

**THE INSPIRATION OF XI JINPING'S CONCEPT OF HARD WORK FOR
HAPPINESS ON THE CULTIVATION OF THE HARD WORK SPIRIT
AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS**

Gong Xin

School of Marxism, Zhejiang Gongshang University, Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China

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ABSTRACT

Since the reform and opening up in 1978, China's comprehensive capacity has been increasing and the people are basically satisfied with their material life. Now, most people are beginning to pursue spiritual satisfaction, and all sectors of society are beginning to pay attention to the cultivation of a new generation of young people's concept of happiness. Judging from current research findings, the vast majority of China's youth are able to establish a correct concept of happiness and face life with a positive attitude under the active guidance of their schools. However, some Chinese universities still have the problem of not paying enough attention to the happiness education of students. Therefore, this paper analyzes the causes of the current lack of striving spirit among college students and puts forward some feasible suggestions to better articulate the idea of Xi Jinping's concept of hard work for happiness into college students.

Key words : Xi Jinping's concept of hard work for happiness, college students, hard work spirit

Introduction

How did our happy life come about? In the practical aspect, undoubtedly, it is inseparable from the hard hard work of the masses, and then, of course, it is inseparable from the guiding ideology of the national leaders in the theoretical aspect. According to the Chinese National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI), searching the keyword "Xi Jinping's concept of hard work for happiness" shows that before 2017, not so many researches had been done on it, with less than a hundred research articles. However, since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, the number of studies on it has increased by leaps and bounds. The reason for this is that in this era of peace, social stability has long influenced people's pursuit of happiness with a new and higher level of

definition to happiness, especially among youth groups. Therefore, an in-depth exploration of the cultivation of college students' striving spirit under the guidance of Xi Jinping's concept of striving for happiness is of great value and significance in motivating college students to give full play to their talents in society.

1. The Formation and Main Content of Xi Jinping's Concept of Hard Work for Happiness

Xi Jinping's concept of hard work for happiness did not emerge out of thin air. It has a reliable theoretical origin and suitable objective conditions, and is in line with the needs of the world's development as well as the requirements of today's times. China's development does not rely on power politics, but only on the hard work of all Chinese children on the ground.

1.1 The theoretical origins of Xi Jinping's concept of hard work for happiness

The theoretical origins of the formation of Xi Jinping's concept of hard work for happiness are mainly in the following three areas.

(1) The Marxist concept of happiness has laid the theoretical foundation for the formation of Xi Jinping's concept of hard work for happiness. The Marxist concept of happiness adheres to the unity of dialectical materialism and historical materialism, mainly including the "three unities" (PPH, 1979). Xi Jinping's concept of happiness is based on Marx's concept of happiness, formed in the context of China's social development with Chinese characteristics, and are the inheritance and redevelopment of the Marx's concept of happiness, providing the world with Chinese wisdom and Chinese solutions.

(2) Excellent Chinese traditional culture has provided the cultural nourishment for the formation of Xi Jinping's concept of hard work for happiness. Chinese culture has a long history, and in the eyes of other countries, we Chinese are labelled as "hardworking and thrifty", and our ancestors have been farmers. These traditional virtues, handed down from ancient times to the present day, are what keep us going and encourage us to continue to create our own glory.

(3) The ideas of successive generations of Chinese Communist Party leaders have provided Xi Jinping with ideas with Chinese characteristics for the formation of his concept of hard work for happiness. The Communist Party of China has been established for nearly 100 years, and from Mao Zedong, who led his forefathers to fight for the country, to Xi Jinping, who is now dedicated to the people, every generation of leaders has advocated hard hard work, which is a fine style of our Party. Under Mao Zedong, the main focus was on national independence and people's liberation (PPH, 1991); Under the leadership of Deng Xiaoping, the main focus was on

reform and opening up to develop people's happiness (Yu Zhiqiang, 1994: 12); Under the leadership of Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao, the main focus was on the ruling party aspect to pursue happiness (PPH, 2006), all of which provided ideas for the formation of Xi Jinping's concept of hard work for happiness.

1.2 The formation process of Xi Jinping's concept of hard work for happiness

The development of anything does not happen overnight, it has to go through twists and turns moving forward. The formation process of Xi Jinping's concept of hard work for happiness is as follows.

(1) From the 1960s to the end of the 1970s, the period of the rural areas began to sprout. A generation has its own mission, and a generation has its own definition of happiness. Xi Jinping arrived in Yanchuan County in 1969 and settled in Liangjiahe. The poor living conditions and the difficulties of agricultural work did not overwhelm him, but he led the people to overcome many difficulties. During these seven years, he lived in harmony with the villagers, dealing with every matter fairly.

