

# Research on Corps University Students' Awareness and Attitudes Toward the Consciousness of the Chinese National Community

Bin Yang, Shuping Shao\*

Xinjiang University of Political Science and Law, TumushukeCity, 843900, China.

\*Corresponding author: ybzgsky@163.com

**Abstract:** In the context of globalization and multi-ethnic backgrounds in the new era, cultivating the consciousness of the Chinese national community is particularly important. This paper focuses on Corps university students, exploring their awareness and attitudes towards the Chinese national community consciousness through surveys and analysis. Corps universities, as higher education institutions managed by the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, provide rich material for this study due to their unique social background and diverse student population. The study finds that most students hold a positive attitude towards the Chinese national community, but there are variations in their sense of identification, participation, and cultural recognition. Factors influencing students' attitudes include personal background, educational experience, social environment, and policy promotion. The paper suggests optimizing educational content, enhancing cultural exchanges, and strengthening policy promotion to improve students' consciousness of the Chinese national community. The research results provide a reference for relevant policy formulation and implementation and lay a foundation for further research.

**Keywords:** Corps universities; Chinese national community consciousness; Student awareness; Attitude analysis

## Introduction

The consciousness of the Chinese national community is a crucial ideological foundation for promoting national unity and ethnic solidarity. In a multi-ethnic country, especially in regions like Xinjiang with unique social and economic environments, cultivating and strengthening this consciousness is of significant practical importance. Corps universities, established by the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, have a student population characterized by ethnic and cultural diversity, offering a unique perspective on studying their awareness and attitudes toward the Chinese national community consciousness. This paper aims to investigate and analyze the current status of Corps university students' awareness and attitudes towards the Chinese national community consciousness, reveal influencing factors, and propose optimization strategies to enhance this consciousness comprehensively. The research not only helps understand the ideological dynamics of Corps university students but also provides references for similar regional ethnic policy formulation and educational practice.

## 1. Social Background and Characteristics of Corps Universities

### 1.1 Historical and Development Overview of Corps Universities

Corps universities, managed by the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC) in China, have a unique historical background and development trajectory. Established in the 1950s with the creation of the XPCC, these universities were initially designed to train localized professionals for border regions. In the early years, their primary mission was to cultivate practical talents in agriculture, engineering, and related fields to support the economic construction and social development of Xinjiang. As the 21st century progressed, under the impetus of policy support and regional economic development, Corps universities gradually expanded their academic offerings to include humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and engineering, forming a multi-layered and diverse educational system<sup>[1]</sup>.

During this process, Corps universities have continuously optimized the allocation of educational resources, promoted educational reform, and introduced advanced educational concepts and methods. For instance, in recent years, Corps universities have vigorously promoted the "integration of industry and education" model to adapt to economic restructuring and social development needs. This development process not only highlights the role of Corps universities in local economic and social development but also reflects their positive response to national education policies and regional economic strategies.

### ***1.2 Social and Economic Environment of Corps Universities***

Corps universities are situated in Xinjiang, a region with distinctive regional characteristics and significant social and economic heterogeneity. As an autonomous region with a large population of ethnic minorities, Xinjiang's social and economic environment features multi-ethnic cohabitation and relatively underdeveloped economic conditions. Corps universities not only serve the construction needs within the Corps but also bear the responsibility of promoting regional social and economic development.

Economically, the Corps region is dominated by agriculture, animal husbandry, and resource-based industries. In recent years, increased national support for Xinjiang has driven infrastructure development and industrial upgrading. Corps universities contribute significantly to regional economic transformation and upgrading by training technical and managerial talents aligned with market needs. They actively participate in local economic cooperation projects, advancing the integration of industry, academia, and research, and facilitating the application of scientific and technological achievements.

Socially, the student body of Corps universities is diverse, reflecting the multi-ethnic integration characteristic of the region. Ethnic unity, social stability, and regional coordinated development are key educational tasks for Corps universities. The institutions also enhance interaction with local communities through social services and activities, promoting social harmony.

### ***1.3 Social Composition and Cultural Characteristics of Corps University Students***

The student population of Corps universities primarily includes the children of Corps employees, local residents of Xinjiang, and students from other ethnic groups. This diverse social composition not only reflects the broad recruitment scope of the universities but also highlights their unique advantage in cultivating well-rounded talents with regional characteristics. Most students come from Corps employee families, which gives them a strong sense of identity with the Corps's history and culture. Additionally, the high proportion of local and minority students injects rich diversity into campus culture. Students from other regions and transfer students bring different cultural and educational experiences, further enhancing the integration of campus culture <sup>[2]</sup>.

