

New Quality Productive Forces, the New Momentum of Leading Labor Education for College Students

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ABSTRACT

The rapid transformation of the global economic structure and the continuous advancement of scientific and technological innovation have made the new quality productive forces quickly become a new engine for economic growth. College students' labor education should align with the nation's high-quality development strategy and also cater to the public's aspiration for a high-quality life. It should focus on nurturing professional skills and fostering innovation capabilities to adapt to modern, high-level productivity. This paper aims to explore how to take advantage of the development opportunities of new quality productive forces to lead and accelerate the transformation and upgrading process of college students' labor education, thereby cultivating high-quality laborers and innovative talents who meet the requirements of the new era.

KEYWORDS

New quality productive forces; Higher education; Labor education

Labor is a solid foundation for the existence and development of human society, and it is a necessary means for people to realize social value and personal value. Labor education is an indispensable component of promoting the progress and development of human civilization. As socialism with Chinese characteristics enters a new era, the core of college students' labor education is not only to impart knowledge and skills, but also to cultivate students' ability to adapt to and promote social and economic development. According to UNESCO's theory on education and economic development, education should be integrated with national economic development strategies, and the higher education should pay more attention to cultivating students' innovative ability and application skills. Labor education is a bridge connecting academic knowledge and practical operation. Its core value lies in promoting the all-around development of students through labor practices, thereby driving the overall progress of society. New quality productive forces "have become the 'wind vane' leading the development of college labor education in the digital era, and offering endless possibilities for the new landscape of labor education and teaching."^[1] This paper aims to put forward specific strategies and suggestions in order to achieve two-way interaction and synchronous improvement of educational development and national development.

1 The Values of New Quality Productive Forces to College Students' Labor Education

China's high-quality development strategy clearly puts forward a roadmap for innovation-driven development. Therefore, college students' labor education carries multiple education missions such

as knowledge education, skill education and value education, and is an important part of the national innovation system. Through the high-quality labor education, the country can train more high skilled talents who meet the requirements of the new era, and provide strong human resources support for the country's scientific and technological innovation and economic transformation.

1.1 College Students' Labor Education is Based on the National Strategy of High-Quality Development

As an important part of the higher education system, the development direction of college students' labor education is closely related to the country's high-quality development strategy. With the advance of globalization and technological revolution, China's high-quality development strategy emphasizes the innovation driven and industrial upgrading, and labor education is a bridge connecting theoretical knowledge and industrial needs. On the one hand, college students' labor education needs to respond to the country's demand for the cultivation of innovative talents. The national high-quality development strategy not only requires the sustained economic growth, but also emphasizes the optimization of economic structure and the transformation and upgrading of industries through technological innovation. In this process, as the main labor force and the source of innovation in the future society, college students' innovation ability is directly related to the efficiency and competitiveness of the national innovation system. Therefore, college students' labor education should pay attention to improving their scientific and technological innovation ability, which involves the skills of scientific research and technological development, as well as innovative thinking and problem-solving ability. "The new quality productive forces are no longer matched by ordinary workers with simple and repetitive labor, but need strategic talents who can create new quality productive forces and applied talents who can master the new quality productive materials."

^[2] On the other hand, college students' labor education must also focus on the specific needs of industrial upgrading for skilled personnel. With the transformation of the manufacturing industry to intelligent manufacturing and the service industry to high-end services, new requirements for vocational capabilities and skills are emerging. For example, the field of intelligent manufacturing requires students to master the basic knowledge of mechanical and electronic engineering, and to be able to operate and optimize intelligent production lines, and participate in the application of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and big data analysis. College students' labor education should increase cooperation with industry enterprises to introduce more practical training opportunities, so that students can have access to cutting-edge technologies and industry dynamics both on and off campus, so as to ensure the timeliness and practicality of educational content, and better contribute to the strategic goals of national industrial upgrading and high-quality economic development.

1.2 College Students' Labor Education Meets the People's Demands for a High-Quality Life

With the advancement of social economy and the enhancement of people's living standards, the pursuit of a high-quality life has emerged as a prevailing trend. Both people's material and spiritual consumption have been upgraded, and they pay attention to maintaining health, protecting the environment, and focusing on life. Under this background, college students' labor education needs to focus on how to cultivate students' sense of social responsibility and ability to serve the society through educational practice, so as to meet people's diversified needs for a better life. Specifically, facing the challenges of environmental protection and sustainable development, college students' labor education should strengthen the cultivation of students' knowledge and skills about the field

of environmental protection and green development. With the improvement of environmental awareness and the popularization of green consumption, the demand for environment-friendly technical personnel is growing in society. By participating in relevant project learning and social practice, college students can learn how to evaluate and reduce the impact of production activities on the environment, and how to design and implement sustainable living solutions in practical operations. In addition, with the pursuit of a healthy lifestyle, college students' labor education should focus on cultivating students' professional skills in the fields of health management and medical care. Health problems have become an important concern of modern society. From personal health management to public health services, all need professional knowledge and technical supports. Through the introduction of health science, nutrition, sports science and other related courses, the labor education can make students understand the importance of health management and master related professional skills.

