

# Study of the Influence of Laozi Culture on Students' Ideological and Political Education

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**Abstract.** The study aims to explore the impact of Laozi culture on students' ideological and political education. It introduces the background and main ideas of Laozi culture, as well as the importance of ideological and political education. It analyzes the relationship between Laozi culture and ideological and political education. The study finds that Laozi's ideology has many similarities with ideological and political education, and Laozi culture can have positive effects on students' morale, moral qualities, and independent thinking. Therefore, incorporating Laozi culture into students' ideological and political education is of great practical significance. Finally, it emphasizes the necessity of strengthening students' ideological and political education and provides suggestions on how to apply Laozi culture in educational practice. The study concludes that Laozi culture plays an important role in students' ideological and political education and will have a positive impact on future educational practices.

**Keywords:** Laozi Culture; Ideology and Politics; Education.

## 1. Introduction

With the continuous development of our country, the role of ideological and political education in the education system is constantly highlighted. However, there are some problems in the current ideological and political education, such as the single way of education, boring course content and so on. In the face of these problems, how to improve the quality of ideological and political education has become a problem that educators need to pay attention to. This study selects Laozi culture as the research object, and aims to explore the influence and significance of Laozi culture on students' ideological and political education by exploring the application of Laozi thought in ideological and political education. Through the research of this paper, we hope to provide new ideas and methods for future ideological and political education.

## 2. Laozi Culture

### 2.1. Laozi and His Representative Works

Laozi is one of the greatest philosophers in the history of Chinese culture, hailed as one of the founding figures in ancient Chinese philosophy and the founder of the Daoist school of thought. He was born in the late Spring and Autumn Period, and while there are not many historical records about his life, his ideas have deeply influenced the course of Chinese history and culture. Laozi's most famous work is the "Dao De Jing" or "Tao Te Ching". It is a classic of Daoist philosophy and, along with the works of Zhuangzi and Liezi, forms the most influential trio of ancient Chinese philosophical texts. Laozi's ideas are considered a crucial part of Daoist philosophy. The "Dao De Jing" centers around ethical concepts and explores how people should conduct themselves and live their lives. Unlike other philosophical works that rely on logical reasoning and speculation, it employs symbolism, metaphor, and imagery to convey Laozi's thoughts. This style of expression is simple in form yet profoundly meaningful, leaving room for readers' imagination and enlightenment. Laozi's philosophy revolves around concepts such as the "Dao" (the Way), "De" (Virtue), "Wu Wei" (Non-Action), and "Tianxia" (All-under-Heaven). It reflects his profound exploration of values, the relationship between humans and nature, and the direction of society. Laozi integrates humanity and the natural world, advocating for achieving a state of "non-action" and tranquility, where one can

attain fulfillment without striving. His philosophy is considered one of the essences of Chinese philosophy and has had a profound influence on Chinese culture, religion, politics, and aesthetics throughout history. Laozi's ideas carry multiple layers of meaning. He advocates for practicing the concepts of "Dao" and "De" and strives to present a moral value system that transcends individualism and harmonizes personal life with societal norms. He emphasizes the importance of self-reflection, rejecting the pursuit of vanity and letting go of attachments to fame and power, thereby achieving spiritual elevation. In Laozi's view, everything in the world possesses inherent nature, and individuals should align themselves with nature, maintaining inner composure and using self-regulation to influence and guide their emotions, behaviors, and thoughts. This philosophy, based on harmonious coexistence with nature, self-reflection, and exploration, deeply influenced Chinese literature, culture, and societal values, leaving a profound and lasting impact [1].

