# The Ideological and Educational Function of the Olympic Movement

## Xiaoxue Xie\*

Capital University of Physical Education and Sports, Beijing, China \*Corresponding author

**Abstract:** As a specific practical education model, the Olympic movement plays an important role in exerting the function of ideological education. Competitive sports have achieved their main performance through the Olympic movement, but excessive competition in competitive sports has led to alienation, deviation and distortion of the original intention of competitive subjects to achieve themselves, serious damage to the fair and just order, and a clear trend of politicization of the Olympic movement, which seriously hinders the full play of the ideological and educational functions of the Olympic movement. This paper attempts to clarify the ideological and educational function of the Olympic movement, hoping that it can provide useful assistance.

**Keywords:** Olympic movement, ideological education, competitive sports

#### 1. Introduction

The Olympic movement is different from other sports. It contains rich Olympic spirit. The athletes fully show great patriotism, great struggle, great unity and great dream spirit in the process of competition. The Olympic athletes struggle hard, transcend themselves, pursue excellence and never give up, so that the audience can receive ideological and political education of peace, friendship, progress, as well as truth, goodness and beauty during the watching of the Olympic movement. Therefore, giving full play to the ideological education function of the Olympic movement is the requirement of strengthening the soft power of China's sports culture, building a strong country in sports and enhancing self-confidence in sports culture, but also the need of building a strong socialist country with Chinese characteristics. It is of great practical significance to deeply explore the ideological education function of Olympic movement for the all-round development of human beings, the progress of society and the cultivation of new people of the times.

The Olympic movement embodies the spirit of unity and cooperation, tenacious struggle, pursuit of peace, never say die, positive enterprising and pursuit of excellence in competitive competitions. As one of the practical ways to improve personality, it contains rich educational resources and has unique educational functions. It plays the ideological education function of promoting people's enterprising consciousness cultivation, promoting the realization of self-value, leading the fashion of fairness and justice, developing the relationship of unity and cooperation, cultivating the spirit of patriotism and cultivating aesthetic quality.

## 2. Analysis of the ideological education function of the Olympic movement

## 2.1 Promote the cultivation of enterprising consciousness

The Olympic movement fully embodies the concept of "faster, higher, stronger" and "Participation is more important than winning". It plays a promoting role in guiding people to cultivate the excellent qualities of striving, striving hard, pursuing excellence, solidarity and friendship, and to establish a positive outlook on life. Coubertin pointed out: "The important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle, the essence of which is not to win but to become braver, stronger, more cautious and more generous [1]." The Olympic movement teaches people to dare to struggle and fight against all kinds of difficulties and obstacles in competitive games. It is also in the process of games that the audience can appreciate the enterprising spirit of the competitors constantly surpassing themselves, and then cultivate people's enterprising spirit of never being arrogant in victory, never being hungry in defeat and never saying defeat. In competitive competitions, athletes need to cope with knowable and

unpredictable risks at all times, constantly go beyond the limit and break records; competitors break through countless physical, technical, psychological, will challenges and limits, until the pursuit of excellence. It is the Olympic spirit of daring to challenge oneself and others, tenacious struggle, never give up and enterprising attitude and value orientation of daring to compete and constantly surpass that make spectators of competitive games inspired, educated and motivated in the constant pursuit of "faster, higher and stronger" competition, and cultivate the spirit of enterprising and tenacious struggle, and then in the real life and study to achieve new transcendence, which is also in line with the fierce competition, rapid development of the modern society to pursue continuous progress, innovative development needs.

