

## Comparative Study of Goals of University Civic Moral Education between China & Western Countries

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### Abstract

As an important position in the construction of socialist spiritual civilization, colleges and universities shoulder the heavy responsibility of cultivating talents for socialist modernization, and play an indispensable role in cultivating the moral quality of college students, improving their intellectual ability and cultivating aesthetic education. By analyzing the goals of Chinese and Western college students' civic moral education and comparing their similarities and differences, we can effectively filter and absorb the advanced experience of the West, and draw on advanced and successful experiences from Western countries to provide theoretical support for the promotion of university citizen moral education in China.

**Key words:** University; Civic moral education; Goals; Comparison

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### INTRODUCTION

The educational role of universities is different from that of general social education and family education. As a high-level education system, it shoulders the heavy responsibility of cultivating socialist builders and successors. Universities are the civilized bases and moral windows of society, and they are a powerful driving force for social moral progress. The social education activities and practical activities in which teachers and students participate are related to schools, families and society, and they will build spiritual civilization and morality. Excellent results spread and penetrated the whole society. Therefore, university civic moral education plays a vital role in the education of the whole society.

Strengthening the moral education of university students is the need to guide university students to establish correct values. At present, higher education is in the stage of popularization. "Improving the level of cultural education of the entire nation" also makes us realize that education not only teaches knowledge, but also teaches students how to behave and cultivate modern citizens. However, students' ideological concepts, ways of thinking, behaviors and values are constantly affected by extreme individualism, money worship, and hedonism, which makes the arduousness, complexity and importance of college citizens' moral education more protruding. In the face of these tests, universities must vigorously strengthen the citizen moral education of students, so that they consciously resist the influence of bad culture.

University students are the successors of the socialist cause. Therefore, whether they have modern civic moral qualities has a major impact on China's modernization construction and the construction of a harmonious society. The civic moral education of college students is the basis for strengthening the ideological and moral construction of the whole people. In view of the violations of law and discipline, lack of integrity, cheating in exams,

and destruction of public morals, the moral education of citizens in colleges and universities should be continuously strengthened and improved.

Citizen moral education has been carried out abroad for many years. Many well-established models and systematic theories have been formed in several major western countries. Now there are several countries with distinctive characteristics: the United States, Germany, Britain and France. Civic moral education theory, content, and practice methods are explored. At the same time, it is compared with the corresponding content of China. By comparing the objectives, contents and methods of civic moral education, we can obtain new ideas suitable for the citizen moral education of college students in China.

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## 1. THE GOAL OF CIVIC MORAL EDUCATION IN CHINESE UNIVERSITIES

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The goal of civic moral education is an important category in civic education theory and a fundamental problem in civic education practice. It focuses on the nature and direction of civic moral education in a country, and restricts the entire civic moral education activities and their progress.

The goal of school citizen moral education is the standard of the expected result of the school's implementation of civic moral education activities. It is the starting point and destination of civic moral education. It provides a blueprint for the civic moral education of the whole school, guiding, regulating and controlling the whole. The process of civic moral education determines the determination of the content of civic moral education and the selection of methods and the evaluation of effects. It is a powerful guarantee for achieving the ultimate goal of cultivating educators into the needs of society.

However, as far as the goal of civic moral education in universities is concerned, the focus is on cultivating the responsibility of citizens, that is, insisting on cultivating students' correct concepts of democracy and legal system, so as to promote the maturity of students and grow into a country capable of a mature, responsible and qualified citizen of the responsibility and obligation stipulated in the Constitution. In addition, it should include students to correctly understand human dignity, deepen their understanding of democratic politics, and cultivate their active care, independent thinking about social issues and patriotism.

Specifically, the objectives of civic moral education in universities should cover the following aspects:

### 1.1 Citizens' moral quality

In terms of character, we must develop loyalty, diligence, study, integrity, courage, modesty, austerity, simplicity, etc. We also have excellent moral judgment

and healthy psychological quality. In terms of emotions, students should establish a sense of social responsibility, self-esteem and collective honor. In terms of moral behavior, it is necessary to make it a civilized and polite behavior habit, and consciously abide by the norms of social morality.

### 1.2 Political attitudes and legal awareness of citizens

Master the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism theory and establish a world outlook, outlook on life and values guided by dialectical materialism. In terms of political attitudes, he is concerned about national affairs, establishes correct political beliefs, loves the socialist system, supports the reunification of the motherland, and has an internationalist spirit. In legal ceremonies, establish the concept of democratic legal system governing the country according to law, cultivate legal awareness, and be disciplined, law-abiding, knowledge-abiding, and usage.

### 1.3 Citizenship

The basic skills involved in social life, including good communication skills, good organizational appeal, and the ability to analyze and solve problems.

