

# Exploration on the Ideological and Political Work Mechanism of Colleges and Universities in the New Era from the Perspective of “Three-whole Education”

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[ **Abstract** ] General Secretary Xi Jinping put forward the working mode of “Three-whole Education” in colleges and universities at the National Conference on Ideological and Political Work in Colleges and Universities. He proposed that ideological and political education should run through the whole process of education to achieve educating people with the participation of all, in all aspects and throughout the whole process, which has pointed out the direction and ways for education in colleges and universities and ideological and political education work. Focusing on “Three-whole Education”, colleges and universities should build a high-quality ideological and political work system and improve the effectiveness of education. In the process of college education development, the number of education subjects has increased, the ways of education are diverse, and there are various education links, which has greatly increased the effectiveness of ideological and political education in the actual education effect. By playing the role of the main position for education, colleges and universities firmly grasp and consolidate the leadership and the right to speak in the ideological field, innovatively carry out ideological and political education work, run ideological and political work through the whole process of education and teaching, and enhance the effectiveness of ideological and political work in colleges and universities.

[ **Key words** ] “Three-whole Education”; colleges and universities; ideological and political education

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## 1 The connotation and basic requirements of the “Three-whole Education” mode

In the new era, the Party Central Committee has attached unprecedented importance to the ideological and political education work in colleges and universities and has also put forward new requirements and missions for education in colleges and universities, forming a richer concept of higher education thought. Socialist education with Chinese characteristics is the combination and integration of knowledge system education and ideological and political education. In terms of education, we should not only focus on improving the knowledge level in the first classroom but also integrate ideological and political elements with the participation of all, in all aspects, and throughout the whole process to jointly serve the overall goal of cultivating socialist qualified builders and reliable

successors with all-round development in morality, intelligence, physique, aesthetics and labor.

### **1.1 Educating people with the participation of all, strengthening educational resources and teams, and transforming from a single subject to multiple subjects**

General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out: “We should establish a working pattern under the unified leadership of the Party committee, with the joint efforts of the Party and the government, with relevant departments taking their respective responsibilities and with the cooperation of the whole society, and promote the formation of a good atmosphere in which the whole Party and the whole society work hard to run ideological and political courses well, teachers teach ideological and political courses conscientiously and students learn ideological and political courses actively.” “Educating People with the Participation of All” is a necessary support for the system of strengthening morality and cultivating people in colleges and universities and strengthens the guiding role of various education subjects. Based on students’ development and the “Three-whole Education” mechanism, colleges and universities should build an education system with students as the center and a comprehensive resource team composed of counselors, professional teachers, student leaders, tutors and others as the radius, combining words with deeds and integrating teaching with education. They should work together in fulfilling the mission of education, be brave in innovating excellent ideological and political courses, actively explore warm ideological and political courses, integrate educational resources in colleges and universities, and transform discipline resources, league building resources, management resources and service resources into educational resources.

### **1.2 Educating people throughout the whole process, strengthening the integration of the first classroom and the second classroom, and transforming from one-way connection to consistent implementation**

To analyze specific situations concretely is the basic principle of the dialectical methodology and the basic requirement of dialectical materialism. “Educating People Throughout the Whole Process” is not only an elaborate regulation of the system of strengthening morality and cultivating people in colleges and universities, which is conducive to the unified planning of education goals and the formation of joint educational forces, but also emphasizes that ideological and political education work is the through-line in all aspects of school work. In the education stage, it should continuously run through all aspects of education work. Grasping the development laws of students in the new era, comprehensive education plans should be formulated according to different stages, periods, grades and academic situations of students’ development. Education of various scales, levels and requirements should be carried out according to the principle of “one plan for each student” to guide students to grow into new generations keeping up with the times. “Educating People Throughout the Whole Process” pursues adding ideological and political education elements to professional and practical courses. It not only strengthens the theoretical foundation in the first classroom but also actively promotes the education mode of knowledge imparting, ability cultivation and value transmission through the organic integration of the first classroom and the second classroom, so that the effectiveness of education breaks away from practice and the “law-only theory”, thereby strengthening the organic integration of theory and practice, realizing the sublimation of theoretical cognition and the optimization of behavior practice, continuously promoting the correlation of all links in ideological and political education and the dynamism of all educational stages, integrating ideological forces, playing an educational role and realizing materialized governance.

### **1.3 Educating people in all aspects, with all links assuming the mission of education and connecting the “educational islands” into an “educational continent”**

“Educating People in All Aspects” is the content display of the system of strengthening morality and cultivating people in colleges and universities. It is conducive to giving play to the demand orientation, improving

the evaluation mechanism and realizing the simultaneous development of “five aspects of education”. It includes all aspects of work in colleges and universities such as organization construction, teaching, scientific research and practice. It effectively constructs and enriches the formation of ten education systems, and improves and upgrades educational methods and means. Based on the development of students as the main body, it strengthens the supply of educational content by comprehensively building the environment, forms “educational islands” through educating people in all aspects, eliminates heterogeneous factors in the process of students’ education with a clear educational atmosphere, breaks the boundaries of various education links, connects the “islands” into an “educational continent”, constructs a connection covering all institutions, including all fields, and covering all elements, responds to the new demands and challenges of socialist construction in the new era, and answers the question of the times about cultivating new people capable of shouldering the great task of national rejuvenation.