## **2.2. The Main Ideas of Laozi's Thought**

The philosophy of Laozi is one of the important schools of ancient Chinese philosophy, represented by the classic work "Dao De Jing". The main viewpoints of Laozi's philosophy can be summarized as follows: firstly, Laozi emphasized the concept of "Dao", which he believed to be the fundamental principle and law of the universe, beyond human understanding and expression. He stressed the value of "wu wei", or non-action, and argued that people should follow the natural way without excessive intervention or pursuit of personal gain, in order to achieve harmony and balance. Secondly, Laozi emphasized the value of nature and balance. He believed that people should learn to let go of desire and the pursuit of power, and seek self-relaxation and inner peace. He advocated "wu you wu qiu" and "wu wei er zhi", emphasizing the natural state of selflessness and freedom, and encouraging people to pursue a simple, natural life and merge with nature. Thirdly, Laozi promoted a non-confrontational philosophy of life. He advocated that "the soft and weak overcome the tough and strong", and that people should avoid conflicts and strive for peaceful coexistence. He believed that violence and war would only result in more destruction and suffering, and that true victory could be achieved through gentle and non-actional means. Finally, Laozi emphasized the relationship between morality and non-action. He believed that morality is the basic principle between people and should be pursued with selflessness and fairness. He advocated "do good without contention", and argued that the practice of morality should be conducted with a non-actional attitude, without pursuing personal gain or fame, but rather seeking inner goodness and moral enlightenment. Overall, Laozi's philosophy emphasizes the relationship between humans and nature, humans and humans, and humans and morality, and promotes a simple, free, and harmonious way of life. These viewpoints have had a profound influence on the development of Chinese culture and society, and have also inspired world philosophical thinking.

## **3. Laozi Culture and Ideological and Political Education**

### **3.1. Definition of Ideological and Political Education**

Political and ideological education is a form of social education that aims to impart, cultivate, and guide students' ideological concepts, political awareness, and ways of thinking, in order to cultivate socialist builders and successors who support the socialist path, firmly uphold patriotism, and are loyal to the party and the people. In this process, Laozi culture is regarded as an important intellectual resource. Laozi culture refers to the general term for the ancient Chinese philosopher Laozi and his ideological system. Laozi was a famous philosopher and one of the founders of the Taoist school of philosophy in ancient China. His main work is the "Dao De Jing". Laozi culture emphasizes humble, gentle, and natural thinking, advocating the harmonious coexistence of people and nature, self-discipline and dedication, and "wu wei" (doing nothing and yet everything being done), among other ideas. These ideas have a profound impact on the individual's self-discipline, healthy development, and the establishment of social order. In political and ideological education, Laozi culture can help students establish the right outlook on life, world view, and values by guiding and interpreting Laozi's

thinking. By learning Laozi's thoughts, students can understand the virtues of humility, diligence, and tolerance, and cultivate a healthy mentality and positive emotional attitude. At the same time, Laozi emphasizes the individual's moral self-cultivation and inner beauty. By understanding the moral concepts in Laozi's thinking, students can establish the correct moral concepts and internalize moral behaviors into their actions. Furthermore, Laozi's thinking advocates "wu wei" - achieving social and individual harmony through acting in accordance with nature, without excessive pursuit and intervention. In political and ideological education, explaining Laozi's thinking can help students understand the importance of not blindly pursuing utilitarianism and success, but rather finding inner peace and self-realization. Such ideas help students develop self-control and self-regulation, and avoid the negative effects of excessive competition and pressure. Additionally, Laozi emphasizes the harmonious coexistence of people and nature and advocates respect for and protection of the natural environment. In political and ideological education, teaching Laozi's ideas can guide students to pay attention to ecological environmental issues, cultivate environmental awareness and actions, and promote eco-civilization construction. In summary, the combination of Laozi culture and political and ideological education can help students develop a positive outlook on life and correct values, promote the inheritance and promotion of socialist core values, and cultivate moral self-cultivation, self-regulation ability and environmental responsibility, and make positive contributions to the construction of a harmonious society by learning and understanding Laozi's thinking.

