



RESEARCH ON THE INTEGRATION PATH OF "PARTY, CLASS, AND YOUTH LEAGUE" IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION IN UNIVERSITIES: A CASE STUDY OF ZHAOQING UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

In higher education institutions, the Party, Youth League, and class organizations collectively constitute the core units of university operations and construction, while also serving as the fundamental platform for ideological and political education. Party and Youth League organizations play the role of "vanguard and guiding beacon" in university ideological and political education, while class organizations, as the basic organizational form for students, serve as the main platform for disseminating ideological and political education and provide a crucial environment for student learning and growth. Class organizations carry out the functions of "uniting, organizing, and educating" students, and their effective operation provides important support for the development of university Party and Youth League organizations. Therefore, achieving integrated operations of "Party, Class, and Youth League" has become an inevitable trend in current university ideological and political education. This research aims to deeply analyze the path of integrated ideological and political education practice at Zhaoqing University, with the goal of achieving coordinated enhancement of students' ideological and political qualities and constructing a harmonious campus atmosphere.

KEYWORDS: "Party, Class, and Youth League" Integration, Ideological and Political Education, Practical Path Exploration

1. INTRODUCTION

In the context of the new era, ideological and political education in higher education institutions faces unprecedented opportunities and challenges. With "Party, Class, and Youth League" integration at its core, the key to its construction lies in "building" and "leading" - namely, through Party building guiding Youth League building, Youth League building promoting Party building, and further promoting class construction. Strengthening the political and organizational advantages of Party and Youth League organizations has important significance for expanding the channels and content of student ideological and political education. As a key component of higher education ideological and political education, "Party, Class, and Youth League" integration aims to form synergistic educational effects through the coordinated action of Party organizations, class organizations, and Youth League organizations to promote students' comprehensive development. This paper will conduct an in-depth analysis of the current status of "Party, Class, and Youth League" integrated ideological education practice at Zhaoqing University. Through textual research and interview methods, over 30 students from different student organizations and with different political backgrounds were randomly selected for interviews to deeply analyze the impact of "Party, Class, and Youth League" integration on student ideological and political education, providing strong support for building a harmonious campus.

2 Problems in University "Party, Class, and Youth League" Integrated Ideological and Political Education

In the "Party, Class, and Youth League" integrated education model, improving organizational structure is a prerequisite for achieving synergistic effects, and the core of this system lies in fully leveraging their respective functions and forming effective interactions. Universities should highly value the different roles that "Party, Class, and Youth League" undertake in student ideological and political education, achieving seamless connection between organizations through scientific top-level design. Specifically, Party organizations should clarify the functional



positioning and work focus of Youth League organizations and class organizations through institutional design, ensuring that the three entities form clearly defined but complementary relationships in ideological and political education. In the process of collaborative education, attention should also be paid to feedback mechanisms, establishing closed-loop mechanisms for discovering problems, optimizing solutions, and providing feedback improvements from practice, allowing the "Party, Class, and Youth League" integrated education model to gradually mature and continuously improve. Meanwhile, it is important to explore educational methods based on disciplinary characteristics and student growth patterns, integrating ideological and political education content into students' learning, life and career development planning to achieve systematic and targeted education.

2.1 Insufficient Collaborative Educational Effectiveness Among "Party, Class, and Youth League" in Ideological and Political Education Practice

The "Party, Class, and Youth League" integration model refers to the collaborative management model where student Party branches, Youth League branches and class committees jointly participate, coordinate with each other, and work together in ideological and political education and various affairs (Dang, Wei, & Dong, 2023). The organizational structures of "Party, Class, and Youth League" lack communication and coordination in terms of educational carriers, activity connection, and content deepening, with issues such as insufficient communication and implementation. In promoting "Party, Class, and Youth League" integration, the lack of clear guiding thoughts and operational guidelines has led to unsatisfactory implementation effects. Some students have insufficient awareness and enthusiasm for Party, Class, and Youth League activities, with low student participation affecting overall educational effectiveness. Educational resources have not been fully integrated, and effective collaboration has not been achieved between Party and Youth League organizations and classes, resulting in reduced resource utilization efficiency or waste.