## **2 The main lines to be grasped in the construction of the ideological and political work system in colleges and universities**

In the new era, the important significance of ideological and political education in colleges and universities in “Three-whole Education” lies in taking the development of students as the main line. Based on this, the development of students in various aspects can be enhanced on a larger scale. “The Opinions on Accelerating the Construction of the Ideological and Political Work System in Colleges and Universities” has put forward clear directions and requirements for the construction of the ideological and political work system. In the implementation of ideological and political education, the following relationships need to be properly handled:

### **2.1 Grasping the ideological main line guided by Party building work**

For the implementation of ideological and political education in colleges and universities, the Party committee should firmly grasp the leadership of ideological and political work and give full play to the dominant power of ideological and political work. In all stages of students’ development, it should grasp the laws of students’ development, help students establish the awareness of “without learning, one cannot stand firmly”, learn and master Marxist standpoints, viewpoints and methods, and be able to acquire real knowledge and master real skills.

Guided by Party building work, colleges and universities should establish a top-level design around strengthening morality and cultivating people to provide comprehensive overall planning resources for “Three-whole Education”. On the basis of the top-level design, we should always adhere to the combination of the basic principles of Marxism with China’s specific realities and achieve educating people with culture. At present, the problem of materialization has brought extensive and complex challenges to the social cultural ecology, and the risks and challenges in the ideological field have become increasingly prominent. Therefore, to adhere to the “two combinations”, we must implement the main line of Marxism in the ideological and political field, grasp the “main tone” in the ideological field, “take excellent traditional Chinese culture, revolutionary culture and advanced socialist culture as the foundation of strength, and explain the truth thoroughly and vividly”, and improve the Party’s leadership level in ideological and political work in colleges and universities in the process of students’ development. Secondly, through the “Party building+” platform, strengthen the cultivation of Party members, improve the theoretical level of Party members, carry out a variety of campus activities, and enhance students’ ideals and beliefs. Thirdly, give play to the exemplary and leading role of Party members and cadres, implement and detail the ideological and political education work layer by layer through the organizational structure, add rich ideological and political education in the process of students’ development, guide students to uphold the banner of ideals and beliefs in practice, learn, think, practice and understand, devote their personal “small self” to the social “big self”, participate in the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, and achieve comprehensive and free development in self-improvement, self-enhancement and self-realization, and

work hard with perseverance.

## **2.2 Grasping the theoretical main line dominated by the discipline of ideological and political education**

General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that “to do a good job in ideological and political work in colleges and universities, we should change according to different situations, advance with the times and innovate according to the situation”. General Secretary Xi’s speech has broadened the breadth and depth of ideological and political education, which has also put forward higher standards and stricter requirements for current ideological and political education. We should timely understand what students think, want and need, change from the “cold authority” that follows the routine to the “enthusiastic guide”, and actively shorten the psychological distance with students. On the other hand, ideological and political workers should not only teach ideological and political courses well but also explain them thoroughly. This requires improving the professional ability and ethical sensitivity in the professional field of the ideological and political teacher group, using corresponding scientific culture to build more academic platforms, strengthening theoretical discussions, lectures and seminars and other forms to improve the theoretical and business abilities of the teacher group, promoting the educational teaching and coordinating organization abilities of teachers, and improving the effectiveness of theoretical education and practical education. Therefore, it requires to improve the timeliness of ideological and political education, let ideological and political work integrate into the effective development of students, base on characteristics and achieve long-term development, enable students to actively seek an effective mechanism of “Three-whole Education” on the basis of discipline education, and strengthen the education mode and ideological guidance method based on the characteristics of students in the new era, so as to continuously improve the quality and level of the education ability of all links of ideological and political work.

## **2.3 Grasping the action main line with the enhancement of consciousness and ability as the main body**

General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized that college teachers should adhere to the principle that educators should be educated first, strive to become disseminators of advanced ideological and cultural ideas, and firm supporters of the Party’s governance, and better assume the responsibilities of guiding students’ healthy growth. Ideological and political education in colleges and universities should grasp the action main line of student education with the enhancement of ideology and ability as the main line, continuously firmly establish the awareness of the effectiveness of education, improve the ability of education and strengthen the achievements of education. With the changes in the ideological trends and behavioral states of students in the new era, educators in colleges and universities need to grasp the new development ways of ideology and education ability, base on the characteristics of the times and the laws of students’ development, change education methods and forms, strengthen the pertinence and effectiveness of education, guide students to understand and internalize correct worldviews, outlooks on life and values, and achieve the relevant unity of educating people and cultivating talents.

