

Research on the Integration of Farming Culture in Xijiang River Basin into University Labor Education¹

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Abstract: The Basin of Xijiang River is abundant in farming cultural resources. It contains the labor wisdom, innovation spirit, striving spirit and the hardworking spirits from local laborers, which is the important teaching material for universities to implement labor education. According to the local circumstances, this paper explores new ideas of labor education for college students in new era, discussing the feasibility, main forms and realization paths of integrating Xijiang River farming culture into university labor education. It is believed that the initiation of a distinctive and effective labor education mode in universities can be achieved through constructing farming culture labor education courses, establishing farming culture labor experience courses, integrating labor elements farming culture into class teaching, holding farming culture theme week activities, constructing farming culture labor experience halls and building farming culture online communication platforms.

Keywords: Xijiang River Basin; Farming Culture; Traditional Culture; Labor Education

Introduction

In 2020, the nation successively issued the Proposal on Comprehensively Strengthening Labor Education in Universities, Middle Schools and Primary Schools in the New Era and the Provisional Guidelines for Labor Education in Universities, Middle Schools and Primary Schools, proposing new requirements for strengthening labor education, innovating a labor education system with the characteristics of the era and widely conducting some important content like practical activities of labor education. With the promulgation of policies and documents, universities all over the country have strengthened labor education. However, there still exists some problems among college students such as deficiency of laboring, contempt for laboring, dislike of laboring and inability to labor. How to adapt measures to local circumstance, combine the ideological characteristics of college students in the new era, and develop distinctive and effective labor education in universities is imperative.

Farming culture is a custom and culture formed by the people in the long-term agricultural production and laboring process^[1-2]. Xijiang River Basin is abundant in water resource, comprising fertile land, low and flat terrain, and rapid agricultural development, which has formed a unique farming culture in Xijiang River Basin. Xijiang River Basin is rich in cultural resources of farming. It contains the labor wisdom, innovation spirit, striving spirit, and hardship spirit of local laborers. It also includes educational attraction that traditional labor education are lack of, which is an important educational resource for labor education. This article will discuss the innovation mode of labor education in universities: the integration of farming culture in Xijiang River Basin into labor education in universities.

1. Defining the Research Area of Xijiang River Basin

Xijiang River Basin refers to the geographical area through which the Xijiang River system (including the main stream and tributaries) flows. It rises in Qujing, Yunnan and flows through Yunnan, Guizhou, Guangxi, and Guangdong provinces, covering a large scope^[3,4]. The basin area covers 36km², including five Yunnan cities Qujing, Honghe, Yuxi, Wenshan and Kunming^[3,4], four Guizhou regions Liupanshui, Anshun, Qianxinan, and Qiannan^[3,4], twelve Guangxi cities Hechi, Baise,

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Laibin, Guilin, Yulin, Liuzhou, Nanning, Hezhou, Guigang, Qinzhou, Fangchenggang, Wuzhou^[4,5,6] and nine Guangdong cities Zhaoqing, Yunfu, Jiangmen, Foshan, Guangzhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Shenzhen, Zhuhai^[4,7].

2. Generalization of Farming Culture in Xijiang River Basin

The river basin is located in a low-latitude area, with hills as the main topography and basin plains as supplement. Its suitable climate, abundant rainfall, good temperature and humidity, rich heat, sufficient sunlight, short frost period, fertile land and the wide cultivated area make it an important area for planting and agricultural development ^[6,8,9]. In addition, Xijiang River Basin is suitable for living, working and raising, which is a multi-ethnic gathering place with distinctive national and farming features, conducting to unique elements and particular stamps to the diversity of farming cultures. It is precisely under the comprehensive influence of terrain, climate and ethnicity that a unique farming culture and a splendid farming civilization have been formed in Xijiang River Basin.

Farming culture covers a wide range and is rich in content which involves agricultural festivals, farming techniques, farming tools, farming clothing, crops, folk art, farming beliefs and legends, folk songs, customs, etc.^[10,11]. As a prosperous area of farming culture, farming folk customs like "Mangna Festival", "Buffalo Soul Festival" are prevalent in all parts of Xijiang River Basin. Various folk songs are also popular such as "Yunfu Longshui Folk Song", "Xijiang Beach Road Song", etc.. Various traditional dances are spread all over the place, such as "Spring Buffalo Dance", "Helou Dance", etc.; Various types of farming implements are widely used, such as plow harrow, coir raincoat and so on.

3. The Modern Inheritance of Farming Culture in Xijiang River Basin

3.1 A boom in farming culture inheritance in different places

With the rising attention to labor education and intangible cultural heritage, all parts of Xijiang River Basin have integrated local farming resources and carried out a series of farming culture inheritance activities according to local circumstance, such as setting up farming festivals, opening museums, establishing art festivals, constructing cultural parks and holding festive activities (see Table 1). This fever for farming culture contributes to improving the social status of farming culture and prolonging the life of farming culture.

