

Research on folk culture of Southern Shaanxi and kindergarten-based course construction

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Abstract: One of the important links during kindergartens' course construction is to let more children learn more folk culture by constructing folk culture with excellent tradition. Based on this, this thesis aims at artistic forms of folk culture of Southern Shaanxi and combines with learning content at kindergartens for discussion, hoping to bring some new thoughts and suggestions to kindergarten-based course construction.

During the period of Ming and Qing Dynasties, Southern Shaanxi became a place of residence of main immigrants from Hubei, Hunan, Fujian, Guangdong, Anhui and Jiangxi. Ideas about folk culture of Southern Shaanxi are also affected by this and form unique features. For kindergarten-based course, construction of art courses about folk culture of Southern Shaanxi complies with requirements of the era for construction essence and can highlight characteristic system of kindergarten-based education fundamentally. As the saying 'the more national features things have, the more acceptable they are for the world' goes, it is just reflected that kindergarten-based course need be developed and constructed towards personality and kindergarten-based direction. This is a process of dynamic construction. Therefore, as kindergarten teachers, they should not only require themselves strictly but also learn much folk culture of Southern Shaanxi and accept and choose useful content from lots of folk culture of Southern Shaanxi. Only in this way can teachers' ability to design and construct kindergarten-based course be improved.

I. Good reference effect of folk culture on kindergarten course

For an education course, it is inheritance of cultural deposits. In the process of inheritance, teaching environment of children acts as a key. Development and innovation of modern culture can be carried out better only when children learn and inherit culture created by predecessors. Especially in current society, globalization tendency becomes more and more obvious. Thus, how to adhere to education of local folk culture really has become an educational problem in the whole world. Several kinds of folk culture gather in Southern Shaanxi, such as Tujia's custom from western Hubei and local custom of Ankang, and all of them are characteristics of folk culture with long history in Southern Shaanxi. In the process of immigration, i.e., from 'the immigration that people living in the east moved to the west' at the beginning of Ming Dynasty and 'the event that people living in the south moved to the north' at the beginning of Qing Dynasty, folk customs that combines both the south and the north also exist. These folk customs may be culture. We may settle the whole process and find that immigrant culture is the most prominent feature of regional culture in Southern Shaanxi. By virtue of continuous innovation and development of generations of people in Southern Shaanxi, these cultures are advocated ceaselessly. Although impacts of some foreign cultures appear in this process, a cultural form with obvious local features is shown after combination with characteristics of these foreign cultures and geographical factors as well as long-term development and cultivation. As a result, it becomes a kind of special Chinese civilization with abundant content. Generations of Chinese people are affected in this process. After several thousand years' development and innovation and in combination with special local customs, gorgeous folk art is developed. Folk culture of Southern Shaanxi is abundant and colorful and has high artistic value. However, when modern civilization advances, few people show interest in culture of Southern Shaanxi, let alone nursery rhyme of Southern Shaanxi. People cannot know real

significance brought by culture of Southern Shaanxi indeed. As intangible cultural heritage of the world is valued, people have begun to pay attention to folk culture of all places gradually. Therefore, we need settle and explore folk culture of Southern Shaanxi in kindergarten-based course and inherit folk culture like sound and skill in a specific form. This is a pattern showing characteristics of a nation or a region and also acts as a way to protect folk culture of Southern Shaanxi. When modern civilization becomes increasingly integrated nowadays, we should undertake obligations and responsibilities to protect our hometown's specific folk culture. Besides, folk culture of Southern Shaanxi is conclusions that people have drawn about life for a long time and featured by many characteristics of life and practice. Consequently, combining infant education with it can make the whole infant education develop harmoniously. By integrating folk art with kindergarten education construction, children can learn folk art and will learn to appreciate folk art so that they will establish concept about cultural inheritance from their childhood. At the same time, this is a harmonious development method that cultivates children to love their hometown from their childhood. In modern education, an increasing number of countries begin to pay attention to local nations and local culture and even some countries include the situation that position of their mother tongue should be improved in laws and regulations. Additionally, many countries construct museums with obvious local characteristics so that children can contact with life style of their nations and local places from childhood. Some countries particularly protect some folk artisans and show reverent attitudes towards development of folk culture. We may consult experience of other places to construct our kindergarten-based course. Thus, folk culture and kindergarten-based course construction have become an imperative direction for us in future.

