

On Art Education and Cultural Harmony on Campus

with the Art Education in Jiujiang University as Example

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Abstract—Creating a harmonious campus culture is an important guarantee to make sure that the students may concentrate on studying unobstructed on campus. It's the key of creating a socialist harmonious society. As an important method of aesthetics education, art education plays an irreplaceable role in creating a harmonious campus. Developing art education and promoting the progress of cultural harmonization on campus make up the important part of creation of cultural harmony on the modern day campus. This article summarized the main achievements of art education in Jiujiang University in improving the creation of cultural harmony within the campus, and gives practical advices on deepen art education with consideration of the current situation of art education in local universities and colleges, and provide new thoughts.

Keywords—campus; art education; campus culture

I. INTRODUCTION

Art education is generally an education activity on how to appreciate or create music, art or literature works. It's the movement of soul. Many famous thinkers and educators in and outside China have talked about it. From Mr. Cai Yuanpei's education theory of "Better aesthetics than religion" to the ideological and ethical education in modern universities and colleges, aesthetics has shown various influences on ideological and ethical education. Hegel once said that an artist "sees like a snail, smells like a dog, hears like a field mouse, he sees, hears and feels everything around him". Appreciating artworks created by artists with their sensitive senses, students widen their point of view in their own major, learn to see things, solve problems in a totally different way, and they become more creative. It's also theoretically and practically proved that people's moral, thought, physical health, cultural awareness and the spirit of innovation would be affected after they had received an art education. It helps improve the overall quality of students and comprehensive quality in a unique way.

Broadly speaking campus culture includes obvious lessons such as knowledge, skill, thought, behavioral standard and inobvious mental lessons such as cultural atmosphere, study atmosphere, culture life, public opinion, mental atmosphere, major opinion of the public, and belief. Campus culture is a complicated and multiple complex. One of the functions of modern university is to study, combine,

pass on culture and then innovate. A harmonious campus is the base and it insures that this function is well carried out. The key to create a harmonious campus is to create a cultural harmony within the campus itself. Under the global cultural conflicts and unification, campus culture becomes prosperous, connected, open minded. It absorbs more and more elements; it is reconstructed and new elements are created.

Besides major, university and college students are frequently involved in art activities like music, dancing, literary, calligraphy, photo shooting and painting. Art education has its own special influence on creation of cultural harmony on campus other than other education forms. Promoting culture construction is an important topic for education. Many universities and colleges in China are searching for effective methods, so that the students could benefit from it and they could improve their cultural awareness and develop well both physically and mentally. In the speech of Mr. Jiang Zemin in the Chinese Communist Party's National Conference on Propaganda Work 1994, he mentioned "We should continue to arm people with scientific theory, provided them with correct media guidance, imbue them with lofty ideals, and inspire them with excellent works of literature and art." Therefore we should use excellent art works well and let them affect the students, touch them and inspire them. Let these art works cultivate their taste, their ability of innovation and execution, increase their cultural awareness, improve their aesthetic ability and physical and mental health. In this way art education plays an important role in creating a harmonious campus culture and helps the students develop all-roundly. Jiujiang University has been concentrated in carrying out "Suggestions on improving art education in Chinese national universities" for many years. We affect our students with great art works and put art into campus life. Below is listed some actual examples of art education in Jiujiang University.

II. GREAT SUCCESSES IN ART EDUCATION

Jiujiang University has got overall arrangements for art education and had great success. Optional art courses are open for all students, such as appreciation of calligraphy, appreciation of house design, decoration design, appreciation of local art of Jiangxi Province, appreciation and analysis of movie music, pop music appreciation, opera appreciation and analysis, symphony appreciation and analysis, personal

image design, instrumental music appreciation and analysis, chorus, dancing and so on; while plenty of after school art activities are held by the university, such as school wide art festival, art shows in associate colleges, student art associations and so on. Art festival is recognized as the most important after school activity. Art activities held by the student art associations are also very colorful and varied.

A. Large art activity becomes regular

Many art activities are held by an art department each year, such as, welcome party for newcomers, vocal competitions, musical instrument competitions, New Year's Day celebration party, graduation party. Other departments would also hold their own welcome party for newcomers and best student singer competition. These events have great impact on students and many of them would take part in the events. Furthermore, every detail of these events, from design of the talent show, practicing, to stage design and all the other preparation is taken care of by students. Teachers only give their advices. In this way the students are motivated, their creativity is explored and their art skill is improved. We could say that large art activity is an important content of art education.