2.2 Student Party Member Distribution Shows a "More in Higher Grades, Fewer in Lower Grades" Trend, Making the Party Member Vanguard Role in Ideological and Political Education Relatively Delayed

Under Party organization guidance, the cultivation of class and Youth League organizations should strive to transform student leaders from Youth League organizations and class collectives into a reserve pool of advanced talent for Party organizations. Meanwhile, the growth of student leaders and development of Party and Youth League members objectively requires a certain time period. Student leaders and Party members are often concentrated in higher grades while relatively lacking in lower grades, limiting the coverage and influence of ideological and political education and making its effectiveness difficult to implement deeply. Additionally, the cultivation mechanism for student leaders is imperfect, lacking systematicity and continuity. Party, Class, and Youth League activities are monotonous, lacking innovation and appeal, making it difficult to spark student participation enthusiasm. This leads to their role in "Party, Class, and Youth League" integration not being fully realized.

2.3 The Youth League Branch as a Bridge Connecting Party Organizations and Classes Needs Improvement in its Leadership and Cohesion

First, class and Youth League integration is not fully implemented. Since class affairs and Youth League branch affairs often overlap, creating a heavy workload, some classes default to having different people serve as class monitor and Youth League branch secretary to reduce work pressure. This creates a disconnect in work and functions between the class and Youth League branch. College Youth League committees' supervision of class committee transitions is insufficient, making it difficult to effectively carry out Youth League branch work and weakening the Youth League branch's ideological leadership role over class collective members. Second, in daily class management, students have more contact with "class monitors or student leaders", while Youth League branches are mostly established in middle school, with activities having limitations in "participation targets and influence scope". The concept of "Youth League branch" is relatively vague, leading to low student participation in Youth League organization activities during pre-university education stages and a lack of initiative and enthusiasm for Youth League organization building. Additionally, Party members, Youth League members, and class student leaders are assessed and cultivated by different school departments with inconsistent assessment standards. Members' capabilities and qualities vary widely, lacking unified cultivation mechanisms, making it difficult to form synergy and affecting the overall effectiveness of Party, Class, and Youth League integration.

Class and Youth League affairs are complex, with unclear boundaries between class leaders and Youth League branch leaders' responsibilities, leading to low work efficiency. Usually, a class committee member shoulders both daily class affairs and Youth League branch work, with different work focuses - class committees are responsible for diverse daily learning and life class affairs management, such as study style building, scholarship and grant evaluation, and



class management. Unclear division of labor easily leads to buck-passing phenomena, affecting the overall operation of classes and Youth League branches. Class members have weak Youth League consciousness, and the Youth League branch's core role in class collectives is not clearly demonstrated, reflected in insufficient collaboration between the Youth League branch serving as political core, organizational core, leadership core and service core and the class committee, inevitably affecting organizational building and functional performance of class and Youth League integration (Jiang, 2019). Additionally, students have higher frequency of contact with class affairs, forming a "first impression" mindset. Most students consider class committees more credible, directly representing class collective interests, and trust class committees more. Youth League branches are basically limited to themed Youth League day activities and Youth League affairs handling, with Youth League branch ideological and political education relatively marginalized and weak identification with Youth League branches.

