

The Application Value and Strategy of Red Music Culture in Ideological and Political Education in Primary and Secondary Schools

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Abstract: As an important carrier of red culture, red music culture carries the glorious history of revolution, construction, and reform led by the Communist Party of China (CPC), and has significant functional value in cultivating students' ideals, values, and cultural identity, as well as patriotic consciousness and national pride. However, the integration of red music culture into the ideological and political education of primary and secondary schools faces the dilemmas of low cultivation awareness, insufficient excavation of resources, and lack of optimization of atmosphere and field. In view of these problems, the strategies of enhancing cultivation awareness, excavating the resources in-depth, and creating a positive atmosphere and field provide new ideas and methods for ideological and political education in primary and secondary schools.

Keywords: Red music culture; Ideological and political education; Primary and secondary schools; Application value and strategy

Online publication: August 16, 2024

1. Introduction

The primary and secondary school stage is a critical period for the formation of students' worldview, outlook on life, and values. Teachers of ideological and political education in primary and secondary schools shoulder the significant responsibility of guiding students in the stages of life ^[1]. Ideological and political education is the spiritual fortress of primary and secondary students, but also the ideological defense of primary and secondary schools. Only by strengthening ideological and political education can we consolidate the spiritual fortress and build a firm line of defense.

The General Secretary has repeatedly stressed the importance of passing on the red gene, pointing out that "the Chinese nation has experienced many ups and downs and created many miracles from standing up, getting rich to getting strong, and it is important for future generations to remember that we must never forget the original intention, and we must never lose the direction and the road" ^[2]. In 2021, the Ministry of Education issued the Guide to Revolutionary Traditions in Primary and Secondary School Curriculum and Teaching Materials,

which explicitly states that at the primary school level, it is necessary to focus on using materials such as the deeds of revolutionary leaders, stories of heroes, and songs of the revolution, centered on ideological and moral enlightenment, to stimulate students' reverence for revolutionary heroes and figures. This approach encourages students to follow their examples, learn from their spirit, and enhances their sense of national pride^[3]. The guide also places special emphasis on the importance of artistic disciplines such as music and fine arts, and encourages their inclusion in the curriculum, effectively promoting the development of red music education^[3].

The century-long struggle of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has united the spirit of self-improvement of the Chinese nation and nurtured a valuable red culture. As an important carrier of red culture, red music culture plays an irreplaceable role in passing on and carrying forward the revolutionary spirit.

2. Functional values of red music culture in ideological and political education in primary and secondary schools

Red music culture, as an essential part of red culture, is a unique cultural form that carries valuable spiritual resources^[4]. It is born and moves forward with the red culture. Specifically, red music culture originates from the revolutionary history of our country and celebrates the spirit of struggle for national freedom, independence, and a happy life for the people under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) through red songs and other forms^[5]. Clarifying the concept and functional value of red music culture is crucial for ideological and political educators in primary and secondary schools to understand its role and status from a scientific point of view, and it has a far-reaching impact on the popularization and dissemination of education.

2.1. Cultivating students' firm ideal beliefs

Ideal beliefs are individuals' expectations and aspirations for future personal life and social development in practice. Ideal belief education, as an important part of education, aims to cultivate ideal talents who meet the needs of the times. Under the leadership of the CPC, education on ideals and beliefs guides people to establish the lofty ideals of communism and the common ideal of socialism with Chinese characteristics through Marxist theory. The primary and secondary school stage is a critical period for the formation of students' worldviews, outlooks on life, and values, and it is their honorable mission and task to establish correct values.

Red music culture, presented in the style of red songs, operas, dance dramas, symphonies, and other works, also includes manuscripts of these works, stories of musicians, music theories, and ruins of sites^[6]. Due to its unique form and expression, red music culture has a strong infectious force and influence. It embodies a distinct political character and position, contains a specific class and cultural consciousness, and is an important tool in the revolutionary struggle of the proletariat^[7]. At the primary and secondary school level, using the rich expression of red music culture can improve students' ability to appreciate red music works. For example, works such as "Yellow River Cantata," "The Sword March," and "Guerrillas' Song" during the Anti-Japanese War inspired the fighting spirit of the people in the midst of the war and called for unity in the fight against the Japanese. Through these red songs, the stories behind them are conveyed, guiding students to think and feel deeply. This breaks the traditional one-way teaching mode and elicits a resonance within students' minds and souls. Through this spiritual baptism, students are guided to develop patriotism, solidify their ideals and beliefs, and become qualified builders and successors of socialism^[7].

2.2. Promoting the formation of correct values and cultural identity in students

Ideological and political education is an important means of educating students, and its core goal is to improve the ideological and moral quality of students, establish correct values, and realize the educational goal of establishing

morality and educating people. Establishing morality aims to cultivate socialist builders and successors with all-round development in morality, intelligence, physical fitness, and aesthetics. For a long time, primary and secondary education has focused on cultivating students' correct values and stimulating their conscious improvement through appropriate methods. Red music culture, as a carrier of ideological education, helps students grow into qualified builders and successors with correct values.

