

Analysis on Policies Transformation in College Students Social Practices after Opening and Reforms in China

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Abstract

The issues about the Chinese college students' social practices have got rapid development which has the significant meaning in talents training after the opening and reforms. However, there is a close relationship between the practices and the national relative policies. So this paper would make a description over the policies transformation of these college students' practices from the angle of the contexts and the effects at that time.

Key words: Opening & reforms; College students; Social practices; Policies

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As Marx said, "the philosophers just tried to explain the world through different ways but the key issue is to change the world."¹ and the college students' social practices would be one of the important way for the human's social practices. China has approaches into a new historical epoch after the opening and reforms under the Chinese characteristic socialism construction and the transformation of social structure background. And the college students' social practice get the fully development. So the guidance from the policies in every stage has played a great role in these practices and the analysis over

the transformation of these policies from the historical angle would give outlines of the development of college student's practices in these decades.

I. THE RECOVERY STAGE (1977-1991)

1.1 Regulations of the Labors Practices by the Students in Higher Education

After the ending of Cultural Revolution, there is a phenomenon about some of the students in universities has the weak attitudes to the labors-taking and learning from the workers and farmers in practices which showed the weakness of non-practical ideas as the result of less time and arranges for labors in the human resources and teaching plans in some universities. So the propaganda division of CPC and the Department of Education of P.R.C announced together the "Regulations of the labors practices by the students in higher education"² in Sept. 8th, 1984 regarding the problem above and its basic rules are the following: one is to claim the importance of the labors-taking in higher education, which pointed that students should take apart in the labors in a certain time to accomplish the task of the socialism college students training and also the best channel to get the ideological education. The labors should be written into teaching outlines that the college students must take two-weeks labors practices in ever semester averagely. Two is to explain the labor-types the college students should accomplish, which definitely pointed that the students should join the industrial labors, the farming or the public labors which at least keep the two-week time particularly. Three is to pointed out the ways that the students should take in, which regulated the multiple channels and ways to guide under the divisions of the majors combining with the teaching reforms through the industries, the

¹ Cf. *The Selection of Marx and Engels*, Vol. 1, Chinese edition, People's Press, 1995, p. 54.

² Cf. Peking University China law information website: <http://vip.chinalawinfo.com/newlaw2002/SLC/SLC.asp?Db=chl&Gid=41169>.

farms, the villages as the “teach, research and production” communities established in the factories and the some business holders, which shape the stable social work time and the basis to demand the students taking apart into the labors regarding with their majors. And for the social science majors, the students should strengthen the connection with the factories, the communities and shops combing with teachings, researches and the social works.

Hereby, the “Regulation” corrected two extreme ways in the higher education. The first thing is the ignorance of the theoretical teaching in classrooms and the abasement of labors educations; while the second thing is the danger of non-labors education without any practical courses. Under the influence of this regulation, the labors practices get more and more popular in the universities national wide which embodied the multiple ideas into these college students’ social practices. But as the times limits, the idea about the social practices is still stayed on the way of labors. In the real cases at that time, the college students’ social practices have broke the ban for the labors way to explore a series of social works.

1.2 The Rules Over the College Students’ Social Practices in Fully Organized

In June, 27th of 1987, the National Education Committee and the Central Committee of the Communist Yong League claimed the “Rules over the college students’ social practices in fully organized”.³ As know, most the college students enrolled into the universities from the graduates of the high schools directly that this young generation would be blank with the understanding of the society without the necessary practical knowledge and the labors. So as this situation happened in the college students, the Rules by NEC and CCCYL made based on the 1984 Regulation above to certain and clear the position, the ways and the safeguard of these social practices. Here are the basic rules: one that the importance and position in the higher education of college students’ social practices, which showed that the students should take apart into the social practices which is the healthy way to become a young intellectual and the universities should made some holidays and extracurricular time to organize the students to the social practices as an unshakeable part of higher education besides the other practices arranged into the teaching plans. Two that the summary of the aims and context of the college students’ practices should made the students more chances to face upon the real society and understand it by learning from the workers, farmers and at best the practices, which has aim to train the talents through the spirits of practical and realistic, hardworking and hardheaded ways and to improve the real capabilities by the social practices. And as the ways of these practices are included the visiting, the consultations, the intelligence aids, the techs-aids,

the public services and the part-time job in colleges and so on. Three that the procedures of the organizations of college students’ social practices, which has pointed these social practices should be guided by the teachers orderly and make the awards or the benefits as the standard of the students’ evaluation. Four that the several conception about the social practices bases, which showed that the practical bases establishment should be the win-win works for the higher education and the teachers would provided the certain techs services for the bases that can enhance the production and economic efficiency. And the beneficial units could pay the proper salaries to the universities as the labors and intelligence services by the students or provide the accommodation for the students as the practices time for exchanges. Furthermore, the local governments and the regarding departments should provide the public services and conveniences for the establishment and development of the social practices bases. Five that the safeguards for the college students’ practices should be focused on the arrangement, the costs, the equipments and the practical guidance for these issues by the strengthen leadership of the members in the universities.

