

Study on the Approaches to Improve the Educational Function of Culture in College Dorms

Taking Tianjin Polytechnic University as an Example

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Abstract: Dorm is an indispensable place for students in colleges, it is not only a place to live, to learn and entertain, but also a place with educational function. Taking Tianjin Polytechnic University as an example, the author analyzed problems that hinder the educational function of dorm culture from perspectives of personnel, awareness of educating students in dorms and construction of dorm culture. Then, the author suggested that effective methods like staff management, organization building and improvement of dorm culture.

Keywords: Dorm culture; Educational function; College dorm management

1. Introduction

In 2017, 2, the Central Committee of CPC issued the Opinions on Further Strengthening and Improving the Ideological and Political Work in Universities and Colleges under the New Situation. It pointed out "Ideological and value guidance should be carried out throughout the whole process and every section in education."

Dorm is one of the dominant living spaces of college students, which functions not only as the place to learn, live and entertain, but also an important field to carry out the ideological and political education. Favorable dorm atmosphere plays an indispensable role in students' value cultivation, which is realized through its environment, culture and management. Managerial cultivation ensures environmental and cultural education through formulating and implementing regulations. Yan Wenjian believes that educational function of dorm culture includes sports and entertainment, psychological adjustment, behavior control and constraint, incentive as well as moral and value direction.

2. Management Modes of Dorms in Colleges

With the rapid development of higher education and the increasing demand to it, residence management on campus becomes an unavoidable issue to the administrators. According to Wu Yiliang, in general, current dorm management mode can be classified into 2: integrated (or the traditional) and socialized management.

The former mode requires several departments work cooperatively, and each takes charge of different sectors. These departments may include Office of Student Affairs,

Office of Logistics Management, Security office and secondary schools or departments. Students' Apartment Management Center (Office) under Office of Student Affairs coordinates secondary schools to carry out the daily management, ideological and political education. Office of Logistic Management is responsible for the property service. Obvious deficiencies exist in this mode. For it demand for several branches, it is hardly to make clear-cut among their farmland. Consequently, in most cases, a certain task may be handled by no one.

Socialized dorm management is the way by which a property service company is introduced to deal with the logistics and daily affairs including discipline maintenance, security, and civilization construction. It runs under the supervision of a certain department. At this time, ideological and political education sectors are only responsible for the moral and behavior cultivation, patriotism education of students etc. It avoids buck-passing and improve the service quality. However, under such circumstance, the property service company would leave "service-based education" behind. And sometimes, the supervision department may find low-quality service and irresponsible, which may lead to the dissatisfaction of students.

Tianjin Polytechnic University adopts the former modal in dorm management. Students Apartment Management and Service Center under the Office of Student Affairs administrate the 22 apartments in TJPU.

3. Problems Affecting the Students Education in Dorms

3.1. Lack of professional workers and students' self-governing union

Firstly, qualified dorm managers need knowledge of management, psychology, education, communication and computer operation, as well as personalities of patience, integrity and responsibility. However, most managers of the 22 apartments are aged (with 80.3% above 55), temporary and with low educational levels. What's more, they are incapable of using computers efficiently. Some of them even cannot use the cellphone, let alone the ability to handle modernized management devices and new media. Their outdated problem-solving method, concept, and shortage of service awareness, sometimes, would result conflicts with the student. Secondly, in recent years, although bachelor's degree and younger age are required in recruitment. Lower incomes and job involvement, as well as heavy workload function badly in retaining the younger employees. They would either work hard for further education or better opportunities in their spare time. Until now, 5/6 of the younger managers are either studying or planning an on-the-job master's degree. Consequently, staffs in the service center are either aged or incapable of dealing with students' problems properly or younger managers who are dissatisfied with the job. Thirdly, according to the new Provisions on the Administration of Students in Regular Institutions of Higher Education, college should encourage and support students' self-education, self-management, self-service and self-regulation. Nevertheless, no official student organization is established to help dorm administration, which would lead to the temporal and special blankness in management. In addition, it would also result the imbalance of demand and supply between students and the dorm administrators. Researches show that students' self-discipline is alarming. They have no sense of security and property protection. Some destroy fire-fighting equipment and public assets. It can be seen that the shortage of qualified personnel and student organization hinders the application of modern management methods and the carrying out of ideological and political education in the dorms in TJPU.

3.2. Insufficient awareness about the education function in dorms

Although, in recent years, particularly in this year, education function of culture in dorms were paid attention to in TJPU, but efficient measures are still in urgent need. Firstly, counselors (or Fu Daoyuan) did not aware of the importance of students' ideology, behavior education in dorms. They hold the belief that dormitory management considers about safety, personal and public hygiene only and pay little attention to the significance of students' actual behavior in dormitory, which could reflect students' real characteristics and relations between them. The result of a survey in Xi'an Jiaotong University shows

that 60% students response that they are living with annoying roommates. Secondly, improper management system, inadequate performance assessment and work division helps reduce their going to students' dorms. That is to say, the top design of counselor management in TJPU do not guarantee a higher level of apartment management. In particular, although Office of Student Affairs is responsible for the overall management of all the students' ideological education, day-to-day management and service, but counselors do not subordinate to the office. It has little voice over their academic titles, positions and performance appraisal. Therefore, its orders would lead to few actions. Thirdly, in 2.1, the author analyzed the staffs' academic and aging problem. They also lack of awareness of guidance. During work, most of the staffs would manage rigidly instead of directing them to understand rules.

