

## Effective Ways to Realize the Character Education Value of Work-study Program

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### ABSTRACT

*This paper indicates work-study program can foster the character development of college students as an important content of social practice activities in university. It suggests strategies for realizing the character education value of work-study program. First, establish a specific character education object for every work-study program. Second, use the controllability of the classroom to make up the uncontrollability of work-study program. Third, set up an effective supervision and evaluation mechanism.*

**Key words:** work-study program, character education value, Effective ways

### Introduction

Work-study program means college students take a part job on the premise of learning during college life. Work-study program is not only an effective measure for poor students, but also an effective ways of fostering the self-reliance awareness for college students. It has very important character education value.

First, work-study program can help to train college students' ability to withstand setbacks and enhance self-confidence, and the formation of self-sufficiency of outstanding character. For poor college students, they solve economic difficulties by their hard work during the work-study program. It can build up the college students' self-confidence. Overcome difficulties in the labor experience, learn to find a way out in frustration, complete its task, and self-reliance in the practice of labor. For rich college students, work-study program can help them get out of economic dependence from families, experience the joy of labor, and form the excellent quality of the self-reliance.

Second, work-study program can cultivate a sense of responsibility and love of college students, the formation of the character of caring, civic responsibilities. Union meeting of the international "character education" indicated six pillars of character, including the character of caring and civic responsibilities. College students achieve the unification of self-worth and social value, Perceive their social responsibility, moment with a caring heart, discard the mentality of dependency and hedonistic tendencies during the work-study program.

Third, work-study program can cultivate arduous struggle and hard-working spirit of college students. And help them form a character of hard-working and saving. Contemporary college students grew up in the reform and opening up, the family economic conditions are relatively favorable. They rarely feel the difficulties of life, hardships, and lack of spirit to endure hardship and hard work style generally. College students personally involved in the labor process, exchanged and cooperated with others. It can affect their own behavior, and guide them to consciously accept and absorb external information to adjust for their own ideological state. Thereby, Enabling them to change their thinking, attitudes, and gradually develop the habit of labor, frugal habits, train excellent quality of gritty and hardworking.

Fourth, work-study help university students cultivate a spirit of unity and cooperation, form a quality of cooperation. With the advancement of technology, the refinement of the social division of labor, with the spirit of collaboration has increasingly become the basic requirements of the modern society of talent. Affected by factors of focusing only on personal high school studying, entering the era of personal video, being the only child of family and so on, most of college students are increasingly weak in the sense of collaboration currently. During work-study activities some students participate in tutoring and communicate with parents. Some students participate in intellectual labor of technology development and engineering design, communicate and

collaborate with the team members. Some students involve in Salespersons, waiters and other service-oriented labor, and exchange with service objects. These activities make them perceive the significance of the value of cooperation and mutual aid. It will help the students train a sense of team, develop a modest, studious quality and create a harmonious interpersonal environment.

## Methods

### 1. Arrange specific object

#### *1.1 Arrange activities of work-study program around college students character's specific annual or monthly goals.*

Students character building is an important moral objectives of university education. All the moral education activities in school should focus on the theme of shaping the students' fine characters. School related departments should build weekly goals, monthly goals and annual goals to develop college students' characters. Achieving the specific goal of character building by series of practical activities. Aristotle in book of "Nicomachean Ethics" indicated "like other technologies, we can obtain virtue only through practice firstly. Such as noly construct housing can become architects, only harp can become a harpist. Similarly, only do a fair thing can be impartial, only involve in temperance activities can become moderation, only have bravery behavior can become brave . In short, the character associated with the same practice." We can make these twelve basic characters including responsibility, perseverance, caring, self-discipline, citizenship, honesty, courage, fairness, respect, integrity, patriotism, cooperative list in every month. Establish a specific character education object for every month. Then, develop activities and arrangements for every work-study program around these specific character training objectives.

#### *1.2 Determine a main character training objectives for each of the work-study activities according to the characteristics of the different types of work-study activities.*

Before developing a work-study activities, the organizers of the work-study activities and activities subject should understand this activity's specific character of the training objectives, and always target efforts towards that character unswervingly in the course of activities. Labor-based work-study activities, such as doing the cleaning work, emphasis on manual labor, require students to establish a labor of love concept, with good quality industrious and responsible. We can regard hard-working, responsible, frugal character as the training objectives of such activities. Intelligent work-study activities, such as the use of spare time for technology development, software development, engineering design, emphasize on intellectual labor. It will require students to establish a sense of innovation and possess of the spirit of cooperation and perseverance. They can train perseverance spirit in the process of overcoming technical difficulties and cultivate outstanding character of cooperation in the mutual assistance of the team members. We can regard perseverance cooperation as its character training objectives. Managed work-study activities, such as candidates to serve as the student dormitory Vice floor length, the student canteen deputy administrator, library cashier station management personnel management positions, require the participants to deal with teachers and classmates, emphasizing their ability and their capabilities, and focus on the students' communication skills and management capabilities, we can regard respect, courage, and integrity as a character building goals. Service work-study activities in their spare time as a tutor, engaged in a number of community-oriented services labor or self-service activities, and receive the corresponding remuneration, such as operating shops, restaurants, bookstores organized by schools to services for students, after school as Salespersons, waiters and so on. It requires students to establish a sense of service, with a caring and forgiving heart. So, love, tolerance can be regard as character building goals.