(2) The period of working in politics from the late 1970s to 2012 was initially shaped. After leaving Liangjiahe, Xi Jinping began to work in politics. What path did he actually take? What exactly was the path to be pursued? They became the question he was most concerned about. During his work, he went to the grassroots, endured hardship and hard work, understood what the people wanted, did practical things for them, made practical moves, paid attention to ways and means when doing mass work, and his work was unanimously recognized by the people.

(3) From 2012 to 2018, the concept of hard work for happiness in Xi Jinping's tenure as General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party took shape. He has used the word "diligent governance" to fulfil his promises to the people on the ground. In recent years, General Secretary Xi Jinping has taken stock of every survey he has conducted, and he has drawn on the collective wisdom of the people to find a way forward for local development. General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasised that "there is no such thing as sitting on one's laurels in the world, and one must strive for happiness".

1.3 Key elements of Xi Jinping's concept of hard work for happiness

Xi Jinping's concept of hard work for happiness has undergone decades of development, which is a closely structured and richly connoted ideological system. Its essential connotation includes three aspects: hard work is the main way to achieve happiness, happiness is the ultimate goal of

hard work, and the main body of hard work is the whole people. Its basic features include the unity of theory and practice, the unity of ideal and reality, the unity of the individual and society, and the unity of creation and sharing. All these elements have been continuously refined from some of General Secretary Xi Jinping's practical experiences and speeches, which are conducive to a more complete understanding of the system of Xi Jinping's concept of hard work for happiness and a clearer understanding of the logical structure of Xi's concept of hard work for happiness.

2. The Current Situation of the Lack of Hard Work Spirit among Contemporary College Students in China

In this new era when the Chinese nation is gradually moving towards great rejuvenation, the young generation is no longer narrow-minded. Instead, their horizons are more open, and they have their own unique opinions on issues and will express them in a timely manner, and most of them have very positive values. However, there are inevitably a small number of young people whose thoughts are influenced by the internal and external cultural environment and family customs, and whose values become distorted, thus leading to a deviation in the direction of personal striving and distorting the connotation of striving for happiness. The current situation of the lack of striving spirit among contemporary college students is as follows.

2.1 Lack of ideals and beliefs, loss of initiative in hard work

Contemporary college students are the main force of our national development and the dream builders of China, and their ideal beliefs are related to the realization of the Chinese dream. However, under the current new situation of global development, in the face of all kinds of pervasive and indistinguishable online information era and the impact of diversified cultures, some easily neglected problems exist in the ideal beliefs of some college students. For example, self-media has emerged in recent years. In the age of self-media, everyone can make their own stage, which has given birth to a large number of internet celebrities, such as Li Ziqi, Ding Zhen, and Li Jiaqi, etc. These internet influencers have certainly brought positive energy to themselves and society. However, there are also a large number of people who spread vulgar culture on the internet, and even more so, they make money by broadcasting live with "Xiao Ma Yun" who is still underage. "He is popular for his resemblance to Jack Ma, and companies take him to events and live broadcasts on various occasions to create benefits for the company. However, apart from his looks, this child has no other skills. If he doesn't look like Jack Ma in the future, what should the child do in the future? Everyone wants to be an internet influencer, which makes some college students leave behind the "hard work" that was originally in their hearts, and has a big

impact on the original concept of hard work to reap happiness.

2.2 Wrong outlook on life prevails and the hard work tends to diminish

On the one hand, “money worship” and “hedonism” are becoming more and more obvious among college students, and the spending power of some college students far exceeds the money they can afford. Some of them even make the wrong use of money and campus loans, resulting in a lot of debt. Some college students are decadent every day and lose their enterprising spirit in the so-called “Buddhist system”. In terms of value orientation, they often put their personal sensual pleasure first and are unwilling to give. On the other hand, parents, schools and society tend to focus only on their children’s marks, so that students focus only on their grades and not on the cultivation of a proper outlook on life.

2.3 The practice is not strong enough and there is a lag in the hard work

Hard work is the thick undertones of bright youth. At present, a large proportion of colleges and universities still adopt traditional teaching methods for students’ education, which is not conducive to the development of innovative and creative students. Xi Jinping’s concept of hard work for happiness is a theory that focuses on practice, and if it is merely educational learning without action, then such education on the concept of happiness is just an armchair strategist that will not stand the test of time. In addition, student organizations in universities are not doing enough to integrate the concept of happiness into students’ lives, relying only on short-term volunteering and inviting professors to give lectures.

