

## Community Education Innovation and Practice in the New Era

—Taking the community education conducted by Beijing Chunteng Social Work Promotion Center as an example

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**Abstract.** At present, there are some common problems in community education, including monotonous learning mode, imperfect learning content, insufficient sustainability of learning organization and poor evaluability. Based on the practice of community education in Beijing chunteng social work promotion center, this paper puts forward a new model of service and governance for non-profit organizations to assist government agencies to develop community education. That is taking the culture as the main line, adopting the government-led, public welfare priority, public participation, market-assisted co-construction and sharing model is used to carry out community education and provide community-related quality services. Which provides practical experience in building services for the education system for lifelong learning for all.

### 1. Introduction

The community is the last kilometer and the most basic unit of social education and social governance, and an important carrier of people's livelihood. The construction of community service system is an important task for comprehensively building a well-off society. Community education is the key link and the soul hub in the community service system, and the purpose of community education is to build a lifelong education system and improve people's comprehensive quality in an all-round way [1].

The report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China pointed out that education should be given priority. Building a powerful country in education is the basic project for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. It is necessary to give priority to the education career, accelerate the modernization of education, run a satisfactory education for the people, support and standardize social forces to set up education, run on continuing education, accelerate the construction of a learning society, and vigorously improve the national quality. The Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee further proposed to build an education system that serves lifelong learning for all.

Based on the important means of promoting community education and community governance innovation, the Beijing Chunteng Social Work Promotion Center (hereinafter referred to as Chunteng Center) is mainly engaged in the social education and community governance carried out in the communities by the relevant government departments, focusing on the promotion of Chinese excellent traditional culture, promoting social construction and group building by party building, advocating, cultivating and practicing socialist core values, and promoting community education and community governance innovation through cultural construction [2].

At present, community education has some common problems. First, community education is mainly oriented towards the elderly, focusing on skills and knowledge education, and less oriented towards adults and children; Second, the form is relatively simple, without deep enough content and strong enough attraction, lack of means to lead people to happy learning, conscious learning, lifelong learning and deep learning; Third, third-party operation organizations active in the

community are more likely to organize various activities, which are superficial, not deep enough, systematic enough and persistent enough and lack of effect evaluation<sup>[3]</sup>; Fourth, there is a lack of effective community education content that can guide the masses to improve their spiritual civilization and moral quality and build cultural self-confidence; Fifth, the social forces of all parties have not been mobilized to create a mechanism and atmosphere to promote learning for all.<sup>[4]</sup>

The report of the 19th national congress of the CPC has greatly strengthened the ideological and moral construction in the new era. The people have faith, the state has power, and the nation has hope. It is necessary to improve the people's ideological consciousness, moral standards and civilized qualities, to raise the level of whole social civilization; extensively carry out the education of ideals and beliefs, deepen the propaganda and education of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the Chinese dream, carry forward the national spirit and the spirit of the times, strengthen patriotism, collectivism and socialist education, guide people to establish correct views of history, nationality, nation and culture; deeply implement projects to construct civic virtues, promote social morality, professional ethics, family virtues and personal morality, encourage people to be kind, filial to the old and loving their relatives, loyal to the motherland, loyal to the people; strengthen and improve ideological and political work, and deepen the creation of mass spiritual civilization; carry forward the scientific spirit, popularize scientific knowledge, carry out the movements of transforming outmoded habit and custom and promoting the new trend, and resist the erosion of corrupt and backward culture; boost integrity construction and the institutionalization of volunteer service, and strengthen the senses of social responsibility, rule awareness and dedication.

At the same time, General Secretary Xi has pointed out that cultural self-confidence is the fundamental self-confidence. We understand that the reasons why cultural self-confidence is called fundamental self-confidence are that, firstly, it can only be called fundamental self-confidence when as many people as possible create self-confidence because of their culture; Second, everyone should deeply integrate the correct concepts and rules, such as conduct oneself, into their own three views, change their own bad habits and behaviors, and be a person who truly benefits society and others, by which the self-confidence created can be called fundamental self-confidence. In the new era, the focus of community education should be on enhancing cultural self-confidence through cultural learning, and resolve the contradiction between the people's growing need for a better life and the unbalanced and inadequate development by enhancing cognition.

