristics and necessity of patriotic education**

Every country attaches great importance to patriotism and patriotic education, which is reflected in every step of national development and involves every aspect of people's lives. Students of higher education institutions with a heavy commitment and historical responsibility are the living force of the Chinese dream. In-depth understanding of the connotation of patriotic education and its necessity is very important for them to establish national self-confidence, cultivate patriotic feelings, safeguard the dignity of the motherland and love the country rationally.

### **3.1. Connotation and characteristics of patriotic education**

Patriotism originates from the social practice of human beings and condenses all the deep and sincere love for the country. Patriotic education is at all stages of our growth, and we are taught to love our country by our families, society and schools. It is honorable to love our country, and it is a shame to harm our country. With the continuous development of science and technology, it is more convenient for the penetration of various ideas, so patriotic education is even more important. [1]

#### **3.1.1. The connotation of patriotic education**

Patriotism is the fine tradition and virtue of Chinese, and the national spirit with patriotism as the core is the spirit of China. Patriotism has always been a great spiritual force for the survival and development of our country. Patriotism is

mainly reflected in: love for the beautiful mountains and rivers of the motherland and the hardworking and brave people, ardent concern for the future of the motherland, pride in the profound Chinese civilization, infinite loyalty and dedication to the motherland, a strong sense of responsibility to contribute to prosperity, and confidence in national rejuvenation. [2]

Patriotism consists of three levels: emotion, cognition and behavior - ardent feelings for the motherland, rational cognition and active and rational patriotic behavior.

First of all, patriotism is not something that human beings are born with, but develops with the natural and social environment of the motherland. Patriotism arises from the sense of belonging to their homeland and deepens with the inheritance of excellent traditional culture. Secondly, rational cognition is a further sublimation of emotion, mainly in personal life and values. People who have a deep rational cognition of patriotism will be committed to serving their country and consider it their duty. He Baoguang was a scholar abroad after the founding of New China. During her study in the United States, she made a great breakthrough in the hepatitis B vaccine, and many research institutions in the United States wanted to hire her with high salaries, but she resolutely refused and returned to her country on schedule, thinking of the suffering of her compatriots in the absence of medical care and medicine. Hong Jiawei, a researcher at the Beijing Computing Center, received recognition from foreign professors for his presentation at an international academic conference and was invited to stay in North America, but he refused, saying that as a Chinese, he must consider the honor and disgrace of his country as his own, and guard and fight for it for life. It is the spirit of patriotism that He Baoguang and Hong Jiawei are determined to work for the welfare of their country without being tempted by money and honor. Finally, practice is another aspect of patriotism, and is the anchor point of patriotic education. Patriotism is a treasure that has changed through the ages, so its practice is different in different periods. During the Republican period, we opposed imperialism and feudalism to pursue independence; in the new era, we are striving for the Chinese dream, which proves that as the times change, patriotism advances with the times. The subject is different, patriotic behavior is also different. In the Plague in the Spring Festival of 2020, medical personnel treat patients, customs officers guard the gates, grassroots workers work around the clock to maintain social order. To do one's job well at one's post is patriotic practice. [3].

Looking back at our history, we have both heyday and trough, no matter in which period the Chinese nation has always had a strong vitality, which stems from the patriotic feelings of Chinese people and their fine traditions. Yue Fei, a national hero of the Song Dynasty, insisted on resisting Jin instead of surrendering but was slandered by traitors. To commemorate him, people-built temples to inspire the world to defend the people and fight for our motherland. Lin Zexu, a national hero of modern times, fought against the British by banning tobacco and remained patriotic even when he was sent to Ili. Academician Zhong Nanshan volunteered to take care of the most critical patients at the most serious time of SARS, once again hanging out and running in the front line at the age of 84 in the new crown pneumonia period, with practical action to prove the concern for the motherland. Patriotism in different periods have different connotations and expressions, but the love of the country, the people, the five

thousand years of Chinese culture is an eternal spiritual treasure.

Patriotic education is crucial to ideological and political education, and is an indispensable aspect of students' moral, intellectual, physical, social and aesthetic development, transforming patriotic feelings into practices. Patriotic education is a purposeful, planned and organized educational and practical activity by educators through national policies related to patriotism, using diverse educational methods, in order to cultivate people who can internalize patriotic thoughts into conscious practice.

People have a natural trust and love for their motherland, and patriotic education is necessary for such love. The purpose of patriotic education is to cultivate a strong sense of self-confidence and responsibility to contribute to the motherland, to put the interests of the motherland above everything else, to prosper in the motherland, to serve the motherland with practical actions, and to be ideal, moral, cultured and disciplined.

Youth is the most active and vibrant in the whole society. The hope and the future of the nation lie in the youth. Patriotic education has always been an heirloom for cultivating youth and promoting patriotic enthusiasm and spirit. The importance of patriotic education for young students has been emphasized many times: promote patriotism and students' dedication to serving the people and guide them to integrate their ambition and service to the country into their work. The ideological and moral quality is especially important for students in higher education institutions to live up to the expectations of the people and become builders and successors of a nation with comprehensive development of moral, intellectual, physical, social and aesthetic qualities. Patriotic education for students in higher education means combining national policies and regulations with students' cognition, teaching relevant theories through flexible education methods, and improving students' ability to know and act in the same way. Students in colleges and universities are trained to become new-age youth with aspirations and talents with the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation as their mission.

### 3.1.2. Characteristics of patriotic education

Patriotic education is historical, inherited and practical.

#### (1) Historic

Patriotic education changes with social development, and its focus is different at different times. In ancient times, patriotic education was mainly to resist invasion and to be loyal to the monarch and the country. In the Western Han Dynasty, the patriotic general Huo Qubing spent his life on the frontier to resist the invasion, and was rewarded with a luxurious residence by Emperor Wu, but he refused. Yue Fei's mother encouraged him to devote himself to his country by stabbing him on the back with the phrase "to serve the country with fidelity", which has become a good story in our history. Patriotism education in this period was mainly about loyalty and patriotism, and the fundamental purpose was for feudal rule.

