

Exploration of Countermeasures of Youth Volunteerism Integrating into Practical Teaching Reform of Civic and Political Science Courses in Colleges and Universities



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Abstracts: With the development of higher education, the integration of youth volunteer service into the practical teaching of Civics and Political Science courses in colleges and universities has become an important direction of teaching reform. This strategy significantly improves students' sense of social responsibility, and practical ability and effectively promotes the combination of theoretical knowledge and practical application by combining volunteering and Civic and Political education. This paper discusses the specific countermeasures for the integration of youth volunteering into the teaching of Civics and Political Science, including the construction of volunteering courses in conjunction with majors, the expansion of inter-school and social cooperation, the systematic training of volunteers, the establishment of an accurate assessment and dynamic incentive system, and the application of information technology. This process aims to ensure that educational activities can effectively cultivate future social builders with more innovative abilities and social responsibility.

Keywords: ideological education in higher education; volunteerism; practical teaching; educational reform

Introduction

In today's higher education system, the Civics and Political Science courses in colleges and universities bear the important responsibility of cultivating students' correct values and worldviews. With the rapid changes in society and the impact of pluralistic values, the traditional Civic and Political Science courses are facing more and more challenges, and how to enhance their practicability and attractiveness, and improve the teaching effect has become an urgent problem to be solved. At the same time, youth volunteering, as a kind of social practice activity, has an important potential impact on higher education, especially on Civic and Political Education, due to its emphasis on active participation, service to society, and personal growth. Exploring how youth volunteering can be effectively integrated

into the practical teaching of Civic and Political Studies in colleges and universities is conducive to promoting the overall development of students and enhancing the educational effect and social influence of Civic and Political Studies in the period. This not only enhances students' practical ability and sense of social responsibility but also opens up a new path for the reform of college civic education.

1. The Goal and Reform Trend of Practical Teaching of College Civic and Political Class

1.1 Core teaching objectives of civic and political science courses in colleges and universities

The core teaching goal of the Civic and Political Science course in colleges and universities is to cultivate students' socialist core values and guide them to form a correct worldview, outlook on life, and values. The course aims to make students deeply understand the basic strategy of the country and the

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general requirements of socialist modernization construction through systematic theoretical teaching and rich practical activities. More importantly, education in the Civics and Political Science course aims to strengthen students' national consciousness, sense of historical mission, and social responsibility so that they can actively participate in the development of the country and society. In terms of teaching content, the Civic and Political Science Program covers not only theoretical knowledge of many disciplines such as political economy, philosophy, and sociology but also practical content such as national laws and regulations, ethics, and civic responsibility, to comprehensively and systematically strengthen students' ideological and political education. The Civic and Political Programs in colleges and universities also focus on cultivating students' critical thinking ability and independent thinking abilities, encouraging them to form their self-knowledge and theoretical application ability based on adherence to socialist theories, and combining them with the development of the times and practical experience. Through these teaching activities, the Civic and Political Science Course aims to cultivate young people of the new era who can understand and promote the socialist core values and lay a solid ideological and moral foundation for them to make contributions in their respective fields and serve society in the future.

1.2 Deficiencies and reform trends of current practical teaching in civic and political science courses

The current practice teaching of Civics and Politics courses in colleges and universities is facing some deficiencies while achieving certain results, which are mainly manifested in the problems of disconnecting the teaching content from the actual needs of students, single teaching method, lack of sufficient interaction and practice links, and overly theoretical but insufficient applicability. These shortcomings limit the attractiveness of the Civic and Political Science courses to students and the teaching effect, making it difficult to fully realize the goals of Civic and Political Education. In response to these problems, the trend of reforming the teaching of Civic and Political Science courses in colleges and universities has gradually tilted towards the "Great Civic and Political Science" model. This model