Based on the above understanding, Beijing Xiushi Public Welfare Foundation and Chunteng Center were entrusted by the government in Tiancunroad, Haidian district, Beijing, and launched the Xiushi• Ximu School Innovation Practice Project. The school was originally the Community Education Center in Tiancunroad, Haidian district, with an area of 2,133 square meters and a building area of 1,749 square meters. It was opened to the public in November 2017. The mission of the school is to “return to the origin and start a new one, enlighten wisdom and cultivate morality”, taking the culture as the main line, adopting the co-construction and sharing mode of government leading, public-welfare priority, public participation and market assistance, to carry out community education and provide community-related high-quality services.

There are fifteen deep content spaces such as the branch school in Tiancunroad street of Haidian district party school, the community library in Tiancunroad street, and the Chinese study school, including red party building, Chinese classics, red classics, piano, chess, books, paintings, tea, dance, flowers, incense, health education, thought seminars, theme presentations, robotic programming and other enlightenment of scientific creativity, as well as hands-on projects and activities such as wood art, clay sculpture, coffee making, baking workshops, traditional Beijing embroidery fabrics, nature education, etc. It also includes support for vulnerable groups, social organizations, community associations, interest groups for the discussion on community governance, and training activities for social workers and volunteers, and so on.

## **2. Innovative practices**

### **2.1 Return to the origin and open a new one - explore the outstanding role of excellent traditional culture in community education**

The General Secretary Xi pointed out, "to carry forward the cultural spirit that spans time and space, transcends the country, has eternal charm and contemporary values, and to spread out the contemporary Chinese cultural innovations that inherit traditional excellent culture and carry forward the spirit of the times, based on China and facing the world."

Inheriting Chinese traditional culture classics is to return to the origin, while how to make it as a point of strength of the moral literacy education for residents in the new era is to start a new one. Traditional cultural education generally involves more intellectuals or entrepreneurs in colleges or universities. How to promote traditional culture at the community level and make an effect is a challenge.

We had invited a group of teachers who have successfully conducted Chinese education for children and adults, such as Mr. Ma Fan, the president of Hexinlian School of National Studies Education in Shijiazhuang, Hebei, Mr. Li Jing, the founder of the Cultural Heritage Platform, and Mr. Sun Yi Nai, the founder of the Incense Burning Academy, to discuss deeply, design various courses and reading parties, and make some innovative attempts in the school for the surrounding residents in the form of community education.

First of all, within our operation team, we had a 15-minute morning reading from 8:30-8:45 every day, read the Classic of Filial Piety on Monday morning, the Analects of Confucius on Tuesday and Wednesday morning, the Tao TeChing on Thursday morning, XueJi on Friday morning. We conducted a study session for 1.5 hours from 5:00-6:30 pmevery Tuesday, or invited professional teachers to explain, or shared our recent learning experience with each other. Through the study,we gradually understood the traditional culture and improved the consciousness. Many colleagues even get rid of the bad habit of smoking, drinking and playing games, and some also had set up their personal ambitions to spare no effort to promote the traditional culture.

For children, we had opened fee-based courses such as the Disciple Gauge, Zhu Family Instructions, Great Learning, the Analects of Confucius, opened public welfare classes for children to learn Huang Di Nei Jing, Shen Nong's Herbal Classic, Nan Jing, the Book of Changes, Medical San Tzu Ching and other classics. Children generally paid more attention to study, became more polite than before, read and wrote better. Even some primary school students in grade five or six had begun to diagnose and prescribe medicine, which was highly praised by residents.

For adults and the elders, we mainly focused on various public welfare readings parties on weekends, involving the Analects of Confucius, the Tao TeChing, Huang Di Nei Jing, the Book of Changes, Records of the Historian, Tan Jing, Shuo Wen JieZi etc., as well as reading parties of family style and family principle, Luo Sheng Hua parent-child reading parties, parent classes, poetry and songs and other cultural reading parties. Through various reading parties, the residents had deepened their understanding of traditional culture and improved their self-cultivation, and there had been many cases where they became more filial to their parents, had better spousal relationship, could correctly educate their children, and had better relationships with neighborhoods.

At the same time, we also carried out artistic and human health courses to cultivate the sentiment of the residents, such as Guqin, tea ceremony, Weiqi, Shandedrum, Children's cartoon, adult Chinese painting, cello, violin, saxophone, picture book, calligraphy, martial arts, roller skating, woven knot arts , baking, embroidery, incense, archery rites, children's dance, melodrama, chorus, fashion model, moxibustion, tai chi, table tennis, Ba DuanJin, yoga, four seasons health and self-cultivation, etc. These courses also had enriched the residents'leisure cultural life, built residents' cultural self-confidence, and played a great role in promoting people to live a better life.

