

A New Study on the Discipline Education Reform of Marxism Theory: Based on the Understanding of the Integrity of Marxism

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Supported by the Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities “Research on Marxism Integrity Problem Based on the Understanding From Practice” (SWU1509326).

Received 18 January 2015; accepted 6 March 2015
Published online 26 March 2015

Abstract

From the formation process, content system and achievement of Marxism, integrity is the inherent characteristic of Marxism, which has pointed out the direction for the discipline education reform of Marxism theory. Therefore, universal consciousness must be possessed to promote the discipline education reform of Marxism theory of the new period, and on the basis of basic principle of Marxism theory education “combining practical mode of thinking with practical logic”, “combining theory with practice”, “unity of persistence and development”, properly handle the three aspects of relations of material and teaching, knowledge and method, theory and practice.

Key words: Integrity; Discipline education reform of Marxism theory; Basic principles of Marxism theory education

Yang, X. (2015). A New Study on the Discipline Education Reform of Marxism Theory: Based on the Understanding of the Integrity of Marxism. *Higher Education of Social Science*, 8(3), 76-80. Available from: URL: <http://www.cscanada.net/index.php/hess/article/view/6715> DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3968/6715>

INTRODUCTION

Marxism integrity is the inherent characteristic of Marxism, which requires us to take Marxism as an organic whole, and understand, grasp and develop Marxism on

the whole. And we can really understand the essence and spiritual essence of Marxism only starting from the whole meaning and angle of Marxism. Discipline education reform of Marxism theory is a persistent and new hard work, but also a complex and huge system engineering, and thus in the process of reform, Marxism integrity should be more implemented and reflected, under the premise of Marxism theory discipline education law, establish scientific attitude towards Marxism theory, so as to promote the discipline education reform of Marxism theory to a new historical stage on the basis of new practice.

1. “INTEGRITY” IS THE INHERENT CHARACTERISTIC OF MARXISM

As is known to all, Marxism is a scientific theory produced in the 1840s, and it reveals the general laws of development of human society, and has made a scientific judgment for the development trend of human society and its movement. Therefore, Marxism has made a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of the form of the material world and its rule, the existence form of human society and its rule as well as existence form of people’s thinking and man himself and its laws. As a kind of objective existence, Marxist theory itself is a whole, and embodies and reflects the integrated features of the existence and development of things.

First of all, from its forming process, Marxism theory is the unity of theory and practice. We know that Marx himself was a staunch fighter of the proletariat, and his lifelong fundamental goal is to overthrow the bourgeois rule, establish communism, and realize the liberation of mankind. In order to achieve this ideal, and show his clear attitude to communism, Marx set out to study economic problems. And the “agonizing doubt” arising from the research on economic problems forced him to study philosophy first, and in the exploration of philosophical

problems, he preliminarily established a materialistic theory of society. Materialism society helped Marx to focus on the economic field, and establish the communist ideal, in order to guide the real movement of communism, Marx further systematized his historical philosophy and then created historical materialism. And examine and criticize the capitalist system with the historical materialism and thus come to a historical conclusion of communism. However, whether he is studying philosophy, focusing on the economic field, or paying attention to the communist movement, Marx never made a theory for theory, while his theory has a strong practicality, and all his theories were to provide theoretical basis for the proletariat revolution. So we say that as a complete theoretical system, the outstanding characteristic of Marxism is its practicality, and the vitality of Marxism theory is that it guides human to strive for their own emancipation, and all of its meaning and objectives are to guide the practice. This outstanding characteristic is expressed most vividly in the *Communist Manifesto*. Marx and Engels pointed out: the *Communist Manifesto* is “party program of comprehensive theory and practice” (*Marx and Engels Anthology [Volume 1]*, 1995, p.248). Theory originates in practice, theory reflects and embodies practice, and at the same time, practice relies on the guidance of the theory, practice continuously promoted to a new theory. Therefore, from this sense we can say that Marxism theory, from the start of birth, has reflected the unification of the theory and practice, and is a integrity theory for seeking the theory basis of overthrowing the rule of the bourgeoisie, establishing communism, and liberating all mankind.