### **3.2. Importance of Ideological and Political Education**

The ideological and political education refers to the cultivation and guidance of people's thoughts, worldviews, values, and political beliefs. It plays a crucial role and holds significant meaning in the development of individuals and society. First and foremost, ideological and political education plays a key role in shaping individuals' ideological concepts and values. Through such education, people can understand and appreciate various ideologies, political systems, and social practices, thus broadening their thinking and expanding their horizons. Ideological and political education also helps individuals establish correct life perspectives, worldviews, and values, enabling them to possess sound moral judgment and social responsibility. This is of utmost importance for personal development, as a person with correct ideological concepts and values is more adaptable to social changes, resilient in the face of setbacks, and capable of realizing their own value. Secondly, ideological and political education is crucial for the stability and harmonious development of society. Through this type of education, people's awareness of democracy, the rule of law, and social responsibilities can be fostered, enhancing their political literacy and moral cultivation. This contributes to the construction of harmonious social relationships and reduces the occurrence of social conflicts and contradictions. Additionally, ideological and political education cultivates people's sense of participation and citizenship, igniting their enthusiasm and proactiveness in contributing to social public welfare, thus promoting sustainable social development. Furthermore, ideological and political education holds great significance in protecting national interests and safeguarding national security. By strengthening patriotic sentiments and national pride, fostering a sense of nationality and national consciousness, ideological and political education helps consolidate national strength, enhance national cohesion, and guard against national security risks and crises. Moreover, ideological and political education improves people's understanding of international situations and international relations, enhancing their international perspective and awareness of international cooperation. This provides important guidance for a country's diplomatic affairs and external interactions [3].

### **3.3. Relationship between Laozi Culture and Ideological and Political Education**

The culture of Laozi is closely related to ideological and political education. Laozi's philosophy emphasizes the harmonious relationship between individuals and the whole, and between nature and human nature, which has a profound impact on guiding students' correct thinking, politics, and moral literacy. Firstly, Laozi's philosophy emphasizes respect for nature and the pursuit of inner peace and harmony. In modern society, students often face a competitive and stressful environment, and Laozi's philosophy can help students to deal with these challenges with more calmness and composure. By

drawing on Laozi's thinking, ideological and political education can guide students to reflect on their inner balance and tranquility, helping them maintain a good attitude when facing pressure and difficulties. Secondly, Laozi's philosophy emphasizes governing by inaction and self-cultivation. In ideological and political education, educators can guide students to reflect on their behavior and values by introducing and interpreting Laozi's thought. Laozi's concept of governing by inaction can help students recognize that sometimes letting go of desires and pursuits can achieve better results in modern society. Ideological and political education can cultivate students' self-reflection and interpersonal relationships, enabling them to have the correct behavioral principles and social responsibility. In addition, Laozi's philosophy emphasizes the harmony between man and nature. In the current social context where environmental problems are increasingly prominent, thinking about the relationship between human beings and nature has become particularly important. Through Laozi's thinking, students can be guided to recognize the preciousness and importance of protecting natural resources, cultivate their environmental awareness and sustainable development concepts, and enable them to better fulfill environmental protection responsibilities in social life.

#### **4. The Influence of Laozi Culture on Students' Ideological and Political Education**

##### **4.1. Commonality between Laozi's Viewpoints and Ideological and Political Education**

The influence of Laozi culture on students' ideological and political education can be explored from the perspective of the similarities between Laozi's viewpoints and ideological and political education. Firstly, Laozi emphasizes the concept of "Dao", considering it as the origin of all creations, the law and essence of everything in the universe. Correspondingly, ideological and political education focuses on humanistic care and comprehensive development. It aims to cultivate students' comprehensive qualities, pay attention to their holistic development, and emphasize the cultivation of their humanistic spirit and social responsibility. The commonality between Laozi's viewpoints and ideological and political education lies in emphasizing the relationships between humans and nature, and humans and society, as well as the care and development of individuals. Secondly, Laozi advocates "governing by doing nothing" and emphasizes natural and spontaneous development and progress. Ideological and political education also advocates moderate guidance, emphasizing students' autonomy and self-discipline, advocating a people-oriented approach, respecting individual differences, and focusing on the stimulation and development of individuals' inner potential. These similarities reflect the importance placed on students' self-awareness and personal development. Furthermore, Laozi emphasizes the viewpoint of "benevolence as the foundation", advocating a mentality and behavior of kindness and universal love. Ideological and political education also emphasizes the cultivation of students' social responsibility and civic consciousness, aiming to instill in students an attitude of respect and care for others and the establishment of harmonious interpersonal relationships [4]. The commonality between Laozi's viewpoints and ideological and political education lies in emphasizing the qualities of students to care for others and be willing to help, nurturing their social responsibility and civic consciousness. Lastly, Laozi's philosophy emphasizes self-reflection and self-cultivation, focusing on the inner cultivation of individuals and the shaping of their character. Likewise, ideological and political education also emphasizes students' moral education, cultivating students' correct values and ethics, and guiding them to possess good moral character and behavior. The commonality between Laozi's viewpoints and ideological and political education lies in their focus on the inner growth and moral cultivation of individuals, both striving to cultivate students' good character and noble sentiments. In conclusion, Laozi culture and ideological and political education share many similarities. They both focus on the relationships between humans and nature, and humans and society. They emphasize students' holistic development, autonomy, and social responsibility, as well as the cultivation of a compassionate mindset and moral cultivation. Integrating Laozi culture into students' ideological and political education can enrich the educational content and enhance students' intellectual and moral qualities.

