



Dormitory Culture: Meaning, Features, Functions and Cultivation

Value

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ABSTRACT

As a significant component of school culture, the dormitory plays vital parts in ideological and extra-class education. Dormitory culture, with its practical cultivation, has gained increasingly wide attention nowadays. Through studies about the meaning, features and functions of dormitory, this work further elaborated its specific cultivation value.

Keywords

college students, dormitory culture, cultivation.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The *School Culture* was raised by Waller in 1932. With the ability to satisfy students, this special culture formed in schools could integrate individuals effectively. According to Karl (1965), Jaspers says a college acted as a professional school, a cultural center and a research institution at the same time. As the spirit of colleges, school culture influences the concept, target and function orientation of higher education. Moreover, it also impacts the ideological education and comprehensive quality of students. As a significant component of school culture, the dormitory plays vital parts in ideological and extra-class education. Therefore, it is of great values to promote dormitory culture for students' cultural needs and overall development.

2. CHARACTERISTICS OF DORMITORY CULTURE

With power and effectiveness, culture plays an essential role in the sustained development of colleges. Besides, it is also a great distinction mark among colleges. As its special part, the dormitory culture cultivates students positively.

2.1 STABILITY AND GRADUAL CHANGE

College dormitory is a closed structure with relatively stability from the spatial perspective. In regard to its occupants, a same level is shared within the gender, age and education background of the students. Thus a similarity will be formed in their thinking and behavior patterns, leading to a relative stability. In regard to the content structure, dormitory culture is composed of four aspects: material culture, system culture, behavior culture and spirit culture. With surface, middle and deep layers, a relative stability is also reached in the dormitory culture.

As a basic cellular in campus, dormitory takes up stable spaces. It impacts internal and external environment in its particular way. According to Samuel (1937), Lowell says that colleges should focus on social interaction, rather than indulging in contemporary civilization defects. Similarly, dormitory is just as an island group, instead of isolated islands, with a bunch of accesses. Absorbing traditional, national and social culture, dormitory culture obtains new contents and concepts in each phase of its development. Thus style, spirit and trait of the times can be reflected, as well as college education concept and value pursuit. Meanwhile, gradual change is shown in the dormitory influence to outside world. With close contact to external environment, students' comprehensive quality is formed by active information and energy exchange. Through the interaction with others, students with comprehensive quality impact external social relationship and radiate information in return.

2.2 IDENTITY AND TRANSCENDENCE

Identity, the base of dormitory culture development, contributes to active participation and construction enrichment. The value identity of culture refers to the recognition and share of a certain value through individuals or institutions interactions. It is acceptance and observance of social value rules from the society. In regard to dormitory culture construction, the value identity requires the common recognition and acceptance of the targets, principles, contents and methods of dormitory design. Moreover, voluntary is encouraged for improvements of individual quality and value.

Accompanied with identity, transcendence is also crucial to personality of students, requiring certain efforts in dormitory culture. Sharing the same political, economic and social level, college students enjoy the school resources and environment equally. Both the spiritual and material equality are ensured among individuals. Students mutually recognize and respect each other's rights without privilege, especially in dormitory, one of the major places for life and study. Similarly, despite of different roles, students and teachers share the same status and rights. They exchange and maintain their own values on the base of mutual understanding. Therefore, extra-class education improvements are achieved in harmony by the mutual trust, support and coordination between students and teachers. With protection of basic human rights, college provokes the conscious activity of students for their overall development, leading to further transcendence in dormitory culture.



2.3 HOMOGENEITY AND HETEROGENEITY

From the perspective of existentialism, other people, namely the hell according to Sartre, will stand in your way towards ultimate freedom. Thus, individual values will be impacted in utilitarian view. Mill (2009) argued in *On Liberty* that the only reason for individuals or entities to interfere others is self-protection, and the only reason for rights to interfere others against civilized will is the harm.

The roof sharing situation of students in dormitory requires their consensus and observance to certain standards. The consensus leads to the thought and behavior homogeneity, ensuring the normal function of dormitory. Thus the value of individuals can be maximized in the daily interaction. However, with inevitable difference between people, different characters make individuals distinctive. Dormitory, as a significant college part for these distinctive students, needs education generality in its culture at the same time. The heterogeneity of dormitory members reflects their freedom in thoughts, pursuits and relationships. Without danger, the whole heterogeneity ought to be protected in spite of the possible weirdness. The heterogeneity shares the same significance with collective culture in dormitory. All the individuality, diversity and autonomy need to be respected for students' creativity.

2.4 INCLUSIVENESS AND EXCLUSIVENESS

Students from different cities with different characters, habits even beliefs gather together in a dormitory for a same purpose. Facing with other groups, dormitory and its members can only be effective by seeking common ground. As an open system, dormitory takes in various trends, as well as traditional, national, social and external cultures. Integrating all these parts, dormitory culture offers students sense of collective, honor and achievement, along with common and cohesion. Meanwhile, the inclusiveness, based on the interaction of other groups, seeks for continuous advantage. This might be defensive and offensive, resulting in certain exclusiveness to strangers.

Exclusive to some external elements, dormitory culture is formed in complying with current situation and upcoming demands. Once established, the culture would last for a certain period, along with its exclusiveness. Specifically, generations have witnessed the development of exclusive dormitory culture, and its time spirit will also continue for ages. Besides, college is a part of lifelong education rather than an end. Intended for the sustainability education, dormitory culture still works on students even after their graduation. The exclusiveness always guides them to a direction with positive endings.

