

An Analysis of the Intertwined Development of Ethnic Culture and Ideological and Political Education in Higher Education Institutions in the Context of the Spirit of the Oath Monument

Li Xiang*

Dianchi University, Kunming 650000, Yunnan, China

**Author to whom correspondence should be addressed.*

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Abstract: In the new era, the fundamental task of ideological and political education in universities is to cultivate virtues and talents. We must break free from the limitations of monotonous content and rigid form, and explore high-quality ethnic cultural resources in the local area. This article takes the spirit of the oath monument as the core perspective to clarify the basic framework of the integration of ethnic culture and ideological and political education in higher education. It analyzed the contemporary value of their deep integration, explored scientifically feasible paths for common development, and promoted the integration of excellent ethnic culture into ideological and political classrooms and the entire educational process. Its purpose is to achieve a synergistic effect between cultural education and ideological and political education, thereby helping universities cultivate a new generation of young people who firmly uphold the sense of community of the Chinese nation.

Keywords: Spirit of the oath monument; Ethnic culture; Ideological and political education in higher education; Interwoven development; Educational practice

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1. Introduction

In 1951, representatives of the 26 ethnic groups in Pu'er City, Yunnan Province, China, took an oath with their blood, raised a monument to declare their determination, and established the Monument to the Oath of National Unity, which is inscribed with their original wishes and beliefs. As a result, the spirit of the oath monument focused on loyalty to the Party, shared goals, mutual support and practical progress was formed. This spirit takes its origin from the rich cultural foundation of the ethnic groups in the southwest border area, combining the distinct characteristics of various ethnic groups, and is a typical case of the harmonious integration of China's fine ethnic culture and revolutionary culture. At present, ideological and political education in universities faces practical problems such as a homogenous educational environment, a lack of cultural connotations in the teaching, and weak cultivation of national sentiment; relying only on theoretical guidance is

unable to meet the intellectual development needs of young people in the new era. By combining the spirit and profound historical background and national emotions of the oath monument with the education system, deep integration can be achieved between ethnic culture and ideological and political education at the level of higher education, thus expanding the content of this education and innovating educational models. This will help young students form correct views of the country, the ethnic group and history, and thus add new life and spirit to the high-quality development of ideological and political education at the university level.

2. Overview of the intertwining of ethnic culture and ideological and political education in higher education institutions from the perspective of the spirit of the oath monument

2.1. The Internal logic of intertwining

From the perspective of the spirit of the oath monument, the intertwined development of ethnic culture and ideological and political education in universities has profound historical, theoretical, and practical logic, and is an inevitable trend in education in the new era. From a historical perspective, the spirit of the Oath Stele originates from the historical practice of various ethnic groups uniting as one, being loyal to the Party, and advancing hand in hand. It is a historical product of the deep integration of national culture and revolutionary ideological and political heritage, witnessing the development process of interaction, communication, and integration among various ethnic groups, and laying a solid historical foundation for mutual integration. In theory, the core goal of ideological and political education in higher education is to cultivate students' patriotism, national identity, and sense of responsibility. The core values of excellent ethnic culture are closely aligned with these educational goals, and as the intersection of the two, the "Oath Spirit" has built a bridge for the integration of ethnic cultural theory and ideological and political education theory. From a practical perspective, contemporary youth grow up in a multicultural environment, where issues such as vague ethnic identity and weak community consciousness are becoming increasingly prominent. Through the deep interweaving of the two, we can nourish the hearts of young people with vivid national cultural stories and the profound spirit of oath monuments, thereby addressing the shortcomings of traditional ideological and political education and meeting the practical needs of guiding young people's thinking in the new era.

