

# Exploration on the Integration and Development Path of Ideological and Political Courses and Traditional Culture in Private Colleges and Universities of Henan Province

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## Abstract

The integration of ideological and political education with traditional culture in private universities in Henan Province is an important attempt to enhance the level of moral and political education and to inherit and develop excellent traditional culture. This study describes and analyzes the current situation of the integration of ideological and political education with traditional culture in private universities in Henan Province and finds that there are still some existing problems, such as insufficient attention to the integration of ideological and political education with traditional culture in terms of school and college, narrow diversity of teaching methods, and lack of professional level of teachers. Therefore, this paper proposes a strategy to promote the integration of ideological and political education with traditional culture from the perspectives of policy support, diversification of teaching methods and training of teachers so as to achieve the goal of mutual promotion and enrichment between the inheritance of culture and ideological and political education and cultivate well-rounded person with strong cultural confidence and identity.

**Keywords:** Private Colleges and Universities in Henan Province, Ideological and Political Courses, Traditional Culture, Integrated Development

## Introduction

In today's society, protecting and developing the excellent traditional culture has an indelible significance. As an important part of the spiritual home of the Chinese nation, the excellent traditional Chinese culture is an important foundation for enhancing cultural confidence and identity. Only by combining ideological and political courses with excellent traditional culture can we enrich the connotation of ideological and political courses and enhance students' sense of identity and pride in culture. In recent years, some private universities in Henan Province have been actively exploring the integration of ideological and political courses and excellent traditional culture, taking some positive measures. However, there are still some

problems in the integration of ideological and political education with traditional culture in private universities in Henan Province. It is necessary to carry out in-depth research on the effective ways to integrate ideological and political education and excellent traditional culture so as to improve the level of ideological and political education and protect and develop excellent traditional culture in the process of transmission.

### Literature Review

Despite the above active efforts, there are still some existing problems on the integration of ideological and political education with traditional culture in private universities in Henan Province. First, there is insufficient institutional focus on integration in some colleges, the important position of traditional culture in ideological and political education has not been recognized, and there are deficiencies in the design of the curriculum and teaching resources. Second, teaching methods are still relatively stagnant, mostly in the form of lectures, with little diversity or innovation. This traditional teaching method is uninteresting to students and fails to effectively connect traditional cultural knowledge and ideological and political content. Third, the cultural literacy and instructional ability of teachers need further improvement. Some teachers lack a deep and systematic understanding of traditional culture, which affects their ability to integrate traditional culture into ideological and political subject content, thereby reducing the level and effect of integrated instruction.

A number of private universities in Henan Province have realized the importance of combining ideological and political education with traditional culture and have taken a series of proactive measures. Huanghe Science and Technology College founded the Research Institute for the Inheritance and Development of Chinese Culture and promoted teaching and research on excellent traditional Chinese culture. They made Introduction to Excellent Traditional Chinese Culture a required course for all undergraduate and diploma students. On this basis, they commissioned experts to write the textbook Concise Reader of Excellent Traditional Chinese Culture and formulated a detailed teaching syllabus with teaching content and method. Through the introduction to excellent traditional Chinese culture, it helps students to grasp the basic context, connotation, ideal personality and value system of excellent traditional Chinese culture and to establish a good moral and cultural foundation in the early stage of their life. In addition, the college actively develops and offers a variety of traditional culture related courses, including classics reading seminars, public electives, specialized courses and Party lectures. They have formed a systematic course to help students deepen their feelings for traditional culture and enhance their confidence in culture.

Chinese traditional culture has abundant ideological and moral resources. The ideological and moral resources contained in traditional culture include values such as "benevolence", "integrity" and "harmony". These ideological and moral resources are closely related to the goals of ideological and political courses. By integrating traditional culture into ideological and political courses, the content of ideological and political courses is enriched, and the content is more interesting, closer to students' life experience and cultural experience. The effectiveness of ideological and political education is enhanced. Students learn classic narratives and philosophical maxims from traditional culture, which helps students understand the theoretical knowledge contained in ideological and political courses, strengthens students' identification with socialist core values, and enhances students'

understanding and commitment to socialist core values. Therefore, the effectiveness of ideological and political education is enhanced.

