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Innovative Development and Practical Exploration of a Comprehensive Educational Model Integrating Ideological Education with Professional Curriculum in the Nursing Program at the Vocational College Level

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Abstract: Course-based ideological and political education serves as a crucial approach for higher education in the contemporary era to fulfill its fundamental mission of fostering moral integrity. Furthermore, it represents an essential pathway for advancing educational transformation and innovation within vocational undergraduate nursing programs. Addressing the multifaceted challenges prevalent in current curriculum development—which include the insufficient exploration of ideological elements, fragmented course integration, limited effectiveness of practical learning environments, and inadequate collaborative education mechanisms—we have systematically developed a comprehensive educational model for vocational nursing courses. This innovative framework is guided by the core philosophy of "ideological leadership and benevolent service to society." The proposed model seamlessly integrates value cultivation, knowledge transmission, and professional competency development throughout the entire talent cultivation lifecycle. By establishing five core operational systems—specifically, goal-oriented frameworks, curriculum integration mechanisms, practical learning platforms, cultural immersion initiatives, and comprehensive evaluation feedback systems—the model achieves a profound and sustainable integration between ideological education and rigorous professional training. Practical evidence and preliminary implementation results demonstrate that this holistic approach significantly enhances students' professional identity, humanistic competence, social responsibility awareness, and job-specific clinical skills. Ultimately, this study provides valuable theoretical insights and practical guidelines for advancing ideological and political education in vocational nursing programs, ensuring that future healthcare professionals are equipped with both exceptional medical expertise and strong ethical foundations.

Keywords: vocational education; nursing program; ideological education; educational model; curriculum integration; talent development

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1. Introduction

The report emphasized the importance of fully implementing education policies to fulfill the fundamental task of fostering virtue through education and cultivating individuals who achieve well-rounded development in moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetic, and practical education. Curriculum-based ideological and political education serves as a key initiative for enhancing education in higher institutions, providing a pathway for integrating knowledge transmission, capability development, and value shaping. The nursing profession, as a critical component of the medical education system, directly influences the quality of healthcare services and public health outcomes. Nursing professionals must possess solid professional knowledge and practical skills while demonstrating a professional ethos characterized by respect for life, compassion for patients, and a strong sense of social responsibility [1].

With the advancement of the Healthy China strategy and increasing public health demands, nursing talent cultivation faces new opportunities and challenges. As part of the modern vocational education system, vocational undergraduate education carries the mission of developing high-level technical and skilled professionals. The vocational undergraduate nursing program should integrate moral development with technical skills training and combine education with practice, focusing on enhancing professional competencies alongside cultivating professional ethics, humanistic literacy, and professional spirit. However, challenges remain in achieving effective integration of ideological and political education within curricula, including fragmented curriculum design, insufficient alignment between courses and ideological education, and limited use of practical teaching for educational purposes, hindering synergistic educational outcomes [2].

Exploring a comprehensive curriculum-based ideological and political education model tailored to the characteristics of undergraduate nursing programs—integrating ideological and political education throughout the entire talent development process and achieving deep integration between professional education and ideological-political education—is essential for cultivating high-quality nursing professionals equipped to meet the demands of the new era [3].

2. Contemporary Requirements for the Integration of Ideological and Political Education into Nursing Curriculum at the Professional Undergraduate Level

2.1. The Practical Necessity of Fulfilling the Fundamental Task of Fostering Virtue and Nurturing Talent

The cultivation of virtue and the development of talent represent core objectives in the advancement of higher education in the current era. Within the field of nursing education, there is a significant responsibility to prepare healthcare professionals not only with technical knowledge and skills but also with a strong foundation in professional ethics and values. By integrating ideological and political education into the curriculum, the educational potential of specialized courses is maximized, embedding these principles throughout the teaching process. This approach supports students in forming a well-rounded perspective on life, values, and professional ethics while simultaneously acquiring the necessary professional competencies. Consequently, the incorporation of ideological and political education into nursing curricula is a critical strategy for achieving the dual goals of moral development and talent cultivation within the profession.

2.2. Objective Requirements for Cultivating High-Quality Nursing Professionals in the New Era

The advancement of healthcare in the new era places greater expectations on nursing professionals. Nursing extends beyond technical expertise to encompass profound humanistic care and a strong sense of social responsibility. Practitioners in this field are required to demonstrate robust professional skills, effective communication abilities, a deep commitment to humanistic values, and a high degree of accountability. Integrating ideological and political education into academic programs supports students in developing appropriate professional values, strengthening their sense of identity and purpose, and aligning their personal growth with broader societal and public health objectives. This approach aims to cultivate nursing professionals who excel in both ethical conduct and professional competence.

