

The Practical Circumstances of and Solutions to Hongyan Spirit's Spread in the Education of University Students

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Abstract

Based on the practical circumstances of Chinese revolutionary spirit's education, aiming at the current educational situation of University students' learning, recognition, understanding and faith towards "Hongyan" spirit in Chongqing city, this article seizes the favourable opportunities of inheritance and development of learning Hongyan spirit at current stage, to re-design and construct a compatible learning mode for current realities of University students, in order to achieve goals of, and to present viable practical approach for ideological and political education of university students.

Key word: Hongyan spirit; SWOC mode; Degree of acceptance; On-the-spot teaching

INTRODUCTION

The revolutionary spirit of Chinese Communist Party originates from revolutionary wars, develops in the age of New China's socialism construction, and gains new conception in new era of the reform and opening-up policy. The revolutionary spirit is an important embodiment of the advanced nature of the Communist Party of China, is a crucial part of the Chinese nation's outstanding culture, and is an essential force to promote China's revolution, construction and development. In the contemporary era of comprehensive construction of

socialism well-off society and actively building a socialist harmonious society, University students' attempt to accept and to promote the Chinese revolution spirit is meaningful for the development of both the society and their own.

1. THE NECESSITY OF CONTEMPORARY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO STUDY HONGYAN SPIRIT

1.1 Hongyan Spirit Is the Organic Component of Chinese Revolutionary Spirit

Hongyan spirit is the organic component of Chinese revolutionary spirit, and has its unique glamour. Research and study of Hongyan spirit can be launched from multi-dimension. Trying to explain this spirit in theory, grounding it in practice, recalling history, observing reality, based on Chongqing, radiating China and looking at the world are all necessary and fruitful strategies. Meanwhile, the educational advertisement and popularisation of Hongyan spirit constitute the inevitable link of theory moving forwards to practice, and become the unavoidable paths to display the values, ethos and the important role of the revolutionary spirit of China.

1.2 Hongyan Spirit Is the Core and Quintessence of Chinese Ethos

The Chinese ethos covers patriotism as the core of national spirit and reformation and innovation as the core spirit of the times. The spirit of nation and the times are historical, dynamic, constantly enriching and developing. The Chinese revolutionary spirit, Hongyan spirit, the spirit of Lei Feng, the spirit of the manned space flight, and the Olympic spirit are embodiments of spirits of the times in different eras, and are reflections of times of Chinese nation spirit. In contemporary China, the core values of socialism and the socialist core value system are the core and essence of the Chinese ethos.

1.3 Heating Up the Education of Chinese Evolutionary Spirit

People's Daily Online was informed that on October 31st, 2014, the general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, state president and chairman of the Central Military Commission Xi Jinping made a special trip to Gutian town of Shanghang County of Fujian Province, to attend the entire army's political work conference. Comrade Xi Jinping led the members of Central Military Commission and delegates of meeting to review the glorious history and fine tradition of our party and army, to accept the ideological enlightenment and spiritual baptism, and to guide initiating the new dimension of innovative development of army political work under the new situation. The General Secretary Xi Jinping in this collective learning emphasised that we must unremittingly learn China revolutionary history, and further combining the new conditions of the times with the history to carry forward our party's glorious revolutionary tradition which was formed in the period of revolutionary wars.

News from Red Net in Beijing reports that to commemorate the 85th anniversary of the Gutian meeting, the 70th anniversary of the long march of Red Army, and the 83th anniversary of east part of Red Army's battle of Zhang, Hongyan offspring Sodality, Xihuating Sodality and Jinggang offspring sodality jointly sponsored the offspring forum of east part of the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, held in Beijing wanshou hotel in November 1, 2014. The conference stated that we must pay great attention to studying and carrying forward the revolutionary ancestors' firm faith in the lofty ideal, the loyalty towards the party and the people, and the perseverance towards revolutionary cause, and that we also have to firmly establish the Chinese-style socialism's common belief and the lofty ideal of communism, in order to ensure that at any time and in any case, ideal and faith shall not shake, revolutionary will shall not slack, and the spirit of struggle shall not become sluggish. We need to correctly understand various social trends of thoughts, but meanwhile try best to adhere our belief to our party's innovative theories such as Marxism Leninism, Mao Zedong thoughts, Deng Xiaoping theory, "Three Represents" and Scientific Outlook on Development etc. We need to correctly understand setbacks and mistakes happened in the process of socialism development, and firmly stick to the road of Chinese-Style Socialism with confidence. We need to correctly understand the existence of some negative corruption within the party, but hold firm trust to the correct leadership of the party. We need to correctly understand the dialectical unity of the maximum program and the minimum program, and deal with the relationship between lofty ideals and focusing on the present scientifically. Try to integrate the personal ideals with the common ideal of the whole people, try to integrate the personal struggle with the socialist modernization's struggle, and try to realise ideals in