emphasizes that colleges and universities not only bear the responsibility of education alone but also form a comprehensive network of Civic and Political Education through the synergistic cooperation of society, families, and colleges and universities. This all-round, whole-process parenting strategy aims to make use of the diverse resources of society to strengthen the practical and life-oriented nature of the Civics and Political Science courses, to better meet the needs of students' life and development. The "Great Civics" advocates the integration of community service, voluntary activities, social practice, and other diversified contents into educational practices, which are effective ways to enrich the practical teaching of the Civics program. At the same time, the participation of families is also regarded as an important part of Civic and Political Education, and the value education and daily behavioral norms of families have far-reaching influence on students. Colleges and universities need to establish a wide range of contacts from all walks of life to form educational synergy and improve students' social cognitive ability and practical abilities through actual case studies and social observation. Deepening the education model of "big ideology and politics", can not only solve the limitations of the traditional ideology and politics classroom, but also provide students with an all-round and multi-dimensional learning and growth environment, realize the fundamental task of cultivating morality and nurturing people, and cultivate more excellent successors who meet the needs of socialist construction.

2. Characteristics of Youth Volunteer Service

Youth volunteer service, especially the volunteer activities of college students, is a kind of active participation in social service behavior, not subject to the external compulsory influence of spontaneous activities. The core values of volunteering lie in selfless dedication, self-improvement, and social responsibility, emphasizing the subjective initiative and self-consciousness of the participants. Through volunteering activities, such as teaching, helping the disabled, and community service, college students not only realize their values but also respond positively to the national requirements for youth

education (Xin & Miao , 2023). Characteristics of youth volunteers include a high degree of enthusiasm and commitment, and they are willing to contribute their knowledge and abilities to where society needs them most. For example, more than 60,000 college graduates participate in volunteer services in the central and western parts of the country and the rural grassroots every year, demonstrating the social responsibility and dedication of Chinese youth. In addition, youth volunteer service in colleges and universities is not carried out in isolation, but under the guidance of professional teams and relevant departments, and the professionalism and effectiveness of the service is ensured through strict rules and regulations and continuous supervision. In education and social service, volunteer service plays the role of bridge and link, connecting college education and social practice, and promoting the implementation of the educational concept of "big ideology and politics".

3. The Importance of Youth Volunteer Service in the Practical Teaching of College and University Ideology and Politics Courses

3.1 The spirit of volunteer activities is a "living teaching material" for practical teaching.

The integration of youth volunteer activities into the practical teaching of college civics courses can make the spirit of volunteerism a vivid "living teaching material" (Wang et al., 2023). In this way, students not only recognize the core values of selfless dedication and mutual help in theoretical learning but also experience and practice these concepts in actual volunteer service. This teaching method makes abstract moral and political theories concrete, and students can visualize how their actions can have a positive impact on society. By participating in volunteer activities, students' sense of social responsibility and personal growth are strengthened, effectively combining the theory and practice of Civic and Political Education, and enhancing the effectiveness and impact of teaching. This kind of "living teaching material" not only educates students but also inspires them through action.

3.2 Ideological-political work method linked to real life

The integration of youth volunteer service into the practical teaching of ideology and politics in

colleges and universities provides a way of working closely with real life for ideological and political education. This method enables students to apply the theoretical knowledge learned in the classroom to solve real social problems, such as community service, environmental protection, etc., which enhances the practical application and life relevance of the teaching content (Li et al., 2020). By participating in these practical activities, students can not only better understand and absorb the core content of ideological and political education, but also intuitively feel the positive impact of their behavior on society. This teaching mode effectively strengthens students' sense of social responsibility, makes ideological and political education closer to students' life reality, and improves the effectiveness and far-reaching impact of education.

