

Calligraphy Education: Its Role and Path in Promoting the Inheritance of Traditional Culture

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Abstract: *Calligraphy is the essence of Chinese character culture and an important carrier of Chinese cultural heritage. Since ancient times, its influence on people's social life has been profound and its importance is irreplaceable. Nowadays, with the accelerating pace of life and the increasing popularity of technology products such as smartphones and computers, more and more people are forgetting how to write Chinese characters. In particular, in education, the neglect of students' writing skills due to a one-sided pursuit of academic performance is also a problem. The Ministry of Education has explicitly stated that calligraphy education needs to be strengthened and elevated to the level of inheriting excellent traditional Chinese culture. This article analyzes and discusses the role and path of calligraphy education in promoting the inheritance of traditional culture.*

Keywords: *Calligraphy education; Traditional culture; Cultural inheritance*

1. Introduction

Traditional culture with a long history is vast and profound. China has gradually formed a huge spiritual system that interacts with each other in terms of language, thought, and other aspects. It has further evolved into a vast content that is closely related to people's lives, such as martial arts, music, folklore, calligraphy, and so on. Traditional culture has a very close relationship with people's daily lives. Among them, the noble form of calligraphy art, to a certain extent, shows the subtle psychological characteristics of the Chinese people. Here, "calligraphy" mainly refers to the "broad sense of Chinese character writing method that is correct, standardized, neat, beautiful, aims to communicate effectively, and has certain spiritual aesthetic value", and also includes "the unique artistic expression form that calligraphers follow specific calligraphy creation rules".

2. Theoretical basis of calligraphy education in promoting the inheritance of traditional culture

The Ministry of Education has explicitly stated in a series of documents related to calligraphy education that calligraphy, as an art form using Chinese characters as a medium, is not only a national treasure of Chinese culture but also a treasure in the history of world civilization. Guiding students to learn relevant writing skills, enhancing their appreciation of calligraphy, helping them understand the status of traditional culture, and promoting the effective dissemination of traditional culture are the main objectives of calligraphy education.[1] In the context of the new era, different cultures have gradually infiltrated into students' lives. In order to strengthen students' understanding and recognition of traditional culture, calligraphy education, as a traditional cultural course, should be actively strengthened to enhance students' understanding of Chinese character culture, effectively cultivate students' interest in Chinese character writing, and guide them to develop a refined cultural literacy, thereby further improving their comprehensive abilities and level of education.

The strokes of Chinese characters form the written language system of the Chinese nation. As a traditional language symbol, it can effectively record the profound culture and long history of the Chinese nation and promote the inheritance and development of traditional culture. In the process of historical development, Chinese characters have also played an important role in the communication between different ethnic groups. The relationship between Chinese characters and calligraphy is complementary, and calligraphy education can help students deepen their understanding of Chinese characters, guide them to appreciate the fascinating charm of calligraphy, and feel the spiritual and national charm of Chinese characters through calligraphy.

The soul of the Chinese nation is also found in calligraphy. In ancient times, the literati and officials

were the main disseminators and promoters of Chinese calligraphy art. They possessed rich knowledge and a strong love for their country, gradually forming unique expression methods and different types of calligraphy based on their deep understanding of Chinese characters. By observing daily life and communicating information, they exhibited the clever forms of Chinese characters and infused their abilities, ideas, and understanding of life into their writing, allowing their spiritual pursuit and personality traits to be felt through their calligraphy.[2]

As an important representative of Chinese culture, Chinese characters can showcase unique cultural and artistic charm worldwide. Unlike other forms of cultural art, the Chinese people need to master the standard writing and reading comprehension of Chinese characters, and use them for communication and social activities. In this vast population background, learning Chinese characters and their writing methods is an essential path for every Chinese descendant. From understanding to writing Chinese characters is a difficult and wonderful process. Chinese characters and calligraphy are important components that cannot be ignored in the social life of the Chinese nation, so it is necessary to carry out calligraphy education for students.

3. The important role of calligraphy education

Based on the current situation, the important driving force for political and economic development is social and cultural construction. With the further development of social and economic aspects, higher requirements have been put forward for the inheritance of excellent culture. Public cultural confidence has been continuously strengthened to promote the achievement of the goal of building a socialist cultural power. The inevitable product formed in the process of social production and life is the excellent traditional culture of the nation. These excellent cultures are based on history and social reality. Therefore, in the process of inheriting excellent culture, it is necessary to concentrate on relevant culture and history, and actively learn the great wisdom that has been experienced for thousands of years. As the cultural essence that has been inherited and developed for thousands of years in China, calligraphy has a unique role in establishing different social systems in different historical stages. The recording of Chinese calligraphy has a function of completely restoring the Chinese culture, society, and economic development, and has a unique and important role in the inheritance of traditional culture.

