Research on the Teaching Status and Development Countermeasure of Skill Courses of Equestrian Specialty in Colleges and Universities

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ABSTRACT

This paper investigates the teaching status of professional skill courses of equestrian specialty in colleges and universities through literature, survey, field investigation and expert interview method. The result shows that there are inadequate ground, insufficient number of horses, lack of teachers, low level of teachers, lack of safety teaching awareness and other problems in teaching of skill courses of equestrian specialty in colleges and universities, in order to promote the development of teaching and improve the skill level of equestrian specialty, college equestrian specialty should increase policy support and funding, improve teaching practice conditions, the number of teachers and teaching level in skill courses teaching aspect. This research can provide a theoretical reference for the further development and the policy making of equestrian specialty in colleges and universities.

KEYWORDS

Colleges and universities, equestrian specialty, skill course, teaching, development countermeasure.

INTRODUCTION

Equestrian specialty belongs to emerging specialty; there are about 3 to 4 colleges and universities setting up equestrian specialty in China at present, among them, equestrian specialty set up by agricultural universities emphasize disease treatment and breeding for horses, equestrian specialty set up by non-agricultural universities put particular emphasis on equestrian skill, horse management and other skill directions. Wuhan Business University opened earliest and its development is most mature and comprehensive in the current colleges and universities which have set up equestrian specialty. The equestrian specialty set up by Wuhan Business University emphasizes skill and application type, which has been provided a large number of horse industry talents for society in succession. The characteristics of skill-oriented and application-oriented colleges and universities are to need students do a lot of skill learning and practice during the school, this research by investigating and studying the current status of skill courses in skill-oriented and application-oriented equestrian specialty in colleges and universities, specific solutions have been proposed, and provide protection for improvement of students' skill level in equestrian specialty.

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TEACHING STATUS OF SKILL COURSES OF EQUESTRIAN SPECIALTY IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Lack of Site and Equipment

The standard equestrian site covers a very large area, while most universities and colleges are located in the urban area, the land supply is seriously inadequate, and therefore, most colleges and universities lack the necessary site condition. The lack of site and equipment are mainly reflected in the teaching and training field, the number of stables, number of harness room, fodder room, forage room, equipment, and office space and so on. For example, Wuhan Business School is the earliest and most mature university which set up equestrian specialty in China, whose equestrian training and teaching sites have only two teaching circles, covers an area of about 600 square meters. There is only one stable and ten horse cells, it can rear ten horses at most; harness room, fodder room, forage room, and equipment room, office room and other infrastructure are few, which cannot meet the basic requirements of teaching. Therefore, the teaching of equestrian skill courses in colleges and universities basically stay in the initial stage of allowing students to master the basic riding and tuning techniques, the lack of site and equipment limits the teaching ability.

The number and type of horses are not enough

The number of horses used is seriously insufficient, with low quality and single species in college teaching. The teaching horses of Wuhan Business University are ten totally, these horses are mostly domestic horses, come from Erie, Tongliao and other places, and these horses are mostly the racing retired horses, it is evident that there are a phenomenon of aging and gradual loss of athletic ability in sports. The students of equestrian specialty in Wuhan Business University are about 400 people, skill and practical courses include horsemanship, horse teaching, disease prevention and cure of horse, horse diagnosis, shoe, horse care, etc., these courses all require the use of horses, so the number and type of horses are not enough, low quality and other current status cause development and implementation of many courses to be more difficult. Other universities such as Qingdao Agricultural University, there are no horses in their schools and students' practice activities through cooperation with the clubs. The number of horses in Vocational and Skill College of Inner Mongolia Agricultural University is only 20 horses, compared with hundreds of students; they are far from being able to meet the basic teaching requirements.

Lack of Teachers

The lack of teachers are common problems in colleges and universities that have set up equestrian specialty at present. The teachers of theoretical courses can meet the daily teaching needs through recruitment; introduction and so on, however, the teachers of skill courses can hardly meet the teaching requirements through this method, the main reason is that the horse industry has just started in our country, and professional coaches and jockeys are very lacking. In addition, high-level jockeys or coaches generally prefer to work in equestrian clubs, because the equestrian clubs offer higher salary, and the salaries offered by colleges and universities generally do not meet the needs of such people for salaries. Therefore, the teachers of equestrian
professional skill courses are currently lacking in colleges and universities, and there is a serious shortage of teachers.