In the modern period, patriotic education focused on awakening people to save their country, resist the "Three Great Mountains" and fight for national independence and liberation. From Lin Zexu, who was the first to open his eyes to the world, to Kang and Liang, who reformed the law, to the May Fourth Youth, who pursued the salvation of the country and completely opposed imperialism and feudalism, it's all about people's patriotism and inspiring people to contribute

their youth and strength to China. In the current period, patriotic education must be in line with the basic national conditions of our country, firmly uphold the unity of the motherland, commit to the great motherland, and strive for the great dream. [4]

### (2) Inheritance

Patriotism is an excellent tradition of the Chinese nation, as long-standing as our history. For thousands of years it has inspired the Chinese people to create a splendid civilization and pursue the prosperity and development of the motherland. Patriotic education has different contents in each historical period, but some contents are still important today, so patriotic education has inheritance. The Chinese nation has always opposed division and maintained national unity and unity since the unification of the country, and even if there are divisions, they are temporary, which is our patriotic tradition. Our feudal society is more than 2,000 years long and has a glorious historical civilization, which is inseparable from the patriotic education of loyalty and patriotism in feudal society. Like the rebellion of the seven states of Wu and Chu in the early Han Dynasty and the An-Shi Rebellion in the Tang Dynasty, which undermined national unity and solidarity, they have been denounced by people of all ethnic groups for generations, and are also negative teaching materials for our patriotic education at this stage.

The May Fourth Movement, which broke out at the time of national crisis, nurtured the spirit of May Fourth, which is based on patriotism, progress, democracy and science. It has been 100 years since the movement, but the spirit of May Fourth, with patriotism as its core, still inspires our youth to devote themselves to the motherland, to strive for a better life, and to dedicate their best youth to the people. The Chinese people have weathered the storm and ushered in a beautiful new era, confirming the right direction of development. Therefore, loving the motherland means cherishing the Chinese nation's liberation and rebirth, which remains the focus of our patriotic education at this stage.

### (3) Practicality

Patriotic education is not only about ardent feelings for the motherland, but also about the responsibility and obligation to consciously translate patriotic feelings into practice - to consciously defend the interests of the motherland and the people, national unity and the reunification of the motherland, and to actively engage in the motherland. The "Implementation Outline of Patriotic Education in the New Era" calls for the advantages of adhering to and developing the practice and system of Chinese characteristics in the new era, and constantly enhancing the road, theory, system and culture self-confidence in the contrast between history and reality, international and domestic. During the global fight against the pneumonia, comparing the treatment of various countries, we can deeply feel the strength of our motherland and greatly enhance our patriotic enthusiasm and pride of being Chinese. [5]

Throughout the history of the Chinese nation, patriotism has inspired people to defend themselves against foreign enemies and maintain national unity, and has been confirmed by patriots with practice. The revolutionary pioneer Dr. Sun Yat-sen led a number of armed uprisings and fought long and hard for the prosperity of the Chinese nation. Yu Peilun martyr rushed forward with a basket of bombs hanging on his chest, fighting to the death at the age of only twenty-five. After the reform and opening up, Hong Kong tycoon Henry Fok invested in the mainland out of patriotic enthusiasm, setting

up foundations with hundreds of projects to contribute to education, sports, science, culture and arts, transportation, health, and poverty alleviation in the motherland. During the fight against COVID-19, Zhong Nanshan and Li Lanjuan academicians ignored their own safety to fight the epidemic, medical personnel from all over the country continuously fought on the front line of the fight against the epidemic, workers worked day and night to build the Vulcan Mountain and Thor Mountain hospitals ... These patriots all carry forward the spirit of patriotism personally, and set examples for patriotic education. The times call for commitment, and national revitalization is the responsibility of youth. As students of contemporary institutions of higher education, it is important to cultivate morality from national heroes, and to be practical, enterprising and serve the motherland in the journey of the new era.

## 3.2. The necessity for patriotic education

Patriotism, the preservation of the unity of all ethnic groups, is an excellent cultural tradition and a spiritual force for social progress. It is under the inspiration of patriotism that the Chinese nation has moved one step closer to the great ideal of the Chinese dream, from standing up and getting rich to getting strong. It is very necessary to promote patriotism and patriotic education, and build national self-esteem, self-confidence and pride in the new historical orientation of China. [6]

### 3.2.1. Patriotism is a fundamental requirement for moral cultivation in higher education institutions

The report points out that it is necessary to implement the establishment of moral education. Moral education is the criterion for the effectiveness of school education. It is necessary to strengthen the ideals and beliefs of students in higher education institutions, to cultivate moral character, and to improve the personality and comprehensive quality of students. Higher education institutions are required to attach importance to the inheritance and learning of traditional virtues, and to guide students to love life, be kind to others, be courteous and honest, and to "understand great virtues, abide by public virtues, and be strict with private virtues". Virtue is the foundation, and cultivating people is the purpose. We should make moral education the main line of higher education institutions and integrate it into ideological and moral, cultural knowledge and social practice education, so as to cultivate a well-rounded successor.

In order to promote the overall improvement of the ideological, cultural and physical and mental health quality of college students, higher education institutions must adhere to the correct theory and guide college students to practice the universal value of honor and shame. Patriotic education in higher education institutions, which carries the responsibility of establishing moral education, is not only linked to the morality of students, but also to the future of the country. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen patriotic education for students of higher education institutions, improve their ability to rationalize their patriotic feelings, and guide them to actively engage in patriotic practices and contribute to the motherland. [7]

### 3.2.2. Patriotic education is an inherent requirement for the all-round development of students in higher education institutions

College students are the pillars of social progress, and their all-round development is related to the future of our society. Comprehensive development is the organic unity of moral,

intellectual, physical, social and aesthetic promotion, and is the overall improvement of moral, science and culture, and physical and mental health. Patriotic education for college students is to improve their ideological awareness, moral cultivation, firm ideals and beliefs, and cultivate a strong sense of social commitment. Xu Teli, a revolutionary old man, took the road of "education to save the country" during the period of imperialist hegemony and the servility of the traitorous government, and was determined to educate the young generation. Even though decades of efforts were not fruitful, Patriotic spirit drives him to keep exploring. When he saw the Hunan workers' and peasants' movement, he once again took the path to save China at the critical moment after the defeat of the Revolution. Mao Yisheng, an expert in bridges, returned to China after receiving his doctorate in engineering in the United States, at a time when talent is most needed. The spirit of patriotism has inspired countless patriots to share the hardships of the motherland and work hard for the revitalization of the nation.

