

# Study on the Evolution of Morality, Intelligence, Physique, Aesthetic and Labor

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## Abstract

Since the founding of New China, the study on the evolution of "Morality, intelligence, physique, aesthetic and labor" is analyzed in terms of different connotations in different periods. The start to the inheritance of "morality, intelligence, physique and aesthetic" to the enrichment of "morality, intelligence, physique and aesthetic and labor" reflects the scientific understanding and realistic grasp of the objective law of education development, the law of student growth, as well as the law of socialist construction in China. Reviewing the educational policy of "morality, intelligence, physique, aesthetic and labor" in the new era is of great theoretical and practical significance to the overall development of human beings, to the overall leadership of the Party and to the correct understanding of the development process of China's socialist modernization.

## Keywords

**Morality; Intelligence; Physique; Aesthetic and Labor; Overall development of human beings; Socialist modernization.**

## 1. Introduction

In the 14th Five-Year Plan and the proposal of the 2035 Vision Goals, China emphasized the construction of a high-quality education system, "to fully implement the Party's education policy, adhere to the principle of cultivating people by virtue, strengthen the construction of teachers' ethics, and train socialist builders and successors who are well developed morally, intellectually, aesthetically, aesthetically, and diligently. [1] Recalling that on September 10, 2018, General Secretary Xi Jinping first proposed the education policy of "Moral, Intellectual, Physical, Aesthetic and Labor" at the National Education Conference, emphasizing "cultivating socialist builders and successors with all-round development of moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetic and labor". [2] The planning proposal of the Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee clearly proposed that one of the research objectives in 2035 is the all-round development of human beings, common prosperity of all the people and more obvious substantive development. The basic purpose of Marxist educational thought is to promote the free and comprehensive development of human beings through education, so as to further promote the liberation of all mankind. China's modern education takes "what kind of person to train, how to train people" as the problem orientation, takes moral education as the fundamental task of education, cultivates the new generation, promotes the all-round development of people, and devotes itself to cultivating the modernization of people. The educational policy of our country has changed from "morality, intelligence and physique" to "morality, intelligence, physique and aesthetic" and then to "morality, intelligence, physique, aesthetic and labor", which is the development process of theoretical origin, response of times and inspiration of reality.

## 2. The Introduction of "Morality, Intelligence and Physique" in the Early Days of the Founding of the People's Republic of China

Looking back at modern society, China has deeply understood the truth that "lagging behind will be beaten". With the historical experience in mind and the social production in urgent need of human resources at the end of the first five-year plan in the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China, China put forward the education policy of "moral, intellectual and physical education" to inject human resources into the construction of socialist country.

### 2.1. The Original Theory of "Morality, Intelligence and Physique"

In the past history of education, China and the West respectively have different interpretations of "morality, intelligence and physique". In ancient Greece, Aristotle divided the human soul into three kinds: animal soul, rational soul and plant soul. Aristotle's explanation about this is corresponding to intellectual education, physical education and moral education. Among the discussions on moral, intellectual and physical education in China, Zhang Jian, the No. 1 scholar in the Qing Dynasty, first proposed the embryonic form of the theory in The Summary of Haihe Project. Later, Chen Lifu, the Minister of Education in the period of the Nationalist Government, proposed in The Outline of the Implementation Policy of Education at All Level in Wartime that moral, intellectual and physical education should be used to improve civic education, cultivate talents and undertake the heavy responsibility of the country. [2]

In the early days of the founding of new China, according to the existing experience of the CPC inner-party construction and the educational period of the democratic revolution, combined with the social construction in the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China, high-quality talents are urgently needed. On February 27, 1957, comrade Mao Zedong in expanding the supreme state conference "On the Correct Handling of Contradictions among the People", put forward: "The education policy, we should make the educators become a worker with socialist consciousness of culture in moral education, intellectual education, sports development, several aspects". [4] Combined with China's national conditions at that time, China was in the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China, manpower and material resources were scarce, and economic development was needed to enhance China's comprehensive national strength. The input of economic development cannot develop without the talents, the conference has established the new China's education policy, the development of combining education with productive labor, intelligence and physique, and with consciousness and culture of the laborer is served for social production, the policy has a distinct political, relying on the mainstream ideology to guide and promote the development of politics, economy. The idea of "morality, intelligence and body" has laid a foundation for China's education system.