3. ANALYSIS OF PRACTICE STRATEGIES FOR UNIVERSITY "PARTY, CLASS, AND YOUTH LEAGUE" INTEGRATED IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION

Innovation in universities' "Party, Class, and Youth League" integrated education model relies not only on conceptual updates but also requires scientific design and systematic advancement of practical paths. In the process of innovating ideological and political education forms, it is necessary to deeply explore the characteristics and needs of different student groups, implementing stratified and classified education strategies to make ideological and political education more attractive and targeted. Meanwhile, universities need to strengthen resource integration efforts, actively construct cross-departmental collaborative ideological and political work mechanisms, organically combine Party and Youth League activities with curriculum teaching, extracurricular practice, and campus cultural activities to form an all-round, multi-level education system. Additionally, attention should be paid to leveraging the advantages of new media technology in ideological and political education, embedding ideological and political education into various aspects of students' daily lives through the construction of online and offline combined educational platforms, thereby enhancing the coverage and penetration of educational work. Through equally emphasizing theoretical education and practical education, cultivate students' sense of social responsibility and historical mission, achieving the transformation from "ideological and political instillation" to "ideological and political identification".

3.1 Establish and Improve Educational Mechanisms, Construct a Full-Domain Cultivation Matrix

First, establish mentoring mechanisms. Since 2010, after more than a decade of diligent cultivation, Zhaoqing University has formed mature working mechanisms of "student Party members leading classes, administrative Party members leading classes, and student class Party member horizontal Party branches", fully demonstrating the talent cultivation function of Party building. It has established a grassroots Party building work model where faculty and student Party members deeply enter new student classes and guide new student growth. The enabled class-leading Party members have diversified role positioning, mainly carrying out "leading adaptation, Party building, academics, life, thought, and study style" around new student groups, becoming students' "counselor" for healthy growth, "lecturer" of Party and Youth League theory, "learning companion" for subject knowledge, "guide" for life, and "navigator" for ideals and beliefs. Following the learning and growth patterns of college students, combined with secondary college professional characteristics, implement the "all staff, whole process, all-round" three-comprehensive education concept in stages and steps of "first year laying foundation, second year assisting growth, third year improving quality, fourth year building talent". Zhaoqing University actively implements the "three-comprehensive education" strategy, further improving the connotation of student Party member class-leading work by optimizing organizational structure and clarifying duty division, with ideological and political work based on administrative work, gradually clarifying the working system and mechanism of student Party member class-leading grassroots Party organizations. Closely combine Youth League branch work with class management, enhancing students' sense of participation and belonging through carrying out diverse Youth League day activities and themed class meetings.

Second, leverage the Party building leadership mechanism to drive positive interaction between classes and Youth League branches, promoting students' comprehensive development. Through conducting ideological and political education courses and practical activities, responding to "where the Party calls, the Youth League acts", Zhaoqing University fully implements the "1+2+3+N" Party building quality improvement action, creating an organizational structure system that reaches vertically to the bottom and horizontally to the edges, establishing secondary college horizontal Party branches, dedicated to organically integrating rich content and diverse forms of professional knowledge learning with Party building activities into horizontal Party branches, allowing Party building work,



teaching education and talent cultivation to promote each other, with Party building construction and professional construction managed together, promoting high-quality development of education through high-quality Party building. Party organizations further strengthen leadership over ideological and political education. The essence of Party, Youth League and class collaboration is strengthening Party leadership over all aspects of educational work, with the fundamental purpose of collaborative operation among the three being to fully leverage ideological and political guidance roles, tap into student organization educational effectiveness, and mobilize students' initiative in self-management, self-service and self-education (Li & Hu, 2021). Grasp the organizational advantage of "recommending excellent members for Party membership" given to Communist Youth League organizations by Party organizations, further optimize the "Party, Class, and Youth League" organization talent selection and cultivation mechanism, continuously strengthen grassroots Youth League organization building, consolidate the foundation of "recommendation" work, master the principles and requirements for cultivating and developing Communist Party members, standardize "recommendation" procedures, strengthen the cultivation process, strictly control entry standards, improve Youth League organizations' "recommendation" ability, and establish a scientific and efficient selection and recommendation mechanism. Cultivate and recommend to Party organizations a group of Youth League member pioneers who are "advanced in political concepts, moral qualities, role performance, and discipline observance".