1.3 College Students' Labor Education is Dedicated to Promoting the Development of High-Level Modern Productivity

The global economy has entered a new development stage, and the demand for a high level of modern productive forces is increasing, which requires the labor market to have high skilled and high-quality workers, and the workers to constantly learn and adapt to new technologies in a rapidly changing technological environment. Therefore, the focus of college students' labor education is to cultivate students' technical ability, innovation ability and continuous learning ability through the combination of practice and theory. In the face of the requirements of high level of modern productive forces, only mastering basic operational skills can not meet the needs of the market. The current and future work environment needs workers who can operate complex machinery and understand and apply new technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data analysis and so on. "Artificial intelligence represents the advanced form of technological progress and has become the main position for the development of new quality productive forces... artificial intelligence transcends procedural constraints, significantly enhances functionality and versatility, and fundamentally remolds the new workforce." ^[3]Therefore, labor education should include advanced technical training such as programming courses, robotics operation, and the development of data analysis skills. At the same time, the labor education of college students should encourage students to carry out interdisciplinary learning, and cultivate their innovative thinking and problem-solving ability through the practice of teamwork and project management.

2 The Approaches of New Quality Productive Forces on College Students' Labor Education

With the rise of a new round of industrial revolution, the new quality productive forces represented by information technology, artificial intelligence and biotechnology have quickly become a new engine of economic development. Against this background, the content and methods of labor education for college students urgently need to keep pace with the times, achieving a deep transformation from traditional skill training to the cultivation of innovative abilities. This requires educators to rethink the education content and teaching methods, and deepen the concept of new quality productive forces into every link of labor education in the policy making and educational practice.

2.1 Primary Task: Establish a Labor Concept That Conforms To The Current Trends.

The mission of labor education for college students lies in shaping a new concept of labor. Labor is not only a process of production and creation but also an important way for personal development and social contribution. Therefore, educators need to closely link labor education with students' career planning and the actual social needs, changing students' traditional perceptions of labor through educational practice, thereby cultivating their professional ethics and social responsibility. In educational practice, diversified teaching strategies should be used to realize the modernization of labor concept. For example, through social service learning projects, students can participate in real social works, such as community services, environmental projects, public art and cultural activities. Such projects not only allow students to experience the value of labor, but also enable them to understand how labor contributes to the public interest and cultural development of society. In addition, universities can introduce entrepreneurship education and innovation workshops to encourage students to transform academic knowledge into practical problem-solving skills. During the activity, students need to learn how to apply their skills to create new products or services, and more importantly, to learn the importance of realizing self-worth and social value through labor. This helps students to establish a modern concept of labor, which is that labor is not only for economic benefits but also a manifestation of personal growth and social contribution.

2.2 Top Priority: Cultivate Innovative Thinking for the Future Industries

Cultivating innovative thinking for the future industries requires educators to pay more attention to the transfer of students' existing knowledge, and pay more attention to stimulating students' innovative potential and ability to cope with future challenges. In the concrete implementation, the project-based learning can be used to promote the cultivation of innovative thinking. Project-based learning is a student-centered teaching method that allows students to learn and innovate independently while solving open-ended problems. Teachers can design projects that are closely related to the future industries, such as sustainable energy solutions, smart technology applications, biomedical research and development, and students need to apply interdisciplinary knowledge in the project, from research, design, implementation to evaluation. It can enhance students' in-depth understanding of professional knowledge, and cultivate their innovative thinking and problem-solving ability in the face of complex problems. In addition, the university can establish cooperative relations with enterprises in cutting-edge industries to introduce practical cases or problems of enterprises into the course learning, and even organize students to participate in the research and development projects of enterprises. This experience of directly engaging in the actual workflow allows students to understand the latest technologies and market demands in the industry, and also provides a platform for applying their innovative thinking in practice.

2.3 Key Link: Improve the Ability to Adapt to the Scientific and Technological Revolution

In labor education, strengthening the practical ability to adapt to the scientific and technological revolution is the key to deal with the future technological iteration. This requires the education system to not only impart solid theoretical knowledge but also place high importance on practical skills training, to ensure that students can flexibly apply their technical knowledge in the real world and demonstrate outstanding problem-solving abilities. As a result, educators can use resources such as labs and workshops to create simulated work environments that give students the opportunity to hands-on with modern technology equipment and tools. For example, in mechanical engineering courses, through the actual assembly and debugging of mechanical devices, students can understand the practical application of theoretical knowledge, and learn to solve the problems

that may be encountered in the operation of devices. At the same time, students should be encouraged to participate in interdisciplinary projects, where students need to integrate knowledge from multiple fields, such as computer science, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering, to jointly develop complex systems such as intelligent robots or automated production lines. Through this interdisciplinary collaboration, students are able to apply their expertise in their respective fields to practical projects, and solve technical challenges encountered during project implementation through teamwork.

3 Conclusion

“Labor education plays a crucial role in the national education system, which directly determines the labor spirit, labor values and labor skill level of the socialist builders and successors.”^[4] Educators are required to innovate in the teaching method and content, in order to meet the needs of economic and social development in the new era. Therefore, universities and educational institutions must continuously adjust and optimize strategies and implementation methods of labor education to ensure that educational activities keep pace with the country’s industrial upgrading and technological progress. This educational practice can produce graduates with highly specialized skills and ensures that these graduates are equipped with the innovative thinking and problem-solving skills to face the challenges in the future, thus playing an active and central role in driving social and economic development.

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