

# Research on the Connotation, Logical Path and Enhancement Path of the Sense of Gain in Ideological and Political Education for University Students

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## Abstract

The sense of gain in ideological and political education for university students refers to the gain of university students in the process of receiving ideological and political education or after the act of ideological and political education, and the satisfaction of their needs in material, spiritual and behavioral aspects, which leads to the subjective positive psychological experience and the objective psychological state formed on this basis, and its logical path consists of three stages, namely, "material gain - spiritual gain - behavioral gain". Facing the new situation and new requirements, the path of improving the sense of gain in university ideological and political education should be researched in terms of educational content, objectives, process and effects, so as to further enhance the quality and level of ideological and political education for university students.

## Keywords

Ideological and Political Education for University Students; Sense of Gain; Logical Path; Enhancement Path.

## 1. Introduction

In February 2015, General Secretary Xi Jinping took the lead in putting forward the concept of "sense of gain", pointing out that "the gold content of the reform program shall be fully demonstrated, so that the people will have more sense of gain".[1] When reflected in the field of ideological and political education for university students, it means to let university students have more "sense of gain". "Sense of gain" is of great significance to the ideological and political education for university students, which is not only a measuring standard of the quality and effectiveness of ideological and political education for university students, but also a value and goal orientation, which drives the ideological and political education for university students to develop in both depth and breadth. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct a comprehensive discussion on the connotation, logical path and enhancement path of the sense of gain in ideological and political education for university students.

## 2. Connotation of Sense of Gain in Ideological and Political Education for University Students

The term "sense of gain" was first proposed by General Secretary Xi Jinping at the 10th meeting of the Central Leading Group for Comprehensively Deepening Reform on Feb. 27, 2015. The term "sense of gain" has rapidly become popular on the Internet because it meets the expectations of the people for a better life, and has gradually been applied to various fields such as politics, economy, culture, society and education, and has gradually become an important indicator for measuring various tasks.[2] At the end of 2015, "sense of gain" was selected as one

of the top ten buzzwords by "Yao Wen Jiao Zi". And in May 2016, it was noted as one of the top ten new words by "Report on the State of Language Life in China (2016)".

The word "sense of gain" is a combination of the words "gain" and "sense". The Modern Chinese Dictionary explains "gain" as "obtain and get (mostly used for abstract things)", which refers to the substantive gain of things.[3] The Modern Chinese Dictionary explains "sense" as "feeling, emotion, sentiment", which refers to the subjective feeling of objective things. Thus, it can be seen that the sense of gain is the subjective feeling of the subject to obtain objective things.

The original meaning of "sense of gain" refers to the feeling of satisfaction after obtaining certain benefits. The sense of gain in ideological and political education refers to the continuous and positive subjective feelings of participants in the process of participating in ideological and political education due to the practical satisfaction of certain needs. The sense of gain in ideological and political education for university students refers to the objective psychological state formed on the basis of the subjective positive psychological experience resulting from the satisfaction of the material, spiritual and behavioral needs of university students in the process of receiving ideological and political education or after the completion of ideological and political education behaviors.

### **3. Logical Path of the Sense of Gain in Ideological and Political Education for University Students**

#### **3.1. Material Gain is the Basis for Survival and Development**

The sense of material gain refers to the psychological state generated by university students through ideological and political education activities to satisfy their own physiological needs. From the perspective of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Theory, people can only get other sense of gain after they satisfy their physiological needs and pursue the material benefits necessary for survival. In this sense, the material gain is one of the most basic senses of gain in the ideological and political education for university students, and it is the foundation of other sense of gain. From the social point of view, through ideological and political education, the knowledge base, basic values and moral level of university students meet the basic requirements of socialized production, which consolidates the foundation for the smoothly and orderly socialized production. Through the ideological and political education for university students, their basic theoretical knowledge, ideological level and moral quality can truly meet the requirements needed to engage in the production, and then they can participate in the social production activities smoothly and orderly.

#### **3.2. Spiritual Gain is the Focus of University Students' Needs Satisfaction**

Spiritual gain refers to a psychological state generated when university students obtain the satisfaction of spiritual needs through ideological and political education activities, and then obtain the meaning of life.[4] The main goal of ideological and political education for university students is to improve students' ideological and moral qualities and shape their worldview, outlook on life and values, which are the important components of their spiritual world. University students are socialized people, and the social nature of people determines that university students not only have the satisfaction of the material world, but also have the needs of the spiritual world. As a higher level of acquisition for university students, spiritual gain is an important part of ideological and political education gain, and it is a key factor that dominates and governs the behavioral gain. The spiritual gain for university students mainly contains three aspects: the first is the ideological guidance with the core of students' psychological needs, the second is the personalized leading with the core of students' individual development, and the third is the value leading with the core of students' psychological expectation.

### **3.3. Behavioral Gain is the Ultimate Goal of the Ideological and Political Education for University Students**

Behavioral gain refers to a state of psychological satisfaction generated by the behavioral changes of university students through ideological and political education activities.[5] Behavior is the external manifestation of ideological and moral cultivation, which is not only the most obvious content of the ideological and political education for university students, but also an important symbol for evaluating the effectiveness of ideological and political education. As a conscientious and unconscious way of behavior, behavioral gain can make university students reflect people and things outside themselves in practice toward the requirements of ideological and political education, and behavioral gain is generated by spiritual gain. The actual behavior of university students is the external expression of their ideological consciousness, that is, the coherent unity of what they think. It is the goal of ideological and political education for university students to learn the scientific ideological values through ideological and political education, and to carry out practical activities through it. In a certain sense, ideological and political education and practical activities are complementary to each other.

