

Chapter 1

Part One: Important Discourses by General Secretary Xi Jinping on Basic Education

- (1) Children of all ethnic groups must “study hard and make progress every day”
- (2) Basic education is the foundation for cultivating virtue and improving national quality
- (3) The family is the first classroom in life, and parents are the first teachers of children
- (4) The most important aspect of youth education is imparting correct ideas to them and guiding them on the right path
- (5) Adhere to a people-centered approach to education and accelerate the construction of a high-quality education system
- (6) The foundation of building China into a leading country in education is basic education
- (7) Cultivating socialist builders and successors who are well-rounded in morality, intelligence, physical health, aesthetics, and labor
- (8) Continue to use the thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era to educate people and guide students
- (9) Basic Education should not be ignored

(1) Children of All Ethnic Groups Must "Study Hard and Make Progress Every Day"

On June 1, 2015, Comrade Xi Jinping met with representatives of the Seventh National Congress of the Chinese Young Pioneers and emphasized that nurturing youth is a strategic task related to the long-term future. Childhood is the most precious period of a person's life, during which it is essential to establish correct life goals and develop good thoughts, character, and habits. All ethnic

groups' youth must "study hard and make progress every day." From a young age, they should learn to be good individuals and strive to be pioneers in learning and practicing the core socialist values. They should cultivate aspirations early on to become successors in the development of our country and the people's cause. They should also learn to be creative, to be diligent and conscientious.¹



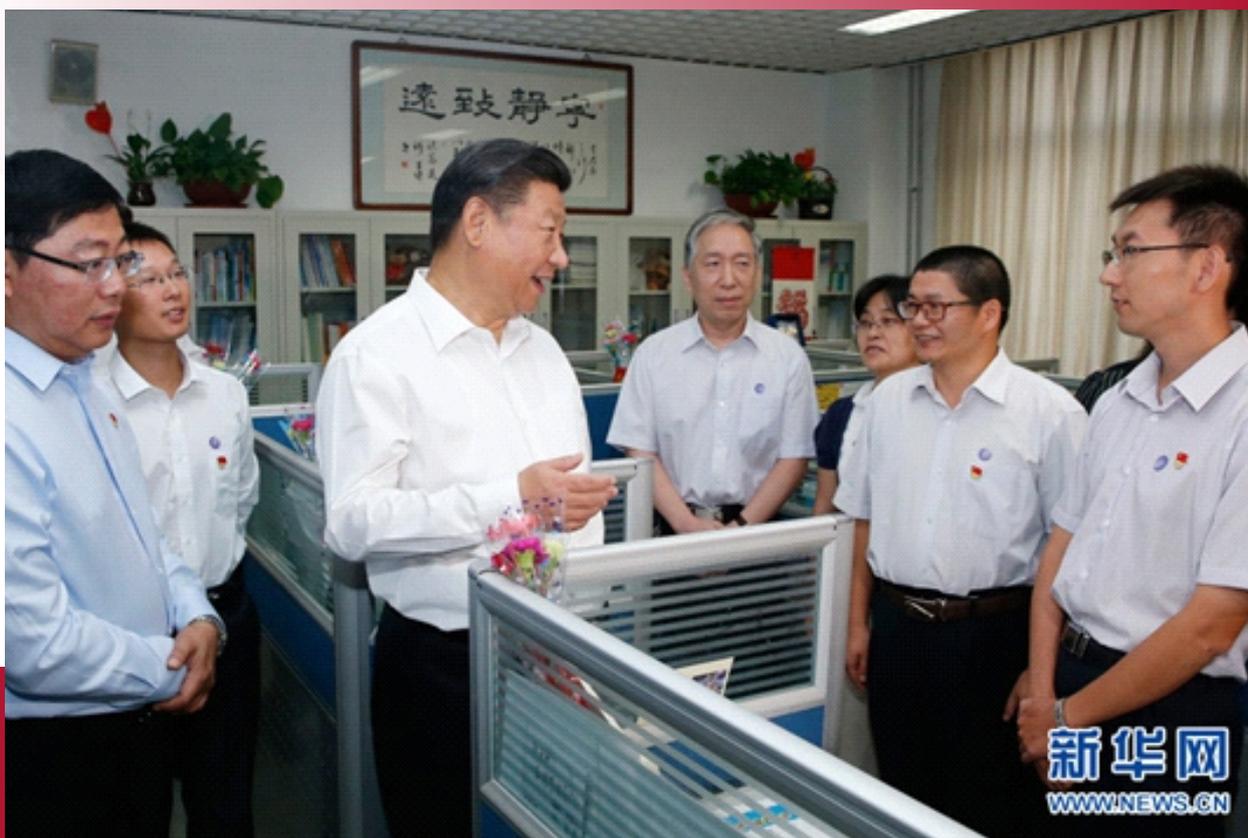
On June 1, 2015, Party and state leader Xi Jinping met with all representatives of the Seventh National Congress of the Chinese Young Pioneers at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

