A Research of Differentiation Education Mode in Chorus Class in Higher Vocational Colleges

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Keywords: Reform of education, Training mode, Vocational education, Connotation construction.

Abstract. Higher vocational colleges are advanced vocational schools which cultivate application-oriented talents technical personnel for local regional economic development, guided by this objective, teaching of chorus and conducting in higher vocational college should deepen the reform of education, update education ideology, create teaching method and develop a differentiation education approach. Based on this concept, focusing on teaching activity in chorus and conducting lessons, this article deeply tries to discuss the essence of differentiation education from the views of recruiting students and employment, teaching and career planning, and it is a fruitful attempt of reform of teaching of chorus and conducting.

These years, as an important part of higher education, vocational and specialized higher education have been developing quickly, with the number of new school growing, the scale of recruiting students expanding, numbers of students at school increasing, training new force for local regional economic development. By 2004, Henan has 37 independent set vocational and specialized higher education colleges, occupying 45.1% of total regular institutions of higher learning in Henan. In those vocational and specialized higher education colleges, most of them set up music departments, of course providing related music curriculum. And the question is: comparing with the long-history and relatively more mature undergraduate colleges, what aspects do music departments of vocational and specialized higher education show their unique differences? Among training goal, teaching mode, curriculum adjusting, method of teaching evaluation, characteristics of artistic practice. How can vocational and specialized higher education colleges independently find our own way as well as avoiding undergraduate colleges’ characteristics. The author only focus on chorus and conducting curriculum, about application of teaching and other related details, giving a discuss of differentiation training mode in vocational and specialized higher education.

Teaching Situation of Chorus and Conducting in Vocational and Specialized Higher Education

In the last two years, the minimum passing score of music department of higher vocational schools is 80, but for undergraduate A the score is 100, undergraduate B is 90. There is also a gap of 130 on the minimum passing score of the academic between music department of higher vocational schools and regular college course. Those statistics show that higher vocational schools don’t have much advantage of new student’s quality. New students lower professional quality and culture quality result in many difficulties in teaching and art practice.
First, due to students’ poor professional foundation and the absence of sight singing and reading musical notation and singing ability, they can’t meet the basic requirement of chorus and conducting lessons. They therefore feel puzzled when facing more complicated multi-part choruses, messing up pitch and rhythm. Their teachers often spend half of their lesson to correct those problems. This directly leads to a slow teaching progress and the students can’t fit for higher practice and low efficiency of teaching appears.

Second: Low quality of new students causes lack of studying ability, personal cultivation, self-controlling. Some students affected by unhealthy ideas, often are late for class or absent, then becoming rambling and undisciplined and getting tired of studying. They finally don’t want to take part in regular teaching course and practice. They actually hamper teaching activities in vocational schools.

Third: Chorus and conducting course books in use now are facing normal undergraduate universities and normal colleges from grasping points to selecting songs, the books are not fit for teaching of vocational school. It is also very difficult to select a suitable text book from bookstores which following knowledge points sequence, cultivates skills from the easy to the difficult, balances both basic knowledge and higher ability improving. So considering practical needs in teaching, chorus and conducting teachers of vocational schools made their own teaching material according to students, turning text books into reference books. This is a ridiculous waste of teaching material.

**Breaking out of the Influence of the Mode of Undergraduate, Leading to a Way of Self Assertiveness**

For the practice of chorus and conducting of vocational schools, it has long been under influence the mode of undergraduate model. Though the two educational modes have great variation such as: students’ quality, training designing and training years etc, the two use one or one category text book, practicing the same teaching mode and teaching evaluation system. Analyzing the reason, we obviously found out the failure of deepening reform, immature of teaching ideas and teaching responsibility is not fulfilled. In fact, copying undergraduate mode has caused some bad effect on vocational school’s discipline construction , designing of talents training, teaching practice, enrollment and employment. Aimlessly improving higher minimums passing score when the authority sees poor-quality students, madly setting up high and professional composing skill and theory-oriented majors, desperately encouraging students solely to win in competitions without careful consideration, seemingly wise mobilizing students to take part in postgraduate examinations, vocational schools still confront undergraduate schools in a strange way, using our own disadvantages overcomes others advantages. This causes much bad effect in many ways.

In the practice of schooling, only by getting off one's high horse, targeting on right position, stressing characteristics for vocational education ,adopting practical measures can we cultivate application oriented personnel and specialists in urgent need for special field of society . And we must adopt our good points and avoid our shortcomings so that we can break through difficulties, and set our feet on a developing way with real characteristic of higher vocational school.

**Higher Vocational School’s Chorus and Conducting Teaching Mode of Differentiation**

Differentiation means discrimination between things as different and distinct, but in this
article it has a definition of a differentiation training mode which differs from other teaching methods.

To get rid of the influence of traditional regular undergraduate mode, to create a way with higher vocational school’s characteristics, we must adopt differentiation training mode, avoiding walking on the same path with others. And also we must not only act according to actual circumstances, but take the right remedial steps to correct shortcomings. As we know, different students require different adjustments in teaching progresses and we must explore a suitable mode for different students, this is the differentiation teaching mode of higher vocational school that we advocate. Below, these are actual methods.

**Making Good Use of the Mechanism of Enrollment, Designing Minimum Passing Marks for Admission in a Scientific Way**

At present, provincial university entrance exams or college independent recruitment, they all adopt the principle of minimum passing score of the academic, enrolling students by marks from high to low. Among them, some normal colleges have a new way of enrollment of passing both general knowledge courses and major courses, according to major marks from high to low. Of course some music departments of colleges of science and technology enroll students by adding up marks of general knowledge courses and major courses, it depends on. But for chorus and conducting in higher vocational colleges, I think the way of regarding both general knowledge courses and major courses as well as the sum of marks of major course and solfeggio teaching as the way to enroll new students is wise. Though it seems a little complicated in details, but it can guarantee new students academic quality and general music ability. It can’t assure high total marks of all major courses, but it can strength new students overall music quality and professional flexibility. All the academic problems that result from it will be settled smoothly.

