

The Application and Integration of Intangible Tea Culture in Education for International Understanding: A Cross-cultural Education Strategy

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Keywords: Non-heritage tea culture, education for international understanding, cross-cultural communication, educational strategies

Abstract: As the tide of globalization continues to advance, cross-cultural communication has become increasingly frequent, so education for international understanding has become an important way to cultivate talents with global vision. This paper deeply analyzes the unique position and role of non-heritage tea culture in the education of international understanding, and discusses how to effectively integrate this traditional culture into teaching, so as to improve students' understanding and sensitivity to multiculturalism. Through a detailed analysis of the rich connotation of non-heritage tea culture, combined with the basic principles and objectives of international understanding education, we have designed a set of practical education programs. These programs aim to promote the internationalization of non-heritage tea culture and encourage cultural interaction and exchanges among students around the world, so as to enhance respect and understanding of different cultural backgrounds and lay a solid foundation for the cultivation of talents with global citizenship. We firmly believe that through such educational practices, we can stimulate students' enthusiasm for the diversity of the world, while laying a solid foundation for their future life and work in the diverse world.

1. Introduction

1.1 Definition and Status of Non-Heritage Tea Culture

On November 29, 2022, the "Chinese Traditional Tea-making Techniques and Related Customs" declared by China was successfully selected into the "List of Representative Works of the World Human Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter referred to as the Intangible Cultural Heritage)".^[1] Non-legacy tea culture is an important part of Chinese traditional culture, which not only includes tea production techniques, tea ceremony etiquette, but also involves tea-related poetry, painting, music and other cultural and artistic forms. In Chinese culture, tea culture is endowed with multiple meanings such as self-cultivation, advocating nature and living in harmony. It is not only an attitude towards life, but also a manifestation of humanistic spirit.

1.2 The Purpose and Significance of Education for International Understanding

International understanding education aims to cultivate students' global vision, enhance students' awareness and understanding of different cultures, and promote international exchanges and cooperation. Through education for international understanding, students can better understand the world and understand multiculturalism, so as to better cope with the challenges and opportunities brought about by globalization.

1.3 Background and Necessity of Research

With the further development of globalization, cross-cultural communication is becoming more and more frequent, and people's cognitive demand for multiculturalism is also increasing. World-class non-heritage is the highest level of non-heritage protection and inheritance.^[2]As an important representative of Chinese traditional culture, non-legacy tea culture has rich cultural connotations and humanistic spirit, which is of positive significance for enhancing international understanding and promoting cultural exchanges. Therefore, the integration of non-heritage tea culture into international understanding education can not only enrich the content of education and improve the quality of education, but also help to cultivate students' cross-cultural communication ability and enhance the soft power of national culture.

2. The history and current situation of non-legacy tea culture.

2.1 Historical evolution of Chinese tea culture

China's tea culture has a long history, from the ancient tea-horse road to the modern teahouse, which has experienced a long course of development. Tea has always been an important trade commodity in Chinese history and an indispensable drink in people's lives. With the passage of time, tea culture has gradually integrated into the fields of Chinese philosophy, aesthetics and literature, and has become an important part of Chinese culture.

2.2 Value and Connotation of Non-Heritage Tea Culture

Non-legacy tea culture refers to the part of tea culture that is recognized as intangible cultural heritage. These cultural heritages cover the cultivation, production and tea-making techniques of tea, and have high historical, cultural and scientific value. Tea culture shares elegance and vulgarity.^[3]The connotation of non-legacy tea culture includes tea ceremony, tea morality, tea spirit and so on, which embodies the harmonious relationship between man and nature, man and man, and is one of the quintessences of Chinese traditional culture.

2.3 Analysis of dissemination at home and abroad

China's tea culture not only has a wide influence in China, condense the historical memory and bear the unique cultural imprint of the nation,^[4]but also has a far-reaching impact on the world. In ancient times, tea spread to all parts of the world through the Silk Road and other trade routes, and merged with local culture, forming a unique tea culture. Nowadays, Chinese tea culture has been widely disseminated and recognized all over the world, and has become an important bridge for cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries. At the same time, with the rise of China's economy, Chinese tea culture has also gained higher attention and recognition in the world.

3. Framework and Practice of Education for International Understanding

3.1 Theoretical Framework of Education for International Understanding

International Understanding Education is an educational concept and practice, which aims to train students to have the ability of cross-cultural communication and understanding in the era of globalization. Its theoretical framework mainly includes the following aspects:

1) **Cross-cultural understanding and communication:** to train students to have the basic knowledge and skills of cross-cultural communication, to understand and respect people from different cultural backgrounds, and to promote cultural exchange and interaction.

2) **Global vision and awareness:** to help students realize the trend and influence of globalization, understand the interrelationship and interdependence among countries in the world, and form a global vision and international awareness.

3) **Multiculturalism and inclusiveness:** Advocate multicultural values, respect and appreciate the differences between different cultures, and cultivate students' cultural inclusiveness and openness.

4) **International cooperation and peaceful development:** It emphasizes international cooperation and exchanges, handles international relations with the concept of peace, cooperation and development, and promotes world peace and development.

3.2 Examples of Education for International Understanding Model

In the practice of education for international understanding, there are many educational models. Here are some examples of common models of education for international understanding:

1) **Double-teacher classroom mode:** a combination of online and offline methods is adopted to invite Chinese and foreign teachers to teach together, so as to realize cross-cultural teaching exchange and interaction.

