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Analysis of strengthened traditional culture education of undergraduates in higher vocational schools

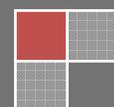
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ABSTRACT

Higher vocational school is the main platform for higher vocational students to receive traditional culture education. There are three effective ways: firstly, propel the curriculum system reform and optimize talent training plan. Secondly, combine excellent traditional Chinese culture education with the management of students. Thirdly, strengthen traditional culture construction during the construction of campus culture.

KEYWORDS

Higher vocational students; Traditional culture education; Ways.



Higher vocational schools bear the mission to cultivate high-skill talents for the first-line demands of production, construction, service and management. Now calls for the improvement of higher vocational students' quality have coming thick and fast. The core of quality education is culture, especially traditional culture. Author thinks that traditional Chinese culture education is an effective way to cultivate high-quality workforce for first-line industries based on our culture foundation. In November 2012, the report of 18th National Congress of the CPC has demanded that we should "build excellent traditional culture inheritance system and carry forward excellent traditional Chinese culture". Higher education is an important link in excellent traditional culture inheritance system while higher vocational education is the main constituent part of higher vocational education. Strengthening the excellent traditional culture education of higher vocational students is imperative. This paper aims to analyze three ways performed by high educational schools in traditional culture education.

ADD EXCELLENT TRADITIONAL CHINESE CULTURE INTO TALENT TRAINING PLAN AND PROMOTE CURRICULUM SYSTEM REFORM

Talent training plan runs through the whole study phrase of higher vocational students. It is the programmatic teaching document for higher vocational schools and tells them what kind of students they should cultivate, which plays a crucial role in their growth.

Strengthen the penetration of excellent traditional culture in "two lessons" and improve the practicability and teaching effect of "two lessons"

Firstly, ideological and moral lesson has an original close relationship with the inheritance of culture. Combining with teaching content, penetrate excellent traditional culture into this class and inherit excellent culture unconsciously. Secondly, Marxism theory and traditional Chinese culture are not mutual exclusive but co-adapted. Zhang Dainian thought that "the acceptance of Marxism relates closely to traditional Chinese culture."^[1] In terms of the theory, these two cultures are similar, such as materialistic dialectics and traditional Chinese dialectical thinking, the mass viewpoint of Marxism and people-oriented thought in traditional Chinese culture, communist ideology and the political idea of "World Harmony" in traditional Chinese culture and so on. All these similarities lay the foundation for the mutual adaption between traditional Chinese culture and Marxism, which also provide theory basis for us to combine Marxism theory with traditional Chinese culture during the teaching process and the sinicization of Marxism. Thirdly, vocational guidance course aims to strengthen professional responsibilities of students, improve their ability to adapt to positions and do mental preparation for them to help them adapt to the society quickly through "continuous three-year effort". The traditional saying "neither the old nor the young will be cheated" just refers to professional ethics and honest, which has lots of examples in our traditional culture. Fourthly, the class of Situation and Policy can open students' mind to Chinese economic and political situation, our international status and a series of measures we adopted. During the long Chinese history, patriotism and endeavor are our main theme. Teaching the class with history will arouse the patriotic passion and enterprising spirit of students.

Penetrate traditional culture into professional education and highlight major features

Professional study is the focus of higher vocational students during the whole study process. Professional skills of higher vocational education have a close relation with our life. However, the science and technology in Chinese history have made great contribution in the world history. Valuable relics left by ancestors have gathered profound Chinese culture. Therefore, during the teaching process of major lessons, teachers should dig excellent traditional culture resources combining with the feature of the course and make students feel proud about traditional culture, arouse their study enthusiasm and inherit good traditional culture during learning. For this, schools should reform teaching mode, reform teaching content as well as exam mode, make students happy to study and learn knowledge and skills.

Combine practice with professional moral education and improve education effect

The social practices of higher vocational activities include professional role experience, "Volunteer Activities for the Country People" and post practice. Professional role experience should be completed in campus for one week. Students will change from students into professional roles to experience responsibilities, professional morality and needed comprehensive ability of the roles. "Volunteer Activities for the Country People" usually will be arranged in winter or summer holidays for different durations. It adopts a bystander method and makes students to contact the society, understand society, set up vocational idea and professional morality. Post practice should be more than one semester and less than one year according to talent training plan. It is the feature of higher vocational education and the important link of higher vocational teaching. It is also the effective way to promote the combination of work and study as well as the talent training model cooperated by school and enterprise. Besides, it is also the first step for students to enter into the society. During the post practice, professional responsibility should be placed first. So it is very important to cultivate the quality of hard-working, dedication, serious work attitude, honest and punctuality for students. Schools should strengthen the post practice management of society, school and enterprise, pay attention to the traditional culture education during post practice, cultivate students with good professional morality, behavior norms and professional skills, improve the quality of post practice and lay the foundation to make students become excellent professional persons.

