The Enlightenment of Value Clarification to the Value Education of College Students

Xuemin Gao
Yunnan University of Finance & Economics, Kunming, Yunnan, 650221, China
mingao55@126.com

Keywords: Value Clarification; College Students; Value Education; Enlightenment

Abstract: The value education of college students has always been valued by all sectors of society. Values education is not only an important teaching content in the ideological and political curriculum system of the university, but also a key education for the healthy growth of college students. Before, domestic colleges and universities have been using the traditional single teaching method, which has been unable to meet the actual educational needs of college students. The application of value clarification can make up for the shortcomings of traditional education to a certain extent. This paper analysis and studies value clarification to demonstrate the effective enlightenment of this teaching method to the value education of college students.

1. Introduction

The value clarification has great reference significance for the ideological and political education in colleges and universities. The main reason is that the value clarification can start from the actual life of students, take students as the main body of value education, give full play to the guiding role of teachers, provide methods of value analysis, judgment and selection, reduce the value confusion of college students and recognize the value, form correct values and increase the effectiveness of education.

2. Overview of Value Clarification

The value clarification was proposed by Louis Raths, an American writer, in his book Value and Teaching. It emphasizes initiative and freedom, and its values are clarified through individual free choice, reflection and action, rather than forced indoctrination by external thoughts [1]. Complex social relations and social reality make people more confused, which makes people unable to establish and choose their own values. The value clarification takes this as the research background, takes people's daily life experience and psychological environment as the breakthrough point, carries out analysis and exploration, and puts forward a set of methods to help people face confusion, let people analysis, judge and choose from the state of value confusion, and finally form their own values and get out of the state of confusion.

The value clarification is a brand-new educational method, which is different from the traditional output ideological education method. The value clarification does not blindly still a set of arranged and only correct values into students, but teaches students a set of value process, so that students can analysis and judge their own life, future goals and past experience in this process and make
choices to improve students' ability to analysis and deal with ideological problems, so as to find their own opinions about value, recognize their own value concepts, and be responsible for their actions. In terms of behaviour, the value clarification is a technical means of ideological intervention, starting from the internal thoughts, so that the conflict of values can be clarified gradually, until they can realize the change, and finally promote the consistency of individual behaviour and values.

3. Current Situation of Value Education for College Students

Under the background of economic globalization, young college students are the hope of the country and the nation in the future. The ideological and political education of college students has become an important work of the school and even the country. Carrying out ideological and political education for college students, cultivating and enhancing their ability of judgment and choice, enabling them to establish correct values and take this as a life orientation, can make them resist the impact of bad ideas, enhance their sense of social responsibility and mission, so as to better adapt to the environment of cultural openness and win the future.

3.1. Ignoring the Reality of Students

Nowadays, the ideological education of college students in our country is mostly based on political and ideological curriculum education, and league organization education and community education account for a relatively small proportion in the whole ideological education. Such a way of education ignores the main position of college students, the educational content is still on the surface, not combined with the actual life of college students, and the overall ideological education is lack of effectiveness, resulting in the situation that college students are not interested in the ideological education curriculum. This traditional external indoctrination education method also makes students dislike it. The purpose of students learning ideological education courses is to earn enough credits, or even refuse ideological education, which runs counter to the purpose of moral education in colleges and universities.

3.2. Lack of Self-education

The correct values of college students are the result of the joint action of others' education and self-education. Self-education plays a key role in the final practical effect of values education. If students want to realize self-education, they need to fully understand the educational content and form their own ideas, but most students lack this process, resulting in the lack of self-education. First of all, college students in our country only passively accept the content of values education, lack of self-thinking, and do not have a deeper understanding and rational thinking of the content of education, so they will not form their own opinions. In the process of values education, college students lack teaching practice, only have rich theoretical knowledge, and do not closely connect theoretical knowledge with social life, so they lack the link of value revision.

4. The Importance of Value Clarification to the Value Education of College Students

Value clarification can pay attention to the status of college students in moral development. According to the needs of college students' development, the concept of value clarification is integrated into various educational methods, so that they can obtain educational value in a relaxed, free, independent and equal environment, so as to form their own judgment, thinking and choice, make up for the shortcomings of traditional method of values education, and enhance the
effectiveness of moral education.

4.1. Be Able to Cultivate Students' Self-discipline

The value clarification can cultivate students' self-discipline. In the process of receiving education, students learn to think and choose actively. It urges students to awaken their self-discipline consciousness on the basis of initiative, so as to form self-discipline. The value clarification enables students to make self-judgment, self-selection and self-education through students' communication and cooperation, so as to cultivate students' self-discipline.

4.2. Improve the Overall Quality of College Students

The rapid development of science and technology provides a convenient channel of information dissemination for the value clarification: network. The network has the characteristics of interactivity, secrecy, effectiveness and convenience. It can timely feedback the situation of value education of college students, help educators master the initiative of students' ideological and political education, help college students correct their wrong understanding of the world and society, and constantly improve the overall quality of college students [2].

5. Value Clarification Strategy

When carrying out values education for college students, teachers can use the value clarification to carry out classroom values education, so as to mobilize students' classroom enthusiasm and enable them to participate in learning and discussion. After free choice, multiple choices and careful choices, students can pay attention to their choices and make them public, finally, they can take actions and make repeated implementation, so as to form real values.

5.1. Clarifying Reaction Method

As the most flexible teaching method in the value clarification strategy, clarifying reaction method can make the teacher and students to have one-to-one conversation, and also enable the teacher and the whole class to have collective conversation. The clarifying reaction method can stimulate students' self-thinking through some response techniques, help students form a good habit of thinking about value problems and cultivate students' ability of moral evaluation [3].Applying this method to classroom education can effectively guide students' attention to confused views in daily life, enable students to think and judge values accurately and effectively, and put forward corresponding views and conclusions. However, it should be noted that the time of conversation and discussion in class should not be too long by using this method, and the topics of conversation and discussion also need to change flexibly and vary from person to person.