3.2 Expand and Innovate Educational Forms, Consolidate the "Party, Class, and Youth League" Integration Ideological and Political Education Position

First, emphasize "Party building leadership" top-level planning, innovate ideological and political education methods, and connect the "last mile" of ideological and political education. Based on requirements of documents such as Zhaoqing University's *Several Measures on Reforming and Innovating University Communist Youth League Work to Effectively Enhance Ideological and Political Guidance Effect*, continuously advance university student association reform in depth, building a team of student leaders and Party members with solid quality and obvious effectiveness. Establish functional Youth League branches at university and secondary college levels from top to bottom, mainly for student association Youth League members to conduct political study, educate, manage and supervise Youth League members, cultivating a group of student leaders who are politically firm, excellent in both character and learning, care about fellow students, and have solid work style. Strengthen Youth League school building, standardize basic Youth League affairs development, adhere to strict Youth League member development standards, align with Youth League course and school building, combine with Party and Youth League organizations to carry out special topic learning and themed education learning.

Second, rely on platforms such as Zhaoqing University's student community college system and student organizations, with Party building as the lead, occupy the strategic position of student ideological and political education - "dormitory living area", achieving full coverage of Party building in student living communities. Fully implement one-stop "student community comprehensive management", based on student living areas, establish systems for university and college-level leading cadres to deeply connect with students in communities, integrate students from various disciplinary backgrounds, set up various functional areas to meet student needs, promote integration of arts and sciences, professional interaction, and personality development, meet students' individualized development needs, normalize and dynamize connection with students, solve student ideological learning, life and work problems, deliver methods, warmth and care, smooth out the "last mile of ideological and political education". In terms of personnel allocation, with Party building as the lead, implement "building head responsibility system" according to dormitory distribution, combine student work teams, logistics support services, professional faculty strength and peer strength to enter student communities, carry out characteristic Party and Youth League activities such as "Youth Oath under the Party Flag" and "Party Building Knowledge Competition", integrating rich connotations of educational resources such as school motto, school song, school history, school situation as well as excellent traditional Chinese culture and advanced socialist culture. Fully utilize campus community public resources such as Party member activity rooms, college student guide rooms, learning spaces, psychological counseling rooms, and faculty-student exchange book bars to build colorful student life cultural communities, jointly promote Party building and ideological and political work into student communities, enhance space for student autonomous growth and increase mutual interaction and exchange. In terms of community function setting, coordinate with various school departments to routinely provide service content such as Party building, ideological and political work, student affairs management, and dormitory management, effectively solve various problems in students' learning, life and psychology through accurately grasping student needs, construct a harmonious and positive community cultural environment, and further enhance the ideological and political education penetration of "one-stop" comprehensive student communities. For example,



establish student community "Soul Station", build student community offline service halls and online information service platforms, revitalize dormitory living area resources, create comprehensive management model psychological services into communities, mainly focusing on psychological crisis issues around student learning, life, interpersonal relationships and self-cognition, conducting frontline screening and early warning, frontline intervention and disposal, and frontline effective resolution.

3.3 Fully Ensure Precise Support, Enhance "Party, Class, and Youth League" Integration Educational Effectiveness

In terms of mechanism guarantee, optimizing university "Party, Class, and Youth League" management operation mechanism is key to improving Party, Class and Youth League integration work efficiency. Establish unified coordination institutions, follow the work rules of "Party, Youth League, class", clearly define duty division of various university organizational departments, construct digital information work pattern through information technology means relying on Yiban learning platform, establish Party, Class and Youth League integration management platform, formulate detailed work processes and standards, achieve information sharing, promote work collaboration, reduce work complexity and redundancy, low efficiency and overlap. Ensure orderly progress of various tasks.