1. Dangjian Network | Be a Good Child for the Motherland Today, and a Builder of the Motherland Tomorrow.

(2) Basic Education is the Foundation for Cultivating Virtue and Improving National Quality

On September 9, 2016, Comrade Xi Jinping emphasized during a visit to Bayi School in Beijing that basic education is crucial for cultivating virtue. It is essential to strengthen ideological and political education, moral education, and education on core socialist values, guiding students to develop self-respect, confidence, independence, and resilience. Basic education serves as the foundational project for improving national

quality. It must adhere to the characteristics and laws of youth development and focus on solid fundamentals. Basic education should establish a strong concept of talent, vigorously promote quality education, encourage schools to develop their unique characteristics, and motivate teachers to teach with their own style. Additionally, basic education is a societal endeavor that requires close cooperation among schools, families, and society.¹



On September 9, 2016, Comrade Xi Jinping had a cordial conversation with teachers in the staff office of the high school department at Bayi School.

2. People's Daily Online | Basic education plays a fundamental role in our national education system.

(3) The Family is the First Classroom in Life, and Parents are the First Teachers of Children

On December 12, 2016, Comrade Xi Jinping met with representatives of the First National Civilized Families and pointed out that the family is the first classroom in life, and parents are the first teachers of children. The most important aspect of family education is moral education, which is fundamentally about how to be a good person. For parents and guardians, it is essential to impart moral principles to their children at a young age, helping them grow healthily and become useful to our country

and people. Families should emphasize both verbal instruction and personal example, impart knowledge and give a moral example through action. Parents should also help children fasten the first button of their lives correctly and take the first step toward their life journey. Parents should teach their children the core socialist values with action, guiding family members, especially the younger generation, to love the Party, the country, the people, and the Chinese nation.³



On December 12, 2016, Party and state leader Xi Jinping met with representatives of the First National Civilized Families in Beijing.

3.CNR News | Parents should help children fasten the first button of their lives correctly.

(4) The Most Important Aspect of Youth Education is Imparting Correct Ideas to Them and Guiding Them on the Right Path

On March 18, 2019, Comrade Xi Jinping delivered an important speech at a symposium for teachers ideological and political theory courses. He pointed out that juveniles are the future of the country and the hope of the nation. Currently, the number of students in all levels of education in China has reached 270 million, with a total of 37.79 million enrolled in higher education. The juvenile stage is a “critical turning point” of life, during which mental development becomes more complete and thinking enters its most

active state.

At this moment targeted guidance and cultivation are greatly needed. “Enlightening the young with virtue is the major task of sages.” This means that the most important aspect of juvenile education is to impart correct ideas to them and guide them on the right path. Ideological and political courses are crucial and irreplicable to complete the fundamental task of moral education. Teachers at school also take on significant responsibility.⁴



On March 18, 2019, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China, President of the country, and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, Xi Jinping, presided over a symposium for teachers of ideological and political theory courses in Beijing and delivered an important speech.

4. www.gov.cn | Ideological and political courses are crucial to complete the fundamental task of moral education.

(5) Adhering to a People-Centered Approach to Developing Education and Accelerating the Construction of a High-Quality Education System

On October 16, 2022, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized at the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China the importance of adhering to a people-centered approach in education development, accelerating the construction of a high-quality education system, promoting quality education and enhancing educational equity.