3.1. Meeting the demand for quality education

In recent years, the development of internet technology has become increasingly rapid, and more and more students are experiencing a decline in writing ability, even leading to a crisis in Chinese character writing.[3] The initial stage of students' learning is recognizing characters, and Chinese characters are also the basic carrier of quality education. In the context of comprehensive quality education, improving national quality and promoting the further development of education connotation are the key focuses of education. Strengthening calligraphy education, enhancing students' character recognition and writing abilities, and promoting the coordinated development of students' intellectual and aesthetic education can effectively improve students' overall quality.

3.2. Conducive to enhancing cultural confidence

An important symbol of our country's traditional culture is Chinese calligraphy, which can well demonstrate the spirit of Chinese culture. As a profound art form of calligraphy, it displays the essence of traditional culture and the charm of Chinese characters, possessing rich cultural connotations and life philosophies. To a certain extent, the external manifestation of traditional culture is calligraphy art, and the inner core of calligraphy art is traditional culture, both of which are closely related. Through calligraphy education, students can feel the emotions conveyed by the calligraphy during the learning process, and to some extent, experience the subtleties of traditional culture. [4] Therefore, it can be said that the important carrier of inheriting excellent culture is calligraphy art. Teachers' calligraphy teaching can effectively enhance students' sense of national pride and self-confidence, thereby further strengthening the cultural confidence of the nation.

3.3. The need to promote the prosperity and development of advanced Chinese culture

In order to inherit and promote the excellent traditional Chinese culture, it is necessary to clarify the carrier that culture should rely on and understand the basis of the inheritance and development of

traditional culture. China's 5,000 years of outstanding culture and thought have been recorded and passed down in the form of characters, and have been continuously applied and gradually transformed into a unique artistic form in the process of historical development. In different historical stages and regions, although calligraphy has different forms of expression, the corresponding strokes and structural composition are combined with the unique emotions of the calligrapher, which can well demonstrate the national and epochal spirit. Chinese characters integrate thoughts, economy, and history, showcasing the development of humanistic thought and economy in different historical stages, and their artistic and cultural values are relatively high. The significance of calligraphy art in the inheritance of traditional culture has been widely recognized by the academic community. Strengthening calligraphy education and promoting the inheritance of traditional culture is an important way for students to comprehend the national and epochal spirit, and it can also further promote the prosperity and development of Chinese economic and cultural aspects.

4. Current shortcomings in calligraphy education

4.1. Lack of practical value in calligraphy

Smartphones, computers, and other technological products have gradually become essential items for an increasing number of people, and the practical space for calligraphy as a recording method is also gradually decreasing. For example, in the past, Spring Festival couplets were mostly calligraphy works imbued with unique emotions of calligraphers, but nowadays, with the development of printing technology and the further updating of materials, couplets and plaques are gradually being replaced by printed products. In the educational process of schools, the application of computers and multimedia is more extensive, resulting in less writing demand for teachers. The reduced direct writing exposure of teachers makes it difficult for students to receive a good calligraphy education.

4.2. Calligraphy education is difficult to receive attention

Affected by the concept of exam-oriented education, most exams, whether they are the middle school entrance exams or the college entrance exams, do not have specific requirements for calligraphy. At most, it is only involved in a small part of the writing score in Chinese composition, accounting for a negligible proportion, which cannot effectively draw teachers' and students' attention to writing. The number of calligraphy courses offered in schools is minimal, and the role of calligraphy teaching in improving students' academic performance is not significant, let alone its relationship with teaching evaluation or further education. In some schools, calligraphy education exists only in formality. Due to the lack of emphasis on calligraphy education, most students do not fully engage in calligraphy course learning.

4.3. Families neglect children's art education

Most parents also do not pay attention to their children's calligraphy and writing. In the context of exam-oriented education, some parents even think that spending more time studying calligraphy is a waste of time. Most parents still focus more on their children's main exam subjects and do not pay attention to their calligraphy learning, which has a negative impact on students' enthusiasm for learning calligraphy to some extent.