Secondly, in terms of its content and system, Marxism theory is the unity of the whole and the parts. Marxism is a complete theoretical system composed of “plate structure”, that is, Engels and Lenin divide Marxism into three components of philosophy, political economic and scientific socialism from state analysis. These three components are integral parts of Marxism, Marxism is a whole composed of three components, part is the part of the whole, the whole is whole made up of parts, and the status of each component in the whole Marxism is different, but they are always connected organically. Marxist philosophy is the footstone of the whole Marxism theory, and it has provided a basic world view and methodology for political economics and scientific socialism, under the guidance of world view and methodology, political economics and scientific socialism have had critical abilities and right direction. The criticism of Marxist political economics originates from the negative of Marxist philosophy on the deep theory, and political economy must not be regarded as an independent discipline without the Marxist philosophy and scientific socialism. Similarly, the scientific nature of Marxist scientific socialism is based on historical materialism and realistic criticism of economics, and without the Marxist philosophy and political economics, scientific socialism

cannot be designated as science. Therefore, we say that integrity is the inherent characteristic of Marxism theory, and this feature reflects the unity of the whole and part.

Moreover, from its development results, the Marxism theory has shown the unity of synchronic and diachronic. Marxism theory is constantly developing along with the development of the times and practice, and in the process of development, the content of Marxism theory has different forms and different ideas in different periods. Content of a certain period of the Marxism theory with another period of Marxism theory have both internal unity and coherence and great difference. After the creation of Marxism, specific forms of Marxism under different time and space such as the Leninism, Mao Zedong thought and theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics have been successively produced. Therefore, it is necessary for understanding of Marxism to follow classic discussion of Marx and Engels, but at the same time it is not enough, and also needs to grasp the whole process and all theories of the development of Marxism. It is necessary for understanding of Marxism to adhere to the latest achievements of the development of Marxism theory, but it is not enough, and also needs to grasp the basic principle of Marxist classical writers, adhere to the principles and cannot deviate from the principles, otherwise, it is not Marxism. So, it seems, Marxism theory, as the developing theory with integrity, has the characteristics of wholeness, characterized by the unity of synchrony and diachronic.

Whether to analyze from the formation process of Marxism theory, or from the content system and the development achievements of Marxism, Marxism theory is a complete, indivisible organic whole, so the integrity of Marxism, the inherent characteristic, must be recognized and insisted for us to adhere to Marxism and promote the discipline education reform of Marxism theory.

2. DISCIPLINE EDUCATION REFORM OF MARXISM THEORY SHOULD IMPLEMENT THE INTEGRITY OF MARXISM

Indeed, since the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council and the Ministry of Education adjusted and established the first level discipline of Marxism theory in 2005, discipline education reform of Marxism theory in colleges and universities has achieved the certain result, and has better played the role of main channel and position in the Marxism theory education for college students. But the education and teaching of Marxist theory subject still exist some shade. The fundamental purpose of Marxist theory discipline education is to cultivate the Marxism theory accomplishment for the educated, in order for them to grow up to be a consciously Marxist. The fundamental standard for measuring the effect of Marxism theory course education is whether the educated really have an

overall understanding and clear cognition on “what is Marxism”, and learn to think like Marx. And in a certain sense, the overall understanding and clear cognition of “what is Marxism” in fact are to uphold the integrity of Marxism, and fully and accurately grasp the Marxist theoretical system. It will also play an important guiding role for the construction of Marxism theory discipline system. “How to build Marxism theory discipline system, how to understand its relationship with the teaching system, teaching material and so on, are directly related to the study and understanding of integrity of the Marxism” (Li, 2007). Therefore, in order for the educated to grow up to be a consciously Marxist, and learn to think like Marx, it requires that our current discipline education reform of Marxism theory should follow the basic principles of Marxism theory education, and earnestly implement integrity of Marxism in the process of reform.

