

Analysis on Significance and Value of Chinese Excellent Traditional Culture in Promoting the Comprehensive Quality Improvement of Normal University Students

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Abstract: Basic education is a national quality education for all students, which includes a series of education stages in China, including early childhood education, compulsory education, high school education, and literacy education. The key to improving the quality of basic education lies in teachers. To improve the overall quality of students in basic education, firstly, it is necessary to ensure the overall improvement of the comprehensive quality of college normal students as “quasi basic education teachers”. Nowadays, there is a widespread phenomenon that skill training is emphasized over humanistic cultivation in the professional curriculum of normal university students in China, which leads to a serious lack of humanistic quality among normal university students. How to improve the humanistic quality of normal university students is an important issue faced by current normal universities; the improvement of the humanistic quality of normal university students cannot be separated from the subtle influence and nourishment of humanistic spirit. Chinese excellent traditional culture is one of the most important components of the comprehensive quality of normal university students, and it plays an extremely important role in improving and developing the comprehensive quality of normal university students who will become basic education teachers in the future.

Basic education plays a crucial role in improving the quality of the entire population and cultivating specialized talents of all levels and types needed by society. At the same time, basic education plays a global, fundamental and guiding role in promoting social, economic, and cultural development. Countries all over the world give priority to the development in basic education and provide legal, institutional, human, and financial guarantees. The basic education stage is an important foundation for students' enlightenment and development. The basic education stage has a huge impact on children's personality development and value orientation, and it has a profound impact on students' life direction through subtle influence. The importance of the basic education stage is self-evident. In China, although universities attach great importance to the normal university students, there are still many problems. The main manifestation is that universities only focus on cultivating the professional skills of normal university students, while the cultivation of

their humanistic qualities is often underestimated or even ignored, leading to the lack of excellent traditional Chinese culture among normal university students. The lack of excellent traditional Chinese culture has led to some problems, such as vocational inferiority, cold attitudes, and a lack of innovative consciousness among normal university students. In their professional careers, it is also reflected in the rudeness and harshness of personal language. When teaching students, they may get out of control, making it difficult to lead by example, teach by example, and set an example. To address the aforementioned issues, this article explores the role of excellent traditional Chinese culture in promoting the comprehensive quality improvement of normal school students, and points out practical and feasible paths for exploration.

1. Using excellent traditional Chinese culture to enhance the professional confidence of normal university students

The excellent traditional Chinese culture refers to the unique Chinese culture that has continuously evolved and developed based on the Central Plains culture. Chinese excellent traditional history has a long history and profound content. In the long-term development of social history, China has formed a diversified and integrated Chinese cultural pattern. As future teachers of basic education, it is particularly important for normal university students to delve into the excellent traditional Chinese culture and continuously improve their overall quality. *“The Chinese excellent traditional culture contains the idea that the world is for the public, the people are the foundation of the country, the government is based on morality, the old is reformed and the new will be created, and people are appointed on their merits, heaven and man are united, people continuously strive for self-improvement, carry high moral standards, maintain good faith and harmony, and people are friendly and good to neighbors, etc., which is highly consistent with the values of scientific socialism.”*^[1] The level of a person’s excellent Chinese traditional culture often determines his actual level of language expressions and ideological depth. Having a deep and excellent traditional Chinese culture is particularly important for future normal school students engaged in basic education. “Focus on teachers’ language construction and language literacy improvement, and teaching cannot be separated from language. The most basic requirements for teachers’ language expression are concise and clear expressions, clear thinking, strong logic, and magnetism that attracts students. There is a teacher whose basic teaching skills is quite good, but in the whole class, his or her habitually insert the phrase ‘if...’ sounds very harsh”.^[2] Teachers’ appropriate language expressions, unique humanistic care, and meaningful teaching language organizations, combined with lively and vivid expressions of excellent traditional Chinese cultural language, can not only firmly attract the concentration and attention of young children, but also subtly improve students’ external language expressions and internal humanistic qualities. More importantly, in specific teaching practices, whether young children possess all of these, it is usually closely related to whether normal university students have a profound traditional Chinese culture.