Patriotic education stimulates college students' patriotic enthusiasm, guides them to view social problems correctly, consciously defend the rights and interests of the country, stand up when the country needs them, and realize their values in patriotic practice.

### **3.2.3. Patriotic education is a historical requirement of the national cultural tradition**

Patriotism is an excellent cultural tradition of the Chinese nation. To cultivate deep feelings inseparable from the motherland, it is necessary to promote the national culture. To root patriotism in students' hearts, they must be guided to recognize history and culture." Traditional Chinese culture has cultivated the national spirit of unity, peace-loving, hard work, bravery and self-improvement with patriotism as its core In the enduring renewal, which is the strength for the firm confidence of the Chinese nation and the spiritual pillar for the survival, development and growth of the Chinese nation, and is of great importance to promote universal values, cultural confidence and commitment.

With the rapid development of science and technology, the increasingly complex domestic and international environment, and the unprecedented frequency of cultural exchanges among countries, it is very important to carry out patriotic education to guide college students to improve their sense of identification with national cultural traditions and consciously safeguard national interests. Our long-standing and profound excellent traditional culture has accumulated the deepest patriotic feelings of the Chinese nation, which can "strengthen the backbone and strength of being Chinese", such as the patriotic sentiment of "serving the country with fidelity" and the sense of responsibility of "the rise and fall of the world is the responsibility of all the people", which are our valuable spiritual wealth. The recognition of excellent traditional culture by college students can strengthen cultural self-confidence, improve national pride and social responsibility, inject new vitality into college students, improve the more intense cultural soft power in the competition for comprehensive national power, and form the cohesion and creativity of social development.

### **3.2.4. Patriotism education is a realistic requirement to meet the development of the times**

To realize the great dream, we have to promote the spirit of China, one of which is the national spirit with patriotism as the core, so we have to strengthen patriotism education. The new situation and problems that have emerged in social

development over the past 40 years of reform and opening up require the promotion of patriotism, national self-esteem and self-confidence. It is the purpose of patriotic education in the new era for people to put their fervent patriotic feelings into the practice of building our country into a modern power. When the people have faith, the country has strength and the nation has hope. Strong patriotic beliefs are an important force for people to rise from patriotic feelings to rational behavior.[8]

In November 2018, Italian luxury brand Dolce & Gabbana released an ethnically discriminatory advertisement. Its designer made insulting remarks while communicating with Chinese netizens, and the brand was spontaneously boycotted by the Chinese people. With the rise of China, many Western media are deliberately smearing and misinterpreting China, trying to create trouble, sow ethnic relations and undermine national unity. In March 2020, when the whole country was fighting against the epidemic, a foreign student asked the epidemic prevention personnel for mineral water and demanded "human rights"; several other foreign students claimed on the Internet that they were left out with arrogance, hindering the normal epidemic prevention. With the development of the times and the closer communication between various countries, some students in higher education institutions are vulnerable to the temptation and erosion of undesirable ideas and have a weak sense of patriotism. Therefore, it is an urgent task to strengthen patriotism education of college students, enhance their sense of national pride, belonging, achievement and social responsibility, guide them to take up the responsibility of national rejuvenation, dare to act, be patriotic from their thoughts and actions, and live up to the mission of the times.

## **4. Problems of patriotic education in higher education institutions and its reasons**

Patriotic education in higher education institutions has always been an ideological and political education work to which our state attach great importance. We have been carrying out patriotic education in higher education institutions for a long time, and while we see the achievements, we should also study and reflect on the current work, find out the problems and shortcomings and then explore the reasons for them, which is very meaningful to strengthen and improve patriotic education in higher education institutions. [9]

### **4.1. Problems of patriotism education in higher education institutions**

We should be awake to realize that patriotic education in higher education institutions is a long-term, complex and dynamic process of combining theory and practice education. Patriotic education has made great contribution to guide patriotism in higher education institutions, but there are still some problems under the influence of social environment, college, family and higher education institutions themselves.

#### **4.1.1. Lack firmness in patriotic beliefs**

The ideals of youth are about the future of the country. Young people have ambitious goals, keep their feet on the ground, stick to their original intentions and beliefs in order to drive the country steadily and continuously forward in the future. As the saying goes, "If you have the will to be holy, you will be holy; if you have the will to be virtuous, you will

be virtuous". If higher education institutions do not have firm ideals and aspirations, it is easy to be influenced by the outside world to change political positions.

Under the influence of market economy, there are bad trends in society such as money worship, utilitarianism and individualism; due to the influence of globalization, there are diversified cultural values and some non-mainstream ideologies; new technology and media amplify the negative thoughts, etc. Under the influence of the superposition of these negative factors, the patriotism ideology and emotion of higher education institutions have suffered disintegration and lack of firm patriotism. Facing with the impact of different social trends and different value forms, higher education institutions hold a wait-and-see or skeptical attitude and fail to recognize the inevitable trend of China's development. Some higher education institutions are not firm in their political stance, do not look forward to China's future development, sing the praises of China, lack clear knowledge of social sciences and theories, listen to and believe in Western capitalist theories that boast of democracy, freedom and human rights, or even desire private ownership and blindly worship the ideology and political system of Western societies. These are the protrusions of some higher education institutions that are confused about patriotism, have no confidence in the future of China, and are experiencing a dilution of faith. [10]

In contemporary China, the essence of patriotism is to adhere to the unity between love for the country, the people and society. Higher education institutions should believe in universal values, and confidence in the development of China; they should be rooted in the masses, make great achievements in the vast world, take a firm stand, have ambitious ideals and realize the value of life in the service of the people.

#### **4.1.2. Lack of effectiveness of patriotism education**

Patriotic education is an education that is universal and beneficial to all people for life. Nothing can be achieved overnight, and so is patriotism education in higher education institutions, which is a tug-of-war. We should remember the old saying of "practical work makes a nation", guide higher education institutions to establish correct values, promote and improve patriotic education in practice, and help higher education institutions to become successful.