4.4. Insufficient calligraphy teaching resources

Most schools are unable to provide professional teachers specifically for calligraphy education. Calligraphy teachers are often language or art teachers with a relatively good foundation in calligraphy, who take on the role in addition to their primary duties. These teachers have not received specialized calligraphy education training, which may lead to incorrect or even erroneous writing demonstrations and guidance during the teaching process. As a result, students may struggle to grasp the essential points of calligraphy writing, affecting their overall learning outcomes.[5]

4.5. Students have not developed good writing habits

Learning calligraphy can be initially tedious, requiring students to practice with a calm and focused mind and the persistence for long-term practice. In the short term, significant results may not be

apparent. On the other hand, students face a heavy academic workload, including numerous assignments and exams from various subjects. With limited time, they may neglect one task in favor of another, making it difficult to write carefully and develop good writing habits. [6]

5. Pathways for calligraphy education to promote the inheritance of traditional culture

5.1. Transforming concepts and strengthening the emphasis on calligraphy education

In the era of the Internet, public thinking has changed, and more people tend to rely on the internet to obtain information and knowledge in various fields, which to some extent has led to the neglect of calligraphy education. In order to fully tap into the potential of calligraphy education in the transmission of traditional culture, it is necessary for relevant departments to actively guide the public to change their thinking and place more emphasis on calligraphy education. For example, relevant departments need to strengthen the supervision of calligraphy education in schools, increase professional skills training for calligraphy teachers, and ensure the efficiency and quality of calligraphy education are effectively improved. At the same time, elevate the status of the calligraphy education system in the nation's excellent traditional culture, strengthen the promotion of calligraphy education at the societal level, guide the public to fully understand the significant role of calligraphy education, and effectively enhance the cultural communication and influence of calligraphy education.

On this basis, the goals and tasks of calligraphy education should be further clarified. Essentially, calligraphy is not a pure art form, but a human activity that integrates artistic sense. In the process of calligraphy education, it is necessary to have a clear understanding of the objectives and tasks of calligraphy education, ensuring that learners, on the basis of mastering certain writing skills, receive appropriate education in Chinese character culture and calligraphy history. This will effectively stimulate learners' sense of responsibility for cultural inheritance and national pride. During calligraphy teaching activities, learners can also be guided to strengthen their corresponding values through calligraphy creation, combined with the intrinsic social value of calligraphy education. Long-term planning of the corresponding teaching system can be implemented to avoid superficiality and vulgarity in calligraphy education.

In addition, to strengthen schools' emphasis on calligraphy education, relevant departments can integrate schools and society by establishing a unified calligraphy education system. Schools should pay attention to the status of calligraphy education in daily teaching and enhance the comprehensive quality of teachers. At the social level, efforts can be made to actively organize calligraphy competitions or other types of social activities, enhancing the promotion of calligraphy and thus increasing public attention to calligraphy education.

5.2. Innovating educational methods to promote cultural heritage

To innovate educational methods, promote calligraphy education, and pass on traditional culture, the following aspects can be considered:

First, in the basic strokes and self-teaching, traditional culture can be passed on. Calligraphy is closely related to Chinese characters, which form the basis of calligraphy. In the writing process, writers often incorporate their understanding of traditional culture into their calligraphy works. Viewers should be able to feel the writer's insights on life while appreciating the calligraphy. On the surface, Chinese characters have simple strokes, but writing them well can be challenging. Calligraphy has many types of strokes, and different writers have different styles and corresponding principles. Based on this, calligraphy teachers can integrate the explanation of corresponding cultural spirit into the explanation of character structure during educational activities, guiding students to comprehend Chinese culture during the writing process and promoting the infiltration of traditional culture.

Second, promote traditional culture through calligraphy copying. The beauty of calligraphy is the result of long-term planning by calligraphers. Different schools of calligraphy are influenced by traditional culture and have a rich cultural thought. Students can gain insights into the vast spiritual world of the Chinese nation while copying calligraphy. Calligraphy works contain many cultural elements and also showcase the essence of the Chinese nation's spirit, temperament, and cultural thought. During calligraphy education, teachers guide students to copy relevant calligraphy works, allowing them to feel the unique charm of calligraphy and enhance their interest in learning, promoting the inheritance of traditional culture.