2.1 Implement the Integrity of Marxism, and Education Reform Should Set Up Overall Consciousness

Integrity of Marxism is the inherent characteristic of Marxism, and also prominent feature of Marxism theory discipline. Whether Marxist theory course education implements the prominent feature is an important factor in the survival and development of this project. Integrity of Marxism has pointed out the direction for the new reform of Marxism theory education and put forward the higher request. In the new period, under the call of comprehensively deepening education reform, to further promote the discipline education reform of Marxism theory must set up the overall consciousness, closely link the curriculum reform with the reform and construction of discipline, and build a scientific and complete theory subject system. First of all, attention should be paid to the integrity form the study, dissemination and education practice of Marxism theory. The integrity of the theoretical study is the first characteristic of Marxism theory courses, and without this, the existence value of the subject will be questioned. At present, the study on the integrity of Marxism theory is not enough, some just focus on the content system of the Marxism theory, and some are confined to the study of subject education itself, and intensive study from the junction point of the two is not enough. Similarly, the spread and education practice of Marxism theory also should set up the consciousness of integrity, and the optimization of Marxism theory course education is the result of comprehensive factors, in addition to the theoretical research itself, it must also focus on the spread and education practice, otherwise, it would easily deviate from the direction of discipline education reform of Marxism theory. In addition, in the process of discipline education reform of Marxism theory, attention should be paid to closely link the curriculum reform with the reform and construction of discipline. “Discipline is a product of the academic development, and the stable form

of academic study. Course is teaching activity required by certain social development and personnel training, and also the spread process of academic.” (Zhang & Xiao, 2006) Scientific curriculum installation is the basic link of strengthening and improving Marxism theory education and teaching, and scientific and reasonable curriculum system is the necessary premise to realize the training target. And reform and construction of discipline are the basis to strengthen and improve Marxism theory course education. Close integration between curriculum reform and the reform and construction of discipline can not only help educators of Marxism theory discipline to teach combining with course, and promote the deepening study of the Marxist theory discipline, but can also further consolidate the guidance role of Marxism theory in the colleges and universities education and teaching.

2.2 Implement the Integrity of Marxism, and Education Reform Should Follow the Basic Principles of Marxism Theory Education

The basic principle of Marxism theory education is the summary and generalization of intrinsic regularity of Marxism theory education and teaching activities, and it is the ideological guidelines and code of conduct for main body of education and teaching activities to carry out effective Marxism theory education and teaching activities. The current education and teaching of Marxism theory subject still leave much to be desired, and far from the basic goal of education, therefore, the discipline education reform of Marxism theory should capture the origin of reform, start from the methodology of Marxism theory education, and follow the basic principles of Marxism theory education.

2.2.1 Principle of Combination Between Practical Mode of Thinking and Practical Logic

Practical mode of thinking and practical logic contains all the secrets of Marxism theory, and it is the key to the essential qualities and spiritual essence of Marxism theory. Principle of combination between practical mode of thinking and practical logic is the highest essence of Marxism theory and the essential features of unity of its related theory, and to truly grasp and learn to use principle of combination between practical mode of thinking and practical logic is the precondition to improve the Marxism theory course education, and plays a role of specification and guidance for Marxism theory education. One of the important factors why the existing Marxism theory course education still leaves much to be desired is that it fails to fully reflect and convey the highest essence of Marxism theory of practical mode of thinking and practical logic, and some links in the education and teaching still stand on traditional way of thinking and thinking logic, pay too much attention to the content and view of the Marxism theory, but ignore the thinking on the content and view of the Marxism theory, which has made the educated fail to learn to think like Marx. Thus in the discipline education

reform of Marxism theory, practical mode of thinking and practical logic should be conscientiously implemented. Educators must first achieve the deep thinking framework of practical mode of thinking and practical logic, and thus they would consciously implement the practical mode of thinking and practical logic into the whole process of the Marxism theory discipline education in educational practice.

