

Thoughts on Calligraphy Education in Colleges and Universities under the Background of Building a Strong Cultural Province

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Abstract: The Party and the State put forward that China's colleges and universities should think clearly about the following questions, "Who will to cultivate? How to cultivate them? and For whom to cultivate". Therefore, from the perspective of talent cultivation, it is an urgent task for colleges and universities to further deepen educational reform to strengthen curriculum education and realize moral education. Promoting the construction of calligraphy specialty is helpful to excavate the advantages of calligraphy courses in education. It is necessary to actively explore effective ways to improve the calligraphy education level in colleges and universities under the background of building a strong cultural province. Based on the analysis of current situation of calligraphy education in colleges and universities, this paper studies and summarizes the strategies to improve the level of calligraphy education in colleges and universities, so as to provide some reference for the win-win situation of creating a strong cultural province and improving the quality of calligraphy education in colleges and universities.

1. Introduction

On December 6, 2016, the Shanxi provincial government announced the " '13th Five-Year' Cultural Province Plan", it proposed in the document that Shanxi Province will be among the ranks of cultural provinces by 2020, the comprehensive strength will be improved significantly, and then become an internally renowned and domestic leading cultural province. Calligraphy education is a basic teaching activity with strong affinity. The implementation of calligraphy education in colleges and universities can enhance cultural confidence of the Chinese nation to a certain extent, promote the prosperity of national culture, and make China to be a strong cultural country[1-2]. From this point, the development of calligraphy education plays a very important role in promoting the construction of a strong cultural province.

2. Current Situation of Calligraphy Teaching in Colleges and Universities

2.1 The Development Process of Calligraphy Curriculum in Colleges and Universities

In the first half of last century, calligraphy was not an independence course, but an auxiliary

subject of Chinese painting only. After the founding of New China, calligraphy education has achieved great development. In 1963, Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts set calligraphy as a professional course for the first time. In 1998, Capital Normal University set up a post-doctoral program of calligraphy education, which formally formed a complete system of calligraphy education in Chinese universities. Calligraphy education has attracted more attention.

In 2011, the calligraphy was classified into fine arts and became an independent secondary discipline. It became an undergraduate major in ordinary colleges and universities, with a greater space for professional development. In recent years, calligraphy education in colleges and universities has developed rapidly, and more and more colleges and universities have set calligraphy undergraduate majors. According to the statistics of relevant departments, there were 128 colleges and universities with calligraphy majors in the national undergraduate stage until March 2019. In Shanxi Province, there are the following universities with calligraphy undergraduate courses: Shanxi Normal University (Linfen), Jinzhong Normal University (Yuci) and Shanxi University (Taiyuan).

2.2 Current Situation of Calligraphy Education in Colleges and Universities

First of all, there are more and more colleges and universities would like to enroll the students in calligraphy major. From the analysis of the nature and training direction of colleges and universities offering calligraphy, there are several types of colleges and universities offering calligraphy education in China: comprehensive colleges and universities, normal colleges and art colleges. According to the nature and grade of the colleges and universities, there is a huge difference in the number of students enrolled in different colleges and universities, with 120 students at the most and only 4 students at the least. On average, the enrollment of calligraphy majors in colleges and universities is about 3,700 students. At present, most of regions enroll students in calligraphy major except Xinjiang, Qinghai, Tibet and other remote provinces.

Secondly, Chinese colleges and universities have a significant social impact on the inheritance of calligraphy. The goal of many colleges and universities is to cultivate high-level and excellent calligraphy application-oriented talents and form their own academic characteristics. Although it is not long time for Chinese colleges and universities to set up calligraphy major, its development speed is very fast. Up to now, calligraphy major in many colleges and universities has a certain scale, and the number of students enrolled is growing. However, in the long run, there are some problems in the calligraphy major of China. For example, the calligraphy major lacks the sustainability, and the discipline construction faces many challenges, such as no unified teaching material system, no detailed training objectives, no scientific curriculum design, old teaching methods and defective teacher structure. The development of calligraphy in China will be weak if these problems cannot be solved properly.