Table 1 Some farming culture inheritance activities in the Xijiang River Basin*

Number	Farming Culture Inheritance Activities	Address
1	Hetai Farming Festival	Hetai Town, Gaoyao District, Zhaoqing City, Guangdong Province
2	Yitian Farming Festival	Chegang Town, Xinxing County, Yunfu City, Guangdong Province
3	Farming Museum	Luoding City, Yunfu City, Guangdong Province
4	Farming Folk Museum	Guiwei Town, Yunan County, Yunfu City, Guangdong Province
5	Farming Culture (Scarecrow) Art Festival	Nanjiangkou Town, Yunan County, Yunfu City, Guangdong Province
6	Farming Culture Park	Changzhou District, Wuzhou City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region
7	Mangna Festival	Long'an County, Nanning City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region
8	Shanglin Hetian Farming Culture Park	Shanglin County, Nanning City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region
9	Farming Culture Museum	Hongta District, Yuxi City, Yunnan Province

The data is collected from various news reports of Baidu from Internet.

3.2 There are few inheritance activities of farming culture in campus

Throughout the current inheritance activities, there are few cases of farming culture entering campuses. Most of the inheritance activities targeted the public are held by government. There are few farming culture inheritance activities for students alone, which has a negative impact on inheritance effect of farming culture in college.

4. The current situation and problems of labor education in colleges and universities

4.1 Colleges and universities attach importance to labor education and strengthen students' labor awareness

In order to implement the work requirement of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the State Council, and the Ministry of Education, all parts of Xijiang River Basin promulgated the Implementation Proposal on Comprehensively Strengthening Labor Education in Universities, Middle Schools and Primary Schools in the New Era (Yunnan), the Implementation Plan on Comprehensively Strengthening Labor Education in Universities, Middle Schools and Primary Schools in the New Era (Guizhou), the Implementation Proposal on Comprehensively Strengthening Labor Education in Universities, Middle Schools and Primary Schools in the New Era (Guangxi), Action Plan for Strengthening School Sports and Aesthetic Education Labor Education in Guangdong Province (Guangdong) and other policy documents. Subsequently, colleges and universities around the country have strengthened labor education so as to actively promote labor education in undergraduate stage, which requires no less than 32 hours of labor education course.

Guangxi University for Nationalities integrates labor education and the second course organically, and innovates the "Second Course Transcript" system, which incorporates labor education into the education and teaching mechanism. Zhaoqing University has included labor courses in the regular teaching plan, requiring sophomore students to complete labor courses in two semesters.

4.2 The monotonous educational curriculum and relatively outdated education model

The labor education currently carried out in universities is more inclined to theoretical teaching, offering compulsory labor education courses with prescribed class hours, instilling labor knowledge, strengthening labor concepts, improving labor awareness, cultivating labor feelings, and promoting the establishment of correct labor values in the classroom. Some universities use on-campus resources to organize limited on-campus labor activities, such as setting up campus cleaning labor courses, carrying out Tree Planting Day labor practice courses, and creating a strong atmosphere of Labor Day. However, the form of labor education courses and education models are generally difficult to meet the needs of college students in the new era. Students are short of interest in labor course and fail to learn labor content, which has a negative impact on labor education.

4.3 Limited educational resources for exploring and lack of off-campus labor activities

Labor education can be agricultural labor, production, housework, public welfare, service-oriented labor, and professional practice. It involves a wide range of aspects and is rich in content. However, there are still limitations and lag problems in our educational thinking. We have not adapted measures to local conditions, taken materials locally, have not

fully integrated local characteristics and topics that students are interested in, and have not created a brand of labor education with local characteristics. In addition, with the possible reason of security, funding and other issues, universities are currently in deficiency in off-campus labor activities, and students have little sense of experience and enthusiasm.

5. The feasibility of integrating farming culture in Xijiang River Basin into labor education in universities

5.1 The farming culture in Xijiang River Basin contains a profound labor spirit and is the best lively teaching material for labor education.

The farming culture in Xijiang River Basin is the product of the harmonious development and integration of man and nature for thousands of years. It highlights the labor wisdom from farmers. For example, farmers use tools skillfully in farming activities, making plows, planers, and wind cabinets to help production, and making hats and sunflower awnings to proof rain; It presents the innovative spirit of laborers from pure manual labor to later use of tools to help to labor. Farmers find problems, put forward problems, solve problems in the long-term agricultural work, creatively make tools, and improve work efficiency; It embodies the spirit of enduring hardship and struggle of the laborers: farmers wake up early in the dark, return late at sunrise, soaked in the sun and rain, and work hard to feed themselves. The farming culture in Xijiang River Basin is the best lively teaching material for labor education.