Cultural confidence is a simple, deep and long-term power for the development of the country. In the process of globalization, the continuous introduction of various kinds of foreign culture has caused certain impact on the ideological and value sphere of the Chinese youth. Through the introduction of traditional culture into ideological and political education, students can better understand the unique advantages and rich connotation of excellent traditional Chinese culture, understand the splendid achievements created by the Chinese people in the long-term process, enhance the confidence and pride of Chinese traditional culture, and make the students feel that the ideological and political education has a strong spiritual motivation for them in the process of personal development, so that they can hold firm beliefs in the face of complex situations and make active contributions to achieve the Chinese dream, that is, the great rejuvenation of the Chinese people.

### **Methodology**

The article analyzes the current state of curriculum implementation and integration between ideological and political education and traditional culture in private undergraduate universities in Henan Province, identifying the main issues that exist. The analysis is based on the observation and summarization of existing practical cases.

### **Findings**

Private Colleges and Universities in Henan Province should give full play to the important position and strategic role in the integration of ideological and political education and traditional culture. First, leadership organization and scientific planning should be strengthened. The leaders of the school should put forward the overall idea of integration work in the overall development plan of the school, and then take corresponding measures to implement it, and provide more human resources, material resources and financial resources for the integration of ideological and political education and traditional culture. For example, a special fund can be set up for the research of traditional culture and teaching reform projects, so that teachers can devote themselves to the research of new models and methods of integration. In addition, the assessment and evaluation system should be established. The effectiveness of integrated teaching should be included in the evaluation system of teachers' performance, so as to stimulate teachers' enthusiasm to participate in the integration.

Teachers can select typical cases in traditional culture and absorb them into ideological and political courses. Such as Kong Rong giving up the larger pear, which represents the virtue of "courtesy", and Zengzi killing the pig, which represents the virtue of "integrity". Through the analysis and discussion of these cases, students can better understand the connotation of traditional culture and its connection with the theoretical system of ideological and political education, and improve their ability to analyze problems and solve problems. For example, when explaining the socialist core values of "friendliness", teachers can introduce the story of "The Reconciliation of General Lian Po and Lin Xiangru" to students. Then ask students to think about why there should be such a reconciliation between General Lian Po and Lin Xiangru, and what social significance does the virtue of "friendliness" have in modern society?

Students should be arranged to go on field trips to museums, historical sites and traditional villages to experience the charm of traditional culture directly in practice activities about traditional culture. In addition, students ought to be encouraged to participate in the following activities about preserving and innovating traditional culture: traditional handicraft activities and volunteer service for culture. For example, School of Fine Arts and Design of Henan Women's Vocational College makes full use of regional cultural resources to carry out activities of study tour and theme education as shown in Fig. 8. These activities provide students with opportunities to get creative inspiration in experience learning and help students better understand traditional culture and preserve and promote it.

Modern multimedia technology, such as image, video and animation, are used to display traditional culture in a more vivid and interesting way. For example, short micro-video about traditional culture can be produced and used in classroom teaching to help students visualize the teaching contents and contents of traditional culture more intuitively. In addition, online platform can be used to conduct digital learning activities about traditional culture, such as online course and online discussion about traditional culture. These ways not only expand ways that students obtain traditional cultural knowledge, but also promote students to learn traditional culture in a more autonomous and motivated way.

Colleges and universities should organize regular training and further education activities about traditional culture for teachers of ideological and political courses. Experts and scholars can also give specialized lecture and workshop to help teachers better understand traditional culture and improve teaching skills. For example, specialized training on fine traditional Chinese culture can be carried out to allow teachers to systematically study about classic work, development history and basic philosophical ideas of traditional culture. In addition, teaching seminar should be organized to allow teachers to exchange experience and ideas about integrative teaching, so as to improve teaching level.

We should try our best to introduce talents with academic background in traditional culture to enrich the teacher team of ideological and politics courses. These teachers can introduce new ideas and methods to the ideological and politics education, enrich the instruction content of ideological and politics education and improve the overall level of traditional culture integrative instruction. In addition, teachers from different academic disciplines should also be encouraged to participate in integrative teaching. Teachers from different academic disciplines should form interdisciplinary teaching team to promote ideological and politics education to integrate into traditional culture.

Colleges and universities should establish an incentive mechanism to reward and encourage teachers who have achieved certain level of integrative instruction in ideological and politics courses and traditional culture. Both material incentives and honorary rewards should be included in this incentive mechanism. For example, teaching achievement award and outstanding teacher award can be established to reward teachers who have achieved certain level of integrative instruction in ideological and politics courses and traditional culture. This will stimulate teachers' enthusiasm and promote innovation in teaching.

