# The Cultivation of College Students' Civic Awareness from the Perspective of Modernization of National Governance

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**Abstract:** One of the conditions to realize the modernization of national governance and the comprehensive modernization of society is to have citizens with modern consciousness and modern literacy. The citizen consciousness, citizen behavior and citizen ability of contemporary college students directly reflect China's future political trend and governance mode, and to a certain extent determine the success or failure of the country's political modernization transformation. Therefore, it is necessary to optimize the path of Cultivating College Students' civic consciousness from the aspects of University, country and society.

#### 1. Introduction

In order to build China into a modern socialist power in the middle of the 21st century, one of the important goals is to realize the modernization of national governance system and capacity. Modernization is an inevitable trend in the evolution of civilization, and contemporary China is in a critical period of transition from tradition to modernity.

The modernization of national governance includes the modernization of national governance system and the modernization of governance ability. It not only points to the modernization of the country with system and system as the core content, but also means the modernization of people with human thought and quality as the content. That is to say, one of the conditions to realize the modernization of national governance and the comprehensive modernization of society is to have citizens with modern consciousness and modern literacy.

Karl Marx pointed out that the essence of human is not the abstract thing inherent in a single person, but the sum of all social relations in its reality [1]. In his book Human Modernization, Engels points out that human modernization is an essential factor of national modernization. It is not a byproduct of the end of the modernization process, but a prerequisite for the long-term development and success of the modernization system and economy [2].

From the perspective of the modernization of national governance, the successful transformation of governance mechanism is based on the modernization of human beings, that is, the developed citizen power and the mature citizen consciousness of the people.

# 2. The value of Cultivating College Students' civic consciousness in the modernization of national governance

## 2.1. College students are the solid social foundation in the process of modernization of national governance.

Today's college students grow up in the deep stage of reform and opening up and the Internet era. They receive more systematic and scientific professional education, have a broader vision, and are more sensitive to social development and human destiny.

They are willing to participate in national social governance with their own expertise, and safeguard their private and public interests through consultation and cooperation. Their participation in social life has a great influence on improving the level of governance modernization and

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constructing the pattern of governance modernization. In turn, their participation and recognition will also promote their professionalism and contribute to the modernization of the country.

### 2.2. The cultivation of College Students' civic consciousness can provide a helthy public atmosphere for the modernization of national governance.

College students share such characteristics: the same study experience, the same collective living and learning circumstances, and the same outlook on life and values. In the free and active atmosphere, they will stimulate each other to pay attention to public life, stimulate each other's enthusiasm for participation, and help each other to achieve citizenship.

College students keep close contact with their families during the semesters, and their sense of governance and citizenship will affect more social members through family members. In addition, college students are good at using the Internet, which helps to produce a greater demonstration effect, and has a rational guiding role for other people to participate in governance, and then create a mature citizen atmosphere.

### 2.3. The cultivation of College Students' civic awareness is an important part of college education.

The cultivation of civic consciousness is mainly reflected in the process of political socialization, which can only be brought into full play through education<sup>[3]</sup>. University stage is an important period for the growth and development of personality. College students' values and political consciousness are acquired and developed in this period<sup>[4]</sup>.

Ideological and political education in Colleges and universities can integrate college students' social consciousness, standardize social behavior, complete the political socialization of the young generation, and cultivate citizens who meet the requirements of the times.

#### 3. Current disadvantages

#### 3.1. Limitations of Ideological and political education.

Professor Liu Yunlin pointed out that if there is a lack of rationality in the content of Ideological and political education, no matter how good motivation and valuable enthusiasm educators have, and no matter how much effort they have paid in education, the effect is often difficult to be satisfactory<sup>[5]</sup>.

In the new era, the content of Ideological and political education lags behind, and abstract theory is emphasized too much, which is basically a kind of step-by-step circular preaching. However, social life and the reality of the educated are ignored, which leads to the vacuousness of education and lack of appeal and persuasion. Theory comes from practice and finally returns to practice. Good quality is formed and applied in practice. At present, college students rarely make in-depth investigation and research in the practice of political and economic development, with narrow channels and simple paths if they participate.