the brand-new practice of building an overall well-off society.

Regardless of inside and outside the party, the trend to learn the Chinese revolutionary spirit is raising. Chongqing is rooted in the historical culture's fertile soil of Hongyan spirit, and therefore is inherently expected to follow the trend of the times.

The Chinese revolutionary spirit still has important practical significance and value of times to nowadays' great practice of Chinese reform and opening-up policy, and to those aspiring young people who are now in the ivory tower. For the sake of in-depth studying and implementing the spirit of 18th CPC National Congress and Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee, further promoting the CPC's revolutionary spirit, inheriting the red culture, propelling the advertisement of studying socialist core values, keeping a foothold in the regnant resources of red culture in Chongqing, "promoting the 'Hongyan' spirit and cultivating the socialist core values, here are some suggestions aiming at how to come up with some pertinent strategies for the education of Hongyan spirit which are truly effective to University students.

2. ANALYSIS OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' DEGREE OF ACCEPTANCE TOWARDS HONGYAN SPIRIT AT THIS STAGE

In order to understand contemporary University students' degree of acceptance towards Hongyan spirit accurately and visually, and to enhance the pertinence and efficiency of education of Hongyan spirit, here below is a SWOC analysis utilising University students in Chongqing as the example.

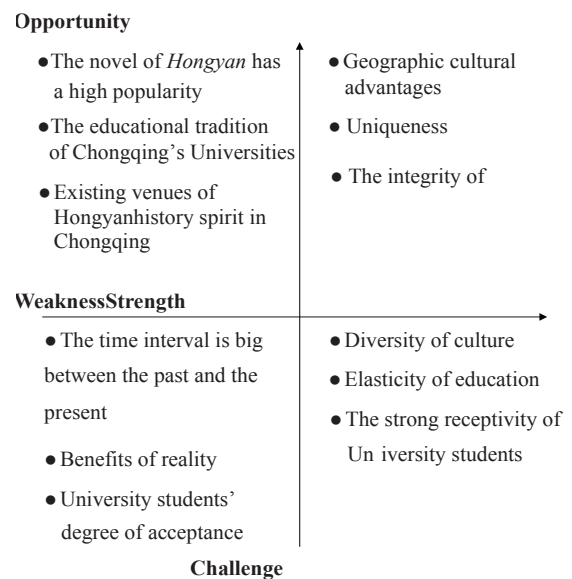


Figure 1
SWOC Analysis of Current Education Situations of Hongyan Spirit in Universities in Chongqing City

Firstly, the geo-culture and lofty revolutionary spirit—Hongyan spirit, as both opportunity and strength, has been tempered, cultivated, and formed with righteous ardour and life of those comrades of South Bureau of the CPC Central Committee led by Zhou Enlai and those of the 8th Route Army Office in battles of Geleshanlu, Jialing River against reactionary forces, and in battles of national independence and people's Liberation. As Comrade Jiang Zemin said, the fundamental connotation includes four aspects—lofty ideological level, firm ideals and faith, great personality and the uprightness of revolution. The Chongqing municipal Party committee summarised it as “patriotism, dedication, unity, and struggle”. Hongyan spirit as the revolutionary spirit was formed in special historical conditions and specific revolutionary practices, and thus it has its originality. Since the establishment of the new China, Hongyan spirit related cultural and historical resources have been protected fairly well, but the depth of excavation is insufficient. The depth of Hongyan spirit is advantageous resources for University students' education, and we are supposed to make the utmost of it.