**Teachers' Professional Skill Is Not High**

Due to the difficulties in recruiting teachers and the shortage of teachers in the skill courses of equestrian specialty, equestrian specialty skill teachers are more via transformation in the current many colleges and universities. The transformed teachers are mainly sports teachers; teachers need to start learning from the basic knowledge and skills of equestrianism after transformation, it needs a long time. Therefore, professional skills and basic skills of the course teachers with equestrian professional skills are generally lower and it need constant improvement to meet the teaching requirements.

**Lack of Safety Teaching Awareness**

Because riding teaching of equestrianism has a greater risk, therefore, teachers assume a great responsibility for safety in teaching. During the investigation, it has been found that teachers lack strictness the management of students, they do teach in strict accordance with the requirements of teaching plan and the safety protection equipment is not in position and so on in teaching. For that reason, the teachers with equestrian skill courses should pay enough attention to teaching safety, formulate horse riding regulations, safety precaution regulations, implement teaching in strict accordance with the rules and regulations, try to avoid safety accidents in teaching.

**PROMOTE COUNTERMEASURES OF SKILL COURSES TEACHING OF EQUESTRIAN SPECIALTY**

**Strengthen policy support**

The development of equestrian specialty requires the policy support of government and school, only to provide a good policy environment; we can provide protection for the development of equestrian specialty. Equestrian specialty is a new specialty and rising star, which will struggle without the policy support. Policy support mainly provide support from the site construction guarantee, capital investment guarantee, operational guarantee, teaching safety equipment guarantee, teachers professional skill guarantee.

**Increase Capital Investment**

The teaching of equestrian skill courses requires a large amount of fund. The construction of stud-farm, the construction of stable, the purchase of horses, the purchase of harness, the purchase of cleaning tool in stables, the purchase of protective equipment, the purchase of fodder, the training of teacher and so on require substantial funds, in order to provide teaching environment of good equestrian skills, it is necessary to increase funding in the above aspects. The basic area of equestrian site is not less than 4,000 square meters; the construction of stables need to be able to accommodate at least 100 horses; the number of horses is at least not less than 90
horses, the types of horses are dominated by barrier type hot-blooded horses and supplemented by speed race type thoroughbred horse; harness includes all types of saddle, bridle, girth, rein, halter, whip, trailing rope and so on; the cleaning tools of stables include trolley, shovel, broom, etc.; protective equipment include safety helmet, protective vest, riding boots, breeches, etc.; fodder mainly include hay and high concentrated stuff; teachers' training mainly reflect in the teachers' training and investigation. Only under the circumstance investment of funds are guaranteed, the improvement of software and hardware can be ensured, then provide protection for teaching of equestrian skill courses.

**Improve the Practice Teaching Conditions**

Practice teaching can take the form of combination of inside and outside the school. The practice teaching conditions in the school are mainly reflected in the construction of the stud-farm, the purchase of horses and the establishment of other related auxiliary settings. The improvement of the practice conditions inside school requires the support of the school in policy and capital. Practice conditions outside the school can take the form of cooperation with the equestrian club to carry out, the students' weekend time or class teaching time are used to go to the cooperative club to practice, this practice method can be closer to the actual production of enterprises, and the effect is best.

**Improve the Number of Teachers and Teaching Level**

At present, there is a shortage of teachers in colleges and universities that has set up equestrian specialty in China, the shortage of teachers causes teaching work to be difficult to carry out, in order to promote the teaching effect of skill courses of equestrian specialty, it is necessary to increase the number of teachers and the teachers' teaching level. To increase the number of teachers can take the recruitment and talent introduction way, to improve the teaching level can be carried out through professional training and study, study investigation, teaching supervision and other aspects.

**CONCLUSION**

1. There are lack of sites, lack of horses, lack of teachers, not high teachers' level, insufficient safety teaching awareness in the skill courses teaching of equestrian specialty in colleges and universities

2. In order to solve the existing problems in skill teaching of equestrian specialty in colleges and universities, it is necessary to start from increasing policy support and capital investment, improving practice teaching conditions, increasing the number of teachers and teaching level and so on, and meet the hardware and software requirements of skill course teaching, improve teaching quality, cultivate outstanding equestrian professional talents.

3. Colleges and universities should establish a wide range of out-of-school practice, internship and training bases and carry out the cooperation between school and enterprises so as to provide equestrian students with an environment closer to practical work needs.
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