Cultural identity is the root of national cohesion and the core of national harmony. In the present era of multicultural influences, young people are exposed to a complex interplay of various values, which can easily lead to uncertainty and wavering in their own values. Some students lack correct judgment, public morality, a sense of responsibility, and team spirit. Under such circumstances, red music culture becomes the solution to students' psychological and spiritual problems. The cornerstone of cultural confidence lies in cultural identity. Music shapes, cultivates, and nurtures humane emotions through aesthetics, and its social function lies in enhancing cultural identity^[8]. To enhance cultural identity, primary and secondary school students must explore, experience, and understand culture. Red music incorporates the history of new China, the history of reform and opening up, and the history of socialist development in an emotional form, and visualizes abstract concepts such as patriotic sentiment and national identity. In the teaching of the Civics and Political Science course, the rich music language is used to give the course a cultural impetus and effectively transmit the cultural genes in the red music, so as to cultivate and enhance students' cultural identity^[7].

2.3. Enhancing students' patriotic consciousness and national pride

The development history of red music culture has witnessed the historical changes of the Chinese nation. From "The Internationale" translated by Qiubai Qu during the May Fourth Movement to works such as "Frontline" and "Three Rules of Discipline and Eight Points for Attention" during the Domestic Revolution, red songs have played an important leading role at all stages. During the Anti-Japanese War, works such as "March of the Volunteer Army" and "The East Is Red" inspired the national fighting spirit, while after the founding of New China, songs such as "Singing of the Motherland" and "I Love Beijing Tiananmen" reflected the progress of national construction and people's lives. After the reform and opening up, works such as "I Love You China" and "Walking Into the New Era" are more colorful and reflect the style of the times. These red musical works are not only witnesses to history but also carriers of the spirit of the Chinese nation, containing the spiritual wealth of struggle, patriotism, and building a better home. For primary and secondary school students, these works are priceless treasures that can inspire their enthusiasm for learning and confidence in overcoming difficulties.

Primary and secondary schools are the key period for students to form correct worldviews, and red music culture can inspire them to remember history, cherish the present, and look forward to the future. As the future builders of socialist China, the attitude and sense of responsibility of primary and secondary school students are crucial. In ideological and political education, red songs should be combined with the knowledge of teaching materials, so that singing red songs becomes a habit, and physically feeling the historical inheritance of red music and the admiration for the Chinese nation strengthens their will to continue the struggle.

3. Practical dilemmas of integrating red music culture into ideological and political education of primary and secondary schools

Red music culture plays a complementary and reinforcing role in the ideological and political education of primary and secondary schools, which helps to guide students to firm ideals and beliefs, establish correct values, and enhance patriotic awareness and national pride. However, in actual educational practice, the application of red music culture faces some challenges.

3.1. Weak awareness of human education in red music culture

Red music culture combines the essence of music and culture, which is not only an artistic expression but also a cultural symbol, with the characteristics of a double carrier. At present, many primary and secondary school students have only a superficial understanding of red music and lack a deeper comprehension of its profound ideals and lofty sentiments. Some schools have insufficient understanding of the importance of the integration of red music and civic education, resulting in the failure to fully tap the cultivation potential of red music^[9]. This phenomenon partly stems from the neglect of the cultural and historical significance of red music. With the diversification of society and the rise of Internet social media, students now have access to a wide range of information sources. Consequently, their focus on traditional red music culture has diminished, resulting in a weakening of red music's presence in their formative consciousness.

3.2. Insufficient excavation of red music cultural resources

Red music cultural resources are important materials for ideological and political education, and their richness is crucial for the in-depth development of ideological and political education in primary and secondary schools. However, due to the close connection between red music resources and specific historical periods, there are certain limitations in their excavation and utilization. Currently, some schools have insufficient knowledge and understanding of red music culture, leading them to rely on traditional methods and resources without incorporating innovative approaches. In addition, the positioning of red music cultural resources is unclear and lacks keen insight, failing to realize that red music cultural resources can present diversified forms and evolutions. Therefore, the perspective of selecting red music culture is too narrow, failing to align with the current social context. As a result, the development and utilization of red music cultural resources are relatively limited and seem inadequate.

3.3. Lack of optimization of atmosphere and field

As a precious heritage of a special historical period, red music culture should be carefully maintained and inherited in ideological and political education. In ideological and political education in primary and secondary schools, it is crucial to create a strong atmosphere of red music culture. Red music culture encompasses rich ideological and political elements. Whether it features the battle rhythms of the revolutionary era or the passionate melodies of peacetime, it is deeply ingrained in the hearts of the people^[9]. Therefore, when practicing red music culture, it should consciously strengthen its atmosphere and give it a sense of solemnity and ceremony. However, this is often neglected in practice, resulting in the learning of red music culture being a formality.

