

Original Paper

The Contemporary Values and Practical Ways of Chinese National Culture Education

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Abstract

With the continuous development of the “Chinese national culture boom”, people’s understanding of national culture is deepening. National culture education is rich in connotation, covers multiple levels such as ideology, moral value, and humanism, and has contemporary value. As we enter the new era, we should strengthen cultural self-confidence and identity, improve cultural literacy and cultivation, and promote cultural exchange and integration as the focal points for inheriting and transmitting Chinese excellent traditional culture. Therefore, it is necessary to study traditional culture in depth, integrate it into the ideological and political curriculum, modern life and modern technology, actively promote the creative transformation and innovative development of Chinese excellent traditional culture, promote the modernization and transformation of traditional culture, and inject vitality and vigor into the dissemination of national culture.

Keywords

Cultural confidence, Education, Chinese excellent traditional culture, Modernization

1. Introduction

With traditional Chinese culture as the core content and cornerstone, national culture education aims to deeply explore, transmit and carry forward the essence of this ancient culture. Through profound interpretation of classical literature, poems, philosophical writings, etc., it fosters people’s emotional identity and ideological cognition of traditional culture. This not only helps to strengthen individuals’ sense of cultural identity but also encourages people to more consciously preserve and transmit the Chinese outstanding traditional culture, thus consolidating the cultural self-confidence and identity of the nation. As an educational concept that honors tradition and pursues progress, national culture education has cultivated a new generation with more moral sentiments and cultural self-confidence through the

inheritance and promotion of traditional Chinese culture. It is not only a method of education, but also a boat of the cultural heritage of the Chinese nation, which makes a far-reaching contribution to the country's prosperity and a positive contribution to the promotion of the cultural development of the nation.

2. Rich Connotation of National Culture Education

National culture education is an educational and practical activity of learning and transmitting the Chinese excellent traditional culture, which is profound and rich in meaning, with the aim of making the people understand the traditional Chinese culture more deeply, widely carrying out the educational and popularization activities of the Chinese excellent traditional culture, and integrating it into modern life. The Report states: "Chinese excellent traditional culture has a long history and is profound, and is the essence of the wisdom of Chinese civilization" (Xi, 2022). As an important part of Chinese traditional culture, national culture education is rich in meaning and deeply reflects the wisdom of ancient China. During the long development of over 5,000 years of Chinese civilization, a brilliant and glorious Chinese culture has been created, and its thought system has built up a diversified spiritual world to guide people in their pursuit of moral cultivation and the true meaning of life. The Confucian values of benevolence, filial piety, fraternal duty, and honesty, the Taoist concept of natural harmony, and the ideological views of other schools of thought together form an important cornerstone of national culture and education. Such values not only provide guidance for individual behavior but also lay the foundation for social harmony and stability.

In terms of moral values, education in Chinese culture not only emphasizes the norms of individual behavior but also focuses on inner cultivation and personality perfection. The concepts of benevolence, filial piety, and fraternal duty emphasized by Confucianism are not only moral norms but also tolerance and understanding of interpersonal relationships. The Taoist idea of "man-nature harmony" includes the concept of harmony between man and nature, and inspires people to maintain inner peace and harmony with the internal and external environment in modern society. These moral values are integrated into the teaching content and practical activities of Chinese culture education, with the aim of cultivating students' moral qualities for all-round development and urging them to become responsible and compassionate members of society.

In terms of humanism, national culture education emphasizes the inheritance of respect for traditional culture and the cultivation of a humanistic and caring attitude. Through the study of ancient classical literature, students can appreciate the wisdom of the sages and their reflections on the destiny of mankind. This cultural heritage not only helps to shape individual identity, but also provides the basic material for cultivating students' sense of family, country, and social responsibility. At the same time, the aesthetic and humanistic concerns in the cultural education of national culture make people's emotional expressions and interpersonal interactions in everyday life more harmonious, thus promoting the way of harmony advocated in the tradition of national culture.

To sum up, the rich connotation of national culture in education covers many levels, such as the ideological system, moral values, and humanistic spirit, which provide valuable spiritual wealth for the development of individuals and the progress of society. By exploring these connotations in-depth and organically integrating national culture with modern education, we can cultivate new-age talents with comprehensive qualities, thus injecting lasting force into the sustainable development of society.

3. Contemporary Value of National Culture Education

With the development of the times and the progress of society, national culture education has received much attention and concern. National culture education carries forward and promotes the excellent traditional culture, giving people a deeper understanding of the connotation and essence of the Chinese excellent traditional culture, which has an important contemporary value.