2.2. The practical foundation for integration

Over the years, the inheritance of ethnic culture and the construction of ideological and political education in higher education have laid a solid foundation for integration, providing strong support for the deep integration based on the spirit of the oath monument. On the one hand, many ethnic groups have accumulated rich and diverse folk culture, spiritual culture and revolutionary culture over a long time through daily life and other means. The cultural connotation of national unity represented by the spirit of the oath tablets is especially rich, highly appealing and very beneficial to education. It can provide rich textbooks, practical platforms and the spiritual foundation for ideological and political education at the university level. At the same time, higher education institutions in the new era are constantly strengthening the reform of ideological and political education, promoting the integration of ideological and political elements into the curriculum, and actively exploring various cultural resources for education. Break free from the old "closed-mode" ideological and political classrooms, gradually build an all-encompassing, multi-dimensional education system, provide institutional guarantees, platform support and educational spaces for the integration of ethnic culture into ideological and political education, etc^[1]. At the same time, the sense of identity and interest in

local ethnic culture and “red spirit” among young college students are also rising. They are eager to experience the richness of culture firsthand, to gain spiritual nourishment and build a solid foundation for their own participation in the activity; thus, an educational atmosphere that cultivates the integration and development of these two factors has been created.

3. The contemporary value of the intertwining of ethnic culture and ideological and political education in higher education institutions in the context of the spirit of the oath monument

3.1. Promoting the inheritance and innovative development of outstanding ethnic cultures

An excellent national culture is an indispensable part of Chinese culture. Inheriting and developing ethnic culture is an important task of cultural construction in the new era. As the main base for cultivating talent and spreading culture, higher education institutions are responsible for the mission of inheriting and innovating national culture. Inspired by the spirit of the Oath Monument, the deep integration of ethnic culture and ideological and political education in higher education provides new paths and high-quality platforms for the inheritance and development of ethnic culture. Through various means, such as ideological and political education courses, construction of campus culture and social practice, universities systematically explore, organize and spread national unity culture centered on the spirit of oath tablets, as well as other forms of excellent national culture. This will help young children learn about the history, spirit and modern life of the ethnic group in China through study, and thus understand other cultures better without leaving their homes. At the same time, young students have an active mind and good creativity. Through the exploration of ethnic culture, one can combine the demands for development in the new era and the discourse system of young people to conduct creative interpretation and transformation of traditional ethnic culture. Thus, the spirit of the oath monument and traditional Chinese culture will have a new life in the modern era. By inheriting and promoting the innovation of excellent national culture, and through innovation, promoting its development, it can give new life to China’s excellent traditional culture in the new era.

3.2. Helping young students strengthen their sense of the Chinese national community

Strengthening the sense of community among the Chinese nation is one of the main tasks of ideological and political education in universities in the new era, and it is also the primary goal of inheriting and carrying forward the spirit of the oath of allegiance. In essence, the spirit of the Oath Stele is a vibrant expression of the spirit of solidarity, honor and disgrace, life and death, and a community with a common future for all ethnic groups, demonstrating profound national unity and patriotism. The integration of ethnic culture and ideological and political education in universities can help cultivate a sense of ethnic identity and belonging among young people indirectly. By studying the history of ethnic unity in the “Spirit of the Oath Stele” systematically and learning from the excellent traditions of all ethnic groups uniting to support the Party and work together, students can break free from narrow nationalism, develop a correct national consciousness, and deeply understand that the Chinese nation is a community with a shared future^[2]. At the same time, by immersing students in the integration of various ethnic cultures, they can feel the unique charm of each ethnic culture and its trend of blending and coexisting. It will give them a stronger sense of belonging and pride in Chinese culture, motivate them to take the initiative in maintaining national unity, practice the spirit of unity and struggle, and eventually become soldiers of the country who actively promote national rejuvenation.

