Practice and Experience of Corps Colleges and Universities in the New Era of the Communist Party of China's Unity and Stabilisation of the Borderlands

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Abstract. General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out when attending the Fifth Session of the 13th National People's Congress that "national unity is the lifeline of all ethnic groups in our country, and the sense of community of the Chinese nation is the basis of national unity". Based on this, this study takes the creation of national unity and progress in colleges and universities as the main line, selects the national national unity and progress in the creation of demonstration units - Shihezi University as the object of study, comprehensively applies the comprehensive social survey research methods such as literature research, participant observation, interviews, etc., sums up the specific practice of Shihezi University in practicing unity and stabilisation of Xinjiang, and puts forward targeted, comprehensive, and effective measures for the creation of Xinjiang's national unity and progress in Xinjiang. The study will summarise the concrete practice of Shihezi University, put forward targeted and exemplary opinions on the creation of national unity and progress, promote the implementation and development of the concept of "unity and stability" in the whole territory, and offer suggestions for the realisation of social stability and long-term peace and stability in Xinjiang.

Keywords: national unity and progress creation, university experience, unity and stability of the frontier.

1. Formulation of the problem

National unity is the cornerstone of development and progress, as well as an important guarantee for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, while the creation of national unity and progress is an important initiative to promote national unity. In order to promote the creation of national unity and progress in an in-depth and lasting manner, the Opinions on Comprehensive, Deeply and Lastingly Carrying Out the Creation of National Unity and Progress to Build a Strong Sense of Community among the Chinese Nation was released in October 2019, clearly defining the goals and guidelines of the relevant work. The document pointed out the need to build specialised model units for national unity and progress as a way to lead and promote national unity and progress across the country. Later, at the Third Xinjiang Symposium held in September 2020, General Secretary Xi also pointed out that "unity and stabilisation of the frontier" is one of the important strategies for good work in Xinjiang, and that it is necessary to continue to promote national unity and build a strong sense of community among the Chinese nation. This also highlights the importance and urgency of the work of creating national unity and progress.

Afterwards, in order to implement the spirit of the central government and promote the creation of national unity and progress, relevant documents have been issued. Documents such as the Regulations on the Creation of Exemplary Units for the Progress of National Unity in Xinjiang and the Plan for the Creation of Exemplary Areas for the Progress of National Unity in the Fourteenth Five-Year Plan of the Autonomous Region provide specific guidance for the selection and construction of model units for the progress of national unity. According to the criteria of the relevant documents, China has selected a number of exemplary units of national unity and progress. 2021, in the "Decision of the National People's Committee on Naming the Ninth Batch of Model Units of National Unity and Progress Demonstration Areas", Shihezi University was awarded the title of "National Model Unit of National Unity and Progress", and then in 2023, the College of Literature and Arts of Shihezi University was awarded the title of "National Model Unit of National Unity and Progress". The
College of Literature and Arts of Shihezi University was awarded the title of "the tenth batch of national model units of national unity and progress demonstration area". As a well-known university in Xinjiang, Shihezi University has accumulated a wealth of practical experience in the creation of national unity and progress. These experiences are of guiding significance for the creation of national unity and progress in Xinjiang and the whole country, and are also of great significance for the implementation of the strategy of "unity and stabilisation of Xinjiang".

2. Shihezi University's practice of solidarity and stability

The following data on national unity education, activities, work, etc. are from the official website of Shihezi University, the official websites of Shihezi University colleges, the Academic Affairs Office of Shihezi University, and the news of Shihezi University, etc., and the data and information are true and valid.

2.1 Development of national unity education at Shihezi University

2.1.1 Curriculum construction.

Shihezi University has been actively building a curriculum system based on the concept of "the Chinese nation as one family, building the Chinese dream with one heart", in order to prevent university students from being compelled by extremist ideology. The university has specially designed a number of courses, including Xinjiang History and Ethnic and Religious Policies, History of Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, Geography of Xinjiang, Xinjiang Local History, and Education of Chinese National Community Consciousness, etc., so that education of national unity is carried out throughout ideology and morality courses and professional courses.

