

The Importance of Gender Aesthetic Education for Adolescents from the Phenomenon of Sissy in China

Hanbing Wei¹

¹BaoTou Medical College School, Inner Mongolia University of Science and Technology, Jianshe Road 31#, Baotou, China

goodweather-79@163.com

Keywords: Sissy, Aesthetics, Gender aesthetics, Gender aesthetic education model

Abstract: In recent years, the phenomenon of "sissy" in China's entertainment circles reflects the gender aesthetic misunderstanding of adolescents in aesthetic standards, aesthetic innovation and gender aesthetic equality. Meanwhile, it also reveals the importance of gender aesthetic education for adolescents. Strengthening the gender aesthetic education for adolescents is not only a significant means to improve their aesthetic quality, but also an effective way to establish a correct gender concept and gender aesthetic for adolescents. Furthermore, the construction of the trinity of gender aesthetic education model (family, school and society), which could be effectively enhance the gender aesthetic quality of adolescents.

1. Introduction

In recent years, the phenomenon of "sissy" in China's entertainment circles has become more and more serious, and a group of so-called sissies have been sought through the internet and entertainment programs. The so-called sissy refers to the male who are deliberately feminine in appearance, dress and behaviour. Some "sissy" are due to their personality, but more want to achieve an entertainment effect, that is, cause by the interests. Even some "sissy" are completely opposite between the public image and the real life of the individual image. As public figures these "sissy" transmit a vague and even distorted gender aesthetic to the audiences who are consist of most teenagers through the internet and media. On the one hand, the popularity of the "sissy" is due to the promotion of the internet and media, on the other hand, cause by the pursuit of the majority of young viewers. Hence, we find that there are some misunderstandings in gender aesthetics among Chinese teenagers through the phenomenon of "sissy".

2. Misunderstanding of gender aesthetics by adolescents form the phenomenon of "sissy"

From the "neutral style" in the 1980s to the "sissy" phenomenon today, teenagers have similarities in gender aesthetics, that is vague concepts of gender, focusing on peculiar appearance and feminine superfluous, masculine inadequacy. Through the adolescents' aesthetic characteristics of gender, we find that adolescents have the following misunderstanding in gender aesthetics.

2.1 Misunderstanding of Aesthetic Standards

Modern teenagers have a strong subjective consciousness and rebellious psychology, which leads to their self-centeredness and indifference to others. At the same time, this indifference often makes them more tolerant of other things. In terms of gen-der aesthetics, the majority of teenagers think they have their own set of aesthetic standards, which are disdainful and indifferent to other people's aesthetics. This seemingly self-conscious personal aesthetic standards, but in fact, is the lack of aesthetic ability and aesthetic opinion. In order to cater to this mentality of teenagers, the media and the internet, on the one hand, want to achieve the so-called "unusual" effect in the image-building of idols, on the other hand, cannot have a clear standard, so fuzzy processing will receive unexpected results. Especially the rise of Chinese feminism and the improvement of women's status making the publicity of women's elements, hence, some stars began to take a neutral line, for the

performance of women "masculinity" and men "feminization", and the representative is the "sissy" phenomenon. Therefore, the popularity of "sissy" among teenagers reflects the vagueness and unprincipledness of teenagers' gender aesthetic standards.

2.2 Misunderstanding of Aesthetic Innovation

The information age is a time of pursuing rapid change. As the main group of people pursuing fashion and new, teenagers have a high sensitivity and enthusiasm for aesthetic innovation. However, their understanding of innovation is more in pursuit of "new", while ignoring "creation", as long as it is novel things will arouse their concern, or even pursue, and will not pay attention to whether this "new" is in line with the "aesthetic" requirements. Even some teenagers regard the so-called "out of character" and "personality" as pop beauty and an-ti-traditional aesthetic ideas. The more unconventional, traditional things are, the more exciting they are, even fanatical. Therefore, it is not surprising that the "sissy" is popular as an element that does not conform to the traditional male aesthetics.