At the material guarantee level, solid material condition support is the cornerstone to ensure smooth advancement of "Party, Class, and Youth League" integration ideological and political education work. Strive for increased policy support and funding input to provide necessary material foundation and environmental guarantee for Party, Class and Youth League integration. Meanwhile, reasonably allocate educational resources to ensure smooth development of ideological and political education activities.

In terms of organizational guarantee, to fully leverage the Youth League organization's role as "pioneer" and "vanguard" in Party organization and class building ideological and political education, construct multi-level, three-dimensional organizational structure, strengthen Party, Youth League and class collaborative linkage. In school and college-level Party and Youth League organizations and among all young students, deeply study and implement "Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era", "Spirit of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China", and "Spirit of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee" from top to bottom. All levels of Youth League organizations throughout the university deeply carry out the "Yangyuan Youth Great Learning Plan" including Party's innovative theory great publicity, social practice great research and study, excellent works great performance, "I do practical things for fellow students" great action, new thought knowledge great competition, and learning achievements great exhibition. Meanwhile, strengthen close collaboration between Youth League organizations and student associations and student clubs, adhere to the concept that student leaders "originate from students, serve students", smooth various channels, closely connect with student groups, construct communication bridge between college faculty and students. Establish and improve student participation mechanisms, and regularly conduct training for student activity leaders, Communist Youth League members and student Party members to enhance their ideological and political education theoretical level and practical ability, ensuring they can fully adapt to new era ideological and political education development needs.

3.4 Innovate "Party, Class, and Youth League" Integration Educational Methods, Test Ideological and Political Education Results Through Practice

First, absorb contemporary development connotations, innovate practice of ideological and political education content and methods. The university actively responds to Guangdong Province's "High-quality Development Project for Hundred Counties, Thousand Towns and Ten Thousand Villages" deployment requirements, attaches great importance to summer "Three Rural Areas" college student social practice activities, organizes multiple Guangdong youth college student "Hundred-Thousand-Ten Thousand Project" task forces based on county and town village needs, through "university-county district" pairing mode, carries out practical services targeting solving grassroots development difficulties around "townships proposing questions, universities answering", promotes youth college students to go to fields and gardens, "meets local needs with university capabilities", encourages more youth college students to strive to be "task force" and bravely be "new force", broad youth students utilize their professional knowledge and skills to contribute youth strength to rural revitalization. The university Youth League Committee continuously explores and innovates social practice service and long-term management mechanisms, increases social practice channels and approaches, expands the participation scope and integration degree of in-school youth students. Second, leverage peer ideological and political education's vital force, actively create volunteer service atmosphere of "I for everyone, everyone for me". Select students with good political quality, high theoretical level, and strong



publicity ability throughout the university to form college student publicity teams. In theoretical publicity activities, innovatively leverage the positive role of peer education targeting current college student characteristics, construct publicity positions with classrooms, dormitories, networks and other main platforms. Carry out political theory publicity activities facing all students using methods and approaches generally welcomed by college students. Deeply integrate ideological and political education work into various levels and entire process of campus culture, guide youth students to enhance historical consciousness and historical confidence in theoretical learning, further consolidate beliefs and confidence, cohering forward-advancing strength.

Third, dedicated to enhancing the volunteer service brand effect of "Zhaoqing City Youth Volunteer College", fully utilize volunteer service activities such as aid to Tibet and Xinjiang and Western China Program to promote innovation of university Party building systems and mechanisms, actively advance construction of university-local co-building college student ideological and political education bases. Additionally, in terms of volunteer service, the university upholds the volunteer service spirit of "dedication, friendship, mutual aid, progress", provides volunteer service help to all faculty, students and off-campus personnel, deeply advances rich in form and content youth volunteer service activities from university level and college level, such as carrying out March Lei Feng volunteer service month, summer "Three Rural Areas" social practice, Western (mountainous) region program volunteer recruitment, December 5th International Volunteer Day and Zhaoqing University campus volunteer service culture festival activities, effectively enhances social influence of volunteer service, strengthens youth students' sense of social responsibility and mission, guides students to transform theoretical knowledge into practical action, enhances ideological and political education effectiveness.

