

Research on the Innovation of the Construction of Core Socialist Values in Universities from the Perspective of Rule of Law

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To cite this article:

Ren Mei. (2023). Research on the Innovation of the Construction of Core Socialist Values in Universities from the Perspective of Rule of Law. *Education Journal*, 12(6), 267-272. <https://doi.org/10.11648/j.edu.20231206.14>

Received: November 25, 2023; **Accepted:** December 14, 2023; **Published:** December 26, 2023

Abstract: The current education of socialist core values in universities is facing a more complex situation. The institutional guarantee and resource integration of core value education lack effective docking, and the goal planning and practical content have yet to be effectively implemented. Cultural guidance and humanistic cultivation urgently need to be effectively deepened. Overall, in the context of comprehensively promoting the rule of law in society, there is an inherent correlation between the rule of law thinking and the construction of socialist core values in universities. The rule of law is conducive to clarifying the normative standards for the construction of socialist core values in universities, promoting the practical implementation of socialist core value construction in universities, and guiding the moral orientation of socialist core value construction in universities. In the new social situation, universities, as the main front for cultivating and spreading socialist core values, need to constantly innovate ways and methods, and be guided by the ideological needs of young students. They should carry out institutional innovation, practical implementation, and effective guidance based on the rule of law thinking, legal methods, and legal culture.

Keywords: Rule of Law Thinking, College Education on Socialist Core Values, Institutional Guarantee, Value Guidance

1. Introduction

Cultivating and practicing socialist core values is a major strategic task for national construction and social development since the 18th CPC National Congress. As an important base for talent cultivation and theoretical research, universities shoulder the great mission of cultivating builders for the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Adhering to the educational philosophy of "moral education first, talent cultivation as the foundation", conducting in-depth research, systematically explaining and vigorously promoting the socialist core values, innovating the practical path of socialist core values construction, and guiding college students to establish correct values and ideals are the basic work of higher education in the new era. [1] At the same time, some scholars have pointed out that "we must effectively integrate the socialist core values into all aspects of social life," "improve the rules and regulations of various industries," and "use the law to promote the construction of

core values, and pay attention to reflecting value orientation in daily management." [2] Therefore, we need to strengthen institutional guarantees and promote practical innovation in the construction of socialist core values in universities through legal thinking and methods. It is of great significance to strengthen the detailed implementation of core values education for college students.

2. Practice Examination of Socialist Core Value Construction in Universities

The education of socialist core values in universities is currently facing a more complex situation. In the era of globalization and informatization, various social ideologies are showing a new trend of communication and collision, and different values and diverse cultural trends are converging and stirring in universities. The development of information technology has also provided a fast carrier for the dissemination of various values. Young college students are

in an active period of thought, and the education of socialist core values in universities is becoming increasingly urgent.

2.1. Lack of Effective Connection Between Institutional Guarantee and Resource Integration

The important content of the construction of socialist core values in universities is to strengthen institutional construction, "re-examine the university's constitution and various rules and regulations based on the basic requirements of socialist core values, and highlight the spirit and requirements of socialist core values in various measures of school reform and development." [3] From the perspective of actual development, universities focus on campus culture propaganda and mode innovation of core values education, but there is a relative lack of integration of the content of socialist core values into important institutional links such as school management, student training, teacher evaluation and recruitment. There is also a lack of connection between different departments' systems, with propaganda departments and student management departments having a higher degree of attention, while ideological and political education teachers also pay more attention to core values education in their daily teaching work. However, other management departments, scientific research institutions, business units, etc. do not have enough attention, and there is a phenomenon of formalism. There is no complete and effective guarantee system, and the ideological and political education subject is independent and dispersed, and the resources of core values education lack effective docking. Overall, without specific institutional guarantees, the cultivation and practice of socialist core values, especially for the education of young students, lose the realistic carrier of perception and experience in practice, and then consciously identify and practice.