## **4.2. The Influence of Laozi Culture on Students' Morale, Moral Quality, and Independent Thinking**

The culture of Laozi has profound influences on students' morale, moral qualities, and independent thinking. Firstly, in terms of students' morale, Laozi culture teaches people to pursue inner tranquility and harmony, aspiring to achieve the unity of nature and humanity. This belief inspires students to maintain a positive mindset, enabling them to be resilient in the face of setbacks and difficulties, and maintain an optimistic and positive spirit. In terms of moral qualities, Laozi culture emphasizes the importance of ethics and emphasizes individual cultivation and self-discipline. By studying Laozi culture, students can recognize their own responsibilities and obligations, and use them as guidance to establish correct values and moral concepts. They become aware of the importance of harmonious interaction with others, focusing on integrity, kindness, and respect for others, thus forming good moral qualities. In terms of independent thinking, Laozi culture encourages people to think independently and transcend traditional notions. Through exposure to Laozi culture, students are guided to contemplate their own life values and goals, as well as how to integrate with the social environment. They learn to make independent judgments and analyze problems, free from the restrictions of established thought patterns, thus cultivating their ability to innovate and problem-solving.

## **5. Practical Significance of Laozi Culture in Students' Ideological and Political Education**

### **5.1. The Necessity of Strengthening Students' Ideological and Political Education**

In the current social environment, facing increasingly fierce competition and diversified values, strengthening the education of students' ideology and politics becomes particularly necessary. The education provided by schools should not only focus on students' academic knowledge, but also on their moral cultivation and ideological qualities. Students need to establish correct outlooks on life, values and the world in school, and cultivate noble sentiments and lofty ideal pursuits. Only in this way can they become comprehensive social constructors with moral, intellectual and physical development and the sustainable development of national pillars. In this context, the practice of Laozi culture in the education of students' ideology and politics is of great significance. The philosophy conveyed by Laozi culture emphasizes the cultivation of individuals' internal practice and self-creation, advocating comprehensive development in both morality and intelligence. Through learning the thoughts of Laozi, students can better understand the importance of moral cultivation and understand the principles of "dealing with people". Laozi emphasizes inner peace and self-reflection, believing that individuals should return to simplicity, maintain inner tranquility and humility. These thoughts help students establish correct outlooks on life and values, and cultivate qualities of self-discipline, introspection, humility and tolerance. Additionally, Laozi culture also emphasizes the harmonious coexistence with nature. Laozi believes that people should learn to follow the laws of nature rather than go against it. This concept has a far-reaching impact on the education of students' ideology and politics. In modern society, technological progress and economic development have brought about massive environmental destruction and waste of resources. Students need to learn from Laozi culture to treat nature, realize their own relationship and responsibility with nature, cultivate environmental awareness, and pursue sustainable development with the goal of harmony between human beings and nature. Moreover, the integration of Laozi culture in the education of students' ideology and politics can help them shape a positive personality. Laozi's thoughts encourage individuals to pursue deep internal cultivation, cultivate wisdom and tolerance. This helps students shape a positive attitude, enhance their courage and endurance when facing difficulties and setbacks. Through practicing Laozi culture, students can experience the power of morality and the value of wisdom, gradually forming good behavior habits and ways of dealing with the world. In summary, the practical significance of Laozi culture in the education of students' ideology and politics cannot be ignored. It can help students establish correct outlooks on life and values, cultivate comprehensive social constructors with moral, intellectual and physical development, and sustainable development

of national pillars. Additionally, Laozi culture can help students coexist in harmony with nature and shape a positive personality. Therefore, strengthening the practical application of Laozi culture in the education of students' ideology and politics is of positive significance for cultivating outstanding talents for sustainable development.