3.1 Fostering Cultural Confidence and Identity

Chinese outstanding traditional culture is the root of cultural confidence. Those who fall from the ground remember the tree, and those who drink from the stream remember the source (Bu, 2023). Under the rapid changes in society and the trend of globalization, it is increasingly important to cultivate cultural confidence and establish cultural identity. Cultural self-confidence represents a country's and people's deep understanding and firm recognition of their ideology, cultural tradition, and value system, and is the core of maintaining national independence and realizing prosperous development. As an important channel for the inheritance of Chinese culture, national culture education builds a platform for Chinese children to come into contact with traditional culture and feel the cultural heritage which then shapes the cultural self-confidence and cultural identity of individuals. The cultivation of cultural self-confidence must start with education, media, social environment, and other aspects, and integrate traditional Chinese culture into the ideological and political curriculum and daily life so that people can deeply realize the essence and connotation of Chinese civilization. Strengthening a deep understanding of traditional culture can improve cultural confidence and cultural identity in today's pluralistic and intertwined world. This cultivation of cultural self-confidence and cultural identity is reflected not only at the level of the individual but also in its effect on the nature of the country and nation as a whole. Cultural self-confidence stems from a deep understanding of and identification with the local culture and is a kind of self-confidence with an inner foundation that enables individuals and collectives to hold on to their cultural heritage in the development of the times. Through the education of national culture, people can better recognize their cultural roots, so as to face the impact of globalization and cultural influence with confidence. It can prevent the local culture from being diluted by the foreign culture, participate in international cooperation with a more open and tolerant attitude, and jointly promote the prosperity of cultural diversity. Therefore, national culture education has not only formed individual identity but also consolidated national cultural soft power in the context of globalization, thus providing important support for building a more harmonious and cohesive society.

3.2 Enhancing Cultural Awareness and Literacy

National culture education can not only deepen people's awareness of the Chinese outstanding traditional culture but also make them appreciate the uniqueness of Chinese culture. At the same time, it plays an important role in cultivating people's cultural literacy and can improve their ideological quality and moral level. Through in-depth study of classical works such as "Mencius", "The Analects of Confucius", "The Meaning of Life", and other cultural texts that have been handed down to the world, it advocates the principles of "benevolent government" and "love for all," of which the "Four Ends and Eight Forgivings" emphasize the virtues of moderation, honesty, tolerance, and respect, while advocating the pursuit of people's happiness and the maintenance of social justice. It emphasizes "benevolence" and "honesty" as its core moral principles, and embodies harmonious relationships among people through consistency in words and deeds, self-restraint, and devotion. It emphasizes the virtues of filial piety, respect for parents, respect for teachers, and sincerity in dealing with others. It emphasizes the moral principles of "neutrality," "honesty," and "self-control," and advocates a moderate and balanced attitude in dealing with others, pursuing a personality and morality that are consistent both internally and externally. These are the spiritual paradigms and cultural essence of traditional culture that can shape people's behavioral norms, values, and moral concepts, and further enhance their spiritual realm and individual cultivation. Under the influence of the national culture, individuals are more likely to form a positive outlook on life and values, and to continuously improve their spiritual world through self-understanding. Promoting such in-depth learning and understanding is not only a tribute to traditional wisdom, but also provides a solid moral foundation and ideological support for modern society. By nurturing the connotation of the individual and guiding people to maintain a clear mind and noble sentiments in the complex and changing realities of the environment, the education of national culture makes the individual more powerful to cope with all kinds of challenges and dilemmas, and the same time injects wisdom and strength into the harmony and progress of society.

3.3 Promoting Cultural Exchange and Integration

Chinese cultural education not only has a positive influence on individuals and society and creates a good social atmosphere, but also creates opportunities for multicultural exchanges and integration, and promotes the common progress of different cultures in interaction, thus creating a new form of human civilization. With the advent of the digital era, the fusion of Chinese culture and modern technology has also produced a number of innovative cultural products, such as digitized ancient books and intelligent traditional musical instruments. Therefore, combining new technology with traditional culture and promoting the modernization and transformation of traditional culture can better promote the prosperity and development of culture.

As a long-term task, the education of national culture requires us to explore the meaning of traditional culture. At the same time, it requires us to seek ways of education that meet the needs of modern society. In practice, we should focus on innovating and expanding traditional culture and integrating it with modern science and technology to create modern cultural products and meet the needs of contemporary

people. Only in this way can we truly inherit and carry forward the excellence of traditional culture, keep it alive in development, and continue to contribute to the progress of human society. In this process, we must deeply understand the essence of traditional culture and be open to the challenges and opportunities of modern society, so as to realize the organic combination of traditional cultural heritage and innovation.

