

## The Guidance of “The Task of Youth League” on the Cultivation of University Counselors’ Capabilities

FEI Ping<sup>[a][b],\*</sup>

<sup>[a]</sup>Ph.D candidate. School of Marxism, Southwest University, Chongqing, China.

<sup>[b]</sup>Lecturer. School of Computer Science, Chongqing University of Technology, Chongqing, China.

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\*Corresponding author.

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### Abstract

Stepping up efforts in the cultivation of counselors’ capabilities and improving their qualifications are the key of building teams of counselors in colleges and universities. “The Task of Youth League” is a speech given by Lenin in the third National Congress of Russian Communist Youth League. After reviewing “The Task of Youth League” and interpreting Lenin’s concept of youth, we can have a better understanding of the direction to and requirements for strengthening the cultivation of counselors’ capabilities.

**Key words:** The Task of Youth League; University counselors; Cultivation of capabilities

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### INTRODUCTION

As the backbone of imparting ideological and moral education to university students, counselors are the organizers, practitioners, and directors of ideological and moral education. Therefore, Strengthening the cultivation of counselors’ capabilities is the organization guarantee and long-acting mechanism of improving the ideological and moral education on the part of university students. “The Task of Youth League” is an important speech

given by Lenin in the third National Congress of Russian Communist Youth League. Although the world situation has undergone remarkable changes after a lapse of 90 years, the value of this glorious speech has not subsided. By reviewing it and interpreting Lenin’s concept of youth, we can have a better understanding of the direction to and requirements of strengthening the cultivation of counselors’ capabilities.

### 1. MAIN IDEAS OF “THE TASK OF YOUTH LEAGUE”

In “The Task of Youth League”, Lenin states such following ideas revolving around the main line — “the task of all young people is to learn”: first, learning is the task of all young people. In his opening speech, Lenin points out: “the task of all young people, especially of the Communist Youth League and other organizations, can be expressed in one word: learning”. By centering on this theme, Lenin puts forward three ideas, that is, the historical mission of young people determines their basic task of learning; the main content of learning is the communism; the method of learning is to combine theory with practice. Second, arming the youth with all the knowledge of human society. According to Lenin, young people should learn the essence and abandon the dross, and arm themselves with all the knowledge of human society. As for the content of learning, it contains Marxism, outstanding achievements created by their predecessors, modern scientific and technological knowledge. Third, cultivating youth’s communist morality. Lenin states that “in order to be a youth league member, one should contribute all his efforts to common causes”. Fourth, associating the training, cultivation and education of youth with the “boiling real life”. Lenin has sharply criticized the life which is divorced from reality, and criticized training and education which are mere paper talk; instead, he advocates to associate the training,

cultivation and education of the youth with the “boiling real life”. Lenin points out: “it is highly recommended to truly accomplish a certain task belonging to common labor work, even though it is the most trivial and ordinary one.” Fifth, the Youth League is a commando that is able to support a variety of work, take initiative and demonstrate pioneering spirit. In “The Task of Youth”, Lenin focuses on stating the basic features of the Youth League, and advocates the Youth League members to contribute all their efforts to public utilities.

## 2. HISTORICAL STATUS OF “THE TASK OF YOUTH LEAGUE”

“The Task of Youth League” was published in the third National Congress of the Russian Communist Youth League, which has caused a great response at that time, so that various publishers reprinted the speech several times later on. The historical status of the speech is mainly reflected in the following two aspects: first, the status of Marxism youth concept interpreted by Lenin in “The Task of Youth” in the Marxist theory. Lenin is another great proletarian revolutionist following Marx and Engels. Under his the leadership of encouraging proletariats to join the revolutionary practice activities, Lenin combines the Marxism youth concept with the concrete practices of the Russian Youth, thus enriching and further developing the Marxism youth concept. Second, the historical status of the main ideas of “The Task of Youth League”. The idea put forward by Lenin in the speech about “learning” points out a clear direction for the youth of Soviet Russia to grow up and for the Youth League to develop in a sound way. Besides, the idea that only having a knowledge of all the wealth created by human beings to arm youth’s brains can ensure them to be communists has enabled Soviet Russia to basically achieve universal literacy in the 1930s, and has produced a large number of knowledgeable and skilled workers. In addition, the idea that developing the causes of cultivating, educating and training modern young people to be causes of cultivating youth’s communist morals has enabled hundreds of millions of Youth League members to withstand severe ordeals in the Great Patriotic war and thus become advanced model in after-war restoration and construction. Furthermore, the thought that we should not trust any training, cultivation, and education which are limited only in schools and are divorced from realities has stimulated the youth of Soviet Russia to actively develop communism and devote themselves in social construction. It thus creates a magnificent scene of Russian youth movement in the early 20th century. Last but not least, the requirements given by Lenin and his expectations in “The Task of Youth League” have made Youth League, a glorious organization, receive six awarded medals from government six times. In summary, whether in the great victory of revolution or

the smooth progress of construction, the Soviet Russian youth have played a crucial role, which are attributed to Lenin’s rational guidance in “The Task of Youth League” on developing Marxist youth concept to some extent.