## **5.2. How to Integrate Laozi Culture into Ideological and Political Education**

Integrating Laozi culture into ideological and political education for students can be approached from several aspects. Firstly, in educating students' perspective on life, Laozi proposed the idea of "the Dao follows the natural course of things," emphasizing the importance of conforming to nature and abiding by natural laws, which can guide students to have a correct understanding of the relationship between humans and nature and foster awareness of harmonious coexistence. Secondly, in educating students' social and ethical values, Laozi advocates the concept of "governing by non-action," opposing excessive interference in society and embodying a flexible and gentle approach to decision-making that can lead students to develop a tolerant, inclusive, and mild-mannered attitude towards others. Additionally, Laozi's sentiment of "sorrowing for the world, rejoicing for oneself," can inspire students to pursue lofty ideals and a sense of social responsibility. Moreover, in educating students' values, many ideas emphasized in Laozi's Tao Te Ching, such as "Those who know do not speak, those who speak do not know," "Know thyself, know thy enemy; a thousand battles, a thousand victories," and "The one who persists is successful, and the one who perseveres reaches their goals," can guide students to establish the right personal and social values, helping them form a correct perspective on life, the world, and values, promoting the comprehensive development of individuals. Therefore, integrating Laozi culture into student ideological and political education can not only excite students' learning interest but also help them establish a correct world outlook, develop a sound personality, and promote individual development in all aspects [5].

## **5.3. Suggestions for Enhancing Students' Comprehensive Quality**

Integrating Laozi culture into students' ideological and political education holds significant practical significance, particularly in enhancing their overall qualities. Firstly, Laozi culture emphasizes the harmony with and adherence to natural laws. This concept can cultivate students' ecological awareness and environmental protection consciousness, enabling them to embrace values such as sustainable development and the importance of environmental conservation. Additionally, comprehending the changes and patterns of nature enables students to approach problem-solving and challenges with rationality and calmness, enhancing their problem-solving abilities and fostering innovative thinking. Secondly, Laozi's philosophy of "doing nothing and letting things take their course" positively influences students' leadership capabilities and interpersonal skills. In the process of learning, students should not only learn to effectively utilize their own strengths but also listen to and understand others' opinions and needs, promoting flexible problem-solving and cooperation. Such a tolerant and inclusive approach to interacting with others contributes to building harmonious interpersonal relationships, cultivating students' collaborative spirit, and promoting teamwork consciousness. Moreover, Laozi's advocacy of "taking the world's worries as one's own and taking the world's joys as one's own" can inspire students to become active participants in society. Throughout their learning journey, students will pay attention to social development and progress, focusing on societal phenomena and issues, and actively seeking ways to address them, cultivating a positive sense of social responsibility and a spirit of taking action. Finally, the wisdom and ways of thinking presented in "Tao Te Ching," emphasized by Laozi, hold important significance for students' moral upbringing and personal qualities. By studying and understanding the thoughts expressed in the "Tao Te Ching," students can cultivate proper values, ethical perspectives, and behavioral standards, forming a positive and proactive attitude towards life and principles for engaging with others. In conclusion, incorporating Laozi culture into students' ideological and political education not only helps improve their overall qualities but also cultivates them into proactive and socially responsible citizens of the new era.

## 6. Conclusion

The study concludes that Laozi culture has a positive and profound impact on students' ideological and political education. By studying and practicing Laozi culture, students can enhance their thinking quality and moral cultivation, as well as develop the ability to think independently and innovate. Laozi culture teaches people to pursue inner tranquility and harmony, emphasizing personal responsibility, moral importance, and a thinking approach that goes beyond traditional concepts. These values and ways of thinking can help students form correct worldviews and life perspectives, guiding them to make sound judgments and decisions in a complex and ever-changing society. Therefore, research shows that integrating Laozi culture into students' ideological and political education can effectively promote their comprehensive development, enhance their overall qualities, and cultivate a new generation of citizens with independent thinking abilities and a sense of responsibility.

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