3. FUNCTIONS OF DORMITORY CULTURE

Dormitory is a place for knowledge and entertainment, as well as an exchange platform of thoughts and feelings. As a special field in campus culture, dormitory has received increasing attention from colleges and education department nowadays. Dormitory brings crucial effects on students' will, characters and mental status, owing to the certain cultural roles such as education, stimulation, cultivation, instruction, qualification and inheritance.

3.1 EDUCATION GUIDANCE

According to Soetaert and Andre (2004), Giroux describes a reflection of personality, culture offers people their identification. Culture results in assumption about interactions with worlds outside. It also affects thoughts about people and their relationships through an education power in form of statement, metaphor and image. Colleges intend for education, and culture for cultivation. According to Mao Zedong (1999), Marx says the lack of political view is a result of absence of spirit. Thus, the campus culture aims at students' proper view of world, life, value and development. Particularly, dormitory provides guidance for students about belief, behavior, living and personality in a subtle way. Moreover, in dormitory, students share their opinions, feelings and spirits. The dormitory culture reflects their value and behavior orientation as a whole part.

Unique college styles are demonstrated in its dormitory culture with education all around. In dormitory, students receive



instruction of thoughts, feelings, and personalities. They get their knowledge, civilization and health improved, along with positive communication, practice and mental adjustment.

3.2 COHESION AND STIMULATION

Dormitory gather students with the offer of common values, ideals and regulation. Positive dormitory culture motivates students in their self-thought, self-improvement and self-stimulation. With internal drive and cohesion, students' growth gets assurance in a field effect. In dormitory, students know, understand and care about each other. They share the same pursuits and values, leading to their sense of identity and belonging. With the strong cohesion established, students work and fight together. Thanks to their wisdom and responsibility, students make contribution to the whole collective.

The dormitory culture functions as students' stimulator in their responsibility, consideration and competition. Except for being safeguard, dormitory also sets the socialistic cultivation as its top goal. Besides, with internal solidarity and mutual aid, dormitory culture solves students' daily problems in life and thoughts. Popular in dormitory, the sense of competition motivates students to fight for personal and collective sake, with emulations and cautions from others. Filled with laughter and happiness, the dormitory is a home of warm, opportunity and positive spirit.

3.3 MENTAL ADJUSTMENT

Health requires both physical and psychological fitness. Equipped with advanced facilities, service, environment and atmosphere, dormitory is not only a place for students to study and rest, but also ensuring their sound mind and body. Difficulties will come forth constantly in their way pursuing knowledge and truth, along with various mental and thought problems. Rather than being shy of release at some official occasions, students can express themselves freely in dormitory, which is helpful for their mental adjustment. Advises from roommates and friends help to reduce anxiety, relieve stress and boost confidence. Cultural activities in dormitory also improve exchanges and sparks of thoughts. Students involved relax and adjust themselves unconsciously. Moreover, synergistic effects are also created through mutual emulation, suggestion, conformity and identity. With this colorful life and positive relations in dormitory, students increase literacy and enjoy themselves.

3.4 TASTE CULTIVATION

Subtle and slight cultivation on thoughts and behaviors improves sentiments, adjust states and lighten moods. Marx believed that things were created according to the law of beauty. This pursuit of beauty reflects people's exploration of human nature.

Life can be expanded through education. With the tranquility in dormitory, students get inspired by the culture through self-exploration and self-improvements. It is necessary for dormitory rules and regulations to guide and restrain students. The belief, quality and charm of dormitory services affect students' characters and their pursuits of life. Through colorful activities, the huge culture in dormitory emanates positive atmosphere around with high taste and morality.

Rather than any administration, dormitory culture, with its special physical, mental and spiritual effects, lightens students' mood, behavior, morality and even life.

3.5 REGULATION CONSTRAINTS

As the saying goes, nothing can be accomplished without regulations, which is the same in dormitory. Standard regulations offer students and staffs contains, as well as stimulation. Guided by the rules in dormitory activities, students watch their behavior and thoughts. Except for the physical institution, spiritual life is also a vital part of constraining, in its invisible but effective way. With the help of ideas and institutions, it leads students into lives with proper behaviors, concepts, states, taste and values.



Popular among students, the spirit and concept of dormitory culture develops a form of compulsory standards. Specifically, it not only influences students' feelings, moods and morality, but also generally guides their values and behaviors in compliance with social development. With Chinese accomplishment in Marxism, dormitory culture improves its internal political orientation, learning atmosphere and morality to fit with higher education standards.

3.6 INHERITANCE

The multi-culture in dormitory is diversified with inclusiveness and openness. In the same college, difference fills the dormitory of different departments

Based on traditions and experiences, dormitory explores and integrates its new culture with creativity in institutions, environment, behaviors and activities. Under the context of developing society, dormitory welcomes refined management, systematic services, educative culture and standard apartments. Besides, in need of certain personalities and demands, students nowadays are only guided by creative dormitory activities and institutions. Thus, their potential, inspiration and creativeness can be highly developed.

Culture inheritance refers to the assimilation of traditions, offering students access to the traditional culture. According with objective laws, the inheritance fosters new ideas, theories and atmosphere in culture construction and school administration. As a result, the culture essence and system get improved and reconstructed constantly, leading to considerable development in dormitory.

Generally, the systemic construction of dormitory culture requires further development of its meaning, characteristic and education value, leading to the full-scale educational setup.

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