What is professional confidence? The so-called professional confidence refers to a person who is completely focused, deeply rooted, and passionate about their profession. They can gain inner joy and a sense of achievement from their career, and take pride in studying their job and constantly making progress. A love for one’s job and confidence in pursuing a career should be the basic requirements for normal university students. To gain professional confidence among normal university students, it is necessary to have a deep understanding of the importance of education and the foundational nature of basic education. Education is related to the fate and future of a country, and it is truly fundamental. *Zhou Li Bao Shi*, a book of rites says that *“Cultivating the country’s children through the Tao which contains the six arts of education.”* In ancient China, students were required to master six arts which contains ritual, music, archery, imperial examination, calligraphy,

and numerology. For China, both ancient private school education and modern classroom education ultimately aim to promote students' inner emotions, attitudes, abilities, knowledge and skills, but these schools have not set aside the requirements for excellent traditional Chinese culture. Reading works about excellent traditional Chinese culture is the beginning of receiving knowledge and being influenced. In the long process of historical development, excellent traditional Chinese culture has always played a role in nurturing the soul and spirit of the Chinese people. Chinese excellent traditional culture affects Chinese civilization and progress. Courses to appreciate Chinese excellent traditional culture is offered for normal university students, guiding them to read classic works of the excellent culture, and Chinese excellent traditional culture recitation competitions is held regularly. All of these are the beneficial ways to enhance the excellent traditional Chinese cultural heritage of normal university students. The excellent traditional culture of China is the historical and cultural accumulation of the Chinese people. As future basic education workers, normal university students' profound cultural accumulation of the excellent traditional culture of China is an important manifestation of their future teaching professional ability. Excellent traditional culture of China is used to enhance the language meaning and ideological depth of normal university students, and promote their further love for basic education, thus laying the necessary foundation for the professional confidence of college normal students in their future basic education work.

2. Using excellent traditional Chinese culture to enhance the cultural confidence of normal university students

Cultural confidence straightens the backbone of the nation and the country. As contemporary university normal students who will engage in basic education in the future, their job after graduation is to train and guide their students' growth and progress in secondary schools, primary schools, and kindergartens. If teachers engaged in basic education do not have cultural confidence, how can they help their students build cultural confidence? The cultural confidence of Chinese people comes from the profound accumulation of traditional culture over thousands of years. As a normal university student, while integrating and absorbing excellent world culture, it is necessary to establish cultural confidence. Cultural confidence is an important spiritual pillar for the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. As future teachers who will guide and educate the future talents of the motherland, normal university students should also establish a sense of cultural confidence.

“For a nation, valuing its own national spirit and cultivating its own people, especially young people, with excellent cultural traditions is the spiritual strength to strengthen national unity, survival, and development.”^[3] It is necessary to emphasize that excellent traditional Chinese culture is not only a language art, but also an important symbol of culture. Chinese culture enjoys a long history, and the excellent traditional Chinese culture is extensive and profound, it covers and contains everything. Adhering to the confidence of excellent traditional Chinese culture is a manifestation of adhering to cultural confidence.

Encouraging normal university students to read excellent traditional Chinese cultural works is an important way to enhance their cultural confidence. Guide normal university students to learn the elegance of the *Book of Songs*, the grandeur of the *Chu Ci*, the educational ideas of the *Analects and the Vastness of the Records of the Grand Historian*. Based on these, let them extensively explore poetry in the Han Dynasty, Tang poetry, Song Ci, Yuan Qu, as well as Ming and Qing novels, allowing them to unconsciously receive the influence of excellent traditional Chinese culture and enhance cultural confidence, to achieve the goal of comprehensively enhancing the cultural confidence of normal university students. The recognition of excellent traditional Chinese culture by normal university students has a profound impact and positive significance for their future educational work.

3. Using excellent traditional Chinese culture to improve the comprehensive quality of normal university students

“Comprehensive quality evaluation is proposed in the dilemma of evaluation only by score, and the aim of comprehensive quality evaluation is to achieve a transformation from ‘emphasizing scores’ to ‘comprehensive development’, from ‘learning for evaluation’ to ‘promoting learning through evaluation’, and from ‘posing a threat’ to ‘providing hope’.”^[4] The field of comprehensive quality education is particularly extensive, but it is essentially interconnected, and it has a huge impact on the formation of students’ outlook on life, values, and worldview from the root. Comprehensive quality not only refers to a person’s survival ability, adaptability, innovation ability, and practical ability, but also includes various professional strengths in literature, language, and other fields.