2.3. Internal Requirements for Promoting High-Quality Development of Vocational Undergraduate Education

Vocational undergraduate education plays a crucial role within the modern vocational education system, focusing on cultivating high-level technical and skilled professionals. Integrating ideological and political education into curricula facilitates the inclusion of professional ethics, craftsmanship spirit, and work ethic throughout the talent development process, ensuring a seamless connection between specialized education and vocational competency cultivation. Establishing a comprehensive curriculum-based

ideological and political education framework enhances the quality of talent development, strengthens vocational education's ability to support socioeconomic progress, and provides essential foundations for advancing the high-quality development of vocational undergraduate education [4].

3. Issues in the Integration of Ideological and Political Education into Nursing Curriculum at the Professional Undergraduate Level

3.1. There Is a Lack of Systematic Planning in the Development of Ideological and Political Education Integrated into Academic Curricula.

In numerous institutions, the incorporation of ideological and political education into academic curricula is often limited to isolated courses, lacking a well-structured strategic framework and effective top-level coordination. The absence of alignment and synergy among courses hinders the establishment of a cohesive educational system that spans the entire process of talent cultivation [5]. This fragmented approach diminishes the overall effectiveness of ideological education, restricting its potential impact on students' development.

3.2. The Depth of Exploration Regarding Ideological and Political Elements Is Insufficient.

The nursing curriculum includes diverse educational resources for ideological and political education, such as life education, professional ethics education, humanistic care education, and responsibility cultivation education. However, some instructors lack a comprehensive understanding of how to effectively integrate ideological and political elements into courses. This often leads to insufficient incorporation of relevant aspects and reliance on repetitive implementation methods, which can result in a disconnect between specialized teaching and the intended ideological and political educational objectives.

3.3. The Educational Function of Practical Teaching Is Not Fully Utilized.

The nursing profession is inherently practical, with clinical internships, job-specific training, and social practice forming critical components of talent cultivation [4]. However, certain practical teaching methods primarily emphasize skill acquisition and the development of job adaptability, while insufficiently addressing education in professional ethics, vocational spirit, and social responsibility. This imbalance restricts the comprehensive potential of practical education from being fully realized.

3.4. The Evaluation Mechanism for Integrating Ideological and Political Education into Curriculum Is Not Well-Established.

Evaluations of ideological and political education within courses predominantly emphasize instructional design and classroom implementation, yet they lack scientifically robust metrics to assess students' development in value formation, professional ethics, and overall competency [2]. The evaluation methods remain constrained, failing to comprehensively capture the actual effectiveness of these educational efforts.

4. Development of a Comprehensive Educational Model Integrating Ideological and Political Education Throughout the Curriculum of the Bachelor's Degree Nursing Program

4.1. Establish the Educational Philosophy of "Ideological and Political Guidance, Benevolence for the Benefit of Society"

The development of ideological and political education within the nursing curriculum should align with socialist core values and reflect the unique attributes of the nursing profession. This approach establishes an educational philosophy centered on "ideological guidance and benevolence for societal welfare." The concept of "ideological guidance" focuses on cultivating values and shaping ideological perspectives, aiming to strengthen students' ideals, convictions, and a profound sense of patriotism. Meanwhile, "benevolence for societal welfare" emphasizes fostering a professional nursing spirit, encouraging students to adopt a career ethos that values life, demonstrates care for

patients, and contributes to societal well-being. By embedding this philosophy throughout the entire process of talent cultivation, a balanced advancement in both professional skills and personal development can be achieved.

4.2. Establishing a Goal-Oriented Framework

Focusing on the objective of cultivating advanced nursing professionals, a comprehensive educational framework has been established that integrates value cultivation, knowledge transmission, and competency development. In value cultivation, emphasis is placed on fostering professional ethics, a sense of social responsibility, and a sense of mission among students. For knowledge transmission, the priority is on strengthening the understanding and application of theoretical nursing knowledge. In terms of competency development, particular attention is directed toward enhancing practical skills, communication and collaboration abilities, and innovative capacities [4]. This approach ensures a seamless integration of moral education with intellectual growth and skill acquisition with character development.