3. The Inspiration of Xi Jinping’s Concept of Hard Work for Happiness to the Cultivation of the Spirit of Hard Work among College Students

Since the 18th National Congress, General Secretary Xi’s statement of “hard work” and “happiness” has been easy to understand and has penetrated people’s hearts, and people’s understanding of these two words has changed! Xi Jinping’s thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics contains an important part of Xi Jinping’s concept of hard work for happiness, presenting the people’s pursuit of a better life, especially for young people to strengthen their ideals and beliefs, establish the right three views and realize their self-worth.

3.1 Firmly believe in the ideal and swim in the sea of knowledge

First of all, ideals guide the direction and beliefs determine success. Ideals and beliefs are a spiritual phenomenon unique to human beings. While materials are meant to meet the fundamental needs of people’s lives, ideals and beliefs are meant to enrich people’s spiritual

lives. Ideals and beliefs are the “calcium” of the spirit, which indicates the goal of hard work, provides the motivation to move forward, and improves the spiritual realm. Only when one has firm scientific ideals and beliefs and moves along the right path in life will one’s life become meaningful. Only by maintaining firm beliefs can we strive for the goals set in our hearts. As young college students are the successors of socialism, families, universities and all sectors of society should pay attention to the choice and establishment of ideals and beliefs for young people, so that they can be guided to go further and further along the path of life, with a wider range of choices, and their lives becoming more valuable.

Secondly, young people should consciously strengthen their studies, master excellent skills and improve their overall quality. During Xi Jinping’s seven years as an educated youth, he was good at learning and thinking, and reading and learning was in his case a positive attitude towards life and an eager spiritual pursuit. In those days when everything was lacking, the young Xi Jinping was able to quietly read, so now that we have everything, we must reflect on ourselves and ask ourselves if we are too relaxed in our studies and too comfortable in our thinking. As young people in the new era, we should seriously study the theoretical knowledge related to our profession, learn the Party’s guidelines and policies, and use our spare time to read more. We should not only know the surface meaning of a sentence, but also its inner meaning, and learn to think dialectically.

3.2 Establishing a correct outlook on life and forging ahead in the face of setbacks and difficulties

To walk the path of life well, college students need to have a proper understanding and handling of the various difficulties and problems in life, and to maintain a serious and pragmatic, optimistic and enterprising attitude towards life. College students should learn to be responsible for themselves, for their relatives, for the people around them, and thus for the nation, the country and society; when encountering problems, they should follow the general rules of development, learn to see the essence through the phenomenon, adhere to the thinking method of seeking truth from facts and a positive attitude towards life, organically combine their ideals with the actual development of society, and start with small things on the ground, one step at a time. At the same time, we must believe that life is good and the future is bright, and we must be active and enterprising. Vigorous youth must always be maintained, and only in this way can we write a perfect answer on this answer sheet of life.

College students need to understand that in the journey of life, there is no such thing as eternal prosperity or eternal misfortune. Therefore, both favourable and unfavourable conditions have a

dual impact on life; the key is how to understand and treat them. Only by making the best use of favourable circumstances, facing up to and overcoming adversity, can the value of life be realized.

3.3 Take up the responsibility of the times and strive to take root in the soil of practical work

Social practice is the source of all scientific theories and an effective way to provide young people with the opportunity to exercise and grow. Man is able to consciously know and transform the objective and subjective world, so he can create his own material and spiritual wealth, sublimating the value of life through creative practice and making life more meaningful. Therefore, an indispensable step in realizing the value of life is social practice.

In his article "I am the son of the Yellow Earth", Xi Jinping describes himself as "The plateau of northern Shaanxi is my roots, where I have cultivated my unchanging faith: to do practical things for the people!" This solid grassroots experience helped Xi Jinping as a young man to develop his skills and refine his party spirit. To understand the footprints of the leader's youth, what we should do is to be sure of our belief in practical work, to take root on the soil of practical work, to do our duty, to be motivated and diligent in our studies, to be diligent in our training, to always maintain our vigour and vigorous spirit, to be courageous in our attempts and to be innovative in our understanding and practical work. It is only by combining what you do with the people, learning from them and working to safeguard the fundamental interests of the people that you can better realize the value of your life. Youth is like life, everyone can only have it once in a lifetime. At a young age, you should determine the direction of your future development and link your life closely to the fate of your country.

In general, history will only favour those who are determined, those who advance, but will not wait for those who hesitate, those who slacken off and those who are afraid of difficulties. Contemporary college students should correctly understand the development trend of the world and China, respect and respond to the choice of history and the choice of the people, accurately grasp the important strategic opportunity period of China's development, enhance national self-confidence, enhance the sense of responsibility of the times, advance with the times and share the fate of the times. Unleash the passion of youth in the hard work and join hands to realise the Chinese dream!

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