## 2.2 Promote the realization of self-value

The Olympic movement is a unique way for people to realize their self-value by means of competitive competitions. The athletes demonstrate the truth, goodness and beauty of the Olympic movement with their superb skills, noble quality, enterprising spirit and pursuit of friendship, peace and justice. It is deeply permeated with the idea of pursuing all-round development, self-improvement and self-improvement beyond the competitive sports competition itself. In the competitive games of the Olympic movement, the athletes not only have to challenge others, but also struggle with themselves; In the self-struggle, the competitive winners should pursue excellence, excellent skills, and noble morality. They should have the will qualities of hard work, perseverance and courage, the enterprising consciousness of competition and struggle, the spirit of patriotism, fairness and honesty, and other fine work styles, which are also the process of pursuing self-value. This kind of challenge to others, oneself and nature can not only improve the competitive level, but also reflect people's self-value and social value, and help guide the audience to actively pursue their dreams and realize their life value in the struggle. At the same time, the Olympic movement has always conveyed to the audience the principle of collectivism, showing the harmony and unity of the pursuit of group honor and individual creation of self-value. In the competitive competition of the Olympic movement, it can not only show the role of individuals in the collective, but also highlight the self-value, which is the advanced expression of self-value realization. It can guide people to pursue correct outlook on life and values.

#### 2.3 Lead the fashion of fairness and justice

In principle, the modern Olympic movement is open to all, transcends the restrictions of nationality, religion, language, ideology, race and gender, and accommodates the needs of the disabled without any discrimination. At the same time, the fight against corruption, doping and inhumanity is a "balance of fairness" in the world, leading the trend of fairness and justice. The Olympic spirit of fairness and justice is an excellent quality that mankind pursues. It is beneficial to cultivate individual restraint and overcome desires, irrational emotions and ideas, promote the formation and establishment of people's rule consciousness, so as to internalize modern legal consciousness into their own moral consciousness. When people watch competitive sports, they will be subtly influenced by the Olympic spirit, and cultivate the ideas and norms of behavior that meet the requirements of society, such as justice, tolerance, integrity, self-esteem, generosity, integrity and abiding by rules, so that people can go beyond their own, challenge the limit to create greater value of life while opposing all ugly behaviors contrary to fair competition. It plays an important role in realizing the rule of law and the rule of virtue in China, building fairness and justice, and promoting harmonious development between man and women, between man and nature, and between man and society.

## 2.4 Develop a relationship of solidarity and cooperation

Since its birth, the Olympic movement has spread the spirit of peace, friendship, solidarity and cooperation to the world. The ancient sacred truce system is the most clear manifestation of this. Its symbol is the five links, representing the five continents, is global, continuous, and through this activity with the world friendly exchanges. The Olympic Charter states that "to educate young people through sports activities in the spirit of mutual understanding, friendship, solidarity and fair play, thereby contributing to the building of a peaceful and better world [2]." It also reflects that the goal of the Olympic movement is to promote solidarity, cooperation and mutual respect among people, so as to build friendship, peace and a beautiful world. The hosting of the Winter Olympic Games in China has basically achieved this goal. In the process of competitive sports competitions in the Olympic movement, the organizers uphold the attitude of respect, tolerance, mutual learning and mutual learning of each country's culture. At the same time, in terms of the competition process, there are individual

events and team events in the Olympic movement. Collective projects, needless to say, require teamwork; solo sports are more than just individual activities. They require coaching, support from teammates and even fair competition with opponents. Therefore, the arena highlights the importance of unity and cooperation, and constantly plays the ideological education function of unity and cooperation.

## 2.5 Cultivate patriotism

Patriotism is the spirit of every competitive athlete to keep forging ahead and never give up for the glory of the country. The Olympic movement is the most dynamic carrier of patriotism and plays the ideological education function of cultivating patriotism. As Coubertin said, "In this secular century, there is one faith that may be used to achieve secularization -- and that is the flag, the symbol of modern patriotism [3]." When the national flag is raised in the national anthem, the patriotism of the athletes is naturally aroused. The athletes and spectators struggle and cheer for the national and national honor in the Olympic movement, and the volunteers experience the process of serving for the Olympic competition, all imperceptible to each other the spirit of unity, cooperation and dedication education, so that people can understand the vivid national spirit, and play the ideological education function of cultivating patriotism, enhancing national confidence and improving national cohesion. Although the Olympic movement has no borders, the athletes have nationality, and the results of competitive events often reflect the honor of the country and the nation. During the Olympic games, outstanding athletes and volunteers have emerged. They regard winning glory for the country as the greatest honor. They have shown great responsibility and patriotic passion, which has aroused national pride and confidence, enhanced national cohesion, and enriched the value of patriotism.