4.3. Establishing a Curriculum Integration System

The advancement of ideological and political education within courses is structured across four levels: public foundation courses, professional foundation courses, core professional courses, and practical courses. Public foundation courses aim to enhance education in ideals, beliefs, and patriotic sentiment; professional foundation courses focus on fostering scientific spirit and vocational awareness; core professional courses emphasize the cultivation of professional responsibility and ethics; while practical courses are designed to develop professional dedication and a service-oriented mindset [6]. By ensuring coordinated integration among these courses, a comprehensive system of ideological and political education is established, characterized by vertical coherence and horizontal integration.

4.4. Establishing a Practical Education System

Practical education plays a crucial role in integrating ideological and political education into the development of nursing curricula [6]. It is important to maximize the educational potential of various components, such as laboratory training, clinical internships, workplace placements, social practice, and volunteer services, to embed the cultivation of professional ethics throughout the practical teaching process. By engaging in immersive real-world experiences and community service activities, students are encouraged to recognize the significance of the nursing profession, thereby enhancing their professional identity and fostering a strong sense of social responsibility.

5. Practical Approaches to the Comprehensive Educational Model Integrating Ideological and Political Education Throughout the Curriculum of the Nursing Program at the Professional Undergraduate Level

5.1. Deepen Curriculum and Teaching Reforms to Achieve Organic Integration of Ideological and Political Elements

Course instruction serves as the primary channel for integrating ideological and political education into curricula, as well as a key vehicle for value-oriented guidance. Throughout the implementation of the comprehensive educational approach, it is essential to uphold the principle of aligning professional education with ideological and political education, thoroughly identify the ideological and political elements embedded in nursing courses, and promote a shift from superficial integration to deep integration of such education [6]. During curriculum development, instructors should systematically review the knowledge frameworks and educational resources of each course, establishing a case library for ideological and political education centered on themes such as life education, professional ethics, responsibility, humanistic care, and teamwork, thereby organically combining professional knowledge instruction with value-oriented guidance.

For instance, in the Basic Nursing course, students are guided to understand the social value and contemporary mission of nursing by introducing Florence Nightingale's

contributions and the evolution of the nursing profession; in Internal Medicine Nursing and Surgical Nursing courses, life education and responsibility awareness are reinforced through analysis of typical cases; in Nursing Ethics, students develop professional ethics and legal awareness via discussions on ethical dilemmas; and in Critical Care Nursing, they cultivate a professional spirit characterized by resilience in challenging situations and a strong sense of responsibility through case studies focused on urgent care scenarios. Through diverse teaching methods—including case-based learning, project-based instruction, scenario simulation, and flipped classrooms—students not only acquire professional knowledge but also develop sound values.

5.2. Strengthen Practical Teaching Components and Emphasize the Cultivation of Professional Ethics

The nursing profession is defined by its strong practical orientation, making practical teaching a vital element in developing students' professional skills and ethical standards. A comprehensive educational approach integrates ideological and political education throughout the entire practical training process, encompassing laboratory exercises, clinical internships, and job-specific practicums. This ensures the simultaneous progression of skill acquisition and the cultivation of professional ethics.

During experimental and practical training, instructors foster rigorous, meticulous, and perfectionist professional attitudes through standardized operational training, encouraging students to develop a strong sense of quality and safety. Clinical internships provide opportunities to analyze typical nursing cases and gain direct experience in healthcare practices, enabling students to recognize the responsibilities and significance of nursing work, thereby reinforcing their professional identity. In the on-the-job internship phase, a "dual mentorship" system is implemented, where university faculty and clinical instructors collaboratively offer ideological guidance and professional support. This approach helps students refine their professional skills and ethical standards within real-world work settings.

Additionally, students are encouraged to maintain internship reflection journals, participate in experience-sharing sessions, and engage in discussions of exemplary nursing cases. These activities guide students in summarizing their practical experiences, deepening their professional understanding, and achieving a seamless integration of theoretical knowledge with practical application [3].

5.3. By Leveraging Campus Culture Development, Foster an Environment That Promotes Collaborative Education through Curriculum-Based Ideological and Political Education.

Campus culture plays a crucial role in embedding ideological and political education within curricula and serves as a significant environmental factor in shaping students' values. A holistic educational approach integrates nursing culture development as a core element, cultivating a positive campus atmosphere to enhance the educational impact of culture.