3. Ways to Strengthen Calligraphy Education in Colleges and Universities under the Background of Building a Strong Cultural Province

Since 2016, Shanxi Province has launched relevant documents to build a strong cultural province and promote the construction of a strong cultural province through calligraphy education in colleges and universities. The following are effective ways to promote the development of calligraphy in colleges and universities.

3.1 Relying on the Opportunity of Building a Strong Cultural Province, to Create High-Quality Calligraphy Professional Teachers

The first thing to do well in calligraphy education in colleges and universities is to build a professional teacher team with excellent quality. At present, there is a relatively lack of calligraphy teachers in colleges and universities of China, which basically cannot meet the needs of calligraphy teaching. Therefore, Shanxi Province should take advantage of the opportunity of building a strong cultural province to actively improve the overall quality of existing teachers and create high-quality calligraphy teachers. As the saying goes, if you want to have good students, you must have good teachers. If the quality of teachers is high enough, the foundation of students can be solid enough and make students more professional. The second is to cultivate professional calligraphy teachers. Select current in-service calligraphy professional teachers and organize training, or organize job-transfer training for some other professional teachers, so that they can complete the calligraphy professional education at the higher level of colleges and universities, obtain corresponding teaching skills and get the teaching qualifications. Thirdly, hire some famous calligraphers as visiting professors, or part-time teachers. Colleges and universities can actively cooperate with calligraphy associations inside and outside the province, contact those calligraphers with high artistic attainments and strong teaching ability, invite them to hold lectures or teach students in classroom, and actively improve the overall level of calligraphy teachers in colleges and universities. Develop high-quality and high-level professional calligraphy teachers making full use of the introduction, training and recruitment and other ways, so as to lay a solid foundation for the construction of strong cultural province in Shanxi and provide certain support for the completion of the cultural construction of the province.

3.2 Relying on the Opportunity of Building a Strong Cultural Province, to Create the Concept and Teaching Method of Calligraphy Education in Colleges and Universities

Calligraphy education in colleges and universities should quickly change their educational philosophy and actively innovate teaching methods. As the saying goes, the thoughts guides the actions, and the teaching activities in colleges and universities are always carried out under the guidance of the teaching concept, and the teaching concept determines the teaching effect. In order to build a strong cultural province, it is necessary to carry out cultural education. The teaching goal of calligraphy education in colleges and universities is to improve aesthetic ability of students through traditional calligraphy beauty, so that they can apply the knowledge of calligraphy to calligraphy learning, and gradually improve the teaching system of calligraphy education [3]. At the same time, it is necessary to increase the class hours of calligraphy courses according to the actual situation, and set up more courses, such as calligraphy appreciation, calligraphy theory and calligraphy practice and other courses.

Secondly, form a correct view of learning. It shall cultivate the sense of responsibility of students, so that they can learn more about our traditional culture through Chinese characters, understand that Chinese characters are the symbol of our China becoming a powerful country in the world, avoid being affected by the social environment and the idea of reading is useless. It shall enable students to understand that it is the sadness of our nation if our Chinese characters be replaced by other characters.

Thirdly, improve teaching methods. Teachers should teach students with the purpose of spreading Chinese traditional culture knowledge, use flexible and diverse teaching modes to improve skills of students, so that students can learn calligraphy knowledge in a silent way.

Fourthly, guarantee good inheritance and innovation. In order to develop art, we must make innovations constantly and keep pace with the times [4]. Calligraphy is part of our traditional

culture, after thousands of years of inheritance, calligraphy in different times has its own characteristics of the times. In order to develop calligraphy, it is necessary to innovate it to meet the aesthetic needs of the current period. Good inheritance can develop well, and innovation is the premise of good inheritance. Therefore, it shall encourage students to make innovations.

Fifthly, schools can use various calligraphy competitions, exhibitions and other activities to enhance students' enthusiasm for learning calligraphy, and improve the learning level of students by inviting famous calligraphers to have lectures. Give students the standard to learn, and enable them to understand what kind of standard their calligraphy reaches, so that they can improve themselves with more clear goal.

In summary, it shall constantly adjust teaching concepts, improve teaching methods, so that students can learn happily, and improve their creative ability as much as possible. Only in this way can we better improve the quality of talents and bring the corresponding guarantee for the building of a strong cultural province.