As the promulgation of these rules, the details and general orders given by the two parts and some of the principles still keep the positive effects for the students’ social practices even today. The NEC and CCCYL ‘s combined rules showed the determination on the development of college students’ social practices in this country and summarized the experiences in the 1984-1987 effectively. However, these rules were still in the historical limits, which interpreted the college students’ social practices only by the activities, but not from the concept of college students’ social practices.

2. THE FULLY DEVELOPMENT STAGE (1992-2003)

2.1 The Rules Over the College Students’ Social Practices Full Deeply and Enduringly

The “Rules over the college students’ social practices full deeply and enduringly”⁴ has announced by the combination words from the propaganda division of CPC, the NEC and the CCCYL in June, 25th, 1992, which is the symbolic paper for the college students’ practices after the opening and reforms. The key words for the titles: “fully”, “deeply” and “enduringly”, this showed the great attention over these practices. And the outlines are the following: firstly, we should fully understand the meaning of the social practices, which concluded that the effects of the college students’ social practices after opening and reforms were well-done and the enhancement for

³ Cf. http://www.law-lib.com/law/law_view.asp?id=122547.

⁴ Cf. http://www.110.com/fagui/law_4676.html.

these works would be beneficial for raising the spirit of Chinese reforms and the CPC policies in order to foster the comprehensive qualities, especially the ideological quality. Secondly, we should strengthen the leadership of the CPC organization and the government departments, which show the leading power and arts of the propaganda division, the educational division and the administrative division in CPC and the CCCYL to cooperate with the relative parties and under the uniform direction by CPC committees and governments. Thirdly, we should add the social practices into the higher education teaching plan or outlines, which demanded the college students in the universities, should take apart into the social practices not less than 4 weeks accumulated on the extracurricular time and the social majors would get more. And the rules also proposed that the performances in these social works should be evaluated as the standard for the excellence, the awards and the allocation for the students and demands the universities should guide these practices by the leaders and professional teachers. Fourth, we should resolve the shortage of the costs for the college students' social practices, which provide the saving-principle that donated by the states, the locals, the universities and the cooperation units or the student personally and encourage the "win-win" policy for the side of universities and the side of the enterprises and other organizations. And the last one that we should put the values education into the social practices that put the ideological education at the first place combing with the right theories and practices, the relationship idea between the individuals and people, the public ideas and the dialectical materialism education.

Generally, the Rules had summarized the last 10-years experiences of college students' practices in China and also put forward the demands for the new stage, which is the connection for the past and the future. The Rules has made the full and deep effects over the college students' social practices and some of the policies are keeping the force to the current time. As the clear rules, the tasks and the responsibilities had been allocated into the particular departments in governments and the guiders and the costs had been sponsored or paid by the multiply ones in order to resolve the dilemma in the social practices in some extents. Of course, the disadvantages were still in the rules that it didn't come out the limits of the activities styles and the educational function in the rules for the social practices were the social classes fighting theory as its guide with the historical shorted-eye regarding the proper time in China.

2.2 Some Points About the College Students' Social Practices Full Deeply and Enduringly

The "some points about the college students' social practice full deeply and enduringly"⁵ acclaimed by the same three departments above in 1996 would be the

supplement and enhancement for the Rules in 1992, which has the follow points: one is to explicated the functions of these social practices that give the student the patriotic, collectivism, socialism and opening & reforms education by the practices to help them understand the great achievements in the last decades and the basic policies, the rules, the measures taken by the CPC and the governments in order to support the self-understanding and persistence for the reforms, the developments and the stability. Second point is to ask for the targets in social practices including "be educated, be talented and make the contribution" principles to make the social practices serve for the opening & reforms and the modernization, the healthy development of the young students and the local economic constructions and social development actually. Third is to explore the efficient ways to the social practices that the points demand the continuing expending of the ranges to establish the social practices mechanism under the socialism market economy. And the last point is to enhance the leadership and the systems or the measures for the social practices, which demand the propaganda division of CPC, the NEC and the CCCYL to give the plan and instruction and set up the National College Students' Social Practices Office in charge of the deployments and coordination in the whole country.

Chinese opening and reforms come into the hard-time stage in the middle of 90's, the fashion and new ideas effects the young men constantly. Under the touching of the various social moves, the Points guarantee the correction of the ideological concepts for the college students' social practices. And these points gave the dedicated interpretation to the basic content and the forms and the mechanism demand. At the same time, these points also direct the multiple tasks in these social practices which not only train the students serving for the opening & reforms as the modernization as a whole but also the actual needs for the local economic constructions and the social developments.