Strengthen traditional culture curriculum construction and carry out traditional culture education

Nowadays, curricula of traditional culture in higher vocational schools are simple in structure with few courses. *University language* is the main course. Teaching effect is not so good because of few lessons. Thus, it is necessary to establish *Chinese tradition culture*, which can help students to grasp the essence of traditional Chinese culture. *College*

English can also spread traditional culture effectively, but it is with little functions. Our traditional culture has no effective combination with English education. *College English* has no relation with our traditional culture. “Language is an indivisible part of language” and “Language also cannot exist without culture” (Shu Dingfang 1997). We suppose that if we use the language habit of traditional Chinese culture into English teaching by the tool of English, we have not only inherited our language but also learnt another language. It is a serious question to be solved and requires high demand of English education. On the one hand, it demands relevant deep traditional culture foundation of teachers. On the other hand, it requires teachers to lead students to actively participate in traditional Chinese culture during the study of *College English*, which can gain better effect. Besides, Schools can also open selective courses about traditional culture, invite relevant experts to do lectures, organize enjoyable extracurricular activities such as poem recitation, classic recitation and traditional culture contest and carry out traditional culture education.

Strengthen the construction of traditional culture teaching material in higher vocational schools and show human spirit

Compose a high-quality text book which is suitable to humanism. At present, among the humanism courses set up in higher vocational schools, University language is the only course which can best show traditional culture. But there is only one lesson once a week. Author thinks that schools should compose special textbooks with traditional culture essence and highlight regional features and major features combining with the culture base, occupation direction and vocational features of higher vocational students. Text books like this will make students have fun in class and suit the professional studies.

COMBINE TRADITIONAL CHINESE CULTURE EDUCATION WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF STUDENTS

Add traditional culture education into the management of students and strengthen the traditional culture construction of management team

Nowadays, student management teams in higher vocational schools have becoming polarized. On the one hand, some are too young with relatively weak traditional culture quality. On the other hand, some are old with weak educational background and relatively simple management method. In terms of school life, instructor has a big influence on students. During concrete works, instructor has busy and trivial work, with low salary and low work enthusiasm. Some instructors will arrange the work from department to student cadres. There are even some strike deals between power and money in students’ appraisal events, which causes bad influence. So it is necessary to train instructors about traditional culture to improve their traditional culture quality, improve their morality level and encourage them to influence students as well as educate students through training. At the same time, schools can do surveys in instructors’ classes and ask all students to make an objective and just assessment about instructors’ moral standing, caring method and work achievement in order to improve their work and work enthusiasm.

Exert the function of association, encourage students to participate in associations and cultivate their confidence

Student association is a stage organized spontaneously by undergraduates for students to display personalities, join in management, coordinate body and mind and at the same time it offers more exercise opportunities to them. Student association advocates to “let students do their own business and share the work together” which not only meets the features of their characteristics, culture, mental state and age but also is an effective way to lead students to take part in communities. Relevant school management institutes should strengthen the instruction and encourage students with same interests and hobbies to join in the communities. In terms of traditional culture, schools can set up student associations with relevant strong humanism such as Literature Society, History Society, Calligraphy Society and Benevolence Society. Schools should pay attention to cultivate students with good qualities in intelligence, emotion, morality, deeds and harmonious educational function and eventually to develop them comprehensively.

Organize lectures with regional features and build the sense of pride of students

Take Zibo vocational Institute for example, Zibo locates at the middle part of Shandong, which is the cradle of Qilu Culture. Ceramics and silk of Zibo have enjoyed a famous name since ancient time. The birth of football, brilliance of Qi Culture and profound influence of Confucianism all contribute to the rich content of Zibo traditional culture. Here, on this earth, Zibo Vocational Institute has a unique development and is one of the national hundred model schools. It deeply connects to local economy, not only sets up various science and engineering majors complying with modern economic development to provide high-skilled talents for social career development in Zibo, but also opens ceramic and glaze majors with strong Zibo features. It builds a master studio to inherit and develop special culture of Zibo and cultivate special talents. All these cultures are the best materials of traditional culture education, which can help to set up students’ confidence and pride and arouse their impetus to study.

Organize knowledge contest, social service activities and cultivate the thirsty of knowledge and social responsibility of students

Schools can organize some knowledge contests about traditional culture combining with association activities to arouse their thirsty of knowledge, such as recitation contest of classic articles and traditional culture knowledge competition. Combining with the “volunteer Activities for Country People”, schools can organize volunteer activities to geracomium and orphanage and organize voluntary culture teaching in backward areas, which can make students understand the importance of

culture to individuals and society, improve their sense of responsibility and mission and firm their confidence in serving the country.

