

A Study on the Effects of Red Resource in Ideological and Political Education

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Abstract

Red resource is the witness of history, is the inheritance and development of Chinese national spirit, and also embodies Chinese Communist Party’s fine traditions and revolutionary spirit. Taking full advantage of red resource and actively exploring the new contents, new methods and new ways of college ideological and political education plays an important role in guiding college students to establish a scientific ideal and belief, and improving the training quality of colleges and universities.

Key words: Red Resource; Ideological and political education; Effects

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INTRODUCTION

Red resource, which concentrates on the revolutionary culture, revolutionary spirit and revolutionary road,

exhibits the Chinese Communists’ lofty ideals and firm convictions, highlights the important contents of the socialist core values, is a lively textbook of scientific world outlook, outlook on life and values education, and plays an important role in carrying out college ideological and political education. It always leads the direction of education, enriches the contents of education, and promotes the healthy development of college students.

1. LEAD THE DIRECTION OF EDUCATION

With the process of economic globalization, numerous cultural trends rise one after another, so the ability to adhere to the correct and scientific direction of education is particularly important. Relying on red resource to carry out ideological and political education can help college students arm their minds with the scientific theories of Marxism, guide them to establish a scientific ideal and faith, to firmly believe the common ideal of socialism with Chinese characteristics, adhere to the socialist road and correct political orientation.

1.1 Guide College Students to Establish a Lofty Life Belief

“Ideal and belief demonstrate people’s pursuits of value on certain objects which they believe to embody the highest life values and hence trust unswervingly and dedication to pursue. They are the important aspects of human spiritual life.” (Zheng, 2011, p.14) Lofty ideals and beliefs are the boosters to achieve personal success and social development. Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, pointed out at the 2010 national symposium to strengthen and improve college ideological and political education, that to further promote the educational system of socialist core values and effectively guide college students to establish scientific ideals and beliefs, at this stage, it is to educate them to consciously establish the

common ideal of socialism with Chinese characteristics, to unify personal ambition with socialist and communist ideals and beliefs, unify themselves with the motherland, with the fate of the people, establish a noble life faith, adhere to the socialist road with Chinese characteristics, and work hard to achieve the goal of building socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Red resource, in essence, is a typical ideology, reflects the basic value orientation of the ideology of the proletariat, and contains a guiding function as an ideal and faith education. Because of the staunch communist ideal and belief, a large number of martyrs, such as “Sister Jiang”, could overcome numerous difficulties and setbacks in the extremely difficult circumstances, overcome the powerful enemies to achieve the revolution victory, and eventually establish a new socialist China. Therefore, making full use of red resource in college ideological and political education is conducive to help students to bear in mind the heroic deeds of the martyrs, firmly establish the common ideal and belief of socialism with Chinese characteristics. To use red resource to guide students to establish lofty faith of life, based on the requirement of the Chinese Communist Party and government on cultivating the successors of socialist cause, we must fully exploit the educational value of red resource and insist the orientation of educational purposes. We must be based on the actual thinking of college students, respect the characteristics of their physical and mental development and education laws, and adhere to the pertinence of the educational object.

1.2 Help College Student Establish the Firm and Correct Political Orientation

College students are the hope to achieve national prosperity and national rejuvenation, and their political orientation is related to the banner and developmental road of our country. As the ruling party, the Chinese Communist Party must carry out Marxist theoretical education to them, develop their Marxist faith, establish their firm and correct political orientation, and ensure that they remain highly consistent with and have a high degree of recognition on the Party’s political stance. Currently, college students have correct basic political attitudes and views. They highly trust the Party Central Committee, fully affirm the work of the Party and the government, and have a full confidence in China’s development. However, it should also be noted that along with the deepening of reform and opening up, a variety of cultural trends and values formed huge ideological impacts to college students, and some college students appeared confused in political attitude and ideological direction. Therefore, helping them to establish a correct political orientation becomes the key to strengthen their ideal and faith education.

Red resource withstood the tests of the people, history and practice, and managed to develop in inheritance

and innovation. Its connotations conform to the essence of contemporary college ideal and faith education. The red resource throughout the country contains profound historical and cultural contents and rich spiritual values, and every revolutionary relics, every revolutionary reservation is a reflection of the revolutionary martyrs’ lofty life ideal and firm belief in communism. To use red resource to help college students strengthen a correct political orientation, we can start with two aspects: The first is to use the rich red resource to guide contemporary college students to establish a correct political belief, cultivate a political enthusiasm, a sense of political responsibility and a historical mission. We should lead college students to visit red bases, read red literary and artistic works, fully experience the united and democratic work style of the older generation of revolutionaries, be fully aware of the Communists’ noble qualities, consciously establish the lofty ideal of communism and the firm belief of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The second is to help college students strengthen a correct political orientation through the power of examples, and help them consciously resist various temptations. The revolutionary deeds of our ancestors have important educational inspirations to college students in establishing a correct political position and consciously resisting the negative effects of various kinds of erroneous ideas.

1.3 Instruct College Students to Carry Out Scientific Social Practices

College students’ social practice refers to the educational activities which are in accordance with the training objectives of higher education, carried out organizationally, purposefully toward the reality and society, rely on social forces to complete ideological and political education and cultivate practical abilities. It encourages college students to actively participate in understanding and transforming the world, to continue to enrich their knowledge of the society and nature, and to increase their abilities in practices and enhance their social responsibility.