### 2.2. "Moral, Intellectual and Physique" Connotation of the Times

In the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China, "Morality", "Intelligence" and "Physique" had connotations that corresponded with the Times. At that time, teenagers were the main targets for the all-round development of morality, intelligence and physique, and schools played a main role in training socialist successors. When the "Gang of Four" prevailed, the school spirit and discipline were destroyed, and the students' moral, intellectual and physical development was not fully developed. After the crushing of the Gang of Four, they gradually realized that morality, intelligence and physique were dialectical and unified, and we could not only grasp one part and ignore the others. They promoted each other and supplemented each other.

Morality is the root of human being, and moral education is the accomplishment of one's inner moral character. The reason why we put "virtue" in the first place is because it has an irreplaceable role. From ancient times to the present, "virtue" in Chinese traditional culture is

an important content of national governance, social development and self-cultivation of residents. In ancient times, "Three cardinal principles and five permanent principles" and "Do not do to others what you do not want others to do to you" were all associated with "virtue". The single solution of the word "virtue" is divided into great virtue and small virtue; Public and private morality. [4] In the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China, moral education mainly focused on training young students to love the Party, love the country, love socialism, learn skills and skills, and make contributions to the socialist construction. "Virtue" plays an important role in the overall development of human beings. Under the influence of moral education, people can form a good and stable development trend of their world outlook, outlook on life and values. The good cultivation of moral education plays a model role in intellectual education and physical education.

Intellectual education and moral education complement each other. Intellectual education is an important process of enlightening people's intelligence development, which enables people to understand the truth, realize true knowledge, and unify knowledge and action. Intellectual education promotes the maturation and development of man's mind, grants people knowledge and intelligence development, cultivates man's wisdom, enhances the consciousness of innovation, and provides intellectual support for man's overall development. In the intellectual education, one must constantly learn, constantly transcend and constantly deny. "Wisdom" is first to deny oneself, to a certain extent to deny the past, learning to deny oneself is equivalent to learning new knowledge. In the process of denying oneself, shaping and affirming oneself, one finally surpasses oneself to enhance the development of "wisdom". In the early days of the founding of new China, intellectual education is mainly to enhance the intellectual development of young people through carrying out cultural classes and to train the proletariat for the socialist construction of knowledge talents, through intellectual education.

Physical education, like moral education and intellectual education, is an indispensable important part in the growth stage of young people, and an important part of young people's education. Physical health is the precondition of human development, and health is the cornerstone of promoting all-round human development. Chairman Mao Zedong once said, "Health is the capital of revolution" and "Sports is a major event related to the health of 600 million people." Teenagers can not be separated from the support of a strong body in the growth stage of education, Chairman Mao wished teenagers in the three goods, the first good is good health, only in a good health can one integrate morality and wisdom. In the mass production stage of socialist economic construction, another connotation of "body" is physical labor, which involves with a strong body in the mass production of socialist economic construction, and enhances physical education by combining with production labor.

### **3. "Morality, Intelligence, Physique and Aesthetic" in the New Era**

Since the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee of the CPC, China's economic and social development has entered a new period, and the development level of the productive forces has gradually improved. In order to respond to The Times, the Communist Party of China cultivates what kind of people according to social production. After the in-depth implementation of the "moral, intellectual and physical" education policy, "aesthetic education" is added on the basis of "moral, intellectual and physical" education policy. "Moral, intellectual and physical" is the inheritance and innovation of "moral, intellectual and physical".