4. Practical strategies for the interwoven development of ethnic culture and ideological and political education in higher education institutions from the perspective of the spirit of the oath monument

4.1. Deeply explore the spiritual essence and optimize the content system of ideological and political courses

To achieve a deep integration of the two, the primary task is to take the spirit of the oath monument as the core, deeply explore high-quality educational resources in ethnic culture, reconstruct and optimize the content system of ideological and political courses in universities, and ensure precise alignment between cultural content and the focus of ideological and political education. Higher education institutions must take national unity education as the core, systematically examine the historical origins, core connotations, and contemporary values of the oath spirit, and firmly adhere to the basic principles of the Party, national unity, hard work, and continuous progress, accurately integrating the oath spirit into compulsory ideological and political courses such as “Ideological Morality and Rule of Law” and “Outline of Modern Chinese History”. At the same time, they should develop characteristic elective courses and school-based courses with a focus on interpreting the spirit of national unity culture and oath monuments. When designing course content, we must break away from fragmented and superficial cultural integration methods. On the contrary, we should deeply integrate the excellent qualities, unity stories, and spirit of struggle in national culture with the key challenges and priorities of ideological and political education. We interpret the essence of national unity through the historical deeds of the oath monument, and interpret the spirit of struggle in the new era through the struggles of various ethnic groups in the border areas^[3]. This ensures that the content of ideological and political education has both theoretical depth and cultural warmth, achieving precise implementation of ethnic cultural education and shaping a strong ideological spirit.

4.2. Innovating educational models and constructing diverse, integrated educational environments

To extend the range of traditional classroom teaching, create many types of new models, build a good, all-encompassing educational environment, and achieve sustained, harmonious progress in both, several issues have arisen. Universities should organize extracurricular activities for primary school students. On the one hand, the teaching form in class needs to be improved by using all sorts of methods, such as situation-based teaching, case studies, etc. Through the integration of historical fragments, ethnic cultural archives and past achievements of the oath monument, the appeal and influence of classroom teaching can be increased to help students feel the spirit of the nation and receive ideological and political education. At the same time, they should actively expand the environment for extracurricular education and integrate the spirit of the oath monument and ethnic culture into the development of campus culture. Build a campus platform for ethnic unity culture, set up themed bulletin boards, establish a cultural lecture hall, and regularly organize activities such as ethnic cultural performances, spirit lectures on the Oath Monument, ethnic unity essay competitions, and cultural sharing salons, etc. The above measures will create a mood of harmony and mutual assistance in all parts of the school^[4].

4.3. Improving educational mechanisms to ensure the long-term implementation of integrated development

The integration and development of ethnic culture and ideological and political education in higher education is not a short-term effort; This requires sound institutional mechanisms to support, avoid fragmentation, formalism, and short-termism in integration, and promote the standardization and normalization of educational work. Universities should anchor their work within the overall framework of cultivating virtues and talents, and establish a coordination mechanism

that combines cultural education with ideological and political education. By integrating the strengths of academic affairs, student affairs, the Communist Youth League Committee, and academic departments, universities can clarify the educational responsibilities of each unit, establish cross-departmental collaborative education platforms, comprehensively promote the development of ethnic cultural resources, curriculum development, activity organization, and practical implementation, and overcome the limitations of single department education. At the same time, they should establish and improve teaching methods and promote regular mechanisms for academic exchange. Organize professional teaching research meetings for ideological and political education workers and humanities teachers to explore how and in what way to integrate the spirit of the oath monument and national culture into ideological and political education. It will help to revise the teaching plan, improve the content of teaching, and continuously enhance teachers' ability to explain culture and apply it in education.

5. Conclusion

As an excellent spiritual inheritance of multi-ethnic coexistence and prosperity, the spirit of the oath carries the essence of national unity, development and mutual assistance. It serves as a spiritual connection to carry out the spread of ethnic culture and ideological and political education in universities. In the background of education in the new era, promoting the deep integration of ethnic culture and ideological and political education in higher education is an important way to optimize the ideological and political education system in higher education, inherit and promote excellent ethnic culture, and cultivate young people's correct understanding of nationality and patriotism. This paper will introduce some typical cases that have been achieved in the optimization of the curriculum system, innovation of the educational environment, and long-term mechanism construction. The close connection of the two can effectively solve the problems of monotonous form, insufficient content, and limited effect in traditional ideological and political education, and nourish the growth of young people with a profound national culture and a vibrant national spirit.

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Disclosure statement

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