Efforts should be made to accelerate the

balanced development of high-quality compulsory education and urban-rural integration, optimize the allocation of regional educational resources, strengthen inclusive development in preschool and special education, uphold the diversified development of high schools, and improve the student financial aid system that covers all educational stages.⁵



On October 16, 2022, Xi Jinping delivered a report at the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

5. www.12371.cn | Implement the strategy of invigorating China through science and education to strengthen modernization construction and talent cultivation.

(6) Building a Strong Education Nation, with Foundations in Basic Education

On May 29, 2023, Comrade Xi Jinping emphasized during the fifth collective study session of the 20th Central Political Bureau of the Communist Party that the foundation of building China into a leading country in education is basic education. The more solid the foundation of basic education, the steadier the steps towards a strong education nation and the greater the momentum. Efforts should be made to promote the widespread, inclusive, safe, and high-quality development of preschool education, as well as to advance the quality

and balanced development of compulsory education and urban-rural integration. Basic education must not only solidify students' knowledge base but also ignite their interest in science and exploration, fostering exploratory and innovative thinking qualities. A scientific view of talent, success, and education should be established across society, accelerating the reversal of the tendency towards utilitarianism in education and forming a healthy educational environment and ecosystem.⁶



On May 29, 2023, Comrade Xi Jinping chaired the fifth collective study session of the 20th Central Political Bureau of the Communist Party.

6. www.gov.cn | Take down-to-earth action to develop China into a leading country of education.

(7) Cultivating Socialist Builders and Successors with Comprehensive Development in moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetic, and labor education

On May 31, 2023, Comrade Xi Jinping emphasized during his visit to Yuying School that children and youth are the future of the nation and the hope of Chinese people. To nurture children in new era into individuals with aspirations and dreams, a passion for learning and labor, a sense of gratitude and kindness, and the courage to innovate and strive. They should be well-rounded individuals with comprehensive development in morality, intelligence, physical fitness, aesthetics, and labor. He

hopes that students will commit themselves to studying for national rejuvenation, living up to the expectations of their parents and the hopes of the Party and the people. The fundamental task of education is to cultivate virtue and nurture socialist builders and successors with comprehensive development. It is essential to cultivate students' ideals and beliefs, moral character, knowledge and intelligence, as well as their physical and psychological qualities in all aspects.⁷



On May 21, 2023, General Secretary Xi Jinping had a warm exchange with students in the science classroom at Yuying School.

7. People's Daily Online | They should become well-rounded children with comprehensive development in morality, intelligence, physical fitness, aesthetics, and labor.

(8) Persistently Cultivating Students with the Soul of Xi Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era

From September 9 to 10, 2024, the National Education Conference was held in Beijing, attended by General Secretary Xi Jinping, who delivered an important speech. Xi Jinping pointed out that building a strong education nation is a complex systematic project that requires us to focus closely on the fundamental task of cultivating virtue and nurturing students. The goal is to train socialist builders and successors with comprehensive development in morality, intelligence, physical fitness, aesthetics, and labor while adhering to the socialist direction of education. We must persistently use Xi

Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era to shape students' values and implement the project of cultivating virtue in the new era. Continuous strengthening and improvement of ideological and political education in schools is essential to guide young students to firmly believe in Marxism, uphold the faith in socialism with Chinese characteristics, and have confidence in the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. They should aspire to serve the country and contribute to its strength, becoming responsible and striving individuals.⁸