In addition, education on national policies and the spirit of the Corps is actively pursued, with a special course on "Situation and Policies", and a system of education on national unity from the classroom to the dormitory, from the classroom to the faculty, and even throughout the entire university is being established and continually improved. Many of these courses have been rated as Corps-level quality courses, such as "Nurturing People in the Spirit of the Corps - Navigating Civics and Politics with Famous Teachers," by inviting exemplary individuals in national unity. Through this systematic curriculum and teaching, Shihezi University is committed to providing students with a rich and concrete education on national unity, so that they can establish correct values and cultural identity on campus and make positive contributions to national unity and national solidarity.

2.1.2 Universalisation of the national common language.

The radiation scope of national common language and writing promotion in Shihezi University is wide. On campus, based on the Corps Mandarin Testing Centre, Shihezi University regularly carries out a series of activities for the Push Week, conducts the National Mandarin Level Examination on time, and conducts regular Mandarin training for ethnic minority teachers, as well as holding Mandarin-themed speech competitions on several occasions. Off-campus, in 2018 and 2019, Shihezi University dispatched a number of Putonghua testers to the Third and Fourteenth Divisions of the Southern Xinjiang to conduct a 15-day training on the application of national common language and writing skills for minority teachers. A total of 501 ethnic minority teachers from primary and secondary schools and kindergartens in agricultural and pastoral farms were trained in the two sessions. In addition, the university conducted a language and writing ability improvement training course for rural teachers in the central and western regions in 2019, training 121 teachers. In 2021 and 2022, Shihezi University will train 400 ethnic minority and kindergarten teachers under the Ministry of Education's "Children's Tongue and Voice" programme.
2.2 Development of national unity at Shihezi University

The content of national unity work summarised by the author here mainly includes: national unity activities, visit to Huiju work, helping activities, twinning, home visits and so on. Therefore, the author summarises the work in two aspects: national unity activities and mutual assistance.

2.2.1 Series of activities on national unity

Implementing the project of inheriting the outstanding Chinese culture, carrying out different types of activities such as "learning the Analects", "reading the Poetry Scriptures", "singing Peking Opera", practicing calligraphy. The number of participants in different types of activities such as "learning the Analects of Confucius", "reading poetry and classics", "singing Peking Opera", "practicing calligraphy", "showing embroidery" and "practicing the art of tea" has reached more than 20,000, so as to let the excellent traditional culture of the Chinese nation be integrated into the hearts of the majority of teachers and students.

We carry out the action of "Inheriting the Red Gene", and organise more than 1,000 series of activities by singing red songs, watching red films, reading red classics, walking on red roads, telling stories of resistance to epidemics, and entering patriotic education bases, etc. We have organised activities to commemorate the "12 September", "5 May" and "5 May" events for more than 20 years. For more than 20 consecutive years, the university students' chorus festival has been held to commemorate the "12 September" and "May 4th" movements, planting the seeds of patriotism deep in the hearts of teachers and students of all ethnic groups, fully stimulating their sense of national pride and honour, and consciously acting as exemplary practitioners of the "five identities".

2.2.2 Mutual help and assistance work

Visiting Huijun work. Shihezi University actively participates in the livelihood improvement project of Visit Huiju, and has self-financed more than 10 million yuan for the project. In addition, the university has supported the economic development of minority areas in the southern Xinjiang by relying on 104 science and technology projects with a total of 20 million yuan of funding. By organising more than 2,000 in-depth visits to Moyu County and more than 40 other corps (counties and townships) to carry out scientific and technological services, this work has boosted the local new output value of nearly 1 billion yuan. In addition, the school has used project funds from the Corps' "Five Communities and One Promotion" campaign (totalling more than 6 million yuan) to help 200 poor households and 879 people to develop pigeon farming and facility-based agriculture.

3. Shihezi University's experience in practising solidarity and stabilisation of the border

By summarising the practical content of the creation of national unity and progress at Shihezi University and combining it with the relevant interviews, the author believes that the exemplary experience of Shihezi University is the following.