In terms of cultural characteristics, Corps university students demonstrate a strong sense of cultural identity, particularly in ethnic unity and community consciousness. The universities actively cultivate students' national consciousness and ethnic identity through various cultural activities and educational programs, strengthening their collectivism and social responsibility. Furthermore, the institutions emphasize modern vocational skills training to adapt to the rapid changes in society, developing talents with both traditional cultural literacy and modern professional capabilities. This diverse student background and cultural characteristic provide valuable material for studying awareness and attitudes towards the consciousness of the Chinese national community and help explore influencing factors and cognitive status in depth.

## **2. Theoretical Foundation of the Consciousness of the Chinese National Community**

### ***2.1 Conceptual Analysis of the Consciousness of the Chinese National Community***

The consciousness of the Chinese national community refers to the sense of identity and belonging that all ethnic groups in China have toward the Chinese nation as a whole, in the context of a multi-ethnic state. This consciousness is not merely a basic identification with the national community but also includes a deep understanding of Chinese culture and support for the country's political system. The core of this consciousness lies in the collective identity formed by all ethnic groups on the basis of shared history, culture, and national interests. It reflects values such as mutual respect, cultural inclusivity, and common development among ethnic groups.

The construction of this consciousness relies on multiple factors, including ethnic identity, cultural identity, political identity, and social identity. Ethnic identity emphasizes that all ethnic groups view the Chinese nation as an indivisible whole, while cultural identity involves respect for and preservation of Chinese culture. Political identity manifests in support for the national system, policies, and the rule of law, and social identity is reflected in the recognition of social norms and shared values. These multidimensional identities collectively promote the formation of the consciousness of the Chinese national community, enhancing national cohesion and social stability<sup>[3]</sup>.

## ***2.2 Theoretical Evolution of the Consciousness of the Chinese National Community***

The theoretical evolution of the consciousness of the Chinese national community has undergone a process of initial exploration to deep development, from theoretical construction to practical application. In the early stages, this theory primarily focused on national independence and unity. During the late Qing dynasty and early Republican era, scholars, faced with internal and external pressures, proposed the concept of ethnic unity to promote national independence and revitalization. This laid the foundation for the consciousness of the national community by emphasizing the importance of internal unity for the nation's survival.

In the mid-20th century, especially after the founding of the People's Republic of China, the consciousness of the Chinese national community gradually became integrated into the framework of socialist construction. The Chinese Communist Party introduced policies of ethnic unity and progress, viewing them as core forces for achieving national prosperity and rejuvenation. The theoretical innovations of this period not only focused on ethnic unity but also emphasized comprehensive economic and social development, advancing the modernization process of the nation. In the new era, Xi Jinping's thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics further deepened the consciousness of the Chinese national community, proposing new requirements to strengthen this consciousness in the context of globalization. It focuses on the nation's image and influence on the international stage and advocates the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. This stage of theoretical development combines the practical needs of modern technology and globalization, promoting both the content and practical development of the consciousness of the Chinese national community.

Overall, the evolution of this theory has expanded from initial ethnic identity to encompass cultural, political, economic, and social dimensions, reflecting China's social progress and the strategic needs of national development. It provides important guidance for ethnic policy-making and social governance<sup>[4]</sup>.

## **3. Current Awareness of the Consciousness of the Chinese National Community among Corps University Students**

### ***3.1 Survey Subjects and Sample Characteristics***

This study conducted a survey among the student population of Corps universities to comprehensively understand their current awareness of the consciousness of the Chinese national community. The survey subjects included undergraduate and graduate students from different grades and disciplines, ensuring a broad representation of the sample. The sample characteristics covered multiple dimensions such as gender, ethnicity, academic background, grade level, and admission pathway to accurately reflect the diversity of Corps university students and their awareness of the Chinese national community consciousness.

In selecting the sample, this study combined random sampling with stratified sampling to ensure the scientific and reliable collection of data. Specifically, the sample covered the main colleges and disciplines of Corps universities, with a certain proportion of students from each college and discipline included in the research. The sample also included students from different ethnic backgrounds to analyze the differences in awareness of the Chinese national community among ethnic groups and explore how various background factors influence awareness levels.