3.3 Promote the development of college students' comprehensive ability

The integration of youth volunteer service into the practice of ideological and political courses in colleges and universities, especially in combination with specific professional practice, significantly promotes the development of the comprehensive ability of college students. Volunteer service projects based on professional knowledge, such as Shanghai Maritime University's "Qing" Year of Ecological Civilization Construction Action Plan and Sichuan University of Foreign Languages' multilingual volunteer service, not only provide practice opportunities related to professionalism but also strengthen students' ability to apply themselves in the actual working environment. These programs allow students to combine theoretical knowledge with practical issues and deal with real-world challenges, thus gaining an overall improvement in professional skills, teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving. Through such practical activities, students can gain a deeper understanding and mastery of their professional knowledge, and at the same time develop their innovative thinking and sense of social responsibility. This educational model effectively links professional learning and social practice, laying a solid foundation for student's future careers and personal development.

4. Countermeasures for Youth Volunteerism Integrating into the Reform of Practical Teaching

of Civic and Political Science Courses in Colleges and Universities

4.1 Build volunteer service courses in combination with specialties and strengthen the practical teaching content

To effectively integrate youth volunteering and the practical teaching of college civics courses, the first strategy is to build volunteering courses with the characteristics of each specialty and strengthen the practical teaching content. This method first requires a thorough review and reconstruction of the existing Civic and Political Science courses to ensure that the contents of the courses not only cover theoretical knowledge, but also are closely related to the professional disciplines, and can practically solve the practical problems of the society. For example, in majors such as biomedical, teacher education, sports, and health, volunteer service programs can be designed to correspond to the majors, such as health education, community tutoring, and environmental protection propaganda, so that students can apply their professional knowledge in practice. Through this combination, students can not only get exercise in actual social service and enhance their problem-solving ability but also understand and absorb the core values and social responsibility in the Civics program more deeply. Colleges and universities should also establish a broader partnership with all sectors of society, utilize social resources to enrich the practical content of volunteer service, and provide more diversified service opportunities (Huang, 2023). Through the off-campus practice platform, students can directly participate in social services, so that they can more comprehensively understand and participate in social reality, which not only enhances the relevance and effectiveness of Civic and Political Education but also promotes the overall development of students' comprehensive ability. Through the close integration of professionalism and volunteerism, youth volunteerism can be effectively integrated into the practical teaching of civic education in colleges and universities, and this teaching mode can not only enhance students' professional skills but also deepen their sense of social responsibility, realizing the three-dimensionalization and diversification of civic education.

4.2 Promote intercollegiate and social cooperation, and establish a wide range of volunteer service practice platforms

The core of promoting intercollegiate and social cooperation and establishing a wide range of volunteering practice platforms lies in expanding the scope and depth of volunteering through cooperative networks and providing students with diversified practice opportunities. Colleges and universities can establish partnerships with other educational institutions, NGOs, community organizations, and enterprises to jointly design and implement volunteer projects. These projects should not only cover traditional social service areas, such as education support, environmental protection, and community development, but also explore service activities in areas including scientific and technological innovation, legal aid, and medical and health care. Through inter-institutional cooperation, students can participate in the volunteer activities of other institutions, thereby broadening their horizons and enhancing exchanges and learning between different disciplines and cultural backgrounds. Social cooperation, on the other hand, makes volunteering activities closer to actual social needs and enhances students' sense of social responsibility and practical ability (Zheng, 2022). For example, cooperative organizations can provide professional training, resource support, and practice platforms, so that students can grow and improve in their participation. Colleges and universities should establish a sound volunteer service management system to ensure the quality and effectiveness of activities. Through the implementation of project tracking evaluation and feedback mechanisms, schools and partner institutions can keep abreast of the progress and effectiveness of volunteer services, and continuously adjust and optimize project settings. Such cooperation not only promotes the overall development of students, but also strengthens the connection between colleges universities, and society, and jointly cultivates more excellent talents with a sense of social responsibility and practical ability.