## 3. GUIDANCE FOR CULTIVATION OF UNIVERSITY COUNSELORS’ CAPABILITIES

It is believed by the writer that reviewing “The Task of Youth League” and interpreting Lenin’s Marxism youth concept can point out clear direction for the cultivation of university counselors’ capabilities. On the basis of the above-mentioned interpretation, the paper makes an attempt to illustrate the guidance of “The Task of Youth League” on the cultivation of university counselors’ capabilities from the perspective of content of cultivation. To be more specific, the paper will focus on what capabilities of university counselors should be enhanced. These capabilities will be explained as follows:

### 3.1 Learning Guidance Capability

In “The Task of Youth League”, Lenin calls on the youth to put learning as their basic task. As the old saying goes, “learning is the basis of making achievements in any place”, learning could promote a nation to be prosperous, a country to be powerful and a person to make progress. It is especially true in this globalized, modernized and informationalized society where its complexity and variability has been enhanced because of the rapid development of science and technology, changeable social information, collisions of multi-cultures, and in-depth development of reform and opening. In this sense, contemporary college students should keep up with the times, establish the concept of lifelong learning, and consider learning as a way of life, a spiritual pursuit, and a responsibility. University counselors should promote overall successes on the part of the college and university students, and guide students to establish a concept of lifelong learning, guiding students to learn theories. First, guiding college students to learn Marxist theory. Marxism theory is a complete, rigorous and scientific theoretical system. Only by arming students with Marxist theory can they are enabled to resist the erosion from various erroneous and decadent ideas in the collision of ideologies and cultures, thus firmly establishing a correct world outlook, views on life and values. As the backbone of giving ideological and moral education to college students, university counselors shoulder the historical responsibility of training qualified builders. Therefore, college counselors should guide students to learn Marxist theory, have a systematic and thorough understanding and accurately grasp the essence of the provisions of Marxism, the basic principles and basic features, and learn to analyze and solve specific problems in real

life by using the Marxist views and methods from the Marxism perspective. Second, guiding college students to learn modern science and technology. In today's world where knowledge-based economy begins to take shape as well as science and technology make advances, college students should be equipped with modern science and technology and be able to use modern tools and methods. Otherwise, they will not bear the historical responsibility of modernization. University counselors should cultivate college students into the main forces of modernization, and guide college students to learn and master modern science and technology. Third, guiding college students to learn the traditional culture and foreign cultures. In the present era, culture occupies an important position. Whoever occupies the commanding heights of cultural development will be in an advantageous position in the fierce international competition. So only by enriching and improving themselves with all cultures created by human beings can contemporary college students secure an advantageous position in the fierce competition. The content of learning on the part of contemporary college students about culture includes traditional culture and foreign cultures. Traditional culture is formed and developed in the long historical process of a nation, is timeless spiritual wealth of a nation, and is the theoretical support of one nation to build its spiritual homeland. However, there is both essence and dreg in traditional culture. If university counselors aim to promote comprehensive development on the part of college students, they should teach the college students to learn to inherit traditional culture with a critical attitude, and make traditional culture filled with vigor and vitality in the new historical conditions. Foreign culture is a cover name for other countries' cultures in the world. With the development of opening up and the mass media, we have been increasingly influenced by foreign cultures. But foreign culture is two-sided. It is not only scientific and revolutionary, but also is backward, and decadent. If university counselors intend to cultivate college students into talents facing the world and the future, they should guide students to look at foreign culture with a critical eye, and teach them to actively learn from the scientific sides and get rid of the decadent sides in the communication, exchanges and collision with foreign cultures. Besides, when teaching students to establish a concept of lifelong learning, university counselors should guide college students to learn the method of combining the theory and practice, and apply what has been learned into good practice.

### **3.2 Practical Guidance Capability**

While calling on the youth to exert themselves to learn in "The Task of Youth League", Lenin also encourages them to actively engage in social practices. "Life could be learned through hardships, and capabilities could be enhanced through practices." So social practice is a furnace

which can temper the character of the young, and is also a vast world for the young people to display their talents. As the organizer, practitioner, and director of teaching ideological and moral education to students, college counselors should get close into students, guiding them to actively participate in social practices, and lead them to increase understanding of the national circumstances and public sentiments, promote feelings with the masses, and enhance the ability to understand the world and transform the world. There are a variety of social practices that college counselors can guide the students to take part in, such as youth volunteer activities, "three rural areas" activities, social research, secondment. All of them are effective ways for college students to gain insight, temper themselves and improve capabilities. When guiding students to participate in social practices, university counselors should attach great importance to guiding students to associate professional knowledge with social practices, thus effectively integrating theory with practice, and applying their knowledge into practice. This could not only enhance students' practical capability, but also can lay good foundation for students' future employment.