**Focusing on teaching, carrying through differentiation teaching mode**

Education at school is a process which lasts continuously; teaching is the most important step in the process. There are four differentiation modes in teaching.

**Adjustment of choice songs in chorus teaching.** For higher vocational college students majored in music, their singing ability and the ability of comprehension of music will be a course from the weak to the strong, will be a progressive improvement, but some teaching text books begin with Ode to Our Motherland or Hallelujah which are very hard and complex for beginners. These are not practical for them. So, firstly, we can follow the guiding principle of proceeding in an orderly way and advance step by step, then we can choose right songs to teach. For western chorus songs, we may choose songs from baroque music then to modern songs with various styles; for Chinese songs, we may choose Mr. Huangzi’s songs from the may fourth movement period, then according to various students’ ability, we can practice modern chorus songs and new local chorus songs featured with regional color. Only by these methods, can students lay a strong music foundation and develop their ability. Secondly, according to the positioning of application-oriented talents in higher vocational colleges, students are supposed to have the ability to manage and rehearse singing practice among people at the grassroots level, so we may add more folk songs sung by folks so that we could meet the demand of cultural prosperity of people at the grassroots level.
In the art practice of chorus and conducting, trainers are supposed to solve trainees’ problems of vocal music art sounding and to achieve the goal of training satisfying chorus sounds. This is a true Kongfu as well as a basic skill that trainers pursue with perseverance.

We are always seeing the view of one band master facing dozens of amateur singers, sparing no efforts to talk about those abstract theories like the sound generator principles and breath resonance. It has become a profound music lesson. But in fact what they sing is still full of many same-old mistakes. So we must try hard to find the main cause of the sound problem, try to encourage them sing, then beauty the sound, then get to our goal of “sing well”. Students in higher vocational colleges must pursue it and finally grasp it to become good catches in their positions.

Combination of voice part in chorus lessons. Due to the nature of music department, gender ratio in music department has been “girls flourish while boys decline”, the ratio has been about 3:1.especially in higher vocational colleges. This causes great imbalance of voice part in chorus singing class. To settle this problem, we may combine tenor and bass together to be one voice part, we may put soprano contralto and boys part together to practice singing in 3 voice parts lessons. In four voice parts lessons, we may ask Lower octave voiced girls to perform boys’ voice parts, or to design girls voice part in a lower one to achieve balance of four voice parts, by doing so, we can solve the problem of the nature of music department.

We Must Promote Teaching Activities as Well as Strength Ideological and Political Education

Restricted by lower quality of new students, affected by bad thoughts from society, higher universities and colleges students are now plagued by poor discipline, aimless, lack of inner drive. These phenomena have become great stumbling blocks to realize our goal of imparting knowledge and educating people as well as revitalization through education. Higher cocational schools’ situate is worse.

Attitude is everything, thoughts result in actions. In this more complex social environment, universities and colleges should hold education’s ground, fulfill teaching and educational duties, carry out the guiding line of going first of ideological and political education, emphasizing on teaching and scientific research. We should hold all kinds of themed class meetings, taking all opportunities educate students and help them to build up the correct outlook on the world and life and values as well as education in patriotism, helping them to build up high integrity of truth, beauty and virtue, helping them to resist all kinds of temptation ,assisting them to be excellent modern college students.

Among the jobs of universities and colleges, must seize the main course of ideological and political education, leading them into good practice according to their ideological characteristics. Teachers of universities and colleges should lead the students on systematically, enlighten them with affection, and motivate them with reason. Only by doing so, can we achieve outstanding results with yielding twice the result with half the effort in education. In the chorus lessons and other relevant art practice, much work of management depends on students’ good sense of discipline and participation as well as the sense of responsibility. These couldn’t be done with effective ideological and political education.

Career Planning Must Be Grounded

Reasonable career planning results from the accurate positioning of universities or colleges, matching up with deeper teaching innovation copes with markets. We should set up and
perfect a 3S training mode adventurously, that is, enrolling, training, employment one integrity service system with enrolling, training, employment. From the moment of receiving admission notice, new students have already become a member of 3S service system till graduation, even after graduation when they have jobs and then return to their school.

On the contents of career planning, we must have a sense of politics, aiming for the development direction of national culture and education: the rise of community education, with many audience taking part in, and great sustainable strength as well as supporting from policy. Of course, common people's choruses will be more suitable. At the same time, we must have the sense of market, studying and weighing the situation, carefully analyzing all factors in social and economical life, exploring a suitable place for chorus specialists.

The determination of carrying out out-of-school training or education of the young people, developing all manner of educational training has already been written on the related files and has already been announced for the public. Our vocational students will not only improve their ability of artistic music expression, but also practice ability of management and organization through chorus lessons and art practice activities. They can also lay a strong foundation for setting up all kinds of music training agencies.

Summary

Thousands years ago, Confucius advocated an idea of teaching without distinction, but today we could still use it as: teaching without distinction and this is the right way to train. In modern times, the classification and variation of colleges and universities are all inevitable products of our times. Chorus and conducting teaching in higher vocational colleges could not grow up without competitions with other regular colleges and universities. Chorus and conducting teaching are supposed to go through all kinds of difficulties and long distance that never happens to others, only by doing so can we achieve a better future.

References