The college is the golden period of life. Students in higher education have an active mind, a clear perception of things, and can accept deep theories quickly. They have strong action ability and are aggressive, and can apply the theories they have learned to practice and come up with their own views. These factors influence them to improve their outlook on life and values, strengthen their ideals and beliefs, and realize the value of life in participating in society. [11]

In the background of the new era, patriotism in higher education institutions is influenced by many factors. While the deepening economic globalization brings opportunities for higher education institutions, the bad culture also has a great negative impact on their values. Different living, education and social environment influence higher education institutions to form different values. To a certain extent, different ages and educational environments lead to the formation of different psychological characteristics in higher education institutions, which eventually affect their behaviors. However, our patriotic education for higher education institutions ignores the individual differences of students, and the content and form of education are not attractive, resulting in the lack of interest in theoretical learning. Patriotic

education in many higher education's only stays in the textbooks, and the number of relevant courses is not enough, and what students can access is only the public ideological and political theory courses. As a result, students' patriotic feelings and behaviors lack scientific guidance. Not enough attention is paid to ideological and political education, ignoring students' individual differences, no target in setting teaching objectives, teaching tasks cannot meet students' actual growth needs, and patriotic education in higher education institutions naturally achieves little effect, resulting in insufficient patriotic theoretical cultivation in higher education institutions.

When formulating goals of patriotic education, they must base on the characteristics of higher education institutions in the new era, strengthen the relevance of patriotic education in higher education institutions and students' patriotic theoretical cultivation, get close to real life, pay attention to theoretical study and practical guidance, and regulate patriotic behavior in higher education institutions.

#### **4.1.3. Lack of patriotic words and deeds in family life**

As the first gateway to patriotic education, the family is the first "school" to receive education. Family education has a profound impact on the development of a person's life and the establishment of values, and is also of great significance to the formation and development of individual patriotic ideas. Parents' daily life communication sets a good example for their children, and will influence them to gradually form a correct sense of patriotism. Families should stand the first shift of educating children, play an important role in education, and cultivate a good character and quality of a person, so that they can better integrate into social life in the future. [12]

Some parents seldom pay attention to current affairs in their daily life, lack a certain understanding of national policies, do not communicate with each other in getting along with their children to implement patriotic practices in real life, and lack living guidance. Some parents think that their children have grown up and they don't need to control them, or they get along with their children in higher education institutions in the way of teaching small children, ignoring that college students need families who can discuss and progress together when things go wrong, parents who love social life by word and example, and families who create a good family culture and education together.

In fact, patriotism may seem like a common topic, but it is also an eternal topic that permeates everyone's every word and deed. There are many ways to express patriotism, and parents can influence their children to establish a correct sense of patriotism by paying attention to national events, dedicating to work, helping others, respecting relatives and filial piety, and so on. Patriotism should be permeated in daily life, daily words and actions, and practiced in small things to create a good environment for family patriotism education.

#### **4.1.4. Passive reception of patriotic education**

Patriotic education in higher education institutions is an activity to guide college students to practice patriotism rationally under the joint role of society, higher education institutions and families, which cannot be separated from the active cooperation of higher education institutions themselves. Most of the patriotism education received by our higher education institutions is a fill-in-the-bag teaching method, which teaches through the indoctrination of theoretical knowledge and takes the college classroom as the base of ideological and political theory, using the classroom to teach

knowledge in books and paper tests for assessment. In the process of education and teaching, students' personalities cannot be considered, students' interests and freedom are not valued, the indoctrination mode of education and teaching cannot arouse students' interest in learning, too much importance is attached to the classroom and the teachers, thus ignoring the role of students' subjectivity in learning. Students in higher education institutions are at the stage of curiosity and fast acceptance of new things, even if the school carries out competitions or recitation contests about patriotism, they are more willing to choose activities that meet their interests, and theoretical knowledge of patriotism is not well practiced.

The rapid development of new media in today's society has widened the channels for higher education institutions to obtain knowledge and to choose information more independently. Influenced by diversified cultures, especially the certain western bad values, various trends of thinking have a certain impact on higher education institutions. The patriotic education courses are single and lacks innovation, students feel boring and repulsive to patriotic education, which leads to the patriotic thought cannot be well rooted in students' hearts. [13]

Learning in higher education institutions is more importantly an independent learning, and the boring and single duck-fill teaching is not suitable for the development requirements of higher education institutions. College students are active in thinking, more independent, with strong desire for knowledge and competition, and at the same time put forward higher requirements for education and teaching. Aiming at this special group in higher education institutions, patriotic education should be all-round and high-level, only in this way can we deepen the patriotic sentiment in higher education institutions and strengthen students' concept of serving the country.

## **4.2. Reasons for the problems of patriotism education in higher education institutions**

The reasons for the problems of patriotism education in higher education institutions are many, such as the influence of bad social environment, the lack of sufficient attention of some schools and families, and of course, the higher education institutions themselves. We should objectively analyze these factors, find the deep-seated reasons that cause these problems, grasp the crux of the problems and put forward practical and effective measures to solve the problems with the actual situation. [14]

### **4.2.1. Impact of socially complex environment**

Today's society is in an interconnected network, economic globalization is deepening, international communication and cooperation is becoming more frequent, western concepts and culture are everywhere, some students magnify the gap between our country and developed western countries, creating a blind worship of the West, weakening national self-confidence and pride. For example, many students in higher education institutions blindly pursue luxurious lifestyles and luxury goods of foreign brand-name, and scoff at national products; make a lot of noise about environmental protection in foreign countries, ignore the efforts made by China to prevent and control pollution and protect the ecological environment, and blindly worship Western culture.

With the continuous development of reform and opening up, China's economic is rising and people's motivation to work is completely mobilized, providing a constant impetus for the productivity. With China's international influence

rising, the Chinese people's life is getting better, and the future of market economy is bright. However, we must clearly understand that there are two sides to everything, and so is the market economy. While promoting economic development, it also affects people's ideology to a certain extent. The market economy pursues material benefits, so people are driven by profit and overly strives for personal interests, leading to a weak sense of social responsibility. College students with less social experience are prone to blindly worship interests, pursue short-term interests, disregard overall interests and lack a sense of responsibility for society.[15]

The rapid development of the Internet has changed the way people interact with each other, and people can communicate across regions and time without barriers. Although the interconnection has brought great convenience to people, the complex network and bad information also impact people's ideology. The information in the network is mixed, and it is difficult to distinguish the authenticity. Students in higher education institutions have a strong ability to accept new things, but their values are not yet fully established, so they are easy to lose themselves in the complicated network world. The Internet information is diversified, and some western forces even infiltrate their values through the Internet, degrade or even denigrate Chinese culture and ideology, and spread rumors. The Internet provides a platform for students to broaden their horizons and understand cultural diversity, but it is also easy for students to have the mentality that "the moon is fuller and brighter in foreign countries".

