

Connotation and Mechanism of Integrating Huxiang Culture into Morality Education at Vocational Schools

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Abstract:

Huxiang culture rich in connotation began in ancient times and more shines itself in modern times after carried forward from the Song Dynasty. The typical spirit contained in Huxiang culture also goes deep into the flesh and blood of Hunan people. Therefore, the vocational schools in Hunan will inevitably be branded with Huxiang culture. Although there are many references that can be found from the development history of Huxiang culture and there is inspiration that can be drawn from achievements in literature, history and art, integrating Huxiang culture into morality education is still subject to institutional constraints such as local customs and religious beliefs. Rooted in Human, vocational schools in Hunan should absorb enough nutrition from Huxiang culture and explore the path of deep integration of Huxiang culture into morality education at vocational schools in combination with their own development to cultivate the vocational school culture with Huxiang spirit and form a virtuous circle between the Huxiang culture and the development of vocational schools. What's more, the vocational schools in Hunan should cultivate students with noble moral sentiment while innovating the new path of developing vocational school culture.

Keywords:

Huxiang Culture, Morality Education, Educational Connotation, Educational Mechanism

1. “New” Connotation of Integrating Huxiang Culture into Morality Education at Vocational Schools

Importance has always been attached to the inheritance, innovation and education of Huxiang culture in China, where the Ministry of Education issued the *Guidelines for Improving Huxiang Culture and Education* (2014), the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council issued the *Opinions on Implementing the Huxiang Cultural Inheritance and Development Project* (2017) and the Ministry of Education issued the *Notice on Constructing Huxiang Cultural Inheritance Base* in May this year, making the integration of Huxiang culture into the

morality education get more and more attention. To integrate Huxiang culture (an important branch of Huxiang culture) into the morality education at vocational schools, it is necessary to adhere to the “five combinations” guided by Xi Jinping’s ideology on socialism with Chinese characteristics in new era.

1.1. Combine with the Modern “Student-Oriented” Educational Concept

The “student-oriented” educational concept is the core of modern educational concept. On the one hand, the China’s traditional educational thought pays attention to the “students” as the educatees. Confucius, an ancient educator, put forward “teaching students according to their aptitude” and Zhu Xi praised: “education without distinction”, pointing out that education should “be based on the students’ strength”. On the other hand, the ancient educational thought is “teacher-centered”. The so-called “preaching, teaching and dispelling doubts” emphasizes the central position of teachers as the leading and main body in teaching activities. Therefore, the integration of Huxiang culture into the morality education at vocational schools should first combine and emphasize the modern “student-oriented” educational thought while paying attention to “respecting teachers and esteeming truth”. The combination of traditional “respecting teachers and valuing education” with the current “student-oriented” educational concept is both an answer to the concept of “respecting teachers and valuing education” emphasized by General Secretary Xi Jinping in “long-range development plan should be education oriented; an education plan should be teacher-centered” and an echo to the concept of teaching students in accordance with their aptitude in traditional Chinese educational thoughts emphasizing the development of students’ individuality. In addition, the combination of the two does not only help to change the disadvantages of one-way indoctrination in traditional education and to face the contemporary students with diverse personality with a more respectful and understanding attitude, but also fully activates the main role of students in teaching activities while giving better play to the leading role of teachers in teaching activities and realizing teaching benefits teachers as well as students.

1.2. Combine with the Realization of the “Chinese Dream” of the Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese Nation

Mencius said, “where there is Tao, a thousand foe won’t bent my will”. “Tao” here is exactly the way of “enforcing the country and enriching the people” (Shang Jun Shu Yiyan). In ancient times, people with lofty ideals worked hard in exchange for our towering Chinese nation having stood in the center of the world stage for a long time, but China endured impoverishment and long-standing debility and was later arbitrary ravaged by western powers since modern times. Now “contemporary China is closer to realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation than it at any time in history”. “Chinese Dream”, a common dream for which all Chinese people struggle untiringly, comes down in one continuous line with the traditional cultural thought of “enforcing the country and enriching the people”. The “Chinese Dream” is historical, rooted in the fertile soil of Chinese culture and growing out of the essence of Hunan culture. As can be seen from the following: “govern the state, and pacify the world” from the Confucian, “those who govern the country should enrich the country and strengthen the army” from the legalist, “no building a family until taking the enemies down” from Huo Qubing, “what can’t you do if you dedicate yourself to country’s cause” from Yue Wumu, “every person should feel responsible for the fate of the

