Current Situation and Cultivation of College Students' Cultural Consciousness and Confidence -- A Case Study of the Adaptability of Minority College Students in Some Universities of Shaanxi Province

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Keywords: minority college students; cultural consciousness; cultural confidence

Abstract: Culture, as the most deeply rooted social gene of a country and a nation, is regarded as the foundation of maintaining its independent characteristics in the global society and has been highly valued by the world. Through analyzing the deficiencies and causes of cultural consciousness and cultural confidence of minority college students, this paper aims to provide useful reference for promoting the cultivation of cultural consciousness and cultural confidence of minority college students in China, and to promote the socialist advanced cultural construction.

1. Introduction

As the most independent characteristic of a nation, culture has always played an extremely important role in China’s worldview. As an old Chinese saying goes: “judging from the humanities into the world to”, so the core meaning of Chinese culture is to civilize the world by humanities. Culture not only embodies the social life and social existence of all nationalities, but also bears the mission of forming social norms, cohesing national strength, maintaining social operation and achieving world peace. In today’s world, with the increasingly intensified globalization and the ever-changing information technological revolution, the connection between countries and regions is getting closer, and the modern production modes and activity patterns in human society presents more remarkable global, convergent characteristics. The Sixth Plenary Session of the 17th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China adopts the Decision on Several Issues Concerning Deepening the Reform of Cultural System and Promoting the Development and Prosperity of Socialist Culture, which clearly pointed out that we should cultivate a high degree of cultural consciousness and cultural confidence, improve the cultural and ethical quality of the whole nation, enhance cultural power, promote the Chinese traditional culture, and strive to build a strong socialist culture in China[1].

In recent years, with the sustained economic development in minority areas and the further implementation of the national nationality policy, more and more ethnic minority students have entered colleges and universities. Minority college students are more likely to have various discomforts due to the great differences between them and non-minority college students in terms of natural environment, economic conditions, manners and customs, cultural traditions, educational foundations, language and other aspects. Therefore, the cultivation of cultural consciousness and cultural confidence of minority college students, especially in those non-specialized ethnic colleges and departments, has become a new subject in higher education research. The cultivation of cultural consciousness and cultural confidence of minority college students has become an important part of campus culture construction in such colleges and universities, which is of great significance to promote socialist advanced culture construction.

2. Current Situation of Cultural Consciousness and Cultural Confidence of Minority College Students

Cultural confidence refers to subjects’ identification, affirmation and adherence to their own culture. Cultural consciousness is the premise of cultural confidence. Based on cultural consciousness, cultural confidence can be constructed. Nowadays, in the era of rapid development
of scientific and technological knowledge, the development of economic globalization is accompanied by the impact of Western multiculturalism. College students’ traditional cultural concepts are deeply influenced by the Western tide and ideology, leading to the cultural consciousness and cultural confidence college students possessed are gradually weakening, even resulting in the absence of cultural confidence of many college students. According to the data analysis of the results, the main reasons are as follows.

2.1 Confusion about the Choice and Judgment of Cultural Value

College students browsing the cultural and educational communication websites and visiting cultural museums mostly follow the trend, rather than based on the reality. They are unwilling to settle down to read ancient books and take time to learn traditional cultural knowledge. What they do is just a kind of formalism out of keeping pace with most people. Minority college students in Shannxi at present have little knowledge about the local culture due to the influence of region, environments and culture, what they accepted are just the outlines of the local culture, more information can only be obtained from multiple sources. However, due to the characteristics of college students’ physical and mental development, immature cognitive and identification ability, college students are prone to fall into the confusion of choice and judgment facing pluralistic culture and ideology.

2.2 Overemphasis on the National Culture

At present, a large number of minority college students in Shaanxi universities consider that there is a big gap between the management and service of their colleges and their ideal concepts. Since minority students generally grow up in a unique cultural environment, the historical and cultural inheritance, manners and customs, and even language and environment they have received since childhood are different from Han students, they all have unique national emotions.[2] Most ethnic minorities in China have their own religious beliefs, and ethnic minority college students who grew up in this environment have implanted religious plots in their ideology. As a result, under the background of Han culture, minority college students overemphasize their own culture while weakening the sense of identity and belonging of traditional Chinese culture.