4.3 Systematic volunteer training and career development support

To ensure that volunteering activities not only provide temporary social contributions but also have a long-term impact on students' careers, colleges and

universities need to develop a set of comprehensive training programs aimed at improving students' professional skills while strengthening their sense of social responsibility and leadership abilities. First, training should include basic volunteer skills, such as project management, public communication, and teamwork, as well as specialized knowledge dedicated to specific volunteer activities (Chen et al., 2024). Colleges and universities should provide courses on social innovation and entrepreneurship to stimulate students' ability to apply what they have learned to solve real-world problems. Such training not only enhances students' practical experience but also helps them apply these skills in their future career paths. Career development support should include networking opportunities with industry experts, internship placements, and career guidance services. Through these support measures, students can better understand the needs of the workplace and plan their careers, as well as learn how to turn the experience gained from volunteering into career advantages. Through this systematic training and career development support, students not only learn how to become responsible citizens in Civic Education, but also acquire practical skills to promote their personal career development, and such a strategy is of great significance to the overall development of students.

4.4 Implementing an accurate assessment and dynamic incentive system to improve service quality and participation

To ensure that youth volunteering activities can be effectively integrated into the practical teaching of college and university civics courses, and to improve the quality of service and student participation, colleges and universities need to set up a comprehensive assessment system, which involves not only the implementation effect of the activities but also the learning outcomes and developmental changes of the students. Evaluation should be carried out in a variety of ways, such as regular feedback, satisfaction surveys, program reports, and results presentations, to ensure that the indicators accurately reflect the actual effects of the program and the growth of students. The establishment of the dynamic incentive system aims to stimulate students' motivation and lasting participation in volunteer service through the dual incentive mechanism of

material and spiritual incentives. Material incentives can be scholarships, internship opportunities, vocational training, etc., while spiritual incentives include commendation conferences, the title of outstanding volunteers, public praise, etc., which are effective ways to enhance students' enthusiasm for participation (Cheng, 2024). The incentive system should be regularly adjusted according to the characteristics of the service program and the feedback from students to adapt to the changing educational needs and student expectations. Through this countermeasure of combining accurate assessment and dynamic incentives, not only can the overall quality of volunteering be improved, but also ensures the personal growth and professional development of students in the process of participation, to truly realize the pedagogical goals of Civic Education. This approach will further strengthen the integration of volunteerism and college education, forming a new model of teaching and service that is mutually beneficial and win-win.

4.5 Utilizing information technology to improve the management efficiency and interactivity of volunteer service activities

Through the application of information technology, an online management platform can be created, which not only effectively manages volunteer information, project progress, and resource allocation, but also promotes real-time communication and collaboration among volunteers and between volunteers and managers. For example, an online volunteering system can be established through which volunteers can find service projects that match their interests and professional skills, while managers can monitor the implementation of projects through data analysis tools and adjust resources and support promptly to ensure the smooth progress of projects. Utilizing mobile applications and social media platforms can greatly increase the interactivity and visibility of volunteering. Volunteers can share their experiences, achievements, and stories through these tools, which not only enhances the sense of participation and belonging but also attracts more students to join volunteering (Hou & Fang, 2024). At the same time, these platforms can also be used for publicity and education, spreading the importance and value of volunteering and further expanding the influence of the Civics program.

Through the integration of information technology, it can not only improve management efficiency and ensure the quality of teaching and service activities but also enhance student participation and interactivity, so that volunteering can become an effective and dynamic part of Civic Education in colleges and universities.

Conclusion

The integration of youth volunteering into the practical teaching of college Civic and Political Science courses has brought significant benefits to education, including enhancing students' sense of social responsibility, improving their practical ability, and promoting the effective combination of theory and practice. This mode of teaching enables students to apply what they have learned and develop key skills in an authentic social environment, while also facing challenges such as resource allocation, curriculum standardization, and teaching quality assurance. Future research and practice should continue to explore how to effectively integrate volunteering and civic education, for example, through innovative educational tools and methods, enhanced interdisciplinary curriculum development, and more comprehensive assessment and feedback mechanisms. In addition, with the ever-changing needs of education, research should focus on how to utilize new technologies and media to make teaching and learning activities more interactive and appealing. Ongoing reform is not only a need for educational development, but also a necessary step to improve the quality of education and adapt to the needs of social development for continuing reform of Civic Education in colleges and universities.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest to this work.

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