country” from Gu Yanwu, “I shall dedicate myself to the interests of the country in life and death irrespective of personal will and world” to Lin Zexu and “to establish a mind for heaven-and-earth; to establish the way for the people of today; to carry on the lost learning of the ages of yesterday; and to find the “Great Peace” for ten thousand generations” from Zhang Zai, a thinker in the Northern Song Dynasty, the sages showed their determination and perseverance to enforce the country and enrich the people.

The “Chinese Dream” is realistic. The morality education at vocational schools must organically combine the Chinese nation’s tradition of pursuing wealthy and strong country, peace and prosperity with the realization of the “Chinese Dream”, cultivate students to establish a national spirit with patriotism as the core, stimulate their internal source and driving force to work hard and aim high, and realize self-worth while contributing to the country and serving the people.

1.3. Integrate with the Education of “Socialist Core Values”

Values are the soul of culture because correct values lead people to truth, goodness and beauty, while wrong values lead people to astray. Facing the complex and diverse values that exist in the world today, morality education at vocational schools must adhere to the socialist core values. Combining the excellent cultural essence of the Chinese nation and the essence of socialist culture with Chinese characteristics, the socialist core values deeply rooted in the Huxiang cultural system “are the concentrated expressions of the contemporary Chinese spirit, which condense the common value pursuit of all people”. [16]

To integrate the combined Hunan culture education with the education of socialist core values into the morality education at vocational schools, we should do a good job in interpreting the realistic context of the excellent traditional culture. The thoughts such as benevolence, people-orientation, patriotism and faith generated in the historical context of traditional culture should be interpreted in the real context of core values, the essence of which should be firmly grasped, while the outdated concepts of which should be removed, and the modern significance of which should be fully explained. On the other hand, the socialism core values should also be explained and interpreted with the help of Huxiang culture. There are too many cases oriented by truth, goodness and beauty in the long history of Chinese civilization and vivid cases help to complete the morality education.

1.4. Combine with Enhancing “Cultural Self-Confidence”

“Culture is the soul of a country and a nation because if the culture is prosperous, the country is prosperous and if the culture is strong, the nation is strong. Without a high degree of cultural self-confidence or cultural prosperity, there will be no great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.” [1] The morality education at vocational schools must be combined with the construction of “cultural self-confidence”. The socialist culture with Chinese characteristics “originates from Huxiang culture bred by the civilization history of the Chinese nation for more than 5,000 years” [1] and it comes down in one continuous line with Huxiang culture. In ancient times, there was the great harmony culture--“a public spirit will rule all under the heaven when the great way prevails”, and now there is the great harmony view--“human community with a shared future”; in ancient times, there was the idea--“government shall be based on people; to govern the country, it is necessary to enrich the people first”, and now there is the concept of people’s livelihood--“adhere to the people as the center”; in ancient

times, there was the grand spirit--“an educated gentleman cannot but be resolute and broad-minded, for he has taken up a heavy responsibility and a long course”, and now there is the down-to-earth striving concept--“endeavor to promote national renewal” and “happiness is all made through struggle”. The morality education at vocational schools has natural advantages and great responsibilities in the field of culture. Inheriting and innovating Huxiang culture and carrying forward and developing socialist culture with Chinese characteristics are inseparable from cultivating students’ “cultural self-confidence”. Therefore, the morality education at vocational schools should cultivate students to integrate excellent Hunan culture and advanced socialist culture with Chinese characteristics, gradually establish “cultural self-confidence”, contribute to the motherland in the future and let the world share “Chinese wisdom”.