By emphasizing the professional ethos and cultural aspects of nursing, unique activities such as themed events for Nursing Day, etiquette showcases, skills competitions, and cultural festivals are organized to help students appreciate the spirit of the nursing profession. Highlighting achievements of exemplary nursing figures, contributions during pandemic responses, and career development forums provides role models that inspire students to establish appropriate professional aspirations.

Additionally, platforms such as bulletin boards, cultural corridors, and new media channels should be fully utilized to promote nursing culture and exemplary practices [7, 8]. This creates a professional-oriented educational environment where students can be subtly influenced ideologically and guided in their values.

5.4. Expand Social Service Platforms and Enhance Awareness of Social Responsibility

Social practice is an essential method for assessing the effectiveness of integrating ideological and political education into curricula. A comprehensive educational approach highlights the importance of utilizing the educational potential of social practice,

encouraging students to move beyond the classroom and engage with grassroots communities. This approach aims to enhance their overall competence through active participation in societal service.

By utilizing platforms such as community health service centers, elderly care institutions, and rural primary healthcare facilities, students are organized to participate in activities such as health education, first aid knowledge sharing, elderly care initiatives, and campaigns focused on chronic disease prevention and management [9]. Through involvement in volunteer services and social practices, students gain direct exposure to the health needs of grassroots populations, fostering a stronger sense of social responsibility and professional dedication.

During summer social practice programs, guided by the educational philosophy of "benevolence and serving society," various practical initiatives are implemented, including health education workshops, first aid awareness activities, senior care services, and child protection programs. These activities enable students to deepen their professional understanding, reinforce their vocational mission, and achieve a seamless integration of academic learning with social service.

5.5. Improve the Evaluation and Feedback Mechanism to Promote Continuous Improvement

The development of ideological and political education in curricula is a systematic endeavor that relies on a scientifically sound and effective evaluation system as its foundation. This comprehensive educational approach integrates process evaluation with outcome evaluation, as well as qualitative assessment with quantitative analysis, thereby creating a multi-dimensional evaluation framework for curriculum-based ideological and political education [7].

In course evaluation, the achievement of ideological and political education objectives is incorporated into assessment criteria. Student learning outcomes are comprehensively evaluated through classroom performance, case analysis, practical reports, and course reflections. For practical evaluation, the focus is placed on assessing improvements in students' professional competence, sense of responsibility, and service capabilities. Regarding teacher evaluation, the integration of ideological and political education is included in the teaching quality assessment system, encouraging educators to actively enhance their teaching practices in this area.

By establishing a feedback mechanism for curriculum-based ideological and political education, issues can be promptly identified, teaching approaches can be continuously refined, and the overall quality of such educational initiatives can be consistently improved.

6. Implementation Outcomes of the Comprehensive Educational Model Integrating Ideological and Political Education Throughout the Course

6.1. Students' Sense of Professional Identity Has Significantly Improved.

The implementation of the end-to-end educational model has enabled students to gain a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the nursing profession. Through structured vocational ethics education and guidance on professional values, they have come to appreciate the significant social contributions and professional importance of nursing work. This has notably enhanced their sense of identity and pride in the profession. Most students actively align their personal career aspirations with the development of national health care initiatives, cultivating a strong sense of professional mission and responsibility.

6.2. Continuous Improvement in Professional Competence and Humanistic Care Capabilities

The integration of ideological and political education into curricula has enhanced students' professional competence and humanistic care capabilities. Through life education, professional ethics training, and humanistic care education, students have developed a deeper understanding of patients' needs, emphasizing effective communication and psychological support [10, 11]. In practical teaching and social service

activities, they actively utilize their professional knowledge to contribute to the community, showcasing strong professional attitudes and a commitment to service.

6.3. Continuous Improvement in Practical Skills and Overall Competence

The end-to-end educational model prioritizes the seamless integration of theoretical knowledge with practical application, emphasizing the development of both technical skills and professional expertise. Through laboratory training, clinical practice, and participation in social service activities, students progressively refine their job-related competencies and problem-solving capabilities. Additionally, involvement in innovation and entrepreneurship competitions, skill contests, and volunteer initiatives fosters a well-rounded enhancement of their overall abilities.

6.4. Teachers' Ability to Integrate Ideological and Political Education into Their Curriculum Has Significantly Improved.

