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NannFour Dimensions of Integrating Labor Education into the Cultivation of New Era Individuals

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ABSTRACT

Integrating labor education of the new era into the cultivation of new-era individuals is an important measure to practice the fundamental task of fostering virtue and nurturing talent and to promote deepening educational reform. This integration aims to build an all-round educational system encompassing moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetic, and labor education. It drives the coordinated linkage of labor education with family education, school education, and social education, achieving holistic education involving all members, throughout the entire process, and in all aspects. Based on a four-dimensional analytical framework, new-era labor education not only focuses on knowledge transmission and skill development but also strives to guide students in establishing correct labor values, promoting the spirit of labor and craftsmanship, shaping good professional ethics and sense of responsibility, thereby cultivating new-era individuals who can consciously shoulder the mission of building a strong country and reviving the nation.

KEYWORDS

Labor education of the new era; People of the new era; Cultivation.

1. INTRODUCTION

Xi Jinping emphasized, "The purpose of building a strong education nation is to cultivate, generation after generation, socialist builders and successors who achieve well-rounded development in moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetic, and labor education." [1] Labor education in the new era should permeate students 'daily lives across all educational stages-from primary school to university-emphasizing practical experience to enhance students' labor skills and innovative capabilities. Simultaneously, labor education must be closely integrated with economic and social development; for instance, through "industry-education integration," it can empower the upgrading of the ceramic cultural industry and promote shared prosperity among talents, while also developing local red-themed study tours tailored to the characteristics and needs of young people. To this end, by drawing on theories such as the labor value theory, labor spirit theory, labor subject theory, and labor relations theory, we can ensure that labor education is deeply integrated into the cultivation of new-era individuals, thereby solidifying its theoretical foundation for shaping them into competent members of society.

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2. THE THEORY OF LABOR VALUE EMBODIES THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF INTEGRATING LABOR EDUCATION INTO THE CULTIVATION OF NEW-ERA INDIVIDUALS, ADDRESSING THE QUESTION OF "HOW TO ACHIEVE SUCH INTEGRATION."

The theory of labor value plays a pivotal role in labor education in the new era. Xi Jinping explicitly stated the important assertion, "Labor creates happiness, and hard work achieves great accomplishments" [2]. The labor value theory embodied in this assertion provides a compelling answer to the question of why labor education should be integrated into the cultivation of new-era individuals.

Labor remains the fundamental means by which humans create value. "Through labor, people generate both material and spiritual wealth, achieving the unity of self-worth and social value" [3]. In cultivating new generations, the labor theory of value provides a solid theoretical foundation for shaping students 'values and skills through labor education. Integrating labor education into the development of modern individuals entails closely linking it with students' daily academic and life experiences, making it an integral part of their personal growth and social adaptability. This integration extends beyond classroom instruction to include various forms of social practice both on and off campus. For instance, in classrooms, teachers employ case studies and group discussions to guide students in deeply understanding the value and significance of labor. Schools can also organize students to participate in volunteer services preserving ceramic culture or research projects exploring how red culture contributes to shared prosperity, enabling them to experience the importance of labor firsthand. This helps students develop a proper understanding of labor as not merely a means of survival but also a vital pathway to self-actualization and social progress. Vocational skills training serves another crucial role in integrating labor education, equipping students with transferable professional competencies that lay a solid foundation for their future careers. Labor education emphasizes the aesthetic and cultural dimensions of labor, encouraging students to discover and create beauty through their work-thereby enhancing their aesthetic appreciation and creativity. Through labor, students can appreciate the beauty of nature, art, and human dignity. For example, when participating in handmade ceramic crafts, students can unleash their imagination and creativity to produce aesthetically pleasing works, thereby preserving intangible cultural heritage.

3. THE THEORY OF LABOR SPIRIT SERVES AS THE FUNDAMENTAL GUIDELINE FOR INTEGRATING LABOR EDUCATION INTO THE CULTIVATION OF NEW-ERA INDIVIDUALS, ADDRESSING THE QUESTION OF "HOW TO ACHIEVE THIS INTEGRATION."

The concept of labor spirit holds a central position in labor education in the new era, serving not only as the fundamental guideline for nurturing new-era individuals but also as the key to addressing the question of "how to integrate it." Xi Jinping emphasized that "the quality of workers is crucial to the development of a country and a nation" [4]. It is evident that fostering the spiritual well-being of workers requires taking labor role models as examples to guide them in cultivating a labor spirit characterized by diligence in creation and courage in striving.

The objective of labor education is to help students understand and develop a Marxist perspective on labor through practical experience. This process requires students not only to master fundamental labor knowledge and skills but also to deeply comprehend labor's essential attributes-its social, historical, and creative nature. It aims to foster a profound value system that recognizes "the glory, nobility, greatness, and beauty of labor," enabling students to truly grasp how labor creates a better life, overcome occupational stereotypes, and cultivate respect for ordinary workers. Modern labor education emphasizes the integration of theory and practice, encouraging students to learn through

hands-on experience and apply knowledge in practice. Through this approach, students develop labor competencies and habits while forming sound worldviews, life philosophies, and values. The curriculum focuses on cultivating "labor thinking" -developing rational judgment about labor's value through reflective analysis during practical activities-and enhancing students' critical thinking, practical skills, and problem-solving abilities. Through labor experiences, students recognize its value and discover its joy, empowering them to become independent, resilient, and self-reliant individuals. Equipped with these competencies, students better adapt to societal demands, emerging as well-rounded individuals with ideals, professional expertise, and social responsibility-contributing to national strength and national rejuvenation.

