# Citizenship Education of College Students under the Goal of Modernization of National Governance

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**Abstract:** The modernization of national governance is not achieved overnight, but through a step-by-step, long-term complex project. A nation will prosper only when its young people thrive. To a certain extent, the citizen consciousness, citizen behavior and citizen ability of contemporary college students affect the success or failure of the transformation of national political modernization. Therefore, we should improve the path of civic education for college students.

#### 1. Introduction

"We must adhere to and improve the socialist system with Chinese characteristics, and constantly promote the modernization of the national governance system and capacity. [1]" said the report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. Modern governance advocates the coordinated construction of the state, society and citizens, including not only the elements of things, systems, but also the elements of people. In a sense, human elements are the fundamental<sup>[2]</sup>. In the process of modernization of national governance system and governance capacity, human modernization is an indispensable part. In his book modernization of human beings, Engels pointed out that "a country can be truly called a modern country only when its people are modern people, its citizens have changed from rational and behavioral to modern personality, and its staff in modern political, economic and cultural management institutions have acquired some modernity that is compatible with the development of modernization Home. Otherwise, high-speed and stable economic development and effective management will not be achieved. [3]" The modernization of human being is the cultivation of individual equal citizenship and modern citizenship consciousness and ability. The term "citizen" originated from ancient Greece. Aristotle pointed out that only a free man who has the ability to discuss citizens' public interests can be called a citizen<sup>[4]</sup>.

This means that everybody is equal in legal status, and can decide social public affairs and even national policies through a systematic democratic system. Therefore, in a certain sense, the shaping of citizenship, the cultivation of civic awareness and the ability of citizens constitute the basic premise of the modernization of national governance.

# 2. The importance of College Students' citizenship education to the modernization of national governance

## 2.1. College students are the backbone of the modernization process of national governance.

A nation will prosper only when its young people thrive. College students are the participants in the process of national modernization, the successors of future national governance modernization, and the practitioners of national governance modernization. As a group receiving higher education, college students' professional quality, ability and ideological state can promote the development of the country more orderly, which is an important force to promote the modernization of national governance and the main force of national governance in the future.

The cultivation of College Students' civic awareness can provide rich human capital for the modernization of national governance and guarantee the rapid development of the

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country.<sup>[5]</sup>Students' participation in the process of modernization of national governance can make them feel the sense of achievement, and the sense of social responsibility that behavior brings to them. This in turn promotes them to study in the professional field and strive to better realize their life value.

# 2.2. The civic awareness and participation of college students play a leading role in public space.

The collective life of college students enables them to use their professional knowledge and rational cognition to face and deal with public events, and they can exchange and collide with each other to build the personality required by modern citizens. In addition, the skillful use of Internet tools can guide and drive the family and friends around to pay attention to the society, showing a magnifying effect, leading more people to participate in public behavior.

### 2.3. The support of ideological and political education for college students.

Robert Dahl, a famous American political scientist, once pointed out that "no matter whether one likes it or not, one cannot be completely outside a certain political system. [6]" Marx once pointed out that "the real content of all epoch-making systems is formed due to the needs of the period in which they came into being. [7]" The goal of Ideological and political education is to cultivate qualified builders and reliable successors of socialism. Ideological and political education, as an educational practice of cultivating people, can promote learners to be firm in their goals, have a basic sense of political rule of law, participate in the work of governance system with a positive and rational attitude and scientific and systematic knowledge, and ensure the stability and harmony of social order and the smooth realization of the modernization of national governance.

## 3. Current problems

## 3.1. The deficiency of Ideological and Political Education.

China has entered a period of rapid development, but part of the content taught in the ideological and political courses cannot keep up with in time, which will make college students think that theory and practice are not connected, which greatly weakens their confidence in the national system.<sup>[8]</sup>

In terms of educational objectives, we have neglected the bottom line education of quality that a qualified citizen should have. Because we use a unified "perfect" model to shape every student, resulting in "false, big, empty" consequences<sup>[9]</sup>. In terms of education mode, the top-down compulsory indoctrination education is the main way to stimulate the resistance of college students who are more in pursuit of individuality and liberalization, which hinders the formation of citizen cultural foundation required by the modernization of national governance.

Due to the imperfection of the system and the unsmooth channels, the practice of college students generally stays in writing. In this way, we can't get the promotion of citizen consciousness and related ability. As a type of educational practice, if ideological and political education can not meet the requirements of the modernization of national governance, it will lose its existence value.

#### 3.2. The adverse effects of the macro environment.

China is still in the stage of transition from agricultural civilization to industrial civilization, and the traditional political culture formed in the history, such as power standard, subject psychology, and hierarchy concept, is still attached to the base<sup>[10]</sup>.

The government and public institutions are characterized by the different words and deeds of some staff members, and full of official tune. This weakens college students' sense of identity to the national governance ability and governance system, and also weakens the transformation of College Students' civic consciousness and civic personality.

#### 4. The path of civic education for College Students

## 4.1. Create a good external education environment.

The effect of civic education is not immediate. It needs not only to keep pace with the times, but also a good external environment. The Internet plus Projects can be used to increase information transparency and transparency, and to attract college students to participate in the dialogue in an open and interactive context to listen to the voices of the younger generation. This will enhance their confidence in themselves and the national system.

# **4.2.** Expand the civic education function of Ideological and political education courses in Colleges and Universities.

Under the guidance of the goal of modernization of national governance, ideological and political education, as an important way to improve national governance ability and civic literacy of college students, needs to constantly realize modernization. One of the goals of the modern transformation of Ideological and political education is to create a modern person suitable for the development of modern society.<sup>[1]</sup>

We should pass on the values of the modernization of national governance and pool the strength of college students. In this way, in the process of transformation, ideological conflicts can be alleviated, value identification enhanced and governance consensus sought. It can avoid people's distraction and social turbulence caused by different cognition, and make the road of national governance modernization more stable.

### 4.3. Embed civic education in governance practice.

Tao Xingzhi said that society is school. Society is a big stage for college students to learn and grow up. It provides a broad space and opportunity for college students to participate in practical exercises.

Schools should attach importance to the dominant position of students' governance, create conditions for students to participate in governance, so that they can form or strengthen the social ability that modern citizens should have through independent governance and management. The cooperation between universities and the government should be institutionalized, and more relevant social practice activities should be arranged, such as "three going to the countryside" and "community service", so as to improve their ability to solve problems in observation and practice.

### Conclusion

How much success China can achieve in its modernization of governance depends not only on the determination and strength of the ruling party and the central government, but also on the maturity of its citizens. As an important part of a country's citizens, college students' civic awareness and political ability determine the quality of modern China. Whether they can undertake the historical mission in the process of growth and maturity, and how to undertake it - this is still a place to explore in the future.

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