#### **3.1. "Morality, Intelligence, Physique and Aesthetic" Echoes The Times**

In 1978, China began to implement the reform and opening-up policy, social and economic development ushered in a new historical stage. China's socialist modernization construction has entered a new period of development, social reform and development need talent, technical support, China's modern education development is also facing reform needs, the social and

economic function of education is becoming more and more prominent. In 1983, Comrade Deng Xiaoping put forward the principle of "Four New People", "to enable the broad masses of people to have the ideal of communism, be moral, educated and disciplined". [5] The proposal of "Four New People" was in line with the demand of education personnel training in the reform and opening up period of our country.

In 1999, Comrade Jiang Zemin pointed out that "We should strive to cultivate the builders and successors of the socialist cause who have ideals, morals, culture and discipline, and who are fully developed in moral, intellectual, physical and aesthetic education in the Third National Education Work Conference". [6] The meeting adopted a decision on deepening the reform of education in China, in which, for the first time, aesthetic education and moral, intellectual and physical education were written into the educational policy. The change and development from "Morality, Intelligence, Physique " to "Morality, Intelligence, Physique and Aesthetic" has a further understanding of the all-round development of socialist modernization, fully shows the continuous improvement of China's education system, and also reflects the different stages of China's economic and social development.

### **3.2. Aesthetic Education and "Moral, Intellectual and Physical" Should be Promoted Simultaneously**

The "morality, intelligence and physique" and the "morality, intelligence and physique" in the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China contain different connotation and contemporary value since the reform and opening up. Along with the political and economic development, "Virtue" in the new period, it changed to love the party, love the country, love the socialism with Chinese characteristics, firm political stand, serve the people, adhere to the "one central task, two basic points", facing the "four modernizations", emphasizing the great virtues and guarding the small virtues. After the rapid development of China's economic development after the reform and opening up, the demand for "wisdom" has been elevated to a higher level, emphasizing quality education, strengthening the cultivation of modern science and technology, enhancing students' innovation consciousness, highlighting the coexistence of wisdom and ability. In this era, the connotation of "ohysique" has changed. It is not only the previous emphasis on physical fitness, but also the cultivation of sports skills and exercise habits. It also focuses on the coordinated development of physical and mental health and emphasizes the necessity of mental health. The continuous improvement and development of "physical education" and its practice will contribute to the development of moral education and intellectual education.

In the new period, according to the needs of the Times of building a well-off society, solving the problem of food and clothing, realizing common prosperity and building a harmonious socialist society, the educational goal of "beauty" has been increased, emphasizing that students should establish healthy aesthetic concept and aesthetic ability and cultivate sentiment. Since the reform and opening up, people's living standards have been improved, and people's pursuit of beauty has risen to a new level. The development of quality-oriented education in our country is gradually improved, education should have "aesthetic education", and people should have the pursuit of "beauty". "Beauty" is a judgment of what is beautiful and what is ugly. "Aesthetic education" can help people reshape their understanding of beauty, discover beauty, create beauty, realize beauty, enhance aesthetic concept and enhance humanistic feelings. "Beauty" to show people to interpersonal communication, social harmonious development plays a lubricant function. Aesthetic education can also stimulate people's spiritual world and influence the development of moral education imperceptibly.

## 4. The Richness on the New Era of "Morality, Intelligence, Physique, Aesthetic and Labor"

"Morality, intelligence, physique, aesthetic and labor" was put forward by the Party on the basis of abiding by the objective law of education development and under the new historical position of the new era. The gradual development from "morality, intelligence and body" to "morality, intelligence and body beauty" to "morality, intelligence and body beauty and labor" reflects the changing development of the Times from one aspect and the continuous improvement and development of China's education system, and China's deeper understanding of socialist modernization and the all-round development of human beings. "Morality, intelligence, physique, aesthetic and labor" contains rich contemporary values, and these five education have their own uniqueness.