The implementation of red music culture is not only limited to the ideological classroom but also needs to be combined with the background of the new era to build a diversified field combining online and offline. The rapid development of information technology has transitioned the field of red music culture from a static to a dynamic state. However, traditional classroom approaches often limit the atmosphere and implementation of red music culture, creating an urgent need for improvement and modernization. Innovative thinking is needed to create an educational environment of red music culture in line with the characteristics of the times by using modern technological means, so as to better inherit and carry forward the spiritual connotation of red music culture.

4. Optimization strategies of red music culture into ideological and political education in primary and secondary schools

Ideological and political education in primary and secondary schools is a key part of school education, and red music culture, as a powerful tool for educating people, can effectively improve the effect of ideological and

political education and promote the overall development of students. In view of the current problems in ideological and political education in primary and secondary schools, the following strategies can help to improve and optimize the path of education.

4.1. Enhancing the cultivation awareness of red music culture

Ideological cognition is the precursor of action. Attaching importance to the existence of red music culture is crucial to its popularization and dissemination in education. For a long time, red music culture has not been given due attention and has been regarded as a specific culture in a specific period, ignoring its rich resources of ideological education. In fact, red music culture not only includes red songs but also covers red instrumental music, red dance, red opera, red musical theatre, and other forms^[10]. These cultural resources provide rich teaching means for ideological and political education. Red music culture should be an extension and supplement of ideological and political education in primary and secondary schools to meet the educational needs of students. At this stage, students' abstract thinking is becoming more mature and they are full of interest in new and interesting things. Teachers should first enhance their own understanding of red music culture and then popularize the knowledge of red music to students. As the main position of education, schools should strengthen the popularization and promotion of red music culture, such as organizing visits to revolutionary memorial halls, holding red chorus competitions, allowing students to participate in the rehearsals and performances of red songs, or enjoying red music performances in concert halls, so that students can personally experience the artistic charms of red music culture and jointly explore the ideological and political educating mechanism of red music culture that is in line with the actual situation of the school and meets students' needs.

4.2. In-depth excavation of red music cultural resources

Red music resources are indispensable materials for ideological and political education in primary and secondary schools. Rich red music resources are of great significance in enhancing the effect of education. Teachers, as the main body of the implementation of ideological and political education, are valuable red music cultural resources. Teachers of all disciplines can become disseminators of red music and culture. Especially teachers of ideological and political education, as the main disseminators, should work closely with teachers of music subjects to make full use of red music cultural resources.

The General Secretary stressed, "We should make good use of red resources, carry forward red traditions, and pass on red genes." Localities should take the excavation of red music cultural resources as the basis for the formation of special industries, broaden their horizons, innovate their ideas, and make the creation of red music and cultural brands with local characteristics a strategic focus for the development of cultural industries. When excavating and selecting red music cultural resources, not only should they have a national vision, but they should also pay attention to local characteristics. At the same time, with the help of Internet information technology, social media platforms, and other diversified channels, it is necessary to develop red resources, enrich the presentation of red music cultural resources, guide students to carry out multi-platform and diversified learning, and create a positive learning atmosphere.

4.3. Creating a positive red music cultural atmosphere and field

Red music is not just a form of musical art; it embodies the revolutionary history and the spirit of socialist construction. Its emotional expression ranges from impassioned and bold to affectionate and subtle, with a broad spectrum of singing styles and strong emotional resonance^[9]. Therefore, creating a positive atmosphere of red music culture is important to enhance students' understanding of red music culture knowledge.

At the symposium for teachers of ideological and political theory courses in schools, the General Secretary

proposed to establish a working pattern of unified leadership of the party committee, joint management by the party and government, responsibility of relevant departments, and cooperation of the society, and to promote the formation of a favorable atmosphere in which the party and the society make concerted efforts to run good Civics and Political Science courses, teachers earnestly teach good Civics and Political Science courses, and students actively learn good Civics and Political Science courses^[11]. For primary and secondary school students, their self-control ability is still developing, so they need the concerted attention of society, schools, and families to create an environment and atmosphere conducive to learning red music culture.

The family is the starting point for students' exposure to red culture, and parents can enhance their children's perception of red music culture by telling red music stories and watching red music programs. Schools, as the primary venues for imparting red music culture, should enhance this atmosphere by incorporating red music content into classroom wall posters, regularly organizing reading and reporting activities focused on red music culture, and encouraging teachers to set an example by subtly integrating red music content into their lessons. At the same time, the use of Internet information technology helps to build a dynamic red music culture implementation field, forming a virtuous cycle of the ecological environment, so that the dissemination of the knowledge of red music culture is more sustainable and far-reaching.

Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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