Third, promote cultural inheritance through Chinese character structure teaching. Calligraphy teachers can collect traditional culture stories related to Chinese character calligraphy art using the internet during the lesson preparation stage. They can tell the history of Chinese character development and change, guiding students to enhance their memory and understanding of Chinese character structures, and ignite their love for Chinese characters. In calligraphy education, teachers can also introduce stories of famous calligraphers based on the educational content, guiding students to appreciate the spiritual qualities, interpersonal skills, and temperament cultivation of calligraphy masters. This inspires students to gradually develop good character traits and promotes traditional culture inheritance with higher self-awareness.

Fourth, promote cultural inheritance through calligraphy creation teaching. There are many calligraphy teaching methods, and teachers can choose suitable and flexible teaching methods according to the specific teaching content. They can also enhance their innovative awareness and promote the penetration of traditional culture education in the calligraphy teaching process. For example, teachers can combine calligraphy comprehension and guidance in the process of calligraphy creation teaching, effectively drawing from language writing teaching methods, and incorporating traditional culture into specific educational activities. Teachers can select famous sayings and maxims about calligraphy to guide students in practicing writing and generating deep thoughts, thus promoting the dissemination of traditional culture. [7]

5.3. Promoting the development of professional calligraphy teacher teams

Calligraphy has unique characteristics from both skill and artistic perspectives. The calligraphy education process requires teachers to possess higher teaching abilities and professional qualities to promote the inheritance and development of traditional culture. Therefore, it is necessary to actively promote the development of professional calligraphy teacher teams. Teachers need to strengthen their learning and mastery of traditional knowledge, improve their teaching level and cultural foundation, form corresponding teaching content systems based on this, and adjust the teaching content system according to students' actual situations. During classroom teaching practice, teachers can fully utilize the auxiliary role of modern teaching tools to enhance the intuitiveness and vividness of teaching, thereby stimulating students' enthusiasm and positivity for learning. Teachers should fully understand students' individual characteristics, use encouraging language to guide students' thinking as much as possible, and effectively cultivate students' initiative in learning calligraphy. Guide students to strengthen their appreciation of relevant calligraphy works, help them master corresponding writing techniques, and gradually develop good writing habits. After completing the relevant teaching courses, teachers need to strengthen summarization and reflection and continuously improve the issues identified in teaching to enhance the effectiveness of calligraphy education.

At the same time, a reasonable evaluation and assessment of calligraphy teachers' teaching situations should be carried out, and an effective evaluation indicator system should be established. One of the essential tasks that significantly impact teaching activities is education and teaching evaluation. With the help of this type of activity, teachers can identify problems in their teaching process and make reasonable adjustments. The evaluation methods should be as diverse as possible, with assessments from multiple angles and dimensions, considering the teacher's perspective, students, and other teaching conditions.

In addition, teachers should strengthen communication, exchange, and learning among themselves. Schools or education-related institutions can actively expand channels or platforms for communication and learning among teachers, providing them with more teaching experience references, promoting the continuous development of calligraphy education, and better playing the role of calligraphy education in promoting the inheritance of traditional culture.

5.4. Organize calligraphy practice activities to increase experiential opportunities

To provide students with more experiential opportunities, showcase their calligraphy learning achievements, enhance their self-confidence and sense of accomplishment, and help them participate more actively and positively in calligraphy education, it is essential to create more practical experience opportunities. Various activities can be organized to guide students to genuinely appreciate the joy and pleasure of success, thus forming a positive calligraphy education and cultural communication effect. During the activities, showcasing students' excellent works and affirming their calligraphy achievements can effectively increase their interest in learning calligraphy, promote their subsequent

calligraphy learning, and lay a solid foundation for inheriting traditional culture. Periodically guiding students to participate in relevant calligraphy creation, competitions, or other calligraphy exchange activities can strengthen their practical abilities and have far-reaching significance for inspiring students' enthusiasm for traditional culture inheritance.

6. Conclusion

Calligraphy is an essential component of the essence of Chinese traditional culture. It has a unique and crucial role in the process of traditional culture inheritance due to its interwoven relationship with other traditional cultures. However, in the context of the new era, calligraphy education and art have been marginalized for a long time. To address this situation, calligraphy education needs to adopt effective measures and long-term strategies, approach the issue from different angles, change mindsets, innovate teaching methods, optimize resource allocation, and improve systematic education to fully play the role of calligraphy education in promoting the inheritance of traditional culture.

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