

IDEOLOGICAL EDUCATION OF THE MASSES RESPONSIBILITY OF POLITICAL PARTIES

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27th December, 2007.**

There are times in history of every nation when its morals, conscience and principles are subjected to severe test. Through difficulties they not only retained their belief in their ideals, their moral integrity and their ability to work consciously and creatively; they also champion the just struggle waged by other peoples against national bondage and social oppression.

A change in the people's relationship to the means of production is the basis for the progressive reorganization of the of society's life. The working people are not only the chief productive force, but also master of the means of production. Once they come to understand the laws of social development, they play the decisive part in accelerating economic progress and changing the whole way of life in their country. The main aim of all party work should, therefore, be to develop conscious working and ideological level of the people.

Education of the people is a truly noble cause designed to attain comprehensive development of the personality with a view to advancement of mankind. Hence increasing rate of scientific and technological progress by the growing public participation in managing the affairs of society, and by steadily raising level of people's education and culture is essential.

Particular importance should be attached to those forms and methods of ideological work which best promote greater efficiency of social production. It is not to have people with high professional training; what is also required is the further enhancement of the consciousness of the people of their social activity and the sense of social responsibility, of their interest in the creative attitude to their work.

Party workers should convey to the people the whole impact of ideological conviction and political experience, to explain the grandeur of the future and encourage people to achieve this future.

Prerequisites for political Education

Political education of the people is An important factor in the transformation of society. But political education cannot be successful unless the political parties systematically create the essential conditions for it. So long as there is illiteracy in the country, it is difficult to speak about political education. An illiterate person stands outside politics; without that there are rumours, gossips, fairy tales and prejudices but not politics. All persons aged between 8 and 50 years who cannot read and write must receive instruction in their native language. Participation in the elimination of illiteracy campaign is the civic duty of every citizen. Teachers should be trained to be enthusiastic about the new society, because new life could not be built without knowledge.

Thirst for knowledge grows as the level of education rises. Great attention should be paid to the development of literature for children and young people. A network of public libraries and reading rooms should be set up. Libraries should not only loan books but also advise readers on literature and arrange meetings with writers, poets and men engaged in science and culture. Clubs play a big role in educating people and in promoting their political and cultural enlightenment. They could conduct numerous activities of educational, ideological and political nature, such as evening gatherings devoted to questions and answers on topical subjects, lectures and discussions on major events in life of the country. These could serve as public education centres.

Political parties should train personnel, strengthen them ideologically and place them in all main sectors of the society. They should strive to bring the political education of the teachers and doctors especially under its constant control and care. The effectiveness of ideological and educational work among the people largely depends on the competence of those who conduct it. One of the major tasks of a political party is to train able propagandists and make them the conscious and active exponents of the party's policy among the people.

Party activists are the ones responsible for explaining party's policy to the people. Those recommended for ideological work should have a desire to engage in this work. They should regard ideological work not only as an obligation but also as their vocation. They should be good propagandists, lecturers, agitators and political instructors and fighters for the new cause.

The Forms and Methods of Ideological and Educational Work

The process of changing the psychology of people who have been under the demoralizing influence of an exploitative system is always very complex. What forms of work would be most effective for this purpose? The chief thing was to raise the ideological and theoretical level of party members themselves. Ideological work concentrated on the task of instructing all party members in revolutionary theory, deepening their political knowledge, and teaching them how to understand correctly the events taking place in their country and abroad. The party members should be made conscious and active exponents of the party's policy among the people.

The primary party organizations should be made entirely responsible for political instruction of its members. Contacts between urban and rural party organizations should be established all over the country. Rural traveling schools should be set up and given a clear programme of action. Other forms of political education were needed for those who could not attend political literacy schools. Party organizations should set up 'self-education circles' and 'party discussion clubs' for collective reading of political books and newspapers, and discussions on current events. Rural reading rooms should also be established in one of the peasant houses or the home of the village teacher where the villagers gathered to hear a talk, do some reading or ask questions.

Economic instruction of rural workers constitutes a component part of political education of the people. It is closely related to production, affecting it directly, and also helps people to analyze the effectiveness of their labour.

Political education is not the only form of ideological enlightenment for the people. Such education should also be supplemented by the dissemination of systematic and objective

information about major events at home and abroad, and about the most important foreign policy moves made by the government. Political information meetings should be held at least once a month at all places of work. Political information meetings mean lively discussion on specific facts and events, explaining the meaning and political trend of social life.

An ineluctable law of political information, and of all ideological activity, is truthfulness and honesty. Tell the people the truth about political and economic situation, however bitter it may be. Tell the people openly and honestly about all the difficulties and hardships which are inevitable in the course of construction of the new life.

Oral agitation, which allows for direct contact with people, is an important form of exercising political influence. It is not any the less significant because of the tremendous development of the press, radio and television. It can be very effective for it gives an opportunity for direct appeal to the human being, to his conscience and feelings; for giving praise or condemnation; and for providing a personal example. The agitator is a leader. In order to wield a positive influence on his colleagues, he himself must be a politically conscious and active person, and a good worker, and in the centre of things.

The political education of the peasantry was particularly important. The final victory of the revolution depended largely on whether the peasantry would side with it. It is very important, therefore, that the peasants who form the bulk of the population should understand the party policy.

Mass political work has to be conducted in their native languages, and that the living standards have to be improved.