### **4.2.2. Urgent need for innovative patriotic education**

Higher education institutions are an important place for patriotic spirit, and patriotic education is mainly provided to college students through ideological and political theory courses. However, with the development of the times, the characteristics of higher education institutions themselves require a new approach to education. However, nowadays, many domestic higher education institutions do not correctly view the importance of patriotism education, lack innovation in education methods, and the effectiveness of education fails to reach the ideal effect.

On the one hand, the curriculum of higher education institutions is unreasonable. Schools offer relevant courses specifically for majors on political science, but students of other majors rarely learn information about Chinese history, current affairs and national conditions in addition to their professional knowledge, and do not have the consciousness to learn universal value. Many students rely solely on public classes, but such classes often do not have a strong learning atmosphere and the learning effect is not obvious. On the other hand, the innovation of teachers' education and teaching needs to be improved. Teachers' teaching methods are not innovative, and the content is not up-to-date, and they do not stand in the students' perspective to explore their learning interests. In the design of lesson plans, the selected teaching cases are not innovative, and they cannot combine the boring theories with the hot events of society to teach students patriotism in a vivid image. Teachers still mainly use traditional indoctrination in theoretical education, and seldom carry out vivid and concrete activities of patriotism education, so students lack emotional resonance when learning theoretical knowledge. Finally, most of the time in higher education institutions has to be spent on campus, and the importance of campus culture also affects the patriotic education. Campus culture has a subtle influence on students, and this influence is irreplaceable and incomparable to any

courses. Some higher education institutions neglect the construction of campus culture, which affects the effectiveness of patriotic education to a certain extent.

#### **4.2.3. Neglected and downplayed in home education**

The family is the first place where a person receives education and is the first school of life. Family education is carried out intentionally and unintentionally, planned and unplanned, consciously and unconsciously. No matter in what way and at what time, parents' daily words, deeds and patriotic performance influence their children, and their subtle effect is quite great. Family education belongs to long-term education, although students have a certain degree of independence, but family education still continues to influence them for a long time, and is an indispensable partner of school education. Therefore, family education plays an important role in patriotic education. However, some parents neglect patriotic education for their children, ignoring the fact that patriotic education is an eternal theme and a great spiritual force that supports us to realize the Chinese dream.

Numerous examples tell us that patriotism has far-reaching family roots. A large number of patriotic aspirants, such as Qin Liangyu, the famous female commander who fought against the Jin Dynasty, Ren Hongjun, the founder of modern Chinese science education who took the responsibility of the country and the people, and Yang Shangkun, the proletarian revolutionary and founder and leader of the People's Army, were taught by a strict patriotic tutor. The first "teachers" children come into contact with are their parents, whose influence on children is subtle and far-reaching, and only when parents become practitioners of patriotism can they give their children a positive model. However, in the real life of rapid economic development, some parents are busy with their work and livelihood, complaining about their boredom at work from time to time, thinking that patriotism is distant and broad, lacking communication with their children, and not paying attention to family education. Some parents place too much importance on power and money, pursue personal interests, have little sense of dedication, and focus more on "pulling strings" than on hard work and practical work; they rarely care about current affairs, have little political involvement, and lack a sense of social responsibility, all of which unknowingly affect their children's growth. Some parents believe that education is the responsibility of the school, neglecting to cultivate their children's ability to distinguish between right and wrong, and to guide their children to form the correct values. Some parents are more concerned about their children's studies and seldom care about their children's inner world, not to mention cultivating their children's national pride and patriotic feelings.

#### **4.2.4. Insufficient initiative of patriotic education**

The Chinese dream inspires every youth, and it is the responsibility of the times that every college student should be brave enough to take up. The hope and future of the country is in the youth. Students in higher education institutions are the most important talent resources, and the indispensable power of the country and society. The patriotic education is more inseparable from their own cognition and initiative of learning. [16]

They have certain knowledge reserve and mature mind, but lack of social experience. They are easily influenced by wrong social opinion and bad ideology, and their patriotic beliefs are shaken. Influenced by the rhetoric that discredits China, they cannot objectively understand the current situation in China and are skeptical about the bright prospects

of the Chinese dream.

Contemporary students in higher education institutions are born in peaceful times, witness the development and changes of China during their growing up, live in the new era of economic and political prosperity and stability, are willing to accept new things, have changeable ideas and strong personal consciousness. Some college students just focus on book knowledge for patriotic theory classes, ignore the understanding and study of current affairs and politics, pay less attention to the development trend of the country and the relevant policies introduced, and lack learning enthusiasm. Some students in higher education institutions blindly and confidently think that their patriotic consciousness, emotion and behavior are already very good, instead of reflection and adjustment, so that they do not pay attention to patriotic education or even think it is unnecessary. In addition, the current emphasis on practical learning rather than political learning, self-merit rather than political cultivation and material enjoyment rather than ideals and beliefs in higher education has brought negative impact on patriotic education.

## **5. Technologies and methods for patriotic education in higher education institutions**

Patriotism education for college students has always been the key link of ideological and political education in higher education institutions. Patriotism education for college students must combine the characteristics of physical and mental development of college students and play the combined effect of society, schools, families and college students themselves. [17]

### **5.1. Optimize the social environment of patriotic education**

The relationship between the environment and people is dialectical and unified, on the one hand, the environment affects people, on the other hand, people also change the environment. Those who are close to vermilion are red, those who are close to ink are black", the environment has an important influence on the people. For the shaping of social responsibility and collectivism of college students, social environment is important, but the cultivation of school cannot be ignored. A good school atmosphere can guide college students to have a sound personality and establish patriotic feelings.

