

## The Artistic Education in Chinese Universities

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**Abstract:** Strengthening the ordinary university's artistic education and comprehensively enhancing the university students' quality become important aspects of higher education. The artistic education is the powerful carrier and effective education method for quality education. Promoting the fast development of artistic education must begin with the curriculum construction, so as to enable the university artistic education to have healthy development.

**Keywords:** artistic education; quality education; curriculum construction

As we enter for the 21st century nowadays, strengthening university students' humanistic quality education becomes the tendency of world higher education. Artistic education plays an important role in raising overall quality education strategy which cannot be neglected. The artistic education is not only the education which can enlighten human's wisdom and dig people's potential but one kind of education methods to instruct a person to improve the overall quality, consummate the moral, emotion, character building, thus to set up the correct views on appreciation of the beauty and the outlook on life and develop the creativity. At present the developed countries have attached more importance on the artistic education. Arts have been entitled with high educational status and been determined as the core discipline for the elementary education for the first time in The Goal in 2000: Education Law of the United States. As the special

form of humanistic science and the highest pursue of the human civilization, art becomes the important part of humanistic education. Therefore, strengthening the ordinary university's artistic education and comprehensively enhancing the university students' quality become important aspects of higher education.

### I. Artistic education and quality education

Said from the narrow sense, the artistic education consists of artistic knowledge, artistic skill, artistic appreciation and the creativity; however, it doesn't refer to the above but has its more profound meanings. Said from the generalized sense, the artistic education is not only the education which can enlighten human's wisdom and dig people's potential but one kind of education methods to instruct a person to improve the overall quality, consummate the moral, emotion, character building, thus to set up the correct views on appreciation

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of the beauty and the outlook on life and develop the creativity, which is also the final goal of artistic education.<sup>[1]</sup>

The quality education is the need of the era development and the artistic education is the powerful carrier of quality education. Artistic education can develop people's aesthetic psychological structure and keen sensation strength, rich imagination and infinite creativity, which are the essential conditions for scientific creation. As the examination-oriented education changes to quality education, experts at home and abroad have drawn their attention to artistic education while some developed countries have taken the advanced steps before. Artistic education, as an effective quality education method, has been listed in national education outline. Although the two most famous universities in the world, Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, are the bases to train US leaders and creative scientists, however, the universities also specially set up music department or music school to develop the creative talents. The American Massachusetts Institute of Technology has 8 music teachers, opening 20 classes of music classes. Among the total 360 credits in four years, arts and the humanities occupy for 72 credits, in which arts occupy 30 credits.

The students' aesthetic ability development needs artistic education and the aesthetic ability enhancement is the direct result of artistic education. The artistic education may cause the educatees to bring the perceptual impulse, desire and mood into the aesthetic form to accept rational purification and guidance; therefore, the educatees complete the aesthetic awareness and have rich feelings and apperception on artistic forms to develop the life ideal with aesthetic value and the outlook on

life.

In school education, the artistic of campus environment and artistic teaching methods are advocated. Artistic education then can be implemented by this important aesthetic education way. The artistic of campus environment includes campus virescence, building aesthetic style, the environmental and aesthetic design of class, classroom, bedroom, reading room, cafeteria and drill ground, as well as the foundation of campus music environment. The establishment of this artistic atmosphere may enable students to accept the beautiful enlightenment and edification.

## **II. The current situation of higher artistic education**

The higher artistic education has been unceasingly enhanced with the reform of education system. The aesthetic education has been together with moral education, intellectual and physical education in our education policy, fundamentally solving the problem of the status of aesthetic in education. In 2002, Workbook of School Artistic Education and Development Plan of National School Artistic Education (2001-2010) were worked out by Department of Physical Health and Art Education, Ministry of Education, P.R of China, which makes the higher artistic education further developed and the status of artistic education in higher education has been confirmed. In 2006, "National Ordinary College Public Art Curriculum Guidance" (hereafter as "Guidance") was made by the Ministry of Education and the curriculum nature, curriculum goal and curriculum set of artistic education have been stipulated in it.

At present, the number of art colleges and universities opening arts major is increasing.

The recruiting is expanding with unceasingly perfect artistic education subjects. Furthermore, the related artistic teaching equipment and the facility have been unceasingly consummated; the artistic teachers' troop develops quickly with high quality; the condition of insufficient teachers has been solved gradually. The social value of artistic education has been obviously embodied.