The advancement of ideological and political education within courses has facilitated the evolution of teachers' educational philosophies and strengthened their instructional skills. Through targeted training, teaching seminars, and practical curriculum development activities, educators have developed a more profound understanding of the core principles and implementation strategies of integrating ideological and political education into their teaching. This has enabled them to actively identify relevant elements and incorporate these into their instructional designs. Teachers' awareness of this initiative has progressively increased, resulting in the development of numerous teaching cases and accomplishments that reflect unique features of nursing education.

6.5. A Collaborative Education Framework Is Gradually Taking Shape.

The end-to-end educational model has successfully encouraged collaboration among schools, educators, industry partners, and practical training bases. By forming a multi-stakeholder educational framework, it achieves integrated synergy between classroom instruction, practical training, campus culture, and social services [12]. This comprehensive approach engages all personnel, spans the entire learning process, and addresses all aspects, thereby improving the effectiveness of integrating ideological and political education into curricula.

7. Optimization Strategies for the Integration of Ideological and Political Education into Nursing Curriculum at the Professional Undergraduate Level

7.1. Further Improve the Overall Design of Integrating Ideological and Political Education into Curriculum Development.

The integration of ideological and political education into curricula is a long-term and systematic undertaking that requires comprehensive planning at the level of talent cultivation. In future development, it is necessary to further clarify the objectives and implementation pathways of this initiative, strengthen interdisciplinary coordination among courses, shift the emphasis from isolated advances to overall improvement, and continuously optimize the comprehensive educational framework across the entire teaching and learning process [13].

7.2. Enhancing Teachers' Capacity to Integrate Ideological and Political Education into Curriculum Design

Teachers play a pivotal role in advancing the integration of ideological and political education within curricula. Establishing a regular training mechanism is essential to enhance their capabilities in this area. This can be achieved through specialized workshops, teaching observations, experience-sharing sessions, and teaching competitions [14, 15]. Furthermore, educators should be encouraged to engage in research focused on incorporating ideological and political elements into curriculum design. Such efforts can lead to the development of teaching outcomes that possess distinctive professional characteristics and broad applicability.

7.3. Promoting the Development of a Resource Library for Integrating Ideological and Political Education into Curriculum Design

Curriculum-based ideological and political education resources form a crucial foundation for implementing such teaching practices. Considering the specific characteristics of nursing education, it is important to continuously identify relevant elements for integrating ideological and political concepts into courses. Establishing a comprehensive resource repository that includes teaching cases, exemplary stories, instructional videos, and digital materials is essential. This approach provides substantial support for educators in effectively delivering curriculum-based ideological and political education.

7.4. Deepening the Collaborative Education Mechanism between Schools and Academic Institutions

The development of nursing professionals depends significantly on the support provided by healthcare institutions. Strengthening collaboration among educational institutions, hospitals, and community health service providers is crucial for establishing a cohesive education ecosystem. This approach facilitates the integration of ideological and political education into curricula while promoting the seamless alignment of professional training with the cultivation of professional ethics.

7.5. Establish a Long-Term Evaluation and Improvement Mechanism

The evaluation system for ideological and political education in courses should undergo continuous refinement, with the establishment of a comprehensive assessment mechanism encompassing course development, teaching implementation, student progress, and educational outcomes. Insights derived from evaluation results can support ongoing improvements in the integration of ideological and political education within courses, thereby contributing to a steady enhancement in educational quality [6].

8. Conclusion

Course-based ideological and political education is an important approach to fulfilling the fundamental task of moral cultivation in vocational undergraduate nursing education and a key pathway for developing high-quality nursing professionals. In response to the current challenges in advancing this approach within vocational nursing programs, this study proposes a comprehensive educational model centered on the core concept of value guidance and benevolence in service. Through multidimensional strategies, including goal-oriented guidance, curriculum integration, practical reinforcement, cultural immersion, and evaluation-based improvement, the model promotes the integration of value education throughout the entire talent cultivation process. Practice indicates that this approach can effectively strengthen students' professional identity, humanistic care, sense of professional responsibility, and overall competence, thereby supporting the coordinated development of knowledge, skills, and values. In the future, it remains necessary to further optimize the mechanisms of course-based value education, deepen educational innovation, continuously enhance the quality of nursing talent cultivation, and foster more morally grounded and professionally competent nursing professionals to meet the needs of healthcare development.

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