#### **5.1.1. The regulation and guidance of mass media**

Mainstream media is the main carrier for the spread and development of consciousness. The development of mass media provides more learning resources and space for patriotism education, bringing positive effects with some negative effects at the same time. Therefore, the government should strengthen the regulation and guidance of mass media in higher education institutions, grasp the correct public opinion guidance, and shape a good patriotic culture. [18]

It should give full play to the advantages of mass media such as TV, newspapers and radio, broadcast the latest policies of and the State, promote the main theme of patriotism and create a good school environment for patriotic education. We should increase the propaganda of heroic figures among ordinary people and guide college students to set up the correct goal of "star-chasing"; we should film patriotism-related public service announcements to arouse emotional resonance while spreading theoretical knowledge;

we should attach importance to the work of selecting role models, increase propaganda efforts and present various patriotic practices. We should film videos reflecting the local customs of different parts of China to strengthen cultural confidence, and produce TV programs about patriotic ancient poems and stories of famous people to educate and entertain. For example, the popular "China on the tip of the tongue" conveys a strong sense of cultural confidence and national pride; "Chinese Poetry Conference", "The Reader" makes literary material vivid and interesting and easier to understand, and "Up and Coming - The Forbidden City" conveys to the audience the 600-year culture of the Forbidden City to revisit history and enrich the way of patriotic education.

To guide the combination of mass media and self-media in higher education institutions, for example, "People's Daily" should not only make full use of the physical newspaper, but also do a good job of the official website, official microblogging, WeChat, learning power and cell phone client. The traditional mode and the new self-media go hand in hand to spread the mainstream thoughts and promote the mainstream culture to the contemporary college students and help them enhance their patriotism. For example, for the 70th anniversary of the founding of the country, college students can watch the military parade through various media, search for various of glorious moments, and deeply feel the historic achievements of the great motherland in marine, land, aerospace and other aspects. [19]

### **5.1.2. The guiding role of mainstream**

The struggle in the field of ideology is a dark war without smoke, and we should "firmly grasp the leadership of ideological work". Some college students are influenced by the hedonism and individualism of western capitalism, and they have distorted values, diluted patriotic feelings and shaken national self-confidence. Therefore, the State should clearly adhere to universal values, and develop the theoretical system with Chinese characteristics, and improve the national cultural soft power.

The cultural field is the key field of ideology that the state should strictly guard, and we should make full use of the mass media and literary works in higher education institutions to strengthen ideological leadership and guide college students to consciously practice the universal values; by collecting articles that promote the Chinese spirit, dream, the universal values and the concept of honor and shame and compiling them into a booklet, we provide them to higher education institutions for college students to look through and deepen their understanding, so as to enhance political awareness and improve their ability to discern and resist wrong ideas. Nowadays, the Internet is developing rapidly, and correct online public opinion is related to ideological security. Therefore, the State should manage and make good use of online media, strengthen the guidance of major ideological and theoretical issues and public opinion, and improve the emergency mechanism of online public opinion.

Commemorative activities of major historical events should be organized to stimulate patriotic enthusiasm and enhance patriotic awareness. Such activities are conducive to recalling history, summing up lessons and cherishing the present more. Make full use of Youth Day, National Day and the birthdays of great people to hold commemorative activities or festive celebrations, such as the parade on the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the parade on the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic

of China, to show the prosperity and power of the motherland and inspire college students to firmly believe in patriotism, internalize patriotic enthusiasm in their hearts and practice it, and eventually coalesce into a powerful positive energy for the Chinese dream.[20]

### **5.1.3. The comprehensive construction of patriotic education bases**

Patriotic education bases are important places for promoting patriotism, integrating China's excellent revolutionary tradition education and valuable patriotic education resources, and play an important role in strengthening patriotic education for youth, promoting the spirit of contemporary patriotism and inheriting the patriotic tradition of the Chinese nation. Strengthening the construction of patriotic education bases, providing a good educational environment and increasing propaganda efforts attract college students to understand history and culture more deeply and guide them to establish a correct patriotic consciousness.

After 20 years of continuous development, patriotic education bases have become an important venue for the general public to learn about patriotic traditions, cultivate patriotic consciousness and improve their comprehensive quality. First, increase management efforts. The government should conduct regular inspections of the buildings and related facilities of patriotic education bases and invest some funds for repair and maintenance. In order to attract the majority of students to visit and study, so that college students can understand the history at close range, learn the excellent revolutionary tradition and cultivate patriotism, we should increase the efforts to train the base staff to provide quality service and high-quality management. Second, strengthen the role of propaganda. The historical significance and realistic value of any patriotic education base are special and different, and each base can organize education on themes related to itself, and cooperate and regularly carry out educational activities with higher education institutions. The patriotic content is incorporated into leisure activities to inspire students to study and think deeply and enhance the effectiveness of patriotic education. Third, give full play to the advantages of online media. With the rapid development of Internet information technology in recent years, online education bases can be built with the help of online media. historical information and pictures, activity schedules and visiting times related to the base, current political hotspots at home and abroad, articles can be released regularly through platforms such as WeChat and Learning Power, and college students are actively encouraged to discuss and leave messages online; promote online activities of the network patriotic education base, such as lectures on patriotic education, related knowledge competitions and quiz activities. Through this kind of online patriotic education, college students can learn about the history of the motherland without leaving school, thus improving their comprehensive quality and generating strong patriotic feelings. [21]

## **5.2. Strengthen patriotism education for college students**

Higher education institutions are talent training bases, carrying the task of transporting talents for social construction; they are the main places for propaganda and consolidation of ideology. Therefore, we should stick to higher education institutions as the main place for cultivating mainstream patriotic consciousness and rational patriotic behavior,

innovate working methods, combine with actual needs and adapt to the development of the times in order to live up to the expectations and blossom patriotic education. [22]

### **5.2.1. Build an ideological and political education team in higher education institutions**

The teacher is the one who preaches, teaches and solves problems. The key to the propagation of universal values in higher education institutions lies in teachers, who, as the most numerous and influential subject of consciousness transmission, play a vital role in the development of patriotic education. Therefore, it is especially important to build a high-quality teaching staff.

Schools should ensure that a certain number of teachers are engaged in ideological and political education in higher education institutions, and nourish patriotic education into the inner world of college students in all aspects, such as professional courses, scientific research activities and social practice. We should cultivate a group of educators who believe in universal values and have a firm political stance and teachers of ideological and political courses who are innovative and responsive to the needs of the times, and expand the teaching force that carries out patriotic education.