2.3 Relatively Weak in National Pride

Compared with the inland college students in Shaanxi, the minority college students represent different degrees of conservatism, rigidity and closeness in terms of cultural foundation, self-restraint and interpersonal communication. Therefore, many minority college students in leaning, working and communication show certain inactivity, diffident and pluckless. In addition, they are reluctant to mention their own culture, language and living environment in daily conversation since a sense of cultural inferiority have been foster in their subconscious, which is not conducive to cultivating minority college students’ competition consciousness.

2.4 Low Attention Paid to the Contemporary Advanced Socialist Culture

General secretary Xi Jinping once raised that we should carry forward the advanced socialist culture, promote the great development and prosperity of social culture, and make continuous progress towards the goal of building a strong socialist culture in China. We must firstly protect China's own cultural diversity in respecting cultural diversity. Chinese culture is the epitome of all national cultures. It is wrong to equate Han culture with Chinese culture while ignoring minority culture, or to differentiate our national culture from Chinese culture while lacking recognition of Chinese culture. We must resolutely overcome these problems. [3] At present, minority college students in some Shaanxi colleges and universities have thought about how to develop and inherit traditional culture in today’s society, but deeper research has not been carried out, which shows that minority college students’ attention to contemporary socialist culture is still insufficient.
3. Analysis on the Reasons of Minority College Students Lack of Cultural Consciousness and Cultural Confidence

According to the results of the questionnaire survey, there are four main reasons causing minority college students lack of cultural consciousness and cultural confidence. They mainly from the influence of the social environment, the cultural edification created by the campus, the atmosphere created by the family and minority college students themselves.

3.1 Impact of the General Social Environment

Firstly, under the background of globalization and internationalization, people flow frequently, leading to western ideological culture collides with Chinese traditional culture. Due to the fact that most minority colleges students lives in the areas where economy is undeveloped, transportation is blacked, the cultural exchanges and integration with other ethnic groups are not strong enough, especially it is not in line with international standards, hence, minority college students, to a large extent, cannot effectively absorb the Western culture, resulting in blind absorption, and even lose confidence in traditional Chinese culture.

Secondly, minority areas tend to give priority to the development of ordinary colleges and universities, neglecting the development of high vocational and technical education, which lacks certain advantages compared with the comprehensive quality of students in the inland. Therefore, minority college students’ difficult employment problem makes their self-confidence declined, doubt their own abilities, which ultimately leads to the absence of cultural awareness and cultural confidence.

3.2 Edification of Campus Culture

Minority college students accepted school education from childhood is not reasonable due to the influence of local economy and system. For example, primary and secondary schools in mathematics, physics and chemistry have weak foundation; the integration between applied disciplines and social economic development is lose; minority college students possess strong traditional employment concepts and lack of awareness of self-employment. Although minority college students have changed their unique campus environment and learned cultural education with the mainland students, the deep-rooted traditional ideas are difficult to change significantly in a short period of time. Therefore, colleges and universities in Shaanxi should formulate corresponding educational management system for minority college students, so that they can faster integrate into the big family.

3.3 Creation of Family Atmosphere

Family is the first teacher for children, so that family education in minority areas is particularly important. For example, bilingual education should be carried out not only in schools, but also in families, which should start with childhood. Family cultural atmosphere has a significant impact on the formation of minority college students’ early cultural confidence, because parents’ words and deeds will have a unconsciously influence on the growth of their children, which has an educational functional that cannot be ignored. College students who grow up in a good family atmosphere can easily enhance their national self-esteem, self-confidence and sense of pride, as well as strengthen their cultural consciousness and cultural confidence.[4] On the contrary, college students who lives in that environment where parents’ educational level is not high, family atmosphere is not benign will lack of national cultural edification and moral cultural cultivation from an early age, their sense of national pride is accordingly declines. Then how cultural consciousness and cultural confidence obtain?

3.4 The Influence of Minority College Students

Minority college students have their physical and mental development rules, their professional knowledge is not comprehensive, and their identification ability is not high. The ideological wave brought by globalization enables minority college students in shaanxi to have more and deeper
contact with the excellent western culture than those in their own ethnic areas. Therefore, under the invisible infiltration of culture, some minority college students will advocate the western aesthetic taste and values, reducing their self-confidence in traditional Chinese culture and advanced socialist culture. In an era fulling of knowledge temptation, ethnic minority college students should strengthen cultural consciousness, resist the invasion of bad culture consciously, and improve their own discrimination ability.

4. Countermeasures to Cultivate Minority College Students' Cultural Consciousness and Cultural Confidence

In view of the present situation where minority college students lack of confidence in Chinese traditional culture, and promote the great development and prosperity of socialist culture, the whole society should devote itself to the construction of cultural consciousness and cultural confidence.