2.2.2 The Principle of Combination Between Theory and Practice

“Marxism theory is a kind of theory that comes from practice and serves practice” (Ni, 2006, p.155), as mentioned above, Marxism is an integrity theory, and has showed the unification of the theory and practice from the start of the birth, this feature requires practice subject to put all the theories into practice and guide the practice. “And only when the theory is associated with the reality can it guide the practice, and play a practical role” (Ibid.). Combining theory with practice, as the basic principle of Marxism theory education, is to require that our Marxism theory discipline education should contact practice of understanding and practical activities, analyze and solve problems, pay attention to real life, play guidance function, and guide the educated to set up practical thinking of observing the world and understanding the times. However, our current Marxist theory subject education, due to the effect of dogmatism and directional thinking, in the classroom teaching and theory publicity of Marxism theory, simply regards some principle of Marxism theory as a good remedy to solve all problems, and teaches according to the book for the educated, which have violated the nature of Marxist theory as well as the original intention of the Marxism theory education for the educates. Therefore, in the new round of Marxism theory education reform, we should implement the integrity of Marxism, and adhere to the basic principles of combination of theory and practice. This required our education subjects, during teaching and preaching of Marxism theory, impart theoretical knowledge, and at the same time, should also pay attention to guiding the educated to master the methodology of Marxism, and use to analyze and solve practical problems, and thus forming a scientific understanding and grasp of the reality.

2.2.3 The Principle of Unity of Persistence and Development

Marxism theory is an integrity theory and constantly developing along with the development of the times and practice, advancing with the times is its theoretical quality, showing the unity of synchronic and diachronic. In the face of profound changes in politics, economy, and culture pattern today, our Marxism theory subject education should respect Marxism theory form transforming from single, orthodox, classic mode to coexistence mode of diversity. “The evolution process experienced by Marxism theory from the original form to the secondary form, and to

the contemporary form, is generally a process transforming from legitimate to unorthodox, from single to diversity, and from hegemony to equal rights” (Ni, 2006, pp.178-179). Marxism theory research of each country and each period has its own unique position and theoretical value, so Marxism theory educators should adhere to the integrity of Marxism, under tolerant and open mentality, make active dialogue with Marxism theory of various forms and explore the contemporary development of Marxism theory in dialogue, and thus promoting our Marxism theory discipline education to always stay in line with international standards, and with the times.

3. DISCIPLINE EDUCATION REFORM OF MARXISM THEORY IS REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH SCIENTIFIC ATTITUDE TOWARDS MARXISM

Integrity of Marxism is the unity of the world outlook and methodology, and in the face of large content, high requirement and great difficulty of the knowledge system contained in the Marxism theory, so in the process of Marxism theory course education, how to manage? How to teach? How to embody the integrity of Marxism? This is essentially required to adopt scientific attitude towards Marxism. To this end, we must correctly handle the relationship of the three aspects.

3.1 Correctly Handle the Relationship Between Textbooks and Classics

The relationship between textbooks and classic is the most basic relations of Marxism theory subject education, it not only reflects the surface correlation between Marxist classical writers and compiler of Marxism theory textbook, but even more important, it directly determines “legitimacy” of Marxism theory discipline education, “that is whether this kind of education is in line with the regulations and requirements of ‘Marxism theory’ nature, and whether it correctly conveys the essence and demands of Marxism theory” (Ni, 2006, p.300). On one hand, textbooks of Marxism theory subject shall not separate from or violate the theoretical character and fundamental ways of thinking conveyed by Marxist classics, and if it violates the way of thinking of classics, it will be unable to correctly grasp the spiritual essence of Marxism theory. In short, if it wants to get its own regulations, and becomes the textbook of Marxism theory, it must be based on Marxist classics. In Marxism theory discipline education, on the other hand, the scientific nature of the textbooks is not only reflected in its theoretical interpretation and spiritual reading towards the classics, and even more important, it can reflect the latest development results of Marxism theory along with the actual development, and it is more fit in with the educated’ knowledge structure and theoretical attainment foundation, and

is the reconstruction of Marxist classics. Therefore, in Marxism theory course education reform, we should take the scientific attitude towards the relationship between the textbooks and classics, not only adhere to the authority and originality of classics, so as to prevent the tendency to replace the classics by textbooks, and at the same time, we should also adhere to the reconstruction and recreation of the textbooks, so as to overcome the tendency to replace textbooks by classics.