2.2. The Goal Planning and Practice Content Have Yet to Be Effectively Implemented

In the process of building socialist core values in universities, they generally attach importance to the leading role of core values in campus culture, [4] especially many universities that combine their own traditions and consider the characteristics of both liberal arts and sciences, and the integration of science and humanities, have innovated a number of rich and colorful cultural brand projects, making positive contributions to the firm ideals and beliefs of the majority of teachers and students and maintaining good sentiments. At the same time, we also see that there is still much room for improvement in the implementation of the goal of building socialist core values in universities. [5] First, the methods and methods are relatively single. A considerable number of schools equate the education of socialist core values with the development of student association activities, without exploring educational methods that are in line with the spirit of the times, meet the spiritual demands of the new generation of young students, and can face and respond to social issues. On the other hand, they

overemphasize the political nature of ideological and political education, and are satisfied with the educational model of imparting knowledge system, which cannot keep pace with the times and be fun-based. Secondly, there is a lack of long-term goal planning. The construction of socialist core values in universities is a long-term systematic project that requires systematic institutional guarantees and specific practical implementation. Many school administrators have not realized the arduousness, long-term nature, and complexity of the game in the field of values, and have not taken the core values as the basic work of higher education throughout the entire process of school development. Therefore, the practical effect is not optimistic.

2.3. Cultural Guidance and Humanistic Cultivation Urgently Need to Be Effectively Deepened

The socialist core values are deeply rooted in the excellent traditional Chinese culture, and have rich ideological essence and moral essence. [6] Therefore, to cultivate and practice the socialist core values, we must "cultivate people through culture and educate people through culture", through "educational guidance, publicity, cultural edification, practical cultivation, institutional guarantees, etc., so that the socialist core values can be internalized into people's spiritual pursuit and externalized into people's conscious actions." [7] At present, there is still much room for improvement in the construction of socialist core values in universities in terms of cultivating the spiritual world of college students with humanistic spirit. The rich connotation of socialist core values has not yet been transformed into diverse humanistic factors that subtly nurture the spiritual home of young scholars. It is particularly noteworthy that campus cultural construction and ideological and political education cannot be limited to literary activities, meetings and learning, window propaganda, etc., which cannot touch people's thoughts and souls and will not attract a new generation of college students. The construction of socialist core values in universities must innovate ideas, be close to life, [8] "use various forms, integrate into social life, form a living situation and social atmosphere conducive to cultivating and promoting socialist core values, and make the influence of core values ubiquitous and ever-present like air." [9]

3. The Intrinsic Connection Between Rule of Law Thinking and the Construction of Core Values in Universities

In the context of comprehensively promoting the rule of law in society, there is an inherent connection between the thinking of the rule of law and the construction of socialist core values in universities. [10] In 2016, the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council issued the Guiding Opinions on Further Integrating the Core Socialist Values into the Construction of

the Rule of Law, emphasizing that the rule of law should embody the ideal spirit and moral sentiments, strengthen the role of law in promoting moral construction, and promote the core socialist values to be more deeply rooted in the hearts of the people. Overall, the core socialist values, as a cognitive activity and value yardstick at the ideological and conceptual level, can only be manifested through external behavior. As a standardized evaluation model for people's behavior, the rule of law plays a fundamental role in the core socialist values. The rule of law is not only the basic element of the core socialist values, but also the realization carrier of the core socialist values, as well as the practical guarantee of the core socialist values.

3.1. The Rule of Law Is Conducive to Clarifying the Normative Standards for the Construction of Socialist Core Values in Universities