4. THE THEORY OF LABOR SUBJECTIVITY SERVES AS THE FOUNDATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR INTEGRATING LABOR EDUCATION INTO THE CULTIVATION OF NEW-ERA INDIVIDUALS, ADDRESSING THE CRITICAL QUESTION: "WHO SHOULD BE INTEGRATED?"

Marxism holds that practice is "sensuous human activity" [5]-an activity perceptible through senses, an objective material activity, and a subjective initiative manifested in the objective world. Thus, labor constitutes humanity's most fundamental practical activity, achievable only through individuals endowed with subjective initiative. The labor-subject theory posits that labor is an activity that creates for humanity, serves humanity, and relies on humanity, providing a precise answer to the question of "who should be integrated" in cultivating new-era individuals within contemporary labor education.

In this new era and on this new journey, "to stand at a new stage of development, implement new development concepts, build a new development pattern, and promote high-quality development, we must rely closely on the working class and the broad masses of laborers" [6]. The realization of a modern socialist powerhouse cannot be achieved without the efforts of the youth.The labor subject theory plays a pivotal role in labor education in the new era. It serves not only as the foundation for nurturing contemporary individuals but also as the key to addressing the question of "who should be integrated." Labor education in the new era carries deeper educational significance and practical missions: it aims not only to cultivate scientific labor concepts, impart systematic labor knowledge, teach practical labor skills, foster positive labor attitudes, and develop sound labor habits through hands-on practice, but also focuses on comprehensively enhancing learners 'overall labor literacy to promote their holistic development in moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetic, and labor education. The Marxist view of labor, serving as the theoretical cornerstone of modern labor education, profoundly reveals that labor is humanity's essential activity and the fundamental driving force behind human progress. Labor not only creates material wealth but also shapes human beings themselves-it enables individuals to "possess their full essence" through "free and conscious activities," representing a process of self-realization and unity between personal value achievement and social advancement [7]. Struggle constitutes the central theme of socialist advanced culture. Xi Jinping highly emphasizes the fundamental value of labor, establishing the core principle that "labor is the optimal approach to labor education," with the contemporary tenet "Labor leads to prosperity; striving brings happiness" encapsulating his vision for labor education [8].Labor education guides students to deeply comprehend labor's essence as the foundation of wealth and the source of happiness, inspiring them to create a better future through innovative labor practices. Therefore, the core of labor education in the new era lies in systematically understanding its fundamental principles and multidimensional characteristics, thoroughly exploring practical approaches, and ultimately nurturing a new generation capable of contributing to national strength and rejuvenation.

5. THE THEORY OF LABOR RELATIONS SERVES AS BOTH A PRACTICAL FRAMEWORK FOR INTEGRATING LABOR EDUCATION INTO THE CULTIVATION OF NEW-ERA INDIVIDUALS AND A RESPONSE TO THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION: "HOW SHOULD THIS INTEGRATION BE ACHIEVED?"

Labor relations constitute a vital component of production relations and represent one of the most fundamental and essential social relationships. They hold a unique status, as their harmony or discord can have vastly different consequences; harmonious labor relations serve as a crucial foundation for a harmonious society. Grounded in the new circumstances, challenges, and tasks confronting China's labor relations under contemporary historical conditions, Xi Jinping has articulated a series of important insights on fostering harmonious labor relations [9]. Thus, the theory of labor relations not only provides a theoretical framework for labor education practices but also addresses the practical issue of integrating these principles into the cultivation of contemporary individuals.

The core of labor education in the new era lies in cultivating students 'work ethic, labor skills, labor spirit, and labor habits through practical labor experiences, thereby nurturing well-rounded socialist builders and successors. The "Guidelines for Labor Education in Primary, Secondary, and Higher Education (Trial)" explicitly states that students should "experiencing the new socialist labor relations characterized by equality and harmony" and "deeply understanding Marxist views on labor and socialist labor relations." [10] This demonstrates the close connection between contemporary labor education and guiding students to comprehend these concepts. In terms of implementation, modern labor education emphasizes top-level design, advocating for its integration throughout students' academic and daily lives to establish a systematic framework spanning primary through higher education. For instance, elementary schools focus on fostering labor awareness and habits; secondary schools deepen students 'understanding of labor's value through service-oriented and productive labor; while universities enhance students 'innovation capabilities and vocational skills through labor practices integrated with specialized education. Moreover, incorporating labor education into students' entire learning journey requires emphasizing experiential learning. Labor serves as humanity's fundamental means of engaging with the world, a cornerstone of self-realization, and the ultimate path to freedom. Therefore, labor education should enable students to recognize their own potential and value through labor, experiencing the joy and sense of achievement it brings. The Theory of Labor Relations provides a scientific answer to the questions of what kind of labor relations contemporary society should establish and how to foster harmonious labor relations, while also clarifying how labor education in the new era can be effectively integrated into the cultivation of modern individuals.

6. CONCLUSION

Integrating labor education into the cultivation of new-era individuals is an essential approach to fulfilling the fundamental mission of fostering virtue through education and establishing a comprehensive educational system that promotes moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetic, and labor development. Grounded in the labor value theory, the core rationale for integration lies in labor's capacity to create value and achieve happiness; guided by the labor spirit theory, its direction focuses on promoting the spirit of labor and craftsmanship; supported by the labor subject theory, its implementation relies on the proactive engagement of young students; and aligned with labor relations theory, its pathway involves building harmonious labor relations and industry-education collaboration mechanisms. These four dimensions mutually reinforce and organically unite, driving coordinated efforts between labor education and family, school, and societal education to achieve holistic, lifelong, and comprehensive nurturing. Only by consistently integrating labor education

throughout the entire talent development process can we cultivate new-era individuals who consciously shoulder the responsibilities of national strength building and ethnic rejuvenation.

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