

Research on the Function of Public Art Education in Colleges and Universities

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Abstract—In order to improve the comprehensive quality of college students and enhance the pertinence and timeliness of public art education in Colleges and universities, this paper explores the function of public art education on the basis of literature research. Public art education has two functions. One is the function of educating people. The art education can cultivate sentiment, improve moral cultivation and help students form a sound personality. The other is the function of intellectuality exploitation, art education can improve the observation ability, imagination and creativity of college students. It plays an important role in improving aesthetic ability of students and improving their comprehensive quality.

Keywords—art education; innovation ability; quality education; function

I. INTRODUCTION

China has always attached importance to art education in higher education institutions. The state and education administration departments have successively promulgated the National School Art Education Master Plan, Opinions on Strengthening Art Education in Regular Colleges and Universities in the Country, and National General Colleges and Universities Public Art Curriculum Guidance Program, The Work Regulations for School Art Education clearly defines the art education objectives, curriculum, teaching mode, implementation mechanism, and quality control system of colleges and universities in the form of documents. Art education plays an important role in the quality education of college students and lays a foundation for the all-round development and innovation of college students. It is the core content of public art education in colleges and universities. Art education in colleges and universities can enlighten wisdom of students, cultivate their creativity, enhance their aesthetic ability and improve their comprehensive quality[1]. The most important function of colleges and universities is to cultivate talents. In the process of cultivating talents, the education of professional quality of students has the same important role as the cultivation of sound quality. Colleges and universities at all levels in China have actively explored and practiced how to strengthen art education in accordance with the requirements of the documents, but due to the influence of factors such as history, geography, and cultural environment, Each institution of higher learning, especially the local institutions of higher learning, should study the function of art education according to its own practice, and explore the implementation path of public art education with school-based characteristics, which is

of great significance for improving the quality of personnel training in institutions of higher learning.

II. THE FUNCTION OF ART EDUCATION

Arts education is divided into broad and narrow sense. The narrow art education is to educate and practice the art professionals at all levels. As the core of aesthetic education, art education in a broad sense aims at cultivating people with all-round development. The object of cultivation is popular, with emphasis on the popularization of basic knowledge and principles of art. It mainly imparts art knowledge and skills to students through various art forms such as comedy, poetry, music, art, calligraphy and so on, so as to improve their artistic cultivation, artistic accomplishment, aesthetic psychological structure, cultivate sentiment of students, and enable students to achieve all-round development and realize the teaching goals of art education.

A. The Educational Function of Art Education

The moral education function of art education has been highly valued in China. The government has made detailed regulations on strengthening art education in schools, demanding that primary and secondary schools promote the integration of art education and moral education, emphasizing the fundamental task of art education, and making clear the role of art education in realizing the strategic task of cultivating morality and cultivating people.

1) Enhancing the spiritual realm of students: Art is a way of expressing human emotion and an important part of human spiritual world. Art education follows the law of human cognition. It is a process from perceptual knowledge to rational knowledge, and is also the unity of human sensibility and rationality. In the process of accepting art education, people form their own aesthetic conception through perception and appreciation of art, and then form world view and establish their own spiritual home. Art originated from the production and life of human beings. From the day it was born, it began to reflect the relationship between everyone and was closely related to moral education[2]. Art originates from the pursuit of good things and life, and contains the attributes of moral education. Its essence is a special spiritual product, which enables people to receive moral education in the process of feeling beauty and creating beauty. Art education imparts art knowledge to college students through vivid visual

and auditory perception, so that they can perceive the content of art and have a resonance in their thoughts. In the process of receiving art education, students constantly enrich their spiritual world and form an optimistic, positive and enterprising attitude towards life. For example, music can inspire people, make people energetic and happy, everyone can not leave music, there is no music in life, life will lose its fun. Art makes people perfect, improves connotation of people, and enables people to find and seek beauty in life, there is no art in life, and life will lack beauty. All these fully show that art education is a kind of spiritual inspiration on the perceptual level, which can enhance happiness index of people.

2) *Improving moral cultivation of students:* Art education requires the guidance of morality, and art education itself permeates moral education. In the art education of colleges and universities, the traditional art education has certain one-sidedness. Whether it is professional or public art education, it only pays attention to the external form of art education, lays stress on the imparting of knowledge and the cultivation of skills, and neglects the value of supplementary moral education. In fact, through art education, students not only master the art knowledge and skills, but also enhance the connotation of art education at a deeper level. More importantly, they improve their moral cultivation through art education. Just as President Xi Jinping clearly pointed out in his speech at the Symposium on Literary and Art Work, it is necessary to "deliver truth, goodness and beauty through literary and artistic works, and transfer the power of morality to make it a banner for carrying forward the core values of socialism." For example, in the art education of colleges and universities, through the excellent works of ancient Chinese poetry and drama, the students carry out the excellent traditional Chinese culture education, so that students can draw on the essence of traditional culture and cultivate their self-cultivation with the moral standards contained therein. To make students a useful talent with certain aesthetic ability and moral cultivation, in order to meet the requirements of the modernization construction of the new era, and to contribute to the realization of the Chinese dream and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

3) *Forming a sound personality:* Healthy personality is a positive tendency of the psychological quality, but also affects the self-development and self-realization of the important factors. Healthy personality is a process of continuous development and improvement, which has its own level. Low-level healthy personality is limited to no personality disorder. The second level of healthy personality means not only no personality disorder, but also to the ability to adapt to various stimuli from within and outside the body. The third level of healthy personality includes not only the first two levels, but also the full development of personal potential, creating more value for society, and achieving self-realization[3].