The reason why the rule of law is conducive to clarifying the normative standards for the construction of socialist core values in universities is related to the modern dilemma encountered by the construction of socialist core values in universities. In the past 40 years of reform and opening up, China's economic and social development has made tremendous progress, completing a process that took Western countries hundreds of years to complete. At the same time, Chinese society has also experienced unprecedented rapid social transformation in human history. Traditional and modern intertwine, various conflicts of interest continue to emerge, and the differentiation of social classes is becoming increasingly evident. Against this social background, various social ideologies and diverse cultural concepts continue to collide, conflict, and integrate under the conditions of time and space superposition, coupled with the rapid development of information technology in the era of globalization, the virtual world of the Internet presents more anti-traditional, anti-authoritarian, and multi-subject characteristics. All of this has had a significant impact on the values of college students. As the successors of social development, the shaping of their values and the construction of their moral system are not only within the scope of higher education, but also a global issue related to the overall development of society. "In the context of the deconstruction and fracture of traditional values, the challenges and pressures of multicultural social ideologies, and the breeding and spread of trust crisis, the rule of law can restrict the arbitrary exercise of power at the national level, and play a normative and leading role in social development at the social level. For individuals, the rule of law can provide value norms and evaluation standards for citizens to participate in social activities." [11] Therefore, clarifying the normative standards for the construction of socialist core values in universities with the rule of law, promoting moral construction with the power of the rule of law, and enhancing the ideological and political education level in universities can provide clear institutional standards and rigid constraints for the construction of core values, and enhance the consciousness of college students to cultivate and practice socialist core

values.

3.2. The Rule of Law Is Conducive to Promoting the Practical Implementation of the Construction of Socialist Core Values in Universities

As an important component of socialist core values, the rule of law is also a practical orientation and institutional guarantee for the education of socialist core values in universities. The use of laws and regulations, public policies, and typical cases to convey correct value orientation to young college students, and effectively play the role of regulation and guarantee of the rule of law, can promote the transformation of core values from "soft requirements" to "hard norms", which is conducive to promoting the internalization of socialist core values among college students. From the perspective of shaping values, people's inner moral sense is naturally fragile and needs external systems and rules to provide support and protection. Conversely, external social rules also need to be supported by moral concepts. "Respecting systems and rules is a virtue and character of modern citizens. In a modern society ruled by law, the focus of civic character advocated and constructed by core values, as a kind of moral self-discipline and civil consciousness, has shifted from individual ontological morality to the rules and systems in economic life and social public life." [12] Therefore, clarifying the rights and obligations of social subjects through the rule of law and enhancing the practical foundation of socialist core values is conducive to further clarifying the practical requirements of core values for young students, promoting the institutionalization, practice, and normalization of the construction of socialist core values in universities, and also facilitating the promotion of socialist core values through external behavioral norms, enhancing college students' recognition and consciousness of core values.

3.3. The Rule of Law Is Conducive to Guiding the Moral Orientation of the Construction of Socialist Core Values in Universities

It is of great significance to have a profound understanding of the theoretical logic and practical development of the construction of socialist core values and the rule of law in universities. "Law is written morality, and morality is the inner law. Both are important means of governing the country. Law and morality have the functions of regulating social behavior, adjusting social relations, and maintaining social order, and both have their own status and functions in national governance. Law and morality are inseparable, and the promotion of law and morality cannot be neglected. The effective implementation of law depends on moral support, and the practice of morality cannot be separated from legal constraints. The rule of law and the rule of virtue cannot be separated and neglected. National governance requires the coordinated efforts of law and morality." [13] As a normative system of social behavior, law clarifies the scope and scale of how people should behave in the current society in the form

of rights, obligations, and responsibilities. Law is written morality, and morality is the inner law. The legal norms themselves inevitably contain moral judgments and reflect value orientation. From scientific legislation, strict law enforcement, impartial justice to the observance of the law by all, law embodies the promotion of social justice and advanced morality, as well as the containment and punishment of illegal behavior and bad morality. The rule of law not only better protects fairness and justice, promotes virtue and good deeds, but also promotes people to seek good and avoid evil, and to promote good and abandon evil. Therefore, through the promotion of the rule of law and legal education in universities, especially through the use of real-life legal cases to illustrate the law, behaviors that conform to the core values are encouraged, and behaviors that violate the core values are restricted. This can institutionalize and standardize various specific methods of moral education such as education guidance, publicity, typical demonstration, and practical cultivation of the core values, guide the moral orientation of the construction of the core values in universities, and truly make the education of the core values have a clear realistic carrier and practical foundation.