Excellent traditional Chinese cultural works have a good promoting effect on normal university students, not only affecting their life experience but also their physical and mental health. The excellent traditional Chinese culture refers to those which, as the years go by, can still emit long-term vitality and humanism spiritual cultural elements and cultural cream after the trials and tribulations. Such excellent traditional Chinese culture pursues truth, goodness and beauty, castigates falsehood and ugliness, expresses the joys and sorrows of life, builds the hope of life, and it is the spiritual sustenance and national spirit of people for thousands of years. One example is Qu Yuan, his compassion for the people’s livelihood is as follows: “*Long rest to cover tears, mourning the difficult fate of the people’s lives.*” Also, Wen Tianxiang’s pursuit of justice is as follows: “*Who has been able to live forever since ancient times? I want to leave a patriotic heart in the annals of history.*” Then Yu Qian’s awe-inspiring righteousness is as follows: “*I’m not afraid to break my bones or body, as long as I keep my noble demeanor in the world.*” What’s more, there is Lin Zexu’s unwavering determination: “*If sacrificing my life is beneficial to the country, then I will never run away for fear of death.*” Such excellent traditional Chinese cultural examples are countless, all of them play a guiding and educational role in nurturing a beautiful soul, cultivating a positive spirit, and promoting the establishment of a correct outlook on life and the world for current normal university students.

The excellent traditional Chinese culture not only encourages people’s spirit, but also serves as a reference for their daily lives. Therefore, the excellent traditional Chinese cultural works are not far from the real life of normal university students, but are closely related to their real life. Since ancient times, the excellent traditional Chinese culture has been closely connected with the Chinese people. When students are hesitating in their careers, the excellent traditional Chinese culture provides them with the inspiration of “*My road is long, and my cultivation is far, and I will search up and down*”, which means to seize the opportunity to seek the correct method to solve the problems someone faces before it’s too late; When students are at a loss, the excellent traditional Chinese culture provides them with a reminder of “*Mountains and rivers are no longer clear, willows are hidden and flowers are shining in another village*”, which means someone encounters difficulties but he perseveres. Suddenly, his eyes light up he comes up with a solution to the problem or difficulty, overjoyed; When students are feeling sad and frustrated, the excellent traditional Chinese culture provides them with the motivation of “*Therefore, when heaven will bring great responsibility to the people, they must first work hard on their minds, labor their muscles and bones, starve their body and skin, empty their bodies, and act recklessly, so they are motivated and patient, and have benefited what they cannot*”; When students fail, the excellent traditional Chinese culture can give them the confidence to “*The King of Yue, Gou Jian endured hardships, swallowed Wu dynasty with 3000 soldiers; Xiang Yu burnt his bridges and sank boats to save Zhao, and the treacherous terrain of Qinlong finally became the territory of Chu*”, which means to act in a way

that destroys any chance of returning to the way things were; excellent traditional Chinese culture can provide spiritual comfort and guidance to normal university students in terms of physiology, psychology, external social interaction, and internal cultivation.

Therefore, in order to provide ideas for enhancing the professional and cultural confidence of normal university students, and to lay the foundation of excellent traditional Chinese culture for enhancing the humanistic and even comprehensive qualities of future teachers in basic education, when cultivating normal university students, we must not only focus on cultivating their professional skills, but also put emphasis on cultivating their humanistic and comprehensive qualities. When designing the curriculum of normal university students, Chinese excellent traditional culture courses, including appreciation of Chinese excellent traditional culture, recitation of Chinese excellent traditional culture, and experience of Chinese excellent traditional culture, can be integrated into the teaching of normal university students' professional courses. When changing teaching concepts and training models, a scientific curriculum system that not only conforms to professional skills but also cultivates humanistic and comprehensive qualities can be established.

4. Conclusion

Education is the foundation of a century long plan. It is self-evident that the basic education is vital for the growth process of learners. For a long time, it has attracted great attention from people, and the emphasis on basic education has increasingly become a consensus in the education industry of various countries around the world. Normal university students are future teachers engaged in basic education, and their comprehensive quality directly affects the quality of basic education. The root of improving the quality of basic education lies in improving the overall quality of teachers engaged in basic education. The improvement of humanistic literacy and comprehensive quality of normal university students cannot be separated from the subtle influence and nourishment of excellent traditional Chinese culture. The excellent traditional Chinese culture is one of the most important components of humanistic quality, which plays a very important role in promoting the future career confidence, cultural confidence, humanistic literacy, and even the improvement of comprehensive quality of college normal students. In today's era, college normal students prioritize skill training over humanistic cultivation, leading to the problem that there is a general lack of excellent traditional Chinese culture, insufficient humanistic literacy, and difficulty in improving comprehensive quality. Therefore, studying the role of excellent traditional Chinese culture in improving the comprehensive quality of university normal students is of great value and positive and far-reaching significance for cultivating the excellent traditional Chinese cultural literacy of university normal students and enhancing their comprehensive quality.

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