### 4.1. The Reality of "Morality, Intelligence, Physique, Aesthetic and Labor"

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the economy, politics, culture and other aspects have developed vigorously and accelerated, and socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era. The main contradiction of socialism has changed, and China's education policies have been continuously optimized and improved in keeping with the changes of the Times. In the report of the 18th and 19th CPC National Congress, it was emphasized that the fundamental task of China's education modernization is to uphold moral principles and cultivate people. The education policy proposed at the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China is, "Adhere to the principle that education serves the socialist modernization and the people, regard cultivating people with moral integrity as the fundamental task of education, fully implement quality-oriented education, train socialist builders and successors with all-round development of moral, intellectual, physical and aesthetic, and strive to provide education satisfactory to the people".[7] The report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China points out that "we should fully implement the Party's education policy, implement the fundamental task of cultivating people by virtue, develop quality-oriented education, promote educational fairness, and train socialist builders and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique and aesthetic".[8]

General Secretary Xi Jinping has made a series of important expositions on education and people's all-round development. China's education should adhere to the leadership of the Communist Party of China, follow the path of socialist education development with Chinese characteristics, adhere to the people-centered development of education, adhere to the principle of education fairness, and build an education system with all-round development of moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetic and labor. On September 10, 2018, General Secretary Xi Jinping stressed at the National Education Conference that "we should adhere to the socialist education development path with Chinese characteristics and train socialist builders and successors who develop morally, intellectually, physically, aesthetically, and with hard work." [1] This conference for the first time integrated "labor education" into "morality, intelligence, physique and aesthetic", highlighting the function of "labor education", developing from "morality, intelligence, physical beauty" to "morality, intelligence, physical, aesthetic and labor". In 2020, the 14th Five-Year Plan and the 2035 Vision Goals proposed that China should build a high-quality education system, emphasizing the importance of moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetic, and hard work again. This transformation is to follow the new historical position and cultivate the socialist builders and successors in line with the development of the Times. This new educational policy has a higher level of understanding of the all-round development of people, driving the development of economy and society, promoting the process of socialist modernization, and it has an important role in promoting the development of modern civilization.

## 4.2. The Connotation of "Morality, Intelligence, Physique, Aesthetic and Labor" in the New Era

The educational policy of "Morality, Intelligence, Physique, Aesthetic and Labor" has rich theoretical logic, including comprehensive theory, innovation theory, people's theory, integrity theory, value theory and so on. [9] The gradual development process from "morality, intelligence and physique" to "morality, intelligence and physique and aesthetic" and then to "morality, intelligence and physique and aesthetic, labor" shows that "morality, intelligence and physique and aesthetic, labor" is related to human development. Moral education, intellectual education, physical education, aesthetic education and labor education promote and cooperate with each other in educating people. The five parts promote and complement each other to form an organic whole, and each plays its unique role and manifests different connotations of the Times.

In the new era, the content of "virtue" has changed. On the basis of loving the party, loving the country and loving socialism with Chinese characteristics, supporting the realization of the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is one of the important contents of moral education. In the new era, more emphasis is placed on public morality, professional ethics, family virtues and personal morality. The core content of "virtue" is socialist core values so that young people and even the whole country can understand the connotation of socialist core values, and take practical actions to practice the values. General Secretary Xi Jinping stressed at the symposium between the faculty and students of Peking University that "A country without virtue cannot prosper, and a person without virtue cannot stand tall". In the new era, we should strengthen moral education, coordinate morality and legal system, and insist on cultivating people by virtue as the fundamental task. The majority of Party members, cadres and students should do "Ming great morality, observe public morality, and strictly enforce private morality". The "wisdom" of the new era emphasizes the combination with practice, so as to apply what is learned to practice. With the increasingly developed Internet technology and the arrival of the era of big data, the application of artificial intelligence and 5G is becoming more and more popular, which requires changes in "intellectual education", and the scope of intellectual education should be expanded to reach the target of advanced and sophisticated talents, so as to adapt to the development of digital economy and society. From the years of compulsory education in China, we can see that China has been following the objective laws of educational development to carry out educational reform. China's compulsory education has been extended from six years to nine years, and in the 14th Five-Year Plan, it has been mentioned that higher education should be popularized, so that young people in China will receive education for a longer period of time and in a wider range, so that China's education will explore a higher level of knowledge. With economic prosperity and development, the pace of society is speeding up, the pace of people's life and life style are also changing, and people's health appears sub-health status. Adolescent's task is aggravated, ignoring the importance of strong body. In the network information age, teenagers are addicted to the network, immersing in the virtual world, less communication with the outside world, outdoor exercise is rare, which has brought harm to the physical and mental health of teenagers. Physical education is the carrier of moral education and intellectual education, as well as the foundation of human being. China has been constantly emphasizing the importance of "physical education" in daily study and work, and has elaborated on the healthy development of the whole people in various relevant documents issued. It has also practiced and developed the "physical education" in China. "Physical education" aims at strengthening people's physical quality and paying attention to mental health problems so as to guarantee the development of moral education, intellectual education, aesthetic education and labor education. In the new era, changes have taken place in the principal contradiction faced by Chinese society, and the people's need for a better life has become more and more prominent. The connotation of "aesthetic" has been