4. Innovative Paths for the Construction of Core Values in Universities from the Perspective of the Rule of Law

In the new social situation, universities, as the main front for cultivating and spreading socialist core values, need to constantly innovate ways and methods, guided by the ideological needs of young students, and carry out institutional innovation, practical implementation, and effective guidance based on the thinking, methods, and culture of the rule of law, so that the education of core values can truly integrate into the entire process of higher education, and ultimately form a social environment conducive to promoting socialist core values, providing value guidance, cultural cohesion, and spiritual motivation for cultivating morality and fostering talents.

4.1. Guarantee the Normalization of the Construction of Socialist Core Values in Universities with the Thinking of Rule of Law

As mentioned earlier, the education of socialist core values in universities must strengthen institutional guarantees, and achieve a shift from ideological and political education, publicity, classroom learning to institutional practice, so that different contents of core values can be integrated into the fields of college management, student life, campus culture, etc. Any values must rely on a certain institutional foundation to effectively play the role of ideological guidance, consensus building, and value recognition. In order to gain widespread recognition, promotion, maintain stability, continuity, and persistence in the construction of socialist core values in universities, it is necessary to promote institutional construction with the thinking of the rule of law,

so that the educational philosophy, management system, management methods, various policies and guidelines of the school can reflect the rich connotation, spiritual essence, and practical requirements of socialist core values. We should promote the standardization of socialist core values within the framework of the rule of law, and strive to translate the requirements of socialist core values into operational institutional norms, so that socialist core values can run through every aspect of teaching and education. For example, we can organize the revision of the rules of professors' scholarship and student management codes, highlight the content of compliance with laws and regulations, focus on the cultivation of rules awareness, advocate the spirit of contract, promote public order and good customs, guide college students to consciously abide by school rules and fulfill their legal obligations and social responsibilities. Another example is to enhance the value orientation of the school management system with the thinking of the rule of law. Through school regulations and disciplines, we can clearly indicate what is supported, encouraged, opposed, and prohibited, so as to regulate people's behavior and lead people's value orientation. At the same time, we can also promote and facilitate the behavior of college students through policies, measures, legal consequences, etc. For example, by promoting the construction of a student integrity archive system, collecting and using credit information in daily learning and life, we can strengthen the containment of dishonesty and promote the formation of a campus culture where honesty is glorious and dishonesty is shameful. In short, only by establishing an institutional system that embodies the core values of socialism, and ensuring the normalization, stability, execution, and binding force of the construction of socialist core values in universities with the thinking of the rule of law, can we form a long-term mechanism for the cultivation and practice of socialist core values in universities.

4.2. Practical Implementation of Promoting the Construction of Socialist Core Values in Universities Through the Rule of Law

The core values of socialism are essentially practical, and their fundamental vitality lies in their practicality. [14] Core values of socialism include both values and value practices, and they are an organic unity of the two. This characteristic of values determines that the fundamental way for universities to cultivate and practice core values of socialism is through value practice. The Guiding Opinions on Further Integrating Core Values of Socialism into the Construction of Rule of Law issued by the CPC Central Committee pointed out that adhering to the core values of socialism to lead the construction of rule of law and promoting the cultivation and practice of core values of socialism through legal thinking and legal means, both paying attention to the role of education of core values of socialism and the normative role of the construction of rule of law, through implementing core values of socialism into the comprehensive promotion of the rule of law in the practice of governing the country according

to law, into the scientific legislation, strict law enforcement, fair justice, and the law-abiding of the whole people, to achieve the multi-dimensional integration and mutual support of core values of socialism in the construction of rule of law. This means that the practical implementation of the construction of core values of socialism in universities must be based on the rule of law, and the effectiveness of the work should be improved by good laws and good governance. Among them, it is particularly important to construct a democratic, rule of law, fair and harmonious university governance system with the core values of socialism as the guidance and the thinking and method of rule of law as the basic principle. The relevant requirements for cultivating and practicing core values of socialism should be upgraded to good institutional rules, so as to achieve democratic governance, rule of law, and the connection between institutional improvement and reform decision-making. Major reforms should be carried out in accordance with the law and decisions should be made according to the law, with democratic participation of teachers, students, and staff, and the consistency of rights and responsibilities. The level of the rule of law in the governance of universities should be continuously improved. From a practical point of view, this is extremely necessary.