3.3. Dorm culture needs to be improved

Dorm culture covers tangible, spiritual, system and behavior culture. However, in recent year, infrastructures in dorms have been updated. For example, shared hair drier, washing machine has been introduced into dorms. We still have a long way to build livable and excellent study space. Tables and chairs in study rooms are quiet outdated. Public space is narrow and monotonous without any decoration. Heaters in some rooms are not warm enough. Moreover, there is no fitness equipment and advanced propaganda devices in apartments. According to Yang Wenjian, spiritual culture in dorm refers the commonly approved and followed spiritual and cultural value, which are formed during long-term educational practice under the influence of social background and ideology. It is the essence of dorm culture. Currently, the ideological atmosphere is not well created. Only two apartments have caucus rooms. Two secondary schools have placed inspiring slogans, warnings, employment information and portraits of historical figures in the correspondent dorm buildings. Ideological and political propaganda, especially publicizing of national policy and advanced culture, is insufficient, with socialist core values being posted only. Thirdly, system culture needs to be strengthened. At present, there's no an effective system force the counselors going into the dorms frequently to inspect the real condition of students, to contact with and understand students further. And the dorm management system itself is not well built, the current rules focuses on rigid management, ignoring flexible management, making the system lack of humanization and leading to complaints from students. Meanwhile, there are no effective rules to regulate the staffs' behavior in dorms. Some sanitation workers smoke in the buildings. What's more, with regard to the performance assessment of these staffs, no principle has been established. Last, concerning the behavior culture in the dorm, it appears that students' self-regulating ability is far

from satisfactory. They destroy fire-fighting equipment, public facilities. They play basketball and music without considering others.

4. Advice to Improve the Educational Function of Dorm Culture

4.1. We should start from the bottom to improve the structure and quality of the staffs

First, Apartment Management and Service Center should publicize concept of education further, to change employees' attitude toward work and student management. Secondly, the staffs should be trained regularly, to equip them knowledge of psychology, management, computer operation, education, etc. to improve their ability. Additionally, methods to handle certain problems should also be given. Competition concerning problem-solving ability can be held to urge them to improve their working. Thirdly, incentive measures like raising salary, open promotion channel as well as performance appraisal etc., should be adopt to retain the younger staffs and at the same time, to achieve equity. Finally yet importantly, in addition to the incentive measures, staffs' structures of age, education background and competence should be updated to ensure the quality. During recruitment and management, personnel department should take both the employers' and employees' demand into consideration, ensuring the quality of employees as well the continuity of employment.

4.2. Built a cooperative working mechanism to ensure the education in dorm

Primarily, a university level organization should be founded to incorporate dorm as a significant section to educate students and make construction of dorm culture one part of the overall planning of TJPU. To raise the all the colleagues' awareness of education in dorm is the topmost task for it. Secondly, members of the organization should include all the related departments like Office of Student Affairs, Office of Logistics, Security office, Youth League Committee and secondary schools etc. And there will be an office under the organization which has administrative authority. On this basis, a statue should be drafted to enunciate duties of the members and the corresponding punitive measures in case of default. Every member should has its own implementation regulation of educating students in the dorm. Thirdly, in addition to the organization, a student self-regulation union should be formed to help manage the daily affairs, culture construction and connecting the administrative office and students. What's more, the student self-regulating

union could bring diverse ideas, improve the quality of dorm management and, in retrospect, could cultivate students' sense of social responsibility and self-educating, self-management. To ensure the union functions well, every year, office of the organization referred above could listen to its work report and plan. The union could be the member of the organization also. Student party members and cadres can be important candidates to form the union, to fully taking advantage of their influence among students.

4.3. Constructing dorm culture to create educating atmosphere

Firstly, we should increase input to create a livable and excellent study place, updating the furniture, decorating public space, affording more equipment like water dispenser, shared printer etc. In order to raise students' sense of saving waster, students should pay for excess water. Secondly, we should put more effort in ideological and political education. The propaganda devices can be updated to ensure the timeliness of information and transmit more positive message to the students. Rooms for activities of Party and Youth League should be built in every apartment. And at the same time, secondary schools should update information in these rooms to ensure its correctness and properness. Every year, Student Apartment Management and Service Center should select excellent rooms according to their performance, study style and hygiene with the cooperation of secondary schools. What's more, schools or the union can organize more recreational activities. Thirdly, Regulation concerning dorm management should be enhanced which could covering every related staff, students and all aspects of administration. During drafting or revising these rules, the rulemaking department had better seek for students' and relating bodies' advice. In implementation, managers are encouraged to combine "teaching" with "directing" and to interpret rules for students to promote students' approval.

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