II. Suggestions about folk culture of Southern Shaanxi and kindergarten-based course construction

1. Starting from nursery rhyme and feeling affability of local accent

There are many folk nursery rhymes in Southern Shaanxi, which is a form of folk art of Southern Shaanxi. Teaching about nursery rhymes in infant education can make children experience the most vivid and the most natural effect from the folk. When kindergarten-based course construction is implemented, teachers may collect and settle nursery rhymes, guide children to play games via nursery rhymes at different stages and let children remember and experience beauty of nursery rhymes via games. Secondly, teachers may tell nursery rhymes to children in the form of stories in order than children can learn stories about nursery rhymes and remember meanings of nursery rhymes when they listen to stories. If possible, teachers may adopt various forms of nursery rhymes, for instance, fantasy about nursery rhymes, to make children integrate them with artistic conception of nursery rhymes in the form of acting. Nursery rhymes are much rhyming, so they are of much readability for children. When children sing nursery rhymes, they may inherit folk culture of Southern Shaanxi in an interesting process. In addition, these nursery rhymes also carry cultural artistic conception that can guide good quality so that children can be guided to have the virtue that they care for others, respect the old and cherish the young from childhood. Meanwhile, after children have learned some nursery rhymes, they may guide the elder to recall their childhood. In this way, more meaningful nursery rhymes will be explored. Accordingly, young parents will show interest in folk culture of Southern Shaanxi and take part in excavating folk culture of Southern Shaanxi. In this process of teaching, it is expected more parents and the old generation can take part in the whole process simultaneously. By imparting different historical backgrounds reflected by nursery rhymes in Southern Shaanxi to children, children can accept full-bodied edification of folk culture of Southern Shaanxi from their childhood. At the same time, teachers may organize children's parents to have parents-child campaign, perform nursery rhymes and play games about nursery rhymes. In doing so, children can carry out imitation and innovation when they watch games so that they will show much interest in performing folk culture as children.

2. Organizing folk artists of Southern Shaanxi to give performance and feeling beauty of folk culture

As infants, they have the most imagination and curiosity. When children show interest in a thing, they will try it by themselves. This psychological feature provides a good congenital condition for us to construct kindergarten-based course. For instance, there is ‘sorcerer's dance in a trance’ in culture about counteracting evil force along Hanshui River basin and ‘Nuo dance’ at Luxi. Teachers may organize and invite some folk artists to give performance at kindergartens to show specific folk culture to children. Meanwhile, some roles about opera performance can be established in order that children can take part. Considering tools needed by performance, teachers may ask children to make them and provide materials and procedures for children’s operation. Via teachers’ careful settlement, materials that are more appropriate for children’s operation can be obtained, which not only reduces difficulty in making tools but also enables children to know application and significance of each tool when they make such tools. Teachers can cultivate children’s interest in culture of Southern Shaanxi and confidence by showing essence in culture of Southern Shaanxi to children. Via inviting folk artists to participate and give guidance, children may contact with culture of Southern Shaanxi continuously. Besides, teachers may ask artists to make more difficult folk artwork for appreciation of children. Meanwhile, teachers may explain such kinds of folk artwork to make children feel precious parts of culture of Southern Shaanxi deeply, which will drive children’s mind and body to develop comprehensive and harmoniously. Additionally, teachers may ask students’ parents to take part in making some folk tools which have failed to be handed down from past generations and let children use these tools to play outdoor games. In doing so, they may feel pleasure brought by games of ancestors.