5.2 Xijiang River Basin is rich in farming cultural resources, providing educational materials for labor education

Xijiang River Basin covers four provinces, including more than 30 cities. There is a wide basin area, advantageous geographical location and suitable climate. Each province and city has its own distinctive farming culture. In recent years, with the increasing importance and protection of intangible cultural heritage, the farming culture in various places has been effectively protected and passed down, providing abundant educational materials for labor education. For example, Yunan Helou Dance in Yunfu was selected into the second group of national intangible cultural heritage list in 2008, and Zhaoqing Huaiji Spring Buffalo Dance was selected into the third group of provincial intangible cultural heritage list in 2009.

5.3 The objective aims of labor education in colleges and universities in the new era require innovative education models

College students in the new era are more individualistic and require more advanced and straightforward educational methods. The traditional cramming teaching mode seems to be out of dated. As a new era of creativity and innovation, labor education in colleges and universities is also advancing with the times and constantly updating the education model. The integration of farming culture in Xijiang River Basin into labor education is a concrete manifestation of the innovative contemporary labor education model.

6. The main form of the integration of farming culture in Xijiang River Basin into labor education in colleges and universities

According to the connotation and definition of farming culture, farming culture includes agricultural festivals, farming techniques, farming tools, farming clothing, crops, folk art, farming beliefs and legends, folk songs, customs, sacrificial activities, etc. However, in order to better integrate the farming culture of Xijiang River Basin into the labor education of

colleges and universities, it is necessary to select a group of farming culture that can not only reflect the characteristics of the farming culture of Xijiang River Basin, but also meet the needs of labor education in colleges and universities based on the actual conditions of college students' interests, activity venues, and operability.

6.1 Folk song

Song is not only a traditional art that college students like, but also a carrier of farming culture education with decent influence. It is an important form of farming culture integrating into labor education in colleges and universities. Xijiang River Basin has plentiful folk songs closely related to labor themes. For example, there are numerous residents who live on the water in Wuzhou City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Historically, water folk songs have been created and sung from generation to generation to record their labor process, reflect labor life, and express labor thoughts to show their attitude towards life, including the punting song "Putting the Flute", which describes the punting work, and the beach road song "Xijiang Beach Road Song" and "Shangyanglan Beach", which describe boatmen's work over the rapid water^[12,13]. Sihui folk songs in Zhaoqing City, Guangdong Province are rich in content, and labor songs are prevalent among Sihui urban areas and towns as vernacular folk songs.

6.2 Traditional dance and drama

Dance and drama are elegant arts that college students love. They can show the beauty of farming culture and labor through body language and artistic emotion, which are valuable assets for labor education. There are many ethnic groups in Xijiang River Basin, and there are many kinds of dances and dramas. For example, the Spring Buffalo Dance in Luoding City, Guangdong Province is a dance that describes farmers' farming activities and joyful harvest^[14]. The Helou Dance in Yunan County, Guangdong Province is a traditional dance performed by the common people who gather together to appreciate the decent weather in this year^[15]. The Yao nationality golden gong dance in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region is a sacrificial dance for the Yao nationality to celebrate the harvest and celebrate the New Year every Spring Festival and the 29th day of the fifth lunar month^[16]. The Yao Patriarch's drum dance in Fuchuan, Guangxi Province has a complex form of performance, and the content of the performance includes expressing agricultural production, celebrating a bumper harvest, etc.^[17]. The performances of the Guinan Tea Picking Opera in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region include visiting tea, opening tea, exploring tea, picking tea, etc., showing the labor process of tea-picking^[18,19].

6.3 Folklore

The mystery and unique charm of folk customs can easily attract college students attention on farming culture. There are many ethnic groups living in Xijiang River Basin, and the folk customs are distinctive. For example, the Maguai Festival is a season of comparatively leisure after the busy harvest in the western and northern Guangxi, which is hosted to predict the agricultural harvest through using bone of Maguai to divine^[20,21]. The Mangna Festival is an activity mainly formed to worship the centipede god gradually formed in the process of farming and living of the Long'an Zhuang people^[20,21]. The Cow Soul Festival is a festival for the Zhuang people to pray for the cows, respect the cows, and celebrate with cows^[20,21]. In this day people gather together to share how to raise cows, to sing and song happily^[20,21]. The Tasting Festival is a traditional festival of the Miao and Zhuang nationalities in Xijiang River Basin^[20,21]. Its activities include picking new grains, cooking new rice, killing poultry, offering sacrifices to ancestors, and having family reunion dinners^[20,21].