4. CONCLUSION

University "Party, Class, and Youth League" integration ideological and political education practice is a key path to enhance students' ideological and political qualities, and also an important way to implement the fundamental task of moral education. Through strengthening Party leadership role, relying on Youth League organization's bridge function and class basic management role, "Party, Class, and Youth League" integration can effectively integrate educational resources, constructing an ideological and political education system of all-staff education, whole-process education, and all-round education. Under current complex social environment and rapidly changing era background, universities need to continuously explore and optimize "Party, Class, and Youth League" integration education model to make it more conform to new era students' ideological characteristics and growth needs. Future research and practice should focus on scientific nature and forward-looking nature of education model, realizing high-quality development of ideological and political education through systematic mechanism guarantee and innovative education practice.

Second, the core goal of "Party, Class, and Youth League" integration is to promote students' comprehensive development, which includes not only enhancement of ideological and political qualities, but also comprehensive cultivation of moral qualities, comprehensive abilities and sense of social responsibility. Therefore, universities need to integrate "Party, Class, and Youth League" integration construction into various aspects of students' daily study and life, ensuring ideological and political education can truly "touch hearts" and "enter minds". In this process, importance should be attached to deep combination of theory and practice, guiding students to transform theoretical knowledge into practical action through rich and diverse courses, activities and social practices, deepening understanding and identification with Party's theories and policies in process of serving society. Meanwhile, attention should be strengthened to students' ideological dynamics analysis, designing differentiated education programs targeting characteristics of students at different stages and levels, making "Party, Class, and Youth League" integration education more targeted and effective.

Additionally, university "Party, Class, and Youth League" integration construction effectiveness largely depends on mechanism operation efficiency and coordination level between organizations. For this, universities need to further optimize "Party, Class, and Youth League" management structure in top-level design, promote deep integration of information technology means and ideological and political work, establishing precise, sustainable development management mode. Achieve work information sharing and resource integration through relying on digital platforms, effectively enhance collaboration efficiency between Party, Class and Youth League. Meanwhile, strengthen basic-level Party organizations' guidance function, pay attention to selection, cultivation and assessment of Youth League organization and class backbone, ensure quality and level of Party, Class and League collaborative operation. On this basis, universities need to continuously improve assessment and evaluation system in education model,



comprehensively evaluate educational effectiveness of "Party, Class, and Youth League" integration through scientific and reasonable indicator system, providing data support and theoretical basis for subsequent work improvement.

Finally, deep advancement of "Party, Class, and Youth League" integration education model also needs to integrate vision combining localization and internationalization into it. In terms of localization, universities should design ideological and political education programs with school characteristics and local cultural connotations combining their own schooling characteristics and regional development needs, making students further identify with their cultural identity and social responsibility in practice. In terms of internationalization, universities should pay attention to new challenges and new needs of student ideological and political education under globalization background, draw on international advanced education experience, promote ideological and political education achievements with Chinese characteristics to international education system, providing "China solution" for university education cause in globalization era. Through continuous innovation of theory and practice, university "Party, Class, and Youth League" integration education will inject inexhaustible power into cultivation of high-quality talents in new era.

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Attachment 1: Interview Questions

Hello! Thank you very much for participating in this interview. The data collected from this interview will be used for the exploration of integrated ideological and political education practices of "Party, Class, and Youth League" in universities. Your opinions are extremely important to us. Once again, thank you for your responses!

Interview Questions

1. What are your specific views on the relationship between the "Party, Class, and Youth League" in universities?
2. What are your thoughts on the university's implementation of the "Party Member Leading the Class" system?
3. What is your understanding of the university's efforts in constructing the integrated model of "Party, Class, and Youth League"?
4. What suggestions do you have for promoting the construction of the integrated "Party, Class, and Youth League" model?