The teachers at large should practice what they preach and enhance the theoretical cognition, political identity and emotional recognition of the country in patriotic education, so that patriotism becomes a simple emotion from the heart. College students have cognitive ability and judgment, and they will choose and accept the patriotic education disseminated by teachers according to their own will. They will not only compare the theories disseminated by teachers with social reality, but also take teachers' words, actions and character as their own reference. If the teachers boast and act differently, the college students will not only not accept the patriotic ideas disseminated by them, but also deal with the problems in practice with the mentality of "this is what my teacher does". Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the professional ethics and ideological and moral quality of the ideological and political education teaching team. Teachers should take the responsibility of teaching and moral education, take a firm political stance, have correct political beliefs, be strict with themselves, and apply them to all aspects of the educational process. Actively participate in teacher training sessions and seminars, constantly improve their teaching, make the theory of ideological and political theory courses internalized in their hearts and externalized in their actions, not only do a good job of teaching theory, but also be a moral model for students; make good use of the three-foot podium, drive and infect students with their personality, guide them to actively work for the bright future of the motherland and constantly improve their patriotic feelings.[23]

### **5.2.2. Enrich the means of patriotic education in higher education institutions**

As one of the main daily activities of college students, the classroom has the mission of spreading theoretical knowledge. Teachers should enhance students' patriotic emotions through the classroom, consolidate theoretical knowledge of patriotism, improve the quality of ideological and political theory classes, and strengthen the use of patriotic education in various disciplines.

As the pioneers of the times, contemporary college students have strong self-awareness, so ideological education for them should break through dogmatism, change the didactic teaching method, and innovate the teaching mode by combining the characteristics of college students and the

development of Internet. First of all, teachers, as the organizer and guide of teaching, should enrich the teaching contents of ideological and political theory courses, advocate heuristic teaching, and stimulate students' enthusiasm and initiative. They should conform to the requirements of the development of the times, constantly enrich the teaching contents, integrate sincere patriotic emotions into classroom teaching, and develop a comprehensive and systematic patriotic education program for college students by combining Chinese history and the present and looking into future trends. Using typical figures and examples to penetrate rational patriotism education, we should seize every opportunity to enhance the ideological and moral qualities of college students, and let them understand the situation of the country and the world in many aspects. Looking back at the long history, from the reign of Wenjing, to the Zhenguan, and then to the great work of Kangqian, there have been many regimes, dynasties and talents. Reviewing and learning from historical events and patriotic figures can stimulate students' national identity, enhance patriotic enthusiasm, and increase their interest in learning. For example, combining with the animation "That Year, That Rabbit, Those Things", students can review some major military and diplomatic events after the founding of the People's Republic of China, and "Brilliant China", students can feel the historical achievements of China's economic and social development, which can enhance students' happiness and self-confidence as Chinese and ignite their patriotic enthusiasm. Finally, practice is the only standard to test the truth. With classroom guidance as nourishment and social practice as sunshine, the flower of patriotism will bloom in the hearts of college students, so that students can improve their patriotic feelings in practice. Teachers should seize all opportunities to promote patriotism, organize students to visit patriotic education bases, local memorials and museums on major holidays such as Martyrs' Day and War Victory Day, to put themselves in the shoes of the great patriotic and revolutionary spirit. By various scenarios according to major historical events, let students take the initiative to consult the relevant contents and carry out role-playing, so as to enhance the patriotic practice ability and self-awareness of college students. We should conduct patriotism-related discussions on major hot issues, such as how to view the Sino-US trade war, the measures taken by various countries in response to the sudden new pneumonia epidemic, and the debate between netizens on Apple and Huawei cell phones, so as to cultivate students' ability to analyze the international situation rationally and view patriotism rationally. [24]

### **5.2.3. Integrate patriotic education into campus culture**

Culture, as a symbol of national soft power, is increasingly important in this era. Higher education institutions are the bastion of national cultural, and campus culture is even more important. The state should advocate campus culture, and schools should implement construction policies of campus culture, combine the history of each higher education institution, integrate the spirit of patriotism into the invisible, and enhance the effect of patriotic education.

First, pay attention to campus material culture and strengthen its basic construction. Campus material culture is mainly reflected in two aspects, one of which is the campus natural environment and the other is the campus infrastructure. The environment has a subtle influence on a person, so the government should pay attention to the environment construction of higher education institutions and invest more money in them. Higher education institutions themselves

should create a campus environment with green as the main color and freshness as the main flavor, and then set up a campus soft environment with patriotism as the main theme and hard work as the main pulse. We should create a good external environment for patriotic education by posting slogans and posters with patriotic education-related contents, hanging banners of universal values, and installing patriotic deeds boards of historical heroes and heroines in teaching buildings. Secondly, we organize various cultural activities to integrate patriotic education into many carriers of campus culture. We make full use of the campus website, radio and publications to promote patriotism, and innovate club activities to invisibly integrate patriotic education into campus cultural activities. For example, we organize to watch "My Country", which shows the style of a great nation, and "My Country and I", a moving story about the inseparable relationship between the people and the country since the 70th anniversary of the founding of New China, hold some poetry and prose recitation contests with the theme of patriotism, and hold a song contest with the theme of "singing the motherland". The theme of the contest is to educate and entertain students, so that they can receive a profound patriotic education. Finally, schools should combine patriotic education with the promotion of the most beautiful and good people around them, mobilize the models to maximize their inspirational power and improve the ideological quality of college students as a whole. For example, we hold the "Most Beautiful Campus People" contest every year to select the models emerge from the work and study. Since they are teachers and classmates around the students, they can learn from the models voluntarily and actively.

### **5.3. Patriotic self-education**

Patriotism education of college students not only depends on the joint efforts of external factors, but also requires college students to actively study scientific and cultural knowledge, actively participate in patriotism-related activities, rationally express patriotism, consciously safeguard national interests, be loyal patriots and contribute their strength and wisdom to the Chinese dream.

#### **5.3.1. Strive to learn to develop patriotic skills**

It is not enough for college students to have a firm will to serve the country and the desire for a better future, but they also need to have strong talents and skills. As a young generation with the heavy responsibility of history, contemporary college students have abundant learning resources, and they must put their feet on the ground and regard the great dream as the motivation to advance, work hard and practice their patriotic skills.

China is experiencing the most profound and complex period of social transformation in its history, and opportunities and challenges coexist. As highly educated and qualified talents, builders with Chinese characteristics and the driving force of the Chinese dream, college students' scientific, cultural, ideological and moral quality are closely related to national development and revitalization.