### **3.3 Capability of Enhancing Students' Morality**

In "The Task of Youth League", Lenin calls on the youth to uphold and promote communism morality. Noble morality is the cornerstone for college students to grow up in a sound way. Therefore, college students should strengthen morality and temper their moral qualities while learning knowledge in books and devoting themselves in social practices. Especially in the new era where social structure, economic structure and the pattern of interests have been continuously adjusted and people's ideas undergo profound changes, people, especially the college students' morality has been affected in multiple aspects. The prevalence of extreme individualism weakens some students' sense of social responsibility and sense of historical mission. The social ethics advocated by society have not internalized in the heart of these people and have not be found in their behaviors. In order to ensure students to enjoy healthy growth, university counselors should strengthen the moral education on the part of college students, guiding them to become the advanced forces in leading social morality, become inheritors of traditional virtues, and practitioners of new era's ethics. Faced up with the college students whose moral qualities are taking shape and who are easy to train and are highly changeable, university counselors should not center on teaching them to grasp moral ethics, but should focus on leading students to internalize moral ethics, cultivate moral emotion, make firm moral beliefs, temper moral volition, develop moral behaviors, and form moral habits.

### **3.4 Capability of Developing League**

Lenin stresses in "The Task of Youth League" that the status of the Youth League should be attached great

importance and we should give full play to the role of the Youth League. Since the Youth League plays a vital role in guiding, teaching, and organizing the youth, university counselors—an important part of cadres from Youth League—should have a strong capability of developing the League. On the one hand, college counselors should guide league members to continuously improve their ideological and moral qualities, as well as scientific and cultural qualities under the guidance of correct theories, and become good productive forces and commando in the social construction. On the other hand, university counselors should develop the Youth League on the whole, improve their working style and working methods, and guide the Communist Youth League to continuously improve its scientific level. Apart from this, university counselors should also strengthen self-construction, enhance political awareness, improve business skills, change working style, adhere to strict self-discipline, focus on strict study, work hard, and try to be creative as well as make conscious dedication.

### 3.5 Capability of Studying Ideological and Moral Education

Plekhanov once pointed out: “It is not enough to make comments on the ideologies within and state the way of thoughts when analyzing theoretical writings; instead, the methods used to derive the ideologies by authors should also be taken into account. The right methods can be more than enough to compensate the individual errors in conclusions and bland statement.” As a great Marxist, Lenin is a model to use Marxism research method. So in “The Task of Youth League”, Lenin has fully demonstrated a wealth of Marxism research methods. After reviewing the entire speech, the research methods used in it are mainly as follows: first, historical analysis. Historical analysis is a method of analyzing social and historical phenomena with the view of materialist dialectics. In the speech, Lenin observes and analyzes historical life by utilizing historical analysis, then derives a scientific conclusion that “Only by understanding all the wealth created by mankind to enrich the mind can one become a communist”. Second, class analysis. Class analysis method is to use the Marxist class concept to analyze social and historical phenomena. Class analysis method runs through the whole speech, in which Lenin discusses the class nature of Marxist theory and Communist morality and emphasizes the role of class struggle in promoting the development of class society. Third, deduction method. Deduction method is to derive conclusion from the general to individual. In the opening of “The Task of Youth League”, Lenin comes straight to the point, “Today’s topic that I would like to talk about is what is the basic task of the Communist Youth League and what is the youth organization in Socialist Republic country.” Around this theme, Lenin puts forward that the basic task is to learn, and then discusses the content,

methods, approaches of learning as well as the features of Communist Youth League. Fourth, example analysis. Example analysis is to demonstrate ideas by giving concrete examples. In “The Task of Youth League”, Lenin cites a number of examples to prove his point, for example, he cites examples to illustrate what is a communist; examples in work experience of youth organization are used by Lenin to demonstrate how to conduct communist education; when arguing “communist is produced from the sum of human knowledge”, Lenin enumerates the shining example of Marxism. Fifth, narrative method. Narrative method is a method used to remember people and state affairs. In “The Task of Youth League”, Lenin uses narrative method to describe how the youth take part in work such as “wiping out illiteracy”, suburban garden work, Saturday volunteer labor when arguing the point that “Communist Youth League should be a commando who is able to support a variety of work, take initiative and show pioneering spirit. As a grassroots implementer of students’ ideological and moral education and a worker on the front lines of the ideological and moral education, university counselors should not only have better understanding and practical capabilities, but also should have the research capability of analyzing the phenomenon of ideological and moral education and exploring the laws of ideological and moral education. Therefore, refining and reviewing scientific methods used by Lenin in “The Task of Youth League” could give guidance for the enhancement of university counselors’ capabilities.

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## CONCLUSION

College students are the future of a country, and are the hopes of a nation. As a mentor for college students, university counselors shoulder the task of promoting comprehensive development of students. So strengthening the capabilities of college counselors is the key to enhancing the building of counselor teams. After reviewing “The Task of Youth League” and interpreting Lenin’s Marxism concept of youth, we can have a better understanding of the direction to and requirements of strengthening the cultivation of counselors’ capabilities. University counselors should be in line with the theoretical essences of “The Task of Youth League”, improve their learning capability, practical capability, capability of enhancing students’ morality, capability of developing League and capability of conducting scientific research. In this way, their key role in giving ideological and moral education could be given full play.

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