3. THE NEW-DEVELOPING STAGE (2004 UP TO NOW)

3.1 Rules on Further Strengthen and Improve the Ideological Education for College Students

The Standing Committee of CPC and the State Council promulgated the "rules o further strengthen and improve the ideological education for college students"⁶ in Aug. 26th of 2004, which could be called as File No.16. And this is the product created under the high focus on the students' ideological education by the CPC and government in the new historical epoch, which gives the illustration and direction for the new situation and

⁵ Cf. <http://www.ynxcyouth.cn/PubNews/HTML/665.html>.

⁶ Cf. <http://news.sohu.com/20041015/n222514470.shtml>.

concrete measures in this area. Also the File No.16 contains the points about the social practices, which conclude into the two aspects: one is to keep the idea of combination of ideological education and the theoretical and social practices as one of the fundamental principles that make the students focus on the classes but also the experiences, the understandings and the services for the society. The second is to develop the social practices as one the expending way to the ideological education in universities. The File No.16 pointed out that we should explore the enduring mechanism for the practical education and establish the management system with the combination of social works and the majors, the social services, the part-time jobs financial aid, the occupation selection and the professionals' creation to improve the effects and raise the professional morality for the students. And details are including the follows: social investigation, labors, volunteers, public service, tech inventions and the part-time jobs and etc.

File No.16 has the epoch-making meaning for the college students' social practices. At first, the concept has been written in the Center Committee's paper for college students' social practices would separate the abstract one from the particular one with different discussion in the first time. Secondly, the File put the ideological education and the social practices together to improve the college students' ideological principle which showed the high focus on the social practices by the CPC and governments and emphasized the outstanding point of the social practices in this education. Thirdly, the File concrete the five combinations to guide how to make the further and deep development of the college students' social practices as the current principle standards for these social practices.

The Comments on Strengthen and Improve the College Students' Social Practices

In Feb. 1st of 2005, the propaganda division of CPC, the Central Civilization Office, the Department of Education and the CCCYL made the joined announcement in the "comments on strengthen and improve the college students' social practices"⁷ after the File No. 16. And the beginning of the Comments said, "For the deployment the spirit of File No.16, we should further strengthen and improve the college students' social practices as the following comments: one is to fully understand the importance of the combination of the ideological education and the social practices as the fundamental principle, especially under the new situation, the new tasks and the new changes with the heavy burdens and duties of college students' social practices which should make more positive effects in the ideological education in universities. Two is to clear the general requirement and working principles for the college students' social

practices, which pointed out the general demand is to guide the college students get the educations, improve their talents, make the contributions and establish the correct ideas of the world, the life and the values and to be the qualified constructors and successors for the Chinese characteristic socialism cause under the direction of the Deng-Xiaoping theories, the "triple preventatives" idea and the human-based and comprehensive and balance scientific development theory with the laws of growth and education for the college students to understand and serve for the society in various activities forms, the stable practical bases and the positive guarantee mechanism. Besides above, the comments also conclude the four working principles as : to insist the base of education, the connection between theories and practices, the internal and the external in classes, the educated, talented and contributed and the combined resources. Three is to put the social practices into the teaching plan to enrich the social practices. The comments also asked for improvement for the teaching practices, the professional practices as the major ones in the practical teachings and take the military practices as the compulsory course as the completed teaching program. More, the social investigations, the wild range for the labors and social services, the tech inventions, the part-time job financial aids and the visiting for the "Red Tourism" were also written in this paper. Four is to develop the "triple-social services in villages" and "quaternary services to communities", which focus on the cultures, techs and health services and the science, entertainments, laws and medical services for the citizens as the guidance. Five is to explore the new enduring mechanism for the college students' social practices, which set up the management combined with the major studies, the social services, the part-time job, the vocations selection and the professionals' creation and the time-limited or the tasks designation for the social practices as the GPA. Meanwhile, the comments hope to establish the multiple styles of guarantee system to ensure the every student could join the social practices with the financial sponsors and organize the cadres and teachers in universities could give the instructions to the college students' social practices and establish the stable social practices bases within every school, every dean and every major for the long-time practices. Six is to strengthen the guidance for the college students to make the conveniences and services by the various levels of CPC and governments and to call for the public to support the college students' social practices with the propaganda and theoretical studies on this kind of social practices.

In a word, this comments made the overall regulations and guidance aimed at the college students' social practices based on the File No. 16. This is the first time to emphasize the concept of the college students' social practices in the comments which is demonstrated that the college students' social practices should be the all-

⁷ Cf. <http://wenku.baidu.com/view/7b182eb669dc5022aaea00ed.html>.

sides project and the effective method to strengthen and improve the college student' ideological education and the training of the talents for the Chinese characteristic socialism constructors. And the next that this comment clarifies the general demand and the working principles of the college students' social practices which is beneficial for the theoretical helps to the ordinary works in these social practices. Furthermore, this comment made some instructions about the details in social practices that

affirmed the advantageous practical forms based on the experiences for many years such as the teaching hours and points absorbed into the higher education outlines to ensure the effects of the social practices. Finally, this comment gives a great numbers of policies guidance such as the guarantee for every student could join the social practices and the supports to the college students' social practices from the social resources all around and etc.