Take full advantage of class activities to organize traditional culture education and broaden students' horizon

Class teacher and instructor can have a discussion with students based on what happened in this week and students' emotional problems through the insight and method of "self-cultivation, family regulating, state ordering and world governing", which can make them feel the charm of traditional culture and arouse their study passion. At the same time, they can organize students to watch excellent TV programs together which can carry forward traditional culture, such as *Lecture Room*, *Journey of civilization* and *A Bite of China*. Students can feel broad and profound traditional culture during the entertainment and will be influenced unconsciously.

Pay attention to the cultural value of traditional festivals and make students understand their educational function

Traditional Chinese festivals all include important social meanings and moral significance, such as Spring Festival, Tomb Sweeping Day, the Dragon Boat Festival, Middle Autumn Festival, Chinese Valentine's Day and Double Ninth Festival. However, the original meaning and rituals of festivals are unclear and the educational function of them are becoming far away. Current director of Beijing Phenomenology Research Center, Zhang Xianglong once pointed sharply that "Many people have an illusion that once China exists, Mandarin exists, relevant Chinese knowledge and culture relics exist, then traditional Chinese culture will exist or even develop stably. But actually, the mainstream of traditional Chinese culture is facing a crisis"^[2]. It is necessary to dig the meaning of traditional festivals deeply. Transform them into an acceptable way for busy and impetuous modern people. Inherit the five-thousand cultures and pass on the power and belief, which is also another function of higher education schools.

ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO THE INFLUENCE OF CAMPUS CULTURE AND STRENGTHEN TRADITIONAL CULTURE CONSTRUCTION DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF CAMPUS CULTURE

"A good campus culture is a potential education power which restricts the thoughts, affections and moral level of undergraduates, remold the inner world of them and cultivate them with firm moral idea, noble ideology and morality as well as optimistic personality spirit."^[3] "Campus culture construction is an important way to promote quality education while traditional culture is an important content of campus culture. Strengthening the construction of the traditional culture in campus culture will contribute to the development of quality."^[4] Campus culture will influence students constantly and profoundly.

Strengthen the traditional culture construction of school spirit and study atmosphere and form a style

School spirit is the atmosphere, style and soul of schools. Figuratively, school spirit is like the bearing and temperament of a person, elegant, noble, calm or restless, garish, philistine. It will deeply influence the students and teachers in the campus. Zhang Zai, neo-Confucianism in Song Dynasty, said that the function of intellectuals is to "set a good value system, choose the right direction for people, inherit excellent traditional culture and make effort to the stability and peace of the world". University is the place where intellectuals can get together and it is a place to bring up intellectuals. Let's keep the true and rational saying of ancient wise men in mind. Implement these beliefs by actions. Bring up our students with these reliefs. Advocate the spirit, set up good atmosphere, cultivate a style and change the social mood profoundly and unconsciously.

Naming buildings and roads with profound traditional culture

The name of school buildings, scene sites and main roads, the construction of theme sculpture and culture scenery stone as well as the landscaping should be closed to traditional culture, combine with the teaching features of school and express the connotation and essence of traditional culture. Influence the quality, words and behaviors through concrete objects and further express the idea of campus traditional culture.

Lay emphasis on the leading role of library and bulletin boards

Library is an important site for undergraduates to obtain knowledge, exercise ability and form their character. Relatively long open hour, abundant books, elegant environment and well-equipped facilities have all created a good second classroom for university students. Library can develop traditional culture. It expresses the atmosphere of Chinese landscape paintings and creates enjoyable scholarly atmosphere from the layout of the room and books, which attracts students on their sight of this space, influences them unconsciously and makes them to study, imitates and improves themselves. Bulletin board is a common carrier for campus culture. Organizer can select interesting content for the layout design according to hot issues and holidays combining with words and images, which can inherit culture and increase knowledge reserve for students. They will be influenced day by day.

Build traditional culture network in campus and carry forward excellent traditional culture

Network is the most universal and convenient way for modern students to learn and exchange, which also changes our idea about the world. American futurist, Alvin Toffler once said that "One who owns information and controls the

network, he owns the whole world.” Network will be a new and important platform for higher vocational students to receive traditional culture education.

We can strengthen campus network construction, set up featured and attractive traditional education website and start different columns in the website such as diet, clothes, legends and local dramas. Through words, images, sounds and animations, we can transform simple words into vivid feelings, break the restrictions of time and space, combine abstract theory with concrete sensory stimuli, change history into reality and make students feel the charm of traditional culture during experiences, thus their culture consciousness and the ability to inherit culture will be improved.

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