

# Craftsman's Spirit in Vocational Education

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**Abstract:** At the national “Two Sessions” in 2017, Premier Li Keqiang pointed out that the soul of quality lies in ingenuity. Therefore, it is necessary to vigorously carry forward the craftsman’s spirit, cultivate the craftsman culture, abide by professional ethics, advocate excellence, as well as cultivate more “Chinese craftsmen.” Craftsman’s spirit is the essential core quality of the students in vocational schools as well as the core link and goal of education and teaching in vocational colleges.

**Keywords:** Craftsman’s spirit; Vocational education; Education and teaching

**Publication date:** October 2021; **Online publication:** October 29, 2021

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## 1. Issues in the current development of vocational education

The term, “craftsman’s spirit,” which appeared in the government work report, is a refreshing expression. Several media have included the term as one of the top ten new words for interpretation. The old saying goes, “The finest diamond must be cut.” The craftsman’s spirit does not only embody the concept and pursuit of careful and exquisite production, but also constantly absorb the most cutting-edge technology and the establishment of new achievements <sup>[1]</sup>. In schools, the traditional training objectives, teaching modes, hardware conditions, and capital investment are no longer suitable for this new development trend. This situation has seriously affected the healthy and rapid development of vocational education.

The lack of guidance of the craftsman’s spirit in career planning, the disconnection between knowledge and practice of professional ethics, the emphasis on money, the degradation of the outlook on life and values, as well as the lack of lofty social ideals are the typical problems in the development of vocational education. At the same time, the lack of “double qualified” teachers, the flawed curriculum system, as well as the lack of close communication and connection between secondary and higher vocational education restrict the development of modern vocational education.

## 2. Strategies to make full use of the craftsman’s spirit in vocational education

The craftsman’s spirit is not boring, mechanical, or rigid, but it is a spirit of loving work and an attitude of excellence. The cultivation of the craftsman’s spirit is a systematic project. In order to cultivate the craftsman’s spirit among students in secondary vocational schools, the fundamental task of establishing morality and cultivating people needs to be implemented. It is necessary to highlight practical education, experience education, and cultivation education. A multi-pronged departmental cooperation is required to form an all-round pattern of education pertaining to the craftsman’s spirit. It is necessary to promote school-enterprise and parent-school cooperation, cultivate creative teachers, as well as improve the effectiveness of cultivating the craftsman’s spirit in secondary vocational schools.

### **2.1. Actively use information technology to improve the curriculum system**

In the information age, teachers have the opportunity to make full use of all available resources. Teachers can use information resources to carry out information-based teaching. They can prepare and present with the help of multimedia and network resources in order to help students understand better. As multimedia technology can be in the form of pictures, videos, and music, teachers would be able to impart knowledge in a comprehensive manner. As a result, students may develop a strong interest in learning through these elements and their independent thinking can be realized.

### **2.2. Practical teaching**

The purpose of teaching is to enable students to apply what they have learned. Teaching needs to cultivate students' practical skills, so actual cases can be used as examples in teaching to improve the teaching effect. Abstract learning is not conducive to improving students' perception of the curriculum or their skills pertaining to the curriculum. Therefore, by using real-life cases, students would develop a sense of substitution when facing these practical problems, so as to promote independent thinking and practical skills. Students would also have the opportunity to intuitively gauge the operation procedures. In this process, they would instinctively think about ways to solve problems from all aspects and multiple angles. To a great extent, this would cultivate students' core curriculum literacy.