B. Activities held by student associations become more professional and widespread

At the moment student associations in Jiujiang University are administrated by the university or by the associated colleges. The most influential student associations in Jiujiang University are Nanshan Sinology Association and Lianxi Poem Association. They received the award of "Most Successful Association" in the third Jiujiang Art Festival for Student Associations. Jiujiang University has also attached great importance to every Jiangxi Art Festival for Student Associations. We support the event and encourage as many students to join it as possible. As requested by the Youth League Committee of the university the Student Association Union even held the forth Art Festival of Jiujiang University using the theme of last Jiujiang Art Festival for Student Associations and held a serial cultural activities with different form and content. Many students took part in it. The quality of these activities is so good that we could see the overall quality of students is improved during the festival and the student benefit from the after school art activities. Jiujiang University also provides funding and teacher as tutor for the students associations. The teachers are all professional teachers in service and they are all excellent in their profession. Talented students guided by great teachers make the student art associations become more and more professional and stronger in both aspect of theory and practice. Among the good activities held by student associations the serial activities held by Xinghe Student Associations are especially outstanding; one of them is called "Chinese Dream • Rejuvenation of China, Celebration to the 65th Anniversary of People's Republic of China – Exhibition of Chinese Papercut by Yi Chengxue and Hongyi Papercut Association of Art Department". This activity received a huge response in the University. Besides, the second photography competition held by Lu Yue Photography Association with the theme "Camouflage • Youth" received many good work from students from all departments.

The student associations take the benefit from the support of the university and invite all the students that are interested in art to join. In this way not only the associations themselves become more professional, but art also becomes more and more influential in the university. On the other hand, each student association has its own independent, complete organization and excellent artists. They are powerful supporters and participant of art education. Student art associations are one of the most important factors in art education.

C. Art exchange activities become regular

Jiujiang University arranges culture exchange activities with the theme "Elegant Art into the Campus, campus culture into the community" and the strategy "bringing in & going national". We invite famous performing groups to perform in the university and let the students enjoy the beauty of elegant art, cultivate their taste and purify their soul. At the same time, we also encourage students to join art activities outside the university, for example the reality TV show "Xing Guang Da Dao" of CCTV. Besides, we also organize art shows and let students perform in the communities or around the county and let the public also see the beauty of art. These activities show the contribution of art education of Jiujiang University and get the students to know the actual situation of Chinese culture and ideology. When they graduate, they can adapt to the society much faster.

Through art education and its great influence in creation of a cultural harmony on campus, Jiujiang University has formed a very good cultural atmosphere within the campus and improved the overall quality of students effectively. Art education not only cultivates the taste of the students, but also inspires them and helps them develop a healthy personality.

III. THE FUTURE OF ART EDUCATION

After many years of effort, Jiujiang University has made brilliant achievement. But now the society has higher expectations on higher education. While we're teaching, we need to be clear about the weak points of the existed education system of art education. First of all, not only in Jiujiang University, but also generally in all universities and colleges administration and structure are weak. Second, students might attach greater importance on after school activities than classes. Third, the talented artists might not stay in student art associations for long. Forth, we lack the scientific manpower for art education. Fifth, art education is not innovative enough. Here I would like to share some of my opinions to the future of Art education in Jiujiang University.

- We must be clear that, art education is necessary, but not optional. It should be included in the education system, carried out with great effort and quality.
- Set up administrative departments for art education in universities and colleges: Organization department (the Youth League Committee) should be set up to work out plans and assign responsible departments or groups, such as student council, Youth League

branches or classes; Set up activity arranging department to cooperate with the student art associations and art associations and arrange activities, such as to announce the theme and the time for the activities; Set up audit system to monitor art education, take it into consideration of credit system and set out standards. Set out praises for good performances in art and connect them with scholarship and student evaluation.

- Improve art lessons. Art education should not only be taken into consideration of credit system, but also be promoted, so that the students would become interested in it and willing to learn about it. Good teachers and teaching materials are also very important factors to ensure that students could have access to the knowledge in and after class.
- Pay more attention to the development of the student art associations and let art students lead the other students in the associations. Set up a praising system to encourage those who have great achievements and motivate the other students. Encourage the students to join the training in association and take part in art activities such as the Spring Festival Gala of the city. Students may be interested in such events and their participation may be seen as a name card of the university they belong.
- Large art shows are entertaining, spread spirits and contain lots of information and modern elements. They guides people, inspire them, affect them and improve their taste level.

Furthermore, art education should not only contain music or painting classes, but also include the environment of the campus, such as wall painting, architectural style of the school buildings, gardening and the design of the libraries. All these contain the beauty of art elements, students may see it and feel it wherever they go into the campus.

IV. CONCLUSION

With the development of the society, Art education in universities and colleges is now still facing a lot of new problems, but contains a lot more new elements. To Jiujiang University, which stands at the foot of Lu Shan, by the Long River and Po Yang Lake, it has a very important meaning and affection. As an important education base of Jiujiang, it's very important for Jiujiang University to develop itself fast in the right way. Nowadays, the society is looking for talented people with overall quality and versatile professions, so art education is something we must not ignore.

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