3.1 Steadily promoting national solidarity education and building a quality education system

Through a number of courses such as Ethnic Theory and Ethnic Policy, History of Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, and Geography of Xinjiang, the ideological and political concept of national unity is integrated into the teaching work, which inspires students to think deeply about national unity, and helps them to establish correct values and cultural identity. At the same time, Shihezi University actively promotes the innovation of curriculum education, taking the promotion of the spirit of the Corps as a leader, and promoting national unity in identity. Among the many courses on national unity, the interviewees responded strongly to the course "Nurturing People with the Spirit of the Corps - Navigating the Civics and Politics of the Famous Teachers," in which two of them talked about their feelings in this way:
S1: “What I like about this course is that it takes you to one of the red cultural bases in Xinjiang, to take us to feel the spirit of the Corps, and in that practical sense, it's a really deep experience.”

S3: “I think this kind of class is not seen in the previous courses, and it confirms the saying of combining theory and practice, and we can practically go to the spiritual source by visiting the place of spirituality, and feel the spiritual connotation of the classroom.

Integrate modern media technology with national unity education, and use technology to boost the development of national unity education. Shihezi University has released more than 3,000 pieces of content related to national unity education on its website, WeChat platform, and Jitterbug platform, with a cumulative reading (playing) volume of more than 500,000 times, and has set up a national unity education propaganda group and issued a Handbook of What Should be Known and Understood about National Unity, actively promoting the propaganda and education efforts of national unity education, and enhancing the participation of teachers and students in national unity education. One of the interviewees is a student working in the publicity department of the Youth League Committee of Shihezi University, whose longstanding publicity work has made her feel more clearly the mutual assistance and interoperability between media technology and national unity education.

S4: “I feel that the most obvious and direct way to promote national unity is to send videos and news about the creation of national unity and progress through different platforms, which have a wide audience, so the audience that can be harvested will also be many!

3.2 Focusing on campus cultural construction and passing on the excellent traditional Chinese culture

Inheriting the excellent traditional Chinese culture is the core, and national unity is infused in the construction of traditional culture. There are some differences between national cultures due to geographical and historical factors, how to better promote the campus cultural construction, undoubtedly become a link between different nationalities, in the practice of Shihezi University, many times the inheritance and innovation of traditional culture as the main theme of campus cultural activities. The promotion and inheritance of Chinese excellent traditional culture is conducive to the strengthening of students' sense of cultural identity and pride, and also helps to promote exchanges and exchanges between students of different nationalities. In addition, because of its relatively narrow audience, Shihezi University focuses on integrating minority cultures into the campus, enhancing the diversity of campus culture, and improving the understanding of minority cultures among Han Chinese students, so as to consolidate national unity. For example, the Teachers College of Shihezi University conducts the "Three Strokes, One Word" competition and the Handicraft Skills Competition, the Mid-Autumn Handmade Lantern Competition, the Chinese Classics Reading Competition, and the Chinese Poetry Competition in order to raise the level of Chinese character writing among ethnic minority students of all races, and provide a stage for students of all races to display their talents and stimulate their potential. It provides a stage for students of all ethnicities to display their talents, stimulate their potential and learn extensively, and promotes exchanges and interactions between teachers and students of all ethnicities in the activities to enhance their cultural identity. Students who took part in these activities gained a deep understanding of the profoundness of traditional culture, as many of the students interviewed said:

S8: “I have participated in a lot of traditional cultural activities in our institution, and I am also a member of the Chinese dress club. I think I can really learn a lot of things from a brush character training competition I participated in before, the teacher will give us training in advance, tell us how to hold the brush correctly, what is the medium stroke, the reverse stroke, double hooks, single hooks, and so on, and a lot of knowledge that we have not been exposed to before.

S10: “I like the Central District Library has been held a paper-cutting training, I have not come into contact with paper-cutting, but in the paper-cutting training room I saw the paper-cutting that can only be seen on the television, the teacher will carefully go to teach you how to make paper-cutting, very responsible, and I do have mastered some of the skills of paper-cutting, although not very proficient, but I think it is really very good.
3.3 Promoting the transformation of scientific research results and contributing to poverty alleviation and common wealth.