#### 3.2. Lack of civic awareness of College Students.

Civic awareness can reflect the degree of modernization of a country, and the awareness of rights and responsibilities is the core content of civic awareness. There are still some gaps between the current situation of College Students' civic awareness and the requirements of the modernization of national governance, such as the lack of strong sense of participation in service, the lack of governance ability. These gaps make the future national governance talents in a fuzzy state of self-development. In addition, due to the lack of opportunities for effective participation, the imperfection of the system and the blocked channels, the practice level of College Students' civic behavior is low or on the surface.

#### 3.3. Adverse effects of social environment.

In the process of China's rapid economic development, the superposition of social problems has led to the impact and erosion of College Students' outlook, outlook on world, on life and values.

They agree with China's development path, but they are unable to correctly understand the difficulties and setbacks encountered in the reform. In addition, the government governance is not in place after the occurrence of local crisis events, which will dispel the trust of college students in the authority, thus invisibly escaping social responsibility and diminishing the enthusiasm of social participation and service.

China is in the process of traditional to modern, agricultural to industrial transformation, where people gradually go out of the village, from family organization form, into the city. However, people still retain the complex of villagers in the traditional acquaintance society. What they pay attention to is only their own and the original collective they belong, and they lack necessary understanding of the other and the whole public society.

#### 4. The optimization of the cultivation path of College Students' civic consciousness

#### 4.1. Expand the functions of university courses.

To a large extent, the modernization of human beings is inseparable from the disciplines and related courses that meet the requirements of modernization. As the carrier of education, all professional courses can refine the resources of cultivating civic awareness. From the perspective of national governance modernization, ideological and political education, as an important way to improve national governance ability and national quality, also needs to realize modernization and innovation.

The goal of Ideological and political education is to cultivate qualified builders and reliable successors for the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, that is, first of all, qualified citizens. In order to promote the development of the country, it is necessary to increase the specific skills of political participation in the future, enhance the ability of college students to identify the law of social development and the future and destiny of the country. At the same time, we can try to build an equal discourse communication system, which helps to cultivate the spirit and personality of college students. In addition, the university can try to strengthen the construction of general courses of civic education on the basis of Ideological and political courses. In modern society, the promotion of civic education helps to cultivate intelligent and accessible modern citizens and enable them to integrate into society and participate in national and social public life more effectively.

#### 4.2. Embed education in governance practice.

Dewey, an American educator, said that the only way to prepare for social life is to participate in social life <sup>[6]</sup>. Schools, societies and the states all need to provide the corresponding practice platform for college students in the process of modernization reform, expand the space for students to participate, and enhance their sense of political responsibility.

Schools can let students participate in campus co-governance, establish a smooth mechanism for students to express their interests and protect their rights and interests. The self-development of student associations can provide incubation base for the cultivation of citizenship awareness of college students, and the regular social public service activities can improve the public spirit and social care awareness of college students. The government can regularly arrange internship posts for college students to observe and practice, so as to enhance students' awareness of the current social grass-roots governance, and improve the ability of college students to participate in politics as citizens.

#### 4.3. Create a good macro environment.

The cultivation of civic literacy of college students is not only related to the school curriculum, but also to the whole life. At the family level, it is necessary to create a new and good democratic atmosphere. Children and parents can actively and equally exchange and reach consensus on public issues or activities, which can promote the modern character of independence, active participation in services and promotion of public interests. Governments at all levels need to pay attention to the improvement of governance theory and implementation, so that national governance policies can be

implemented in an all-round way, build a good government image, and enhance students' sense of national trust and enthusiasm for participating in service.

#### **Summary**

"Modernization of national governance system and governance capacity" is the general goal of China's comprehensive deepening reform. To promote the modernization of human beings as modern citizens is the way and urgent task of modernization of national governance system and governance capacity. As an important part of Chinese citizens, the development of contemporary college students in China mainly depends on their persistence and practice. Only by continuously exploring and cultivating their citizenship awareness can we continue to promote the construction and transformation of the modernization of national governance system and governance capacity.

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