3. Developing traditional folk games and experiencing ancestors’ collective intelligence

Any folk culture contains collective intelligence that laboring people have accumulated for several thousand years. All of these are artist essence that ancestors have summarized in daily life. Then, we may utilize traditional folk games or folk festival customs to construct kindergarten-based course and let children feel wisdom and simplicity of ancestors in traditional festival customs of Southern Shaanxi. These can affect growing process of children. In the process of daily education, teachers may explore some traditional games, customs or festivals, for instance, polytheism of Qiang ethnic minority in Southern Shaanxi, and ask children to participate in some sacrifice activities and feel ancestors’ worship for nature and the simple concept that man is an integral part of nature. Teachers may take the chance brought by these traditional customs and festivals to educate children and let them feel full-bodied folk culture in happy atmosphere of festivals. Thus, harmonious development of children’s body and mind can be promoted.

4. Providing full-bodied environment of folk culture characteristics and integrating atmosphere of folk culture

Construction of educational environment is one of the most important links in educational resources. Thus, it is necessary to construct some environment that is appropriate for characteristic education about folk culture when kindergarten-based course design is carried out. In doing so, we can promote development and innovation of kindergarten-based course practically. Therefore, we need plan and construct a region with folk culture atmosphere of Southern Shaanxi and integrate folk culture of Southern Shaanxi with environment of kindergartens. When children enter kindergartens, they may feel human landscape of various folk cultures personally and experience excellence of Southern Shaanxi deeply. During planning, we need design local folk atmosphere of this region carefully. In detail, we may add decoration with folk characteristics of Southern Shaanxi to windows, corridors and even slide in this region. This will not only show folk culture atmosphere of Southern Shaanxi but also display modern sense to some extent. For instance, when a kindergarten constructed its kindergarten-based course construction once, it transformed a region in the kindergarten. Specifically, it designs the place at which children have meals as a snack street with local characteristics, where semi-finished products of traditional food are provided for children

so that they can make exquisite traditional food via simple procedures. Such an operating form not only makes children have sense of participation but also enables them to learn the process in which cate of Southern Shaanxi is made during participation. Via this kind of transformation, traditional closed teaching is changed. The general background about folk culture of Southern Shaanxi is used to organize children to take part in various kinds of folk custom performance in the society and kindergartens may cooperate with their communities. When important folk traditional festivals come, kindergartens together with communities develop activities to let children be affected by cultural deposits in the atmosphere which is full of folk culture of Southern Shaanxi really and feel cultural edification that folk culture of Southern Shaanxi brings to children.

III. Aiming at harmonious development and establishing course evaluation system

During construction of kindergarten-based courses related to folk culture of Southern Shaanxi, it is necessary to exert practical features according to conditions of kindergartens and plan the system that can accord with requirements of kindergartens. By combination between methods of modern education with folk culture of Southern Shaanxi, kindergarten-based courses related to folk culture of Southern Shaanxi can be located accurately. It is essential to avoid the cultivation that only values folk culture but ignores development of some modern education techniques. In the process of construction, teachers need arouse their kindergartens' children's interest in folk culture of Southern Shaanxi. Secondly, after children have accepted such an educational form, teachers may guide them to explore and explore folk culture of Southern Shaanxi. Then, teachers should cultivate children's enthusiasm for their hometown and let them establish deep emotion for their hometown's culture. Finally, it is necessary to implement evaluation and innovation for the whole process of kindergarten-based course education. Evaluation should involve both the course system constructed by teachers and children's consciousness and mentality after accepting such an educational method to finish kindergarten-based course construction about folk culture of Southern Shaanxi better. By such forms, kindergarten-based course can be developed better in the process of implementation so that resources and approaches in all aspects can be utilized to realize purpose of kindergarten-based course, i.e., comprehensive and harmonious development of children's body and mind comes first.

IV. Conclusion

Combination between folk culture and art education for children is an important task for future development. Via giving folk culture education to infants, our folk culture can be advocated and inherited largely. In this way, our national spirit can be enhanced. Using our local folk culture to educate children about beauty can make children's body and mind development harmoniously and make proper contribution to cultivating a new generation of people who love our country, nation and tradition.

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