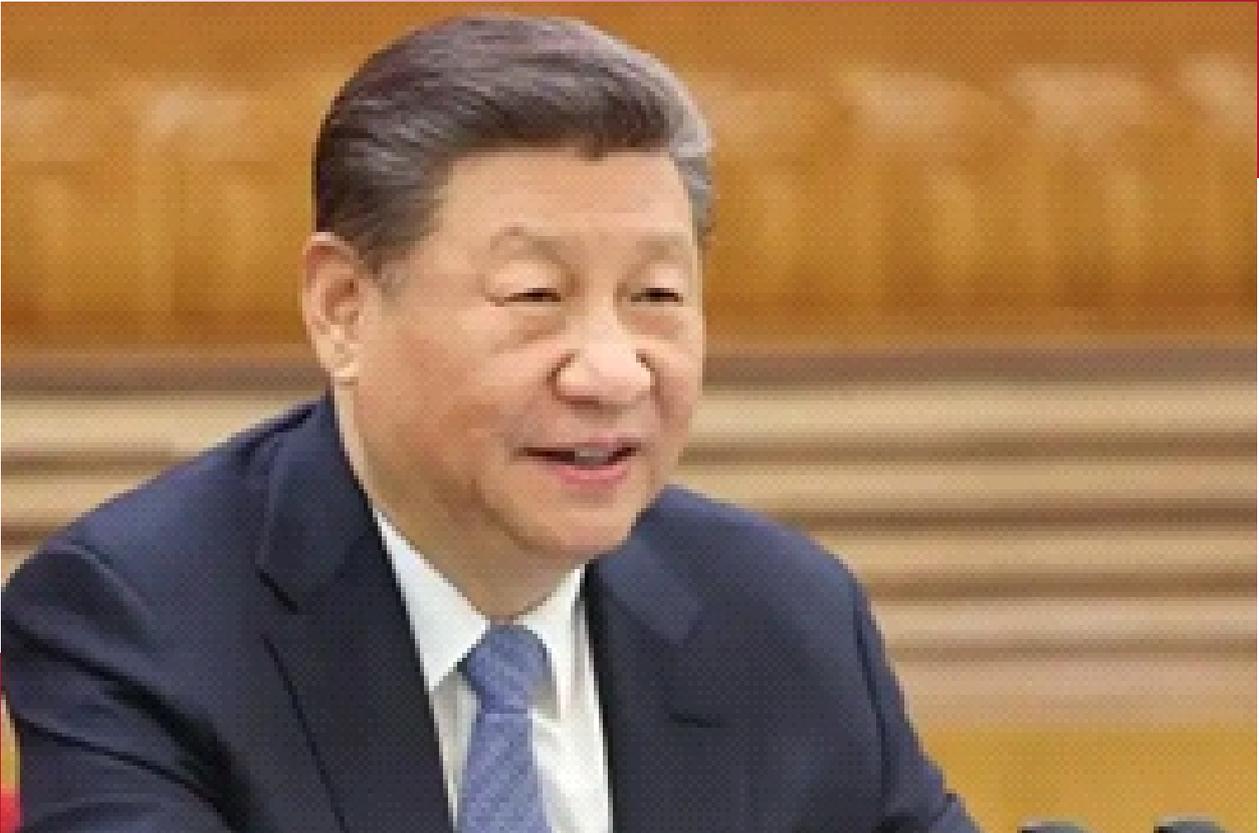
From September 9 to 10, 2024, the National Education Conference was held in Beijing. Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party, President of the country, and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, attended the conference and delivered an important speech.

8.CCTV.com English | Focus on the fundamental task of moral education and make steady strides to achieve the strategic goal of building China into a leading country of education.

(9) Basic Education Should Not Be Ignored

On March 6, 2025, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized while joining delegation discussions of the Two Sessions that basic education should not be ignored. He pointed out that amidst the wave of digitalization in education, it is crucial to focus on nurturing students' intelligence, their emotional development, and fundamental cognitive and problem-solving abilities. He also stressed the significant role that elementary schools, middle

schools, and even kindergartens play in a person's life. It is essential to start education from a young age, effectively integrating ideological and political education in “small classrooms” with social “large classrooms”. Education must firmly establish a foundation by cultivating patriotism and instilling ideals, beliefs, and confidence from an early age. This approach will ensure that the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics has reliable successors.⁹



In March 2025, General Secretary Xi Jinping visited the representatives of the National People's Congress and members from the China Democratic League, the China Democratic Progressive Party, and the education sector while joining delegation discussions of the Two Sessions. He participated in joint meetings to listen to their opinions and suggestions.

9. www.gov.cn | Basic Education Should Not Be Ignored.