Under the support of the Xiushifoundation project, the school had established a relatively perfect evaluation system for all courses and activities, so as to ensure that the masses could obtain high-quality courses and services in the school. The strict multi-dimensional evaluation also has

exploration, demonstration and reference significance for the sustainable construction and development of the school.

In terms of faculty construction, cultural and social worker training, and volunteer team building, we combined the outstanding teaching resources such as Tsinghua University, Renmin University, and Capital Normal University to train social workers and volunteers, and exercise the social workers and volunteers through various activities and projects to go deep into community families, schools, enterprises, nursing homes and other institutions, so as to carry forward excellent traditional culture and effectively facilitate the improvement of community governance structure.

## **2.2 Cultural Governance Innovation--driving Community Governance by Cultural Learning**

Through the construction of community schools, we looked for cultural learning projects and activities that were popular with the masses. These projects were rooted in Chinese excellent traditional culture, served the community, families and residents to improve their lives, advancing with the times in the new era of the People's Republic of China, continued to deeply influence the spirit of the masses, promote family harmony, smooth parent-child relationship and good neighbor relationship <sup>[5]</sup>. In 2018, Xiushi• Ximu School held more than 3,000 various activities, including more than 100 kinds of cultural and learning activities such as classic reading parities, family principle and family principle reading parities, parent classes, science and technology life, nature education, health preservation and convenient services. Comrade Xin Yun, Secretary of the Party Committee of Ximu Community, said, "Xiushi• Ximu School is like a flower in a community garden. When you get close to her, you will smell the fragrance, while in the distance, it will bring beautiful scenery to the community. The school will quietly develop the culture. The people's spiritual life is enriched, their values are straightened, and the community is naturally harmonious. "

Through the construction of mass self-organization and in the form of community meeting hall, the residents are encouraged to care about community problems spontaneously and think about how to solve community conflicts, care about others' difficulties, think about how to help others, care about the society, and then drive the innovation of community governance, to build civilized, harmonious and beautiful communities. At present, the school has established more than 10 community self-organizing and volunteer service teams, including woven knot arts, model teams, dance teams, and piano friend reading parties. Nearly 100 volunteers played a key role in various self-organizations. In 2018, Beijing Xiushi Public Welfare Foundation and the school jointly set up elderly care classes in the Tiancunroad street to teach the elderly how to adjust their physical and mental environment after retirement, how to live their own elderly life, how to give full play to their strengths and contribute to the community, how to deal with the physical and psychological changes after illness, etc. The care classes accompanied more than 80 students from 27 communities in Tamura Road Street for nearly eight months. Yan Hongyan, the third community of Fushi Road, took the personal changes that appeared around her after learning as an example, and shared her heartfelt feeling that "who learn who benefits, who benefits who is happy". She said, "By participating in the eight-month study in the care classes, firstly my sick husband opened his heart through learning. He used to avoid going out and avoid talking with people. Now we can go to nature together and go to the countryside to donate clothes. We don't care the physical illness, we don't fear the cold and the heat, and wind and rain could not stop us to commute from school to Fusan community, and to participate in all the lectures and study discussions. Through learning from each other, we have gained the classmate friendship like brotherhood. It must be said that learning has a special charm for the elderly." She also said that "Through the elderly care classes, my husband and I become energetic, full of hope for the future, and can feel the beauty of life at the moment."

## **2.3 Leading by party building—Social construction and group building driven by party building**

Since January 2018, under the guidance of the Party Working Committee of Tiancunroad street and

the Third Joint Party Committee of Beijing social work organization, the school adhered to and firmly grasped the correct political direction, taking the party as a teacher, established the career for the public, relied on the branch school in Tiancun road street of Haidian district party school and other advantageous resources to build a learning organization, promoted social construction and group building by party building, and carried out many educational activities.

The school conducted internal party construction in the form of joint party branch and party construction working group, carried out internal study with the theme that "take the party as a teacher • establish the career for the public" every month, as well as the abroad study with the topic of "cultural society creation • youth pioneer". The school also carried out joint construction activities of branches such as "Red 1+1, civil 17 party branch of Tsinghua university and the party branch of Xiushi• Ximu School ". These activities had laid a solid foundation for the establishment of an independent branch of Chunteng Center.