### 2. Use the classroom teaching

Guide the work-study activities through classroom teaching, make use of the controllability characteristics of classroom teaching activities to compensate the uncontrollability of work-study activities. The book called "the students' social practice Introduction" written by Wang Xiaoyun and Wang Hui pointed out "the university social practice has dual characteristics of the property. Attributes of both school education in social practice, but also social education attribute, it is an important link between school education and social education. Therefore, Neither stressed schooling attributes of social practice, social practice is understood as an extension of the first class or as a second class, can not emphasize the social practice of social education property exclusion of classroom teaching and theoretical knowledge, practice instead of education, engage in so-called "open-door". In fact, as important to handle the implementation of quality education, the strengthening of social practice

education and classroom education reform equally important, it should be carried out simultaneously, and mutually reinforcing." Similarly, Work-study activities as an important part of the students' social practice can not exclude classroom teaching and the theory of knowledge, and can't be entirely socialized, you should take full advantage of controllability advantages of the traditional classroom teaching to compensate for their uncontrollability.

"Two Courses" Teaching is the main positions of the ideological and political education, "ideological and moral cultivation and legal basis" lesson is directed at college students character building issues. Due to college management system, school Youth League student is in charge of social practice, professional teachers bear the "Two Courses" teaching, both belonging to different management, resulting in the separation of classroom teaching and social practice is always exist to varying degrees. Social practice has not been able to become controllable content of classroom teaching, but was threw to a second classroom and student activities randomly, made universities is difficult to control the content of social practice, thus affecting the college make an effective feedback supervision and assessment for social practice.

"Two Courses", especially in "the ideological and moral cultivation and the legal basis" classroom, problems encountered by students in work-study process and doubts arising should be answered. the knowledge learned in the school, the classroom, the books, and the problems encountered in the process of practice conflict, when the two different ideas in the minds of students struggle, the guidance and strong answer timely from teachers in the classroom is particularly important. A sentence of the teachers in the classroom may affect the life of a classmate. The contrary, if the problems encountered and the ideological conflicts generated by the students in the process of social practice, could not get the correct guidance of the teachers in the classroom, they may go astray, unfortunately for life.

### **3. Establish effective mechanisms**

Establish an effective feedback, monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the work-study activities. Some colleges and universities is too much emphasis on work-study activities helping the vulnerable function and ignore its educational function. In the process of work-study activities some students have awareness of biased, even shoddy work, quick success, at the use of false or despicable means. Such as task of cleaning the office laboratory can be completed in just a few minutes. Students sent leaflets can complete a thick stack leaflets in a short time by throwing them into the trash or sewer. These acts has been completely contrary to the original intention of the work-study activities, not only is not conducive to the cultivation of the fine character of the students, but to promote them develop flippancy, digestion of the original character traits, the formation the bad character of the fraud and irresponsible. Some students participate in off-campus work-study activities, tainted with some bad social customs. College students often engaged in business promotion in the community, and easy to cultivate a respect for money, bad character of mercenary. Some students do campus agents for a commercial brand a long time, their commercial style is not benefit them form a correct outlook on life and values. Thus, universities must establish an effective feedback monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to play the educational function of work-study effectively.

First, establish work-study evaluation mechanism. There are a gappy phenomena between work-study activities and the comprehensive evaluation of students in most colleges and universities. No it as one of the academic evaluation of students during the school, therefore failed to arouse the students attach great importance to the work-study activities. Integrate outcomes of the work-study activities into students quality training, establish student profile and evaluation systems, record and evaluate the results of the work-study activities timely, and make them become a content of the students' comprehensive quality evaluation.

Second, to establish a feedback oversight mechanism of the campus work-study positions. Work-study activities are supervised by employing department leaders and office of Student Affairs jointly. Labor units need to arrange someone to answer for management, supervision, guidance and attendance of students, report sheets of work identification and attendant to work-study office monthly. Make a written comprehensive identification for the performance of students involved work-study activities, and submit a work-study office filing.

Third, make effort to establish a feedback mechanism for spontaneous work-study activities. More emphasis on the work-study activities organized by the school, is not enough emphasis on the autonomy of the individual student work-study activities such as tutoring, business promotions, campus agents, the lack of specific guidance and effective oversight measures, So that it can not be examined with objective and scientific assessment

standards. Universities should supervise student autonomy work-study activities by alumni, faculty, off-campus practice base, national authorities and other social channels.

### **Conclusion**

In short, Colleges and universities should strive to tap the fine character training value of work-study program, and strive to promote the formation of fine character through arranging specific objects, using the controllability characteristics of classroom teaching, establishing effective mechanisms. Finally, make the college students gain healthy growth and success.

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