## 2.6 Cultivate aesthetic quality

There is no denying that there were aesthetic thoughts in the germination of the Olympic Movement. The primitive Olympic movement was interrelated with artistic activities such as dance, music, painting and sculpture, which were the same origin with the earliest art categories. The Olympic athletes in the "competition" and display "technology" at the same time, the good social morality, the tenacious fighting spirit for the glory of the country and not arrogant in victory, not hungry in defeat, witty brave, calm and decisive competitive qualities, show the spirit of the times beauty, human moral beauty, social ideal beauty and the Olympic movement of the main body of the personality sentiment, touching with beauty, moving with emotion - beauty, the vast audience is also a kind of infection and edification [4]. For the majority of the audience, they get the enjoyment, education and spiritual adjustment from appreciating the beauty of movement, body, art and will in the process of directly watching the Olympic games. At the same time, the Olympic movement is the showcase of a country and national spirit. Its beauty of competition is the wealth shared by social groups and the performance of a country's social civilization in the sports field.

#### 3. Analysis of factors influencing the ideological education function of the Olympic movement

The Olympic movement is also one of the ways of competition between countries and a platform to show the national quality and comprehensive strength of a country. However, due to excessive competition, the competitive values of the Olympic movement appear to be misplaced, and the utilitarian phenomena such as alienation -- deformed view of gold medal, inhuman training methods, consumption of banned drugs and black sentry appear in the sports industry, which deviates and distorts the original intention of self-realization and seriously destroys the fair and just order of the Olympic movement. Seriously affect the ideological education function of the Olympic movement.

## 3.1 Deviation from original intention of self realization

The Olympic movement takes the direct confrontation between the body and the mind of the athletes as the way of expression. On the basis of developing the body in an all-round way and exploiting and giving full play to people's potential in physical, psychological and intellectual aspects, the Olympic movement aims to gradually surpass the physical limit and mental load, climb the peak of sports technology and create excellent sports achievements. This process is likely to cause physical or psychological damage to the competitors or themselves. Unlike other fields full of opportunities for development, the Olympic movement has very limited opportunities for competition. Many areas of

social division of labor are trapezoidal, but the Olympic movement is pyramidal. As a result, in order to achieve results, competitive athletes are prone to high-intensity training, dehumanized training, closed management and other situations in sports training [4]. Competitive athletes gradually become tools to win gold MEDALS under the "whole nation system". Some Olympic athletes' competitive values gradually appear dislocation, enslaved by competition, and competitive athletes become machines on the gold medal production line. The purpose of the Olympic movement is to improve people's physical and mental quality, but not to destroy people's physiological function and mental health, which deviates from the original intention of athletes to achieve themselves.

#### 3.2 The fair and just order is disturbed

In the operation and development of the Olympic games, with the purpose of fairness, justice and openness, it positively inspires people's courage to face difficulties, encourages people to develop a positive and healthy lifestyle, and plays a positive ideological education function for maintaining a fair and just social order [5]. However, doping, match-fixing and illegal whistle-breaking in pursuit of individual or group interests seriously deviate from the purpose of fairness and justice of the Olympic movement. The reason why doping and black whistling are opposed and criticized is that as a way and means to achieve certain interests, they destroy the seriousness and purity of the results of the Olympic competition and violate the spirit and essence of fairness and justice of the Olympic movement. At the same time, from the perspective of the principles of the Olympic movement, doping and black whistle fundamentally destroy the meaning of fair competition among countries, and directly cause suspicion and conflict between countries, nations, and competitors.

