

Thinking on Integrating Excellent Traditional Chinese Culture in the Spirit Cultivation of Elevator Craftsmen

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Abstract: Higher vocational colleges undertake the important task of training professional and technical personnel and transporting talents for all sectors of society. In the process of cultivating elevator students, give full play to the educational role of Chinese excellent traditional culture, explore effective ways of educating people, and cultivate the “elevator craftsman spirit” of being dedicated and loving, abiding by norms, rigorous and realistic, hard-working, and putting life and safety first in the heart, which is a historical mission to promote the healthy development of the elevator industry and make contributions to the national modernization.

Keywords: Traditional culture; Elevator craftsman spirit; Cultivation

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1. Introduction

Over the past 40 years of reform and opening up, the elevator industry has developed rapidly. Cultivating high-quality technical talents with good professional ethics, dedication and “elevator craftsman spirit” is not only the need of talent training in higher vocational colleges, but also the need of the elevator industry and the need of implementing the “made in China 2025” strategy. Based on the fertile soil of Chinese excellent traditional culture, giving full play to its nurturing role and cultivating the “craftsman spirit” of elevator students is a great historical mission in the new era.

2. The interpretation of “elevator craftsman spirit” and the current situation of the cultivation of “craftsman spirit” of elevator students

2.1. The interpretation of “elevator craftsman spirit”

Although the academic circles have different expressions on “craftsman spirit,” its general connotation is concentration, refinement, innovation and dedication. Craftsman spirit is not imported. China’s long history and culture contains rich craftsman spirit genes. Ren Zhengfei, President of Huawei, said: “Craftsman spirit originated from our Chinese nation, and now it has become synonymous with Japanese enterprises and German “industry 4.0.” When the genes of our ancestors and the roots of our country have become the capital for others to show off, we still have not faced up to the seriousness of the problem ^[1]. Elevator belongs to special equipment and is the crystallization of high technology. At present, China has become the largest elevator ownership and production country in the world, accounting for two-thirds of the world’s total output. “The safety and health of elevator operation determine the safety and psychological pleasure

of every elevator passenger. Compared with general equipment, every detail of the elevator from the design and manufacture, installation, supervision and inspection, maintenance, use management to government supervision, all determine whether the elevator can operate safely and healthily. Every warning sign on the elevator actually accumulates blood lessons. Whether it is maintenance or installation, elevator operators are like “doctors” of elevators. Any deviation will affect the safe operation of elevators and the life safety of passengers. Therefore, the elevator, a special industry, is related to the safety of individual life and the happiness of countless families ^[2].

2.2. The current situation and existing problems in the cultivation of “craftsman spirit” for elevator major students

In 2016, Premier Li Keqiang stressed the need to “cultivate the craftsman spirit of excellence” in the government work report. Since then, “craftsman spirit” has aroused widespread heated discussion among people at all. An upsurge of practicing and cultivating “craftsman spirit” has been set off in the whole society and various industries. However, in reality, the cultivation of students’ craftsman spirit in higher vocational colleges is not as satisfactory as expected: First, in the current period of social transformation, the gap between the rich and the poor has widened, and people’s values have changed greatly. Money and power have become a constant symbol of a person’s “success,” while “glorious labor” and “model worker” are no longer the goals advocated by young people. Second, a large number of stars and online celebrities show off their wealth and hype in the media, and the psychology of longing for rapid success and sudden wealth is quietly prevalent among young people. When choosing a job, they pursue the “white-collar” class with high salary, good environment and relatively easy work. They “don’t look up” to the technical posts with long struggle cycle and tired and dirty, or “taste it” and are unwilling to take root and study. Elevator specialty belongs to the latter. According to the employment situation of our students in recent years: Some students were unwilling to engage in the elevator industry due to their lack of interest in the elevator major. At the time of filing the intention for university, it was mostly the decision-making of parents; Some students choose to change careers because they are not satisfied with the low salary and hard work and are unwilling to continue to engage in the elevator industry. On one hand, there is a large demand gap for enterprises, on the other hand, there is a loss of elevator professionals, and there is a lack of skilled workers in the country’s modernization. Therefore, vocational colleges should shoulder the responsibility of cultivating the “craftsman spirit” of elevator professionals and cultivating excellent talents for national modernization.