4. Practical Ways of National Culture Education

Rooted in the deep soil of Chinese civilization, the inheritance and development of national culture is a long-term task, and at the same time, it is also necessary for us to seek educational ways that are suitable for modern society, fully mobilize the rich cultural resources and transform them in a meaningful way, and realize the inheritance and innovation of national culture.

4.1 Emphasizing the Research of Traditional Culture

Traditional culture is an indispensable part of Chinese culture, including language and writing, literature and art, philosophical thought, etiquette, and customs. In the process of inheriting the national culture, the in-depth study of traditional culture is especially important. In an era marked by rapid globalization and technological advancement, the significance of delving into traditional culture becomes even more pronounced. Amidst the whirlwind of change, grounding in cultural heritage provides a stabilizing anchor, fostering a sense of belonging and continuity. This in-depth exploration safeguards against the erosion of cultural identity and empowers individuals to navigate the complexities of the modern world while remaining rooted in the values and wisdom of their forebears.

Digging deeper into the connotation and essence of traditional culture will further promote the project of exploring the origins of Chinese civilization and achieve more fruitful results. Education in national culture plays an important role and should be actively promoted so that people can understand and recognize the profound heritage of Chinese culture, and thus better transmit and inherit the cultural heritage of the nation, and draw from it the essence and intrinsic value of traditional culture. In this process, the basic principles of Marxism can be effectively integrated with Chinese excellent traditional culture to further enrich and develop the cultural heritage. This integration can not only stimulate the vitality of traditional culture, but also provide contemporary society with more depth and breadth of wisdom, and inject new impetus into the inheritance and development of local culture. We should inherit the capacity for tolerance and absorption in the genes of Chinese culture, and strive to absorb the essence and wisdom of other civilizations, build a platform for equal dialogue among the world's civilizations, and create a new pattern of dialogue and integration between Chinese civilization and the world's civilizations (Wang, 2018).

4.2 Integrating Chinese Excellent Traditional Culture into Ideological and Political Courses

As a platform for integrating diverse ideas and promoting cultural exchanges, the ideological and political course is not only an important program that leads students to grow and succeed but also a key element in shaping the future talents of society. Integrating traditional Chinese culture into the construction of ideological and political courses helps cultivate outstanding students with high morals

and patriotic sentiments. The content to be “integrated” should be that which represents the traditional Chinese spirit, Chinese values, and Chinese strength, and that which is still adapted to contemporary culture and harmonized with contemporary society (Zeng, 2022).

Modern information technology has exerted a significant impact on the ideological and political curriculum. Through tools such as the Internet and virtual reality, the essence of traditional culture can be presented to students in a more vivid form, which helps to highlight the new advantages of cultural education. Teaching students to pass on Chinese excellent traditional culture, so that they can firmly promote their local culture and establish the core concept of cultural self-confidence amidst various trends of thought and international cultural competition, is of vital importance in fulfilling the mission of moral education and student cultivation. Schools can play an essential role in this process, they are not only purveyors of knowledge but also transmitters of culture. Through innovative teaching methods and the development of diverse educational resources, schools can guide students to better understand and transmit the excellent traditional culture, so as to cultivate new-age talents with all-round development in morality, intellectuality, physicality, aesthetics, and work, and contribute to the sustainable progress and development of society.

4.3 Integrating Chinese Excellent Traditional Culture into Modern Life

The Chinese excellent traditional culture is the spiritual treasure of the nation and contains a strong cultural heritage and the essence of unique wisdom, which is the unique advantage of the Chinese nation. It is necessary to integrate the Chinese excellent traditional culture into modern life, and build a diversified communication platform through culture to promote harmonious social coexistence and lay a solid foundation for prosperity and development so that Chinese culture can find new vigor and vitality in modern society.

In modern life, we should explore ways to integrate traditional culture into contemporary life and infiltrate it into various fields so as to better transmit and develop this precious heritage. At the same time, we can build traditional culture exhibition halls and cultural centers in modern cities so that people can perceive and experience the beauty of traditional culture in modern life. Through initiatives to integrate traditional culture into daily life, people’s keen interest in traditional culture can be aroused and traditional culture can be revitalized in modern society. Modern society’s reliance on technology offers an additional avenue for the fusion of tradition and innovation. The digital realm, with its vast potential, can be harnessed to skillfully merge traditional cultural elements with contemporary media. These digital tools also pave the way for the creation of dynamic and creative cultural products that resonate with today’s tech-savvy generations.

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