### ***3.2 Measurement Indicators and Methods of Awareness Levels***

To systematically measure the awareness levels of Corps university students regarding the consciousness of the Chinese national community, this study designed a scientific system of measurement indicators. These indicators mainly focus on four aspects: awareness level, sense of

identification, sense of participation, and cultural identity. The specific indicators are as follows:

### ***3.2.1 Awareness Level***

The awareness level is evaluated based on the students' understanding of the basic concepts of the consciousness of the Chinese national community, including their knowledge of ethnic unity, cultural inheritance, and national identity.

### ***3.2.2 Sense of Identification***

This indicator assesses students' emotional identification with the Chinese national community, including their sense of belonging to the national community and their expression of ethnic sentiments.

### ***3.2.3 Sense of Participation***

The sense of participation measures students' involvement in activities related to the Chinese national community, such as participation in ethnic unity events and cultural exchanges.

### ***3.2.4 Cultural Identity***

Cultural identity evaluates the extent to which students identify with Chinese culture, including their understanding and acceptance of traditional Chinese culture and core values.

The measurement methods involved a combination of questionnaires and in-depth interviews. The questionnaire was designed with structured questions, including multiple-choice questions and Likert scales, to quantify students' awareness levels across the various indicators. In-depth interviews were conducted with a subset of the sample to gain deeper insights and supplement the data. This comprehensive approach helped gather extensive cognitive data and, through a combination of quantitative and qualitative analysis, enhanced the validity and reliability of the research.

## ***3.3 Data Analysis and Results of Awareness***

Through statistical analysis of the data, this study revealed differences in awareness of the Chinese national community among Corps university students. Overall, students demonstrated a clear understanding of the basic concepts and importance of the Chinese national community, but deficiencies were noted in emotional identification, participation, and cultural identity.

The analysis showed that most students had a high level of awareness regarding the basic concepts and historical background of the Chinese national community. However, emotional identification and a sense of belonging were relatively weaker among some students, particularly those from ethnic minority backgrounds, which may be related to personal experiences, ethnic background, and social interactions. In terms of participation, although most students had participated in related activities, their involvement lacked depth and initiative, often remaining superficial with limited practical engagement.

Regarding cultural identity, students were generally knowledgeable about the traditions and core values of Chinese culture, but their deeper understanding and practical application of Chinese culture were lacking. While students could recognize basic cultural elements, they did not display strong identification with its deeper meanings.

In conclusion, while Corps university students demonstrate a solid grasp of knowledge related to the consciousness of the Chinese national community, there is significant room for improvement in emotional identification, practical participation, and depth of cultural identity. These findings provide important references for optimizing relevant educational strategies and practices<sup>[5]</sup>.

## **4. Analysis of Students' Attitudes Toward the Consciousness of the Chinese National Community**

### ***4.1 Overall Attitudes Toward the Consciousness of the Chinese National Community***

This section analyzes the overall attitudes of Corps university students towards the consciousness of the Chinese national community. This includes their emotional, identification, and behavioral attitudes. A comprehensive analysis of survey and interview data reveals that most students hold a positive attitude towards the Chinese national community, reflected in their support for ethnic unity and national integration. However, there is some variation in specific expressions of attitude.

Overall, students show a positive emotional attitude towards the Chinese national community, demonstrating basic recognition of the historical, cultural, and communal values of the Chinese nation.

Nonetheless, there is a lack of deeper emotional engagement, especially among ethnic minority students, who exhibit lower levels of identification with the Chinese national community. This suggests a need for further strengthening and improvement in emotional recognition.

#### ***4.2 Factors Influencing Students' Identification with the Consciousness of the Chinese National Community***

To better understand students' identification with the consciousness of the Chinese national community, this section explores the main factors affecting their attitudes. These factors include personal background, educational experience, social environment, and policy promotion.

In terms of personal background, ethnic identity, family education, and social experiences significantly impact students' identification attitudes. For instance, Han students typically show stronger identification with the Chinese national community, whereas minority students' identification is influenced by their ethnic cultural background and degree of social integration. Educational experience also plays a crucial role; students who have received relevant education generally have a deeper understanding and higher level of identification with the Chinese national community.

Social environment and policy promotion also play significant roles in shaping students' attitudes. Government and educational policies on ethnic unity, cultural promotion activities, and the creation of a favorable social atmosphere directly impact students' identification attitudes. Analyzing these factors helps reveal the specific mechanisms influencing students' identification and provides targeted recommendations for enhancing consciousness of the Chinese national community.

#### ***4.3 Trends in Students' Attitudes Toward the Consciousness of the Chinese National Community***

This section examines the trends in students' attitudes toward the consciousness of the Chinese national community, exploring factors influencing these changes and their potential social impacts. Comparative analysis of data from different periods and backgrounds shows that students' attitudes exhibit dynamic changes.