3. Traditional Chinese culture and elevator craftsmen spirit

Chinese excellent traditional culture is the root of the Chinese nation and “the cultural matrix of contemporary Chinese craftsman spirit ^[3].” Its rich spirit goes through the times. People of insight in the elevator industry have seen the important role of traditional culture. Lixin Zhang’s article “Only by Starting from the Heart can We Achieve Great Achievements: On the Development of Elevator Industry based on Yangming Wang and His Mind Theory ^[4]” puts forward that Yangming Wang’s “the philosophy of the mind” is the key to solve the problem, which provides us with a way to absorb nutrition from traditional culture and take an education road suitable for China’s national conditions, implementing the requirements of “strengthening moral education and cultivating people” as well as cultivating the “craftsman spirit” of elevator talents. In fact, “elevator craftsman spirit” needs “dedicated and loving, abiding by norms, rigorous and realistic, hard-working,” and other characters, which is originally the embodiment of the national character of the Chinese people, and can be found everywhere in traditional culture education.

3.1. Dedication and professionalism

Elevator is a special equipment industry. “Elevator operation safety involves many links, such as design life, processing quality, use environment, use frequency, unsafe behavior of people, unsafe state of things and adverse factors of the environment. Any problem in any link will have an adverse impact on the operation safety of the elevator, and even lead to serious casualties^[5].” Therefore, for the personnel engaged in the elevator industry in the future, the first thing is the benevolent heart of a “lover,” truly put safety in mind and treat work with a heart of awe, that is, a high degree of professionalism.

3.2. Professional attitude of keep improving

Lixin Zhang said: “Every link of the industrial chain needs to seek inward and strive to be the best. Only by pursuing conscience can we formulate the best standards, manufacture the best products, provide the best services, carry out the most effective supervision, do the strictest inspection and teach the best students^[4].” The six “most” here are the elevator employees’ attitude towards keep improving. “Keep improving” embodies the unremitting pursuit of flawless and perfection. It is a beautiful tradition with a long history in China. Zhuang Zi’s stories such as “create a gust by wielding the axe -- an uncanny feat” “dismember an ox as skillfully as a butcher” and Ouyang Xiu’s “Oil Man” also illustrate the realm of exquisite craftsmanship and pursuit of perfection. This persistent pursuit of excellence has a profound impact on China’s handicraft and manufacturing industry for thousands of years. It is not only that countless exquisite artifacts were produced in the hands of skilled craftsmen in ancient times; In the new era of Great Country Craftsman, a large number of “Great Power craftsmen” such as Fenglin Gao, the “first person in engine welding,” and Donghong Zhou, who has maintained a record 100% yield for 30 years, has emerged. In the elevator industry, Jianwei Tao, chief engineer and senior technician of Beijing Bei’an Times Elevator Installation Engineering Co., Ltd., started from the grass-roots level and pursued excellence in skills, was praised as “elevator doctor” by the people, and won the title of “national labor model” on November 24, 2020. Elevator employees should cultivate the ambition of becoming a “great craftsman” in the elevator industry, enhance themselves, improve themselves and achieve the brilliance of their career in the continuous pursuit of technological excellence.

3.3. Abide by standard professional ethics

The importance of elevator safety and quality should be implemented. Strict procedures and standards are stipulated in these links of elevator maintenance and installation. However, whether to strictly implement these standards often depends on the professional ethics of the parties, that is, their “conscience.” The elevator maintenance personnel did not strictly abide by the specifications, which is “did not melt the conscience into the blood and did not form your subconscious^[6].” From the Confucian point of view, this is actually to cultivate the spirit of “cautiousness” in personality cultivation. What is cautiousness? Xi Zhu explained: “Along” means the place that people don’t know but oneself know alone^[7].” Personality cultivation is projected and reflected in daily work and life. For elevator practitioners, every detail determines the safety of elevator operation, and whether the control of every detail meets the operating standards and norms is often in a “place that people don’t know but oneself know alone.”

3.4. Persistent career pursuit

“Since ancient times, those who accomplished great things not only had extraordinary talents, but also had indomitable will.” (Discussion on Chao CuO by Su Shi). If you want to achieve success in your work or career, you must have a strong will and perseverance. “There are masters in every walk of life.” Success is not necessarily related to what kind of occupation; the key is whether in their own work with dedication. Fenglin Gao welded the “heart” of the rocket for 0.1 seconds, Qiuliang Gu made Jiaolong’s seal level one

50th of a human hair, zero gap for installing and operating instruments in Yan'an Guan subsea immersed tube tunnel, and the beautiful carving on 0.6 mm of Jianfeng Meng's "Hemei" pure silver silk scarf fruit plate. With perseverance, craftsmen in these big countries have achieved batch after batch of high-tech products.