According to the research of psychology, the university stage is the key period of cultivating healthy personality.

Colleges and universities should carry out moral education through various forms. Among the various forms of education, art education plays an important role in cultivating healthy personality of college students. First of all, help college students establish the goal of pursuing truth, goodness and beauty. Through various artistic images, art education enables students to perceive beauty and understand beauty. Through the rational thinking of College students, art education enables them to recognize the truth, goodness, beauty and fake ugliness among them, so as to form a life ideal of pursuing and advocating beauty, place their own ideals and goals in a common vision, and make unremitting efforts to achieve the goal of struggle. Secondly, develop the cognitive ability of college students, accumulate aesthetic knowledge, and mobilize their enthusiasm and initiative in pursuing beauty. Thirdly, cultivating college students to form healthy aesthetic views and feelings can not only make their personality develop freely and harmoniously, but also make their aesthetic requirements consistent with the mainstream value of society. Ultimately, the personality of college students is completely independent and become a useful person fully integrated with society[4].

B. *The Intelligence Function of Public Art Education*

In essence, art uses certain media symbols (such as drama, fiction, poetry, painting, calligraphy, music, dance, etc.) to describe and reflect the movements and changes between things and their value relationships. Art education is to induce students to appreciate and understand art through the induction, influence and training of students in the process of disseminating art knowledge, and then enable students to learn to communicate with their works of art in the process of art appreciation and creation. To enlighten and influence their mind and transform it into beauty, through the subtle influence of art education, the observation, imagination and creativity of college students can be cultivated, so as to improve intelligence level of students.

1) *Improving the observation ability of college students:* Observation, that is, the ability of people to observe things, observation is an important stage of understanding, and it is the beginning and source of innovative activities. All higher and more complex psychological activities such as thinking, emotions, and will are generated on the basis of observation. In the development of human cognition, observation is a synthesis of sensory perception. It is an olfactory ability, orientation and distance perception, graphic discrimination, and cognitive time ability that are gradually formed on the basis of vision, hearing, smell, and touch. It is a planned and relatively lasting perception based on a certain purpose task. In the education and teaching of colleges and universities, art education has greater advantages than other courses in terms of observation training. For example, in the teaching of the general elective Painting, various observation training is set up to cultivate ability of students to observe problems scientifically. They must not only learn to observe systematically, capture various objects and images as a whole, but also observe the specific things around them in a subtle manner. Therefore, it gradually develops an observation

method that is from the whole to the part, the part to the whole. Just as art educator Eisner once pointed out: "The education community requires the development of observation and perception skills of students. The first thing to understand the meaning of observation, anything that is seen means nothing. Art observation requires organization and choice, so only through art education can cultivate true observation ability."^①

2) *Developing imagination of students*: Imagination is the ability of people to recreate new images on the basis of existing appearances. All artistic creations can not be separated from imagination. Imagination is the fire and source of artistic creation. It is an indispensable psychological factor in artistic creation activities. Therefore, Einstein said that "imagination is more important than knowledge." Artists can create colorful and varied artistic images by means of rich imagination. These artistic images are not simple, stacking or accumulation of words, symbols, lines, colors, melodies, etc., nor are they the illustration of some theoretical interpretation or formula. It is an artistic creation based on the existing artistic representation. It can stimulate emotions of people and enlighten wisdom of people. Art education is based on the existing artistic image of the educator, the various artistic images re-processing, so that students to understand, appreciate the connotation of various artistic images and emotions, understand life and the world, establish a correct world outlook and outlook on life. A great deal of scientific practice proves that any scientific invention can not be separated from imagination. As Einstein said: "Theoretical science is increasingly forced to be guided by pure mathematical and formal considerations ... The theorists should not criticize that they are full of fantasy. On the contrary, they should have the right to let their imagination run freely, because there is no other way to achieve their goals." Therefore, art education in colleges and universities should give play to the function of art education, encourage, stimulate and cultivate the imagination of college students, develop students' intelligence, and provide a solid foundation for the improvement of quality education for college students.[5]

3) *Cultivating creativity of students*: Creativity is the ability to use existing knowledge to create new products of personal or social value under the guidance of a certain purpose. It is novel and unique. Creativity is a kind of comprehensive ability that is unique to humans. It refers to the ability to produce new ideas, discover and create new things. Art is the most reflective subject of creativity. Anything that can be called art, no matter which form of art, is full of creativity. The birth of a work of art is the result of creative activities conducted by the creator under the guidance of his world outlook and outlook on life. All creative activities in the field of culture and art reflect not only the artistic individuality of the artistic creator, but also the natural extension of the spirit of the artistic creator. Cultivating the creative ability of college students is one of the teaching goals

of public art education in colleges and universities. Through art education, students can cultivate their interest in learning and inspire students to actively discover problems and explore them. Art education is also emotional education, which contains rich and strong emotional factors, easy to arouse the pursuit of truth and the improvement of creativity. In the process of public art education in Colleges and universities, by presenting various art forms, students can insert imagination wings, give full play to the rich advantages of re-creating imagination and creating imagination, and cultivate creativity of students on the basis of intuitive thinking, which is the most powerful support provided by art education for intellectual education.

III. CONCLUSION

Public art curriculum is an integral part of the curriculum system in colleges and universities. Public art education plays an important role in the cultivation of talents in colleges and universities. It is an important measure to fully implement the national education policy. Through public art education, on the one hand, it can cultivate cognitive ability of students, enlighten wisdom and develop intelligence; on the other hand, it can enhance students' aesthetic ability and distinguish between right and wrong, improve moral cultivation of students, and lay a foundation for the comprehensive and healthy development of college students.

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