6.4 Traditional farming tools

Farming tools are embodied with plentiful labor elements. They are the most intuitive farming cultural education tools, which can help college students establish concept of labor. Xijiang River Basin has abundant water resources and fertile land. There are various agricultural tools designed for frequent farming activities, such as plows, coir hats, threshing machines and planers.

7. The realization path of the integration of farming culture in Xijiang

River Basin into labor education in colleges and universities

7.1 Form a team of experts and establish farming culture and labor

education curriculum

In order to better conduct labor education on farming culture, colleges and universities should set up a team of experts with research fields of ideological and political education, intangible cultural heritage, farming culture, labor education, and curriculum construction, etc. It is expected to organize farming culture education materials, dig deeply into the connotation of farming culture and labor education, create farming culture labor education courses, and incorporate them into college student talent training plans, making them a compulsory course for labor education so that college students can systematically learn farming in Xijiang River Basin. In order to further promote the teaching effect of the course, enhance the attractiveness of the course, expand the influence, and spread the concept of labor education, colleges and universities should establish a database of farming culture experts, introduce part-time teachers, and allow farming culture experts who are engaged in front-line farming work to teach on the spot.

7.2 Establish a practical mechanism and launch farming culture labor

experience courses

Local governments should make an overall plan, utilize comprehensively local farming culture resources, and establish farming culture labor experience bases. Colleges and universities should strengthen cooperation between college and farming land, establish cooperative relations with farming culture labor education bases, and introduce labor practice teaching resources. When colleges and universities formulate talent training plans, they should set up labor education practice credit system, and organize college students to complete the required credits at off-campus farming culture labor experience bases. The labor experience class can be a spring ploughing experience activity which guides college students to work in the fields and experience the hardships of labor, or an autumn harvest farming experience activity which allows college students to experience the hardships of laborers despite the hot weather and heat, or visiting a farming culture museum or exhibition. The museum experience activities offer college students opportunities to learn the history of farming, to understand farming culture, and to accept the baptism of labor education.

7.3 Comprehensively combine the characteristics of disciplines and majors,

and integrate the elements of farming culture and labor into classroom

teaching

All disciplines and majors in colleges and universities should combine the characteristics of specific disciplines, majors and the elements of farming culture and labor, etc.. For instance, colleges and universities can integrate farming culture folk songs with labor elements into the classroom teaching of music students, so that college students can learn folk song, sing folk and eulogizing folk songs in the process of experiencing labor. Furthermore, integrating farming culture dance with labor elements into the classroom teaching of dance students provide opportunity to college students to feel the charm of labor in dance learning. The colleges and universities are also expected to integrate all kinds of farming culture with labor elements into the classroom teaching of art students, through which show the beauty of labor through painting.

7.4 Hold farming culture theme week activities to introduce farming culture to campus

Colleges and universities should hold a farming culture theme week every year, and carry out a series of labor education activities during the activity week. For instance, folk customs exhibition teams from all over the country could be invited to enter the college campus to display special folk custom programs related to farming and labor, and attract more college students to farming culture and receive on-site teaching of labor education. Besides, the colleges and universities are expected to hold farming cultural knowledge lectures, publicize farming cultural knowledge, and receive universal education in labor teaching, organize photo exhibition activities and then more college students could understand comprehensively the long-history farming culture. Furthermore, carrying out student activities with the theme of farming culture could subtly infiltrating the concept of labor education to students.

7.5 Combine the characteristics of college students in the new era to create a farming culture and labor experience hall

With the rapid development and maturity of new technologies such as VR technology and 5G communication, technological development has greatly changed the lifestyle of college students. Modern college students are keen on the experience of new technologies. Colleges and universities are expected to combine with the characteristics of college students in the new era, invest resources, increase financial support, and actively explore VR farming culture and labor experience halls, so that college students can experience the history of farming culture through VR virtual simulation. The hard work and the process of labor creation stimulate the enthusiasm for labor among college students.

7.6 Utilize the short video publicity platform to create an online communication platform for farming culture

Nowadays, short video platforms such as Douyin and Kuaishou are very popular. Daily Douyin and Kuaishou have become an important form of leisure and entertainment for college students. Colleges and universities can use multiple technologies such as multimedia, video production, art design, news communication, etc., and invite farming culture experts with profound research skills to serve as guidance to produce communication videos with high technical content, prominent connotation, good video quality, and college students' preference, and create a farming culture online spreading platform. Through new media dissemination, the influence of farming culture among college students could be spread further, letting more college students have a deep understanding of the labor elements of farming culture, and improve their enthusiasm for labor.

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