4. Ways of cultivating elevator craftsman spirit by traditional culture

In 2017, the General Offices of the CPC Central Committee and The State Council issued Opinions on the Implementation of the Project of Inheriting and Developing Excellent Traditional Chinese Culture, which pointed out that excellent traditional Chinese culture should be integrated into ideological and moral education, vocational education and other fields. Today, with the emphasis on cultivating craftsman spirit, higher vocational colleges should fully tap the valuable resources, combine them with the new era, and give better play to the great role of Chinese excellent traditional culture in nourishing students' hearts.

4.1. Overall design at the school level

With the development of the times, as an important position to cultivate craftsman spirit, higher vocational colleges must change their ideas, design the traditional culture education as a whole, and give full play to the important educational significance of traditional culture. At present, many higher vocational colleges have set up traditional culture courses. However, because Chinese traditional culture is based on Confucian culture, and the core of Confucian culture is The Four Books. Mr. Pengshan Bao Said: "Learning Mencius is fundamental." Lao Zi, Zhuang Zi, Xun Zi, Mo Zi, is its appearance. Without The Four Books as the foundation, the study of traditional culture will be difficult to touch on its essence and soul, and the so-called "craftsman spirit" will be only a superficial appearance. But the practical problems faced by higher vocational colleges are: First, the basis of ancient Chinese reading of higher vocational students is very weak, and students lack interest in reading; Second, vocational colleges take skill cultivation as the core, so reading Confucian classics is irrelevant. Therefore, the introduction of Confucian cultural classics in higher vocational colleges needs the determination and overall design at the school level in order to promote and establish.

4.2. Adhere to the classic reading and strengthen the infiltration and edification of traditional culture

Vocational college students are in the period of "jointing and cultivating panicle" of the three viewpoints formation, so their education and guidance need special caution. Excellent traditional cultural classics are the precipitation of history and culture, condense the wisdom of philosophers of all dynasties, and carry the eternal law and philosophy of heaven, earth and life.

4.3. Establish a curriculum system combining compulsory and elective courses

To deepen students' comprehending and understanding of traditional culture, in terms of curriculum, we should consider establishing a curriculum system combining compulsory and elective courses, and strive to make the compulsory and elective courses of traditional culture cover all students. Whether compulsory or elective, we should consciously highlight the cultivation of students' craftsman spirit.

4.4. Relying on modern information technology, vigorously publicize traditional culture

The campus network, WeChat platform, especially the popular APP with huge current flow, such as Tik Tok, Kuaishou and other new media platforms will be used to establish a media platform integrating the spirit of craftsmen and publicize the achievements and deeds of great countries craftsmen and national craftsman. The Chinese traditional culture is vigorously propagated in ways popular with young people, so that the spirit of craftsmen can be imperceptible in the "ear, brain and heart."

4.5. Create a campus atmosphere that respects craftsman spirit

Inject the craftsman spirit into the material and cultural construction of the campus, so that students can touch and feel the craftsman spirit everywhere on the campus. Take the buildings on campus, such as corridors, windows, libraries, gymnasiums, etc. as the carrier, put the craftsman spirit on the campus in the form of examples, images, slogans, catchwords, etc. So that students can feel the infiltration of craftsman spirit in an image and concrete way, and guide students to aspire to be “craftsmans.”

4.6. Unite college and enterprise, and set up a typical image with the people and things around you.

Unite with enterprises, organize model workers’ lectures, elevator craftsmen’s teacher worship and other activities, so that students can draw spiritual strength from these “skilled craftsmen” and “model workers” in the elevator industry, infiltrate their actions imperceptibly, and cultivate students’ “craftsman spirit.”

4.7. Promote learning through competition, improve ability and forge elevator students’ skills

Relying on the elevator skills competition, the students set up competition groups with a clear goal in mind, strengthen pre-competition training, promote the improvement of their’ technical ability, and constantly tap their potential, find deficiencies, correct and perfect, and pursue excellence through the competition, so as to train students to learn independently and improve themselves.

The country prospers with talents and the industry is established with talents. As the cradle of professional and technical personnel training, higher vocational colleges undertake the task of supplying talents for the industry, constantly absorb the excellent spiritual strength of traditional Chinese culture, realize the localized cultivation and molding of “craftsman spirit,” and train future successors of the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation with a pragmatic and efficient attitude. In order to truly establish cultural self-confidence, we should promote technological innovation and take the road of “made in China” to become a powerful country.

Disclosure statement

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