The goal of civic moral education is the purpose of civic moral education activities. Before the implementation of civic moral education, the results of civic moral education activities have existed in human consciousness. That is to say, this goal reflects a subjective will of the person, is an expected result, and belongs to the category of subjective consciousness of the person.

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## 2. GOAL OF CIVIC MORAL EDUCATION IN UNIVERSITIES IN THE MAJOR WESTERN COUNTRIES

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The goal of civic education is undoubtedly to cultivate or shape good citizens, so that citizens have the qualities to participate in the needs of public institutions. The determination of educational goals determines the direction in which all the components of civic education must be followed. Therefore, Western countries have formulated detailed regulations and explanations for them, which have established a direction for civic education throughout the country.

The goals of university civic education in major western countries can be summarized as follows:

### 2.1 Cognitive Goals

Cognitive goals include understanding basic social norms and familiarizing with the political, legal, and disciplinary knowledge that citizens should possess. That is, the basic rights of democratic individuals, the knowledge of international law on human rights, the

basic norms of society and social life, the basic political and political systems of the state, the electoral system, the laws of social organization, the status of the state in the world and the international environment, Laws and regulations, basic knowledge of sociology, family ethics, spiritual culture, social and ecological awareness, etc.

## 2.2 Emotional Goals

Forming students' sense of identity and belonging, cultivating citizens' sense of belonging to the motherland, their sense of responsibility to society, their sense of national identity, their understanding of international affairs, their respect and understanding of others, their tolerance and honesty, and respect for all those who deserve respect, be able to fulfill their responsibilities, form their own rights awareness and respect the rights of others.

## 2.3 Ability Goal

Develop good behavioral habits, practice various legal and ethical norms of social cognition, and advocate the practice of advanced behavioral norms. Master the various basic skills and skills that are suitable for the society, easily respond to various environments and relationships, be able to critically accept social values, and have good resolving power and social understanding. Improve political literacy and the ability to participate in the remediation process, gaining a broad range of general knowledge and basic academic skills.

Most experts in the theoretical field believe that the direct purpose of civic education is to improve the quality of citizens and enhance their civic awareness. Citizenship education is by no means to cultivate the people, but to promote the building of democratic politics. In addition, improving citizenship and citizenship is the foundation, focusing on the social and political conditions for the creation of citizens' participation in politics and the management of public affairs. The ultimate goal of civic education is to promote social and political progress and build a highly civilized political system.

## 3. EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE CITIZEN MORAL EDUCATION GOALS IN CHINESE AND WESTERN UNIVERSITIES

Through the above-mentioned rough statement of the moral education objectives of Chinese and Western citizens, we can see that the goal of civic moral education is the predetermined result of cultivating qualified citizens in people's minds. It is the existence of a conceptual form, showing a subjective side, but determining the target. The determination of the goal of civic moral education must depend on the needs of the society for its members, as well as the conditions of human development, which

will be restricted and influenced by the development of society, the development of people themselves, and the laws governing the development of the school itself.

We can find that the goal of civic moral education has the characteristics of social history and class. Marxism believes that social existence determines social consciousness, and civic moral education goal is a concept belonging to the category of social consciousness, which also determines its social historical and class nature. Therefore, the goals of civic moral education will be different at different stages of social democratic development.

## CONCLUSION

The similarities between the goals of civic moral education in Chinese universities and Western universities are as follows: a. paying attention to the cultivation of civic awareness and ability of college students; b. emphasizing the importance of establishing a correct world outlook, values, and outlook on life for college students; c. Attach importance to the cultivation of their political and legal awareness. The differences are also obvious:

- **The goal of civic moral education in our country is somewhat general, and there is no specific regulation for schools and students.**

To some extent, there is a certain political tendency. From the perspective of citizens' self-cultivation, they should mainly include the following aspects: a. Cognitive goal - understanding the basic norms and norms of social life, familiar with the discipline, law and political common sense that citizens should have; b. emotional goals - cultivating citizens' sense of belonging to the motherland, responsibility for society, and nationality A sense of identity, and understanding of international affairs, self-respect and respect for others; c. ability goals - to develop good behavior habits, practice socially recognized norms, and advocate the practice of advanced behavioral norms. From the external requirements of citizens, the objectives of cultivating citizens include: qualified family members, qualified members of society (citizens required by the state, patriots who need the nation), and equal members of international cooperation.

- **The ideality of the goal of citizen moral education in Chinese college students is in stark contrast with the reality of the goal of citizen moral education in western universities.**

The goal of citizen moral education in China is stipulated in the aspects of citizen moral quality, consciousness and ability. However, there is a certain degree of ideality, which has created a natural barrier for ideological and political educators to carry out ideological and political education for students, so that we cannot achieve our expected goals.

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