promoted to a new level. "Aesthetics" also refers to "truth, goodness and beauty", which is the pursuit of truth and beauty, and emphasizes the enhancement of people's aesthetic ability and humanistic quality. The pursuit of beauty is a kind of pursuit of people, is the process of shaping their own soul, the pursuit of spiritual beauty, behavior beauty, language beauty.

In the new era, according to the development requirements of the new era and the problem of young people's healthy growth, the education goal of "Lao" has been increased. Labor education does not come out of nowhere. It has been emphasized in the past education, but it has not been established in the educational discourse system. In the early days of the founding of the People's Republic, labor and production were combined to increase economic benefits in labor; afterwards, labor education was mentioned in social practice, and labor education should be carried out in social practice. Since the new era, because of the gradual dilution of labor, the fruits of labor wanton spread, labor education function decline. [10] In this regard, Xi Jinping, the general secretary, made a series of speeches about the labor education, thus China's labor education theory continues to deepen development. The "labor" in the new era has something in common with the labor and production emphasized by the Marxist labor view, but also has some differences. The new era of labor is more emphasized on practices. Practice includes life practice, production practice and scientific practice, and it emphasized that we should put what we have into practice. Because labor can be confirmed through test and can be improved by the ability. People should start from their childhood and put what they have learned into practice. Practices in life is the only way to better realize the practices on production and science. We should combine theory with practices, as practices is the only standard of truth. We should avoid that "It is when you are using what you have learned from books that you wish you had read more books than you have." The "labor education" advocated in the new era is not simply relying on physical labor, but a higher level of mental labor. Labor education emphasizes the need to respect work, love work, promote the spirit of work, and create value and happiness through work. We should promote the comprehensive and coordinated development of human beings in labor education. Labor education plays a pivotal role in China's modern education system. Together with morality, intelligence, physique and aesthetics, it forms the educational policy of "morality, intelligence, physique, aesthetics and labor", which further improves and develops China's education system.

## 5. Conclusion

Education policy in China from the "physique" to "aesthetic" of morality, intelligence and physique and evolution of the development of the "art" of morality, intelligence and physique of echo of the theoretical origin, age, gradual process of reality, is not only for the inheritance and continuity of history, but also the party and the country standing in the education career development based on the result of the ongoing reform and innovation on the strategic height. Practice has proved that the educational policy must adapt to the economic and social development in order to bring out more results. The continuous improvement and development of "morality, intelligence, physique, aesthetic and labor" is not only the practice and innovation of Marxist theory on the all-round development of human beings, but also the inheritance of China's excellent traditional culture. It enables the practice of socialist core values, improves the level of social civilization, and makes China a cultural power with Chinese characteristics. It is also an important support for upholding the overall leadership of the Party and accelerating the process of socialist modernization. "Moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetic, and labor education" aims to cultivate ambitious, labor loving, moral and intellectual socialist builders and successors that meet the development needs of the new era, providing strong support for people's well-being, social harmony and stability, as well as national prosperity and

strength. It will contribute to the realization of the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

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