5.2. Value Table Filling Method

This method is more suitable for professional problems, social phenomena, social problems, etc., through some value tables designed and compiled by teachers, students can fill in the answers and express their views and understanding. Finally, write it in writing according to the process method of value clarification, so that students can form self-thinking in the process of writing, and fully stimulate students' further thinking and evaluation ability.
5.3. Continuous Discussion Method of Value

This method is extensive and applicable to problems of universal significance, especially those with two extreme views. Problems with two extreme views usually have a wider range of continuations and can be extended to more options. Because some complex social problems are difficult to answer with "yes" or "no". This method can enable students to actively participate in the discussion, fully think and understand, finally get their own views and look at problems from a more diverse perspective.

6. The Enlightenment of Value Clarification to the Value Education of College Students

6.1. Colleges and Universities Need to Change the Contents and Methods of Education

Contemporary college students generally face some emotional problems, academic problems, employment problems, etc. Because the age range of college students is mostly from 17 to 23 years old, which is between green and mature, the self-regulation ability of college students is generally not high. In the face of some psychological conditions, special teachers and special courses are needed to intervene and help. For college students, the study of ideological and political education curriculum can not only promote the all-round development of their own quality, but also guide their own personal growth. At present, the educational content of ideological and political course in colleges and universities is mainly political economics and Marxist philosophy, etc.. For students, the teaching content is far away from the problems concerned by students in real life, and because the courses are mainly theoretical, students lack interest, and the whole teaching lacks effectiveness.

Therefore, one of the key elements of the value clarification is to focus on life, put the key points of teaching on solving the problems concerned by students in real life, and change the educational content and methods from reality. Ideological and political educators in colleges and universities should go into the student group, understand the problems concerned by students, take it as the syllabus, and let students find the answers to the problems in teaching. They can combine the clarifying reaction method in the value clarification strategy to mobilize students' enthusiasm, change boring educational methods, activate the classroom atmosphere, and make students' ideological and political education achieve practical results.

6.2. Respect Students' Subjective Status

Through the value clarification theory, it is not difficult to find that students are the main body in the process of moral and value education, while teachers are the guides. Teachers have the ability of education and training and can guide students to make value choices. When carrying out values education, teachers must fully understand the differences of students. According to the differences of students, teaching methods also need to be different. In teaching, teachers need to start from students' actual feelings, let students learn self-improvement in the process of value formation, and establish correct new values. In the process of ideological and political teaching, teachers must change their thinking. Students are the main body of value education and teachers are the guides. In the face of some complex problems, teachers apply the value clarification to the problems to further guide students to reflect on their past experience, analysis, judge and make choices [4].

6.3. Comprehensive Application of Various Teaching Methods

The value clarification theory points out that the development of values in the current world is gradually diversified. The traditional single teaching method and the educational content of
emphasizing theory and weakening practice must be changed. Only by comprehensively applying a
variety of teaching methods can teachers give play to its practical effect and cultivate students' 
ability of value judgment and value choice. The comprehensive application of various teaching 
methods requires educators to learn to extract their essence and discard their dross. They should not 
only inherit the advantages of traditional teaching methods, but also absorb the advantages of value 
clarification, integrate and apply it comprehensively[5].

6.4. Pay Attention to the Guidance of Students' Value

At present, our country is in the environment of multi-cultural ideology impact, which has a
certain impact on the ideological concepts and value emotions of contemporary college students. 
Contemporary college students should correctly grasp the period of ideological collision, which
puts forward new requirements for value education. Value clarification theory should be involved. 
Teachers should not only pay attention to the ideological education of college students, but also pay
attention to the guidance of students' correct values. The focus of value guidance is how to let
students know what kind of values they need to establish. It is a way and method, rather than the
indoctrination of a single correct value concept "Guidance" requires education to have goals and
directions, be guided by correct values, and take students' independent thinking of problems and
correct choice as the value goal[6].

7. Conclusions

In a word, the application of value clarification in ideological and political education in colleges
and universities can provide the traditional teaching methods with complementary advantages, and
play an important role in the education of college students' values. Through the analysis and
research on the concept of value clarification, combined with the current situation of the value
education of contemporary college students, some enlightenment is obtained: colleges and
universities should change their own teaching methods, recognize the main position of students, and
comprehensively use a variety of teaching methods to guide students' value.

References

[1] An Qiuting. Enlightenment of Value Clarification Method to Ideological and Political Education in Colleges and 
Universities [J]. New West, 2019 (23): 2.
[2] Wang Chantli. On the Application of Value Clarification Method in the Teaching of Ideological and Political Theory 
Course in Colleges and Universities [J]. Jilin Education, 2019 (2): 3.
[3] Bao Feng. Historical Review of Value Clarification and Its Sustainable Development in Contemporary Times [J]. 
Journal of Hebei University of Engineering (Social Science Edition), 2015, 32 (3): 4.
[4] Ji Min. Value Education for College Students: Significance, Essence and Strategy [J]. Journal of Huaiyin Institute 
of Technology, 2019, 28(02):94-97.
[5] Li Rui. Reasonable Reference of Value Clarification in the Teaching of Ideological and Political Theory Course in 
Colleges and Universities [J]. Journal of Yichun University, 2011, 033(010):170-172.
[6] Li Jing. Scientific Treatment of Indoctrination and Value Clarification -- Thoughts on Improving the Effectiveness 
of Ideological and Political Education [J]. Journal of Anqing Normal University (Social Science Edition), 2014,000 
(001): 157-159.