1.5. Combine with the Cultivation of “Innovative Talents”

The morality education at vocational schools should not only include the cultivation of “morality”, but also have the exercise of “talent”, and the talent of “innovation” is the key. Innovative thought and innovative spirit are an important part of Huxiang culture. The sources of traditional culture include “although Zhou is an old country, the favoring appointment lighted on it recently”, “if one can make things better for one day; he should make them better every day”, and “things will inevitably change when they reach their extremes, otherwise the development of them will be stagnant, and the changes will make things to exist permanently”, which have laid the foundation for innovation and change in traditional culture and carried forward by subsequent sages. For example, Wang Anshi’s new political revolution of Qingli era once changed the poverty and weakness in the Song Dynasty; Zhang Juzheng’s Wanli new policy was regarded as a temporary resurgence of the Ming Dynasty; the political reform and reform of the modern reformers more showed the Chinese nation’s spirit of seeking innovation and change in times of crisis. To “firmly implement the innovation-driven development strategy” and “accelerate the construction of an innovative country”, innovation has become a national strategy and to “promote the creative transformation and innovative development of Huxiang culture” in the cultural field [17] has become the theme. Therefore, no matter from the perspective of the self-development of Huxiang culture or the growing-up and success of students, Huxiang culture should be combined with the cultivation of innovative talents because innovation based on excellent traditional culture can avoid becoming a “castle in the air” of water without a source and a tree without roots, and make the construction of socialist culture have Chinese characteristics, so as to maintain the true color of Chinese civilization forever.

2. Mechanism of Integrating Huxiang Culture into Morality Education at Vocational Schools

2.1. Guarantee Mechanism

Although Huxiang culture is broad and profound, if we intend to introduce Huxiang culture into the campus culture construction of vocational schools, it is necessary to establish a campus culture construction leadership group or association which will be mainly responsible for strengthening the research on the combination of Huxiang culture and the campus culture construction of vocational schools, and finding the right entry point; strengthening the campus culture design and construction planning of vocational schools, paying attention to the differences between schools, and

ensuring that vocational schools have their own characteristics under the background of Huxiang culture; distinguishing the campus culture construction of vocational schools from the ordinary campus culture construction, and highlighting the characteristics of vocational schools. Mao Zedong once pointed out: “heroes show their nature derived from heaven and extend their great power in their nature to make them heroes.” To become a Huxiang hero, you should not only have professional knowledge, but also have the great spirit of “worry about the world and dare to be the first”. Vocational schools should pay attention to cultivating students’ practical ability and cultivating practical talents for the society, but they should note that vocational schools cannot cultivate students into “production” machines. Under the “double-edged sword” of science and technology, students should not only advocate science, but also awe nature; should not only be a person of scientific and technological innovation, but also a strong guardian of environmental protection, and “dare to be the first” for the benefit of human society. However, to achieve all this, we must build a perfect guarantee mechanism for cultural education, and provide effective guarantee conditions for cultural education from the aspects of talents, funds and equipment.

2.1.1. Organizational Guarantee

The Ministry of Education issued the *Notice on Constructing Huxiang Cultural Inheritance Base* in May 2018 to construct Huxiang Cultural Inheritance Base in national ordinary vocational schools. As the Huxiang culture is getting deeper and deeper into the all-round education of vocational schools, it is inevitable to set up a special organization in the charge of the leadership of the vocational school and composed of personnel from related departments for planning and coordination. However, it should be noted that under the background of “Internet +” education, the members of the organization should include teachers proficient in information education, and plan and coordinate the network management, network culture construction and network course teaching of vocational schools.

2.1.2. System Guarantee

System guarantee developed for the construction of campus system culture is divided into curriculum design system, practical activity system and student management system. In terms of curriculum design system, since curriculum teaching is the most direct and effective way to ensure the integration of Huxiang culture into morality education at vocational schools, we should formulate a curriculum design scheme combining classroom teaching, practical teaching and network teaching, implement Huxiang culture into curriculum design as the key teaching points, and ensure the proportion of curriculum quantity and teaching content. Based on the “Internet +”, we should design a certain proportion of online courses, form a system, and encourage teachers to actively carry out a new model of online teaching by making extensive use of the advantages of online courses including sharing and convenience.

In terms of practical activity system, “it is necessary to establish and improve the overall cooperation mechanism of various departments of the school combining vertical leadership and horizontal linkage and the joint participation mechanism of all teachers and students of campus culture [17], use “Internet +” to share online resources, carry out online and offline student activities, formulate complete activity plans, and ensure the smooth progress of student activities. In terms of student management system, it is necessary to formulate regulations such as *Regulations on*

Student Network Management, use APP or build their own campus network to provide a platform for communication between teachers and students in the school, and seriously deal with individual students who smear traditional culture, hurt national emotion and use the network for illegal and disciplinary acts.

