

The Investigation and Research on the Current Status of the out-of-school Children's Art Educational Institutions

-A Case Study of “Tianjin Perfect Children Paintings”

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Abstract—Recently, people are paying more attention to Quality Education. In this way, the special function of the art education gets more and more attention in the wave of curriculum reform. Compared to the limitations and instability of art education in school, art education institutions out-of-school teach students in accordance with their aptitude that is good for children. Based on the concept of “flexible, updating and ready-to-serve”, art education institutions out-of-school have played an indispensable role in the process of the development of imagination, practical ability and innovation ability. The paper will analyze the art education institutions for children concretely in different aspects, such as the teaching environment, teacher resource and curriculum setting. By adopting the method of questionnaire, interview, observation, and practice method and many other methods, the author investigates the children art training institutions in Tianjin area. Through comparing the advantages and disadvantages between art education institutions, and puts forward the corresponding countermeasures and suggestions. We are aiming to find the best method for art education institutions out-of-school to develop.

Keywords—Art for children; Education institution; Out-of-school; Perfect Children Paintings

I. INTRODUCTION

Art education for children has played a key role and possesses significant effect in the development of Quality Education [1]. In the process of growing up for children, the expression of feelings is more direct and objective [2]. What the children see, hear and think reflect vividly in the painting. What's worthy of considering is that how art institutions involve children in the art study based on children's physiology and psychological characteristic. The author started to investigate in art education institutions for children named Perfect Children Paintings in Tianjin since entering graduate school. On this basis, the author will give some opinions about the development of art education institutions for children.

II. DIVERSIFIED TEACHING SITUATION OF PERFECT CHILDREN PAINTINGS

A. The scale and condition of Perfect Children Paintings

"Perfect Children Paintings" was founded in Tianjin in 2011. This institution teaches students on holidays and weekday nights. Perfect Children Paintings consists of 8 classes, namely graffiti course, initiation course, intermediate course, calligraphy course, anime course, sketch course and ink-painting course. These courses are set up for children of different ages, and parents could choose appropriate course based on their children's interest and ability. There are more than 5000 students, 30 teaching staff (including 1 headmaster, 4 directors, 15 teachers, 6 assistants and 2 reception staff). Perfect Children Paintings has set up sites and WeChat platform, in this way, a complete system has been established. For the purpose of the combination of imagination and technique, the institution focuses on innovation and utility and offers a wide variety of courses in order to improve children's comprehensive quality and art accomplishment.

B. Analysis of the advantages of teaching institutions

Varied teaching contents: There are 8 kinds of courses in most of the art education institutions out-of-school, and students could choose different courses according to their own interests. Except for indoor courses, this institution also conducts various outdoor courses to satisfy children's curiosity and promote them study actively and available [3]. For example, this institution often takes students on outdoor sketching and sometimes shows them around museums and galleries, so that students will have a wider professional knowledge and broad horizons and cultivate aesthetic taste from an early age and create a pleasant atmosphere of Art. As shown in figure1, the organization organizes children to participate in "the children's heart -- Feng Zikai paintings exhibition". The exhibition through the 101 cartoon works of Feng Zikai in his later works, led the audience to review the his pure free and contains interesting art throughout, feeling his great soul pure culture. Through the exhibition, the children understand that his review and recall of comic old topic, from the "childlike innocence" "itself" "friends emotion" "I" four perspective, show "a few brush bigotry" true meaning of art [4]. As shown in figure2,

Outdoor painting activities can meet the needs of children contact with the nature, but also to develop children's ability to observe. In activity, the teacher guides the child to choose the angle which he likes to draw, and can observe carefully, feels and displays the pavilion characteristic. As shown in Figure 3, we all dance together in the broad field of spring breeze and bathe the sunshine. Children decorate their kites in colors according to their own imagination, then fly kites, fly their hearts and enjoy the speed and passion of kites.



Fig. 1. Example of visiting "Feng Zikai paintings" exhibition activity



Fig. 2. Example of outdoor sketch



Fig. 3. Example of the kite activity

Rich teaching materials: Comparing to art learning in school, intramural art learning has obvious innovativeness in the choose of topic, technique and material. Thus, children's interest was fully stimulated. Rich and interesting courses let students regard drawing as a game. In the daily course, students use various materials [5]. There are many kinds of paper, like cardboard, scratch paper, sand paper, corrugated paper and bamboo paper. Various pen also are widely used, such as watercolor pen, marker pen, canvas stick and color pencil. What's more, we also use old newspaper, scrap iron, wood, rattan and other materials. These materials can be used for painting, which makes the best of disuse of rejected materials and develops students' imagination and inventiveness. As shown in Figure 4, the Christmas trees are green, the leaves are stacked together one by one, and the

lower ones are large, and the upper ones are pointed and small. By observing and perceiving the shape and color of the Christmas tree, we learn how to use paste to represent the image of the Christmas tree. Depending on the graphics and colors, the children can stick out the Christmas tree independently with glue sticks. We also describe the patterns of the Santa Claus on the mask, use a variety of materials to make our hearts of it, which brings a strong festival atmosphere, we can feel the happiness of Christmas, this is popular and children's love. As shown in Figure 5, we use cardboard and other materials to make different animal shapes, in which children play their own imagination and creativity, using different materials splicing decoration, works vivid and full of fun. As shown in Figure 6, Institutions will also open some tie-dye courses, the children according to their own ideas can create geometric patterns, in the way, twist compression will create more organic patterns and spiral patterns, which exercise the children's patience and control of the material, to create a unique and perfect pattern, and to complete their own tie-dye clothes.