In recent years, with the deepening implementation of ethnic unity policies and increased promotion of Chinese culture, students' overall attitudes toward the Chinese national community have become more positive. National-level ethnic policies and cultural activities have had a significant positive impact on students' attitudes. However, the change in attitudes is not uniform, with certain groups, particularly ethnic minority students with lower levels of identification with the Chinese national community, showing relatively slower changes.

Additionally, changes in the social environment, such as economic development, social transformation, and the complexity of ethnic relations, also affect students' attitudes toward the consciousness of the Chinese national community. This trend indicates that, in promoting the consciousness of the Chinese national community, it is necessary to adopt differentiated strategies tailored to specific groups to achieve comprehensive enhancement of attitudes and deepened identification.

#### ***4.4 Strategies for Enhancing Students' Consciousness of the Chinese National Community***

Based on the analysis of students' attitudes toward the consciousness of the Chinese national community, this section proposes strategies for enhancing this awareness. These suggestions include optimizing educational content, strengthening cultural exchange, and reinforcing policy promotion.

First, optimize educational content by offering courses such as "Introduction to the Chinese National Community," which can enhance students' understanding of ethnic unity, cultural inheritance, and national identity. Using practical examples and interactive teaching methods can increase students' engagement and sense of identification.

Second, strengthen cultural exchange activities to promote interaction and integration among students of different ethnicities. Organizing events such as ethnic cultural festivals and exchange seminars can enhance understanding and friendship between different ethnic groups, thereby improving overall ethnic identification.<sup>[6]</sup>

Finally, reinforce policy promotion by using various channels to disseminate national ethnic policies and core values of Chinese culture. Through promotional activities and community services,

increase students' awareness and support for ethnic policies, further enhancing their identification with and support for the Chinese national community.

## Conclusion

This study finds that Corps university students have a high level of awareness regarding the basic concepts and importance of the consciousness of the Chinese national community. However, there is room for improvement in emotional identification, sense of participation, and cultural identity. While students generally exhibit a positive emotional identification, minority students tend to have relatively lower levels of identification. The differences in identification are influenced by factors such as personal background, educational experience, social environment, and policy promotion. To enhance students' consciousness of the Chinese national community, it is recommended to include more relevant content in education, promote cultural exchange activities, and strengthen policy promotion. Future research should focus on differences in awareness among students from different ethnic backgrounds and conduct cross-regional comparisons to optimize educational and policy measures, promoting the spread of the consciousness of the Chinese national community and fostering social harmony.

## Funded by

The paper is supported by the 2024 Key Research Project on Ideological and Political Education in Corps Universities titled "Research on the Cultivation of the Chinese National Community Consciousness in Corps Universities" (BTSZ20241107).

## References

- [1] Fan Linli, Wang Bingzhe. *The Awareness and Practice of Tibetan University Students in Strengthening the Consciousness of the Chinese National Community* [J]. *Journal of Tibet University for Nationalities (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)*, 2024, 45(03):57-63+156.
- [2] Bao Xiaohong, Shu Man, Bai Linqian. *Optimization Path for Education on Strengthening the Consciousness of the Chinese National Community in Ethnic Universities—From the Perspective of Embodied Cognition* [J]. *Journal of Qinghai Nationalities University (Social Science Edition)*, 2023, 49(02):118-124.
- [3] Cong Xuyang. *Three Dimensions of Strengthening the Consciousness of the Chinese National Community Among Minority University Students in the New Era: Conceptual Cognition, Theoretical Logic, and Practical Path* [J]. *Journal of Chifeng University (Han Chinese Philosophy and Social Science Edition)*, 2023, 44(03):82-88. DOI:10.13398/j.cnki.issn1673-2596.2023.03.002.
- [4] Xia Yan, He Yi. *Research on the Cognitive Basis, Practical Principles, and Evaluation System for Strengthening the Consciousness of the Chinese National Community* [J]. *Shenyang Cadre Journal*, 2022, 24(06):11-15.
- [5] Yu Yanghang, Xi Chun'ai, Li Dongyan. *Construction of an Indicator System for the Consciousness of the Chinese National Community* [J]. *Journal of Ethnology*, 2022, 13(05):8-14+131.
- [6] Chen Bowen. *Research on the Cultivation Mechanism of University Students' Consciousness of the Chinese National Community in the New Era* [D]. *Henan Agricultural University*, 2023. DOI:10.27117/d.cnki.ghenu.2023.000489.