Secondly, in conditions of both opportunity and weakness, we should utilise the favourable factors and meanwhile better and/ or abandon its unfavourable factors. In the novel of *Hongyan*, images of Sister Jiang and Radish head become interiorise and popular, which could be the point of penetration to University students' Hongyan spirit education, though the true connotation of Hongyan spirit is definitely not limited to this. In Chongqing's Universities, especially the Universities in Shapingba district of Chongqing, the tradition of visiting Hongyan museum for the sake of study had long existed there, but due to various reasons many of these traditions have been suspended.

Thirdly, in the conditions of both strength and challenge, we should make the most of its own characteristics and improve the educational methods in order to achieve goals and effects of education. Considering that University students are in an age of information on explosive and cultural diversity, we should fully utilize their strong receptivity to information and strong elasticity to enrich educational methods. The large-scale televised documentary, *Azure Water Ten Thousand Miles Long*, is an attempt of transformation by cooperation between Radio Film and Television Corp. of Chongqing and the Consulate General of Netherlands in Chongqing.

Fourthly, in conditions of both weakness and challenge, its negative functionalities are expected to be suppressed in practical educational process, in order to offset limitations of education.

3. SOLUTIONS TO THE EDUCATION OF HONGYAN SPIRIT

3.1 Principles That the Measures Shall Follow

Based on above analysis, it is summarized that what approaches, which solutions and measures should be the Hongyan spirit display its educational functionality. These approaches and measures are the “interbody” to help enhance University students' degree of acceptance to Hongyan spirit. This “interbody” should be compatible with scientificity, intellectual and communication orientation, popularity, and operability.

Scientificity indicates that Hongyan spirit shall start the rational, respect the fact, and follow the logic. Intellectual orientation means Hongyan spirit education should integrate conception related facts with those reality related history, culture and beliefs of people in survival and development, rather than the simple infusion of several conception and slogans. Communication orientation means educatees could achieve a smooth information circulation between different subjects, and between subjects and objects, via the “interbody”. Popularity implies that the method of education should fully consider University students' pragmatic circumstances, and try to convey the contents in a simple way for the sake of easy understanding and acceptance.

3.2 The Construction of Modules of Hongyan Spirit Education

3.2.1 Ritual Education: Cultivating Students' Sense of Reverence

With strict and normative etiquette pattern, students' mental stimulation shall be unconsciously achieved. We should emphasise the unique functionality of ritual education, such as organising “Hongyan's Memorial Ceremony for Heroes and Valiant” in a solemn atmosphere. By means of organising students to offer wreath respectfully in martyrs' park, to stand in silent tribute, to listen revolutionary stories of sacrificing for “ism”, to review the oath of joining the party or the youth league, to raise the national flag and to sing the national anthem etc., students shall be in an atmosphere enriched with senses of rite, and thus they can feel the dauntless spirit and patriotism of revolutionary patriots in zero distance. As a result, students would gain the immersive psychological experience and emotional edification embedded in their soul. After the spiritual conversation between students and martyrs has been achieved, students' patriotism and devotion to their mother country then sublimate.

3.2.2 Participating in the Education: Deepening Understandings Via Interactions and Sharing

We are expected to respect adolescents' feelings and the will of self-directed learning, try to scientifically

employ the modern educational theory, peer education, to endeavor building a decent atmosphere of independent study, mutual inspiring and mutual improvement, and try to change the “cramming methods” to interactive methods and participative methods. Try to recruit a group of Western Plans’ volunteers as the responsible teachers for classes. Because these volunteers have a similar age, background and interlinked affection, they as teachers shall be easy to carry out teaching with teenagers’ favorable ways, logic and languages. Meanwhile, try to organize students independently carrying out report-back performance of “Let Me Tell the Party’s History”, the theme speech competition of “Youth and Belief”, students’ teaching platform and micro blog interaction etc., in order to guide the youth to communicate, learn and interpret the Party’s history with youthful, perceptual and fashionable ways.