2.3 Misunderstanding of Gender Aesthetic Equality

Teenagers are the most sensitive groups of gender awareness, and their aesthetic judgment of gender is also influenced by social phenomena and social trends of thought. At present, the social status of Chinese women has improved significantly, especially in the case of imbalanced sex ratio (in 2017, 51.21% of the Chinese male population and 48.79% of the Chinese female population) (National Bureau of Statistics of China, 2017). Women's cultural, economic and political influence is increasing. Some adolescents believe that the emergence of the "sissy" phenomenon is a recognition of women's rights, or a reflection of women's social status. This kind of understanding of the phenomenon of "sissy" is lack objectivity, irrational or even a misunderstanding. Men dressed as women to please others, in ancient Chinese society is often a relatively low social status industries or groups, such as the operatic profession. Even in today's society, a group of men dress themselves up as feminine, favoured and admired, this is not only a respect for women, but a misunderstanding of the image of women. Therefore, it is biased, even a misunderstanding, to interpret the phenomenon of "sissy" as gender aesthetic equality.

3. Importance of gender aesthetic education for adolescents from the phenomenon of "sissy"

As an important part of aesthetic education, aesthetic education not only cultivates healthy aesthetic judgment and correct aesthetic value orientation of teenagers, but also plays an important role in cultivating healthy psychology and personality of teenagers. Gender aesthetics is an important part of adolescent aesthetic education. It is not only a positive way to educate adolescents on gender, but also a channel to establish a correct gender concept.

3.1 Strengthening Gender Aesthetic Education is an Indispensable Way to Promote the Comprehensive Aesthetic Ability of Adolescents

Aesthetic ability is the ability to perceive, feel and appreciate the factors of beauty in things, and to mold their personality and human nature through perception and feeling activities. Aesthetic ability includes aesthetic perception ability and aesthetic creativity. Gender aesthetics is a kind of perception and discrimination of the beauty of both sexes, and it is also a process of cognition and shaping of the natural gender attributes of human society. Teenagers are in the process of formation of gender awareness, full of curiosity and desire for gender issues, gender aesthetics is a complex issue, including both teenagers' cognition and experience of self-aesthetics, and teenagers' cognition and experience of their own, extending to other people, especially the cognition and experience of the opposite sex. Therefore, adolescent sex aesthetic education not only enables adolescents to have aesthetic appreciation of the opposite sex and their own sex, but also through the adolescent sex aesthetic education, to enhance their aesthetic interest in nature and society, so as to achieve the improvement of their comprehensive aesthetic ability.

3.2 Strengthening Gender Aesthetic Education is an Important Way to Cultivate Adolescent's Correct Gender Aesthetics

Aesthetics is the judgement of values of beauty and ugliness. It is an important part of the world outlook. Gender aesthetics is the value judgment of its own sex and heterosexual beauty and ugliness, in short, the value judgment of male and female beauty and ugliness. The mainstream values of gender aesthetics can determine the aesthetic standards and expressions of the external beauty of men and women in a society, such as appearance, body appearance, clothing and other internal beauty of art and culture. The healthy and positive aesthetic concept of gender not only pays attention to the aesthetic value of the external beauty of the aesthetic object, but also pays attention to the aesthetic connotation of its internal beauty. Teenagers are in the period of forming aesthetic values. Only by strengthening their sex aesthetic education and cultivating their noble sex aesthetic taste can they establish a correct gender aesthetic view.

3.3 Strengthening Gender Aesthetic Education is an Effective Measure to Train Adolescent's Correct Gender Concept

Aesthetic perception is first achieved through the senses. For the growing youngsters, there is no more direct and attractive way to understand the opposite sex than senses. Therefore, gender aesthetic education will greatly increase the attention of youngsters to gender issues. Although aesthetics is based on the cognition of things, aesthetic cognition of things is profound, even essential. Zhuang Tzu said that "the sage's original beauty of heaven and earth reaches the principle of all things" (Zhuang Tzu, 2016), that is, in order to achieve the understanding of a thing, we must first observe things, and then get the understanding of its beauty through perception, and then to achieve the understanding of the essence of things. Therefore, in order to get the truth of a thing, we must first get the understanding of the beauty of this thing, in other words, aesthetic is a way to understand things, is the entrance to truth. Therefore, it is not only one of the aims of gender aesthetic education, but also an effective way for teenagers to establish correct gender concepts.