It is obvious that the artistic education in our country develops quickly, which can be seen from the recent years' "Hot College Entrance Examination of Art". Art discipline or major is set in art colleges in national universities, but artistic education has not actually obtained enough attention. At present, universities nearly give up art general education but additionally build the specialized art discipline. It is hard for students to master the characteristics and development trend of modern art because the universities do not pay more attention to the aesthetic education, especially art theory teaching. Therefore, students are lack of the ability of analyzing and appreciating art works, causing the low standard of artistic appreciation.

### **III. Curriculum construction of artistic education**

The Ministry of Education has pointed out in Guidance: "Just as other public disciplines in ordinary colleges and universities, public art discipline is one of the integrated parts of higher education system as well as the main approach to cultivate students aesthetically. Artistic education should focus on public art discipline teaching in the mean time." Hence, the enhancement of constructing art education discipline has become the prerequisite for improving art education and promoting the

development of art education.

#### **1. Teachers**

In order to guarantee the artistic education curriculum and the teaching quality, the colleges or universities should set up management section and teaching organization to manage artistic education curriculum and strengthen the teachers' troop of artistic education in normal universities or colleges. The teachers engaged in artistic education should occupy 0.15%-0.2% of the total in-school students, in which the professional teachers should account for 50% of the total artistic education teachers. Art education curriculum belongs to complicated discipline, involving many aspects. Teachers should not only be familiar with the specialized knowledge technique, but must widely study literature, history even some technical knowledge to enrich themselves to teach well.

#### **2. Students**

The teaching object of artistic education in universities or colleges is the youth whose outlook on life and world outlook is in mature. The teaching content should be proper and cautious and pay attention to the aesthetic value of arts. University students can improve themselves in arts culture level by appreciating arts. Along with the deepening of artistic education, university students' cultural quality enhances, arts curriculum teaching must keep pace with times, improve levels and the curriculum content must be constantly rich and creative. Otherwise, the curriculum doesn't have the attraction, nor does the vitality. Moreover, different levels curriculum should be as students' free choice according to their different quality degrees to meet their needs. <sup>[3]</sup>

#### **3. Teaching materials**

The Guidance of The Ministry of Educa-

tion has promoted a lot of restricted optional courses such as "An Introduction to Arts", "Music Appreciation", "Fine Arts Appreciation", "Appreciation of Film and TV Arts", "Appreciation of Chinese Drama", "Dance Appreciation", "Calligraphy Appreciation", "Appreciation of Chinese Traditional Operas" and eight unrestricted courses such as "Symphony Analysis and Appreciation", "Appreciation of Folk Arts", "A Short History of Chinese Music", "A Short History of Foreign Arts", "Current Video Comment", "Modern Arts Comment", "Choral Arts" and "DV Making", which are the curriculum references for artistic education in universities or colleges. However, it is only the guidance. All of these courses cannot be necessarily enough to meet the realistic teaching. Hence, different universities or colleges should set up a scientific and realistic curriculum system through investigation and discussion on the base of the Guidance to make artistic teaching scientific and standardized.

#### 4. Teaching methods

Students should have artistic practice as they are having artistic education lessons. On the base of teaching the art theory, aesthetic theory and operation procedure of some related courses, teachers should attach more importance on instructing students to have artistic practice. Students can constantly improve their art quality in emulating, pondering, discussion, appraisal and operation and mix the art quality with their own knowledge accomplishment to achieve higher skills and attainment. The peri-

od proportion of classroom teaching and artistic practice should be supposed as 1: 1. Universities or colleges should equip the special-purpose classroom and the related books, audio and video material needed for artistic education teaching according to Work book of School Artistic Education.

#### 5. Evaluation system

Having a perfect teaching evaluation system is one of essential approaches to enhance teaching quality of art education in colleges and universities. In view of difficulties and specialties of art education, we can draw on the experience of much more mature disciplines to perfect the teaching quality of art education, which should include as follows: the implementation of national documents on ordinary colleges and universities; the appropriate knowledge structure for teachers; innovative and creative teaching concept; encyclopedic knowledge; the improvement of teaching environment and facilities construction; students' attitudes, aesthetic abilities and innovative spirit; teaching methods, language articulation, content arrangement, students feedback, etc.

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