At the same time, we should also adhere to the rule of law to promote the integration of core values into practice, and enhance value recognition through perceptual cognition. [15] "Internalizing in the heart and externalizing in action" is an important goal of the construction of socialist core values. From top-level design, policy arrangements to institutional norms, all need the innovation of value recognition path of the rule of law. From a practical perspective, the current construction of socialist core values in universities still faces many difficulties, and factors from ideology, social transformation, and cultural inheritance bring various challenges to the development of core values construction. Therefore, it is particularly important to promote the value recognition of core values through rich and vivid practices. In addition, while paying attention to the needs of the main body and highlighting the characteristics of the campus, we should also innovate the form of carriers; use new media forms such as online platforms to enhance the perceptual cognition of core values, and start from the daily life practice of young students' contact with core values, from the daily life perception of the construction of the rule of law, and adhere to the practice of combining, integrating, and implementing in a detailed and small way.

4.3. Promote the Conscious Practice of the Construction of Socialist Core Values in Universities with the Rule of Law Culture

The construction of socialist core values in universities requires institutional norms and educational guidance, as well as cultural cultivation and guidance. The socialist rule of law culture plays an irreplaceable role in promoting the conscious practice of socialist core values in universities.

Law is written morality, and morality is the inner law. The rule of law culture advocated by our country contains rich values in many aspects, such as freedom, equality, democracy, justice, harmony, and order, and has strong value orientation characteristics. These values are also contained in the socialist core values. Strong, democratic, civilized, and harmonious are the overall goals of socialist rule of law culture, while freedom, equality, justice, and the rule of law are the core spirits of socialist rule of law culture. Patriotism, dedication, integrity, and friendliness are the source of cultivating socialist rule of law culture. Therefore, practicing socialist core values is the proper meaning of socialist rule of law culture. From a practical perspective, in recent years, in the construction of socialist core values in universities, through case studies, providing online information platforms to facilitate students' legal consultation, building legal culture walls in public places to carry out legal culture edification, organizing legal aid activities and other cultural activities, visual, experiential, and interactive methods have been used to promote the integration of core values and rule of law culture into the classroom, teaching materials, and minds, guiding students to understand the essence of the integration of core values and rule of law culture, and helping them internalize it into their own subjective needs and turn it into a guide for action. In the publicity and education of the rule of law culture in schools, full attention should be paid to the leading and demonstration role of teacher ethics. Teacher ethics are the soul of school education, and teachers' ethics and style have a subtle influence on students. Teachers' adherence to the practice of socialist core values in practice and their use of legal thinking and legal methods to handle educational affairs have an irreplaceable role in cultivating students' active participation spirit and shaping their consciousness. This requires teachers to strengthen their ideals and beliefs, adhere to professional ethics, play good traditions, and be exemplary in their own teaching work. Through their concrete practice of integrating core values and rule of law culture into their teaching work, teachers guide students to accept and identify with core values and enhance their behavioral consciousness.

5. Conclusion

The integration and development of socialist core values and rule of law construction not only requires in-depth theoretical analysis, but also requires in-depth observation of the specific practice of their integration and development. Because only through practice can we truly verify the correctness of the inherent mechanism of their interconnection and integration, promote the transformation of relevant theories into reality, and give them tremendous practical vitality.

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

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Biography

Ren Mei (1986-), female, holds a master's degree and is a department level secretary in the Office of the President of Jiangsu University. Her research areas include higher education management and legal culture. She has published more than ten papers in publications such as School Party Building and Ideological Education, and has undertaken and participated in multiple provincial and ministerial level projects such as the Philosophy and Social Science Planning Project of the Jiangsu Provincial Department of Education.