Fig. 4. Example of the Christmas tree and Santa Claus



Fig. 5. Example of vivid animal



Fig. 6. Example of tie-dye

Diverse teaching methods: Due to fierce competition, art training institution uses diversified and modern teaching methods to strive for more students and profits in contrast with dull and tedious teaching methods. Perfect Children Paintings uses various methods, such as observation method, discussion method, exploration method, deduction method, Situational teaching method, and practice method and parent-child pedagogy. It is worth mentioning that parent-child pedagogy combines school education with family education. [6] In other art education institutions, it is forbidden for parents to enter the classroom. However, Perfect Children Paintings sets up some parental courses specially to let parents and children understand each other better through painting and crafting. In this approach, they learn and grow together. In the past, parents often take accuracy as the evaluation standard. By contrast, parents now discover the advantages of their children through paintings. In the art education institution out-of-school, parents have play a significant role. Quality of parents and their acceptance is helpful for children's development in painting. As shown in Figure 7, in the warmth of the "women's Day", mothers and children start to get busy and work together to make beautiful wreaths. With the hard work of a pair of hands, they weave all kinds of beautiful wreaths with wicker, ribbon and other materials, the children personally help my mother wear garlands. Through this "women's Day" parent-child activities, which not only promote the parent-child relationship, but also let the children grow up a grateful heart, know how to care for their mom and thanksgiving mother! As shown in figure 9, Halloween party dress dance, parents help children pick clothes, make-up, and work together to make the candy jar. Children learn about western culture and create a good human environment in the game.



Fig. 7. Example of Women's Day garland activities



Fig. 8. Example of Mid Autumn Festival moon cake activities



Fig. 9. Example of Halloween costume party activities

III. REFLECTIONS ON THE CURRENT SITUATIONS OF PERFECT CHILDREN PAINTINGS

A. Unstable teacher resource

Teachers play a vital role in the development of art education out-of-school [7]. But in the survey, the author finds the quality of teachers is irregular. Teachers here are of strong liquidity and they used to be not prepared kindergarten teachers, part-time college students or graduates without experience. They usually do many jobs and the workload is too heavy, in this way, they cannot devote themselves to education. What's more serious is that most of them regard institution as a springboard, they will switch jobs as if they had ideal jobs. At the same time, there are little chance for them to improve themselves and there are little room to advance thus teachers are ready to leave at any time. For the normal operation of the company, the institution can only to employ new teachers. They are caught in a vicious circle.

B. Messy curriculum

Textbooks of art education institutions out-of-school is provided by the institutions. Therefore, textbooks are innovative but messy partly because they are composed of pictures and resource from the Internet. In this way, the textbooks are multifarious. Teachers in institutions could arrange courses according to their own wishes. When it's going worse, teachers may copy textbooks of other institution. Some even arrange courses based on existing courses causing courses are intermittent and lack of integrity and systematicness.

C. *Parents following the trend and the unguaranteed teaching quality*

The main reason for parents to choose which institution to study is fame and reputation. [8] Parents often make choice without a detailed inspection. Some of them enroll their children for art classes in case of falling behind other children, lacking of awareness and consideration. In that case, one of the various institutions is full up at some time causing this institution arranges a large number of courses to gain more profits. When it's going worse, teachers rush to the next classroom after they just finished class which causes the ignorance of students' individual differences and the decline in teaching quality.

IV. SUGGESTIONS ON THE GROWTH OF PERFECT CHILDREN PAINTINGS

A. *Spend more on teachers' training*

Problems take place in education institutions, like few opportunities to learn more and narrow development prospect. In light of this situation, more money should be spent on teachers. For example, teachers should receive effective training before they go to work, competitions between teachers should be held regularly and the excellent teachers should be rewarded, further education should be provided for teachers in order to enhance their abilities.

B. *Establish a reasonable system*

Art education institutions out-of-school do not have uniform standards on courses [9]. There are many limits for them to obtain or set courses. Beyond all doubt, each education institution has its own emphasis. According to the author, the administrators of education institutions should discuss with teachers in order to establish a reasonable curriculum system to ensure courses could proceed smoothly. At the same time, the administrators could ask teachers to write lesson plans before classes and examine teaching results irregularly to get information about classes. Meanwhile, the administrators of education institutions check the rationality of courses through questionnaire among students and parents and make constructive improvements.

C. *Set up a sound evaluation and supervision mechanism*

At present, most institutions take students' and parents' satisfaction as the evaluation standard. According to the author,

the administrators of education institutions should implement effective supervision based on actual situation and establish an agile and scientific regulatory system and evaluation system. There are many ways. For example, art education institutions could organize students to participate in some competitions and hold some other forms of examination. This is good not only for better teaching environment, but also for higher quality of teaching and learning.

V. CONCLUSION

Education is the foundation of one country, and the key of education depends on teachers [10]. Children are the future and hope of our motherland. Now as we still face many problems about art education for children out-of-school, we must continue to grope and explore. We should integrate all kinds of resources and set up premium counseling organization to raise children's aesthetic level and promote the development of children's art. This requires not only the efforts of teachers and researchers, but also the combination of state regulation and market competition. The author believes that art education institutions will have a good future in the development of the times.

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