# 3.3 The positive spirit is destroyed

In the competition, some sports use of doping, black - whistle, match-fixing and other vicious means of competition, the Olympic movement pursuit of the ideal of "physical and mental integration" has been destroyed. Even if it achieves "faster, higher and stronger", it will not be appreciated and respected by the public, but will be severely punished by the International Olympic Committee and criticized by the public [6]. This is contrary to the purpose of the Olympic Movement and undermines its incentives and values of social prestige. It is clearly stipulated in the Olympic Charter to "observe the rules of ethics, never accept any political or commercial influence, be free from any racial or religious considerations, and fight against all forms of discrimination [7]". Many countries want to use the Olympic movement to prove their national and national identity, so as to expand their political influence and gain benefits through hegemony. Such behavior runs counter to the Olympic movement's efforts to build a harmonious relationship of mutual respect, solidarity and friendship among the people of the world, and undermines the ideological and educational function of building a relationship of solidarity and cooperation [8].

## 4. Conclusion

The Olympic movement contains rich ideological and educational resources. It carries forward the spirit of fair competition, patriotism, positive enterprising, unity and cooperation on the competition field and plays a unique ideological and educational function. It has become a force to promote world peace and social development and progress. Therefore, in the Olympic movement, it is necessary to strengthen the training of athletes' awareness of competition rules, firmly establish the awareness of integrity of athletes, pay attention to the cultivation of their sports ethics. Therefore, the ideological education of the subject of the Olympic movement should make use of the subject's conscious moral activities to gradually form its sense of responsibility, which will be transformed into the internal power of moral activities and finally into conscious moral activities to provide realistic guarantee for the ideological education function of the Olympic movement. At the same time, athletes should be guided to resolve the crisis of the Olympic movement brought by commercialization and professionalism, consciously resist utilitarianism and individualism, and educate Olympic athletes to abandon narrow nationalism, treat and evaluate athletes of all nationalities in the world objectively with an equal and healthy mind, and establish a mentality of taking others' strengths and making up for their weaknesses.

#### References

- [1] Feng Y N, Sun B L, Bi T Y. The New "Olympia" Vision: Historical Retrospect and Contemporary Interpretation of Pierre de Coubertin's Olympic City Thoughts [J]. Journal of Chengdu Sport University, 2023, 49 (2): 17-23.
- [2] Huang L. Historical Evolution, Value Interpretation and Chinese Sentiment of Olympic New Motto [J]. Journal of Tianjin University of Sport, 2023, 38 (1): 39-45.
- [3] Li W L, Wang R B. A Review of Coubertin's Thought and the Practice of the Olympic Movement [J]. Wushu Studies, 2022, 7 (8): 136-140.
- [4] Zhao Z. Olympic Games and Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind——A Comparison between Ancient and Modern Olympics [J]. Bulletin of Sport Science & Technology, 2023, 31 (1): 259-262.
- [5] García Borja, Meier Henk Erik. The "autonomy" of developing countries in the Olympic Movement: Assessing the fate of sports governance transplants in the Global South [J]. Frontiers in Sports and Active Living, 2022, 4 (1): Article Number: 972717.
- [6] Salvador P M, Antonio S M, Manuel D M R J, Alberto R C. Mario and Sonic at the Olympic Games: Effect of Gamification on Future Physical Education Teachers [J]. Applied Sciences, 2022, 12 (19): Article Number: 9459.
- [7] You C B, Gao L. Olympic Education and Governance [J]. Journal of Sports Research, 2022, 36 (4): 286.
- [8] Jiang Y H. The Evolution of Olympic Sports Culture and Education, the Orientation of the Concept and the Direction of Practice in the New Era [J]. Journal of Inner Mongolia Minzu University, 2022, 37 (4): 335-338.