2) **Thematic learning mode:** learning around a global issue or cross-cultural theme, guiding students to explore from different perspectives, and cultivating their cross-cultural analysis and problem-solving ability.

3) **Immersion learning mode:** By simulating the real cultural environment, students can experience the way of life, values and ways of thinking in different cultural backgrounds.

4) **International exchange and cooperation programs:** organize students to participate in international exchange and cooperation programs, such as exchange student programs, international volunteer programs, etc., to provide opportunities for on-the-spot contact and understanding of different cultures.

4. The relevance of non-legacy tea culture to education for international understanding

4.1 Embodiment of multi-culture

Non-legacy tea culture is an important part of Chinese traditional culture and an intangible cultural heritage with distinct personality and profound historical background,^[5] which is not only a way of life, but also a cultural heritage. In education for international understanding, it is one of the important teaching objectives to cultivate students' intercultural communication ability. Tea culture, as one of the representatives of Chinese culture, has rich connotation and extension, and can become a bridge connecting different cultures. Through the dissemination of tea culture, students can better understand the characteristics of Chinese culture and promote cross-cultural communication and understanding.

4.2 Blending of historical tradition and philosophical thought

Tea culture has a long history and rich tradition in Chinese history. It is not only a drink, but also a symbol of spirit and philosophy. The spirit of tea ceremony in tea culture emphasizes the values of harmony, moderation and modesty, which is in line with the concept of respecting cultural differences and promoting peace and development emphasized in international understanding education. Through the education of tea culture, students can be guided to understand Chinese history and philosophy in depth, and promote their understanding and respect for different cultures.

4.3 Fit of teaching objectives

The goal of education for international understanding is to cultivate students' cross-cultural communication ability, enhance international understanding and respect, and improve students' comprehensive quality. As a life-oriented cultural experience, non-legacy tea culture can help students understand the history, tradition and philosophy of tea culture in practice, and also improve their cross-cultural communication ability through tea culture exchange activities. In addition, tea culture education can also cultivate students' aesthetic ability, moral cultivation and other qualities, and promote students' all-round development. Therefore, the integration of non-heritage tea culture into international understanding education can better achieve the teaching objectives and improve the overall quality of students.

5. The teaching strategy design of non-legacy tea culture

5.1 Teaching contents and methods

The teaching content of non-legacy tea culture should cover the history, culture, skills of tea and its application in modern society. Specifically, it can be expanded from the following aspects:

- **History and culture of tea:** introduce the origin, evolution and development of Chinese tea culture, especially its unique value and significance as intangible cultural heritage.
- **Tea skills and production:** teach tea picking, production technology and tea making skills, so that students can understand the characteristics of different tea and drinking methods.
- **Tea and Philosophical Thought:** Discuss the philosophical ideas in tea culture, such as "harmony, respect, purity and silence", and how these ideas affect people's way of thinking and behavior.
- **Tea and international exchanges:** analyze the status and role of tea culture in Sino-foreign exchanges, and introduce the acceptance and dissemination of tea in different countries and regions.

In terms of teaching methods, we can use a combination of classroom explanations, field visits, practical operations and other forms to stimulate students' interest in learning and participation. At the same time, we should make full use of multimedia teaching resources, such as video, pictures, audio and so on, to show students the charm of non-heritage tea culture in a vivid way.

5.2 Activity design and implementation

In order to enhance students' understanding and experience of non-legacy tea culture, a series of related activities can be designed:

- **Tea art performance:** organize students to perform tea-making skills, so that they can feel the charm of tea culture in practice.
- **Tea Culture Seminar:** Invite experts and scholars to give lectures and share their unique views on tea culture with students.

- **Tea garden visit and picking activities:** lead students to visit the tea garden, understand the growth environment and picking process of tea, and try to pick tea by hand.

- **International tea culture exchange activities:** carry out tea culture exchange activities with schools in other countries and regions to enhance students' understanding of tea culture in different countries and regions.

These activities can be arranged outside the classroom teaching time, can also be combined with festivals, celebrations and other special days to create a strong cultural atmosphere. In the process of implementation, teachers should pay attention to the organization and coordination of activities to ensure the smooth progress of activities.

5.3 Construction of evaluation mechanism

In order to ensure the effect of non-heritage tea culture teaching, it is necessary to establish an effective evaluation mechanism. The evaluation can be carried out from the following aspects:

- **Classroom performance:** observe students' participation in class, answer questions, etc., and assess their understanding of the teaching content.

- **Homework and works:** assign homework related to tea culture or require students to create works related to tea culture, such as tea poems, tea paintings, etc., to test students' practical application ability.

6. Conclusion

After a series of research and practical application, we found that the application of non-heritage tea culture in international understanding education has achieved remarkable results. Firstly, through the introduction of non-heritage tea culture, students' understanding and identity of Chinese culture have been strengthened, and their respect and tolerance for multiculturalism have also been improved. Secondly, the historical, philosophical and cultural connotations contained in tea culture help students better understand the differences in values in international exchanges and improve their cross-cultural communication skills. Finally, the teaching activity design of non-legacy tea culture effectively promotes students' active learning and cooperative inquiry, and cultivates their critical thinking and problem-solving ability.

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