## **3 Strategies and approaches for improving the “Three-whole Education” mechanism**

Ideological and political education should keep pace with the times. According to the characteristics of the development of the new era and students, it should continuously improve working methods and optimize the educational environment. Based on the top-level design, by connecting points, lines and surfaces, it is committed to strengthening the connection between islands, giving full play to the collaborative education in aspects such as teaching, scientific research and management, and scientifically constructing the “Three-whole Education” work mechanism. According to the time value and theoretical characteristics, through comprehensive top-level design, overall planning, practical exploration and innovative ways, efforts should be made to jointly create the effectiveness

of education.

### **3.1 Stimulating the vitality of education subjects and building an integrated mode of educating people with the participation of all**

As the “main position” for talent cultivation, colleges and universities should form a linkage mechanism to avoid the formation of information islands among student groups and teacher groups. First, strengthen the overall planning and construction of Party building, firmly grasp the socialist direction of running schools, keep a close eye on the new situation and new tasks in the new era, clarify responsibilities, and coordinate and promote the ideological and political education work by various departments. Second, grasp the theoretical main line dominated by the discipline of ideological and political education. We should not only be teachers and friends but also be good teachers and helpful friends. We should be able to give guidance to students in their studies and also show concern for students in their lives. Cultivate and build a high-quality and high-level teaching team, teach ideological and political courses well and thoroughly, continuously stimulate the vitality of education subjects, and ensure the implementation and landing of the effectiveness of education. Third, college counselors, as educators closest to students’ lives, play a vanguard role in “Three-whole Education”. Through strengthening at the top level and enriching personal theories, the effectiveness of counselors’ education work is improved. Fourth, improve the evaluation system and build a diversified measurement and evaluation mechanism. We should abandon the materialized thinking mode of quantifying people into specific numbers for calculation, establish a comprehensive evaluation system that is people-oriented, highlights value and is multi-dimensional, and solve the “baton problem”. Conduct comprehensive evaluations according to the differences of the educated, take ideological and moral cultivation and changes in values as multiple evaluation criteria, and formulate a sound, comprehensive and objective measurement and evaluation mechanism that conforms to the long-term development of the educated.

### **3.2 Establishing an education mechanism for the connection of educational stages to realize educating people throughout the whole process**

In the construction of the ideological and political work system in colleges and universities, not only top-level design and the construction of an integrated system with the participation of all are needed, but also the strengthening of the whole-process education mode is required. According to the characteristics of schools, colleges, discipline development and students, an effectively connected education mechanism should be carried out to achieve precise education. Ideological and political education work should not only run through all aspects of learning and life but also be carried out in a timely, methodical and planned manner to achieve the effective integration of “teaching” and “education”, “management” and “education”, and “service” and “education”, promote the integration of Marxist disciplines with other disciplines, change from “division” to “combination”, and from “fragmentation” to “effective connection”, achieve the connection from “point” to “line”, and from “surface” to “body”, realize the aggregation of “surfaces” and the effective connection of multiple “bodies”, and form a good education mechanism and work system with good connection.

### **3.3 Expanding the educational space to realize educating people in all aspects**

Ideological and political education work in colleges and universities should organically combine various elements such as education subjects, education objects and education carriers to form an education project in which “there is something of each in the other”, and effectively expand the educational space. For students with different grades, majors and academic abilities, targeted education should be carried out to achieve personalization, differentiation and customization and play the role of education. Students’ ideological and political education not only needs to add ideological and political elements and educational elements to the classroom but also needs to carry out diverse educational training and high-level talent cultivation modes through ways such as leading with

high – quality ideological education, collaborating and innovating excellent mechanisms, optimizing team management, inheriting excellent traditional culture and influencing with a beautiful environment. Colleges and universities should attach importance to the multi-dimensional construction of aesthetic education, moral education and labor education, strengthen the cultivation of high-level talents, promote the all-round development of people, enhance the dominant position of people, get rid of the influence of materialization; at the same time, attach importance to labor education, consolidate the basic position of labor education in education, take rich and wonderful labor activities and theoretical courses on the spirit of labor as guarantees, give play to the positive role of labor education, reject one-sided labor courses, and cultivate new types of talents needed for high-tech, high-efficiency and high-quality construction.

Running education in all aspects of education and integrating it into daily work and study, guiding people in care, and educating people in service, would help students establish lofty ideals and aspirations, clarify the mission and responsibility they bear in the times, and generate the internal motivation for self-improvement, thus comprehensively improving the ability of strengthening morality and cultivating people in colleges and universities, and cultivating excellent talents with both knowledge and noble morality for the country and society in the new era.

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