4. Countermeasures of strengthen gender aesthetic education for adolescents onclusions

Teenagers, as minors, have not yet entered the society as a completely independent individual separated from the original family. Their main task is to complete school work with the support of the original family. Therefore, the adolescents in this period were influenced by family education on the one hand, and school education on the other hand. At the same time, the social environment cannot be ignored, especially in the information age, since the media and other network platforms for young people to provide a wealth of access to information means, but also shapes the values of young people invisibly. Therefore, in order to strengthen teenagers' gender aesthetic education and effectively improve teenagers' gender aesthetic ability, it is necessary to construct a trinity of family, school, society and gender aesthetic education model.

4.1 Giving Full Play to the Basic Role of Family Gender Aesthetic Education

Family is a person's first classroom. Family education has a lasting impact on people's values, ways of thinking and communication. This effect is not only because children inherit their parents' biological genes, but also because children learn to imitate their parents' speech and behaviour in family life. From the time a child is born to the time of his adult life, the child will live with his parents, this period is a critical period of physical and mental development of the child, once the child leaves his parents after adulthood, although he has his own family and social relations, but his ideas have basically formed, which shows that for young people. Family education played an important role in gender aesthetic education. Through the family status, family relations and family contacts of parents, adolescents can acquire a preliminary understanding of gender aesthetics. At the same time, parents' gender aesthetics will be transmitted to their children through family contacts, forming the basis of adolescents' gender aesthetic knowledge. Therefore, in the process of educating children, parents should not only pay attention to selfcultivation, set a good example for their

children, but also establish a harmonious family relationship, create a good family atmosphere, and lay a good foundation for children to have a positive and healthy gender aesthetic values.

4.2 Constructing a Suitable School Gender Aesthetic Education System for Adolescents

School education is an important field for young people to receive systematic aesthetic education. From primary school to secondary school, adolescents through different academic stages of the curriculum, including art, music, sports, poetry, dance, as well as rich and colourful campus activities, aesthetic knowledge accumulation and aesthetic ability training, constantly improve their aesthetic quality. In order to achieve the best effect of gender aesthetic education, schools should formulate different gender aesthetic courses according to children's acceptance ability and sexual interest range at different academic stages, especially at different stages of adolescent physiological development. In the lower grades of primary school, adolescents' sexual physiology has not yet begun to develop. During this period, adolescents' understanding of sex is vague. Therefore, we should give priority to aesthetic general education, cultivate adolescents' basic aesthetic ability and carry out sex aesthetic enlightenment education. In the higher grades of primary school, adolescents' sexual physiology began to develop, and they began to pay attention to gender issues. During this period, we should increase the curriculum of gender aesthetic education, so that adolescents can establish correct gender aesthetic values through classroom education. After middle school, it is the physiological development period of adolescents, which is very sensitive to gender issues. In this period, we should use art courses to educate them on gender aesthetics and enhance their sexual aesthetic taste.

4.3 Creating Healthy Gender Aesthetic Education Atmosphere for Adolescents

Although adolescents have not fully entered the society, but the impact of social education on adolescents' gender aesthetics cannot be underestimated, especially the development and application of network information technology, the impact on adolescents' gender aesthetic concept is more extensive and more intense. In order to make adolescents grow up healthily and set up correct values of gender aesthetics, we must create a healthy atmosphere of gender aesthetics, especially to strengthen the supervision of the network and establish an ecological network environment. If we want to get a good social environment of gender aesthetic education, we must give full play to social educational resources, such as art galleries, theatres, science and technology museums and other public resources, through these public educational resources to organize rich and colourful cultural and artistic activities, in the subtle influence of gender aesthetic education for young people. In addition to making full use of social education resources, media should also play a propaganda role, especially new media such as the Internet. In order to give full play to the positive role of the new media in gender aesthetic education, we should not only supervise the new media properly and put an end to the vulgar and vulgar sex culture, but also make the new media publicize the noble and healthy sex culture through various forms that adolescents like to see and hear, so as to create a healthy and green sex aesthetic atmosphere for adolescents.

Acknowledgements

This work is supported by ideological and political education program in universities of Inner Mongolia Education Department (No. NJXZ1508) and ideological and political education program of BaoTou Medical College School (BYJJ-YF-W-2018001).

References

- [1] National Bureau of Statistics of China., 2017. China Statistical Yearbook, China Statistics Press. Beijing, 1nd edition.
- [2] Chuang Tzu., 2016. The Book of Chuang Tzu, Zhonghua Book Publishing House. Beijing, 1nd edition.