Red resource contains a wealth of material and spiritual contents in centralized distribution but various forms, and can guide students to carry out scientific social practices in educational direction. The first is to carry out hands-on educational practices, such as the full use of red resource in ideological and political theory teaching. The second is to carry out educational practices of visit, such as to organize students to visit the educational bases of red resource around. The third is to carry out educational practices of social survey, such as based on the standpoint of red resource, in accordance with the reality of the ideals and beliefs of college students, to investigate the existing problems and find solutions. The fourth is to carry out educational practices of historical representation. We can invite revolutionary veterans to talk about their personal experiences in the revolutionary

process, and re-take the road of revolution and so on. The fifth is labor service-oriented educational practices. We can use holidays or spare time to carry out the “go to the countryside” activities and voluntary services, etc. in the old revolutionary bases. By using red resource to guide college students to carry out various forms of social practices, we can promote them to go deep into the society, better understand our country, increase abilities, broaden horizons, update new ideas and cultivate creative spirits.

2. ENRICH EDUCATIONAL CONTENTS

Red resource contains lofty ideals and beliefs, noble personal charisma, deep advanced culture and informative revolutionary history, has a strong appeal and persuasive power, and is an important educational resource to carry out the “three outlooks” education, “four faiths” education and Chinese modern history education to college students.

2.1 Enrich the Contents of the “Three Outlooks” Education

The ideal and belief education for college students, in essence, is to develop their scientific outlooks on the world, life and values. Red resource contains firm ideals and beliefs, strong patriotism and noble moral characters, reflects the correct outlooks on the world, life and values. Therefore, fully exploring the red resource can further enrich the “three outlooks” education to college students.

Firstly, red resource is highly consistent with the objectives and contents of the “three outlooks” education. For example, Chongqing Hongyan spirit reflects the fine style of the Chinese Communists in the particular historical circumstance, demonstrates Marxist outlooks on the world, life and values, and is an important manifestation of socialist core value system. In October 2002, Comrade Hu Jintao pointed out during his inspection tour in Chongqing, that the Party should inherit and carry forward the great Hongyan spirit, firmly establish the correct outlooks on power, status, and interest, consciously resist money worship, hedonism and extreme individualism, be truly upright and spotless, influence and lead the masses with the communists’ exemplary conducts and noble characters (Hu Jintao Inspected in Chongqing, 2002). The Party must take the lead, and help the masses to establish the correct outlooks on the world, life and values.

Secondly, the utilization of red resource can effectively enhance the attractiveness of “three outlooks” education. Currently, college “three outlooks” education is carried out in a single and ineffective way, but the red resource owns rich material carriers, such as the patriotic education bases, revolutionary museums and history museums throughout the country, as well as a large number of

literary and artistic works. These various forms of carriers provide a comfortable and relaxing environment for college students to carry out “three outlooks” educational activities, transform abstract education into emotional education, and enhance the attractiveness of “three outlooks” education.

2.2 Enrich the Contents of “Four Faiths” Education

To sum up, college ideal and belief education is mainly reflected in the “four faiths” education, namely Marxist faith education, communist faith education, faith education of socialist modernization, and faith education of the Party and government, wherein Marxist faith education is the cornerstone of college ideal and belief education, communist faith education is the ultimate foothold of college ideal and belief education, faith education of socialist modernization is the focus of college ideal and belief education, and faith education of the Party and the government is the key of college ideal and belief education. In essence, the spiritual core of red resource is a Marxism-oriented ideology. Relying on red resource to implement college ideal and belief education can help students arm their minds with Marxist theories, and firmly follow the socialist road with Chinese characteristics.

Firstly, red resource is consistent with the spirit of “four faiths” education. Red resource contains the Chinese Communist Party’s unremitting revolutionary struggles and construction history for national independence, national prosperity and the establishment of new China. It embodies the revolutionary predecessors’ firm belief that “if red flag does not fall, the revolution shall achieve victory”, and their faith to struggle for socialism and communism. It is this spirit and faith to make our Party withstood various tests, endure all kinds of hardships, overcome numerous difficulties and defeat a variety of enemies. This spirit and belief are consistent with the current “four faiths” educational requirement, so it can be said that red resource is the high-quality educational resource for “four faiths” education.

Secondly, the use of red resource can further enhance the effectiveness of “four faiths” education. A variety of red cultural resources, with the distinctive historical relics, represented history and restored scenes, can make college students better understand the revolutionary predecessors’ firm belief in Marxism and communist ideal and belief in the difficult, harsh conditions, and their heroic deeds to defend the communist ideal and belief with blood and lives. This allows the “four faiths” education to be full of vitality and persuasiveness, deepens the awareness of college students, and guides them to turn belief into action.

2.3 Enrich the Contents of Chinese Modern and Contemporary History

History is a mirror and an eternal textbook of a nation. A mature, civilized nation can always continue to draw

valuable lessons from his own history, establish the common ideals and beliefs. Our modern history is a history that Chinese people for generations and the people with lofty ideals fight heroically and explore arduously for national salvation, and the Anti-Japanese War and Liberation War are an important part of the epic. Modern history education in the past was mainly implemented through textbooks and teachers' instructions, but due to age, less historical materials and other reasons, college students cannot fully realize the significance of modern history, cannot deeply understand the facts and faith behind, leading to unsatisfactory education results.

Red resource is an important source to study the Anti-Japanese War and Liberation War, and is lively historical data to carry out college ideal and belief education. It enriches the contents of China modern history education mainly through the following two aspects: The first is to explore the historical value of red resource, enrich and deepen the contents of Chinese modern and contemporary history education. The related educators can absorb the research results of the red

cultural resources, and enhance the persuasiveness of modern history education. The second is to organize students to visit the sites of red resource to deepen their understanding of modern history. When college students visit historical sites, listen to explanations and acquire direct experience, they can better understand the ideals and beliefs uphold by the martyrs. Therefore, fully exploring red cultural resources can help find more important cultural and historical materials, enrich the contents of Chinese modern history, enhance the vividness and diversity of college ideal and faith education, and improve the effectiveness of education.

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