National unity work is an important part of the creation of national unity and progress. Shihezi University is actively promoting the "visit to Huiju", "village help" and other national unity work, the results of scientific research in agronomy, medicine and other scientific research into a new impetus to drive the development of the southern Xinjiang region, and effectively promote the common prosperity. Promoting common prosperity. On the one hand, Shihezi University strengthens the transformation and application of scientific and technological achievements, and transforms scientific research results in the fields of agronomy and medicine into actual productivity. The university actively guides teachers and researchers to go deep into the grassroots and work closely with local farmers and rural co-operatives to apply scientific research results in actual production and life. For example, through technical training and demonstration and promotion, the university has introduced advanced agricultural planting and breeding technologies into the South Xinjiang region, helping local farmers to improve their planting efficiency, increase the output of agricultural products, and improve the quality of agricultural products, which will in turn lead to the development of the local economy. While improving the quality of agricultural products, Shihezi University's Huiju work team also focuses on promoting the development of the farming industry.

It also cooperates with the local government and community to provide medical, educational and poverty alleviation support and assistance to minority areas. The university organises students and teachers to go to the southern border areas to carry out activities such as teaching, volunteer medical care and cultural exchanges, actively promoting exchanges and unity among ethnic groups, and enhancing the well-being and common development of the people of all ethnic groups. In the interview, the teacher also mentioned his experience of travelling to "Shawan County" to participate in the work of "Huijun".

T1: “We work with the people of Shawan County to learn, train, and produce. We will train them in advance before they engage in agricultural production, and we will go to prepare fodder for them in the beginning of winter. For villagers who do not have a job or have low incomes, we will connect them with local enterprises and build bridges between the villagers and the enterprises, so that we can help them realise diversified incomes. We also organise recreational activities during weekdays, and dance with villagers in national costumes.

4. Reflections on the Practice of Unity and Stability in Corps Colleges and Universities

Based on the prior experience of Shihezi University, the author believes that Xinjiang universities can draw on the following opinions in the process of national unity creation:

In response to the dilemma of insufficient innovation and single repetition of activities in the creation of national unity. On the one hand, colleges and universities should take the inheritance of excellent traditional Chinese culture as the core, and organise various kinds of cultural festivals, art exhibitions, traditional skills demonstrations and other activities, so as to enable students to understand and experience the vastness and depth of Chinese culture in a more in-depth manner. In addition, traditional culture experts can be invited to give lectures and training to guide students to learn the values and moral norms of traditional culture. On the other hand, with the promotion of patriotism education as the core, students are guided to love the motherland and be courageous by organising activities to commemorate important national historical events. Students can be organised to visit places such as revolutionary history memorial halls and martyrs' cemeteries, so as to let them experience the vicissitudes of history and the greatness of heroes. In promoting the training and education of the national common language and script, colleges and universities can strengthen the training of minority students and provide corresponding courses and teaching materials.

In response to the dilemma of fully integrating minority cultures into corps colleges and universities, the author believes that diversified cultural activities can be organised, including the
display of traditional minority costumes and non-heritage dance performances, so that minority cultures can appear more often in the campus environment. At the same time, representatives of ethnic minorities can be invited to participate in campus celebrations, performances and cultural exchanges to increase the influence of ethnic minority cultures. At the same time, attempts can be made to offer elective courses or workshops related to ethnic minority cultures, so that interested students can have the opportunity to study and experience ethnic minority cultures in depth. These courses may cover traditional ethnic minority arts, music, dance, etc., and provide a platform for students to participate and learn about them in person. In addition, cross-cultural exchanges and interactions between Han Chinese students and ethnic minority students are actively promoted to foster mutual cultural exchange and understanding through joint learning and co-operation. Cultural exchange activities and cultural festivals and celebrations can be organised to provide students with opportunities to showcase their own cultures. Attempts can also be made to introduce diversified teaching materials and resources, and to increase the number of books, audio and video materials related to ethnic minority cultures in campus libraries, resource centres and other places, so as to enable students to learn and understand ethnic minority cultures on their own.

References

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