First of all, we should learn cultural knowledge and have profound cultural connotation. College students should cherish their study time, study hard for professional knowledge to improve their employability, enhance their thinking ability through philosophy, and improve their ability to distinguish right from wrong through history. Make use of all available learning resources to expand knowledge and enhance talents, develop the habit of independent thinking,

communicate more with others, and master excellent skills. Second, pay attention to and strengthen the study of political theory, improve political literacy and firm political position. College students should not only master scientific and cultural knowledge, but also pay attention to ideological and moral quality. They should arm their minds with universal values with Chinese characteristics, enhance the four self-confidence, improve national pride, consciously and rationally safeguard the unity of the motherland and national interests, and become a firm patriot.

#### **5.3.2. Engaged in patriotism-related activities**

The truth is that you have to do what you know on paper. Patriotism is not about "talking" but about "doing", it is about practical activities, so we should integrate our patriotic skills into practical actions.

College students should have the awareness to participate in patriotism-related activities and improve their practical skills. First of all, during the school year, they should actively cooperate with the practical activities of patriotic education conducted by teachers in the classroom and participate in the activities carried out by various clubs in their after-school life. For example, you can take the initiative to participate in the May Fourth Youth Day speech contest to explore the patriotic spirit of the May Fourth, and the November National Day patriotic-related knowledge contest to test the theoretical knowledge acquired and improve the internal quality. Secondly, during the holidays, you can participate in patriotic activities with your parents to enhance your patriotic feelings. Go on a red tour or visit a patriotic education base with your parents, learn about the content in advance, introduce the historical background to your parents during the tour, communicate with each other, sublimate patriotic feelings, and be brave enough to correct your parents' incorrect ideas to create a good family learning atmosphere. After consulting with parents, they can also go to participate in western teaching or rural teaching activities to realize their social values and serve the motherland with their practical actions. Finally, learn to express your patriotic passion in your daily life. Pay attention to national events, record your feelings, think about major events, and exchange opinions with your parents. For example, you can add the national flag icon to your avatar in the official WeChat event, hang the national flag in your dormitory, do not write on the national flag, stop insulting the national flag, protect the dignity of the national flag and emblem, and be a good spreader and practitioner of patriotism.

#### **5.3.3. The ability to express patriotism rationally**

Patriotic education is to combine the passion of patriotism with the rational behavior of patriotism. College students should improve the ability to express patriotism rationally, closely link the personal development and value with the future and destiny of the country, study seriously, work pragmatically, and serve the country dutifully.

First of all, look at history from universal values and view reality with a rational mind. Remember the hardships of modern history, the shame of being beaten from behind, precipitate the fine traditions of the Chinese nation, promote the spirit of patriotism, look at the gap between China and developed countries in some technical fields with an objective and fair attitude, and understand that negative complaints and blind brutality are not beneficial to our country. We should be clear that the times call for commitment, the revitalization of the nation is our responsibility, take up the responsibility of the times, have high aspirations, be down-to-earth and brave

in the struggle, not blindly hate history, be not pessimistic about reality, and strive to become builders and successors of all-round development of moral, intellectual, physical, social and aesthetic. Secondly, a correct understanding of international relations. In the face of the complex world changes, we should always keep in mind the fundamental interests of the country and the people, view the conflicts between countries with the big picture, and trust the ability of the government to handle international disputes. Arm yourself with knowledge, distinguish right from wrong, abide by the right path, do not follow the clouds or blindly follow the trend, communicate your thoughts with your teachers and classmates in a timely manner, understand the world correctly and the national situation comprehensively, grasp the general trend of the times, and commit yourself to the patriotic wave in a reasonable manner. Finally, it is necessary to understand and grasp social hot issues scientifically and improve the ability to distinguish right from wrong. Contemporary college students live in a technological society with developed information technology, and they can learn all kinds of information through various ways, and TV, newspapers and cell phone clients are spreading various social information at the first time, but not all information objectively reflects the real situation, and college students should analyze the problems with dialectical thinking and positive mindset when receiving any information, so as to step on the stone as a seal, beware of western soft power invasion, discern inappropriate speech keenly, and love the country rationally.

## 6. Conclusion

Doing well in patriotic education in higher education institutions is an important task to cultivate talents, on the one hand, to lay a moral foundation for the youth to grow up and become successful, and on the other hand, to cultivate talents for the modernization of China. This paper focuses on contemporary higher education institutions and analyzes the problems they have in patriotism education. The author collects, analyzes, and summarizes a large amount of relevant materials, discusses the connotation and characteristics of patriotic education, outlines the problems of patriotic education in contemporary higher education institutions, and makes an analysis of the causes of the existing problems as well as proposes corresponding countermeasures. From the four perspectives of society, schools, families and higher education institutions, we discuss how to make good use of educational resources from all sides and form a synergy to further promote patriotic education in higher education institutions.

In the Spring Festival of 2020, the sudden outbreak of Pneumonia disrupted the rhythm of national celebrations and family reunions, and a war without smoke was urgently launched in every corner of China. In this "epidemic" battle against time and the disease, Chinese children once again showed their profound patriotism to the fullest. Academicians Zhong Nanshan and Li Lanjuan, who are in their old age, are fighting on the front line of epidemic prevention and control despite their own safety; a large number of medical personnel are running to the front line; officers and soldiers of the People's Liberation Army and the Armed Police Force are acting on orders and fighting bravely; a large amount of epidemic prevention materials are being transported to Hubei and Wuhan; many enterprises are trying every possible way to resume and expand their production for the protective clothing, masks and other urgently needed products and to

ensure market supply; donations were made from all walks of life, and countless unsung heroes sacrificed their lives and struggled bravely in the battle against the "epidemic". Their spirit and actions are a powerful force that inspires the Chinese people to keep moving forward, greatly enriching the spirit of patriotism and demonstrating the fruits of China's long-term patriotic education.

To strengthen patriotic education in higher education institutions, cultivate their patriotic thoughts and feelings and raise their patriotic consciousness, they should be educated to start from themselves, be down-to-earth, closely link their lives with the destiny of the nation, love the motherland, be ambitious, serve the motherland with practical actions and be dreamers to achieve national rejuvenation.

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