## **4. Enhancement Path of the Sense of Gain in Ideological and Political Education for University Students**

### **4.1. Further Enhance the Sense of Contemporaneity of the Ideological and Political Education Content of University Students**

General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that "To do a good job of ideological and political work in universities, it is necessary to change according to events, advance according to the times, and innovate according to the situation." [6] Ideological and political education for university students is a theory that is constantly updated with the development of practice, and the content of ideological and political education for university students should follow the law of social development and the law of human growth, so as to keep abreast of the times, and be close to the reality and life. On the one hand, on the basis of the original ideological and political education knowledge of university students, we should add new and deep ideological and political education contents, pay attention to new ideas, new technologies and new concepts, find the new requirements in the new situation, and absorb and summarize them, add knowledge content, enrich ideological and political education contents and form new scientific theories. On the other hand, we should focus on social hot issues, explore educational resources rich in the spirit of the times in the real field, make the ideological and political education content more energetic, and improve the sense of integration and realism of ideological and political education content. Using the spirit of the times to influence university students can enhance the acceptability of educational content and enhance the sense of gain in university students' ideological and political education. Therefore, the ideological and political education for university students should integrate the knowledge of political science, philosophy, psychology, education, sociology, ethics and other multidisciplinary disciplines, broaden the field of ideological and political education, enhance the value and humanity of ideological and political education content, form the appeal by extending the breadth and depth of the education content, and let university students widely participate actively and gain self-cognition.

### **4.2. Further Improve the Directionality of Ideological and Political Education for University Students**

Innovate the way of education, integrate the ideological and political education courses with the function of ideological and political education, play the role of collaborative education, make the ideological and political education in universities more directional, and lay the foundation

for the country to cultivate "high-graded, precision, and advanced" talents. The ideological and political education curriculum in and universities is the main artery of education in universities. Educators should ensure high quality teaching and high level education, play the role of educators in the process of education in many aspects and do a good job as a leader. Besides, educators are supposed to explore the ideological and political education functions of various courses from multiple angles and promote mutual learning and appreciation. Build an excellent nurturing environment and truly achieve the organic integration of explicit and implicit education. Explicit education is basically used for the transmission of theoretical knowledge, which requires the consistency of knowledge and the continuity of learning and understanding; implicit education is mostly based on the infiltration of teaching environment and learning atmosphere, which attaches importance to teaching without teaching. Therefore, the full integration of explicit and implicit education is the key to make university students improve their sense of gain in ideological and political education.

#### **4.3. Further Improve the Interactivity and Affinity in the Process of Universities Students' Ideological and Political Education**

General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out at the National Conference on Ideological and Political Work in and Universities that "The corn of Ideological and political work fundamentally is the work of being a man, and it must revolve around students, care for students and serve students." [6] Ideological and political education is a process of bilateral interaction between educators and educational objects, and both should play their roles well in this process. As the "supplier", educators should provide quality educational contents, absorb and organize theories, combine educational contents with students' reality, make good use of the main channel of class teaching, improve the language art of educators, and find the right fit between teaching and learning. The educator should become the guide of class teaching, build a platform for free discussion, let the education target become the main character, and achieve the ideal educational objects. In the process of communication, educators should pay attention to the equality of identities of both sides, inject emotional elements, promote in-depth communication between both sides, build a sense of trust in activities and obtain emotional identity. In order to have better interaction, educators should combine online and offline interaction, make the lively interaction, promote the life of the education process, and let both sides get pleasure in the process of participation. As the "demand side", university students should improve their consciousness, actively study and master Marxist theoretical knowledge and ideological and political theories, improve their theoretical skills and self-cognitive level, form good knowledge and acquire ability to acquire knowledge. University students actively participate in teaching activities and interact with educators positively, so that both of them can coordinate with each other, and they can obtain new value support and source of strength while obtaining knowledge and spiritual wealth, thus generating a new sense of gain.

#### **4.4. Further Improve the Acceptance Effect of Ideological and Political Education for University Students**

The sense of gain produced by university students in ideological and political education can only be enhanced and strengthened by returning to practice. Therefore, it is one of the important ways for educators to constantly expand the practice path to strengthen the sense of gain in university ideological and political education. Take campus cultural activities as the carrier for ideological and political practice education in universities, so that university students can earn praise and approval in actively participating in activities which make students full of positive energy. It is a necessary way to help students strengthen self-education and show themselves, and it's also a main platform to show the success of education and teaching as well as learning. Social practice is an important cornerstone for creating high-quality ideological and political education. It can effectively help university students to join the

society, and it's also an effective way for university students to sense and observe the social life. University students carry out social practice with a strong purpose, closely related to the social issues. To give full play to the wisdom of university students and achieve self-approval, it's necessary to strengthen university students' attention to politics and national identity. With the coming of the Internet, network virtual practice gradually comes into people's attention. Taking the network virtual practice as the innovative carrier, breaks the shackles of the traditional practical teaching of university students' ideological and political education. With the help of diversified Internet platforms, universities should build ideological and political education websites, optimizing practice methods, and breaking through time and space constraints, to comprehensively improve university students' sense of gain in ideological and political education.

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