The activities of "learning Chinese classics and enhancing cultural self-confidence" jointly organized by the school and the surrounding geological building have been recognized by party members; The volunteer activities of "double-reported" party members in the Ximu community and the July 1st charity activities had been actively participated by the majority of community members; Services and education for the elderly have paid off. Xu Guo, 8 years old, was a child from a poor family in Ximu community, in Tiancunroad street, Haidian district, lived in a two-bedroom apartment in Xiumu community with her grandparents and mother. Her father died due to an accident, and her mother suffered from uremia and took medicine all the year around. Their living source of coming mainly depended on the pension of her grandparents and the special subsidies from the government. Xu Guo was smart and had a good academic performance. She was recommended by Ximu Community Party Committee to Xiushi•Ximu School, arranged to educational support in the school. She participated in learning activities such as cultural ambassadors, paintings and robots in the school. Since half a year, her family became more sunshine, and Xu Guo also achieved excellent results in the final exam.

### **3. The main results**

#### **3.1 In-depth and continuous development of the volunteer service for the elderly**

In August 2018, Xiushi•Ximu School and Ximu Community Party Committee jointly set up the Ximu volunteer service team for the elderly, to sort out the list of senior citizens over 85 years old in XimuCommunity, and study the physical and psychological conditions of more than 20 elderly people over 85 years old and their child support, by the method of acquaintance through neighborhood committee, participatory observation, in-depth interview and others.

In October 2018, the XimuElderly Restaurant was officially opened. Xiushi•Ximu School recruited staffs, provided food guarantee, and made delicious meals. The social workers of the school personally delivered meals to the elderly's homes in the community at noon. After the service system construction was completed when the delivery operation was run for one month, capable and enthusiastic middle-aged and elderly volunteers were recruited to deliver meals. Half of these volunteers were party members, and some of the elders who accepted the meals also were old party members. By the end of December 2018, more than 800 meals had been served to volunteers and senile elders. In the case of ensuring the normal operation of the community's public welfare meals, the community's internal volunteers were involved and trained to provide regular on-site public hairdressing services to the elders in need.

These measures had driven the elderly groups in present and medium period in the communities to provide voluntary service for the senile elders in need, fully tapped the potential of community advantages, and promoted the integration of resources within the community, to achieve the community goal that "the elders have someone to support, have something to depend on, and have something to do ", so as to realize the macro goal of promoting the spirituality of the elderly in the new era. The school also regularly invited teachers to carry out the study of classics such as

Huang Di Nei Jing for these volunteers, so that everyone could conceptually understand how to adjust their living habits to achieve the goal of health preservation.

Hou Guiling, an old woman, was a member of the Communist Party, and worked as a doctor when she was young. She was very popular in Ximu Community, and everyone called her Doctor Hou. At present she and her husband Sun Xiaohua lived together and loved each other, while their children lived far, not around them. This couple were older and had no energy to buy some groceries, wash vegetables and cook, so after the social workers in the school conducted an initial visit to their home, they were then served meals by volunteers. The old woman said that their life quality had been improved. The other old woman Shi Wenlan especially liked to eat the meals provided by the school, said with emotion, "The communist party is pretty good and has not forgotten us!" Liu Guilan was the retired senior director of the neighborhood committee of Ximu Community, 86 years old, a senior party member. She said, "The lunch of Xiushi • Ximu School has really helped me. Since I am senile, have no energy to cook, and often eat leftovers at home. The love lunch of Ximu School really has solved a big problem for me, and not only can I have a full stomach, but also my heart feels very warm."

### **3.2 Colorful reading activities**

The library in Tiancun road street covered an area of more than 100 square meters and had a collection of more than 20,000 books, located in Xiushi • Ximu School. In order to promote reading for all, supporting facilities for deep reading such as the children's picture book reading space, classic corridors, and the scholarly space, had been set up near the library. At the same time, each separate space in the school offered in-depth reading and experience of corresponding themes. In order to make the books in the library "alive", Xiushi • Ximu School had established the first seed story base, the 2018 Haidi district nationwide reading activity base. Throughout the year, there were more than 200 reading events such as reading salons, reading story sharing, the Analects of Confucius, Records of the Historian and other classic reading parties, family style and family principle, and living library. Li Jing and Zhang Ze, party members of the school party branch, were responsible for the corresponding reading parties, which had driven the surrounding residents to participate in reading and learning, and truly realized that there were some people to read, some people to lecture, and some people to learn, forming a cultural atmosphere where people enjoyed learning and took education seriously. Xiushi • Ximu School won the "Top Ten Excellent Reading Space" in Beijing in 2018, and Ximu Community won the honorary title of "Beijing Reading Demonstration Community" in the book reading season of 2018.