3.3 Relying on the Opportunities of Building a Strong Cultural Province, to Increase the Research on Calligraphy Education in Colleges and Universities

At present, calligraphy has become an independent discipline, but its status is still relatively awkward when classifying into subjects in colleges and universities. As a secondary discipline, it is only a teaching direction under the discipline of art, which makes it is difficult for this major to achieve greater development. Therefore, colleges and universities should seize the opportunity that building a strong cultural province in Shanxi, continuously strengthen the scientific research on the subject of calligraphy education in colleges and universities, organize experts to carry out special research, grasp and interpret how to carry out calligraphy education in the context of building a strong cultural province, and prepare teaching materials that fit the development law of calligraphy education. In particular, the teaching syllabus of undergraduate and specialized education need to be further standardized and scientific, so as to ensure a more healthy development of calligraphy education and ensure the standardization and independence of this discipline. At the same time, it is necessary to strengthen the scientific research of calligraphy education, interpret the hidden problems in the current process of calligraphy education in colleges and universities, clarify its future development direction, summarize the innovative concept of education, scientifically design the curriculum content, standardize the teaching level, clarify the teaching goal, and gradually form a relatively scientific and complete teaching system. If it is available in schools, it should also enhance personality awareness of students as much as possible so that students can understand the relationship between personality and generality in the process of calligraphy education, and clarify the value of calligraphy education. It is necessary to enable students to understand how to play their advantages based on the research on the law of calligraphy education, highlight their own uniqueness, enhance their self-value, make due contributions to the society, and help to build a strong cultural province.

3.4 Relying on the Opportunity of Building a Strong Cultural Province, to Cultivate Calligraphy Teachers in Primary and Secondary Schools

In order to improve the quality of calligraphy education in colleges and universities and build a strong cultural province, it needs better foundation and students. To do this well, it is imperative to cultivate teachers in the basic education stage. In 1990, the Education Department of China issued the "Notice on strengthening Handwriting for Primary and Secondary School Students in Compulsory Education", it proposed that calligraphy should be taken as one of the main contents for students in compulsory education. Good calligraphy teaching can lay a more solid foundation

for calligraphy education in colleges and universities, and realize the connection between basic education and higher education. During this process, colleges and universities should give full play to their own advantages in talent training, and train more excellent calligraphy teachers for primary and secondary schools to escort basic education. The colleges and universities should train calligraphy teachers in primary and secondary schools through the following ways: firstly, carry out various channels and forms of continuing education classes in colleges and universities so that primary and secondary school teachers can further study, especially for in-service teachers who have certain basis in the learning of calligraphy and have corresponding work needs, therefore, organize training for them is the most direct way to raise their level of calligraphy education, improve their ability of calligraphy and teaching ability, which provide supports for improving the calligraphy ability of primary and middle school students. Secondly, colleges and universities can use the Internet to promote calligraphy education. Colleges and universities should build a perfect network learning platform, timely update the relevant information of calligraphy education, supplement learning materials and provide more abundant learning resources, so that calligraphy teachers in primary and secondary schools and calligraphy lovers can have access to more comprehensive and diverse calligraphy materials, and avoid the problem that they do not know how to learn [5]. Thirdly, colleges and universities can establish mutual-help relationship with primary and secondary schools, open research courses in colleges and universities, so that they can further expand the calligraphy education and establish cooperative relationship with primary and secondary schools. The colleges and universities provide teachers, the primary and secondary schools provide sites and students, so that they can carry on teaching experiments, confirm the teaching standards meeting the school curriculum practice. Encourage primary and secondary school teachers to launch special research, and then improve the teaching ability of calligraphy teachers in primary and secondary schools.

4. Conclusion

In a word, the development of calligraphy education in colleges and universities is helpful to improve aesthetic taste and overall cultural accomplishment of students. In the context of building a strong cultural province, in-depth research on calligraphy education in colleges and universities can not only promote the traditional Chinese culture and improve teaching ability of colleges and universities, but also help to promote the achievement of the goal of building a strong cultural province. They can promote each other and achieve win-win result.

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