4.1 Strengthen the Study of Chinese Excellent Traditional Culture

Excellent traditional culture is one of the symbols of China’s civilization. And the Chinese national spirit formed in the long history of development is the foundation of Chinese cultural confidence. College students must take the initiative to learn Chinese excellent traditional culture. Only when college students actively learn excellent traditional culture can they get more spiritual food outside the classroom, and form a correct value orientation and value evaluation system as soon as possible. In return, to form correct value orientation and value judgement need minority college students to actively learn Chinese excellent traditional culture. College students should read excellent traditional culture books as much as possible in their spare time, form a sense of superiority and pride, establish cultural confidence, and change learning mode from passive learning cultural knowledge taught by teachers to conscious absorption of excellent traditional culture. In the new era, we should vigorously disseminate the culture that students like. When dealing with foreign cultures, neither national nihilism nor cultural retro-classicism can be formed, we should view dialectically. We should learn to use the excellent part of western culture, including taking its essence, discarding its dross, so as to make up for the shortcoming of traditional Chinese culture, form confidence in Chinese culture, and improve the quality of Chinese people and strengthen Chinese cultural power.

4.2 Change the Teaching Mode and Strengthen the Traditional Culture Education

To enhance minority college students’ cultural consciousness and cultural confidence, ideological and political education should be taken as the starting point. In terms of educational concept, the ideological and political education curriculum concept requires teachers to combine Marxist ideological education with the age characteristics since ideological and practical knowledge divorced from age characteristics will make people feel obscure. Combine subject knowledge with life in the process of teaching will make ideological and political knowledge closer to life and easier to be accepted and applied by minority college students, so as to construct students’ three-dimensional goals (emotional, attitude, values), promote minority students to consciously learn Chinese excellent traditional culture, and enhance cultural consciousness and cultural confidence. In terms of educational methods, we should take the following measures: take the dissemination of traditional culture (education, population migration, business and trade) and teaching as carriers, choose suitable teaching methods for minority college students, focus on the selection and analysis of excellent traditional culture, integrate the similarities between ideological and political education and cultural consciousness and confidence, give full play to the advantages of curriculum in cultivating people, and strive for a balance between teachers dominant the class and students as the main subject. Minority college students should be taught in accordance with their aptitude. Under the impact of excellent traditional culture, minority college students are encouraged to form a sense of pride for the excellent traditional culture from their deep heart, which is the source and foundation of cultural confidence.
4.3 Rely on Various Carriers to Enhance the Impact of Traditional Culture

Family and campus are the first places that affect people. We can not change the family environment through external forces, but only take measures from the campus. Campus is an important place where forms college students’ cultural confidence and cultural consciousness. And campus cultural environment and ideological public thoughts and ideas lay foundation for forming students’ confidence and consciousness. Therefore, the campus cultural system should be included in the content of traditional excellent culture. By conducting memorable poems exchanges and red songs reading seminar, historic sites visiting and other activities, make the students understand the source of the Chinese excellent culture, arouse their interest, feel the charm of culture and implement the Chinese nation’s integrity and codes of conduct, so as to form a high degree of cultural consciousness and cultural confidence. Secondly, colleges and universities should make full use of the network platform, such using campus network or Wechat to publicize excellent Chinese traditional culture and applying micro-classes to carry out small lectures aiming disseminate excellent cultural knowledge, which not only meet the spiritual needs of minority college students to a certain extent, but also further consolidate minority college students’ sense of recognition and worship of Chinese excellent culture. These measures lay a basis for minority college students develop cultural confidence and form correct values and value.

5. Conclusion

There is an old Chinese saying:” If you want others not to have doubts about yourself, you must first be honest and trustworthy.” Only when you have a firm confidence in your national culture can you gain the calmness to pursue, the courage to forge ahead and the vigor to innovate and create. Ethnic minorities are important parts of fifty-six ethnic groups in China. Cultural consciousness and cultural confidence ethnic minority college students possessed are closely related to the cultural influence of the Chinese nation in the international arena. Globalization has entered the deep water zone In today’s world. Although countries in the world facing new problems and challenges, the trend of cultural exchanges and cultural integration is still overwhelming. Promoting cultural self-reliance and enhancing national culture have strong soft power, influence, appeal, communication and cohesion are the subjects of the times that every Chinese should face.

Acknowledgement


References