The Main Aspects of Education

When a political party assumes responsibility for the fate of the country and the people, and seeks to involve the masses in the construction of the new society, it must define explicitly and accurately the qualities to be cultivated in them and the ideas they

are to be educated in, which will make their participation conscious and purposeful.

Labour is the backbone of the life of man and society. The chief requisite for the triumph and consolidation of an ideology was to create a conscious labour discipline and a conscientious attitude to work. The exploitative system develops a slave psychology in the working man and kills his personal dignity. Forced labour cannot arouse mass initiative and a creative attitude to labour.

Forced labour had been replaced by free labour for oneself and for the common good. And it was important to help the working people understand that he who does more and better work for the society is accordingly rewarded by a just society for his labour. Wages should be distributed according to the quality and quantity labour expended in social production rather than by wage equalization. At the same time, it was necessary to cultivate in people a disapproval of, and irreconcilable attitude towards, those who sought to give society as little as possible and take as much as possible for themselves.

Labour education is a broad concept. It includes, primarily, explanation of the universal obligation to work honestly and conscientiously, and the fostering of unselfishness and thriftiness. It also involves raising the professional standard of the employees, teaching them advanced methods of work and organizing mutual assistance. One of the most efficient means of labour education is competition. It can only be useful if exploitation and enslavement of the masses is abolished and competition on a new basis is developed on a truly mass scale and on a non-capitalist basis, because capitalist approach breeds anarchy, idleness and disorder.

The goal of ideological work is to educate the builders of the new life in humane and high-minded principles. Moral education aims at establishing in the life of all people the principles of the highest and finest morality of our time – devotion to the cause, love for the motherland, fraternal solidarity with the working people of all countries, cumulative efforts and fulfillment of one's public duty. Such morality involves love for work, self-discipline and a sense of responsibility for the task assigned, which qualities help individuals tackle industrial and economic tasks effectively.

Patriotism develops and strengthens a feeling of national and international solidarity and the desire to devote all one's energies and abilities to the benefit of the motherland enthusiastically and selflessly.

Using all ideological media systematically develops in citizens qualities which ensure their conscious participation in building a developed society. These qualities are: a creative attitude and responsibility toward work and public property, a high sense of labour discipline and a readiness to help one's companions, high moral standards and an irreconcilable attitude towards violation of norms of good behaviour, and a lofty sense of patriotism and internationalism. The basis for the formation and development of these qualities is the scientific world outlook, an understanding of the world around us and the laws of social development, and political consciousness in the people.

Such are the basic aspects of the ideological and educational work that is carried out among the people as part of systematic work by a political party and the state, designed to raise the people's material welfare and cultural level.

Supervision of Ideological and Educational Work among the People

The success of ideological and educational work depends largely on the level of daily supervision by party organizations. They must see to it that the party's ideas and slogans are fully understood by every person.

The decisions of a political party serve as directives for its members who work in government and public organizations; they act as means of appraising the state of affairs in the different sectors of the struggle to build the new society, and as regulators of the intensity of ideological work. Every party decision affects people's fate. This imposes great responsibility on party functionaries; the decisions they elaborate and adopt must be timely, scientific, logical, explicit and concrete.

A political party must not take offence at the workers. Its workers must learn to approach the most backward, the most underdeveloped members so as to be able to speak to them, to draw

closer to them, to raise them steadily and patiently to the level of democratic consciousness.

Planning is the first stage of organizational work and provides the groundwork for gaining accumulative experience in administration. Planning must meet two basic requirements; it has to be *realistic* and optimal. Realistic planning means bringing to the fore those tasks which are vitally important today and for the solution of which necessary conditions already exist. Optimal planning is the selecting of ways and means which would be most efficient and make it possible to draw effectively on the creative energy of people. Thus the plans of ideological and educational work are a practical guide to action. A vivid example of such planning in action is to eliminate illiteracy and then raise educational level of the people.

In order to be an educator and carry on political work, the ideological worker_himself must have an understanding of the party's policy and be able to interpret correctly the processes and events taking place at home and abroad. He must learn the methodology and the art of political propaganda and agitation in order to be able to find the best means of influencing any given audience, by presenting a definite truth in such a way as to make it most convincing, most easy to digest, most graphic and most strongly impressive. He should be able, by persuasion and by personal example, to call on the members to attain the planned targets.

The loftiest ideals are not worth a little so long as you fail to merge them indissolubly with the interests of those who participate in the economic struggle. This is especially true of the peasantry, who, owing to the specific features of their work, are much farther away from organized ideological and political influence than the working class. Therefore, while carrying out socio-economic measures, one should not fail to take account of the peasant psychology; and should strive to avoid any actions which might not be understandable to the peasantry.

The attention of the political party should always be centred on questions relating to the satisfaction of young people's growing intellectual requirements. To educate the youth is to create a reliable reserve of political fighters for the party and a generation of builders of the new life.

The success of the party supervision lies in its bonds with the people. To win the people's support, the party should explain to them every new move in its policy. The party should see to it that leading officials at every level deliver political reports to the people systematically.

To "teach the people by learning from them" is the rule that should be followed by all parties in the country.

It is also essential to curb the influence of decadent Western "mass culture" by developing the people's culture and talents. Transfer of power to the people and building of the ideological state would enable them to reach the height of culture and civilization.

Education promotes advancement towards the bright future.

27th December, 2007.