2.1.3. Environmental Protection

Environmental protection, the construction of campus material culture and a form of subtle education for students, refers to the educational atmosphere highlighting Huxiang culture in the construction of campus environment. Domestic vocational schools have rich experience in campus environment construction, such as designing a culture wall with Huxiang culture as the main body, placing sculptures of Huxiang celebrities such as Qu Yuan, Wang Fuzhi, Zeng Guofan, etc. on the campus, and integrating the characteristics of Hunan architecture into the layout of the architectural design, or constructing special museums and exhibition halls that reflect the Huxiang culture as the theme, which can all have the effect of the kindly influence of a good teacher.

2.2. Implementation Mechanism

2.2.1. Promote the Construction of Campus Spiritual Culture

Campus culture construction includes material culture construction, system culture construction and spiritual culture construction, where spiritual culture construction is the core. On the one hand, we should continue to strengthen the construction method of Huxiang campus culture, such as the construction of Huxiang culture theme culture wall. On the other hand, we should make good use of the convenience of the times, make use of the “Internet +” new media, actively expand the new modes for the construction of spiritual culture and carry out the morality education with the “down-to-earth” content and form that students love to hear and see, such as building the campus official website, official Weibo, WeChat public account, and regularly publishing articles on the theme of Huxiang culture.

2.2.2. Construct a Curriculum System

We are in a new era of information explosion. Therefore, in terms of morality education, when building the curriculum system, we can use the concept of “Internet +” to divide the curriculum into classroom curriculum, practical curriculum and online curriculum, which complement each other. In terms of traditional classroom courses, the first is to use the “Internet +” new media technology to inject the educational content of Huxiang culture into classroom teaching; the second is to set up general education courses with the theme of Huxiang culture; the third is to invite the experts in this field to hold lectures and forums with the theme of promoting Hunan culture at school. The “Internet +” course shows its advantages under the theme of “sharing” in the new era including rich courses, lectures by famous teachers, and freedom of course selection, so we should also pay attention to the proportion of online courses. For example, in 2017, the third “Internet +” Student Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition gave birth to the activity of “Youth Red Dream Building Journey”, which is a very typical “online + offline” activity mode, integrating many factors such as Internet +, student entrepreneurship and innovation, values education and research on people’s livelihood. During the visit, we cannot only receive revolutionary traditional education, but can also understand the local customs

and cultural traditions, which can be used for reference by vocational schools in the future.

2.3. Feedback Mechanism

To integrate Huxiang culture into the morality education is a long-term work, requiring to be updated and improved in the continuous educational practice. The education and teaching data should be tracked in time with the “Internet +” big data technology and feedback should be formed on the education process and education effect, such as figuring out the excellent traditional cultural contents and activity forms loved by students, improving the mechanism according to the opinions, constantly improving the cultivation system of morality education, and finally forming an all-round education and talent environment of synchronous cooperation among family, school and society. In short, Huxiang culture is an important educational content of morality education at vocational schools in the new era. Relying on the new ideas and technologies under the background of “Internet +” education, Huxiang culture is effectively integrated into morality education at vocational schools, an educational system with the participation of families, schools and society is built, and socialist builders and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique and beauty are cultivated.

3. Conclusions

Integrating Huxiang culture into the morality education at vocational schools cannot only strengthen the modern transformation of Huxiang culture and promote the further development of Huxiang culture, but also be conducive to the continuous inheritance of Huxiang culture. The promotion of culture among vocational school students who are about to enter vocational posts can encourage students to absorb the essence in the spirit of hard work, innovation, and perseverance in the Hunan culture, which is not only conducive to guiding students to love the country, love the school, love the family, and even love operating posts, but also shaping the self-confidence quality of students and leaving a positive effect on promoting the overall development of the profession. Therefore, vocational schools in Hunan must strengthen the publicity and advocacy of Huxiang culture, grasp the connotation of morality education, formulate relevant education mechanisms, and then use the spirit of Huxiang culture to improve their ideological awareness and humanistic quality, and bring this achievement into their work positions, so that they can achieve success in their work, then build more self-confidence and make more contributions to social construction.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article.

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