3.2 Correctly Handle the Relationship Between the Teaching Material and Teaching

Like relationship between textbooks and classics, the relations of teaching material and teaching in Marxism theory subject education cannot be ignored. Teaching material used by Marxism theory course is the carrier of Marxism theory of knowledge, and also the important basis for educators to concretely implement Marxism theory education. And teaching, as the focus of the teaching practice, is a key link to realize the transformation from teaching material content into the inherent quality of the educated themselves. Therefore, it is the basis and inevitable requirement of Marxism theory education to correctly grasp the relationship between teaching materials and teaching. However, in our current teaching process of Marxism theory education subject, on one hand, because of the rigid system and management mode of education management or relevant departments, on the other hand, limited by the Marxism theoretical attainment and education ability of educators themselves, the teaching often tends to go by the book and rigidly adhere to materials, or stray from the materials, which has led to the disconnection between teaching and learning, and made the educates to think of the study of the Marxism theory as a dangerous road, and finally fail to attain the education objectives and the teaching goal. Teaching material is the foundation of teaching, embodying the true spirit of Marxism theory, and at the same time, teaching has moderate extensibility, neither teaching without “materials”, nor straying from “materials”. Therefore, in discipline education reform of Marxism theory, we should actively carry out the 16-character principle of “there are materials to abide by, ensure that materials are observed, enforcement of materials must be strict, violations of materials must be investigated and dealt with”, and insist on using the practice mode of thinking and education law to unify teaching materials and teaching, in order to better coordinate the relationship between the two in the process of reform, and earnestly make a good job in the Marxism theory discipline education.

3.3 Correctly Handle the Relationship Between Knowledge and Methods

Our current Marxism theory course education generally makes “knowledgeablization” of the Marxism theory

education, and that is to equate Marxism theory education with objective knowledge system, and simply instill as a mechanical doctrine but ignore conveying of methodological significance. This is clearly contrary to the nature of Marxism theory, and for the educated, it is essentially harmful. “indoctrination” principle is a basic principle of Marxism, and the main method of Marxism theory course education. But this kind of “indoctrination” is by no means a simple mechanical convey, it has two levels of meanings: One refers to the Lenin’s theory of “indoctrination”, which mainly said that working class cannot spontaneously produce socialist ideological system, so Marxism theoretical education should be taken for working class against the “theory of spontaneous”, and expound the necessity of Marxism theory education, which still has a realistic significance today. Second refers to the “indoctrination” of education method, that is to impart the certain thoughts and theories to the educated through purposeful and planned organization and arrangement with a variety of forms and internalize into the notion of the educated, so as to realize “thought into the mind”. No matter from which aspect, the Marxism theory discipline education is by no means to simply convey the doctrinal knowledge to the educated, but to internalize the knowledge to the notion of educates based on knowledge, so as to realize the transformation from knowledge to method. In other word, the Marxism theory discipline education, on the basis of the nature of Marxism theory and the common nature of education, insists on the “knowledge-based” and “methods-oriented” practice education theory, grant “fish” and “fishing”, and make the educated to get the fish by fishing.

CONCLUSION

In a word, Marxism theory is a complete, indivisible organic whole, and only from the overall view and meaning of Marxism can we truly understand the spiritual essence of Marxism, and also only after correct understanding and scientific attitude towards the integral Marxism can discipline education reform of Marxism theory set foot on the right direction.

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