3.2.3 History Education: A Special Class Session to Review the History

The utilization of Chongqing’s abundant educational resources transforms those revolutionary relics and exhibition site into educational sessions, and every site would highlight its unique educational theme. In teaching practice, try to summarize the historical events and characters and describe them as vivid and impressive “little stories”, and try to organize students to watch material object demonstrating, picture information, audiovisual products, and literatures etc. to help them explore the rich connotation of Chinese revolutionary tradition in a perceptual intuition way and with their own will. Arriving at these places in which Hongyan’s martyrs had been living - The South Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, The Eight Route Army in Chongqing office former site, Bai Mansion prison former site, Refuse pit former site and the Grave of Revolutionary Martyrs, you could fully appreciate the Hongyan spirit’s magnificence and beauty. The South Bureau of the CPC Central Committee (The Eight Route Army in Chongqing office former site), is the disclosed office for The Eight Route Army in Chongqing and is the secret office for The South Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. Several important old generations’ proletarian revolutionists, such as Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Dong Biwu, Ye Jianying, had all stayed here for accommodation. Acquiring historical facts on the spot and guiding students being in former sites result in opportunities for students to get firsthand experience of histories. Refuse Pit former site had put some great revolutionists in prison, such as Jiang Zhujun, Xu Jianye, He Xuesong etc. The Bai Mansion Prison former site had put anti-Japanese patriotic general of Huang Xiansheng, Tongji University president of Zhou Junshi, CPC members of the couple of Song Qiyun and their son “radish head”. The Grave of Revolutionary Martyrs has the large-scale sculpture of *Imperishable Noble Spirit*,

being split into four themes – “Rather Being Jailed Than Yield”, “Advance Wave upon Wave”, “Being Imprisoned for A Long Time”, and “The First Light of Morning” respectively. 312 martyrs’ names have been carved in the beam column of The Grave of Revolutionary Martyrs.

3.2.4 Education of Revolutionary Tradition: Being Enlightened During Careful Listening

Based on organising traditional seminars of revolutionary struggling history and interpretation of Hongyan spirit, we should insist the orientation of trainees’ demand; try to structure an omnibearing, multi-dimensional and wide ranging courses of lectures. Relying on supportive organizations and partners nationwide, we could try to recruit domestic and overseas experts and professors, government officers, elites of all circles, fine models, and youth idols as the part-time professor. The contents of lectures cover politics, economics, culture, society, diplomacy and national defense etc., through which training needs of teenagers with different ages, vocations, areas and levels could be satisfied, especially the University students’ needs. In these lectures, you would hear the most affecting revolutionary stories, cutting-edge academic theories and view points, comprehensive policy interpretation of Central Committee of CPC and in-depth knowledge regarding business promotion. Students’ inspiration shall sublimate during their listening, and thus their ideology shall be enlightened.

3.2.5 Teamwork Education: Promoting Ego Through Actively Challenging

Under the historical background of Hongyan revolutionary history, combined with the unique natural environment of Chongqing, with uniquely designed challenging and interesting outdoor activities, participants’ teamwork spirit shall be well honed, and their positive attitudes towards life shall be formed. As a result, cooperative consciousness and entrepreneurial spirit shall be cultivated. These activities are expected to motivate members’ potential, and add vitality, creativity and cohesion of the group in order to promote fighting capacity of the group.

3.2.6 Extension Education: Growing Up Through Participating in Interesting Activities

With deep excavating historical elements of revolutionary stage in which Hongyan spirit happened, integrated with adolescents’ characteristics of vigorous, passionate, ambitious, try to elaborately design a series of participative and interesting games. The games such as “Guess the Name of Characters in Hongyan Novel”, and “Competition of the Party’s historical knowledge”, would help students to review and consolidate the Party’s historical knowledge acquired in daytime. Team games such as “Anti-Japanese Sports Meet” and Learning to Weave the National Red Flag could reflect the life of a revolution age and fortify students’ sense of responsibility and cooperation as well as emotional experience. These games are both relaxing and productive.

CONCLUSION

The new educational way of teaching Hongyan spirit should dynamically integrate the traditional education, extensional education with tour of revolution, and emphasise educational concepts such as experiencing education, ritual education and peer education. Strive to make the education intellectual, sapiential, and educational, but at the same time to make it participative, immersive, and interesting. Thus every one of students could have a chance to truly touch beliefs, purify souls, improve ability, and temper the way of living via education. This education designed to take full advantages of abundant and unique revolutionary traditional education resources of Chongqing and its periphery areas, to help University students look into Hongyan spirit's glorious

history, sense its profound connotation, and autonomously inherit the Party's fine traditions and style of work. In this way, it is expected to promote adolescents' growing up healthily, and thus to cultivate eligible constructors and reliable successors for the Party's causes.

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