### **2.3. Improve course content design**

Vocational teachers need to adopt scientific teaching methods, clarify the purpose of technological curriculum teaching, add new teaching contents on the basis of the original teaching methods, and enlighten students to understand that the most important aspect in the curriculum is practice and operation. In the teaching process, the focus should not only be on improving students' theoretical knowledge, but also encouraging students to master relevant skills in the course, which would improve the market competitiveness. Teachers need to improve students' autonomous learning ability, so that students would enjoy their learning to a large extent. In addition, they should also improve the curriculum in a way that it would attract the students, in order to develop students' affection for the curriculum. Teachers need to change their traditional teaching ideas and work toward student-centered learning. Guidance should also be provided to the students. Common questions based on the curriculum can be used to guide students before lessons. At the same time, the course should no longer be boring. Students should be directed to learn in a fun environment, which would stimulate their learning motivation and develop their affection for the course. Cultivating students' interest in course learning plays an important role for long-term learning. It is not only related to good grades, but also to the cultivation of students' learning habits. Therefore, when teaching, teachers need to highlight the teaching focus, provide more practical opportunities, improve the efficiency of theoretical knowledge learning and practical learning, as well as improve students' practical skills. At the same time, they need to improve students' independent hands-on and innovation skills.

### **2.4. Create a good learning environment**

The school can encourage students to actively carry out cultural activities in campus, so that students can be exposed to a rich and colorful campus life, thus cultivating their sentiment and improving their quality. The school should provide a good cultural environment for the cultivation of the craftsman's spirit among students. An important reason for the lack of cultivation of this spirit among vocational students is the lack of craftsman culture in the society. Although strongly advocated by the state, the official standard culture and money worship culture are still deeply rooted in the hearts of the people, and wealth is still the pursuit of most people at the social level. Therefore, it is particularly important to plant the craftsman culture in

the microenvironment of schools. In order to establish a healthy and characteristic craftsman culture in campus, first of all, industrial craftsmen should be vigorously introduced into the campus; these craftsmen should be invited to hold lectures, so that students would be able to appreciate and understand their growth experience as well as personalities. In that manner, they would eventually admire them and develop their own growth goals. Second, excellent craftsmen from enterprises can be employed to directly participate in school practical teachings. By directly teaching the students several skills, students would be able to feel the artisan spirit of being meticulous and focused on details in addition to cultivate their love and loyalty to work. Third, the publicity of the craftsman's spirit should be strengthened. Craftsmen should be invited to attend class meetings and participate in class meeting activities. A school propaganda column can also be set up for these craftsmen, and for those outstanding ones, sculptures can be made exclusively in their image, so that students would be able to appreciate the respected profession of craftsmen and identify with these craftsmen in their hearts.

Research has shown that practical teaching can drive students' subjective initiative to a large extent, and students' enthusiasm for learning can be improved through this process. Secondly, in the teaching process, schools should arrange the courses according to the law and students' learning stage as well as implement quality teaching step by step. Environmental teaching emphasizes a relaxed learning environment. Only in this environment, people can really integrate into it. Schools have set up corresponding scenes for students to a great extent, which have a subtle effect on students. Long-term environmental teaching can imperceptibly improve students' literacy and their all-round literacy<sup>[2]</sup>, realize the relaxation of their personal psychology, and eventually cultivate them to become excellent talents to adapt to the social development.

### 3. Conclusion

At present, using the craftsman's spirit is the main way of teaching in vocational colleges. In order to improve the quality of vocational college students, teachers need to utilize network resources in their teaching<sup>[3]</sup>, adopt practical teaching, improve course content design, and create a good teaching environment in order to enhance the core literacy of students and promote a comprehensive development among vocational college students. In the development of vocational schools, the focus should be on guiding teachers to be teachers with strong ideals and beliefs, moral sentiments, solid knowledge, benevolence, as well as disseminators of advanced ideology and culture<sup>[4]</sup>, so as to set up their own lives, learn, and teach by virtue.

The cultivation of craftsman's spirit is easier said than done. However, regardless of the industry a person is engaged in, every practitioner would examine whether he or she has achieved those attributes and would eventually develop the craftsman's spirit to produce the best products that the public are most satisfied with in terms of their professionalism, dedication, and innovation, so as to gain wide recognition<sup>[2]</sup>.

### Disclosure statement

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

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