### **3.3 The community seed library was linked with the public to beautify the environment**

The name of the "seed library" referred to the concept of borrowing and returning books from traditional libraries. Instead of books borrowed and returned at the "seed library", they became the borrowed seeds that could be planted. In the "seed library", community residents were encouraged to "borrow" the seeds of love, or exchange seeds, go back to planting, and then return the newly harvested seeds to the seed library after they mature, and so on.

Xiushi • Ximu School has established the first seed library in China, and the seed library currently contained more than 100 kinds of seeds, such as food crops, common vegetables, various bean crops, dyeing plants, fiber plants, oil crops, vanilla flowers, herbal seeds, wild plants, seeds of foreign plants, fruit seeds, etc.; In addition to seeds, it also collected a variety of plant fruits.

With the seed library as the carrier, we continued to carry out various natural science teaching activities and courses, such as "micro-world of seeds", "travel of seeds", "cellular city", "life of shackles", "trees of mathematics", "seed bombs", micro-landscapes, "herbs for incense" and other activities, carry out joint development by citizens, promote community construction, and give full play to the values of children, the elderly, community harmony, and ecological protection. The seed library took the jointly built community garden as a link, to connect community families, enhance the community residents' sense of home, and create a harmonious and beautiful ecological

community.

#### **4. Conclusions**

Xiushi• Ximu School adhered to and firmly grasped the correct political direction, strengthened the construction of learning organizations, and utilized high-quality reading projects and excellent traditional cultural content such as Chinese classics to attract more residents to participate in the cultural activities in the forms that were popular with the masses. Through interaction, guidance, sharing, etc., the residents planted the seeds of goodness in the heart, established the correct value view, enhanced the civilization literacy, reduced negative emotions, and built a rich and beautiful spiritual home, thus forming a good community atmosphere of respecting the old, cherishing the young and being honest and civilized, which provided some experience for the innovation of community education and community governance in the new era.

The Xiushi Foundation and Chunteng Center had already started the construction and operation of Xiushi•Binhe School, Xuishi•Shangdi School and Xiushi•Village School in ShijingshanGucheng street, HaidianShangdi street and Bohai town of Huairou district, respectively. With the implementation of more tasks in Xiushi community or the village school, Beijing Xiushi Public Welfare Foundation would also more extensively carry out community education, cultural communities and rural construction with the themes of “recognition, acquaintance, mutual assistance” in communities and villages, conduct environmental green renovation activities in communities and villages, actively promote and serve the development of community and village self-organizations, strengthen neighborhood communication, reinforce community and rural cohesion, promote the autonomy, co-governance and moral governance of communities and villages, make more people generate self-confident and good changes because of culture, and support the realization of better life, to achieve a harmonious community and rural cultural ecology. The construction of Xiushi Community School was just getting started, and its development could not separate from the establishment of certain modes and standards. It is necessary to explore the mode of community school construction, operation, and replication development, integrate core talents and cooperation institutions, form an echelon of talent teams and an echelon of cooperation institutions, and develop standards, processes and community education systems for replication promotion, including faculty system, curriculum system, teaching material system, template projects, alliance institutions, management systems, expert systems, evaluation systems, certification system, volunteer system case libraries, etc., so as to better serve the community.

The construction of community schools should take the momentum of government support, social development, and the economic development. Taking the momentum of government support is to maximize the use of government-provided places, as well as project and activity funds, to carry out the construction and development of schools. The vision and mission of school construction are completely consistent with the state-driven socialist core values and the establishment of cultural self-confidence. Therefore, by fully integrating our cause into the cause of our country, thinking about what the government think about, and worrying about what the government concern, we can take the momentum of government support to achieve the development of school. At present, Xiushi School should continue to strive to undertake more projects and activities of party building and social worker training in various streets.

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