As shown in Table 1, in the current curriculum system of ideological and political courses, it is necessary to set up some traditional culture courses such as Introduction to Fine Traditional

Chinese Culture and Traditional Chinese Ethical Thought, and make traditional culture knowledge enter students' minds in an organized way. These courses can be offered as required courses or elective courses according to the specific situation of the school and students. In the process of teaching these courses, we should try our best to arouse students' interest in traditional culture and help them understand traditional culture, and then encourage them to explore traditional culture in depth and experience its intellectual connotation and core value.

Based on School's Situation Traditional culture can also be integrated into the already existing ideological and political courses, such as "Ideology, Morality and Rule of Law" and "An Introduction to Mao Zedong Thought and the Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics". In the process of teaching these courses, teachers should combine the content of the courses and appropriately introduce some relevant traditional culture knowledge and cases. The integration of traditional culture and ideological and politics education should reach the level of "water and milk mixing together". For example, when teaching moral cultivation in "Ideology, Morality and the Rule of Law", teachers can introduce Confucianism's "self-cultivation" to let students think about how to strictly require themselves in life and study and improve their own ethics.

Private colleges and universities should develop their own distinctive school-based courses on traditional culture according to their own institutional characteristics and regional culture resources. For example, Henan Kaifeng University of Science and Media takes advantage of Kaifeng's cultural advantages to develop Northern Song Dynasty culture and local intangible folk culture courses; Zhengzhou City Vocational College takes advantage of the rich red culture resources in Xinmi to develop revolutionary traditions and spirit education courses. Through the development of school-based courses on traditional culture, students can better understand the traditional culture and history of their hometown, and enhance their sense of identity and pride in their own region.

Colleges and universities should actively develop and construct various forms of campus cultural activities with traditional culture as the main theme, such as traditional culture festivals, poetry recitation competitions, calligraphy and painting exhibitions and traditional opera performances. These activities provide opportunities for students to understand and promote traditional culture, stimulate students' interest in traditional culture and promote students' appreciation of cultural heritage. For example, Huanghe Science and Technology College has developed activities with traditional Chinese culture themes, including calligraphy and painting exhibitions; the Henan Zhuizi Workshop is a local narrative singing tradition, and Huanghe Science and Technology College has specially established this workshop, and often holds performances of traditional instrumental music, allowing students to experience the traditional culture they want to know through activities.

Institutional level should focus on the construction of campus culture, that is, adding more cultural elements such as landscape, sculpture and cultural wall in campus. Such cultural environment helps students be more deeply exposed in traditional culture. For example, institutional level could introduce more statues of Confucius or "Forest of Stone Tablets" inscribed with poems in campus, which would give students more quintessential impression of traditional culture. Besides, hanging famous quotations and classical poems in teaching

building, library or even in public places could also make students be deeply immersed in traditional culture without even noticing it. They would be unconsciously exposed in traditional culture in their daily learning.

The school should support and encourage students to build clubs and associations about traditional culture, for example, club about Chinese classic, association of Hanfu and society of calligraphy. Such student-led associations could regularly hold academic lecture, skill training and cultural exchange activities to help students learn by peers and actively protect traditional culture. Besides, such associations should allow them to participate in university-level cultural activities or social practice activities, for example, spread culture both on and off campus or even hold cultural volunteer activities. Through these activities, students could play an active role in inheritance and innovation of traditional culture and enhance their sense of ownership and cultural responsibility. The active participation of students in traditional culture could be encouraged.

### **Conclusion**

The combination of ideological and political education and traditional culture has important theoretical significance and practical significance in private colleges and universities in Henan Province. Although some achievements have been made, there are still some problems, such as lack of emphasis from school level, simple form of teaching and imbalanced teacher level. In order to solve these problems, this paper proposes a comprehensive solution from the aspects of organizational support, pedagogical model innovation, teacher development, curriculum system construction and campus cultural environment creation. These methods combine to promote the overall integration of two subjects, improve the quality of ideological and political education, enhance the effect of protection and promotion of traditional Chinese culture, and cultivate more well-rounded talents with cultural confidence and national pride. It is hoped that more scholars could continue to explore and innovate in the future to further promote the integrated development of two subjects, improve the quality of education, and better serve the comprehensive development of students and other social education goals in the new era.

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